



The Newsletter of the Park School

art slope

Coming to Park Slope for the first time this Fall is **Art Slope**: a free, public, interactive, participatory Arts Festival, to be held from September 17-25. Inspired by successful art festivals, ranging from Figment to Documenta, **Art Slope** is being created by the Park Slope Civic Council in order to engage and showcase the work of our wide variety of artists, writers and performers. It will draw from a rich trove of local artists, arts organizations and venues to create an 11-day celebration of visual, literary and performing arts. Venues will range from outdoor installations and performances in-and-around Prospect Park to retail and commercial spaces, pop-up galleries and the outdoor front yards and facades of private homes. It will provide a walkable art experience shared by people of all ages and backgrounds in the community. The participating artists will encompass a full range of economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, many of whom have had few chances to overlap. Many Brooklyn residents in and around Park Slope feel strongly about incorporating art into their daily environments, and this is a chance to share that passion on a large scale.

We are currently in the planning stages and are seeking volunteers and sponsors. If you would like to be part of this groundbreaking event, please contact us at [**parkslopeciviccouncil.org/arts-festival**](https://parkslopeciviccouncil.org/arts-festival). We have several tiers of sponsorship available and an ever-increasing hosting and advisory panel.

Check the art slope website for ongoing updated info: <http://artslope.squarespace.com>.

The 57th Annual Park Slope House Tour!

The 2016 Park Slope House Tour, a self-guided tour organized by the Park Slope Civic Council, will take place Sunday, May 15, from noon to 5:30 pm. Seven historic houses will be on view with shuttle buses providing continuous service between homes. Ticket-holders will receive a handsome illustrated brochure describing the history and interior of each home. The Tour starts at the Polyprep Lower School at 50 Prospect Park West and 1st Street.

Highlights of the Seven Homes on the Park Slope House Tour

In a lovely **1891 Neo-Renaissance** home, fireplace tiles depict characters from the novels of Charles Dickens. The beautiful overmantels in the master bedroom and library were rescued from a home down the street. The façade of a **circa-1875 late-Italianate** home conceals a dramatic contemporary interior, which has achieved Passive House EnerPHit certification. Indian Mughal miniatures, 18th and 19th century English and American furniture and an inviting inglenook are features of this lovely **Neo-Classical house, constructed in 1907**. Magnificent mahogany mantelpieces, tapestries and a beautiful china cabinet are highlights of a house in **Renaissance Revival style, erected in 1888**. A Chinese ancestor portrait, original stained glass and lovely Bradbury & Bradbury wallpaper designs greet you as you enter the foyer of this beautiful **1890 Renaissance Revival** home *pictured at the right*. An **1890 Romanesque Revival** home features lovely parquet flooring and handsome chandeliers. A beautiful and spacious kitchen with striking marble counters and a tin ceiling is also on view.

COMMUNITY ACTION at 5th Avenue Key Food

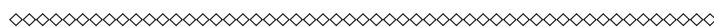
In January, North Slope residents were stunned, but quickly galvanized, by news of a proposed sale and redevelopment by Avery Hall Investments (AHI) of the Park Slope 5th Avenue Key Food site. PSCC's Forth on Fourth Avenue Committee (FoFA) immediately was involved, because of the impact on the 4th Avenue corridor, and was shortly joined by the full Civic Council in a community response to the plan that was swift, vigorous and very public.

A Stakeholder Committee, representing local organizations and activists, was convened by the Fifth Avenue Committee (FAC) and Councilmember Brad Lander to learn more about the scope of the proposed development. The group learned that AHI originally intended no supermarket in their plan, but was later considering a 7,500 sq. ft. grocery store as a replacement for the existing 30,000 sq. ft. supermarket.

The stakeholder group next recruited over 400 people to a community meeting on February 9, where AHI was invited to present its plan. At that meeting, a clear message was sent to AHI: Its plans were unacceptable. Observing that AHI planned to build on an Urban Renewal Site created 30 years ago to enable building the current Key Food supermarket, as well as the “new houses” behind it, meeting attendees insisted on a large, affordable supermarket as a part of any new development and that new housing include deeply and permanently affordable units.

What's next? The formal "public" input process has not yet begun; it involves the de Blasio administration, with review by the NYC Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the NYC City Planning Commission (CPC). Because CPC refers such reviews to community boards, the proposal will be sent to Brooklyn Community Board 6 for a public hearing, where the public will be able to testify. CB6 then sends a recommendation back to CPC before a vote happens on the proposed minor modification to the Urban Renewal site where AHI wants to build. **It will be important for community residents to come out and testify at the CB6 hearing when it is scheduled.**

continued on back page



The parlor floor of an **1887 Queen Anne** house features a walnut fireplace with lovely tiles, beautiful chandeliers, and a kitchen with mahogany cabinets, limestone counters and a locally made table.

Tickets may be purchased online in advance for \$25, at several area merchant locations from May 1-14, or for \$30 the day of the Tour at Polyprep Lower School. **Visit our website at www.parkslopecivic-council.org for merchant locations and more information.**



Photo by Audrey Gray

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Park Slope Kids Charity Walkathon June 3 in Prospect Park

The 1st annual Brooklyn Kids Charity Walkathon will be held on Friday, June 3 at 4:30 pm at the Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park. This is an opportunity for elementary, middle and high-school students to participate in a local charity event and build civic spirit. Brooklyn kids doing something for other Brooklyn kids! We're working with the student bodies in our local schools to organize this event and select three charities to donate all proceeds. Families, parents and guardians are encouraged to participate, as well. Everyone will walk the top loop. After the event, you can picnic in the park, hit one of our local restaurants or head home to enjoy your Friday night plans. Students can pre-register at their school starting in May, or register on-site before the start of the event. Check back closer to the event at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org for further details, watch for flyers/posts and hear more by word-of-mouth from the kids!

UPDATE: B71 Bus Restoration Sign the Petition!

The push to restore the B71 bus is gaining momentum. The bus, eliminated in 2010, ran mostly along Union Street and Eastern Parkway from Van Brunt Street to Rogers Avenue, and was best known for infrequent service and frequent delays. The Park Slope Civic Council, the Prospect Heights Neighborhood Development Council (PHNDC), and Park Slope Neighbors (PSN) have developed a plan to restore the B71 along a modified route that would run from Brooklyn Bridge Park to the Jewish Children's Museum and Brooklyn Children's Museum, avoiding areas of congestion that hobbled the old route. Our B71 proposal would include later and more frequent service. Details are on the Civic Council's website.

Supporters include local elected officials, led by Councilmember Brad Lander and Assemblymember Jo Anne Simon, Councilmember Laurie Cumbo, the Brooklyn Children's Museum, P.S. 372, Heights and Hills supporting Brooklyn's Older Adults, PHNDC, PSN, the Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association, Community Board 8, and thousands of local residents. The list of supporters continues to grow as we continue to reach out to local elected officials, community boards and community organizations.

You can help by signing on as a supporter at <http://bradlander.nyc/news/updates/bring-back-the-b71-bus>. If you haven't signed the petition yet, please do!

Team Building in the Rockaways!



A team of talented and energetic Park Slope Civic Council Volunteers pitched in to help rebuild Hurricane Sandy-damaged homes last Fall. Standing Left to Right: Greg Conyers, Caitlin Kilgore, a Volunteer Team Leader, Kim Neuhaus, Lee Boyes, Bill Curry, Spencer Moser, John Mazurek, Meghan Tierney, Judith Lief, Ron Daignault, Bridget Markon. Front Row: Gilly Youner, Jamie Yuenger

Get to know your Park Slope Civic Council & Become Involved!

Visit our website to contact committee chairs



Our Mission Statement

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

BECOME A MEMBER, STAY A MEMBER AND SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!

A strong membership makes us a strong organization. Join or renew now and help us nurture, defend, celebrate and invigorate this community we call home!

Make your check payable to The Park Slope Civic Council and mail with this form to:
Box 172, 123 Seventh Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11215, or sign up online at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

Enclosed is my check for:

- ☐ Household: \$40
- ☐ Business/Professional: \$100
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- ☐ Non-Profit/Organization Partner: \$50
- ☐ Student/Elder Community (65+): \$25
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Meet the Civic Council Trustees

In Their Own Words

Kim Maier



Kim Maier is the executive director of the Old Stone House & Washington Park, a historic conservancy organization that is part of the Historic House Trust of New York City. Over the past dozen years, she's had the pleasure of seeing this wonderful public space transform through the efforts of a multitude of community partners. Prior to OSH, Kim worked with the Business Committee for the Arts and the Association of Professional Art Advisors. Kim moved

to Park Slope with her husband, Presley Acuna, in 1983, and raised their daughters, Kate and Emily, on Third Street. A life-long lover of art, theater and civics, Kim has a degree in Art History from Trinity College in Hartford, CT, and a Master's in Public Administration from New York University.

Nellie Isaacson

Born in Colombia, S.A. Nelly came on her own to the U.S. in 1971 as a young woman. She worked in the banking industry doing business with Latin America for 15 years during which time she gained a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. In 1981, a year after she married, she and her new husband, Richard, were in the process of looking for a home in Brooklyn, when they first attended a Celebrate Brooklyn concert and then a Park Slope House Tour. The beauty of Prospect Park and its surrounding streets and houses attracted them immediately. They bought a house in the South Slope, and that same year joined the neighborhood improvement group, ROSAS, which was founded in 1978. Through ROSAS, Nelly worked hard as a board member and sometime-president to improve the Southern area of Park Slope. After 23 years of activism, ROSAS merged with the PSCC in 2001, when five of the trustees, including Nelly, joined the PSCC board. Nelly served on the board for 11 years, until her term expired in 2012.



Nelly was also a board member and treasurer of the Park Slope Neighborhood Family Center. After she left the banking industry, she devoted half of her time to community and non-profit involvement and half to a business she created, importing and designing children's clothing. She continues to volunteer with other groups as a financial literacy counselor and assist people in the Bronx as a Court Navigator.

Brooklyn has been Nelly's second home, and community involvement has been a very strong part of her life here. As a member of the PSCC, she was involved in various committees, such as Grants, Sustainability, the House Tour and Halloween, and she participated in other activities as time permitted.

Peter Bray



As a college student in 1973, Peter Bray wrote a term paper on the Park Slope renaissance and the birth of the Park Slope Historic District. So it seemed preordained that he would join the Civic Council in 2007 to lead the expansion of the historic district. When the South Slope Extension became final in 2012, Peter became a Trustee and continues to chair the Historic District Committee. With the imminent designation of the North Slope Extension this Spring, he is committed to accomplishing

PSCC's 2008 master plan: It envisions five extensions and a 4,000 building historic district, up from the current 2,400. He has had extensive professional experience in developing affordable housing and community facilities in the South Bronx and founded a non-profit organization in 1999 to expand affordable financial services in low-income communities throughout New York City. Following that organization's merger last year, Peter accepted a new challenge in September 2015, as Executive Director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. He is deeply involved in both communities' advocacy efforts to enhance their quality of life and preserve their historic character. Peter has lived in Park Slope with his wife, Bridget, since the early 1980s.

Joe Rydell

Joe Rydell is a native of Vermont. He settled in Park Slope over 30 years ago and spent many years working in the entertainment industry as an actor, producer and casting director. He is currently a psychotherapist in private practice, and in his spare time he has volunteered extensively for his son's PTAs: Berkeley Carroll School, the Brooklyn Prospect Charter School, and most recently, Bard High School Early College, where he serves as the Vice-President of the college division. Joe's involvement with the Civic Council began 15 years ago as a volunteer for the House Tour. He subsequently became a trustee and has participated in several civic council committees, including: Livable Streets, Outreach, Grants, Sustainability and Membership. He has also derived great satisfaction as the Chair of the Scholarship Committee, which annually awards four scholarships to students from local high schools. He is the current Vice-President of the Civic Council and is also a recent co-recipient of the Evelyn and Everett Ortner Preservation Award. Joe's civic, school and community involvements are extremely important to him, but his greatest accomplishment and joy has been being a parent and raising his teenage son.



Thanks to our Government, Business and Professional Supporters

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BROOKLYN CONSERVATORY: Music Instruction for Over a Century



Photographer unknown, circa 1944

Founded in 1897 by German immigrants violinist Adolf Whitelaw and pianist Mary Forster Deyo as a classical conservatory serving 200 students, the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music (BKCM) has grown to serve 15,000 people of all ages and backgrounds in Brooklyn and throughout New York City. BKCM was initially located at Franklin Avenue and Lefferts Place in Brooklyn. In 1944, it moved to its current home -- an 1881 five-story mansion at 58 Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, designed by S. F. Evelette in the Victorian Gothic style, with Queen Anne elements. Originally built as the residence of William M. Brasher, a major manufacturer of oilcloths during the mid-to-late-19th century, the building subsequently became the Park Slope Masonic Club in 1924 before it was occupied by BKCM. The building was landmarked as part of the Park Slope Historic District in 1973.

Today the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music offers a wide range of programs. The **Community Music School** has private and group instruction for students of all ages in nearly every orchestral and band instrument. Adults who are interested in performing in a large ensemble can join the Brooklyn Conservatory Chorale (BCC) or the Brooklyn Conservatory Community Orchestra (BCCO). The **Suzuki Division** trains young children using a method that is recognized worldwide as a highly effective approach for teaching kids the language of music. The **Music Partners Program** provides subsidized music instruction at little or no cost to 5,400 underserved individuals in schools, pre-K programs, youth and senior centers throughout New York City. Children and adults with special needs can grow through the transformative experience of making music with a trained music therapist in the **Music Therapy Program**. BKCM also presents concerts and workshops for the community throughout the year, including performances by the BCC and BCCO.

Landmarks Preservation Approves Historic District Expansion

The Park Slope Historic District, already the city's largest, is becoming even larger! The Landmarks Preservation Commission plans to add 292 buildings this Spring to the district between Union Street and St. Marks Avenue, above 5th Avenue. It will be the district's second extension since the initial 1973 designation. PSCC's Historic District Committee has already submitted extensive documentation to the LPC for the next extension in the Center Slope as part of its ongoing efforts to protect the neighborhood's architecturally significant blocks. When this project is completed, upwards of 4,000 buildings will be landmarked to ensure the continuation of the neighborhood's unique historic character for all to appreciate.

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5th Avenue Key Food, continued from page 1

At the end of the meeting, AHI promised to review its development plans in light of comments and concerns it heard and to continue to meet and negotiate with the Stakeholder group. Subsequently, every local elected official - Councilmember Brad Lander, Councilmember Steve Levin, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, State Senator Velmanette Montgomery, Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams, as well as city-wide elected officials, Public Advocate Tish James and City Comptroller Scott Stringer - wrote to HPD, the City Planning Commission and the Mayor's office, stating strong support for the community positions, including "meaningful community input into the design and operations of the development."

Your participation has already sent a strong message that the Park Slope and surrounding communities who use the 5th Avenue Key Food and care about development in our neighborhood must be consulted as part of any planned redevelopment of this urban renewal site! To learn more about the Stakeholder group, view other AHI projects, read letters from various elected officials and see maps of area supermarkets, go to our website at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org.



Box 172, 123 Seventh Avenue
Brooklyn, NY 11215

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www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org

Upcoming Events

April 30 - Park Slope Armory YMCA Healthy Kids Day free, community event with healthy and fun activities for the whole family, 361 15th St.

May 5 & the 1st Thursday of the month (except July/Aug) - Park Slope Civic Council Board Meeting, Old Stone House in Washington Park (check website beforehand to confirm location), 7-9 P.M.; Scholarship and Lovgren Community Awards Ceremony and 2016-17 slate voted in at the **Annual Meeting on June 2**, open to all.

May 12 - Community Resource Fair hosted by Assemblymember Jim Brennan, featuring programs and services offered by over 50 City and State government agencies, cultural institutions, community organizations and service providers, Parkside Educational Complex, 713 Caton Ave., 5:30-7:30 P.M., call 718-788-7221 for information.

May 15 - 57th Annual House Tour, self-guided tour of 7 beautiful Park Slope homes kicks off at Poly Prep Lower School, 50 PPW and 1st Street, noon-5:30 P.M., tickets required and can be purchased on-site day of the Tour or in advance online at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org or at area merchants.

May 17th & the 3rd Tues. every month (except July/Aug) - Office Hours, Parish Bar, 223 7th Ave., 7-9 P.M. Meet up with PSCC and neighborhood folks!

May 19 & monthly - Sip & Seek, Save our History and Explore the PSCC collection of archival newsletters and House Tour materials, 14th Regiment Armory, entrance on 8th Ave between 14th and 15th Street, 6-8 P.M. See our schedule on the Civic Council website for future dates and times.

June 3 - Kids Walkathon in Prospect Park, starting at Grand Army Plaza, 4:30 P.M., students can pre-register at their schools or on-site the day of the event. Check back for more info closer to the event at our website.



**PARK SLOPE
CIVIC COUNCIL**

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

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

Updates and info at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org