



Coming to Park Slope for the first time this September is **artslope**; a free, public, interactive, participatory Arts festival, held from September 17-25. Inspired by successful arts festivals, ranging from Figment to Documenta, **artslope** 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 draws from a rich trove of local artists, arts organizations and venues to create a nine-day celebration of visual, literary and performing arts. Venues include outdoor installations in Prospect Park and a wide variety of art and performances throughout Park Slope, in retail and commercial spaces, pop-up galleries, and the outdoor front yards and facades of private homes. It provides a walkable art experience sharable with people of all ages and backgrounds in the community. The participating artists encompass a full range of economic, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, many of whom have had few opportunities to overlap and collaborate. 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. Visit our website at [www.artslope.nyc/](http://www.artslope.nyc/).

## 5th Annual Food for Thought Gala Honors John Jay H.S. Scholars

The Park Slope Civic Council is pleased to host its annual Food for Thought Fund-raiser celebrating four young and fabulous High School superstars who've given their hearts and hands to community service. We invite you to join us to honor their exceptional efforts and in support of future scholarship awards to high school seniors from each of the four secondary schools on the John Jay High School campus.

Our annual fundraiser takes place this year on October 19, 6:30-9:00 P.M., at the beautiful Prospect Park Picnic House, showcasing outstanding food and fare from local restaurants and neighborhood wine and beer purveyors with delightful music and mingling to round out the evening.

Four Scholarships were awarded this year for \$2,000 each. Julie Terrone of John Jay's Millennium Brooklyn High School will be attending Gustavus Adolphus College; Julio Martinez of the Secondary School for Journalism will be attending New York City College of Technology; Claudia Koscielicka of Park Slope Collegiate will be attending Mount Holyoke College; and Averiana Ross of the Secondary School for Law will be attending Buffalo State College.

We look forward to seeing you and your neighbors on the 19th! Advance tickets are on sale on our website for \$75 per person (\$100 at the door) and \$150 per person for exclusive Premium Tickets which include a gift-filled Swag Bag. Donations to the Scholarship Program are welcome if you are unable to join us on the 19th. For more information visit our website at [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org).



## From Our Co-Presidents: An Exciting & Productive Year in Review

This has been a whirlwind of a year, with lots more going on "behind the scenes" this summer. Most notably, **artslope**, Gilly's long-held dream of a Park Slope Arts Festival, has taken off wildly, with a huge number of artists, volunteers, retailers, sponsors and creatives of all types. See the article at left for more details. The first **Kids' Walkathon** took place in June, and although turnout was light, we raised \$695 -- all of which was donated to CHIPS, a local soup kitchen and shelter. Progress continues on the proposed restoration of portions of the pre-2010 **B71 Bus** route between Columbia Heights and 7th Avenue, to extend from the west at Pier 6 to the east at the Children's Museum, with the benefits of easy access to schools, churches, cultural institutions, shopping, and dining, and easy transit connections to other parts of Brooklyn. The Park Slope Civic Council continues to sit at the table as part of the **Fifth Avenue Key Food Stakeholder Group**, to ensure development includes a full-size supermarket and affordable housing. The PSCC signed a letter opposing the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation's plan to modify the Park's General Project Plan to permit taller buildings on **Pier 6**, the portion of the Park at the foot of Atlantic Avenue. As ever, the robust **Forth on Fourth Avenue** in partnership with Arts Gowanus, Textile Arts Center and the Old Stone House, initiated a **Community Yarn Bomb** project to bring colorful, surprising, and street-friendly fabric art to 4th Avenue on the weekend of October 17-18. And, in a productive day-of-service outing, Trustees, members and volunteers spent a day helping to restore a couple of Hurricane Sandy-damaged houses with **Rebuild The Rockaways**. Monthly "Sip and Seek" events were held at the Park Slope Armory to introduce Trustees and neighbors to the **Civic Council archives**. A full set of archives is being gifted to the Brooklyn Collection of the Brooklyn Public Library. Under attentive and dogged Trustee Josh Levy's watch, community support funding was donated by many production companies filming in Park Slope. The PSCC hosted tables at **Healthy Kids Day** at the Community Resource Fair, sponsored by Jim Brennan. On the executive front, we initiated a ruling that all Civic Council events must be self-funding and have insurance, and Trustees voted to revise the **By-Laws** to make them more streamlined and user-friendly (they can be found on our website). We gave grants to organizations benefiting Park Slope, funded by the **2015 House Tour**; presented **Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards** to two honorees for the purpose of encouraging projects that make a positive contribution to Park Slope's unique identity; and gave four scholarships to local community-oriented high school seniors with money raised from our Autumn **Food for Thought** fundraiser. The PSCC also organized two **Civic Sweeps**; voted to give **Lovgren Awards** for Community Service in professional and volunteer categories (awarded at the September Board meeting-see p.5); and organized and led the **Halloween Parade** along 7th Ave. for children of all ages. **Toys for Tots** gave a record number of gifts to local charities for distribution to children in need. And, partnered annual events were met with enthusiasm: **Jingle Bell Jamboree**, with Park Slope Parents, Old First and Congregation Beth Elohim; **Christmas Tree Recycling Program**, with the Parks Department and Prospect Park Alliance; and **A Taste of Fifth**, with the 5th Avenue Business Improvement District.

We are energized and excited to make the 2016-17 year of the Park Slope Civic Council the best ever.

**Come join us. We make the community stronger and better together!**

*Gilly and Judith*

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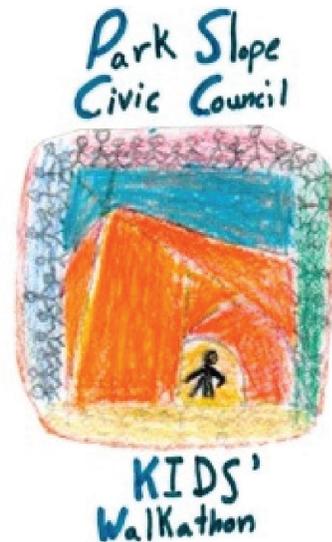
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The first annual Brooklyn Kids Walkathon was held on Friday, June 3, at 4:30 pm at the Grand Army Plaza entrance to Prospect Park, spearheaded by Trustee Ron Daignault. This was an opportunity for elementary, middle and high-school students to participate in a local charity event and build civic spirit: Brooklyn kids doing something for other Brooklyn kids! We worked with the student bodies in all of our local schools to build enthusiasm. The sensational graphic (above) was a reinterpretation of the Civic Council logo, imagined and executed by Ron's daughters, Keira and Marielle.

As it was our first, we experienced some "growing pains," but despite that, still managed to deliver a check to CHiPS -- a local Brooklyn soup kitchen and shelter for homeless women and their children -- for \$695, an amount we all agreed is a **great** start.

We will begin organizing the 2017 Kids' Walkathon just after the first of the year. Our goal for 2017: \$2,500! We know we can do it!

## FUN FOR ALL! Save the Date – Sunday, October 16: Fall Civic Sweep



Join the Park Slope Civic Council's Sustainability Committee at its annual fall beautification, recycling and clean-up event -- the Fall Civic Sweep on Sunday, October 16. It's free and open to all.

Put on your old clothes and come to the sidewalk in front of Old Stone House/JJ Byrne Park, 5th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets from **10:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.** (rain or shine) to join other volunteers in sweeping up litter and leaves, weeding and mulching tree pits, and painting out graffiti on lampposts and mailboxes. The result will be a cleaner and more beautiful community for all who live, work, visit and do business here. We'll give away free daffodil bulbs for planting in public areas. We'll serve refreshments, and we'll provide all tools and supplies. Volunteers will leave wearing "I Made Park Slope Cleaner Today" stickers. Community Service vouchers will be available. And we'll all enjoy music by Misery Loves Company!

For any questions write us at [sustainability@parkslopeciviccouncil.org](mailto:sustainability@parkslopeciviccouncil.org). Remember: "Many hands make light work." See you at the Sweep!

# Get to know your Park Slope Civic Council & Get 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](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org)

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**JOIN! RENEW! DONATE! VOLUNTEER! LEARN MORE @ [parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://parkslopeciviccouncil.org)**

Like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter!

## Meet our New Trustees 2016-17 - In Their Own Words



### Douglas Schneider

Douglas Schneider has lived in Park Slope since 2006. He is a member of Congregation Beth Elohim, where he is the volunteer parent coordinator of a weekly Saturday morning musical celebration for children under 5. Doug volunteers for CBE's annual soup kitchen and regularly cooks meals for the CBE/CAMBA homeless shelter. He is a member of the District Committee for Councilmember Brad

Lander's participatory budgeting and a civilian member of two Community Board 6 committees. Doug is an experienced civil rights and criminal defense attorney with offices in Downtown Brooklyn and Midtown Manhattan. He has been named a "SuperLawyer" for four consecutive years and is an active member of the New York City Bar Association where he was appointed to serve a three-year term on the prestigious committee on ethics. Doug lives in the South Slope with his wife, Joni Kletter, and their son, Micah (a future Trustee of the Park Slope Civic Council), along with their French Bulldog, Chachi.



### Mark Caserta

Mark Caserta currently serves as the Executive Director of the Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District. He has nearly 20 years of experience in public policy: working for city government, non-profit advocacy organizations and a city elected official. In 2004, he opened a store on Park Slope's Fifth Avenue with his wife, Samantha, and became a small-business owner. During his time as a store owner, he took a

strong interest in the community and Fifth Avenue, in particular, and was pleased to be hired by the Fifth Avenue BID in July 2013. Mark is married, father to Jake, and in his free time, he plays guitar, bass and ukulele, and records music.



### Jeanette Lee

Jeanette has lived in Park Slope since 1980 - and is always amazed at how much it has changed over the years. She is honored to be a part of the Civic Council, which plays a vital role in making Park Slope one of the best neighborhoods in the City. Her background as a city planner and her longtime involvement in volunteering at the wonderful, local public schools (PS 321 and MS 51) - led her to join the Civic Council, and

she is now encouraging her friends and neighbors to do the same - because Park Slope's future as a diverse and welcoming neighborhood depends on all of our involvement. Jeanette's other volunteer activities include helping out at St. Augustine's food pantry, volunteering at the local Housing Works, and serving seven years on the board of 826 NYC (aka the Superhero Store). She's now working on **artslope** - Park Slope's first arts festival, an inspired initiative of the Civic Council.



### Karyl Cafiero

Karyl and her husband have loved living in Park Slope for nearly 25 years. After growing up in Buffalo and moving to DC for college, Karyl moved to New York City in her late twenties knowing that living with a congenital visual impairment, she would not need a car to get around and that she could do what everyone else did: use the subway, bus or walk. She raised twin daughters in Park Slope, experiencing with them

the great culture and diversity of Brooklyn. Being involved in the Civic Council is a way of giving back to the neighborhood that is so special and robust and has served their family so well, even as the neighborhood and borough keep changing. She felt this was the perfect organization to make a tangible contribution. She is honored to be chosen as a trustee and plans to focus her energy on both the Outreach Committee, because she feels all Slope residents should support this vital organization, and Livable Streets, because she appreciates the importance of well-designed streets that serve the varied populations on a daily basis.



### Kedin Kilgore

Kedin is a 20-year resident of Park Slope and lives with his wife, Kimberly, their two children, two dogs, a one-eyed cat and a parrotlet in center Slope. Kedin is an avid city, road and mountain cyclist and is a strong supporter of NYC Vision Zero, Transportation Alternatives and citywide initiatives to increase bicycle ridership and safety. He serves on the

PTA for Park Slope Collegiate and was recently appointed Treasurer for the Board of CHiPS. After 15 years working in the energy commodities and risk management industry, he launched Gowanus Grid & Electric (GG&E) in 2015. It is a member-owned grid-cooperative developing and operating community owned and shared renewable energy in South Brooklyn. (The first fully solarized block in NYC is being developed on his own block of First Street.) Kedin has worked overseas, is fluent in Japanese and German (passable in Spanish) and is a huge advocate of the Hawaiian shirt! He joined the PSCC with his daughter in the hope of expanding our understanding of sustainability to include social justice and neighborhood equity. His family is driven to encourage an ongoing and meaningful dialogue about race, equality, integration and the real costs of segregation in our community.



### Hector Gonzalez

While living on the Upper West Side, Hector Gonzales became interested in the performing arts. Working in small TV roles, commercials and feature films, he also attended school in Brooklyn, and that was when he fell in love with the beautiful neighborhood of Park Slope, which he now calls home. Hector enjoyed taking walks, admiring the architecture,

shopping in local stores and strolling through Prospect Park. His first apartment was located on 7th Avenue and Second Street. As a now, long-time resident of Brooklyn, Hector has continued to work as an actor and is currently a member of SAG and AFTRA, as well as the International Federation of Actors (IFA) and the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences (NATAS). In 2012, he founded JUST 3 Inc., a 501c3 dedicated to bringing the arts to communities in Brooklyn through local film productions and the 24th Street Summer Arts Festival. Through these efforts, he met Trustee Tom Miskel who invited him to attend a Civic Council meeting. After only one meeting, Hector knew that his experience in the performing arts and work in the community was something he wanted to share to engage and enrich Park Slope and neighboring communities.



### Tim Gilles

Timothy Gilles was born in Kansas, educated in Minnesota, and moved to Brooklyn in 1970, right out of college, with his wife, Sealy. They rented a top-floor Park Slope apartment, but when they got a dog who became unhappy without a backyard, they bought a fixer-upper on Garfield Place in 1972 (proof of Tim's motto in life: "it's better to be lucky

than smart"), where they live to this day. They occupied the garden level and rented the rest of the house. As their family grew, they took over more and more of the building, renovating as they went. Ultimately, they raised four children, all of whom attended P.S. 321, public secondary schools in Brooklyn and on to top-flight colleges. Tim was a radio reporter and then became Press Secretary and Policy Director for New York State Attorney General, Robert Abrams. When Abrams retired, Tim became a communications executive at Merrill Lynch and then Bank of America. He retired several years ago and launched a communications consulting practice [www.gillesconsulting.com](http://www.gillesconsulting.com). Tim is a committed Park Slope resident who votes with his wallet by shopping at local merchants on 7th and 5th Avenues and at the Park Slope Food Coop. He never buys from Amazon and mostly avoids big-box stores.

## Ortner Nominations Due December 1



Applications and nominations are now being accepted for the Civic Council's 2016 Evelyn and Everett Ortner Park Slope Preservation Awards. Inaugurated in 2014, the objective of the awards is to encourage projects and endeavors that make a positive contribution to Park Slope's unique identity. The six Evelyn and Everett Ortner awards honor the couple that did so much to transform Park Slope from a neighborhood in decline in the 1960s into the vibrant community it is today. The Ortners also played a key role in the creation of the Park Slope Historic District, now the largest landmarked district in New York City.

Please submit applications and supporting material by no later than December 1 by email to [ortnerpreservationawards@gmail.com](mailto:ortnerpreservationawards@gmail.com) or by regular mail to Ortner Preservation Awards, Park Slope Civic Council, Box 172, 123 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215.

## Lovgren Award Recipients Honored



*Left to Right: co-President, Judith Lief; Community Bookstore co-owners, Stephanie Valdez and Ezra Goldstein; Executive Director of Heights and Hills, Judy Willig; and co-President, Gilly Youner*

The Lovgren Awards are granted annually to outstanding individuals for their exceptional service to the Park Slope community in both professional and volunteer categories. This year's honorees were celebrated at the September meeting with awards presented by former Civic Council President, Michael Cairl to **Judy Willig**, for Community Service by a Professional, and by co-President, Judith Lief to **Ezra Goldstein and Stephanie Valdez**, for Community Service by a Volunteer.

Judy Willig is the Executive Director of Heights and Hills, one of the largest providers of supportive services for community-dwelling older adults and their families in Brooklyn. Providing compassionate and professionally delivered services to older adults, they put supports in place allowing elders to age on their terms, independently and with dignity. Since 2015 Heights and Hills has operated the Park Slope Center for Successful Aging on 7th Street, formerly the Park Slope Senior Center, a neighborhood hub for people "60 and better." Judy was one of the leaders of the Civic Council's March 2015 Livable Streets Workshop, focusing on aging in place in our community.

The Lovgren Award for volunteerism was given to Stephanie Valdez and Ezra Goldstein, co-owners of the Community Bookstore on 7th Avenue. In 2011, after working long weeks for little pay, trying to resurrect a small business in great debt, they became the owners of the store. Their deeply held belief that, "A neighborhood that doesn't have a bookstore is a diminished one," and "Park Slope is a literary community, and we can't imagine what it would be like without a vibrant independent, bookstore," and "Parents can expose their children to a store where books are loved and not a commodity, which can shape them into adulthood" drove them to take over both this store and Terrace Books in Windsor Terrace. Ezra reminded everyone that local business cannot survive without local support, and our economic vitality as a neighborhood depends on it. We couldn't agree more!

**Has your home suffered water damage and you suspect mold contamination? Do you have health concerns as a result?**

Your inquiry will be met with friendly concern by Pierre Michel Cajuste, owner of EnviroBliss, a mold remediation company located at 325 Flatbush Ave., corner of 7th Avenue, in Park Slope. Pierre and his crew specialize in the least toxic and effective treatment of water damaged homes and offices, in contrast with conventional mold remediation firms. EnviroBliss uses non-toxic products that have stood the test of time, which not all green products do. Pierre is licensed and experienced in hygienic maintenance and refurbishment of heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, both residential and commercial. All workers are NYS-licensed and certified by the ACAC, American Council for Accredited Certification, formerly known as the American Indoor Air Quality Council. Expect the best quality HEPA vacuums and the latest in least-toxic fogging methods that capture and remove suspended micro particles left behind after conventional remediation. Pierre has worked with many families where individuals that have asthma, allergies, and sensitivities to mold and chemicals. Pierre can help your family to a healthier home, as he has with so many other individuals and families.

May Dooley, mold inspector and owner of EnviroHealth Consulting, Inc., says of EnviroBliss: "Pierre has worked with many of my mold inspection clients. These individuals largely come through doctors' referrals and tend to be very sensitive to mold. Invariably they comment on how accommodating and detail-oriented he and his workers are. A recent comment from a couple living in Manhattan was, 'Pierre is amazing! We are so happy with his work!' I have worked with Pierre for almost 10 years, since the company was founded in 2007. Clients even beyond the tri-state area, as far away as Pennsylvania and Delaware, have spoken highly of his work. I relax when I know that EnviroBliss will be on the job."

**Give a call with your questions and concerns. Pierre will be glad to speak with you.**

**Phone #: (718) 252-0404**

**Email: [enviroblissllc@verizon.net](mailto:enviroblissllc@verizon.net)**

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## Upcoming Events

**October 6th & the 1st Thursday of the month (except July/August) - Park Slope Civic Council Board Meeting**, Old Stone House in Washington Park (check website beforehand to confirm location), 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

**October 16th - Fall Civic Sweep**, 5th Avenue between 3rd and 4th Streets in front of the Old Stone House/JJ Byrne Playground, 10:00 A.M to 2:00 P.M. Unwanted electronics will be collected, free daffodil bulbs will be distributed while they last, and tools and refreshments will be provided.

**October 18th & the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except July/August) - Office Hours**, Parish Bar, 223 7th Avenue., from 7:00 P.M. Meet-up with PSCC and neighborhood folks!

**October 19th - 5th Annual Food For Thought Food Tasting Fundraiser**, Picnic House in Prospect Park, 6:30 to 9:00 P.M. Tickets on sale now at neighborhood locations, online at [www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2582177](http://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/2582177) and at the event (see our website for more details).

**October 31 - Annual Halloween Parade**, kicks off at 14th Street and 7th Avenue, 6:30 P.M., with a rockin' finale at the Old Stone House & Washington Park. This year's theme - **Daring Duos, Thrilling Trios and Superb Heroes.**

Updates and info at [www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org](http://www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org)



Box 172, 123 Seventh Avenue  
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**Join!  
Renew!  
Donate!  
Volunteer!**

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Courtesy Bob Levine Collection

### A Postcard from the Past

The history of Park Slope has always been of particular interest to our readers. Members, researchers and the public will be able to view archived issues of the Civic News dating back to 1939 after they are donated to the Brooklyn Public Library in the coming months. Pictured above is the image of a circa 1900 postcard, featured in a historical column from a former Civic News issue, depicting Grand Army Plaza in the foreground and the view up Long Island Boulevard (Eastern Parkway) with the long gone Mount Prospect Reservoir and Water Tower to the right. The Institute of Arts and Sciences (the Brooklyn Museum) appears in the far right background.



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

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