



A Warm Welcome Back to All from the 2020-21 Park Slope Civic Council Trustees



Park Slope Civic Council 2020-2021 Board of Trustees pictured from left to right, top row - Lee Boyes, Peter Bray, Mark Caserta, John Ciferni, Stephen Copek, Ryan DeLoye, Rory Dineen; second row - Donna Epstein, Timothy Gilles, Ezra Goldstein, Jill Jefferson, Jeanette Lee, Kimberly Maier, John Mazurek; third row - Amanda McAvena, Tom Miskel, Brian Reagor, Madeleine Rumely, Joe Rydell, Berryl Schiffer, Lauri Schindler; fourth row - Tammy Shaw, Erica Stauffer, Kenneth Stevens, Ron Weiss, Linda Wilson, Candace Woodward and Tiff Ziter

Civic Spirit in the Time of Covid Reflections from our President, Joe Rydell

Sheltering in place. Pandemic. Social distance. Flattening the curve. Quarantine. Lockdown. Epicenter. N-95. Antibody. Incubation. Zoom. Hybrid. Distance. Isolation. This terminology has become part of our vernacular in the last several months—a time period which has challenged our sensibilities and instilled in many of us a trepidation and caution not previously experienced in our lifetimes. We have recalibrated to accommodate these new challenges, with an eye on one day reclaiming the quality of life we had previously experienced.

As a civic organization which is largely event-driven, the Park Slope Civic Council has tabled the majority of our events and is “on pause” indefinitely until the world is permitted to interact in a less than distant manner. We have continued to meet virtually via Zoom and have taken measures so that we might continue to support our community during these ever-changing times. We have been diligently promoting voter registration and participation, census completion, as well as enthusiastically supporting our local small businesses in the form of an ongoing spotlight on restaurants in the Park Slope community.

In the midst of what might arguably be the most profound health crisis experienced in the past century, we have also been embroiled in unprecedented civil and racial unrest throughout our country. Consciousness raising and the whirl of helicopters have replaced complacency and the relative quiet of an evening stoop sit. Several of our passionate trustees were instrumental in reaching out to our elected officials, including

Mayor de Blasio. We delivered a letter asking for support in ending discriminatory policing and to support citywide public safety. On Juneteenth, we posted a statement of support calling for an end to anti-Black violence and encouraging solidarity amongst community members, focusing on a unified goal of peace and equality.

I recently spent 75 days in Vermont during the early spring. As my time there progressed, I experienced a growing void. This feeling made little sense to me until I returned to Brooklyn on June 3rd. You see, when my feet hit the pavement on Second Street, I immediately felt the connection. My 35+ years in Brooklyn have provided me with a love and appreciation of our neighborhood. Though not a Brooklyn native, my soul and spirit are indelibly rooted here. There is an inalienable connection that is more profound than I ever might have imagined. As the days of summer have passed, I have seen Park Slope evolve in a most remarkable way—almost in slow motion—like a time-lapsed film of a flower blossoming. The neighborhood has slowly opened up and is beginning to once again experience its previous bustle.

I look to the future. To a time when we imagine and reclaim words that will replace our newly learned vernacular with phrases and thoughts that are not born out of limitation. *Optimism. Patience. Compassion. Promise. Hope. Freedom. Liberation. Celebration. Smiles. Touch. Laughter. Hugs.* My hope is that our “new” words will provide needed inspiration and our collective civic spirit will remain as intrepid as ever.

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Spring Awakening p.2
 Civic Council Awards Cash Grants p.2
 The Civic Council at Work p.3

Supporting our Neighbors
 & Small Businesses p.4-5
 Celebrating our Community p.6-9
 Welcome New Trustees. p.10

Our Friends & Neighbors
 Remembered p.11
 Thanks for Helping back cover
 Your Vote Matters back cover

Spring Awakening

After watching in horror the cell phone video that captured the heartless killing of George Floyd under the knee of a Minneapolis police officer, the trustees of the Park Slope Civic Council took an immediate stand to denounce racism and police brutality in all its forms and to emphatically affirm that Black Lives Matter. We were compelled to reckon with the fact that incidents of this nature happen far too often in our society and in our beloved city.

On June 7, 2020, we sent [a letter to Mayor de Blasio](#), and several local and state-elected officials, to endorse policies and legislation that are designed to eradicate discriminatory policing, support families who have lost loved ones to such policing, increase accountability, and call for a citywide approach to public safety that is based on an equitable investment in all our communities. In so doing, we also acknowledged the potential for our city to become a model for progress in an era when hostility and anti-Black violence and sentiments continue to pose significant impediments for peace, prosperity and civil rights.

Later, in the midst of widespread protest marches against anti-Black violence, [we posted a message to our members](#) expressing our feelings of sadness and anger for the injustices that continue to plague our communities after the deaths of Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Aubry and far too many others. In the same breath, we were pleased to commemorate the Juneteenth holiday.

Today, we continue to stand in solidarity with community members and organizations fighting for positive change.

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Civic Council Awards Cash Grants to Community Groups

Each year the Civic Council awards community service grants to local organizations for their work and commitment to improve the health, vitality and diversity of our community. Our application for this year's Community Grants went live in mid-November 2019 with a deadline of December 13th, 2019. The winners of this year's Grants include:

Brooklyn Public Library is among the borough's most democratic civic institutions, serving patrons in every neighborhood and from every walk of life. The Pacific Branch Library was the first Carnegie branch to open to the public in Brooklyn on October 8th, 1904. This branch is dedicated to providing services for those populations whose voices are not as loud and whose needs are still to be met. The neighboring community centers who serve adults with special needs visit the library daily. Their grant will partially fund both an art program and a music and movement workshop for adults with special needs.

CHiPS Community Help in Park Slope, Inc. began in 1971 as a community soup kitchen and food pantry. In 1999, it opened a residence for 7 homeless, pregnant young women and their infants. The issues CHiPS has always addressed are food insecurity and homelessness. These issues continue to impact Park Slope today. Their grant will be used to provide transportation to guests who often do not have enough money to go for job and housing interviews, doctors' appointments, and appointments necessary to maintain entitlements.

Dancewave provides NYC youth access to a supportive dance experience that embraces and encourages individuality, equipping students with the life skills to unlock their full potential as people and community members. The foremost goal of Dancewave programming is to provide students of all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds with the chance to study dance. Dancewave funds will be used to support a performance at the Old Stone House and JJ Byrne Park.

Imani House is a community development non-profit that has been a staple in Park Slope for the last 26 years. Their mission is to assist marginalized youth, families and immigrants in creating vibrant neighborhoods where residents are decision makers who take responsibility for the improvement of their lives and surroundings. The grant will fund an inaugural project called "Leadership Through Journalism." This project will facilitate journalism classes for students in their after-school program over a ten week period.

One Breath Rising was established in 2015 in order to present and document improvisational arts. Its purpose is to provide opportunities for diverse artists to present and document their work. Its vision is to live in a world where arts such as poetry, jazz, and dance are incorporated into everyday life, where its creators are held in the highest esteem, and where its traditions are passed along from generation to generation. In 2018 and 2019 One Breath Rising received funding from the PSCC which allowed it to include musicians and to broaden its Park Slope audience. This grant will enable One Breath Rising to solidify its brand by allowing it to create signage and marketing materials to publicize its events.

Opera on Tap Since its inception in 2005, Opera on Tap has partnered with The Old Stone House on various music projects. Opera on Tap has requested a PSCC grant for its Opera Homebrew program. The program is presented at Barbès and Freddy's Bar where recitals are presented around a "Theme of the month."

continued on p.11

The Park Slope Civic Council Working for a Lively, Safe, Green & Beautiful Park Slope!

PSCC SCHOLARSHIPS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE

- The Food for Thought Gala funds four college scholarships for community service

VOLUNTEERISM & GRANTS

- Awarding grants to diverse organizations that enrich the community
- Partnering with neighboring organizations on issues of mutual concern

ADVOCACY

- Creating NYC's largest historic district
- Campaigning for mass transit improvement
 - Promoting more livable streets
- Supporting local merchants and businesses



HONORING SERVICE & ACHIEVEMENT

- Ortner Awards for projects preserving the character and grace of the neighborhood
- Lovgren Awards honoring individuals and organizations for professional and volunteer service

COMMUNITY MEETINGS

- In recent years PSCC has sponsored Town Hall meetings on the future of 4th Avenue, reducing our carbon footprint, and expanding the historic district

SUSTAINABILITY

- Civic Sweeps and neighborhood cleanups
- Partnership with Prospect Park Alliance Mulchfest

SPONSORSHIP

- The Halloween Parade
- PSCC Historic House Tour
 - Art Slope
 - Food for Thought

Our Mission Statement

The Park Slope Civic Council promotes the health, vitality and character of the Park Slope neighborhood and advocates for the interests of residents, businesses and others with a stake in the community.

Support Your PSCC

and help us to

Sustain the Relevance, Viability and History of 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

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Other Adult Members of Household (if applicable)

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City

State

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Phone

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Household: \$40

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Benefactor: \$250

Student/Elder Community (65+): \$25

Other - Contribution of: \$ _____

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Supporting our Neighbors & Small Businesses

Supporting the Social & Eco-Justice Agenda of the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice (GNCJ)



During the summer of 2020 the Gowanus Neighborhood Coalition for Justice (GNCJ) continued to advocate for a Gowanus Rezoning program and process that is both racially just and ecologically sound. *City Limits* recently published a GNCJ opinion piece highlighting the lessons of the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement and how they must be addressed in the city planning process at: <https://citylimits.org/2020/07/15/opinion-gowanus-rezoning-must-heed-covid-19-lessons-offer-racial-justice/>.

Park Slope Civic Council members and Park Slope neighbors may make their support known for equitable and green Gowanus rezoning by signing the GNCJ petition to Mayor Bill de Blasio at: https://www.change.org/p/mayor-bill-de-blasio-support-gowanus-neighborhood-coalition-for-justice-6b58fb51-c704-4bfd-811c-a29af3fe4a98?utm_source=share_petition&utm_medium=custom_url&recruited_by_id=9444ba30-074e-0130-c381-4040f855b16c. The Park Slope Civic Council is a member organization of GNCJ.

Covering the Essentials at Tarzian Hardware

Andrew Cuomo @NewYorkGovCuomo "New Yorkers are smart. New Yorkers are resourceful. New Yorkers are united. New Yorkers are tough. We are all in this together and we will get through this together." Twitter, March 31, 2020, twitter.com/NYGovCuomo/status/1245106421513039872

The first case of COVID-19 in New York State was confirmed on March 1, 2020. With state case counts now surging to over 450,000, Park Slope has mobilized to take care of its own in this unprecedented time of strife. Deemed "essential" on a short list of retail business types, Tarzian Hardware, a family-run business and fixture of the Park Slope retail community since 1921, has served a crucial role in helping to keep our neighbors, businesses and organizations well stocked and safer in the face of COVID-19 driven supply shortages.

Answering the call of "getting through this together" Tarzian owner John Ciferni gifted cash and supplies to area institutions, providing key resources for the health and safety of our neighbors. These included monetary donations to Methodist Hospital employees for meals, and contributions of personal protective equipment, gloves, wipes and paper towels to the 78th Precinct and to EMTs at Methodist Hospital. Additionally gallons of hand sanitizer were donated to Camp Friendship and the Brooklyn Relief Kitchen at Old First Reformed Church.

Tarzian's postings about the status of supplies on social media, curb-side pickup capability, daily business hours and home deliveries during the lockdown also engendered a sense of faith that essential resources were as close as a call or click away.

Thank goodness for our small businesses like Tarzian Hardware. Please give them your support, now and throughout the year.



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5th Avenue BID: Getting Down to Business

Since 2009, the **Park Slope Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District (BID)**, a non-profit organization created by the avenue's merchants and property owners, has been working under contract with the City of New York to keep the avenue clean, green and safe. The BID also plans events like A Taste of Fifth, The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair, Summer Strolls, the annual tree lighting (and holiday lights) and more. It also promotes and assists the 500+ small businesses through good times and bad through direct advocacy and social media (@theother5th Instagram account is the most trafficked).

Although the daily work of the BID has always been challenging, the COVID-19 crisis brought it into laser focus. Their cleaning crew became essential workers, keeping the avenue tidy and wiping down benches and garbage cans to reduce virus transmission. Executive Director Mark Caserta and Deputy Director Joanna Talantire spent every day working with businesses to identify financial and legal assistance and took weekly walks to update the list of businesses that remained open. Each night they shared the BID's daily newsletter with the community to encourage local spending and provide help to those in need. At one point there were fewer than 60 small businesses (out of 520) open on 5th Avenue, during the height of the pandemic. Now well into phase 4 there are over 475 businesses open. More than 100 restaurants and bars have created outdoor dining spaces with guidance and help from the BID. In addition, the BID worked with restaurant owners and NYC DOT to close 15 blocks of the avenue to traffic every Saturday from 11 am - 10 pm, adding vibrancy and much-needed open space to the community.

The BID's efforts have had a positive impact. However, after months of shutdown and a sharp economic downturn, more needs to be done. Many are still unable to make their rent and nearly 25 small businesses have already closed on 5th Avenue as a direct result of the pandemic. Please help sustain our small business community by Shopping Local NOW!

Community Yarn Bomb:* Creative Arts Returns to 4th Avenue



Arts Gowanus, the Old Stone House, and Forth on Fourth Ave (FOFA), a committee of the Park Slope Civic Council, are partnering to facilitate a **Community Yarn Bomb** project to bring colorful, surprising, and street-friendly fabric art to 4th Avenue.

Six socially-distanced and free creative work sessions in August and September at the Old Stone House and Washington Park are culminating in an installation of completed fabric art at the batting cage along 4th Avenue at Washington Park on **Saturday, October 3**. Works will be in place for the Kings County Fiber Festival at the same location on the following **Saturday, October 10**. All are welcome!

Contact FOFA at fofa@parkslopeciviccouncil.org with any questions about the Yarn Bomb and/or any interest in helping.

**Yarn bombing: Urban knitting or graffiti knitting, a type of graffiti or street art that employs colorful displays of knitted or crocheted yarn or fiber rather than paint or chalk. Yarn bombing was initially almost exclusively about reclaiming and personalizing sterile or cold public places. Yarn installations are considered non-permanent, and, unlike other forms of graffiti, can be easily removed as necessary.*

"Keeping Our Businesses in Business" Campaign Launched by Council

In many ways, Park Slope is defined by our retail corridors, so COVID-19 has not only taken a profound toll on our small businesses, but on our neighborhood identity. To counter its existential threat, the Civic Council launched a campaign this summer, "Keeping Our Businesses in Business," to help sustain them through this perilous period.

Our weekly emails and social media linked to lists of businesses that continue to operate and urged residents to order from them. Our promotional campaign, driven by PSCC Trustee Peter Bray, was greatly assisted by surveys conducted by other Civic Council Trustees and our local BIDs and merchant associations, who located all the businesses whose doors remained open.

There were too many businesses to individually promote, so the Civic Council opted to "pay it forward" by profiling businesses that have long supported the Civic Council's events, and especially, Food for Thought, whose proceeds fund scholarships to graduating seniors from the four John Jay Campus high schools.

If you didn't catch our posts, they featured: Al Di La Trattoria, Benchmark, Better Together Brooklyn website, Bogota Latin Bistro, BKLYN Cake Studio, Cousin John's Bakery, Da Nonna Rosa, Gather, Krupa Grocery, Palo Santo, Runner and Stone, Scottadito Osteria Toscana, 7th Avenue Wine & Liquor, Shawn Fine Wines & Spirits, Skylee, Slope Cellars, Stone Park Café, Tarzian Hardware and Wild.

The Park Slope Civic Council appreciates their contribution to our mission. Until some semblance of normalcy returns, we ask that the community continue to shop from Park Slope's retail shops and restaurants.

Your patronage keeps them in business.

We're Proud
to Support
**PSCC and
the Enduring Spirit
of Park Slope**

Celebrating our Community

Council Renews Campaign to Protect Center Slope



Photo by Peter Bray

Park Slope has a wealth of treasured 19th century architecture. Given the sheer number of its blocks, one can easily be forgiven for assuming that the entire neighborhood is landmark protected. Surprisingly, almost all of Park Slope below 7th Avenue is not in the historic district. Without the protection that landmarking affords, the architectural integrity of these blocks can and is being eroded by unsympathetic alterations. For a notable example, the new construction at 497 3rd Street, just west of 7th Avenue, would have had to undergo a rigorous design review by the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), and a more contextual design would have resulted.

The Civic Council has been committed to building upon its recent landmarking successes -- achieving two sizeable extensions since 2011 to the original 1973 historic district -- by its dogged efforts to engage with the LPC. "Unfortunately, those efforts have been frustrated thus far by the LPC's lack of resources and its priorities to allocate those resources to neighborhoods that have received landmark consideration in the past," reports PSCC Historic Committee Chair, Peter Bray.

This year, the Civic Council is reviving its push to extend landmarking to more than 1,500 buildings in the Center Slope: the area above 5th Avenue and between Union and 7th Streets. In ongoing discussions with the LPC, the agency has always recognized this area as being the architecturally strongest and most cohesive part of Park Slope. Despite this fact, the LPC has admonished PSCC's Historic District Committee over the last five years to "wait your turn." The Civic Council, though, is not content to wait indefinitely.



Civic Council Chosen for HDC Six to Celebrate Program

Because ongoing delay risks further unsympathetic changes, the Civic Council applied and was chosen by the Historic Districts Council (HDC) to be a participant in their 2020 Six to Celebrate (STC) Program. As the citywide preservation advocate, HDC is providing the Civic Council with technical assistance, grant funds, and most importantly, a bully pulpit to strengthen our case with the LPC to move forward with its consideration of the Center Slope. Due to the area's size, we expect that protecting the Center Slope will be accomplished in two phases, necessitating perseverance on our part over this coming decade.

We are fortunate to have HDC advocating on our behalf, since its STC Program has achieved a remarkable track record since it was launched in 2011, during which time it has helped to create 8 New York City historic districts and 36 individual landmarks, 4 National Register districts, and 3 National Register properties.

Though our engagement with the community has been sidetracked by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Civic Council's plans involve sponsoring walking tours to raise awareness of the Center Slope's splendors and undertaking a building-by-building survey to document its architectural merit. We will also need to demonstrate the support of the residents within Center Slope. We hope we can count on your support when our campaign launches.

Please write the Council with any questions or if you want to get involved at historic.district@parkslopeciviccouncil.org.



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Civic Council Awards College Scholarships to Four John Jay H.S. Graduating Seniors for Outstanding Volunteer & Community Service

The Park Slope Civic Council awarded Community Service Scholarships to four remarkable high school students at the year-end virtual Zoom meeting on Thursday, June 4, 2020.

The recipients of the scholarships are graduating seniors attending high schools at the John Jay Educational Complex and have exemplified a remarkable level of volunteer and community service. Each student received a \$2,500 scholarship to assist them with their continued education.

Scholarships were awarded to: **Azalea Francois Brown** from the John Jay High School for Law will be attending The City University of NY; **AbbyGaile Jean** from Park Slope Collegiate will be attending St. John's University; **Kaylee Ramirez** from Millennium Brooklyn High School will be attending Hunter College; and **Shahnoza Zahidova** from the CyberArts Studio Academy (formerly the Secondary School for Journalism) will be attending Brooklyn College.

The Community Service Scholarships are funded from the proceeds of the Civic Council's food and drink tasting event, Food for Thought. Many thanks to all who have participated in and attended Food for Thought. Your contributions to this event made these scholarships possible.



Azalea Francois Brown



AbbyGaile Jean



Kaylee Ramirez



Shahnoza Zahidova

Photos by Joe Rycell

Distinguished Community Leaders Recognized at PSCC Annual Meeting

The Park Slope Civic Council recently acknowledged three individuals who have worked tirelessly for decades to inspire the arts, spirituality, and social services within the Park Slope community. The celebration of these individuals occurred at our year end general membership meeting on June 4, 2020. As these three community leaders step ahead to new opportunities, the Civic Council is filled with gratitude and appreciation for their contributions to our community.



Diane Jacobowitz, Executive & Artistic Director, Dancewave

Diane has retired from her job as Executive Director of Dancewave after a distinguished career in performing, choreography and arts administration. The Civic Council particularly recognizes her work with Dancewave, a Brooklyn based organization with the expressed mission of "Transforming Lives Through Dance" and salutes her work and vision. The Dancewave Culture Model (DCM) is grounded in restorative practice, where students are mentored by accomplished dance professionals from a veritable "Who's Who" of dance companies, which allows for personal growth as well as superior dance education. Under Diane's leadership, Dancewave has continually expanded its public school and community residencies, offering an average of 35 residencies in schools and senior centers serving 6,000 New Yorkers annually in all five boroughs. While relinquishing her formal title, Diane anticipates a strong continued relationship with Dancewave.



Rev. Dr. Daniel Meeter, Pastor, Old First Reformed Church

The Civic Council is happy to acknowledge the Reverend Dr. Daniel Meeter, pastor and teacher at Old First since 2001. Daniel has served as a Trustee on the Park Slope Civic Council and in recent years has also been the recipient of both the coveted Lovgren Award and the Ortner Award, both presented annually by the Civic Council. Daniel has always been a generous spirit in the community and has sponsored the Civic Council at the Old First Church for many events and meetings. Daniel is married to Rev. Melody Takken Meeter, director of pastoral care at the Lutheran Medical Center of Brooklyn. They have two grown children and two grandsons. Daniel's final service at Old First was Sunday, June 28, 2020, and he officially retired Thursday, July 2, 2020.



Judy Willig, LCSW, Executive Director, Heights and Hills

The Civic Council is pleased to recognize the accomplishments of Judy Willig, friend, neighbor and Executive Director of Heights and Hills, whose vision of successful aging has so positively impacted the quality of life and well-being of our "60 and better" community. Judy retired as Executive Director of Heights and Hills at the end of July. In her 33-year career at the helm of Heights and Hills and The Park Slope Center for Successful Aging, Judy's leadership has expanded their annual outreach from 400 people to 5,000 older Brooklynites and their families in nearly half of the borough of Brooklyn. Supported by an engaged and committed Board of Directors and a professional staff of 43, Heights and Hills now provides critical programs to older adults including social services for homebound older adults, caregiver support for families and friends, volunteer/intergenerational programs and The Park Slope Center for Successful Aging. Judy is also a past recipient of the Civic Council's Lovgren Award for Excellence in Community Service by a Professional.



Celebrating our Community

2020 Ortner Honors Awarded in March for Restoration of a Historic Building & Neighborhood Intervention

The Ortner Preservation Committee proudly awarded honors to two recipients at the March 5th meeting of the Civic Council. The awards were given in two categories.

The award for Restoration of a Historic Building went to Matt Viragh and his team at **the Nitehawk Cinema** for restoring the old Sanders/Pavilion Theater at Bartel/Pritchard Square. The restoration took two years and cost over \$10 Million with much of the gilded Moorish detail from the original 1928 Sanders Theater incorporated into the new spaces. A special bronze floor medallion was commissioned paying homage to the Nitehawk's past, naming all three movie theaters (Sanders, Pavilion, Nitehawk) that occupied the premises and created its history. The full renovation also modernized the space by installing two elevators, a state-of-the-art commercial kitchen, new screening rooms with the latest in projection and sound design, and two bars with panoramic views of Prospect Park through arched windows (pictured below left and center).

The award for Neighborhood Intervention went to John Casson (pictured below right with Ortner Awards Chairperson John

Mazurek) and the Berkeley Place Alliance for their efforts forcing the Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC) to order the owner of 7th Avenue Grocery to remove an illegal canvas and steel tube structure along Berkeley Place that was an eyesore and endangerment to local citizens. The structure not only covered the historic details of the original rusticated brownstone building, but created a pedestrian bottleneck when the store put its garbage out at night. The citizens formally organized, forcing LPC to act, creating and signing petitions protesting the violation of the LPC guidelines and asked LPC to deny the permit the grocer filed in response to the original complaints. The Alliance relentlessly pursued LPC to follow up with the owner, forcing the owner to finally withdraw his permit request and take down the offending structure.

The Ortner Awards, sponsored by Tarzian Hardware, are given in commemoration of Evelyn Ortner (1924-2006) and Everett Ortner (1919-2012), long-time Park Slope residents and community advocates who, beginning in the 1960s, played a pivotal role in transforming our neighborhood, then in decline, into the vibrant community it is today.

Photos left & center, courtesy of Nitehawk Cinema

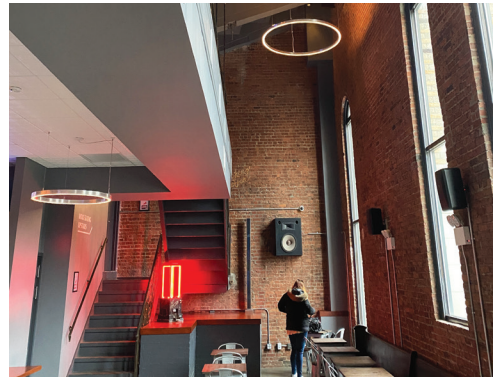


Photo by Tom Regan

Lovgren Award Winners Celebrated at Annual June Meeting

Each year since 1979, the Park Slope Civic Council has identified and honored an organization and an individual for outstanding service to the community. The awards are named for George Lovgren, the Park Slope activist who in the 1960s worked tirelessly to save the Union Street Firehouse from closure. The 2020 Lovgren Awards were presented at the Council's annual year end general membership meeting via Zoom on Thursday, June 4th.

The Lovgren Award for Community Service by a Professional was awarded to Susan Fox, Ph.D., founder of Park Slope Parents. A community organizer of great energy, Susan founded Park Slope Parents in July, 2002 for local parents who wanted to exchange information.



Park Slope Parents is a community of seven thousand families, with its members sharing advice on raising families in Brooklyn – everything from hiring a nanny to choosing a camp, from teething to single parenting, from dealing with illness to help with aging parents. Other initiatives have included partnerships with non-profit organiza-

tions to provide child-related items (e.g., clothing, cribs, blankets for needy families), pregnancy and baby groups, as well as groups for stay-at-home moms, tweens, cooking, and more. Susan's enormous contribution to the families of Park Slope is undeniable.

The Lovgren Award for Community Service by a Volunteer was awarded to Michael Cairl, a tireless advocate for our community. He was president of the Park Slope Civic Council from 2010-2014.

Since 2008, Michael has served on the Board of Directors of Brooklyn Greenway Initiative. Since 2017, he has been president of the Montauk Club, a private social club in Park Slope founded in 1889. He has served as Chair of the Board of Trustees and Financial Secretary of Park Slope United Methodist Church and is a co-founder of the Grand Army Plaza Coalition, responsible for improvements around the Plaza. From 2004 to 2011, he served as Chair of the Gowanus Community Stakeholder Group. Michael's leadership on behalf of the Park Slope community has truly been outstanding.



Retailer Spotlight: FIVE GUYS . . . BROTHERS and PIES

by Louise Crawford

You'd be forgiven for thinking **Da Nonna Rosa** is just another Brooklyn pizzeria because of its pizza ovens and typical counter with its display of pies with a variety of delicious toppings. But this Seventh Avenue restaurant, owned by five brothers of Italian-Greek extraction born and raised on Long Island, is so much more.



Photo by Tammy Shaw

Pictured left to right, the Sagos brothers - Steve, Paul, Teddy, Anthony (and inset, Peter) at Da Nonna Rosa's 140 7th Avenue location in Park Slope.

Da Nonna Rosa is an ideal place to sample a mouth-watering selection of classic Italian classics—eggplant parmigiana, prize-winning meatballs and lasagna. Add to this a delivery business that is seriously high volume. In the five years that the Sagos brothers have owned and operated Da Nonna Rosa, it has become an iconic and valued Park Slope destination.

What a surprise it was to learn that when brothers Paul, Peter, Teddy, Anthony and Steve first showed up to look at the original Da Nonna Rosa which was for sale in 2015, none of them had ever been to Brooklyn, let alone Park Slope. “Brooklyn, Park Slope. We knew nothing. But we knew immediately this was the right space and the right neighborhood for us,” says Anthony, who learned the restaurant business working at various Long Island pizzerias and received a business degree from Queens College. “We just fell into this place with a broker and realized what a great family neighborhood Park Slope is.” At that time, the Sagos brothers, who range in age

from 19-31, knew they wanted to start a business together. Oldest brother Paul is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America. “We all grew up in restaurants . . . at home our mother made a fantastic lasagna and lentil soup,” says Teddy. “The five of us took an established business and used their name because it means *Grandmother Rose*, and we knew we wanted to create a restaurant that was family friendly, casual, and served great big portions.” Teddy also credits his father with the work ethic and ambition that fuels their business. Consistency, customer service, and excellent cuisine are but a few reasons for their loyal customer base and contribute to the success of Da Nonna Rosa. There is also a great emphasis on the importance of delivery to their business. “In the future, we’d like to deliver all over Brooklyn.” With this spirit, the Sagos brothers have recently added a new branch in Greenpoint called Nonna's Pizzeria, a smaller shop with more of a hipster vibe.

It is important to note that the Sagos brothers’ passion has extended to donations of food and energy to the Park Slope community during the COVID-19 crisis. In spite of having to lay off a number of treasured, long-time staff, the Sagos Brothers have donated food to front line workers at NY Presbyterian Methodist Hospital and Maimonides Medical Center, among other grateful neighborhood recipients. Though the restaurant’s dining room and party space have been temporarily closed since March, their take-out and delivery service have continued to provide essential community services to Park Slope and its environs during the last several challenging months of the pandemic. Anthony offered that the “community and great customers always found a way to support us, by ordering frequently. Some customers even purchased multiple gift cards! Many customers also donated hundreds of pizzas to hospitals around Brooklyn and Queens.”

The Park Slope Civic Council is especially proud to claim Da Nonna Rosa as our official “pizza sponsor” and greatly values the relationship we have with the Sagos brothers. Thank you to Steve, Paul, Anthony, Teddy and Peter!

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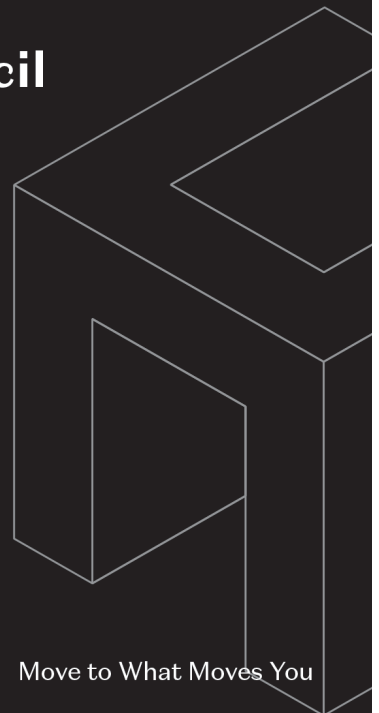


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WELCOME to the NEW Park Slope Civic Council Trustees



A member of the Civic Council since 2014, **Berryl Schiffer's** infatuation with the beauty and charm of brownstone Brooklyn emerged while a college student at nearby Pratt Institute in Clinton Hill. Fast forward to 1984 – Berryl and her husband purchased their first co-op on Garfield Place and continue to live in the Center Slope. A devotee

of design combined with her magazine publishing background, Berryl's professional skill set aligned with serving the Council as Managing Editor of the Civic News since Fall of 2014.

What drew Berryl to the neighborhood years ago has grown to a deep appreciation for the neighborhood's sense of community and the Council's advocacy efforts to improve the quality of life for all our neighbors through its initiatives. As a Trustee she looks forward to expanding her opportunity to help make a difference.



Ezra Goldstein has been co-owner of the **Community Bookstore in Park Slope** since 2010, and of **Terrace Books in Windsor Terrace** since 2015. From 2004-2010, he edited the Civic News, then a newsletter published 10 times a year, and sat as an ex-officio member of the Civic Council board. An Ohio native—one of Brooklyn's few buckeye trees

outside the Botanic Garden grows in front of his Carroll Street home—he moved to Park Slope in 1985.

Ezra and his wife, Annette, a public-school teacher, raised two sons and a daughter in the neighborhood, and have lived here long enough to mourn the passing of myriad mom and pop shops that helped give the neighborhood character and cohesion. Even before the retail disaster of COVID-19, Ezra was deeply concerned about the future of independent business in Park Slope and all New York City. It is this concern that made him wish to become involved once again with the Park Slope Civic Council.



Linda Wilson is a 3rd generation Brooklynite and lifetime resident of Park Slope and where she and her husband have raised their six children. Together, they've enjoyed many of the Slope's educational, cultural and family oriented amenities. She considers the Park Slope neighborhood to be a gift that keeps on giving. Linda embraces the concept: to whom

much is given, much is required. This value is what prompted her to become a member of the Park Slope Civic Council.

Upon becoming a Trustee of the PSCC, Linda has set out to continue the work of her dedicated predecessors. An active member of the Council's art committee, Linda looks forward to ushering in a new crop of short films to screen at future iterations of the Art Slope film festival.

Linda is an attorney and a career public servant. Upon receiving her undergraduate degree in politics from New York University and her law degree from Columbia University School of Law, Linda became a court attorney within the New York State court system. Linda is committed to advancing community dialogues that promote diversity of thought, empathy for others and respect for all.



Brian Reagor is the Director of Philanthropy for the Education For Employment Foundation (EFE), a Manhattan-based family foundation that invests in workforce development, job training and entrepreneurship across the Middle East and North Africa. His role centers on managing EFE's diverse portfolio of corporate and foundational donors, building on half

a decade of experience as a fundraising Director at several New York City nonprofits.

Prior to his work in NYC, Brian spent 8+ years managing federal grants internationally throughout Africa, Kuwait and Oman. He and his wife Lauren are recent transplants to Park Slope and are looking forward to supporting their new community through the Park Slope Civic Council.

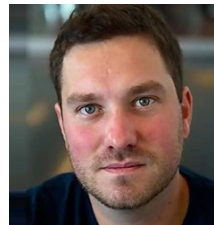


Jill Jefferson has been a Park Slope resident for over 25 years. She moved to Park Slope after attending undergraduate and law school in Virginia and Washington, DC and practicing law for a short period of time in Texas. She fell in love with the neighborhood after visiting often during undergraduate school as her best friend was born and raised in Park Slope.

Jill worked for Merrill Lynch in corporate communications and brand strategy for twelve years and then decided to feed her passion for community service after the 9/11 attack. After working for a Brooklyn based community service organization for five years, she returned to financial services and now is an Executive Director in communications for JPMorgan Chase.

Jill loves classical music and has been playing the viola in the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra for fourteen years. She is also on their Board of Directors and has served twice as President of the Board.

Jill is excited to be a newly elected Trustee for the Park Slope Civic Council and would like to increase the footprint of the Council in Park Slope and neighboring communities.



Ryan DeLorge was born and raised in Park Slope and still resides in Park Slope with his wife Rebecca, also a Park Slope native, and their two children. Ryan is the owner of **718 Tutoring** and also works for Park Slope Parents. Ryan is an avid runner and competes in marathons and ultra-marathons in his free time.

While a small business owner by trade, Ryan's civic participation and commitment to helping his community is his true passion. Whether he is organizing block parties as President of his Block Association, planning social and issue based meet-ups for Park Slope Parents, or COVID-19 pandemic, Ryan's mission rings true, and he is beyond excited to bring that mission to the Park Slope Civic Council.



Our Friends & Neighbors Remembered



Nat Allman

The Civic Council recently lost one of its long-time, treasured members and former Trustee. Nat Allman passed away in March due to complications from COVID-19. During his tenure as a Civic Council Trustee, Nat had a significant influence on the community and the Civic Council. Among other initiatives, Nat served as the Scholarship Committee chair as well as the Halloween Parade chair. As recently as a few months ago, Nat frequently attended Civic Council events and meetings. His generous spirit and amiable demeanor will be greatly missed.



Paula Ciferni

Paula Tarzian Ciferni, beloved neighborhood fixture and mother of Civic Council Trustee John Ciferni, passed away on November 8, 2019. Paula moved to Park Slope in 1976 and soon afterward opened a childcare center on the ground floor level of her brownstone. Paula met and married Harry Tarzian and began working at Tarzian Hardware in 1997, transforming the store by expanding the garden, cleaning and storage departments, and by cultivating an environment that is welcoming to all. She provided mentorship to many young men and women during her years of leadership at Tarzian Hardware. Paula is greatly missed and best remembered as a passionate small business owner, a loving mother and grandmother, and for her stellar disposition and generosity of spirit.

We are saddened by the loss of Brooklyn born progressive trailblazers Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg and celebrated journalist Pete Hamill. Their remarkable contributions to our world have greatly influenced the course of history and culture. They will be missed.

Civic Council Cash Grants continued from p. 2

Spellbound Theatre, founded in 2011 as artists-in-residence at the Old Stone House, is a company devoted to creating original, multi-disciplinary performance for the very young. Spellbound produces original plays for audiences ages 0-5 and conducts early childhood education programs and community events for families with young children. This grant will support their family outreach Pop-Up Performance series at the Old Stone House which is presented multiple times over the year for families with children ages 2-5.

Spoke the Hub Dancing Inc. (STH) is a not-for-profit dance and community arts organization in Park Slope and Gowanus. They have requested a PSCC grant in order to seamlessly continue to provide music for their classes. Historically STH has only been able to provide music through antiquated means. Given the pace of changes in technology, music can no longer be played via a CD player. The grant will help fund a computer that can stream music during their classes.



Bob Braun

Former Civic Council Trustee (2001 – 2012) Robert Braun died on January 7, 2020. Bob was a principal at the Architecture and Interior Design firm Ariana Braun Architects and his work includes such local projects as the entrance to the Berkeley-Carroll Lower School, the Dime Savings Bank 5th Avenue branch and Park Slope Pediatric Dental. He was active on the Historic District, Livable Streets and House Tour Committees and was an instrumental and knowledgeable voice in the origination of the Ortner Preservation Awards process. Bob is survived by his wife Helen and sons Ernest and Wesley.



Joe Ferris

Former Park Slope Assemblyman and Reformer Joe Ferris died from COVID-19 on June 20th at the age of 85. A lifetime resident of Brooklyn, Joe served five terms in the New York State Assembly representing Park Slope and nearby Kensington, Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park and Borough Park. He joined Everett and Evelyn Ortner and other energized area residents who championed a return to city life and the transformation of Park Slope from a neighborhood in decline in the 1960s into the vibrant community it is today. Joe also played a significant role in establishing the Old Stone House as a museum, showcasing Park Slope's importance in the American War of Independence. Joe Ferris' contributions to Park Slope cannot be understated.



PARK SLOPE CIVIC COUNCIL

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



Civic Sweep is Back!
Sunday, Oct 18th, 10-2 pm
7th Ave in front of John Jay H.S.
Pitch In & Help Beautify 7th Avenue
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THANKS FOR HELPING: Strike Back Against Hunger in NYC Donate Today - Get Involved!

1 in 4 New York City residents are suffering from hunger due to COVID-19 and the loss of jobs or reductions in income. It is a striking indicator of the pandemic's impact on the city's social fabric. The crisis is reflected by food pantry shelves that have been picked clean and has been exacerbated by the closing of some pantries and kitchens. For those of us that have been spared this personal crisis, we can assist our Park Slope neighbors and other New Yorkers in need by supporting organizations whose mission it is to feed the growing legions of hungry households. Please help to alleviate this hunger crisis. Food or monetary donations can be made, and volunteer opportunities are available at one or more of these suggested organizations:

CAMBA Beyond Hunger Food Pantry (<https://camba.org/>) operates a food pantry just east of Prospect Park; **Citymeals on Wheels** (<https://www.citymeals.org/>) delivers meals to the home-bound elderly; **City Harvest** (<https://www.cityharvest.org/>) picks up donated food and delivers it to food pantries throughout the city; **Food Bank for New York City** (<https://www.foodbanknyc.org/>) supplies food to hundreds of food pantries throughout the 5 boroughs; **New York Common Pantry** (<http://nycommonpantry.org/>) is one of the city's largest food banks whose mission is to reduce hunger and promote dignity, health and self-sufficiency; The **Brooklyn Relief Kitchen** based at **Old First Reformed Church** in Park Slope (<https://oldfirstbrooklyn.org/tag/brooklyn-relief-kitchen/>) provides 250 plus fresh cooked meals a day; **CHiPS** food kitchen in Park Slope offers an outdoor pop-up lunch from 11:30-1:00 pm Monday-Saturday. Food donations of meals and sandwiches may be dropped off between 10-11:30 am. *Donors are asked to call in advance of delivering food at 718-237-2962.*



YOUR VOTE MATTERS! Make A Plan



The rules around voting in the November 2020 General Election are changing at a bewildering pace. Here in New York changes for 2020 have created the option of early, in-person voting, and have loosened the eligibility requirements for absentee, mail-in voting. Here are some resources for navigating the process:

To participate in the 2020 General Election, New Yorkers must be registered to vote by October 9th. New Yorkers can look up and verify their voter registration record using New York's voter registration look-up tool at: <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/>

There are 3 ways to vote in the November 2020 General Election:

★Vote EARLY ★ Vote BY MAIL ★Vote ELECTION DAY★

Get early voting information and locate your early voting polling site at: <https://www.voteearlynyc.org/>

For information about absentee voting and to apply online for an absentee ballot visit: <https://vote.nyc/page/absentee-voting>

One change recently announced in early September is the ability for New York City residents to go online to track the progress of an absentee ballot—from the voter's request, to the Board of Elections mailing the ballot out, to the Board's acceptance of the submitted ballot at: <https://nycabsentee.com/tracking>

General questions about registration, election timetables, polling places, etc. may be answered at: <https://vote.nyc/>

Given the importance of this year's election and the multiple voting options available, perhaps the most important thing everyone can do right now is **MAKE A PLAN!**