

## OCT 13 LMA Fall General Meeting

Church of the Evangel on Bedford Ave. (Hawthorne and Winthrop St.), 10 a.m. – noon. The new precinct commander is expected to attend. There will be nominations for open positions on the LMA Board.

## OCT 31 PLG Halloween Parade

The annual "Safe Halloween Parade" sponsored by the 71st Precinct starts at 5 p.m. on the corner of Rutland Road and Flatbush Avenue.

## NOV 6 Election Day

You will have heard all the speeches and seen all the ads. Finally it's your turn. Do your duty. Get out and vote.

## Suspect Surrenders in Shooting Death of Clarkson Avenue Mother

Christopher Johnson, a 21-year-old Bedford-Stuyvesant man, surrendered to police one week after the shooting death of Fatima Gordon, the 28-year-old mother shot in the back on August 30th by a bicycle-riding gunman who took faulty aim at a gang rival.

Gordon was returning home from the Pioneer Supermarket with her 5-year-old son, a 7-year-old brother and other friends around 9 p.m. when she was shot in front of her apartment building on Clarkson Avenue between Bedford and Flatbush Avenues. Three other people, including a 13-year-old boy on a skateboard, were wounded,—one seriously.

Neighbors told reporters that they had been complaining about the infestation of drug-dealing gangs and illegal arms sales, which made the block particularly violent this summer with a rash of stabbings and non-fatal shootings that never made the news.

This jibes with a citywide pattern. While New York remains the safest big city in the U.S. when measured by violent crime and armed robbery (it is actually on track to break a record low number of homicides for a single year), the summer of 2012 has been a gruesome one. Throughout the five boroughs, innocent bystanders — a few of them children and teenagers — have been shot and/or killed by heartless gunmen supposedly aiming at enemies.

Gordon was a quiet but attractive and stylish mixed-race woman. Friends and family say she doted on her son Chinnarie, who, according to news reports, has diabetes. She loved taking him to Prospect Park and her maternal devotion inspired her to pursue a career in nursing, which she was studying because of his condition.

Her neighborhood nickname, "Chin," reflected her Asian father's heritage and she drew block-wide fame for the head of long hair that she loved to dye, just recently coloring it green after having been blonde.

Gordon loved swimming and she had an ambition to one day buy a home with a swimming pool far away from Clarkson Avenue, family members told reporters.

Only a few days after her murder a vigil to stop the violence honored Gordon's 29th birthday. A diverse crowd of 300 people, a broadcast news crew and Councilman Mathieu Eugene, who had met privately with her family earlier, gathered in front of her apartment building. At the event, Janice Thomas, Gordon's aunt, spoke emotionally in favor of the Police Department's *(continued on page 2)*



Tolonda Tolbert, president of the Lincoln R&B Block Association (standing on sidewalk in summer dress) is surrounded by elected officials, community leaders, neighbors and other well-wishers celebrating the Greenest Block in Brooklyn award.

## Lincoln 2 Takes Gold in "Greenest Block" Competition

Sterling 1 Almost Medals, Lefferts 3 Also Impresses Judges

by MILFORD PREWITT

A triumphant three Prospect Lefferts Gardens blocks stood out in this year's annual Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest sponsored by the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. And Lincoln Road 2, between Bedford and Rogers Avenues, bloomed above them all by taking first place for the second time in three years.

Two-hundred-and-sixty residential blocks in Brooklyn competed in the BBG's annual contest to be recognized as having the best looking front yards, floral streetscapes and healthiest trees on a single block. In a salute to PLG's long tradition of maintaining some of the most beautiful blocks in Brooklyn, Sterling Street 1 and Lefferts Avenue 3 also scored well in the annual competition.

Sterling 1 between Washington and Bedford Avenues — a perennial contender with its stately block-long row of soaring sycamore trees — made its best showing yet by taking fourth place. Lefferts 3 between Rogers and Nostrand Avenues also placed well, sharing the distinction of honorable mention with about a dozen blocks in the borough.

Although Bedford-Stuyvesant and East Flatbush have previously had more than one block score among the top five prizewinners, it is still a rare occurrence in the competition's 18-year history, said Botanic Gardens Communications Manager Kate Blumm.

While the award is much appreciated, says Lincoln Road 2 Block Association President Tolonda Tolbert, what it symbolizes is more meaningful: neighbors coming together in a unified effort to improve the community. Tolbert, a corporate diversity consultant who teaches diversity management at New York University, has led the block association for five of the ten years that she has lived there.

When Lincoln 2 won the award in 2009, only 50 of the 84 households participated in beautifying the block. However this year, Tolbert said, 75 of the households invested dollars, time and love in their yards, window boxes, flowerbeds and tree pits to push the block back into the winner's circle.

A high level of citizen involvement is one of the many criteria used to judge the Greenest Block candidates. The 20 contest judges — primarily journalists and horticulturists — also assess color and total visual effect; plant variety and suitability; soil condition; use of mulch; the degree of care to flower barrels, tree pits and front yard gardens; and best all-around horticultural practices.

On August 8, the champion block hosted a who's who of local politicians and community leaders — along with victors in other categories, including the contest's retail/commercial winners. *Dozens of (continued on page 2)*

## I N M E M O R I A M

### Stephen Kahr, Manor Resident for 35 Years, Shot Dead at Mexican Resort Home

Stephen Christopher Kahr, a lawyer who lived half his life in Lefferts Manor with his wife and two sons, was shot and killed during a botched robbery at his retirement home in Mexico. He was 69 years old. He and his family once lived on Midwood 1 in a lovingly restored limestone. He had another home on Fire Island.

"Chris," as close friends called him, was a handsome man possessed of a curious intellect and a cheerful demeanor. He was athletic, ingenious and an excellent cook who loved a good party and entertaining family and friends at his homes. He was also active in the community and supportive of liberal progressive causes.



In 2007, one year after selling their Midwood 1 home, Kahr and his wife, Patty, a psychotherapist who taught English to her Mexican neighbors, moved to Ajijic (pronounced "A HEE-HEE"), Mexico—a retiree's paradise on the shores of Lake Chapala, Mexico's largest freshwater lake, renowned for its charming cobblestone streets, 19th century Spanish architecture, and perfect weather.

According to Mexican press accounts, *(continued on page 4)*

### Midwood 1's Louis Douglas Watterson, Counselor to Teens, Dies at 63

Louis Douglas Watterson, a jovial, neighborly and naturally funny man who lived on Midwood 1 from his toddler years to his adulthood, passed away July 12th of natural causes.

He was 63 years old and made his home in the Bronx.

Quick-witted and fond of hearing and telling jokes, Watterson brought a good-hearted humor to the sober and serious task of counseling sexually active teens—especially teenage fathers—on how to stay healthy, safe and responsible.

Watterson, whose family and close friends called him Douglas, hailed from one of PLG's most storied and enduring families. They were among the first African-Americans to integrate the neighborhood—specifically, Midwood 1—some 52 years ago. His mother, Doris, still lives in the house in which Watterson grew up.

His father Clifford, a retired deputy commissioner of the NYC Corrections Department, was dubbed "The Mayor of Midwood St." by neighbors in recognition of his community activism and engagement with government authorities to provide services for the neighborhood. *(continued on page 4)*



### Lee Coker-Holmes, PLG Community Defender, Dies at Sterling St. Home

Lee "Dee-Dee" Coker-Holmes, a community-involved Prospect Lefferts Gardens resident who made close and lasting friendships throughout the neighborhood, died in July after a long struggle with heart disease.

She was 47 years old and lived for the past nine years on Sterling Street 2 with her lawyer husband, Robert, and their two children, Alanna and Ezra.

Although her time in PLG was not as long as many other neighborhood homeowners, Coker-Holmes had nearly a lifetime of social activism and community involvement experience when she moved here. From the start, she voluntarily extended her time and efforts on many of PLG's and Brooklyn's associations, causes and events.

In giving back to the community, she befriended residents and business owners throughout the neighborhood. No testament to those friendships and relationships was more vivid than the day of her funeral at the House of Hills Funeral Home on Rogers Avenue, which needed two parlors to accommodate the dozens of people *(continued on page 4)*



# Manor Resident Rem Duplessis Brings Visual Spark to *NY Times Magazine*

by KEN DIAMOND

Every weekend more than two million readers witness the visual creativity of Rem “Rem” Duplessis. Rem is the Design Director of *The New York Times Magazine*, the feature-story supplement to Sunday’s *Times*. He leads a staff of six in creating the look and style to complement some of the best magazine journalism today. And while almost no one in his audience knows his name, Rem is highly admired in the design community. Since Rem joined the *Times* in 2004, the Magazine has won many of graphic design’s highest awards, most notably Design Team of the Year from the Art Directors Club for each of the past three years.

## MEET YOUR NEIGHBORS

A Boston native, Rem graduated from Hampton University in 1993 and completed a Masters in Visual Communication at Pratt Institute in 1996. Previously he worked on the art staffs of *GQ* and *Spin*. Back in 2002, Rem and his wife, Wendi, were living in a Park Slope apartment but looking for a home better suited to raising a family. They considered moving to New Jersey or Westchester but felt unenthusiastic about becoming suburbanites. At the same time, they felt rising home prices dictated leaving Brooklyn. But then, while visiting a former colleague who lives on Maple 2, Rem was introduced to Lefferts Manor and instantly, as he says, “fell in love with it.” He told Wendi she had to see this “little gem” of a neighborhood that neither of them knew about before. After a short search, they found their current home on Maple 2, a house they now share with their 9-year-old daughter, Remmi and 8-year-old son, Luke.

Rem cites the proximity to Prospect Park and the Botanic Gardens as among his favorite aspects of living here. He also cherishes the interaction among PLG residents. “It’s such a warm and friendly place where everyone speaks to one another...I especially like the block parties.”

Rem took some time out from his hectic schedule to talk to the *Echo* about his work:

**As Design Director of the *New York Times Magazine* what is your role in creating the publication?**

I like to tell people you could look at my position as almost equivalent to being a producer/director on a movie set. I’m in charge of bringing in the talent, working with photographers, illustrators, managing a team of designers in crafting their layouts, and articulating my design ideas to the editors. I’m constantly in touch with my editor-in-chief. So it’s kind of a big puzzle and my job is about how all the pieces go together. It’s broad, and a fun, fulfilling and creative job.

**Designing the work of other creative people—writers and editors—how collaborative is that process?**

It’s very collaborative. We don’t generally work with the writers, but with the editors who bring the story in. We read it and then the photo editors and I get together with the editor and discuss the story: What is it trying to communicate? What’s the focus? Who are the main players? Are there characters we need to photograph? Or for instance, we just did a story on a Mexican drug cartel. Obviously we don’t have access to any drug lords or even the people who work for them. So in a case like that we often go the illustration route. But a lot of people ask, why use illustrations for such a serious piece about a serious problem? I answer that an illustration shouldn’t be looked at as a cartoon or a ‘fictional’ piece of art. There are illustrators out there who can capture actual events so readers can see exactly what happened and get a good understanding of what the story is trying to communicate.

**You work with many of the best photographers and illustrators in the world. Are you specific about what you want them to do or do you allow them the freedom to come up with their own vision?**

I’d love to give them a thought and let them run with it, but because we’re a weekly publication we don’t have a lot of time. Generally we go to them with a specific idea. They don’t have to follow every single thing but it’s important for them to understand the direction we want to go in, the tone we want. And most illustrators prefer to get at least a starting point. As a creative it’s difficult to hear, ‘Do whatever you want.’ That’s so broad. So let’s cut to the chase. Here’s a foundation, come back with some ideas.

**The entire magazine was redesigned about a year and half ago. What motivated the change?**

A new editor-in-chief (Hugo Lindgren) came in and we pretty much revamped the entire thing. In my experience, every new editor wants to rethink their magazine. I was excited about this redesign because it wasn’t just about the aesthetic values but it was really about taking on new content. It was great to be able to collaborate not just on the design but on the idea end as well. What the columns should be. How the feature well should communicate. What our covers should do. We rethought everything together as a team.

**Do you think your redesign has succeeded?**

A redesign doesn’t happen overnight. My rule of thumb with a redesign, mine or anyone else’s, is that it takes at least two years to really get going and right now we’re reaching that point. My team understands its mission and everything is starting to gel.

**I know you do some teaching both here and in Copenhagen. What’s your impression of today’s design students compared to when you were in school?**

The biggest thing is that the students are much more diverse in their talents. They’re not only good at print design, they’re good typographers, they know how to build websites and iPad apps, and on top of all that, they’re great illustrators. With the really good students, it’s scary the level of talent I’m seeing.

**What are your thoughts about the future of print publishing and how long we may or may not be getting the *Times* on our doorstep?**

I don’t think anyone can answer that for sure. It’s public knowledge that the *Times* is still supported by our print product, but on the flip side, digital growth is much higher than print growth. I’m not in a position to predict when and if the newspaper will stop printing but I think it’s safe to say it’s not any time soon. There’s still a generation of people that enjoys that blue bag hitting their doorstep every day.

**And lastly, do you do the crossword puzzle?**

[Chuckling] I know we have a lot of readers who are passionate about doing it, but I’m not one of those people.

*Ken Diamond is the designer of the Echo and lives on Rutland 1.*



The floral abundance of this home on Lincoln 2 was one of the 75 to win their second “Greenest Block” award.

## Lincoln 2 Tops “Greenest Block” Competition

(continued from page 1)

well-wishers, reporters and neighbors attended the middle-of-the-block celebration. Acting as an informal master-of-ceremonies, Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz presented proclamations to all the winners. City Council member Mathieu Eugene, State Senator Eric Adams, State Assemblyman Karim Camara and a representative from Congresswoman Yvette Clarke’s office all turned out to applaud the winners.

GreenBridge, the community environmental horticulture program of the BBG, manages the contest in cooperation with the Brooklyn Borough President’s office and with major support from the Brooklyn Community Foundation.

Asked to divulge the block’s secrets for getting such a high level of her neighbors’ participation in making the block shine, Tolbert reveals that the street association has an ongoing “Green Team” subcommittee anchored by a number of active senior citizens who are lifelong gardeners and whose earth wisdom gives the block a substantial advantage.

“We have plenty of elders on our block who are very wise in the green ways and they have been working on the street for decades,” Tolbert says. “They pass their knowledge on to the younger residents. It’s as if we have our own ‘Lincoln Road Plant School and Super Garden.’”

At the heart of the Green Team’s effectiveness are a number of social activities, some starting as soon as the snow melts in early spring, designed to get neighbors thinking about imminent plantings and streetscapes. The result of those meetings lead to the annual “Wine & Dirt” gardening event which includes a plant labeling and painting party for kids. In fact, the block also maintains a communal children’s garden.

“We plan to keep inventing ways for residents to get involved. This is such a special home,” Tolbert says. “We know that gardening on this block of Lincoln Road makes those of us who live here healthier, improves our mood and makes us proud about living in Brooklyn and making it even more green.”

Besides the thick green tree canopy that arches over the block and the dedication with which the neighbors work to keep Lincoln Road 2 perhaps the most visually stunning and verdant block in the neighborhood, Lincoln Road is also an important landmark of sorts for PLG and Lefferts Manor.

As the Manor’s northern-most border, only the south side of the street is in the Lefferts Manor Historic District, whose properties must adhere to the single-family-home zoning covenant. But on the north side of the street, where homeowners can and do rent apartments in their townhouses, the properties are just as stately and regal as their neighbors’ in the Manor directly across the street. These zoning distinctions, Tolbert notes, are not blunting the enthusiasm of homebuyers who are rapidly gentrifying the block and changing the complexion of the street. Thus, she says, it is an ongoing challenge to pull shy newcomers out of their homes, welcome them to the block and its diversity and introduce them to the activities and neighborliness of Lincoln Road.

“All year long we try to do community based activities that make people feel connected, whether you’ve been here 30 years or just a few,” she says.

Holiday cooking parties, street fairs and the Greenest Block in Brooklyn competition all work together to infect people with the spirit of community, Tolbert adds.

“As you know, the neighborhood is changing and this block is part of that change and so one of my main challenges as we go through this shift is to integrate the new people into our activities and highlight the wonderful decades of connection people share here.”

## Speeding Dollar Van Kills Man in Hit-and-Run

A dollar van racing a competitor northbound on Flatbush Avenue struck and killed a 40-year-old Coney Island man on the night of September 5. The pedestrian was crossing the avenue when the van knocked him into the path of a southbound car, pinning him underneath it.

The victim, Daniel Rosado, died of his injuries at Kings County Hospital.

The accident happened near the corner of Hawthorne Street where the speeding driver also injured three other people, damaged three vehicles and then jumped into his competitor’s van, which sped away.

Police later caught and arrested the suspected van driver. The charges facing 34-year-old Peter Bonaventure include leaving the scene of an accident and vehicular homicide.

## Suspect Surrenders in Clarkson Avenue Killing

(continued from page 1)

controversial use of stop-and-frisk as a needed law enforcement tactic in black communities.

“Don’t vote against stop-and-frisk,” Thomas was quoted as saying. “Vote for it. I hear ya’ll saying that they don’t stop people in the white neighborhoods, that they only stop us here. They don’t have this crime in the white neighborhood. Who should they stop? They took my precious niece. They took a mother from her child. They killed a part of us.”

Johnson has been charged with murder and attempted murder.

Editor’s Note: Portions of this article were sourced from original reporting in the The Q at Parkside blog, the Ditmas Park Corner website, The Gothamist and The *New York Times*.



Without the challenge of having to promote newsstand sales, Rem’s cover designs can have a much more artistic edge.



Photos by Bob Marvin except where noted

Bette Cunningham's cozy backyard garden on Bedford Avenue provided a relaxing stop for rest and refreshments.



Among the several homes on the tour from the southern edge of PLG stands this turn-of-the-20th-century wood frame beauty. Photo by Martin Friedman



# PLG HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR 2012



Generous Retail Support Makes For Fun Day, BP Markowitz Brings Commendations



LMA Board Member Roberta Woelfling at her home on Rutland Road, participating on the tour for the second time in 10 years.

Below: Two women visiting the Nassy household on Midwood Street stop to admire a painting in the family's impressive and diverse art collection.



BY CAROLE SCHAFFER The 42nd Annual Prospect Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour in June turned out to be one of the most memorable and fun filled, thanks largely to the generous discounts neighborhood retailers and restaurateurs offered tourgoers.

Although there were a few brief raindrops in mid-afternoon, some 650 persons attended, but only one of them had the power to express Brooklyn's gratitude for the event. Borough President Marty Markowitz bestowed certificates of appreciation to the ten families who opened their distinguished homes and spectacular gardens. Markowitz also hung out at the ticket sales booth to chat and joke with neighbors.

What made this year's outing unique was the community-wide buy-in by a broad variety of retailers and restaurateurs who offered tour day specials, coupons and other discounts. In all, 15 local merchants and restaurants, predominately along Flatbush Avenue from Lincoln Road to just south of Clarkson Avenue, participated. Also among them was The Inkwell Jazz Comedy Café on Rogers Avenue between Sterling and Lefferts, which hosted the PLG Arts' free tour day family event with soul food discounts.

The yearly tour is sponsored by the Lefferts Manor Association to stimulate involvement and pride among residents of PLG and to create a broader awareness about our historic community and its local resources and activities.

The southern part of the neighborhood was well represented this year, including a unique wood frame house on Clarkson Avenue between Bedford and Rogers (the first time this block has been represented on a PLG Tour); a two-story limestone on Clarkson between Bedford and Flatbush; and a duplex apartment in a four-story neo-classical limestone on Parkside Avenue. A neo-Tudor rowhouse on Chester Court with two private decks, home base of internationally renowned interior design firm Madcap Cottage, and five stately homes and gardens within the core Lefferts Manor area completed the tour offerings. Homes showcased multiple floors and owners freely shared their restoration/renovation resources. Local architects, designers and contractors were on hand at some of the homes to share their expertise.

## HEARTFELT THANKS

The LMA extends its whole-hearted appreciation to all the residents who opened their wonderful homes and gardens. There would be no tours without their willingness and selfless support. Gratitude as well to all who served on this year's tour committee, to the ticket sellers, the tour guides, the restaurants and merchants that supported this event with their contributions and special offers and to our residents who donated to and/or staffed the refreshment area.

A very special "thank you" goes to 65 Fen Wines, Trixie's Pet Food, Supplies & Accessories, and to Blue Roost Café for their valuable assistance with advance ticket sales, and to Michael Campbell of 65 Fen Wines for generously hosting a complimentary wine tasting for the third consecutive year.

Many of Bob Marvin's fine photographs of the 2012 tour can be viewed on flickr. Log onto <http://www.flickr.com/photos/25605294@N00/sets/72157630593691910/show/> or follow the link provided on the LMA website: <http://www.leffertsmanor.org> by clicking on flickr.

## Be Part of Next Year's Tour!

Planning for the 2013 Tour will begin this fall. Tour Day 2013 is scheduled for Sunday, June 2nd. LMA welcomes new volunteers to join the committee to help make next year's tour the best ever. Some of the skills needed include making contacts for fund raising, soliciting neighborhood volunteers to work as tour guides, requesting refreshment donations, generating special tour day offerings from local restaurants and merchants; designing and implementing publicity outreach activities and writing house and garden descriptions for the tour brochure. For more information about volunteering, contact Carole Schaffer at 718.462.0024 or [acschaffer@juno.com](mailto:acschaffer@juno.com).



Carla Nassy (top of stairs) describes some of the features of her parents' Midwood St. home. Carla grew up in the house and has returned there to live.

Below: Musician Tom Chess entertains house tour visitors with an oud—a North African version of a lute—at The Inkwell.



## BANK AND CAFÉ/CATERERS SAID TO BE OPENING

### Lincoln Road's Fluid Retail Scene: Blue Roost, Papa & Sons Bid Adieu

BY MILFORD PREWITT

The impending arrival of a bank and a midscale café with off-site catering may end the age-old sense of retail and business services deprivation many Prospect Lefferts Gardens residents have groused about over the years. But with the ending of those complaints comes a cost.

Linda Billings, owner of the Blue Roost, cited personal health and financial issues for closing. The new tenant is expected to be a modern café with off-site food catering.

Francisco Crousset, who along with his brother, Ramon, owned and operated Papa & Sons supermarket on Flatbush Avenue and Lincoln Road, closed the establishment on September 3 after a 15-year run, victim of a sizable rent increase he says he can't afford.

Blue Roost's closure put five people out of work and Papa & Sons' departure resulted in 13 people losing their jobs.

Billings said running Blue Roost turned out to be a personal health liability in which she suffered chronic fatigue and stress from the pressure of having silent partners who never invested the capital the restaurant needed to survive.

"It was just too much for me," she said. "There were so many problems. I just got sick of living in high anxiety... We were so grossly under-funded."

But she said it was also demoralizing that Blue Roost had a fair share of haters who kept Yelp and other customer-review websites full of negative comments about the restaurant's service and décor.



Papa & Sons owner Francisco Crousset laments closing his store after 15 years.

Papa & Sons—which had been struggling to negotiate a lower rent increase with the same landlord as Blue Roost's for the past two years—closed its doors during the Labor Day weekend. Crousset and his brother took over the business after their father, Rafael, passed.

Conveniently located with equally convenient hours—24/7, even on major holidays—the supermarket was a godsend to home cooks and the hungry commuter who needed to do some last-minute shopping for a meal.

Crousset said he fears PLG's growing affluence and gentrification—as evidenced by the five-year vacancy of the Mike's International restaurant site due to high rent—is a bad omen for small business people in the neighborhood.

"Thank God we got the place across the street (J.Y. Papa & Sons)," he added. "It seems so unfair to work so hard for 15 years and then just like that, a landlord can put you out of business."



## Lightning Ignited Seven-Alarm Fire, 26 Firefighters Injured

Lightning caused one of the biggest apartment fires in PLG in years. Some 26 firefighters were hurt and scores of residents were evacuated when a seven-alarm fire swept through the top floor of a block-wide, seven-story building at 665 New York Avenue between Hawthorne and Winthrop Streets on the morning of July 25. It took three hours to bring the fire under control. Some residents were able to begin moving back in three weeks later.

Susan Fox

**Stephen Kahr** (continued from page 1)

the Kahrs were unloading groceries from their car in the driveway of their retirement home on November 29, 2011, when a well-dressed young man attempted to snatch Kahr's wallet from his back pocket. When Kahr spun around to swing at the man, the assailant shot him once in the chest and fled, taking nothing except Kahr's life. He died instantly with Patty standing just a few feet away.

Police made an arrest in the case a day later.

In a follow-up news account about Kahr's death, *The Miami Herald* reported that the tragedy was one of a wave of murders, kidnappings or home invasions aimed at Americans and Canadians residing in and touring Central Mexico from February to November of 2011.

Lester Greenberg, who practiced law with Kahr for 18 years before he retired, said his friend and colleague was a robust man with the energy and stamina of someone decades younger. Greenberg said Kahr was exceptionally fit, noting that through his 50s and 60s, Kahr worked out regularly and took up distance running and other sports activities when at his Fire Island home. He also loved cross-country skiing in upstate New York.

"He definitely was not one of these guys who let age slow him down," Greenberg says. "He was more alive than most people his age and he lived his life to the fullest... In fact, I believe if he wasn't so strong and confident he'd be alive today."

Greenberg recalls that Kahr was highly cerebral, worked hard, read prodigiously, and was a quick study who taught himself computer repair, carpentry and landscaping, skills that would serve him well when he bought and renovated the Midwood home.

"Why hire a professional if I can do it myself?" Greenberg chuckled, as he quoted his friend.

Born and reared in Manhattan, Kahr was a standout high school football player who went on to Columbia University. After graduation, Kahr initially went to medical school at Columbia, but according to Greenberg, "was turned off by it" and migrated to the law.

"He was quite an achieved individual," Greenberg adds. "He was a self-taught carpenter and a great cook."

His talents as a landscaper and carpenter shined when he and Patty began restoring their Midwood home.

Carole Schaffer, who organizes the annual PLG House

Tour, says the Kahrs' home was a jewel of the neighborhood that had been lovingly restored to its original grandeur. The Kahrs themselves did much of the work, she adds.

The Kahr home was on the PLG House Tour at least twice, Schaffer recalls, and was gorgeous and memorable enough to inspire lasting house envy from all who saw it. Schaffer says what wowed visitors to the home was the all-original cherry and quarter-sawn oak woodwork from which the Kahrs had removed decades of paint and restored to its original pristine veneer. The house has a vintage dumbwaiter that still works.

In addition to his wife and their sons, David Ian and Adam Paul, a granddaughter and a sister survive Kahr.

**Louis Douglas Watterson** (continued from page 1)

Clifford Watterson was also renown for forcing newcomers to the neighborhood to say hello to him, rather than have them walk by in silence as he swept the sidewalk, raked leaves or shoveled snow.

He passed away in 1998.

Louis Douglas Watterson graduated from Erasmus High School and later earned a degree from the historically black college, Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina. He was a member of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity.

In 1987 he married the former Carmen Violenus and doted over her daughter Raquel from an earlier marriage. They had two children together, Remy and Douglas. The Wattersons were also blessed with three granddaughters who Douglas affectionately nicknamed "Noonie" (Chelsea), "Tookie" (Chayah), and the youngest, an infant, "Cheekie" (Camryn).

Through the programs at Inwood House, West Side Cluster Program and Project Straight, Watterson worked as a youth counselor and leadership developer who specialized in helping young people develop life skills, avoid teen pregnancy and stay in school.

"He was a really good man," says former colleague Yolanda Webster, a counselor at Inwood House. "He was so funny and so real. He and I laughed a lot.

"And the kids really appreciated him, too."

"He definitely was his father's son," says Carmen, his ex-wife. "His father was a great influence on him. He was a very socially conscious individual. He got a lot of those traits from his dad."

Family and friends say Douglas was an engaging story-

teller who loved to tell jokes and was a whiz at the card game Spades. He recently took second place in a major tournament in Manhattan.

Douglas is survived by his mother, daughter, son, ex-wife, granddaughters and step-daughter, as well as younger brother, Keith, sister-in-law Robin Watterson and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins.

"Although he lived in the Bronx, he never forgot Brooklyn and considered this his real home," Carmen says.

**Lee Coker-Holmes** (continued from page 1)

who came to celebrate her life.

A native Brooklynite, Coker-Holmes was the second of seven siblings born to Mollie Powell and Moses Coker. When Lee was 11, her family moved to Jamaica, Queens. The move broke her heart triggering a determination to return to Brooklyn. She began her homecoming with admission to Brooklyn Technical High School. She later attended Brooklyn College where she met her husband-to-be.

"We didn't meet in a classroom environment," her husband Robert Holmes recalls. "We met as student activists."

Robert and Lee were married in Saratoga Springs in 1995, traveling to the wedding site in a horse-drawn carriage during a blizzard that struck only Saratoga Springs that night.

In 2003 she gave birth to their daughter Alanna; Ezra followed in 2007.

Coker-Holmes worked in a technical customer support role for 23 years, as a trouble-shooter at Verizon, helping customers with telephone or Internet connectivity troubles.

Together with her family, Lee traveled the world from Disneyland to more adventuresome vacations in Brazil, Alaska and other exotic retreats.

A strong-willed, energetic, determined woman, Coker-Holmes was fond of wining and dining with friends at the neighborhood's restaurants where she often engaged in spirited debates about the neighborhood and other political or social issues of the day.

She was active in the Sterling St. (2) Block Association, Community Board 9 and for many years distributed the *Echo* to every home on her block when asked.

Lees is survived by her parents, husband, children and all six of her siblings.

**P.S. 92 Unveils \$3M Parkside Playground Makeover**

Councilman Mathieu Eugene with the student who won Parkside playground's inaugural chess tournament.

Like homeowners showing off a dazzling new interior makeover, a gaggle of Prospect Lefferts Gardens elected officials, school administrators, community leaders, parks and recreation heads, students, parents and other well-wishers partied and played June 30th in celebrating the re-opening of the Parkside Playground.

Perhaps the highest-budgeted park improvement project in PLG in decades, \$2.45 million from Council Member Mathieu Eugene's capital improvement budget and \$57,000 from Mayor Bloomberg funded the \$3 million overhaul.

Located adjacent to P.S. 92, Parkside Playground is on Winthrop Street between Rogers and Bedford Avenues.

"I am proud to provide funding to renovate and refurbish the Parkside Playground," Eugene told a crowd of nearly 300 on a perfect summer day befitting a playground reopening. "The community desperately needs a new green space for children and families and I'm glad to support this goal.

"It is important that children have a safe and beautiful place to play in where youth of all ages can come to practice sports and stay active."

The playground boasts something for everyone, from toddlers to active seniors. New playground equipment includes swing bridges, swings and sleekly-designed jungle gyms, all to encourage climbing, exploration and exercise.

A stand of trees and new landscaping features include flowering shrubs and planting beds and benches for parents and caregivers to watch their children. Sure to delight youngsters is the new custom-designed water spray sculpture to cool off on hot days. An adult fitness area and stone game tables and seating broaden the playground's age appeal.

The centerpiece of the facility, three new full-sized basketball courts, debuted appropriately enough, with a basketball tournament.

**Drunk Driver Destroys Manor's Mini Garden**

A drunk driver laid waste to the garden that once adorned the triangular safety island at the intersection of Flatbush, Washington and Lincoln. Police were chasing the speeding driver in the northbound lane of Flatbush Avenue in the morning hours of Labor Day when he lost control of his vehicle, crashed through the garden, and mowed down nearly every plant, bush and tree that grew there.

Louise Daniel, a LMA board member who landscaped the ground and has tended the garden for the past four years, said the speed and impact of the car pulled the two young trees out of the ground by their roots. But also mangled were several perennials and ground cover plants.

"The garden was completely uprooted," she said with dismay. "Even the metal sign posts are gone. There's nothing left but a few plants."

Given that the growing season is coming to an end, Daniel said she will wait for a strong rainfall and cut the surviving plants down to the ground "and start all over again next spring."

The driver was arrested and uninjured.

Last  
Chance!  
Closes  
9/23

**"Women's World" at Dorsey Art Gallery**

The work of legendary artist Faith Ringgold is the centerpiece of a special exhibit of works by six distinguished women artists at the Dorsey Gallery, until September 23. 3-8 p.m. The Dorsey Gallery is at 553 Rogers Avenue. Information at: 718-771-3803.



For a stronger community, join the

**Lefferts Manor Association**

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I (we) subscribe to LMA's efforts to improve our neighborhood as a community of historic, landmarked, single-family homes.

Dues: \$20.00 per household or \$10.00 per senior citizen household

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Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ + \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DUES ADD'L CONTRIBUTION TOTAL

Dues cover January through December 2012. You may also pay 2013 dues at the same time.

Make checks payable to Lefferts Manor Association. Send payment and form to: P.O. Box 250-640 / Brooklyn, NY 11225 or drop in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Rd., 163 Rutland Rd. or 25 Maple St.

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