The Lefferts Manor Echo

OCT 1 LMA Fall General Meeting
Church of the Evangel on Bedford Ave. (Nawthorne and Winthrop St.), 6:30-8 p.m. - new. The new precinct commander is expected to attend. There will be no open positions on the LMA Board.

OCT 3 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 fatal aim at a gang rival.

Gordon was returning home from the Pioneer Supermarket with her 5-year-old daughter. At the event, Janice Thomas, Gordon’s aunt, spoke emotionally in favor of the Police Department’s ered in front of her apartment building. At the event, Janice Thomas, Gordon’s aunt, spoke emotionally in favor of the Police Department’s

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.

Although her time in PLG was not as long as many other neighborhoods, 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. There were no trials like 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 par-
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 Arem “Rem” Duplessis. Rem is the Design Director of the NY Times Magazine, the feature-story supplement to Sunday’s Times. He leads a team of designers 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, and Design Team of the Year from the Art Directors Club for each of the past three years.

A Boston native, Rem graduated from Hamilton University in 1999 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, Wendie, were living in a Park Slope apartment 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, “I fell in love with it.” He told Wendie 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 gets to know everyone...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 production director on a movie set. You’re in charge of bringing in the talent, working with photographers, illustrating, 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 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? Of course, 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 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 concept. They have to follow every single thing but it’s important for them to understand the direction we want to go in. In the end, 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 it’s not a surprise when you come back with some ideas.

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

An 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 talking to new content. It was great to be able to collaborate not just on the design but on the idea as well. What the columnists should be. How the feature work should. 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 role 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 get. I know you have 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 typographically, they know how to build websites and programs, not to mention all of 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 they can or may last?

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 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 enjoy this blue bag fitting their doorstep every day. And beyond, do you see 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 “Green Block” award.

Lincoln 2 Tops “Greenest Block” Competition

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 BMI, manages the contest in cooperation with the Brooklyn Borough President’s office and with major support from the Brooklyn Community Foundation.

“I am a strong supporter of this project, said Borough President Marty Markowitz. “Not only does this program provide a boost to neighborhood green spaces, but it also educates our community about the importance of environmental conservation.”

“This is such a special home,” Bobert 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 a more green city.”

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**By Carole Schaffer**

The 42nd Annual Proefts Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour in June turned out to be one of the most memorable and fun outings 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 discount.

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 restaurateurs and merchants that supported this event with their contributions and special efforts and to our residents who donated to and/or staffed the refreshment area.

A very special “thank you” goes to DFS Wine Wises, Toro’s Pet Food, Supplies & Accessories, and to Blue Roost Café for their valuable assistance with advance ticket sales, and to Michael Campbell of DFS Wine Wises 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/25905294@N08/sets/721575929309408086/ 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.

The 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 residents to work on tour guides, requesting refreshment donations, generating special tour day offerings from local restaurateurs and merchants; designing and implementing publicity outreach activities and writing house and garden descriptions for the tour brochure. For more information on volunteering, contact Carole Schaffer at 718-462-0024 or asc@charlesjanes.com.

**BANK AND CAFÉ/CATERERS SAID TO BE OPENING**

LMA Board Member Roberta Wellington at her home on Flatland Road, participating on the tour for the second time in 15 years.

**Photos by Bob Marvin except where noted.**

**By Millicent Pierson**

The impending arrival of a bank and a mid-scale 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.
The Kahr home was on the PLG House Tour at least twice, said the Kahrs’ home was a jewel of the neighborhood that had been lovingly restored to its original grandeur. The Kahr’s house did much of the work, he adds. The Kahr home was on the PLG House Tour at least twice, Schoeller recalls, and was gorgeous and memorable enough to inspire last minute house envy from every who saw it. Schoeller says what wowed everyone at the Kahr 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 venner. The house has a vintage dumbwaiter that still works.

In addition to their children, their sons, Dan Ian and Adam Paul, a granddaughter and a sister survive Kahr.

Louis Douglas Watterson (continued from page 3)

Contended with his family and friends, he 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.

"He definitely was his father’s son," says Carmen, his ex-wife.

In fact, I believe 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.

"He was quite an accomplished individual," Greenberg adds.

"He was a self-taught carpenter and a great cook."

His talents as a landscaper and carpenter shone 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, Schoeller recalls, and was gorgeous and memorable enough to inspire last minute house envy from every who saw it. Schoeller says what wowed everyone at the Kahr 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 venner. The house has a vintage dumbwaiter that still works.

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Lefferts Manor

The Lefferts Manor neighborhood is located in Brooklyn, New York, and is home to a large, historic, single-family home with a long history dating back to the early 20th century. The house is situated on a large lot with a beautiful garden, and is surrounded by other historic homes.

The neighborhood is well known for its well-maintained streets andbagaie of historic homes, as well as its close-knit community spirit. It is located in the Park Slope area of Brooklyn, and is a popular destination for both residents and visitors alike.

For more information about the Lefferts Manor neighborhood, please visit the Lefferts Manor Echo website or contact the Lefferts Manor Echo Board of Directors.

Drunk Driver Destroys Manor’s Mini Garden

A drunk driver wreaked havoc in the historic Midwood neighborhood of Brooklyn, causing significant damage to a small garden located near the corner of Lefferts Boulevard and Prospect Avenue.

According to witnesses, the driver, who was driving a maroon-colored sedan, lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a small garden located near the corner of Lefferts Boulevard and Prospect Avenue. The driver then fled the scene on foot, leaving behind a scene of destruction.

Local residents were shocked and devastated by the incident, which occurred in the early morning hours.

"It’s just不可思议 that this could happen in our own neighborhood," said one resident, who asked not to be named.

The neighborhood is known for its vibrant community spirit and strong sense of community. The incident has sparked outrage among residents, who have called for increased police patrols and stricter enforcement of traffic laws.

"The safety of our community is our top priority," said Midwood Civic Association President Jane Smith. "We are calling for immediate action to ensure that this never happens again."