A Chance to Explore PLG’s Residential Alternatives

By Tour Organizer
Carole Schaffer

Prospect Lefferts Gardens boasts an impressive array of high-quality housing. There are historic late-nineteenth and early twentieth century one- and two-family brownstone, limestone, and brick town houses, along with many attractive and spacious rental and prewar co-op apartments.

On June 3rd, the 43rd Annual Prospect Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour will explore our variety of residential alternatives along with a visit to an artist's studio, a tour of the facilities at the Lefferts Gardens Montessori School (where complimentary refreshments will also be served) and visits to seven private gardens. The ten stops on the tour are located on Flatbush, Lefferts and Rogers Avenues; Midwood and Sterling Streets; and Rutland Road.

The talent and ingenuity of the residents on tour are readily seen in their self-created and/or selected artwork, furnishings and appointments, and their varied collections of artifacts, family heirlooms, personal memorabilia and vintage handicrafts.

In addition, there will be opportunities to visit restorers, including several receptions at two art galleries; A PLG Arts event with music, children's art activities, an art exhibit and videos by local artists; a complimentary wine tasting; and Tour Day specials at a wide variety of neighborhood restaurants and merchants.

Here is a sampling of the stops on this year's tour:

- A luminous top floor co-op in a 1939 luxury apartment building, outfitted with a grand sunken living room, mezzanine-issued flooring and accented by a curved inset and arch, has been rejuvenated to evoke a modern loft-like space. Light abounds from three front windows with unobstructed views. African, Papua New Guinean, and Chinese collectibles adorn midcentury furnishings. Most of the fabulous artwork was created by its owner.
- A circa-1905 two-story neo-renaissance town house, twice rendered uninhabitable by fire’s smoke and heat, has been completely reborn through a top-to-bottom renovation. The well-lit parlor floor has assumed a modern, open feel featuring an eclectic mix of old and new, including a custom-built marble-topped island beneath a pair of vintage Belgian factory lights, plus a farm table and shelving crafted from reclaimed barn wood. The extra deep private rear garden sports a handsome brick patio and a wood fence creatively decorated with antique shutters.
- An in-progress 1910 two-family limestone, with an elaborately decorated full-height bay, reveals a wealth of vintage and meticulously replicated stained-glass windows. Rooms open off a hallway and include a marble marble bath and a full-width contemporary kitchen/family room adjoining the dining room. Its two-and-a-half foot allows for a porch and central patio surrounded by planters, trees and shrubs—perfect for entertaining.
- A sun-filled studio apartment in the Patio Gardens complex is enlivened by personal memorabilia; original artwork by artist friends; an impressive collection of bass-players—as statuary, music boxes, and paintings— gleaned from around the world; a wall mural of a fragrant panier tree; and a thriving indoor garden.
- A one-family 1910 town house features a wealth of original Arts & Crafts detail and remarkable collections of vintage pottery, seltzer bottles and artwork. Recently refreshed, amenities include a luxurious lounge area and bathroom in the English basement, a stunning second-floor bathroom and split-system heat and air conditioning throughout. The back deck—with-sauna and motorized awning—overlooks a lush garden alive with climbing roses, shrubs and low grasses. The garden also boasts a pond and a meandering path.

An in 1910 Romanesque Revival/Neo-Renaissance Roman brick and limestone town house with eight majestic fireplaces, ornate tin ceilings and vintage woodwork restored to their original grandeur. The very private backyard features both flowering perennial and shade gardens, a blue-stone patio and paths that can be accessed from both the garden and parlor floors.
- A two-story 1920 brownstone unveils period William Morris fabrics and wallpaper; creatively integrated Bradbury & Bradbury art carpet patterns and frizes; a mid-1940s Black Forest cuckoo clock; and superb vintage heirloom furnishings and handcrafted items.

A 15-year predominately perennial garden, propagated from cuttings and seeds, boasts a sculptured Japanese cyrsmum as well as tiger lilies, roses, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers and hydrangeas in bloom.

Your Tour Day Guide to Art & Music

The Dorsey Gallery
553 Rogers Avenue (between Fenimore and Hawthorne Sts.)
Figuratively speaking, an art exhibition featuring the works of Tyree Guyton and Otis Neal. Noon–5pm. The Dorsey Art Gallery, established in 1970 by the late Lawrence Peter Dorsey, is the oldest, continuously active, black-owned art gallery in New York City.

Andrews Gallery
495 Rogers Avenue (between Washington and Bedford Aves.)
A sun-themed art show. Noon–5 pm.

Open studio:
artist Daniel Freeman
98 Sterling Street (between Washington and Bedford Aves.)
The artist’s “American Dream” series of paintings will be on display. Noon–5pm.

* PLG ARTS at the INKWELL
408 Rogers Avenue (between Sterling St. and Lefferts Ave.)
PLG ARTS presents an afternoon of music, children’s art activities, and art exhibits. Noon–5 pm.

The musical performers are from the PLG ARTS’ “Jazz at the Inkwell” series.

4pm: Carly Knudson
“Dance With The Stars” at the Inkwell—lessons and performances for children and adults.

5pm: Jocelyn Medina Trio
Jocelyn Medina, vocals;
Jamie Reynolds, keys; Zack Lobber, bass. The sounds and styles of top most popular and PLG resident) Jocelyn Medina focuses elements of Brazil, Spain, Africa and India with jazz improvisation, rock grooves and adventures improvisations. As a bandleader, she has toured throughout the U.S., Europe and South America. For more information, visit www.jocynmedina.com.

2:30pm: Over the Limit
Jon Blanchette, guitar; Rob Clough, keys; Jon Barnes, bass; Joe Izzo, drums. Over the Limit perform a high-energy brand of rock & roll.

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For More Information
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Artist/Realtor Revives Condo's

urinesthatshe has acquired over nearly built-in bookshelves, and laundry hampers. The unit was given a sunken living room, inlaid hardwood floors, men's, creating a three-bathroom, four-bedroom maisonette (or penthouse in later decades), with three exposures, and a living room graced with archways. "The bones were beautiful," says Welch. "But we wanted a house. What kind? We'll, not too big, not too fancy. I thought that the studio-loft feel of his apartment. A trained artist, he softens the bright, expansive space with a richly colored collection of textiles from the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Turkey and Morocco. Masks and sculpture from around the world add dimension, and Welch's original paintings add complexity and beauty. Welch discovered PLG in 2002 when he and his former partner were looking for a two-family house to buy. They were priced out of neighborhoods like Boerum Hill, so they began to look around. "We were driving down Rutland Road on our way to and from an open house one day and we were heading west. We pulled over and saw the house on the corner," he recalls.

"We parked the car and the residents we met were incredibly friendly and welcoming. They invited one of us into their home that very day."

Welch has several moves since that first purchase in 2002. "He's been a bit of a gypsy," says Welch. "He's contemplated pulling up roots."

"The prices are good here, my business network has developed here, but most of all the neighborhood made me feel welcome."

Patio Gardens Studio Radiates Owner’s Love of Jazz and Art

by M iriam Fennett

Studio apartments aren’t well known for showcasing art, but Sue Yellin’s Patio Gardens studio is such a gallery of contemporary art, it is home. Most of the eclectic collection reflects her lifelong love of jazz and life in the tropics. APrecious Prospect Park, I was eager to see it. We had never heard of this little brownstone neighborhood, but seeing the dining room plate rail, I knew we had found our home for my family and our country. She moved in 50 years ago, in time for Jim’s second birthday. Jim’s sister, Eileen, came home to Rutland Road two years later. With two kids, a dog and a cat, every inch of our two-story house and backyard got full use for two decades. But kids grow up, go on to their own lives, and space opens up, literally and figuratively, to do other things. In spite of working as a genetic counselor plus volunteering on an HIV board and for a suicide hotline, I realized I still had time to turn attention to our little 100-year-old house. But it didn’t need a lot of work, thankfully. Previous owners clearly loved living and caring for the house as much as we do. It needed some paint and wallpaper and the woodwork needed restoring. These buildings were built to last, and a few tweaks will bring this one through the next hundred years. It was only by living here for years that I began to understand the single-family (continued from page 1)

These neighborhood restaurants and merchants are extending special Tour Day-only (unless otherwise noted) offers to tour goers who show their PLG House & Garden Tour ticket/guidebook.

B’Fruite
539 Flatbush Avenue (between Lincoln Rd. and Maple St.)
A 50% discount on a large juice or smoothie. Good only Bar–7.

Creative Sewing & Design
232 Business (off Flatbush Ave., between Lefferts and Lavena Aves.)
20% discount on all custom sewing and alterations. Good offer Monday 6/3 and Tuesday 6/4, 10–7 Bar.

Delroy’s Wine Bar
656 State Street (between Flatbush Ave. and Lincoln Rd.)
10% discount on all menu items: pansini, waffles, soups, sauces, salad, charcuterie and desserts. Noon–7 Bar.

Gino’s Trattoria & Brick Oven Pizza
548 Flatbush Avenue (between Lincoln Rd. and Maple St.)
25% discount on a minimum purchase of $10. Offer good until 2pm.

Inkwell Jazz Comedy Café
44 Rogers Avenue (between Lefferts Ave. and Lavena Ave.)
Soul food kitchen offers 25% discount on lunch, dinner and mixers. Noon–7 Bar.

Jus Fishy Restaurant & Health Juices
555 Flatbush Avenue (between Maple St. and Lincoln Rd.)
$1.00 off any smoothie. Good offer noon–7:30 Bar.

King of Tandoor
608 Flatbush Avenue (between Lincoln Rd. and Rutland Rd.)
10% discount on table service, take-out or delivery. Good offer until 10:30 Bar.

Kings County Nurseries
625 New York Avenue (between Ruffin Rd. and Fiske St.)
Discounts 25% off garden supplies, nursery center for use on an in-store purchase of $20 or more (excludes landscaping). Good anytime.

Landmark Antiques & Art
513 Rogers Avenue (between Ruffin Rd. and Midwood St.)
10% discount on all restorations and purchases. Good offer until June 30, 2013.

Lincoln Park Tavern Restaurant & Bar
51 Lincoln Road (between Ocean and Flatbush Avs.)
25% discount on a minimum purchase of $10. Offer good until 11 Bar.

Monk’s Trunk
575 Flatbush Avenue
Children’s Sunglasses
23 Naworth Street (off Flatbush Ave., between Lincoln Rd. and Maple St.)
Children’s book or toy. Good offer Bar–6

Play Kids
678 Flatbush Avenue (at Rutland Rd.)
Toys and books. 8% discount on total purchase. Offer good Bar–6

65 Fen Wines
65 Fenimore Street (off Flatbush Ave.)
An invitation for a special wine tasting 4–6 PM. Plus a 10% discount on any purchase, noon–7 Bar.

Smile For Every Sishtal In You
593 Flatbush Avenue (between Midwood St. and Rutland Rd.)
(continued from page 1)

Passersby are offered a 25% discount on all purchases. Offer good noon–5:30 Bar.

Tafiri Tribe Globe Trade
593 Flatbush Avenue (between Midwood St. and Rutland Rd.)
Peruse of fine art, antiques, and collectibles. Good offer until Bar–6.

Clothes is offering a 25% discount on all purchases. Offer good noon–5:30. Bar.

Trixy’s Pet Food, Supplies & Accessories
575 Flatbush Avenue (between Maples and Midwood St.)
10% discount on all products. Good offer Bar–6.

Tugboat Tea Company
546 Flatbush Avenue (at Rutland Rd. and Maple St.)
A $1.75 small coffee is yours for only $1.00. Offer good Bar–6.

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