

Lefferts Manor

{ JUNE 2, 2013 }

ECHO

THE 43RD ANNUAL PROSPECT LEFFERTS GARDENS House & Garden Tour

Sunday, June 2, 2013 · Noon-5PM

SPONSORED BY The Lefferts Manor Association

TICKETS/\$20 IN ADVANCE AT:

Tugboat Tea Company 546 Flatbush Ave.

65 Fen Wines 65 Fenimore St. + **Play Kids** 676 Flatbush Ave.

Trixie's Pet Supplies 575 Flatbush Ave.

and online, <http://2013plghouseandgardentour.eventbrite.com>

TICKETS/\$25 ON TOUR DAY AT:

Lincoln Park Tavern 51 Lincoln Rd.

Ten stops including a studio apartment, a pre-war co-op, town houses, and gardens in bloom + Enjoy complimentary refreshments and a tour of the Lefferts Gardens Montessori School + Discounts from neighborhood restaurants and merchants + Music and art from PLG Arts at the Inkwel

Gather ideas and resources from contractors, homeowners and designers including:

Lori Hedding **STAINED GLASS RESTORER** George John **BUILDING CONTRACTOR**

[NOTE: No children under 12 except infants in front packs only]

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL: 718-284-6210 OR 718-462-0024

E-MAIL: plghousetour@gmail.com VISIT: leffertsmanor.org

PARTICIPATE IN PLG HOUSE TOUR 2013!

Tour Guides Neighborhood volunteers are needed to work 2½ hour shifts and will receive free tour tickets in return for participating. To volunteer, contact Carole Schaffer at 718-462-0024 or acschaffer@juno.com

Refreshment Donations Cookies, brownies, cakes, cupcakes, muffins, crudites with dips, etc. are needed. These should be brought to 218 Rutland Rd. on Saturday, 6/1, 2-4PM or to the Lefferts Gardens Montessori School, 527 Rogers Ave. on Sunday 6/2 (Tour Day), 11:30AM-noon

YOUR TOUR DAY '13 GUIDE TO ART & MUSIC

The Dorsey Gallery

553 Rogers Avenue (between Fenimore and Hawthorne Sts.)

Figuratively Speaking, an art exhibition featuring the works of Tyrone Geter and Otto Neals. Noon-6PM. 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.

helper

495 Rogers Avenue (between Maple and Midwood Sts.)

This studio and gallery space presents *Decisiveness*, an art exhibition organized by Rulsan Trusewych. Noon-6PM

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, an art exhibition and a video show by local artists. Noon-6:30PM

The musical performers are from the PLG Arts' "Jazz at the Inkwel" series:

1PM: Carly Knudson

'Dance With the Stars' at the Inkwel—lessons and performances for children and adults.



2:30PM: Over the Limit

Jon Blanchette, guitar; Alex Clough, keys; Jon Barnes, bass; Joe Izzo, drums

Over the Limit performs a high-energy brand of jazz/rock fusion.

Created by guitarist Jon Blanchette, Over the Limit mixes funk/fusion staples, reworkings of jazz standards, and funky originals. For more information: www.sonicbids.com/overthelimit



4PM: Jocelyn Medina Trio

Jocelyn Medina, vocals;

Jamie Reynolds, keys; Zack Lober, bass
The sounds and styles of vocalist/composer (and PLG resident) Jocelyn Medina fuses elements of Brazil, Spain, Africa and India with jazz harmonies, funk grooves and adventurous improvisations. As a bandleader, she has toured throughout the U.S., Europe and South America.

For more information: www.jocelynmolina.com.

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 2nd, 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 handcrafted items.

In addition, there will be opportunities to visit with restoration/renovation specialists; 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, medallion-incised 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-1909 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 within. Rooms open off a hallway and include a classy marble bath and a full-width contemporary kitchen/family room

adjoining the dining room. Its 100-foot lot 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 frangipani 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 shade from a 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 1898 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 1910 brownstone unveils period William Morris fabrics and wallpaper; creatively integrated Bradbury & Bradbury art ceiling papers and friezes; a mid-1800s 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 euonymus as well as tiger lilies, roses, black-eyed Susans, sunflowers and hydrangeas in bloom.



Bob Marvin

Boutin Family Studiously Restores Grand Manse on Sterling Street

by LEIGH GREANEY

Tracy Boutin was across the street with her neighbors helping with the block's gardens on a bright Saturday morning.

Neighbors were making good use of a grant from the Citizens Committee for New York City to beautify the tree-lined block even more.

You could easily see that she knows a thing or two about the rewards of beautification. One step into her house on Sterling 2—a gorgeous limestone façade with an enticing charm—and Tracy's warm smile is just the first introduction to a home vibrating with love and care.

Claude Boutin, a social worker and adjunct professor at LIU and City



Tech, and Tracy Green Boutin, chief financial officer for the Department of Education—Office of School Support Services, have resided here since February, 2004. Here they've raised their son, Jackson, who is now 12 years old and a gifted art student. Every year the family tackles a major renovation project in the house, which was built in 1910.

They were the only people the previous owner would sell to. The prior owner also wanted to make sure that the house wasn't turned into apartments, would be occupied by one family and would be restored with love.

The kitchen looks out to the back garden, where Claude and Jackson were hard at work. (continued on page 2)

Bob Marvin

Millers Shepherd Rutland Road Home Into the Next 100 Years

by MARY MILLER

How did we find our way here to Lefferts Manor?

It started with a move from Cambridge, Mass. to Brooklyn when my husband, Ed, was offered a position as a professor of mathematics at Polytechnic Institute of New York (it is now part of NYU).

We found a garden apartment in the Carroll Gardens neighborhood, and our son, Jim, was born a few months later. But we wanted a house. What kind? Well, not too big, not too little. We didn't see ourselves as landlords for a two-family or as capable of major renovations with a small child on site. And of course, it had to be affordable, and within commuting distance from Poly.

When Ed came home one day saying he had seen the most beautiful house on the other side of 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 a home for my china and our family.

We had the floors refinished and moved in 32 years ago, in time for Jim's second birthday. Jim's sister, Eleanor, 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 the LMA board and for a suicide hot line, 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 houses were built to high standards, 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 how the single-family covenant underlies the unique aspects of our neighborhood. Many houses have their historic detail intact because they were never made into floor-through apartments. The fact that you cannot use your house to bring in income by renting out a floor means that prices are lower than for houses that sell as two- or multi-family. Less congestion, more parking!

The neighborhood is also very stable, with homeowners coming to raise their young families and staying until they're carried out. (That'll be us!) We found that the unexpected blessing of buying our house was that we bought into a wonderful, diverse, warm community of neighbors.

The covenant has made our neighborhood a real treasure.

Artist/Realtor Revives Condo's Pre-War Space and Grandeur

by JEANNE BARON

Great neighbors and gorgeous property is the magic combination that makes people move to PLG. Jeff Welch and his sunlit, loft-like, pre-war luxurious one-bedroom will testify to both at this year's annual PLG house and garden tour.

The builders of 50 Lefferts Ave. had luxury in mind when they designed this 95-unit apartment complex in 1939. Every unit was given a sunken living room, inlaid hardwood floors, built-in bookshelves, and laundry hampers.

Six-F was grander still. Originally created by the builder for his own family, it combined the square footage of two apartments, creating a three-bathroom, four-bedroom maisonette (or penthouse in later decades), with three exposures, and a living room graced with archways.

By the time Welch acquired the co-op in 2011 its halcyon days were long gone. Divided into a one-bedroom decades ago, it was in rough condition. Layers of ancient paint burdened the moldings, the bathroom needed a total renovation, and the natural light was trapped inside a closed living room. "But the bones were beautiful," says Welch.

Welch flooded sun and sky into the entire space. Removing a wall between the foyer and living room created a loft-like atmosphere and a three-angled entry to the sunken living room.

"The view from the living room windows gave me a huge stretch of sky," he recalls. "I'm from northern California and having light is very important to me."

He enhanced the light even more by bleaching and pickling the hardwood floors throughout the apartment, giving the surface a whitened sheen. The affect is open, unique, and pretty as can be.

"As a real estate agent I see vintage, honey-colored hardwood

floors everywhere I go. I was ready for something different," says Welch.

Welch has gone all the way with 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 2001 when he and his former partner were looking for a two-family 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 elsewhere and our heads were spinning when we saw the housing stock here," he recalls.

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

Welch has made several moves since that first purchase in 2002, but he's never 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 MILFORD PREWITT

Studio apartments aren't well known for showcasing art, but Sue Yellin's Patio Gardens studio is as much a gallery of contemporary art as it is home sweet home. Most of the eclectic collection reflects her lifelong love of jazz and life in the tropics.

Acrylic paintings of island beach scenes; charcoal-and-ink sketches and portraits of musicians; oil paintings and photographs of jazz greats; and a black-and-white photo poster of the jazz club she once owned fill the place. All of the work is original and produced by noted artists she befriended as club owner, world traveler and a tourism entrepreneur.

One of Yellin's favorite pieces is a mural of the frangipani tree, a tropical plant special to her, painted by Ted Berkowitz, the famed sketch artist and caricaturist of jazz musicians.

The heart of her collection is a menagerie of upright bass player figurines that she has acquired over nearly 20 years. Wall shelving displays scores of them made of ceramic, wood, porcelain, metal, plaster and other materials.

"The bass collection started when some clients of my tourism business gave me one piece as a present and it just mushroomed from there," she says.

The bass player collection is also a tribute to her days as New York City's youngest jazz club owner back in the 1970s when she owned the venerable Needle's Eye in the Meatpacking District, where some of the jazz world's greatest performers got their start or fine-tuned their careers.

Tired of living in a city whose prospects for peace and prosperity looked pretty bleak back then, Yellin closed the club and moved to Barbados to relax and hang out with friends for what she thought would be only a year.

Though she traveled through Europe for two years, she ended up starting a tourism business in Barbados and wound up staying the next 34 years. She acquired dual citizenship and raised a son who today is the popular television chef and Caribbean-cuisine cookbook author, Paul Yellin.

Born in Brighton Beach, Yellin moved back to Brooklyn and into Patio Gardens in 2008 after selling the home she grew up in on Manhattan Beach.

Some of her wall space in Patio Gardens is taken up with news clippings, old advertisements and photographs of the Needle's Eye and the performers who came through there. One photo even features her best friend from high school—a young Lou Gossett, Jr., sporting a full head of hair—who started his career as both a singer/guitarist and actor before becoming a Hollywood star.

Other greats who performed at her club include Betty Carter, Jimmy Heath, Walter Bishop, Donald Byrd, Roy Haynes, and Monty Alexander.



Martin Friedman

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'Fruitee

539 Flatbush Avenue (between Lincoln Rd. and Maple St.)
A 50% discount on a large juice or smoothie. Offer good 8AM-7PM.



Creative Sewing & Design

2122 Beekman Place (off Flatbush Ave.)
20% discount on all custom sewing and alterations.
Offer good Monday 6/3 and Tuesday 6/4, 10AM-7PM.

Delroy's Wine Bar

65A Fenimore Street (off Flatbush Ave.)
10% discount on all menu items: paninis, waffles, soups, salads, cheese, charcuterie and desserts. Noon-7PM.

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 11PM.

Inkwell Jazz Comedy Café

408 Rogers Avenue (between Sterling St. and Lefferts Ave.)
Soul food kitchen offers 25% discount on lunch, dinner and drinks. Noon-7PM.

Jus Fishy Restaurant & Health Juices

555 Flatbush Avenue (between Maple St. and Lincoln Rd.)
\$1.00 off any meal. Offer good noon-7:30PM.



King of Tandoor

600 Flatbush Avenue (between Midwood St. and Rutland Rd.)
10% discount on table service, take-out or delivery. Offer good until 10:30PM.

Kings County Nurseries

625 New York Avenue (between Rutland Rd. and Fenimore St.)
Download a 10% discount coupon at kingscountynursery.com for use on an in-store purchase of \$20 or more (excludes landscaping). Good anytime.

Landmark Antiques & Restoration

513 Rogers Avenue (between Rutland Rd. and Midwood St.)
10% discount on all restorations and purchases.
Offer good June 2 through September 30, 2013.



Lincoln Park Tavern Restaurant & Bar

51 Lincoln Road (between Ocean and Flatbush Aves.)
25% discount on a minimum purchase of \$10. Offer good until 11PM.

Monk's Trunk Children's Consignment

23 Hawthorne Street (off Flatbush Ave.)
20% off any new or used children's book or toy. Offer good 11AM-6PM.



Play Kids

676 Flatbush Avenue (at Westbury Ct.)
Toys and books, 15% discount on total purchase. Offer good 11AM-5PM.

65 Fen Wines

65 Fenimore Street (off Flatbush Ave.)
An invitation for a special wine tasting 4-6PM.
Plus a 5-10% discount on any purchase, noon-7PM.



Smile For Every Sistah In You

581 Flatbush Avenue (at Midwood St.)
Clothier is offering a 25% discount on all purchases. Offer good noon-5:30PM.

Tafari Tribe Globe Trade

593 Flatbush Avenue (between Midwood St. and Rutland Rd.)
Purveyor of fine art wear is offering a 15% discount on all purchases.
Offer good noon-9PM.

Trixie's Pet Food, Supplies & Accessories

575 Flatbush Avenue (between Maple and Midwood Sts.)
10% discount on all products. Offer good 11AM-6PM.



Tugboat Tea Company

546 Flatbush Avenue (between Lincoln Rd. and Maple St.)
A \$1.75 small coffee is yours for only \$1.00. Offer good 8AM-6PM.

Boutin Family Restores Grand Manse

(continued from page 1) Music helped them along, as they pruned the space that will surely bring friends and family together this summer for cookouts and celebrations.

Upon walking into the Boutins' nest, lovely stained glass sparkles on either side of the entryway. Everything that meets the eye looks so precise and artistic.

Tracy loves the details and feels they are what make the house so special. Some details came with the house and some were added. The additions, like Jackson's art that hangs on the walls, serve as a beacon to his future goal of becoming an artist.

On one wall is a framed letter written to President Obama by Jackson when he was in the fourth grade. The letter was published in a book entitled, *Kids' Letters to President Obama*.

An arched staircase is the first thing that meets the eye when entering. More stained glass acts as a skylight above the stairs, as it glimmers in the sun. The once-all-white staircase has been stripped and restored to its original mahogany. The staircase has been eloquently carved in a fashion that celebrates Old World craftsmanship and detailing.

"When we moved in, everything was white," Tracy says. "Everything."

The original moldings still surround the ceilings' light fixtures, as the family was diligent about their care during the renovation.

Passion just seeps through the walls of this place. This home is a must-see for its beauty and warmth.

