

THE 46TH ANNUAL
PROSPECT LEFFERTS GARDENS
House & Garden Tour

Sunday, May 22, 2016 • Noon–5PM

SPONSORED BY The Lefferts Manor Association

TICKETS/\$20 IN ADVANCE AT:

- Bluebird Food & Spirits** 504 Flatbush Ave.
- Drink** 492 Flatbush Ave. • **Gratitude Café** 499 Rogers Ave.
- Play Kids** 676 Flatbush Ave. • **65 Fen Wines** 65 Fenimore St.
- Little Mo Wine & Spirits** 1125 Nostrand Ave.
- Tip of the Tongue** 43 Lincoln Rd.
- Trixie's Pet Food & Supplies** 575 Flatbush Ave.
- Tugboat Tea Company** 546 Flatbush Ave.

Online: click on the eventbrite at leffertsmanor.org

TICKETS/\$25 ON TOUR DAY AT:

Tip of the Tongue 43 Lincoln Rd.

Eight stops including a two-bedroom Art Deco apartment; brownstone, limestone, and brick town houses dating from 1899–1921; and gardens galore! Enjoy complimentary refreshments, wine tastings, chamber music and discounts from local merchants and restaurants

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: leffertsmanor.org
E-MAIL: plghousetour@gmail.com CALL: 718-693-5109

Like us on Facebook at:
Prospect Lefferts Gardens House and Garden Tour 2016

Refreshment Donations

Cookies, brownies, cakes, cupcakes, muffins, crudités with dips, etc. are needed. These should be brought to 166 Rutland Road on Saturday, 5/21, noon–2PM or to 397 Parkside Ave. on Sunday, 5/22 (Tour Day), 11:30AM–noon

Annual PLG House Tour Salutes Neighborhood's Long March to Diversity

by Milford Prewitt and Mary Miller
For the 46th year in a row, a handful of neighbors throughout Prospect Lefferts Gardens will let friends and strangers roam through their immaculately decorated homes to draw inspiration from the restoration and preservation of century-old houses.

But showing off interior designs, great art, fine furniture, beautiful gardens or crafty uses of space is the least important part of the house tour.

When the Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association launched the first house tour (which the Lefferts Manor Association took over a few years later) the intent was to encourage people, people of all races, to move here, raise families and make good neighbors.

The house tour was the icing on the cake, to show that “integrated” neighborhoods could function in harmony and that these century-old homes took caring neighbors, working with others, to keep them beautiful.

The house tour was vital at that time because unscrupulous real estate agents were blockbust-

ing—chasing white families away with alarms that blacks were moving in and would depress home values and bring crime with them.

PLG's home prices in the early 1970s ranged from the mid-\$40,000s to the mid-\$50,000s.

“I can still remember the time in the 1980s when neighbors got excited when a house hit \$100,000,” says Bob Marvin, a Lefferts Manor Association board member and neighborhood historian, who has lived on Midwood II since 1974. Today, it's not uncommon for a home in the Lefferts Manor Historic District to sell for \$2 million-plus.

At those kind of prices in this era of gentrification, it's easy to wonder if the house tour is even needed to draw attention here. As the *New York Times* put it a few years ago, PLG is “on the map.”

But it's also a petri dish for watching how gentrification changes neighborhoods and makes life good for some and tough for others.

And while, like climate change, the negatives of gentrification seem to resist easy solutions, here's hoping our ongoing legacy survives the turbulence to come.

What's On View

As was the case in the past, this year's house tour extends the full length of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, with homes and gardens stretching from Lefferts Avenue to Parkside Avenue, from Flatbush Avenue to Nostrand Avenue.

This year's tour aims to show the diversity of styles, design, and art elements in our homes. Included are a variety of brick, limestone and brownstone rowhouses and an Art Deco apartment building. Original old-world details co-exist with modern updates.

One home, one of a pair of midblock townhomes that is only 16 feet wide, has been dealt with very imaginatively by its young owners. Filled with art by creative family members, it displays the varied interests of this well-traveled couple.

Another home is part of a group of limestones that were developed after the Chicago World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 promoted the White City Movement. Come see how the architect-owner envisioned recon-

figurations that made this home even more family friendly.

A 1909-10 brownstone was modernized with an open floor plan bringing light and air through the art-filled main floor. Don't miss the squirrel-proof bird feeder in the back yard or the working model bicycles in the finished basement.

One family put their PLG roots down twenty-four years ago, and appropriately, their focus is on the recent renovation of their garden, but you will see both original detail and a new kitchen as you tour this stop.

This home is part of a group of brick townhouses with slate mansard roofs. A complete reimagining of the way the family used the main floor resulted in relocating the kitchen and dining area. Danish modern furniture and fixtures have found a happy home.

A yellow brick 1941 apartment building reveals its Art Deco touches in a two bedroom apartment with original (continued on page 2)



Fast Moving Fire Kills Fenimore St. Woman, Injures Eight Firefighters



Photo: DNAINfo/Trevor Kapp

A horrific house fire believed to be caused by cigarette smoking killed a 64-year-old woman in her Fenimore St. wood-frame home between Flatbush and Bedford Avenues on Monday, April 18. The blaze also injured eight NYFD firefighters.

According to reports on ABC News and the website DNAINfo, Patricia Thomas could be heard screaming from a window on the second floor of the burning home. But she refused to jump despite the pleas of her son who urged her to do so from the ground outside, according to news reports.

The fire occurred about 6 p.m. and went to two alarms, involving some one hundred firefighters who fought to keep the blaze from spreading to neighboring homes.

The Echo could not learn how long the neighbor had lived on Fenimore, but sources say she worked for the city in a mental health facility for several years.

It is unclear at this time if the heavily damaged home will have to be razed.

Ray Raman, Photographer and Rutland I Raconteur, Dies at 86.

by Roberta Woelfling

Robert Douglas Raman, a longtime resident of Prospect Lefferts Gardens who lived on Rutland I for nearly all of his adult life and raised a family there, has died.

Better known as “Ray” to countless PLG neighbors and friends, he had spent all of his working life as a highly accomplished commercial photographer. He was also an aviation and flight aficionado, an avocation that caught his interest as an Air Force photographer during the Korean War.

He died March 30, two weeks shy of his 87th birthday, from what his family described as a cancer-related illness. Ray was a charming character. He had an interesting and varied life and loved to talk about it. It didn't matter whether you were an old friend or a new acquaintance, if you had 15 minutes (or an hour and a half), Ray would fill the time with story after story about his photography, his time in the Air Force and his passion for aviation and the restoration of old planes.



He loved to show off the photos he had in albums and framed on the walls of his living room. One photo was a poster-sized, black-and-white, aerial shot encompassing all of PLG that he took from an airplane decades ago.

The *Echo* featured Ray in the “Meet Your Neighbors” section of the winter 2012 edition. The author found that there was so much to say about Ray that it was hard to limit the story to a specific word count!

Ray was born on April 15, 1929 in New York City. He attended Boys High School in Bed-Stuy where he sang in the choir and became an accomplished gymnast. He attended Brooklyn College for two years then joined the National Guard.

He served four years in the Air Force as a staff sergeant, then as (continued on page 4)

Restoring a Parkside Gem—Plus Honeybees!

by Kendall Christiansen

French-speaking, yogurt-exploring kids and beekeeping small business-owning parents—it's all part of the eclectic diversity of Prospect-Lefferts Gardens, as represented by the Fabrizio family on Parkside Avenue.

Blaise and Nicole Zandoli are nearing ten years on Parkside, restoring and modernizing their home, raising Marius (9) and Lucia (4½), and deeply involved in neighbor-

hood life. Nicole, whose byline is well-known to neighbors for her monitoring and reporting on 71st Precinct activity—an interest spawned by an incident early in their residency—operates an environmental commodities brokerage firm, dealing in renewable energy and carbon credits created by federal and domestic policies. She met Blaise at Columbia University where both were students in international affairs and business. He was raised in Queens and now runs an investment advisory firm that specializes in assisting investors from emerging markets in understanding U.S. markets. His service as a colonel in the U.S. Army Reserves takes him to California for his expertise in Asia-Pacific military policy.

Looking for a place to grow their expanding family, they moved to Brooklyn and found PLG so as to be near Prospect Park. Like many neighbors, they love old houses, and are also in the midst of renovating a nearby two-family as rentals.

Notwithstanding the never-ending and sometimes painful nature of house projects, Nicole has especially enjoyed adding reading nooks and other secret spaces to their arts and crafts-era home, and opening up their kitchen to make it suitable for whole-family cooking—and science experiments, like the aforementioned yogurt. Outside, they love gardening in their front and back yards. Two beehives on their roof produce several hundred pounds of honey annually. You can find their honey locally at Blessings on Flatbush Avenue.

And both find time to help others. Nicole founded and manages a group of moms who deliver home-cooked meals for each other once a new baby comes, with more than 65 beneficiaries to date. Blaise serves on the board of the St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Academy in Windsor Terrace. Together, they add a unique spark of passion and energy to our neighborhood.

Kendall Christiansen is a longtime resident of Maple II and a member of the board of the Lefferts Manor Association.



hood life. Nicole, whose byline is well-known to neighbors for her monitoring and reporting on 71st Precinct activity—an interest spawned by an incident early in their residency—operates an environmental commodities brokerage firm, dealing in renewable energy and carbon credits created by federal and domestic policies. She met Blaise at Columbia University where both were students in international affairs and business. He was raised in Queens and now runs an investment advisory

Big Kitchen and a Bustling Family Room Create Bliss on Rutland I

by Roberta Woelfling

Where are we? thought Kimberlee Auletta and some friends as they got out of the subway coming from Manhattan to a Christmas party on Maple Street in PLG. Just as startling was the beautiful, “whole” house that the friends hosting the party had recently purchased while still in their twenties. The year was 1998.

Kimberlee was a Manhattan girl, born and raised. After college and stints in Alaska and Southeast Asia, she was back in Manhattan working in public relations. After several years of this, she felt she needed a change and moved to Brooklyn in 2004.

Eric Landau moved around quite a bit growing up. He was born near Princeton NJ, lived in Kingston, NY and Suffolk County. Eric's parents were originally from Sheepshead Bay and both sets of his grandparents were still there. He visited them often so Brooklyn always felt like home to him. After graduating from George Washington University in D.C., he looked for work in New York City. As luck would have it, he was offered a position with the Prospect Park Alliance, so it was an easy decision to move to Brooklyn. Two weeks into the new job, his path crossed with a sharp, smart blonde at a PPA development committee meeting.

Eric and Kimberlee met in 2007, married in 2008 and were expecting their first child in 2009. Eric loved apartment living. It was just his speed: no maintenance, no yard work, and no repairs. He was sure that they could make the large one-bedroom apartment work, but the market had crashed so they

thought there might be opportunities out there. Prices were too high in Windsor Terrace and since Kimberlee now had two sets of friends in PLG (one a real estate broker), they focused the search there. Kimberlee fell in love with a house on Rutland II. Then their broker friend presented them the Rutland I house as an option. It was more Eric's speed and occupant-ready, requiring no major renovation or repair work. That pulled the trigger. All the more so with a baby on the way.

The house didn't quite feel like home but Kimberlee felt it important to live in it a while to figure out what she wanted. She determined that what was most important to her was a big, usable kitchen.

When the timing was right—later with two kids in school and a new career for Kimberlee established—renovations commenced. Central to the plan was to relocate the stairs to the basement, move the kitchen to the more spacious central dining room location and shift the dining area to the back of the house.

The flip was transformative, says Eric. Not only did flipping the locations of the two rooms give Kimberlee the large, well-thought-out kitchen of her dreams, but the banquette dining she had long dreamt about, came to be. Switching the room locations made the living room (subsequently renovated as well) more heavily used by the family. With the open stair to the basement cleverly inserted under the stairs to the upper levels, there was a new connection to the family room below. Kimberlee says, “now I'm in the living room all the time!”

Roberta Woelfling is an architect and secretary of the LMA board.

Couple Ditches 1970s-Era Décor to Revive Character Of Maple Street Manse

by Suzanne Miller

On a recent April afternoon, I met with Renata Gomes on the deck overlooking her lovely garden. We had a glass of delicious white wine (more on this later), and discussed how she and her family came to reside on Maple Street.

Howard Gibbins and Renata Gomes met in Clinton Hill in 1995. Renata had come to the US from Brazil to study architecture, and Howard was on assignment with the BBC. The two fell in love. Their first date was in Times Square on New Year's Eve, watching the ball drop and ringing in 1996.

A few years later, the couple noticed a tiny newspaper advertisement for a house in Lefferts Manor. “I had never heard of the neighborhood,” Renata says. Intrigued, the couple came to PLG on a warm day in June, 1999.

Renata recalled that the entire neighborhood was in bloom, “It looked dreamy,” she says. When the couple walked into the Maple II house they saw orange shag carpet and flocked wallpaper. There were mirrors on the walls and a flashy 1970s-era kitchen.

Despite the décor, it was clear the house had amazing bones and character. “I knew there were beautiful floors underneath that orange shag,” Renata says with a smile. “I couldn't sleep after I saw the house—I knew it would be our ‘forever home.’” And it seems she was right! A few years after moving in (in 1999), the couple started a family. Thomas, now 13, and Sophia, now 10, have grown up on the block, and both attended Maple Street School.

The first order of business was to tear up the carpeting. The kitchen was also renovated early on. Just recently, the couple completed a more thorough renovation, including a redesign of the



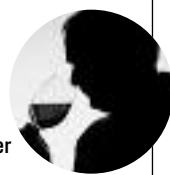
Add Three Special Tastings to Your Tour

A special “Thank You” goes out to Michael Campbell of 65 Fen Wines, 65 Fenimore Street, (near Flatbush Avenue) for generously hosting a complimentary wine tasting on Tour Day for the seventh consecutive year! 4:00–6:00 PM

And this year we welcome two new businesses:

• Mark Schwartz of **Little Mo Wine & Spirits** at 1125 Nostrand Avenue (between Maple and Midwood Streets) asks you to stop by at your leisure from noon to 6:00 PM for a tasting of wine, whiskey, rum, and other spirits.

• Randy Berger of **Drink**, 492 Flatbush Avenue (near Lefferts Avenue) reports that Anthony Zraly of Frederick Wildman will be pouring an elegant Chilean red and an exceptional Argentinian white. 4:00–6:00 PM (You can read more about this new spirits shop on page 3.)



Maya Bennardo (violin)

Chamber Music Trio to Perform

PLG Arts is providing music by Maya Bennardo (violin), Anne Dearth (flute), and Talia Dicker (cello) for the refreshment area. The venue and time will be published in the house tour brochure. Maya Bennardo is a freelance violinist and half of AndPlay, her violin/viola duo. PLG local Anne Dearth enjoys performing genre-bending

works, blending spoken word, theater and classical music. An active presenter, Anne curates the PLG Arts Chamber Music Series and Kleio Music. Originally hailing from Normal, Ill., Talia Dicker is dynamic and in-demand cellist with a passion for orchestral and chamber music. She received her Bachelor of Music from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and a Master of Music from the Eastman School of Music.



Anne Dearth (violin, viola)



Talia Dicker (cello)

The mission of PLG Arts is to promote the arts, support local artists, and build community through celebrating the vibrant creativity of the residents of Prospect Lefferts Gardens and surrounding neighborhoods. PLG Arts is funded in part by Councilman Mathieu Eugene and the New York City Council. For more information, go to plgarts.org.



What's On View (continued from page 1)

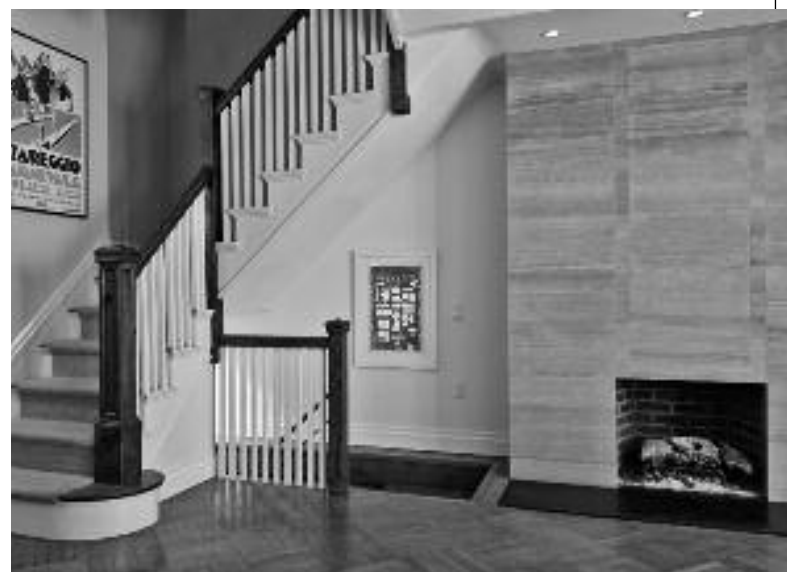
arched entries, coved ceilings and parquet floors. There's an ecosystem here: a Worm Factory makes compost for a variety of plants.

The upper two floors of this four-story townhouse have been renovated to maximize the use of space and storage. The luxurious main bathroom features not only a shower and tub, but two rain shower fixtures and a steam unit above a heated floor.

With more than thirty years in their

home, this artistic couple has put their creative hands to many aspects of their renovations: painting tiles, sponging walls. Many original details remain, including a very ornate mantel and beamed ceiling in the dining room.

Our refreshment stop is always a highlight of the tour. Food donations come not only from residents but also from old and new businesses along the avenues. This year PLGArts will provide music at the refreshment stop.



kitchen and a total overhaul of the basement level. Before the renovation, the basement had a outdated club-like atmosphere including a coat check, full bar, vinyl seating, built-in speakers, and even a two-ton safe (subsequently removed at significant expense). While the décor was 1960-70s, the vibe was that of a Prohibition-era speakeasy.

Along with putting energy into their home, Howard and Renata are dynamic members of PLG: Renata is a founding member of the Lefferts Garden Charter School, served on the board of the Maple Street School, and helped to start a book club. The couple is active in many block activities as well; they have generously powered the block party's bouncy house on more than one occasion!

About wine: Howard recently sold his television production company (which he had operated since 1997) and joined forces with Randy Berger (another longtime PLG resident) to open a wine and spirits store. “Drink” is a fabulous new addition to the neighborhood (a story about the venture appears on page 3). Meanwhile, being the talented knitter that she is, Renata has her own dream—to open a yarn shop someday.

Suzanne Miller is a mother of two girls, a wife, playwright and English professor at New York City College of Technology/CUNY. She lives on Maple II.

Home interior photographs for the 2016 PLG House & Garden Tour feature are by Martin Friedman.

New Wine and Spirits Shop Aims to Serve a Changing PLG

Those ubiquitous bulletproof Plexiglas walls that separate shoppers from cashiers in many Brooklyn wine stores are blessedly missing at Drink, the new wine and spirits store in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

That absent security is but one of the many design features and marketing approaches that highlight just how smart Drink's founders are in recognizing that the times are changing in PLG. It also helps that they are long-time residents of the neighborhood and are witnessing those changes first hand.

Drink is located on Flatbush Avenue, on the neighborhood's northeastern edge, conveniently near the subway entrance with the Africa mural.

With its all-wallet-sizes-welcomed marketing strategy, product mix, invitingly-open floor plan and novel shelf design, Drink aims to serve learned case-collecting connoisseurs, educate budding wine lovers, and be a convenient stop for those looking for a good bottle with tonight's dinner.

Fenimore Street's 65 Fen pioneered much of this six years ago with its sophisticated wine retailing that eschewed Plexiglas in favor of a warm inviting space, weekly tastings and knowledgeable owners.

But Drink seems to be more focused on merchandising wine and spirits to parallel the neighborhood's rising affluence, even though its owners state that opening somewhere in PLG was a higher priority than following the money.

"Would we have done this six or seven years ago?" asks co-owner Randy Berger, a securities lawyer and Rutland Road resident since 1999, repeating a reporter's question. "I doubt it."

He recalls a long, deliberate and sometimes frustrating search he and his partner, Howard Gibbins, went through looking for the right space in PLG before landing on Flatbush.

"We knew that if we were to offer this product we had to make sure that there is some demand," he continues. "But we didn't focus on the neighborhood's gentrification. We picked this because this is our neighborhood. We live here."

Gibbins, formerly the owner of a film production company who has lived on Maple St. for 16 years, agrees with Berger that Drink could not have happened any sooner.

He and Berger bought the building that houses Drink. The location had been a variety of small businesses, most recently a bodega. The building had not been renovated or upgraded in decades, Gibbins suspects.

Utilizing neighborhood talent and expertise, Rutland Rd. architect and Lefferts Manor Association board member Roberta Woelfling designed the space. Her drawings included a wavy, serpentine shelf system that Gibbins says breaks the monotony and sameness of wine stores that use tight, boxy shelving to display inventory.

"We wanted to create something that was open, fluid and user-friendly," Gibbins notes.

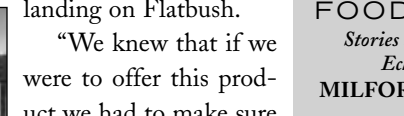
Drink's onsite wine expert, inventory manager, and tasting guide is industry veteran Paul Arena. Taking advantage of the shelving design, Arena displays the globally sourced inventory with American wines at the front, followed by the major wine growing regions of the world, including Europe, South America and even South Africa, stretching to the back.

Prices are hand-painted on the bottles and reflect the wide range of offerings, from a \$14 Italian red all the way up to a \$268 red Bordeaux.

Drink is open every day. Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sundays, noon until 8.



Drink co-owner Randy Berger (left) with Paul Arena, the establishment's wine consultant.



Drink's unique display design features serpentine waves of shelving. The owners wanted a space "fluid and user-friendly."

Parkside Pizza Becomes a Local Hot Spot in Less Than a Year

Parkside Pizza opened last October, barely seven months ago, but its high-quality pizzas, welcoming staff and warm rustic décor make it feel much, much older and comfortable. Taking over a space that had formerly been a very popular beauty salon at Parkside and Flatbush Avenues, Parkside Pizza is a crowd-pleasing, 60-seat, neighborhood getaway that serves up delicious thin-crust personal pizzas, imaginative cocktails and a sound system featuring an eclectic musical mix.

The place is the brainchild of Prospect Lefferts Gardens resident, entrepreneur and multi-careerist Andrew Kassim and Billy Long, a native San Franciscan who just a year or so ago was working the bar at the Bearded Lady in Prospect Heights.

Turning out masterfully prepared pizzas is chef Theodore Cianciosi. Since his teen years helping and learning from his father how to make pizza during family gatherings in their upstate New York home, Cianciosi has been single-minded about making pizza that is not only delicious, but beautiful too.

Kassim, who found the spot, met Long through mutual acquaintances and discovered that they both had a hunger to go into business in the hospitality industry.

Long joined him as the bar manager while Kassim came up with the culinary direction and marketing position. The way Kassim sees it, Parkside Pizza fuses old-world culinary charms with the contemporary dining styles of today's New York.

"What is more New York than pizza and cocktails?" Kassim asks. "All we are doing is giving Italian food a postmodern twist with updated cocktails."

"You look at the rebirth in the popularity of cocktails and the appreciation of old-school Italian food—especially pizza—and we think we are in the right place at the right time. What is more New York than that?"

Long says helping to manage and be a partner in Parkside Pizza is a career opportunity he could not have envisioned a year ago.

A bartender at the Bearded Lady, where Cianciosi happened to be his bar back, opportunity knocked when mutual acquaintances introduced him to Kassim and they discovered they shared certain career aspirations in the hospitality industry.

"The interesting thing for myself is that up until now I worked in bars and restaurants because it is fast money and truth be told, it's fun," he says. "But the opportunity to really learn the business—which I did from the owners of the Bearded Lady and continue to learn every day—made me see that coming here was a great opportunity."

Long says Kassim and he are already contemplating expansion given the strong traffic and loyal patronage the joint has earned.

"Expansion is down the road," he says. "Any restaurateur is looking at scale: the next five years, the next ten years. This is my first venture and the learning curve is gigantic, but I meet people from whom I learn something every day and they are helping me to the next step."

Chef Cianciosi, who earned high praise from the restaurant review site Eater, says the key to his pies' popularity and taste are fresh ingredients for toppings, using a brick oven as they do in Rome, and manipulating the dough lightly on a marble surface.

He said it takes two days to make his dough before its ready for the oven and he touches it minimally to ensure the dough is not "too doughy."

"The more you manipulate it, the thicker it gets," he notes.

Thanks to the brick oven's superior insulating properties, Cianciosi says his pizzas are ready to eat in about 90 seconds.

Pizzas are priced between \$10 and \$16.

House favorites are the lamb sausage pizza with shallots, mint, grana padano and mozzarella cheeses; margherita with tomato sauce, basil, and cheese; and mussels with pancetta, tomatoes, garlic, basil and grana padano cheese.



Chef Theodore Cianciosi shows off one of the restaurant's signature pies, the margherita.

ECHO
edible
FOOD & DRINK
Stories and Photos by
Echo Editor
MILFORD PREWITT



Billy Long (left), Parkside co-owner and bar manager, with chef Cianciosi

Bluebird Food & Spirits
504 Flatbush Ave. (near Lefferts Ave.)
25% off food and drinks
Offer good noon until closing
Restroom available

Brooklyn Greenery
560 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Lincoln & Maple)
20% off all juices and fruit smoothies
Offer good 10AM to 8PM

Desserts by Michael Allen
1149 Nostrand Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
10% off a homemade gelato
Offer good 12:30PM to 8PM

Drink
492 Flatbush Ave. (opp. Lefferts Ave.)
10% discount on anything in the store
Offer good noon to 5PM

Expression in Ceramics
1151 Nostrand Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
10% off selected items
Offer good noon to 7PM

Gino's Trattoria & Brick Oven Pizza
548 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Lincoln & Maple)
20% discount on a minimum purchase of \$10
Offer good from noon to 11PM

Gratitude Café
499 Rogers Ave. (at Midwood)
Free small organic coffee or tea
Offer good noon to 5PM
Restroom available

Greenhouse Café
539 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Lincoln & Maple)
Free hot or iced coffee with purchase of breakfast or sandwich
Offer good noon to 5PM

King of Tandoor
600 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
15% off the dinner menu
Offer good noon until 10:30PM

Kings County Nurseries
625 New York Ave. (bet. Rutland & Fenimore)
Download a 10% discount coupon at www.kingscountynurseries.com
for use on an in-store purchase of \$20 or more—excludes landscaping.
Good anytime

Midwood Flats
577 Flatbush Ave. (at Midwood)
Any appetizer and select glass of wine or beer for \$12
Offer good from noon to closing

**5/22/16
TOUR DAY
SPECIAL
OFFERS**

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

Pels Pie Co.
446 Rogers Ave. (bet. Lefferts & Lincoln)
Two for the price of one on any beverage
Offer good 7AM to 10PM
Restroom available

Play Kids
676 Flatbush Ave. (at Westbury Ct.)
15% off one toy
Offer good 10AM to 5PM

Pumpkin
581 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
Fine women's clothing
20% off all items
Offer good noon to 6PM

S & B Florist
1138 Nostrand Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
5% discount on a \$25 purchase
Offer good any day between 10AM to 4PM

Starliner Café & Market
1206 Nostrand Ave. (bet. Fenimore & Hawthorne)
Specials on iced teas and beverages
Offer good noon to 6PM

Sushi Tatsu III
644 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Fenimore & Hawthorne)
10% off purchase
Offer good noon to closing

Tafari Tribe Globe Trade
593 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Midwood & Rutland)
Fine art wear
15% discount on all purchases
Offer good noon to 9PM

Tip of the Tongue
43 Lincoln Rd. (bet. Ocean & Flatbush)
Free small coffee and a cookie
Offer good 11:30AM to 3:30PM
Restroom available

Trixies' Pet Food, Supplies & Accessories
575 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Maple & Midwood)
10% off any purchase
Offer good all day of tour

Tugboat Tea Company
546 Flatbush Ave. (bet. Lincoln & Maple)
A small coffee (reg \$1.75) for \$1.00
Offer good 8AM to 6PM

Westbury Inn
673 Flatbush Ave.
Offering \$2 beers, \$4 Yeungling, \$5 well drinks
Offer good noon to 5PM

New 71st Precinct Chief Fights Crime with Community Engagement

by MILFORD PREWITT

Deputy Inspector Norman L. Grandstaff sounds like a man who has secured a dream job in taking over the command of the 71st Precinct.

In a meet-the-local press conference shortly after the 17-year veteran assumed command of the precinct in March, Grandstaff presented himself as a high energy, community-minded police officer who admits he'd rather be on the street than sitting behind a desk most of the day.

But whether doing paperwork, addressing neighborhood groups or on patrol, Grandstaff says his prime directive remains the same as his predecessor: improve upon the precinct's impressive crime reduction advances while strengthening community relations.

"I'm very lucky," he says. "I inherited a very well-run precinct, with overall crime going down. I might have a different outlook and see things differently from the officers I'm following, but what stays the same is a focus on fighting crime and knowing the community issues.

"So I am all about meeting the established people in the neighborhood who can help get me up to speed on what is going on."

Married and the father of three, Grandstaff boasts that policing is practically the family business: his father and three of four brothers served or are serving in the NYPD.

All of his brothers in blue work in Brooklyn. "I'm proud of that fact," he declares.

The fourth brother works on Wall Street.

Desk duty is not new to him. He either ran or held senior administrative duties in several precincts prior to the 71st. He comes from commanding Canarsie's 69th Precinct, but he has also worked in Brooklyn North, Brooklyn South and Manhattan.



Deputy Inspector Norman Grandstaff took over command of the 71st Precinct in February.

He made the rank of captain five years ago.

Responsible for the security and safety of all of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, Crown Heights, Wingate and some of East Flatbush, the 71st is enjoying another consecutive year of significant major-crime reduction, an achievement the deputy inspector says is due to his predecessors and the committed police officers there who are doing their utmost to build goodwill and foster mutual respect throughout the precinct.

"We want a better quality of life for everyone who lives here, works here, prays here and goes to school here," he says. "That means you have to be responsive and available."

He says he sees a lot of similarities between PLG and Canarsie. Each has large black populations, hard-working families, and thriving small businesses and merchants.

"This neighborhood reminds me a lot of Canarsie. People work hard, have families to take care of and they want to feel safe and know that the police are there for them."

But the big difference is that Canarsie is not experiencing the rising tide of affluence and gentrification that describes PLG these days. Grandstaff says that doesn't matter to him: PLG's changing demographics will not change the level of service that his officers and detectives will provide.

"Enforcement is proactive and reactive," he insists. "If people are committing offenses, we will increase our presence and the deployment of people.

"But we will provide the same level of service regardless of creed, economic strata, sexual orientation or religious affiliation. We are here for everybody."

Grandstaff points out that so far this year robberies in the precinct are down 35 percent, burglaries are down 22 percent, and overall crime has declined 16 percent.

Shootings are following an even more impressive double-digit-percentage plummet. There were 29 shootings in 2014, 17 in 2015, and since September, there have been only three in the precinct.

[But the murder of Rick Young, the late owner of the new Rogers Avenue restaurant, Taste of Brooklyn, remains unsolved. Young died in the emergency room of Kings County Hospital last September 4—after driving himself there—minutes after being shot twice while parking his car outside his restaurant. What police considered a "highly personal" assault in which the victim knew the assailant, has become a cold case, says community-relations officer Vinny Martinos.]

Grandstaff says maintaining good community relations with neighborhood leaders, residents and merchants worked for him at previous assignments and he expects the same to work in PLG.

"My door is always open and everyone in the neighborhood seems to know Vinny Martinos," he says. "When it comes to character and recognizing it, Vinny is tops and I will put him and his team against any in the city. Here's a guy who had knee surgery and came in the next day."

Grandstaff says he's driven to make a difference.

"I love being a cop," he says. "I love being out there and being active and seeing what the issues are. But a portion of the day you'll find me behind this desk.

"You know what I like about this job the most?" he continues. "It's that every day you have a chance to help improve someone's life."

Rutland II's Karl Valentine, Occupational Therapist, Dies at 65

Karl Valentine, a high-energy lover of life, whose many diverse pursuits and avocations included bodybuilding, yoga and a deep reverence for music to stay fit and spiritually grounded, died suddenly on April 6 at the age of 65.

Valentine lived on Rutland II in his family's long-time home at various stages of his life: first as a child growing up in the 1960s and later when he returned as an adult with his own family to live with his mother after his father passed away.

On April 15, Valentine's family, friends and neighbors gathered at the R. Steven LeGall Home for Funerals to remember the funny, hardworking, loving and beloved father, husband, brother, friend and therapist.

It was a memorable evening of reminiscences accompanied by a soundtrack that both reflected his broad taste in music and relish for life: His favorites ranged from

James Brown to Jimi Hendrix to the J. Geils Band and, most poignantly, versions of "My Funny Valentine."

Karl was remembered as a master joke and storyteller who enjoyed bestowing nicknames on family and friends. His daughter, Amy, explained that if Karl gave you a nickname, "you knew he loved you."

Born on December 16, 1950, the son of the Nancy Florence and Denzyl Valentine, Karl Sinclair Valentine grew up at 169 Halsey Street where he played stickball and attended Saint Matthew Elementary School.

He later attended Erasmus Hall High School, Corrections Officer Academy, York College, and Kingsborough College. He earned a Bachelor of Science from NYU, a Master of Science from LIU and a New York State-sponsored certification in early intervention at Downstate Medical Center.

The Rutland Road home has been in Karl's family since 1964. After his marriage to Ruth in 1975, Karl worked as an occupational therapist in Southern California and throughout the New York area, dedicating himself to the progressive rehabilitation of those with special needs.

Returning to Brooklyn in the 1990s, Karl, Ruth and their children moved permanently into the home in 1999 to live with his mother after his father's death. His mother passed away in 2001.

Karl's daughter, Anithia, described him as "a diverse and unique soul" whose many and varied interests, in addition to occupational therapy, included weight lifting, the study of herbs and supplements, fishing, hunting, karate, yoga, aeronautics, model building, real estate, collecting rare films and television shows, massage therapy, reflexology, hiking, baking, bowling and playing trumpet and saxophone.

In addition to his wife of 40 years, Ruth, and their daughter Anithia, the couple's other surviving children are Amy and Omar. Two sisters, Marsha Thomas Carrington and Cheryl Hasbourne; a sister-in-law, cousins and many nephews and nieces also survive Karl.

At his memorial service, the stories shared the common theme of the positive impact Karl had on the many lives he touched and the hope that his spirit would live on, guiding everyone as his son, Omar, expressed, "to become the best version of ourselves."

Ray Raman (continued from page 1)

a military photographer during the Korean War. While working as a photographer at Kelly Air Force Base in San Antonio, he flew in the huge troop and cargo plane called the XC99. Ray loved this plane and many years later he would fight hard for the aircraft's preservation.

Ray moved back to Brooklyn after the war and, in 1957, bought the house on Rutland I using the GI bill. He married Doris Derringer in 1960. She would be his bride for 46 years and they happily raised two sons in the house.

Ray had a successful and diversified career as an independent photographer. He worked for well-known companies such as American Express, Eveready and Lane Bryant.

He photo-documented various New York neighborhoods and took photos of many celebrities, politicians and dignitaries.

Doris died in 2006 and her service was held at Church of the Evangel where Ray sang in the choir and was a deacon. A

charming and dapper fellow, Ray found love and companionship again with Harriet Lofton who was with him through his last days.

He was a handsome man who played bit parts in a few movies, most prominently a speaking role in the 1998 Denzel Washington and Bruce Willis drama, "The Siege."

The Church of the Evangel was also the location of Ray's own funeral service where members of the church spoke about his amazing spirit and character and how he really did "carry the choir."

After the service, a group of neighbors stood on the sidewalk outside of his house and swapped stories about the first time meeting him. Since Ray liked to talk, the stories were all similar but the consensus was that he was a gem, unlike any other and that we were all the better for knowing him.

Ray is survived by his sons Michael and Kevin and his granddaughter Payton.

Saturday, May 21 is It's My Park! Day in Prospect Park

Join with the Prospect Park Alliance to beautify your beloved park. On It's My Park! Day, volunteers will join the effort to care for Brooklyn's most spectacular green space with brooms, shovels, rakes, and trash grabbers. 10am-1pm. Meet near 16th Street. Advance registration required. Call (718) 287-3400 for more information.



For a stronger community, join the

Lefferts Manor Association

MANOR RESIDENTS:

- 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

NON-RESIDENT FRIENDS:

- I (we) support the work of the LMA and would like to contribute to their efforts.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____
DUES ADD'L CONTRIBUTION TOTAL

Dues cover January through December 2016. Make checks payable to Lefferts Manor Association. Send payment and form to: Martin Friedman, 214 Rutland Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11225 or drop in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Rd.

Echo Seeks Home Distributors for Non-Manor Blocks

The Echo is seeking help distributing copies on blocks that are in PLG but not in the Manor. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, please contact the editor at milfordprewitt@aol.com.

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