



Exploring the history of Lefferts Manor.



The Gilvary family in 1921.

## Original Owner of 66 Maple Was a High Society Lawyer Stained by Scandal

by Melinda Allison

James H. Gilvary was a self-made man who rose from humble beginnings to become a leading lawyer, real estate specialist and owner of one of Lefferts Manor's most distinguished manses before accusations of financial misdeeds ended his career.

Gilvary, who came to these shores as a teenage immigrant from Ireland, would become a wealthy real estate lawyer over the decades to come. He would commission a top architectural firm to build his family's home at 66 Maple Street, a stately English manor-style home.

He was born February 1, 1876 in Killala, County Mayo, Ireland as the second of six children to parents who ran a pub. At the age of 17, he left home to live with his maternal uncle who ran a grocery store in Sunset Park.

Gilvary became a naturalized citizen in 1899, listing his profession as "Real Estate." By 1903, Gilvary had become a self-made businessman. That year, *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* reported that Gilvary and his business partner closed "one of the largest sales of [apartment buildings] made in South Brooklyn for some time."

He would later attend Brooklyn Law School while working in real estate, joining the New York Bar Association in 1910.

He married Bridgett Marie Harnett, in 1908 and they had three children: Mary Elizabeth in 1910, James Jr. in 1914, and Margaret Mary in 1923.

Gilvary often appeared in *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle*, where he was featured as a real estate expert. The paper's society pages mentioned his family's European travels, dinner parties, and children's successes throughout the 1920s and '30s.

He was the president of the Brooklyn St. Patrick Society, a member of several other exclusive social clubs, and served on the board of Kings County Hospital.

At the height of his career during the 1920s, Gilvary owned two luxurious homes including Cill-Alaithe House, a large manor home in his hometown of Killala, County Mayo. He had his children enrolled in the prestigious Poly Prep Day School and St. Angela Hall.

But it was his 1925 hiring of the popular Brooklyn architects, J. Sarsfield Kennedy, to design his Maple Street home that made him a neighborhood resident. He commissioned the architects for an estimated \$20,000 (almost \$300,000 today).

But beginning in the mid-1930s, Gilvary's press coverage became far less flattering.

Late in his career, a fellow lawyer accused Gilvary of improperly pocketing \$400 (around \$7,300 today) of a \$700 mortgage sale commission in 1936.



One of the most distinguished homes in the Manor, 66 Maple St., was built by James H. Gilvary, a high-society lawyer whose career was overwhelmed by accusations of embezzlement.

Years later in 1945, the New York Bar Association accused Gilvary of skimming \$672.50 (more than \$9,500 today) and \$1,500 (\$21,000 today) in two separate estate settlement transactions and also permitting an executor to sell \$10,000 (\$142,000 today) in mortgage bonds. That year would prove to be the worst in Gilvary's life. In addition to the embezzlement accusations, his wife died following a long illness, and he resigned from the bar as disbarment proceedings were getting under way that April.

Gilvary continued working as a real estate broker until his death from a heart attack on June 9, 1947 at the age of 71. He was stricken while waiting to testify as a witness at the Municipal Courthouse in Manhattan.

His son and heir, James H. Gilvary, Jr. listed 66 Maple Street for \$56,000 in January 1948 (nearly \$600,000 today) but ended up selling it for only \$22,000 (\$235,000 today) November of that year. Adjusting for inflation, the family sold it for today's equivalent of a \$365,000 loss!

Melinda Allison is a sales management consultant with a strong interest in architecture, history and genealogy.

## Neighbors Making a Difference

### Edna Wells Handy To Build Bridges in Her Retirement

While they don't agree on much, the politicians who occupy the highest echelons of state and city government agreed on this: the retirement of lawyer and longtime Rutland II resident Edna Wells Handy would not go unnoticed.

So Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Mayor Bill de Blasio, City Comptroller Scott Stringer, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, the entire State Assembly, several judges (some retired), prosecutors, her pastor, and numerous lesser-known department heads celebrated the pleasure and ease of working with her.

Either in person or through official proclamations, they cheered what her Prospect-Lefferts Gardens neighbors already knew: Handy is a unique, hardworking, caring, smart and indispensable human being whose working life has been dedicated to helping people through government service and the law.

In a reception hall in the historic and stately Tweed Court House in City Hall Park in October, more than



200 well-wishers—including several PLG neighbors—celebrated Handy's retirement after a decades-long career as a lawyer in federal, state and city governments.

Along the way she has been a mother, grandmother, widow, law professor, mentor, public speaker, author, leadership developer, innovator and closer to home, a magnanimous neighbor who co-founded a popular book club exclusively for women who live on Rutland Road.

She is also the recipient of numerous honors and awards for justice and civic engagement including the Ida B. Wells Award, the Outstanding Leadership Award from the Protestant Board of Guardians and the U.S. Marine Corps Appreciation Award.

Most people who retire look forward to laying back a bit, catching up with their reading, traveling and spending more time with their grandkids.

Not that she is not going to do those things, but Handy's retirement plans are to keep going, to keep giving back and make government work for the people.

She will soon finish a master's degree in Public Administration which she intends to

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### The WFP and Bill Lipton: Making the Democrats Honest

The New York State Working Families Party rocked the political establishment when, during the primaries, it boldly endorsed actress and education activist Cynthia Nixon and councilmember Jumaane Williams over Gov. Andrew Cuomo and his running mate Kathy Hochul. Earlier in the campaign, Cuomo had sought the WFP's blessing. Although Nixon lost the election by a wide margin, the WFP still scored big in the midterms when candidates the WFP endorsed won several top state offices. The sweet smell of success got sweeter when the WFP helped demolish the Independent Democratic Conference, a group of eight Democrats in the State Senate who traditionally sided with Republicans. Only

two of them won re-election, which means, the State Senate is back in Democratic control. No one is basking



more about these victories than the WFP's state director and co-founder Bill Lipton, who lives with his wife, Yasmin, and young daughter, Ora Luz, on Sterling I.

*How did you come to move here? How did you find your home?*

I'm from Kingston, N.Y. originally but moved to New York in 1986 and came to Prospect Heights in 1990. My wife is a native-born Brooklynite and even though we knew about PLG when we started to look for a new place, we didn't consider here because it had an image of being so quiet. If you wanted to go to a restaurant you had to leave the neighborhood, plus there were not that many houses on the market anyway.

*So what happened to change your mind?*

Around 2010 we wanted to buy something and came back here and hit the jackpot. We feel as if this is the best block in the neighborhood. We couldn't be happier and it has the deepest sense of community I think I've ever known.

*What are your thoughts on PLG's rising affluence and gentrification?*

For New York City and Brooklyn in particular, it is clearly an unfortunate development. The city is becoming increasingly unaffordable for working-class people. and that is making it a far less interesting (continued on page 4)

## House Tour 2018: Reminiscing on PLG's Day to Shine

Prospect Lefferts Gardens' 48th annual House & Garden Tour was one of the most successful in recent years.

More than 600 visitors—100 more than a year ago—visited eight unique homes on Sunday, June 3, as well as enjoyed a refreshment stop with fabulous, live jazz.

Every year the house tour kicks off at noon and usually there is a slow ramping up of attendees milling through the neighborhood going from stop to stop. The peak is typically around 2 or 3 p.m. But this year, despite gloomy skies and very breezy conditions, crowds were forming right from the beginning.

By 11:30 a.m., tour-goers were lined up outside the first stop on Lincoln

Road. Then, as organizers were battling the wind to secure (for the second time) the numbered tour banner in front of The Parkline apartment



by Roberta Woelfling, co-coordinator of the tour

building, they got word that the lines continued to lengthen at other stops.

Thankfully these lines dissipated as the concentration of tour-goers eased up in the afternoon. The homeowners were appreciative of the tour guides who helped manage the onslaught of eager visitors and who kept the crowd moving without it feeling too crowded.

This year's tour was more compact in terms of geography than past tours.

This was viewed as a plus for tour-goers based on idle chatter at the refreshment stop. It gave people more time to spend at each home and it allowed for more breaks along the way.

### Architectural Diversity Shines

Showing a variety of architectural styles and diverse living spaces are always goals of the house tour.

It's important that there be at least one apartment on tour, though this year we were lucky to find two very different ones. And, it was an interesting juxtaposition on Midwood I to see the precise detail of the modern renovation on the north side of the street, compared to the period details and antiques of the (continued on page 2)

## House Tour 2018 (continued from page 1)

stately home opposite on the south side. It certainly revealed the evolution an old house goes through over the course of decades and the turnover of families.

The Parkline apartment was the most distinctive stop of all.

There seemed to be a lot of curiosity about this new 23-story apartment building at 626 Flatbush. While not everyone in the area was thrilled about a high-rise amid four-to-six story buildings and concerns about the shadow it projects into the park, it is here now and part of the neighborhood.

So we were thrilled to find a willing resident who believed in the importance of community building, to open up her home for the tour.

We are also grateful to the property management for allowing access to common spaces on the top floor. The view from the roof terrace really is spectacular. Parkline living was definitely an interesting contrast to that of the century-old, single-family brownstones most often featured in Brooklyn house tours.

### Props to Vendors, Musicians

For the first time, NYC Flower Project on Rogers Avenue provided the flowers for the event and what a beautiful job they did. They were given a photograph of each participating location and came up with individually distinct arrangements based on the homeowner's color preferences. Each stop on the tour, as well as the refreshment stop, received unique arrangements.

## Lefferts Ave. 2 Wins 2018 'Greenest Block' Honors

Fourth Time in Nine Years A PLG Block Wins

by Sherrill-Ann Mason

A casual stroll down Lefferts Avenue between Bedford and Rogers Avenues quickly reveals why the Brooklyn Botanic Garden judged this block "The Greenest Block in Brooklyn" for 2018.

Lined with an array of colorful flower beds, huge plant boxes, hanging pots, stylish tree guards, recycled found art, a kiddie garden, and window boxes, the block is quite a sight to behold.

So, too, is its breathtaking mural.

But beyond this are the friendly neighbors who band together to make it all happen. It's a quintessential Brooklyn neighborhood where kids still excitedly play along the sidewalks—without digital devices—and the grown-ups catch up with each other discussing events around the block or around the world.

The block's energy is captured by the Lefferts Avenue Community Togetherness (LACT) street association, headed by Francesca Leopold and Dr. Zorina Frederick, who serve as president and vice president, respectively.

The floral designers knocked it out of the park. Not only were the flowers themselves stunning, but the vases and containers the arrangements filled were equally irresistible.

The refreshment stop arrangements were particularly notable. The decorative metal bowl full of colorful blooms next to the lemonade decanter made a gorgeous pairing.

The arrangements' beauty jibed with the music of the Camila Meza Duo, which included percussionist Caleb van Gelder. The duo captivated guests at the refreshment area with romantic standards and jazzy original compositions.

Not only were the bees circling the flowers, organizers got word early in the tour that there was a "buzz" over the fact that there were wings and pasta salad at the refreshment stop. Thanks to Jim Mamary and the staff at Bluebird, who upped the ante this year.

We are always grateful for the goodies donated by local businesses and residents. It just wouldn't be our tour without Gino's cannolis and the chips and salsa from Taqueria El Patron.

### Social Media Boosts Attendance

Beyond the amenities and the charming participating homes, also contributing to the increase in attendance this year was our deeper dependence on social media.

Spearheaded by Ashley Chamberlain, folks could go to @plghousetour18 on Instagram or Facebook and there were many posts to the Prospect Lefferts Gardens and Brooklyn Neighbors group on Facebook and access to its 9,000 members.

These sites were constantly being updated, with links provided to LeffertsManor.org and to Eventbrite for tickets. Eventbrite sold 182 advance tickets this year compared to 136 last year and 106 the year before that. We expect the trajectory for online ticket sales will remain on an upward trend in the years to come.

There were also great house tour articles featured on the popular websites Brownstoner.com and BrooklynPaper.com.

The block association was formed in 2013 with the goal of bringing neighbors together and maintaining the friendly spirit despite gentrification. To do this, LACT hosts monthly meetings, neighborhood clean-up days, an annual tea party and a block party.

But the community's big project is the planting of flowers in the spring. This initiative is led by Kathy Parris, Sandy Worrell and Doug Bruha, who make up the leadership of the Gardening Committee. They conceptualize the design ideas and, along with Leopold and Frederick, mobilize neighbors to contribute to the efforts to beautify the block. Their teamwork had already earned two Greenest Block honorable mentions in the recent past. Even local businesses are supportive of their efforts. Savoring the thrill of victory in the history books, the residents want another taste of triumph and are already meeting to plan for more victories in the future.

Lefferts 2's prize was the fourth time a PLG block has won the top honor. Lincoln Road 2 won in both 2009 and 2012 and Sterling 1 got the top prize in 2013.

If you feared the closing of the Tugboat Café meant the space it occupied would no longer be a magnet of positive vibes, neighborliness, spirited conversation, great coffee, soothing tea, and camaraderie, fear not.

The compact 300-square-foot space at 546 Flatbush near Lincoln Road has transformed into The ChameleonBK, a social café where the new owners, Leslie Ward and Susanne Lyn, are committed to carrying on the cozy, community-focused and welcoming vibe that Tugboat was known for.

But they are adding special signature touches of their own to embrace the diversifying and beloved neighborhood that is Prospect-Lefferts Gardens.

What gives Leslie and Susanne their enthusiasm is that they both have long roots firmly embedded in the neighborhood. Not only are they 20-year residents, but they also epitomize the ethic of "hands-on operators" who live just a short walk away from the Chameleon's doors.

Leslie had been a devoted patron of Tugboat since its inception back in 2012 when she was among the first handful of customers to welcome then Tugboat owner Chad Casey to the block.

Since then, the three of them became the friendliest of neighbors. When the opportuni-



## The ChameleonBK Offers a Warm Welcome In a Changing PLG

Susanne Lyn (left) and Leslie Ward ham it up in front of their Flatbush Avenue café, The Chameleon BK

ty presented itself to acquire the café, the unexpected chance thoroughly excited the women and they intrepidly went for it.

Now celebrating their first full year in business in November, the reimagining of the café is progressing step by step.

Susanne points out that in an ever-changing neighborhood like PLG, spaces like The ChameleonBK can play a meaningful role bringing people together and advancing the community's harmony and development.

They envision the café as a dynamic community crossroads where long-timers and newcomers alike can encounter each other to share a warming and welcoming experience, even create new friendships—amid savory coffee, delicious pastry, sandwiches and soon, hot meals and a wine selection.

"This is a place where we can interact with our neighbors and that is something we both love to do," Leslie says. "We are both steadfast Brooklynites, hailing from someplace else, with Caribbean roots to be specific, and so multicultural experiences are part of our DNA."

Chameleon is also going to be an event space for the arts, special gatherings and even performances.

"Already we're hosting small events like book clubs and theater groups," Leslie says. "We had a sing-along/drumming circle for toddlers over the summer. We provide our walls to showcase the work of local artists, so the amazing creativity in our neighborhood is on display."

As far as the menu is concerned, the café is

currently focused on a breakfast-to-brunch fare, sandwiches and combo platters served seven days a week. They've developed quite a following for their biscuit breakfast sandwiches.

"They make us a little unique," Leslie smiles.

But there are plans afoot to broaden the menu beyond breakfast and brunch. They are planning within the near future to extend their service hours into the evening. Beginning with an "afternoon delight" tapas (small plates) menu, the Chameleon will roll out a pop-up buffet for dinner. Confident that its liquor license will be approved, the Chameleon will complement evening service with beer and wine.

The women are excited about the prospect of serving their faithful patrons into the evening.

But why name a café with such a warm and hospitable agenda after a lizard?

"A chameleon is a marvelous and colorful creature that adapts magically to its environment," Leslie explains. "We chose this name to symbolize that we will also be changing and adapting. It's going to be a more colorful place in terms of environment, activities and menu."

But the number one ingredient first and foremost, the women emphasize, will always be "pure hospitality to everyone who walks through our door."



Singer/songwriter/guitarist Camila Meza, accompanied by percussionist Caleb van Gelder entertained tour-goers at the refreshment stop on Midwood Street. Their appearance was made possible by PLG Arts.

### Thanks To All

We usually receive very positive unsolicited feedback on the friendliness of our volunteers and this year was no exception.

Over the course of the day, organizers heard countless compliments about the hospitality of the guides from people touring the houses. (They also said the same about our neighbors who they passed on the sidewalks.) Of course, PLGers know what an awesome neighborhood we have, but it's great for visitors to get a sense of that, too.

The astounding fact is that this year, like most years, more than 120 people volunteered for the day to make the tour a success. Most (but not all) of the volunteers are neighborhood folks. It says a lot about our community and its willingness to continue to support this event.

It is not easy to find homeowners to agree to open up their doors for a daylong tour. It seems to get harder every year but somehow, we manage to make it happen. House tours in other Brooklyn neighborhoods have disappeared or cut back to every other year. Ours is still going strong every year!

Our people—PLG's best asset—helped make this one memorable and successful house tour.

Thanks to all.

Rutland 1 resident Roberta Woelfling is also a board member of the Lefferts Manor Association.



These front yards on Lefferts 2 epitomize why the block was designated as "Brooklyn's Greenest"



Tony Briggs, executive director of the PLG Montessori School (center in cap) is surrounded by his five siblings under their mother's co-named street sign.

## PLG Street Co-Namings Salute Two Neighborhood Legends

Two women whose love of community, generosity of spirit and neighborliness had no limit when it came to improving the quality of life in Prospect-Lefferts Gardens each had a block co-named after them in memoriam.

The name of Carole Schaffer, who ran the PLG House & Garden Tour for more than 30 years, was added to the Midwood Street sign at Bedford Avenue. The name of Lenore Briggs, an entrepreneur and educator who opened the Lefferts Gardens Montessori School at 527 Rogers Avenue in 1986 after a long career as a daycare center operator, was added to the Rogers Avenue street sign at Rutland Road, directly in front of the school.



Posing with Carole Schaffer Way street sign are, from left to right, LMA Board Member Skei Saulnier, Carole's husband Art Schaffer, Councilmember Mathieu Eugene and Stella Kruger (Art's sister).

### Setting It Straight: Neighbor Objects to Echo Coverage

Dear Editor:  
I think the House Tour issue [in May] was great and Elaine and I were pleased with the box about our house. My only serious critique is about something you wrote in the lead article about the Schaffer house. In my opinion, it greatly exaggerates how "bad" our neighborhood was when they moved here in 1975. My own experience in the first few years we lived here (1974-1977) was that our neighborhood was remarkably crime-free—certainly compared to Park Slope, where we had lived previously.  
It's true that there was a perception of increased crime citywide following the 1977 blackout, but you write about merchants being "burned out in the riots following New York's historic, citywide blackout." That happened in Bushwick, and elsewhere, but not in PLG. I admit that I hesitated to walk the block to Flatbush Avenue following the blackout, but when I worked up the nerve to do so, I learned that only one store had been looted—Bedford Camera (which never re-opened). Some merchants, such as the two brothers who ran Trade Fair, the predecessor of OJ's, spent the blackout night guarding their shops but, with that one notable exception, there was no violence here.  
Crime has dropped enormously, starting with the Dinkins administration's "community policing," but it doesn't serve anyone to exaggerate how "bad" things were before.

Bob Marvin, LMA Board Member / Midwood 2

Editor's response: We agree and regret the characterization.

## PLG Epitomizes the Urban Village Vision of Activist Jane Jacobs



by Laura Charelian **T**he legendary Jane Jacobs, a grassroots community organizer and urban activist who fired up thousands of people to save lower Manhattan from becoming a giant highway, would have loved Prospect-Lefferts Gardens. She was a believer in community as village and that the greatness and diversity of big cities could be realized when neighborhoods were allowed to maintain their unique flavor and vitality.

Her vision is not only what attracted me to this neighborhood, but also to volunteer to lead a street tour in PLG bearing her name.

In 2006 my husband and I bought our own little piece of PLG—a co-op at 50 Lefferts Avenue. We feel privileged to be part of such a special neighborhood, one that the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission has described as having a distinct "sense of place."

I became acquainted with the unique story of the Lefferts clan and their familial farmland from a book on Brooklyn I bought years ago.

From the vision of the original single-family covenant, to the diligent safeguarding by the Lefferts Manor Association, to the 1979 historic district designation, these ingredients are an accumulated blend of organic and deliberate actions that have kept this magical little square of Kings County preserved and nurtured, appreciated and loved, for more than a century.

And this pride of place led me on a sparkly day in May three years ago to share the love and the pride by voluntarily leading a walking tour through the neighborhood.

I qualified to be a tour group leader in the "Jane's Walk," the annual multi-community walking tours named after the legendary urban activist Jane Jacobs and sponsored by the Municipal Arts Society.

MAS provides the platform and guidance for anyone wishing to create a tour to showcase a favorite neighborhood or venue, and I was one of 211 city tour leaders that weekend.

Billed as "Must See PLG," I promoted the tour quoting the same description the Landmarks Preservation Commission used: "an introductory walk of the landmark district, Lefferts Manor, where gorgeous examples of neo-Renaissance, Romanesque Revival, neo-Federal and Tudor are proudly on display—showcasing some of the finest 'enclaves of late 19th- and early 20th-century housing in New York City.'"

I remembered that Jane Jacobs celebrated the "smallness of big cities" and the "micro-villages" within them that serve to keep metropolitan areas healthy and vibrant. With that in mind, I created a two-hour itinerary that began in front of Wholesome Foods on Flatbush and ended up at the then newly finished LeFrak Skating Center.

Two hours sped by as we traversed from Lefferts Avenue to Lincoln Road, to Maple Street, switchbacking between Flatbush and Bedford Avenues, all the way down to Fenimore Street, then north up Flatbush, ending in the park.

I had no idea how many people would respond, but the morning group had 17 participants and the afternoon group had 35-plus! The demographics included some locals seeking a new perspective and some wide-eyed Manhattanites who exclaimed, "I had no idea this was even here!" They could not get over the expansive yards and red-tiled roofs of the brick homes on Maple, the Axel Hedman limestones emblematic of the "White City Movement," the neo-Georgian brick townhouses of Rutland Road with their Juliet balconies just down from neo-Tudor row homes, and the cool '60s vibe of Patio Gardens.

In addition to the architectural eye candy, we took note of the quiet of the wide streets, the generous sidewalks, and the greenery, juxtaposed against the new construction of 626 Flatbush.

I believe PLG is a stellar example of the urban micro-village to which Jane Jacobs alluded. It is my hope that it will remain a beloved example of the best of New York City, both past and present.

Laura Charelian is a real estate agent.



History-hungry tourists on a "Jane's Walk" in 2015 at the corner of Bedford and Maple.

## LeFrak Center at Lakeside Begins Ambitious All-Ages Skating School

by Jill Krupnik • Skaters of all ages were able to glide on the ice like Olympians Nathan Chen and Mats Zuccarello when the LeFrak Center at Lakeside opened for ice skating on Saturday, November 3.

What's new this year? Skating classes, many of them free! Teachers will be following the Learn to Skate USA curriculum, which is endorsed by US Figure Skating, USA Hockey, and US Speed Skating. Skaters will learn how to skate forward and backward, glide, plus crossovers, turns, spins and even some jumps.

Also new this season the Skate School will offer an introductory hockey class for kids and adults who want to learn the basics of the sport such as stick and puck handling.

"Skating is a fantastic way promote a healthy lifestyle," says Laura Hushion, Lakeside's skating director. "Not only is it fun to make new friends and learn new skills, but skating offers a great cardio workout."

For adults who think that they're too old to start skating, coach Allison Johnston offers these words of advice. "Skating is a sport, a skill, an activity that can truly be enjoyed by people of all ages," she says. "We hear a lot about kids skating but as adults, how often do we try something new? Take risks? Fall down?"

"I love skating for the ways that it takes people out of their element and remembering what it is to feel joy and success again."

Lakeside will also be hosting their winter show on Sunday, December 10 at 4 p.m., featuring local skaters performing holiday-themed routines. It promises to be a truly can't-miss event.

Jill Krupnik is a PLG resident with a passion for ice skating.



**LeFrak Center Skate School**  
**SESSION 2**  
Ice Skating: January 7-February 17  
Register by December 23rd, 2018  
\$140 | Season Pass Holders: \$125

**SESSION 3**  
Ice Skating: February 25-March 31  
Register by February 10th, 2019  
\$140 | Season Pass Holders: \$125

**GENERAL SKATING HOURS**  
November 5, 2017 - March 24, 2019  
Monday: 9:00am-5:00pm  
\*Tuesday: 9:00am-5:30pm  
5:30pm-7:15pm  
\*Wednesday: 9:00am-5:30pm  
5:30pm-7:15pm  
\*Thursday: 9:00am-5:30pm  
5:30pm-7:15pm  
\*Friday: 9:00am-9:00pm  
Saturday: 12:00pm-9:00pm  
Sunday: 12:00pm-5:00pm

\* PM skate hours reflect uncovered rink only and are subject to change, depending on weather conditions

**ADMISSION**  
\$7 weekdays  
\$10 weekends & holidays  
\$7 skate rentals

photo courtesy of Prospect Park Alliance

## Edna Wells Handy

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leverage into her own start-up, Wells Handy & Associates, a consultancy to help government agencies better serve their constituencies.

"I see my role as bridging the gap between the provider and the recipient and that is what I did almost my entire career and that is what I'm going to do with Wells Handy & Associates," she says. "We're going to be 'turn-around specialists' to distressed organizations or institutions at a crossroads in both the private sector and in government."

Since graduating from Georgetown University Law Center in Washington, D.C. in 1976 and passing the bar, Handy's resume glows with high achievement and awesome responsibilities. The energy and passion that fueled her work experience would make the most achieving overachiever feel lazy and unaccomplished.

Her resume lists eight government consultant positions, including counsel to the NYC Police Commissioner, Commissioner of the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and most recently, the Acting Chief Compliance Officer of the city's Housing Authority.

Then there are her top legal positions that include general counsel for the New York City branches of the NAACP, bureau chief of Law Enforcement Investigations for the King's County District Attorney's Office, Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and one of her first jobs after law school, a fellow at the American Civil Liberties Union.

She's also had at least five teaching positions at prominent law schools where she taught such courses as bar exam preparation, writing and analyses of evidence and she has mentored young law school students on staying the course.

But all those heavyweight positions did not diminish nor detract from her love of family, community and church—attributes she says she acquired from parents whose lives were shaped by the civil rights movement.

Born in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Handy's Rutland II home for the past 31 years has seen a lot of life, merriment and grief. While establishing her legal career, Handy raised three daughters in the Rutland home and one step-daughter, all the offspring of Michael Handy, her now-deceased husband. (He died in the house from a heart attack in 2003). Her household currently includes a grandchild (and a second one due any day now), a daughter and son-in-law, and her fiancé, Charles Peoples, a senior school administrator.

Despite her career successes and achievements, which could bring mega-dollars in the corporate world, Handy says she loves government service and its ability to change lives for the better.

"I wasn't interested in the private sector," she says. "I wanted to be part of the solution for equity and fairness and government seemed the best way to be part of that."

Asked if there's a possible political run in the future, she dismisses that question, too.

"I'm low key," she insists. "I believe you can do anything in government that you want to do as long as you don't care who gets credit for it."

But when will she retire?

"When you come to my funeral," she replies. "I see myself as a life-long learner and I'm at the crossroads. There is still more for me to do and to share with others."

"This is the sequel and it's only going to get better."



NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, Edna Wells Handy and daughter, Kenya Handy-Hillard, the evening's master of ceremonies.

## Bill Lipton (continued from page 1)

and generous place. The city used to be rich in public services. My mom was born during the Depression and grew up poor here in Brooklyn. It's much harder to be working class in New York City today. It's more of a squeeze and the worst example of that is the subway: more expensive, less dependable and increasingly unaffordable.

*How did the WFP get started and what were you doing before?*

Soon after I graduated Columbia, I became a community organizer and then started to get involved in electoral politics. Eventually I helped start the WFP in 1998. It was an alliance between community organizations like ACORN, Citizen Action and unions, like the CWA (the telephone workers union) and enlightened elected officials like Dave Dinkins.

*What was your take on the midterm elections?*

It's a huge win for PLG and for all of Brooklyn to have a true progressive in the State Senate [the WFP endorsed, first-time office seeker Zellnor Myrie] who refused to

take campaign contributions from real estate developers. We were there first and couldn't be prouder than to be on Team Zellnor.

*Why was it so important to whip the IDC?*

First of all, we started seven years ago strategizing their end. You should understand that the WFP is focused on challenging corporate control of our democracy. We are pretty clear that corporate and right-wing wealthy interests have a lock on the Republican Party and major inroads into the Democratic Party and we saw the IDC and Gov. Cuomo's support of them as an intolerable situation. Now more than ever, in this era of Trump, we need to democratize our politics and economy.

*What's the future of the WFP?*

We are very concerned about what's going on in this country. The Democrats have a very serious identity crisis. A recent poll asked people what does the Democratic Party stand for and the number one answer was "I don't know." Fifteen years ago it was the party of the little guy. So our job is to pressure the Democrats to put working families first and not their corporate donors.

## David Roth, Midwood I Resident and Devoted Family Man, Dies after Long Battle with Brain Cancer

David Roth, an adoring father, loving husband, proud Brooklynite and fitness devotee whose doctors told him eight years ago that he had six months to live, has died after a long fight with brain cancer.

He was 57 and lived with his wife and two daughters on Midwood I for 18 years.

A real estate manager for the MTA who worked on the Metro-North Line, Roth died from the same kind of cancer, glioblastoma, that recently claimed the life of Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

Roth defied his doctors' prognoses and lived eight years longer than expected until he passed in a hospice in September.

His wife, the children's book author Bonnie Bader, attributed her husband's longevity to his "positive, upbeat attitude" and his high level of physical fitness. He was an active athlete who pursued a number of activities like biking, running, crew and soccer, and coached his two daughters—Lauren and Allie—soccer teams in the American Youth Soccer Organization league.

For much of his life he was a passionate (but frustrated) Mets fan, too.

David Roth was born in St. Louis, Mo. and moved with his family to Westchester County, and later, Stamford, Conn.

Roth attended Rutgers University where he studied geography and urban planning. He also played soccer as a collegian.

He worked for the MTA for 10 years as a real estate manager.

A member of Congregation Beth Elohim, Roth was active in its charitable community activities, frequently cooking and delivering meals to shut-ins, working at the homeless shelter and helping new parents by shopping for them.

He and Bonnie moved to the neighborhood in 2000, buying a beautiful federal-style townhouse on the south side of Midwood I.

Roth later became a frequent volunteer guide for the Prospect Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour and occasionally opened his home as a participant.

Bonnie said they were on vacation in Colorado in the summer of 2010 and had just deplaned when David began acting strangely. Later, he suffered a seizure while in a rental car.

An ambulance came and transported him to a local hospital where doctors discovered he had a mass on the brain. He was airlifted to a larger hospital, where, after surgery to remove the tumor, doctors gave him six months to a year to live. Later, that dire prognosis was seconded in New York at Memorial Sloan Kettering.

"He worked right up to the end [before going into a hospice]," Bonnie said. "He was one of Sloan Kettering's longest surviving patients to have ever suffered from the disease."

Besides his wife and daughters, Roth will be missed by his parents, Martin and Harriet Roth; brother, Josh; sisters-in-law, Karen and Andrea; niece, Mollie; nephews Matthew and Jared; and numerous neighbors and co-workers.



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## MLK Day '19 Storytelling & Music Event

Monday, January 21, 11 AM-3 PM  
at Grace Reformed Church of Flatbush  
1800 Bedford Ave. (at Lefferts Ave.)

Hosted by  
Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood  
Association (PLGNA)

Featuring author Jacqueline Woodson  
and other artists to be announced

For a stronger  
community, join the



## Lefferts Manor Association

Dues are \$25 per household or  
\$15 per senior citizen household.

Dues cover January through December 2018.

Make checks payable to **Lefferts Manor Association**. Send payment and full name(s)/address to: Martin Friedman, 214 Rutland Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11225 or drop in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Road.

## Rutland II Neighbor Lenny Henderson to Be Memorialized With Prospect Park Tree Planting

Longtime Rutland II neighbor and retired designer Lenny Henderson will be memorialized with a tree planting in Prospect Park this spring, along the same route where he walked his dog every day.

Henderson died August 12 from complications of an enlarged heart. He was 71 years old.

Born in Mt. Vernon, N.Y., Henderson did a stint in the air force and while he attended but didn't finish art school, he was largely a self-trained artist with prodigious talents and worked as a book designer for Random House for 35 years.

He was also a painter of considerable skill who delighted in giving away his art to neighbors and friends.

Henderson lived on Rutland II since June, 1997.

He is survived by his wife, Lauren; daughter, Catlin Murphy; and one-year-old granddaughter, Eliza Ida Murphy. (The Spring 2015 issue of the *Echo* featured a story about the passing of Lenny's mother, Ida "Mae" Henderson, at age 100.)

A gregarious and friendly man who was quick to smile, Henderson could be found most afternoons

walking his beloved schnauzer-poodle, Winslow, through the neighborhood and in Prospect Park.

With the help of the Prospect Park Alliance, the family has set up a fund for neighbors, colleagues and friends to donate toward a river birch tree to be planted in remembrance to Lenny along the route he and Winslow took on their daily walks to the Boathouse.

To make a donation, visit the Commemorative Tree page at the Prospect Park Alliance's website ([www.prospectpark.org](http://www.prospectpark.org)) and follow the instructions for making a donation in memory of Lenny Henderson.

Please note that donations must be made before March 1, 2019, the deadline for the spring tree planting season.

