

To Our Readers

We regret that this edition of the *Echo* will not be printed on paper nor will it be delivered to your doorstep. The reasons for this should be obvious. We are sheltering just as you are.

This issue of the newspaper will also look different from our usual format. Our design has been adapted—simplified and compressed—to be easier to read and navigate on phones and tablets.

The *Echo* staff hopes that this digital-only issue will be unique and that we can return to print with the next issue. We believe strongly in the legacy of creating a newspaper particularly in a neighborhood full of historic tradition such as ours.

We look forward to returning to your stoops and mailboxes just as soon as it is safe to do so.

—The *Echo* staff

From Frantic Shopping to Social Distancing, Deadly Pandemic Upends Life in PLG; Kills and Sickens Neighbors

by Milford Prewitt

Spring is typically the busiest time of the year in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, filled with the annual rituals and traditions that signal good times ahead.

Among them:

- Residents prepping their front yards and gardens for the Greenest Block contest;
- Backyard cookouts and Prospect Park picnics;
- The Lefferts Manor Association showcasing PLG's architectural history and diversity in the annual house tour and orchestrating the annual flower barrel planting;
- The Brooklyn Botanic Garden welcoming thousands to its annual cherry blossom extravaganza;
- Real estate brokers promoting open houses;
- The neighborhood's iconic beauty salons and barber shops styling their clients Easter makeovers, and
- Restaurants and bars bustling at the seams.

Those activities and sightings were the stuff of memory this spring.

From its outbreak in Wuhan, China 7,500 miles away in December, the coronavirus (also called COVID-19) pandemic seeped into PLG, having earlier carved out a swath of human death and misery not seen in recent times.

Among its fatalities locally was a prominent business and community leader who lived on Rutland II, a Sterling I nurse and a Rutland I physician. [See obituaries].

Infecting people through airborne droplets propelled by a cough, sneeze, or speaking as well as through touching infectious surfaces, COVID-19 has forced authorities worldwide to literally shutdown the world's economy. In the U.S. alone, an estimated 30 million Americans are unemployed, a number that exceeds Depression-era joblessness.

Much of that unemployment was the result of government-ordered

"stop the spread" plans which shut down congested workspaces like office towers, entertainment and sports venues, special events spaces, nonessential retail operations, educational institutions, public schools and other high-density human meeting places where it is impossible for people to maintain a six-foot distance from one another.

Face masks became the order of the day for nearly 3.5 billion people and stay-at-home orders—except for food shopping, medical purposes and essential workers—cover much of the world.

Although China had the greatest number of cases and deaths at the outset in January, the U.S. became the epicenter of the disease globally, since mid-March largely due to the rapid rate of spread and death in New York City.

While stop-the-spread policies began to show progress as the number of deaths started to plummet along with number of cases, the NY State Health Dept. still reported some grim statistics in late May:

- The U.S. led the world with 1.66 million cases.
- The U.S. led all nations with 97,500 deaths.
- New York State led all states with 360,000 cases, 197,000 in NYC.
- The state recorded 23,300 deaths, 16,100 in the city alone.

According to the NYC Health Department, there have been 2,964 COVID-19 cases in the 11225 zip code as of late May.

While trendlines showed the rate of increase of new cases began declining by late April, New York Mayor Bill de Blasio nonetheless imposed \$1,000 fines for individuals in gatherings that violated the six-foot distancing law. He even upped the ante by asking people to call 911 to report fellow citizens in crowds or groups in obvious noncompliance.

"You'll be saving lives," the mayor said in a press conference.

Brushes with COVID-19

For some neighbors, it started as a dry, nagging cough. For others, it went straight to a sweaty fever. Some woke up with the whole megillah: chills and fever, coughing and strained breathing. Sneezing jags were common.

But because the early symptoms of a COVID-19 infection are indistinguishable from spring-activated allergies and colds, some people mistook the virus's symptoms with their expected seasonal miseries.

Some PLGers who fought the beast at home and recovered described the 10-to-14 days they self-quarantined at home as the scariest and sickest they had been in life.

(continued on page 2)



Richard Esposito of Trixie's Pet Food & Supplies on Flatbush Avenue reported that he is losing business to online competitors.

At right:
Lincoln Market manager
Yze Clark struggled to
stock empty pasta
shelves in late March.



Pandemic Upends Life in PLG *(continued from page 1)*

A 63-year-old Sterling I family man said his biggest mistake was to downplay the cold and allergy symptoms he experienced in late March as just his usual spring maladies. But then the familiar turned into woe when body weakness, fever, diarrhea, headaches and labored breathing lasted through mid-April.

Seeking treatment advice via a tele-med hotline, a doctor told him his symptoms were so similar to COVID-19 that it didn't matter if he tested positive or not because the treatment was the same as the flu's. So rather than leave the house to get the test, he took his doctor's regimen—antibiotics, acetaminophen and rest—and sheltered at home for three grueling weeks.

"I thank God the meds worked quickly," he said. "Within the next seven days, my fever broke, and I grew stronger."

On the road to improved health, he lost 23.5 unwanted pounds.

"One of the strangest symptoms while I was on the mend was hallucinations and nightmares. They made a good night's sleep almost impossible. I hear this has happened to other COVID survivors."

Still skittish about leaving his home to take the test, the man said he was grateful he is in full recovery.

"As I entered the third week of my recovery, I'm thankful to God I'm here," he said, "getting stronger every day, and I'm able to share my experience. I hope it will be helpful to anyone who may be going through this."

Like his Sterling Street neighbor, a 40-year-old Maple Street marketing consultant also mistook his dry cough and mild fever in mid-March as his usual allergies and cold. The accompanying headache he chalked up to some recent dental work. But a few days after the city put in the edict to stay at home, his symptoms intensified so he self-quarantined in a guest bedroom to avoid infecting his wife (who showed no symptoms). He never went to a hospital, took a test nor called a tele-med line. But he has a strong suspicion he had it.

"I'm basing my belief on comparisons with friends who were officially diagnosed as well as comparing against the official symptoms," the man said. "The good news is that, if it is true, I'm one of the peo-

ple who experienced relatively mild symptoms. So, it isn't all doom and gloom out there."

Hunker-Down Shopping

In those early days of stay-at-home, but before social distancing, subway commuters worried about their food pantries and toiletries made a nightly beeline from the Prospect Park subway stop to Lincoln Market, and nearly raided the place.

But not since Superstorm Sandy, when co-manager Yze (pronounced "wise") Clark, worked at another supermarket, had he seen crowds as frenzied as Lincoln Market's in the early days of the crisis.

For several days, food shoppers stormed the organic grocer, Clark recalled, loading their carts and baskets with toilet tissue, paper towels, pasta, meat, cleansers of all types and handwipes. Eight-to-ten-foot-long shelves that were normally packed with breads, cereals, canned vegetables and cleaning products, were spare.

"It was crazy," Clark said. "It was like Hurricane Sandy all over again. All four checkout lines stretched to the meat department."

"That Thursday night (March 12) was the busiest I had ever seen it in here. Hand sanitizer, alcohol wipes, Clorox wipes were the first to go. Anything that kills [germs] was sold out."

Despite the stress-filled environment and impatient customers, the shoppers were surprisingly civil and respectful of one another, Clark beamed.

After the six-foot rule became the law of the land—to the relief of some shoppers who expressed trepidation about bunching up with strangers in food aisles—the supermarket marked standing posts on



An employee of Drink wine and spirits shop passing off a pick-up order the safe way.



Camillo on Nostrand Ave. is doing deliveries through Caviar (restaurant delivery service) every day, noon to 9 pm. Mo's Original on Rogers Ave. offers "no contact" pickup on Wednesdays and Saturdays.



the floor of the checkout lines that were six feet apart.

Around the corner, Richard Esposito, owner of Trixie's Pet Food and Supplies, was swamped for several days by pet owners who were worried about Rover's and Fluffy's nutritional and health needs. By the time the six-foot-distance rule went into effect, Esposito had removed a wall near the entrance to make more space and abide by the law.

"A lot of customers thanked us for staying open," Esposito said. "We were slammed for about a week. Then we took the wall out to give people more space when they put in the six-foot rule."

But despite his patrons' thanks and loyalty, Esposito said he was losing business to online competitors.

"More people are going online [for their pet supplies] to get deliveries right to their door," he said. "We can't compete with that."

Losing business was not a problem for Drink PLG Wine & Spirits on Flatbush near Ocean Avenue.

Howard Gibbins, co-owner of Drink, said the retailer was serving about as many customers as it was before the pandemic. Despite abiding by the law with some strict social distancing practices that ended on-premise shopping, business is not bounding but neither is it down, he said. Thanks to the store's app for online shopping and the government declaring that wine and spirits stores are "essential businesses," Drink has held its own, Gibbins said.

Customers use the app to peruse Drink's inventory, make their selections, and choose pickup or home delivery. They pay with a credit card online. If pickup, customers still visit the store, but they never enter. Drink staff leaves their purchases appropriately enough on a wooden wine barrel while the staffer slips back inside.

"We thought we'd be closing but under the order by Gov. Cuomo, wine and spirits stores are considered essential businesses," Gibbins said.

"So that allowed us to stay open."

"Business is not down. There has been tremendous demand for spirits because of the situation. Everyone is feeling it."

Restaurants' Dismal Future

While "the situation" that Gibbins spoke of might be leaving some essential retailers relatively unscathed, the outlook for PLG's independent restaurants is dire.

Michael Schall, co-partner and beverage manager of Camillo, the much-lauded contemporary Roman restaurant at Nostrand Avenue and Rutland Road, could have been speaking for the entire industry when he said:

"I am not optimistic, but we are going to do everything we can to try to survive," he said.

His prognosis was all the more disheartening given that the local restaurant sector had been on an upwardly, bullish spiral in recent years. Since 2010, savvy operators had been piggybacking on PLG's gentrification to open a diverse potpourri of full-service restaurants and night spots, often at manageable rents.

No longer did local foodies have to leave the neighborhood for an enjoyable dining experience or lively bar action when there were such appetizing choices as Camillo, Slow Loris, Amy Thai, Bonafini, Parkside Pizza, Bluebird, Honey Badger, Salem's Hour, Edie Jo's, El Patron, Midwood Flats, Ix, Glou, and Grut—just to name a few. Even the grandfather of them all, Gino's Pizza, opened a full-service trattoria and bar next door to the pizza shop.

Now all of them are threatened with closure if social distancing lasts into the summer or beyond.

(continued on page 3)

Pandemic Upends Life in PLG (continued from page 2)

“Terrible” is all Brenda Castellanos could say when asked in late April, how’s business?

Along with her sister Ana Prince and a cousin, the family had three thriving operations: Ix, El Patron and Antojitos Del Patron on Lincoln Ave. Now with “stop the spread” in play, the businesses are only open for takeout and delivery and performing at a volume that cannot sustain the operations if stay-at-home lasts into the summer, Castellanos feared.

“I’m real worried about our future,” she said.

Even the two \$2 trillion stimulus packages Congress created for the Small Business Administration to bolster small businesses, did little to allay those worries.

Under the Paycheck Protection Program, the SBA sent congressional funds to the banks, which funneled the money to qualifying small businesses.

Two problems immediately arose with the program. First it appeared owners of big businesses were find-

dining rooms and bars, many local operators are struggling to stay afloat with pick-up or delivery which, they said, does not cover rent or salaries.

“My partners and I haven’t taken any salary in two months,” said Schall at Camillo, perhaps the neighborhood’s most distinguished chef-driven restaurant. Though he was grateful to learn in late April that the business was approved for PPP funds, the next few months will be problematic.

“We all have families, and bills, and mortgages of our own,” Schall said. “We can maybe keep doing this for a few more months, but unless we get some serious help from the city, the state or the federal government, it’s going to be a really painful and I’m not sure we will make it.”

According to the New York State Department of Labor, four out of every five restaurant workers or 520,000 people—the most of any industry for which the state tracks unemployment trends—were downsized in the food service industry since late April.

Unlike 9/11, Sandy, or the blackout of 2003, events most restaurant operators bounced back from in good shape, the pandemic will likely leave a wake of shuttered restaurants throughout the neighborhood.

Schall concurred that qualifying for PPP funding was a nail-biting, frustrating process. Moreover, he charged that the program really doesn’t have the best interests of the hospitality industry in mind.

“I’m still not quite sure how I’m going to end up using the funds,” he said. “The reality is that this loan makes very little sense for people in the hospitality industry. Under the current guidelines, in order for the loan to be forgiven, I have to spend 75 percent of the entire loan in the first eight weeks on payroll. What happens after those eight weeks? Restaurants will not even be close to fully operational by July.

“So, what incentive do my employees have to come back on my payroll? A lot of them are just now starting to get their unemployment checks, and because of the extra \$600 they are receiving through the CARES act, [Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act] they are making about the same (and some even more) than what they were making when we were operating at full steam. After the eight weeks, I will be forced to lay off most of them again.” □



Roxanne Bent's photo was displayed during MSNBC's coverage of a nurses' protest at the White House.

Pam Yard

Sterling Street Nurse Roxanne Karen Bent Dies from Coronavirus at 40

Ever since her teenage years in her native Jamaica, Roxanne Karen Bent aspired to be a nurse.

By the time she moved with her family to Brooklyn, her trajectory to career success was on target. She finished high school at Canarsie High School and later earned a Bachelor of Science in Nursing at the Hunter College School of Nursing.

With her excellent academic background and eagerness to serve, she was a prized recruit at New York Presbyterian Methodist Hospital on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope where she would work for 21 years. She not only cared for her patients but she had become a training nurse for new staffers starting their careers.

She was a dedicated and passionate nurse on the front line in the battle against the coronavirus pandemic and became one of the unknown number of healthcare professionals to become infected.

She died April 17 at age 40.

About a week after her death, nurses staged a protest outside the White House to call attention to

the growing death rate of health-care workers. Roxanne's name and photo were among the many televised on national news.

Roxanne Karen Bent was born in Mandeville, Manchester, Jamaica, December 10, 1971, the oldest of two children of Nerissa and Bancroft Bent.

She scored high on Jamaica's Common Entrance Exam and was accepted to her first choice, the prestigious Manchester High School, where she excelled in Mathematics, Science and English. She had an added motivation to be accepted at Manchester, however: her father was a young teacher there.

The family immigrated to the U.S. in 1986, settling in Brooklyn. They continue to live on Sterling I.

Roxanne was described as an outgoing and passionate lover of life; a superb cook who loved to entertain family and friends, especially on holidays; and she enjoyed spending time with co-workers.

In addition to her parents, a brother, grandmother, uncles, aunts, cousins, a niece and many friends, mourn her passing. □



Brenda Castellanos is worried about the future of her family's three Lincoln Road restaurants.

ing it easier to obtain financing while many eligible female and minority business owners were shut out.

Castellanos—whose family-partners applied in early March—said they were “still waiting” in early May.

Another big problem, was the confusion over the PPP stipulation that over a two month period, 75 percent of a loan be spent on payroll and the rest on rent and utilities in order that the loan be forgiven in its entirety.

Forced to enact patron-unfriendly social distancing rules that required laying off staff and shutting down

Gino's Pizza and LMA Team Up to Feed First Responders

To show appreciation to local first responders, the Lefferts Manor Association teamed up with the neighborhood's longest-running restaurant, Gino's Trattoria, to deliver pizzas to the 71st Precinct and the NYFD EMS substation at King's County Hospital April 3. But since April 10, Gino's and the LMA have carried on the goodwill weekly. In addition to continuing the first responder deliveries, the New York Congregational Nursing Center's day and evening staffs have been



added. Especially heartwarming was the thanks offered by an NYFD EMS lieutenant whose family hails from Rutland I. The lieutenant expressed the appreciation of his fellow EMS workers, including out-of-state volunteers, who welcomed the pizza after returning to the station between their long runs.

—Carlene Braithwaite

Rutland 2 Resident Dr. Roy A. Hastick Sr., Caribbean Business Leader and Community Developer, Dies from Coronavirus

Throughout his impressive career, Dr. Roy A. Hastick Sr. preached the gospel that small business prosperity and community development are interconnected; like a hand in a glove, they both work together.

Hastick explained in the *Echo* in a "Meet Your Neighbor" column in May 2011 that that gospel was the central mission of the organization he founded and led for 30 years as president and chief executive of the Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry. It was an incubator for small business entrepreneurs to network and procure the resources they needed to succeed in the same communities where they lived.

CACCI continues to have much success and Hastick was always applauded for exemplary leadership by political leaders on all levels of government for his foresight and collaborative spirit in building effective relationships. Just this past February, he was one of four business leaders that the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce honored for their role as outstanding business and community leaders.

All of that progressivism ended April 8 when Hastick died from COVID-19 at the age of 69. He was born May 10, 1950 and lived

with his family on Rutland II for 34 years.

Born in St. David, Grenada, Hastick showed leadership potential and a propensity for helping people as a young man when he studied to be a Catholic priest for two years. Later he joined the Tortola Police Force in the British Virgin Islands, moving up the ladder to become head of detail for the Chief of Police.

A lifelong dream to become successful in the U.S. inspired him to emigrate in 1972 and he settled in Brooklyn. One of his first jobs was as an administrator at the Port Authority. There he bonded with a commissioner who became a mentor and opened his eyes to the important role politics play in serving and helping others.

For the next several years he built a stellar resume as a community advocate, entrepreneur and newspaper publisher. The Brooklyn Economic Development Corp. noticed the young man's ability to turn words into action and tapped Hastick to help it launch the Caribbean American Chamber of Congress. The BEDC was a community-building, joint venture formed by Brooklyn Union Gas, Consolidated Edison, Manufacturers Han-



over and the Brooklyn Borough President's Office.

Hastick ultimately led a group in forming CACCI in 1985. It quickly established itself as a powerful change agent, dream maker and liaison to all levels of government for small business development.

CACCI would become an early adopter of networking and gave Hastick the platform to add motivational speaker to his growing list of talents. Over the years, the group arranged more than 600 networking sessions in Brooklyn and Queens among small business owners, corporations and government entities. At the same time, CACCI sponsored numerous trade missions and tourism expositions to almost every nation in the Caribbean.

Such diligence and hard work earned Hastick the "Distinguished Caribbean Citizen" award from the Caribbean Tourism Organization and in 1995 he was elected as a delegate to the White House Conference on Small Business.

Among his other numerous plaudits was earning an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from the City University of New York. He also received the Goodwill Ambassador Award from the Jewish community for bringing diverse groups together for mutual understanding and respect.

One year ago this spring, Dr. Hastick saw ground break on a new mixed-use retail and office complex at Flatbush and Caton Avenues that will serve as CACCI's main office. CACCI currently has an office in DUMBO at the Brooklyn Navy Yard and has been there for most of its existence.

On Christmas Day in 1986, Hastick married Medgar Evers College tenured professor and clinical social worker, the former Eda F. Harris, who became a key player in CACCI's success. Around the same time, the couple bought their Rutland II home where over the years they earned a reputation for hosting dinner parties and special events with their family. Judges, elected officials, community leaders and other notable persons from Brooklyn's political, business and intellectual circles often attended.

Besides his wife, Hastick is survived by four sisters, a son, four daughters, ten grandchildren, numerous nephews, nieces, neighbors and colleagues. □

Kenneth 'Wayne' Green, Jr., Suave and Dapper Fixture on Rutland I, Succumbs to COVID-19

Green became a physician, loving family man and a caring neighbor.

Living on Rutland I for 22 years with his wife, Roxanne Green, and their twin sons, Isaiah and Isaac, he was a charming, chatty and stylish neighbor who went by his childhood nickname, "Wayne." One neighbor said he was "an all-around great guy."

That zest for life came to an end April 18 when he died of complications from the coronavirus. Green was just 53 years old.

Born in Kingston, Jamaica on October 26, 1966, Wayne was the youngest of three children of Kenneth and Dolores Green. The family moved to Los Angeles when Wayne was a young teenager. He would move to New York City in his early adulthood where he met Roxanne Hobbs and went to college. Family lore has it that he first

recalls meeting Roxanne in a dream long before he actually met her in person.

A devoted family man, Wayne treated his neighbors and friends as if they too were family. He was eager to laugh, generous with his time and quick to hear or tell a joke. Wayne will also be remembered for being a very natty dresser. "He never turned down an opportunity for a good neighborly sidewalk chat," said Roberta Woelfling. "He was always sporting a stylish hat, shoes or glasses—or all three. It was often hard to distinguish him from his then twentysomething sons."

Besides his wife and sons, Wayne is survived by his parents, two sisters, a brother, six nieces, five nephews and numerous uncles, aunts and cousins. Mourning his death too are many neighbors and friends in the U.S. and abroad. □



When he was in high school in Los Angeles, Kenneth Green, Jr. vowed to the mother of his best friend—who innocently lost his life in the crossfire of rival gangs—that he would honor their friendship by becoming a success for the both of them.

Thus, filled with an insatiable drive to succeed and a sharp focus,

PLG Crime Plumets 21% in Stay-at-Home Era

Police at the 71st Precinct are begrudgingly crediting stop-the-spread, stay-at-home orders to safer streets in Prospect Lefferts Gardens. According to Detective Vinny Martinos, the long-serving community relations officer, the precinct has alternated between first and second as the safest precinct in the city for the past two months. Grand theft auto is up mainly due to opportunity crime, Martinos explained. Drivers, lulled by fewer people on the street, are leaving their keys in the ignition to make quick dashes on foot, giving criminals the opportunity to steal their cars or burglarize them. Domestic violence is also up, but "slightly," he said. On a 12-month basis for the week ended May 10, there were 300 major crimes reported in the precinct, a decline of 81—or 21.25 percent—according to CompStat, the NYPD's proprietary crime statistics reporting system. In other 12-month crime changes in the neighborhood, rapes were down from 11 to 6 (-45.5 percent); grand larceny fell from 149 to 94 (-37 percent); homicide was unchanged at 3; and felonious assault was down 15.6 percent, from 109 to 92. □



Aubrey Marquez, Beloved 'Mayor of Rutland 2,' Dies at 75

His neighbors called Aubrey Marquez "The Mayor of Rutland Road." But the more apt title should have been "Best Neighbor of All Time."

A retired graphic designer, artist and art production manager, Aubrey inherited from his father a love of community and a spirit of service that took neighborliness to new heights.

For those lucky enough to be a resident on the second block of Rutland Road, Aubrey was the kind of neighbor who took your troubles away, did simple chores and reminded you of important civic deadlines. He watched over their homes and cars like a sentinel, swept and raked their sidewalks, and had his neighbors phone numbers to call to remind them of important deadlines relating to vehicle registration or parking changes.

A welcoming face and an expected presence at Rutland Road block parties, backyard cookouts and holiday house parties, Aubrey was the one dressed like an English country gentleman—tweed jackets, flannel shirts, herringbone hunting caps, corduroy trousers and duckbill saddle shoes—anytime of the year.

That fashion sense and community-mindedness is going to be missed with his passing on January 19th.

His sister, Andrea Marquez, said while her brother had been fighting lung cancer in recent years, a heart attack may have killed him.

Aubrey Marquez was born in Bridgeton, N.J., June 30, 1944 to Andrew Marquez, an industrial chemist and Ethel Marquez, the manager of a bank branch. In 1958, when Aubrey was 12, his parents moved to the Rutland Rd. home.

Andrea said her brother inherited his fondness for English fashion from their father, whose family hailed from England.

Aubrey had a charming eccentricity for English hats, reportedly changing them four times a day, even while gardening. His favorite was a prized bowler.

A naturally gifted artist, Marquez matriculated through art programs of New York City public schools before attending and graduating from Erasmus Hall High School and the School of Visual Arts—both competitive and prestigious institutions for studying art.

When he was 16, he won first prize for an illustration he submitted to a citywide arts competition. After high school but before college, he did a stint in the Marine Corps.

Over his long career, he held lead or managerial graphic design roles for Visual Services, Inc., Ziff-Davis, Black Sports Magazine, and Reed & Co. He also taught courses to students at the Brooklyn Museum. In retirement, Aubrey freelanced for the June Kelly Gallery.

He moved back into his family's home in 1996.

Besides his sister, he is survived by a girlfriend of 30 years, Carmen Sendra; her daughter, Giselle; three granddaughters and a host of cousins and friends. □

April 2020

Remember the Time

Remember when the world was much simpler
Before things turned upside down and perpendicular
Before masks, hand sanitizer, and quarantine
When life was normal and everything was sane
How I wish things never changed

Now there is distance learning and food delivery
We live in fear and exist in misery
We are scared to go out and shelter inside
No more basketball in the park or going out for a ride
How I wish from this virus we didn't have to hide.

Everywhere on the news is the president and governors
Talking about the thousands of deaths and lucky survivors
The feeling is way too sad and the future looks way too bleak
We look out the window and feel alone since there's no one in the streets
How I wish there was a vaccine to be clean from this disease

It's difficult to plan and think about tomorrow
When the world is so unstable and full of sorrow
Funerals are up and graduations are down
It's hard to have a dream with this virus around
How I want it to blow like the wind out of town

Pandemic is a word I'm pretty sure I've never heard before
Now everywhere I turn I hear it more and more
I wonder why we are in this crazy circumstance
What is the lesson we are supposed to learn from this experience
How did this problem start, when will this nightmare end
All I can think about is when can we trust this country again

Remember when the world was simple and the way things were before
How I long for the day when normal is right outside my front door.

Justin Betts

Age 15 / Xaverian High School, Class of 2023

Prospect Lefferts' Graduates!

While this will not replace the joy of a graduation ceremony, the *Echo* asks you to join us in recognition and admiration for the achievement of our local high school and college graduates. We can, despite our concerns for the future, take enormous encouragement from the continued excellence shown by our community's young people. Class of 2020, you will show us how to survive and thrive.

This list is not intended to be comprehensive. It was compiled from submissions in response to several group e-mailings. Our apologies to any who might not be included. Graduates are listed by block and the school they are graduating from. Where we were informed of a student's next destination, that information is included in parentheses.

STERLING 1

Kiah A. Wayman
St. John's Law School

Zari M. Wayman
NYC College of Technology

STERLING 2

Mathilde Malpartida-Durroux
Lycée Français NY
(McGill)

LEFFERTS 1

Hollis Fox
Leon M. Goldstein HS
(Sarah Lawrence)

Gus Green
Elisabeth Irwin HS
(Oberlin)

LINCOLN 1

Chase Parker Edwards
Midwood HS
(College of Staten Island)

Cole Preston Edwards
NEST +M
(Howard)

LINCOLN 2

Gabriella Archibald
Poly Prep Country Day
(Spelman)

Molly Friedman
Mary McDowell Friends School
(Smith)

Leah Potoff
The Williams School
(Oberlin)

Hector Prud'homme
Bard College

MAPLE 1

Channing Austin
Poly Prep Country Day
(U of Virginia)

MAPLE 2

Serena Gemma Griffiths
United Nations International School
(Manchester Metropolitan U, UK)

Juliana Lisi
The Beacon School
(Hollins)

James Mace
U of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

Ann Noling
Brooklyn College (MFA)

MIDWOOD 1

Mark Williams Laforest
Rice University

Isaiah White
Swarthmore College

MIDWOOD 2

Cameron Gipson
School of Visual Arts

Georgia Warner-Haakmat
Wesleyan University

Grace Warner-Haakmat
Packer Collegiate
(Wesleyan)

RUTLAND 1

Kieran Cusack
Bard HS Early College
(McGill)

Lucas Diamond
Berkeley Carroll
(Rochester Inst. of Technology)

Noah Lunn
Millenium HS
(College of Staten Island)

Noah Maier
Institute for Collaborative Education
(Cornell)

RUTLAND 2

Annie Berger
Midwood HS
(Purdue)

Alessandro Hall
Stanford University

Ali Laremont
St Joseph's HS
(CUNY Kingsborough)

Liana Laremont
Poly Prep Country Day
(Dartmouth)

Elena Sheppard
Columbia University (MFA)

Daniel Weinstein
Tufts University

CHESTER COURT

Musawenkosi Matiwane
Oberlin

Henry Nye
Haverford College
(teacher at Coney Island Prep)

FENIMORE 2

Leo Balaban
Repertory Company HS
for the Theater Arts
(Skidmore)



LMA's Centennial Gala A Glittering Success

With expansive views of the neighborhood from its rooftop deck and party room, Brooklyn Commons was the perfect setting for the Lefferts Manor Association to celebrate its historic 100th Anniversary. Some 220 close friends and neighbors gathered the evening of September 14, 2019 to dance, dine and delight in the LMA's long success improving the neighborhood, defending the one-family covenant, and bringing the community together. LMA president Pia Raymond addressed the merrymakers and lavished thanks on her predecessor, the late Ben Edwards, who worked for no pay on behalf of all of Prospect Lefferts Gardens, not just the historic district, since the mid-1990s. He died in December 2018.

The LMA wishes to thank the restaurants, beverage merchants, bakers, florists, and candy makers who made the evening especially memorable.

- 1 A bird's-eye view of the spacious Brooklyn Commons dining room.
- 2 The Gala's beverage station featured wines provided by Drink spirits.
- 3 Two ranking officers from the 71st Precinct were honored guests .
- 4 Echo editor Milford Prewitt (far left), holds court with some of our readers.
- 5 The late "Mayor of Rutland," Aubrey Marquez (center, with glasses) with neighbors.

Photos by Howard Gibbins.

Lefferts Manor Association Board Members

President
Pia Raymond
Vice President
Vince Lisi
Secretary
Roberta Woelfling
Treasurer
Jerry Bennett

LINCOLN ROAD
Genine Edwards 718-813-1139

MAPLE STREET
Kendall Christiansen 917-359-0725
Linda Leon 908-578-0667
Vince Lisi 718-753-1050

MIDWOOD STREET
Carlene Braithwaite 718-287-6756
Victoria Cole 646-387-1214
Bob Marvin 718-284-6210

RUTLAND ROAD
Jerry Bennett 718-826-2156
Bill Butts 917-539-8422
Pam Glaser 646-318-0233
Roberta Woelfling 646-641-4657

FENIMORE STREET
Suki Cheong 917-817-9034
Pia Raymond 646-318-0233
Richard Walkes 718-513-9511

BEDFORD AVENUE
Bette Cunningham 917-991-7113

www.leffertsmanor.org
LeffertsManorAssoc@gmail.com

LEFFERTS MANOR ECHO
Milford Prewitt, Editor 718-287-3392
milfordprewitt@aol.com
Ken Diamond, Designer, artpatrol@aol.com
Bill Butts, Webmaster,
LeffertsSupport@gmail.com

THE LEFFERTS MANOR ECHO is published by the Lefferts Manor Association. Please send comments or article ideas to editor Milford Prewitt at milfordprewitt@aol.com. The Echo reserves the right to edit or omit article submissions. We thank the contributing writers, photographers, graphic designer Ken Diamond, and copy editors Jane von Mehren and Renee Michael Prewitt for their help creating this issue.

©2020 Lefferts Manor Association

LMA Centennial Yearbook Shines Bright Light in a Dark Year

by MARY MILLER

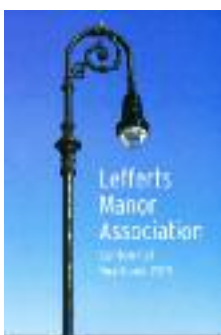
With all that has happened so far in 2020, it may be difficult to remember that just a year ago we were celebrating the 100th anniversary of the Lefferts Manor Association and looking forward to publication of the LMA Centennial Yearbook. And thus, to whatever degree there can be happy news in a year of such tragedy and heartache, the Centennial Committee hopes that the 2019 Centennial Yearbook, now released, will brighten our spirits.

The 118-page publication features a beautifully written article on the history of the area starting with the Lenape people and follows significant events right up to the Centennial Gala last fall. It is illustrated with many images, full color as well as black-and-white.

The role of the single-family covenant is discussed in detail. Interviews with past and current residents offer insightful perspectives. The history concludes with a moving tribute to the late LMA Presi-

dent Ben Edwards. A bibliography and further resources are included for those who want to learn more.

Some of you may also be familiar with the fact that the LMA published yearbooks in 1930-31 and 1938. The new Centennial Yearbook reproduces copies of those yearbooks which gave a brief history of the neighborhood, reviewed the activities of the association and listed homeowners. The 1938 edition included pictures of Manor homes as well as pictures of the Botanic Garden and the Lefferts Homestead. It is interesting to reflect that although other yearbooks were published,



The Centennial Yearbook was designed by LMA Vice President Vince Lisi.

copies of only these two have surfaced, and they were produced in the trying times of the Depression.

This is a very special community and the Centennial Yearbook is a way of encapsulating some of what makes this community unique in a way that we hope helps to bring it forward for the next one hundred years. It is likely to be of interest to everyone living here, those yet to come and our surrounding community. Copies will be donated both to the Brooklyn Collection of the Brooklyn Public Library and the Brooklyn Historical Society.

The yearbook would have been available for sale (\$10 a copy) at the Spring LMA Meeting and at the PLG House Tour. Of course, the 2020 meeting and the house tour have been canceled. However, we will likely offer the Centennial Yearbook for sale at different block parties throughout the summer.

There will be flyers with details when we are able to gather again. Meanwhile, stay healthy! □