

Lefferts Manor

{ SPRING 2023 }

PLG



Family, friends and colleagues of the late Ben Edwards gathered at the corner of Maple Street and Flatbush Avenue in October to celebrate his co-named street sign. An unknown photographer snapped former boro president Eric Adams with a citizen award for Ben Edwards.

Richard Walkes Photography

Co-named Street Sign Eternalizes the Good Work of “Ebenezer ‘Ben’ Edwards” Way: A Community Man

By Milford Prewitt

Ben Edwards was committed heart and soul to this neighborhood. Now New York City is recognizing his community engagement with a co-named street sign on the same block where he resided with his family for some 30-plus years.

What triggered such an honor was Edwards 20-plus -year reign as president of the Lefferts Manor Association, the 600-unit homeowners association responsible for preserving the neighborhood’s one-family-only-occupancy covenant. A close second responsibility was making sure that the homeowners therein abided by the historic preservation commission’s property codes for remodeling century-plus-old homes.

But Edwards didn’t live long enough to see the sign. He died in December 2018 from injuries he sustained after he was hit by a car while crossing Flatbush near Maple Street.

Today that corner has a new but permanent name. One of his unique achievements during his two-decade rein was to make sure that whatever service improvements or utility changes benefitted the Manor were also shared with non-Manor blocks

Period streetlamps, improved postal service, tree guards, the PLG house tour, The Echo, Xmas wreaths were not only targeted to the Manor, but extended to all PLG blocks.

Fit, soft-spoken, always nattily dressed in a business suit and often sporting a Fedora, Edwards was 74 when he died.

His untimely departure came when gentrification and soaring housing costs were changing the complexion and household income of the neighborhood.

A proponent of diversity, he welcomed the new homebuyers flocking to the neighborhood, spending hundreds of thousands of dollars. But he regretted it came at the expense of displacing residents and blocking others out of contention to be homeowners.

Despite such weighty issues, he engaged with neighbors one-on-one who faced distinct challenges to keep or improve their homes.

Part of his effectiveness was that he became friendly with many of the politicians who represented PLG, especially Marty Markowitz, the former borough president.

His other affiliations were treasurer and board member of Community Board 9, member of the 71st Police Precinct District Council and principal of a Century 21 Realty franchise.

Unelected to public office and unpaid, Edwards achievements on the LMA board were often more tangible and immediate than those produced by the district’s officially elected representatives.

The city’s description of the type of individual who qualifies for the street sign honor could have been describing Ben himself.

“Prospective honorees should have a minimum of 10 years community involvement and should have demonstrated an extraordinary and consistent voluntary commitment and dedication to the community, or who have contributed significantly to New York City or national life and have lived or otherwise are identified with this community in a substantial way.”

Getting the co-named street sign installed for his friend was a heartfelt mission for ex-City Council Member Mathiue Eugene. It was one of the last items he signed-off on before ending a 14-year incumbency as the 40th District Councilman, a record-breaking tenure that came to an end due to term limits.

But voting for the effort was among the first acts of Eugene’s successor Rita Joseph, who overcame a crowded field of contenders to win the 40th District.

“He was a wonderful human being,” Eugene said. “He was a quiet guy but certainly one of the top leaders in this neighborhood.

“He was a real community man. He gave more than words to this community.”

Eugene added that while Ben’s name is on the sign, it also salutes the unheralded neighbors who love living here.

“In recognizing Ben this sign also recognizes the hard work of all the residents who, like Ben, harness their talents and time to make this neighborhood special.”

One of the first tasks Eugene’s successor, 40th District Councilmember Rita Joseph greenlighted was the co-named sign.

“With a calm and courteous manner, Ben Edwards was everything you would expect from the longest tenured President of the Lefferts Manor Association,” she said.

“Thoughtful, dedicated, and humble. It was an immense privilege to have helped facilitate a street co-naming in his honor, and I hope to live up to the legacy of service and commitment that he brought to our community,” Joseph added.



Sandwich Specialist Brings Delicious Pastrami, Brisket and Hamburgers to PLG

The breakup of the partnership that ran one of Brooklyn’s oldest and most popular sandwich shops is a lucky break for foodies in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

Veteran chef and meat specialist Fuad “Moe” Hassan – who was a partner and oversaw the kitchen operations at the 60-year-old David’s Brisket House in Bedford-Stuyvesant – has launched a sandwich startup in PLG.

The self-taught chef worked at David’s for nearly 20 years and will use his experience and know-how to run his family-owned start-up, Moe’s

Pastrami & Burger on Flatbush Avenue between Midwood and Maple Streets.

Hassan says Moe’s required 11 months to find a location, convert it from a shoe repair shop and wait on the city for its various approvals. As a Muslim, Hassan prepares his meats under the sanitary, humane and dietary food code of Islam known as halal. Like Jewish food handling practices known as kosher, halal forbids the use of pork or its by-products. Beef bacon is used in a hamburger combo for \$12, for instance.

Hassan buys his meat fresh every day from a halal Muslim-operated meat processing plant in Sunset Park.

Moe’s brings to market foods that are icons of New York City gastronomy and rooted in ethnic, culinary and religious traditions.

But it is not a delicatessen in the mode of Katz, the standard bearer of the menu segment at 130-years-old on Manhattan’s Lower Eastside.

Nor does Moe’s match the menu prices with Katz, where a pastrami sandwich is \$26. Instead, Moe’s signature sandwiches range from \$17 to \$23.

A March 2020 New York Times restaurant review in the “\$25 and Under” column gave high marks to Hassan when the partners spun-off a new concept, Pastrami Masters in Williamsburg. The article noted that the restaurant was “wise” to adopt David’s Brisket House’s menu at a time when the city had been hit by a long line of Texas-style barbecue eateries that featured all-day braised brisket.

“Before brisket was synonymous with barbecue,” the review went, “its meaning in the five boroughs was the one that you encounter mainly around the Jewish Holidays: a flat slab of beef breast cooked in a closed, humid environment for hours.”

Covid caused Pastrami Masters to close.

“There was a feud between the partners, and I decided to go out on my own,” Hassan said.

Moe’s concentrates on sandwiches made from pastrami, smokey brisket, corned beef and six juicy but varied hamburgers to make meat lovers swoon.

Hassan is proud of the burgers he makes. “I make a great hamburger,” he says. “It’s as simple as that.”

Other sandwiches include a Rueben, chicken, tuna fish and turkey breast.

Moe’s also boasts several side dishes including macaroni salad and cole slaw – all made on premise – and five different French fry variations, made off-site.

Pickles, soft drinks and a variety of breads fill out the menu.

Born in Yemen, the 46-year-old Hassan migrated to the U.S. in 1976, landing first in Florida. Outside of a few brief excursions to other parts of the country, he has been a resident of Brooklyn most of his life, calling home downtown Brooklyn.

He entered the restaurant business in 2002.

Moe’s, which debuted in mid-December, opens for delivery and dining-in from 11 am to 8:30 pm, seven days a week.

Images of Melrose Parkside Historical District Fenimore 1

Story by Robert Marvin



The first block of Parkside Avenue finally is landmarked. Pictured here are three of the houses that reflect the wide architectural styles of the block.

Photo credit Bob Marvin

New Landmark Historic District on Parkside 1

The first block of Parkside Avenue between Flatbush and Bedford Avenues is the newest historic district in Prospect Lefferts Gardens.

The block includes 38 rowhouses on both sides of Parkside, considered some of the largest townhouses and most stylized homes outside of Brooklyn Heights.

The new Melrose Parkside Historical District was several years in the making and becomes the fourth historic district in Prospect Lefferts Gardens. The others include Prospect-Lefferts Gardens (aprox 900 homes); the 12 limestones at Ocean Avenue and Lincoln Road; and Chester Court, renown for its Tudor townhouses.

On October 18th the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission held a hearing on the designation of the Melrose Parkside Historic District. The houses were described by LPC as “remarkably cohesive and intact.”

They were built between 1909 and 1915. Twenty are unusual two-family double duplex buildings with separate entrances for each unit. The other eighteen were built as single-family row houses.

The “Melrose” part of the district name refers to Melrose Park, an abortive late 19th Century real estate development intended to center on Melrose Hall, the mansion, since demolished, that had belonged to the Axtel family, Tory opponents of the American Revolution, in the 18th Century.

Sarah Carroll, chair of the Landmarks Preservation commission, said earlier that “there is a lot of pride of place here in this group, this group of buildings is a standout in the neighborhood

“I am excited that we are working with another group of property owners that seems to really embrace the historic character of their streetscape,” she said.

This is not the first time these houses were considered for landmarking: They were within the originally proposed Historic District, as set forth in the mid-’70s Brooklyn Survey: Prospect-Lefferts Gardens Proposed Historic District, published by the LPC, where it described an “area of notable...cohesive architecture”.

Sadly, Parkside was left out of the final 1979 Historic District designation, because they were not contiguous with the rest of the district. I testified: “The continued preservation of these houses [despite their being left out of the original landmarked area] is, in part, a tribute to the perseverance of the homeowners,

“But it’s also attributable to simple good luck. We cannot count on such luck continuing indefinitely. I therefore urge the Commission to act expeditiously on the designation of this proposed Historic District”.

At the October hearing about half of the speakers were residents, the rest coming from organizations like the Historic Districts Council, the Landmark Conservancy, and, of course, LMA.

Thirteen of the fourteen speakers testified in favor of the designation; one spoke against it. One resident said that homeowners first became aware of the threat posed by development in 2015. He said that developers “started buying homes and adjacent lots on other blocks, tearing them down and building new multifamily dwellings, often not in keeping with the neighborhood’s or block’s character.

The dwellings torn down included wonderful old brick and “stone homes.” Another reported that she “watched a community decimated by overdevelopment, homes and adjoining blocks destroyed to make way for new and out of context development.”

In contrast, Parkside homeowners strived “to maintain the integrity and character of their homes,” a witness testified.

A third resident, in favor of landmarking, observed that the extra steps required were a “worthwhile tradeoff” because the block’s “architectural nature and historic nature is part of...[its] character and is of vital importance.”

A fourth observed that low interest loans would become available to pursue rehab projects. “I would highlight my mother’s long desire to replace the roof that was originally designed to be on our building as being a prohibitive cost, but something that she had for 40 years desired.”

The sole person to speak against landmarking his home stated that “I and a number of other owners here on the block, who live on the block, are opposed to the idea of coming under the scrutiny and control of the historical requirements.

“It’s not that we want to change it or damage it. I think it’s just unnecessary,” he said.

However, that person confirmed to me that some of the residents who opposed designation wanted to enlarge their houses by adding one or more additional stories, something that would be difficult, or impossible, if the block was landmarked.

Of fifteen additional letters that LPC received, twelve supported landmark designation, one was opposed, and two were undecided.

The landmark preservation Commission Designated this district on December 13th.

Catalytic Converter Theft Breaks into PLG

Jerry Bennett knew by the sound his car made that October night that he had become a victim of one of New York's fastest growing crimes

Instead of the smooth purring from his 2013 Honda CRV when he turned on the ignition, the Rutland 2 neighbor heard a rough, annoying bark – as if the engine had a bad cough.

“I knew as soon as I heard it what it was,” Bennett said.

He stepped to the back of the car and peeked at the under-carriage where he confirmed his fear: the catalytic converter – a device that fits on the exhaust pipe to help reduce the toxicity of harmful emissions – had been ripped out.

Usually a crime that targets companies that maintain fleets of vehicles, thieves are turning to individual car owners where access is easier.

Why a cruddy piece of pipe on the exhaust would attract auto parts thieves is simple: They can make \$1,500 to \$2,000 for about 20 minutes work.

Rare metals that are used to make the device are responsible for the crime.

For the 12-months ended October 2022, there were approximately 7,000 cases of catalytic converter theft in the city, the police say, up a whopping 3.5 times over 2021's 2,070 incidents.

Replacement costs can range between \$2,000 and \$4,000.

Among the boroughs, Brooklyn was behind Queens as the second-most active theft rate, with 1,896 cases. Brooklyn South — which includes PLG — made up 1,205 incidents.

But the money is in the precious metals the thieves extract in another location. The rare metals are used in the converter to create a chemical reaction that renders the toxic gases safe.

Since 1975, all vehicles produced in the United States must have a catalytic converter as part of the exhaust system.


With the price of precious metals skyrocketing, thieves are helping themselves to catalytic converters that contain enough platinum, palladium or rhodium to make it worth the risk to cut it from the underbelly of your vehicle.

You might become aware that your catalytic converter has been stolen when your vehicle starts with a gravelly roar.

and kitchen equipment stores in Chinatown. But what it missed in looks, it more than made up for in size. It was easily the roomiest eatery in the area, with a spacious horseshoe bar, a game room that was often reserved for private parties and a live music venue in the basement. The secret charm of the place was its breezy backyard patio-terrace, about 50 feet above the subway tracks at Prospect Park. It was a must-do on a hot summer day. The menu was utilitarian but tasty enough to fall in love with the best chicken sandwich in PLG and a handmade cheeseburger.

Regulars are saddened by the closing but are comforted by memories that will last a long time.

Budding actress Natalie, a parttime Bluebird bartender hung out there when not on duty. She said Bluebird was a home away from home when she moved into the neighborhood.



design of the place that forced you to engage with fellow bar-stool-warmers.

"I liked the fact that it brought many people together in a unique space," Rich said. "The circular shape of the bar seemed to encourage conversations. Patrons looked at each other as much as they interacted with the staff behind the bar."

“All in all, that was the place to be to engage in conversation and meet people.”

Paras, an Internet marketing professional who works from home, said he is going to miss the friendships he made at Bluebird.

“Essentially it was our version of ‘Cheers,’ Paras said. “We shared a lot of laughs and kindness around that horseshoe bar.”

LMA & PLGNA Partner for Fall Neighborhood Cleanup

Lefferts Manor Association and Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association took to the streets on Saturday, Nov. 12 to make Flatbush Avenue shine. It was a follow-up to the two groups' partnership with the NYC Department of Sanitation for a similar cleanup event in May 2022, which attracted over twenty neighborhood volunteers. Community Board 9 also had board members on hand

Vanessa Raptopoulos, proprietor of local store Awesome Home at 653 Flatbush Avenue, once again hosted a cleanup table in front of the store. Fiona's bar on Maple and Flatbush donated gloves and trash bags.

Several volunteers from around the neighborhood helped pick up litter from the streets and clear storm drains. Linda Leon, a real estate broker and Lefferts Manor board member from Maple 1 said “I’ll do anything to beautify our neighborhood!” stressing that sanitation has been a major priority for elected officials. “We did allocate a lot of funds to sanitation,” Councilwoman Joseph told residents at the Nov 5 Lefferts Manor Fall Meeting. “Litter pickup will be six days a week and twice a day. It will be very important for the business corridors. If you ever see a spot in the district you think needs a little extra, call the district office and we can dispatch ACE to that location.”

CM Joseph's District Office Phone number:
718-287-8762

LMA and PLGNA hope to make neighborhood cleanups an annual event. To volunteer or donate supplies please contact us at leffertsmanorassoc@gmail.com

ECHO Continues Search for New Editor It's been two years since I've made an appeal for someone to replace me as editor of the ECHO. The appeal remains. My Parkinson's is getting worse, though it so far has not degraded my cognitive skills or proper use of the King's English. So, I will stick around as a writer. PLG is a dynamic and changing neighborhood that would be a shame to lose its voice.

Give me a ring at
718-287-3392 if you're interested.
Milford Prewitt

ZOOM in Saturday April 29
for the LMA Spring Meeting
Scheduled for 10am.

The meeting allows neighbors
to meet one another and hear
from local politicians.

**Lefferts Manor Association
Board Members**

President
Bob Marvin

Vice President
Carlene Braithwaite

Secretary
Roberta Woelfling

Treasurer
Jerry Bennett

LINCOLN ROAD

Genine Edwards	718-813-1139
Marguerite Summer	631-464-0823

MAPLE STREET

Kendall Christiansen	917-359-0725
Linda Leon	908-578-0667

MIDWOOD STREET

Carlene Braithwaite	718-287-6756
Bob Marvin	718-284-6210
Benita Allison	917-797-4189

RUTLAND ROAD

Ricardo Laremont	607-232-4776
Jerry Bennett	718-826-2156
Bill Butts	917-539-8422
Pam Glaser	917-453-5086
Roberta Woelfling	646-641-4657

FENIMORE STREET

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Rose Strickland, Midwood Street Icon Who Loved Her Neighbors and Retirement, Dies at 83

by Milford Prewitt

Rose Strickland, a high-energy retired nurse who packed her retirement years with travel, memorable dinner parties, exercise with friends, dancing, reading and an allegiance to liberal politics, died on February 11, 2023. One obituary said Rose “was a much-loved presence” in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, and she returned that love from her Midwood 1 home where she lived for 20 years with her son, David.

In addition to making many dear friends in the neighborhood and faithfully maintaining her membership in the Lefferts Manor Association, Rose worked several years on the association’s various annual events: She participated in the annual house tour; volunteered on the annual barrel plantings; proudly displayed her LMA holiday wreath every year; and participated in various events around the community. She took full advantage of her proximity to Prospect Park, and could be found walking her daily five miles with any number of neighbors, regardless of the weather. She took great pride in her home and neighborhood – the architecture, the history, and the diversity of neighbors.

Rose Stokes was born on 21 September 1939 in Harlem. She was raised within a fiercely matriarchal family in Clinton, NC. After graduating high school, the path of the “Great Migration” led Rose back to New York City. She enrolled at St. Mary’s School of Nursing in Hoboken, NJ, graduating in 1962. Her firstborn learned to read using her textbooks.

After graduating, Rose began a nursing career that spanned decades in both direct patient care and in management. Jacobi Hospital, Albert Einstein Hospital, White Plains Hospital and the Visiting Nurse Service of Westchester County are among the institutions which benefited from her skills, charm and caring nature.

Rose briefly worked as Vice President of Westchester-Putnam Affirmative Action, after attaining her Bachelor’s Degree at Mercy College in 1980. She continued her education further, pursuing a master’s degree at Pace University. She completed her working years in nursing, retiring from Montefiore Hospital in 2008.

Upon leaving the workforce she left behind a sterling reputation as a compassionate and no-nonsense professional at the many institutions for which she worked. She’d made lifelong friends among her patients and fellow staff.

After retiring, she began the richest phase of her life, pursuing a full social schedule that included visits with family and friends and extensive travel. She saw much of the U.S., Central and South America, the Caribbean, a wide swath of Europe, Morocco, South Africa and Thailand.

In response to the calamity of the COVID-19 pandemic, Rose and her daughters enrolled in Moderna’s, and her son in Astra-Zeneca’s vaccine trials. She remained committed to inquiry and knowledge, and believed that trial participation across race, gender and age lines would build the strongest platform from which to launch equitable and careful vaccine deployment.

Rose married Jasper Strickland in 1960. Besides her son, Rose had two daughters, Dori and Deborah. In addition to her children, she is survived by her sisters Bettye Stokes Ingram and Vera Stokes Johnson, and by a multitude of extended family and friends. Per Rose’s request, no funeral will be held.

Contributions in Rose’s memory can be made online to the Equal Justice Initiative, Doctors Without Borders, or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. These groups’ missions aligned with her core principles, and she provided financial support to them for many years.

Please reference e-mail **dsny30@hotmail.com** when making a contribution.



Rose Strickland

Photo Credit: *Legacy.com*

Stricklands Say "Thanks"

Among the Lefferts Gardens network the family thanks extraordinary friends for their tireless support during this difficult time – Jackie & Stan Myers, Anna Tobler & Robert Ware, Lydia & Abdoul Kane, Wanling Vann, Renee & Milford Prewitt, David & Valerie Walters, John & Louise Foy, and Carlene Braithwaite to name but a few. They sincerely appreciate the thoughtful response received from the wider community since her death.



Rose Strickland in 2021 Photo Credit: Milford Prewitt

Ansel Gayle, a 50-Year Neighbor of Fenimore St. and Mid-Life Stroke Victim Who Exercised Daily, Dies at 96

Ansel Gayle, a retired bank executive who suffered a debilitating stroke when he was in his 60’s but refused to let it stop him from daily exercise, died in February in his Fenimore Street home at 96 years old. Family members said he worked out consistently up until a month before his death.

He was a selfless and generous community man and family man with four children and a wife by the time he bought the Fenimore 1 home in 1975. He later became the block president for several years. Born in Oriente, Cuba in 1927 and raised in Jamaica, Ansel Gayle was the eldest of four siblings. A twin brother, Eric, died as a toddler. In Jamaica, Gayle’s excellent academic performance and love of mathematics flourished. He was also a superb athlete excelling at track, boxing and long-distance cycling. He maintained his fitness with morning swims and after-work gym sessions.

Wanting to share these benefits with his community, Gayle co-founded Jones Town Boys Club in Kingston to provide sports activities for local teenaged boys.

Ansel Gayle (continued)

Later in America, he jogged and shadow boxed daily, logged many miles with the skipping rope and maintained some form of daily exercise until the last month of his life.

After graduating college as an accountant, Gayle worked for the government of Jamaica and then secured a position with the National Cash Register Co..Shortly thereafter he began an enduring 69-year marriage that produced four children. His promotion to regional manager at NCR afforded him the opportunity to pursue migration to America to create a brighter future for his family.

His life exemplified the perseverance and courage characterized by Caribbean immigrants, his family wrote in a funeral program. Coming from Jamaica where his professional skill and accomplishments were valued by employers, Gayle was stunned by the prejudices towards people of color in polarized, Civil Rights-era America.

He worked various jobs, navigating the indignities of that time with grace and determination. In time, Gayle’s character, intelligence and qualifications led to a career at Chase Manhattan Bank where he remained until his retirement as a senior manager. Simultaneously, he secured a real estate license and established a second career at Lovell Homes on Church Avenue.

As a hobby, he took up calligraphy which he practiced intently to produce many fine works. Gayle was well known in Prospect Lefferts Gardens where, in addition to being president of the Fenimore block club, he often helped many new arrivals navigate the challenges of their adopted country. Gayle used his knowledge of banking and a real estate to pen letters to governmental agencies on newcomers behalf and finding them new homes.

Following a debilitating stroke at age 65, which curtailed his involvement in the Fenimore 1 Block Association, he underwent extensive rehabilitation, learning to write, walk, and drive again. His deep spiritual faith sustained him. Throughout his life Ansel was an active member of his religious community at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church where he was deeply appreciated for his generous willingness to help his fellows. He is survived by his wife, Beryl; sons, Robert and Andrew; and daughters, Lorna and Andrea.



Ansel Gayle

Photo Credit: *the family*

IN MEMORIAM

Jane Thomason, Widow of Housing Activist and PLGNA Co-Founder Robert Thomason, Departs at 84

Jane Thomason, the widow of PLGNA co-founder and evangelistic fair housing fighter Robert Thomason, has died. She passed in her sleep at 84 years old at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx following a short illness. Robert died in November 2020 at 92 years old.

When the Thomasons moved here in 1961, Prospect Lefferts Gardens’ tree-lined streets and stately homes concealed deep racial friction and housing discrimination. This was all the more exacerbated by the Great Migration as blacks fled the South — and the West Indies — to the North attracted by greater economic opportunity and the hope for equal rights.

In 1971, by the time the Thomasons bought the small apartment building on the corner of Lefferts and Nostrand that would be their home for the next 60 years, racial steering and blockbusting were rampant.

The Thomasons themselves were warned by brokers that it wasn’t worth buying in PLG because the neighborhood was integrating, and home values were sure to fall with the arrival of blacks. Robert Thomason, a librarian, was so angry that he tapped his faith and background as an ordained pastor to declare PLG his ministry to preach the gospel and bring people together. He co-founded the Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association and conceived of the annual house tour to bring blacks and whites together, not to show off beautiful interiors and gardens.

Throughout it all, Jane – who was born in Springfield, Ohio – worked as a teacher most of her working life. Jane loved to swim, read, play bridge and was said to be a great storyteller. More urgently, she was a silent but dedicated partner in all of Robert’s activism.

They are survived by two daughters, Katherine Thomason and Carolyn Wich; one granddaughter; two great-granddaughters; two sons-in-law; one grandson-in-law; and a host of friends and neighbors.



Jane and Robert Thomason ran the Lefferts Block Association for Years
Photo Credit: Milford Prewitt

Sydney Moshette, Jr, Who Lived Half His Life on Fenimore 2, Dies at 96

Sydney Stephen Moshette, Jr., an inexhaust-ible humanitarian who devoted his life’s work to helping troubled young people turn their lives around, died in January.

He passed under hospice care at the age of 96 in his Fenimore 2 home where he lived for 50 years with his wife, Edna, and raised two sons. He and Edna were together 54 years.

Born in Brooklyn, he was the youngest sibling and only son of four children. Moshette expressed and demonstrated an altruism and service ethic as a young person. He graduated from Boys High School and answered his nation’s call to duty during WWII. He served in the Merchant Marines, the U.S. Coast Guard and The U.S. Army. While in the Army, he was deployed frequently to European hot spots.

After his military service, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree from New York University School of Education and a Master of Social Work from Hunter College. He mentored and counseled countless youths during this time. He held various jobs in probation and parole in the city, state, and federal governments.



Sydney Moshette Photo Credit: the Family

Moshette ultimately became the executive director of Reality House, an outpatient non-profit drug abuse center. He ran it for 25 years. He also hosted and produced a popular social and civics show on Cable TV, “Bedford Stuyvesant and Beyond.”

He was active as a volunteer, an academic fellow, board member, or officer of 10 different health, substance abuse, nutrition and cultural organizations during his career. Moshette was a lifetime member of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., Kappa Beta Sigma Chapter.

Besides his wife, he is survived by two sons, Sydney III & Malcolm & five grandchildren. Celebrating his life too are a host of Godchildren, nieces, nephews and other family members.

UPCOMING LMA EVENTS ~ Save the Dates

Flower Barrel Day Saturday May 6

Plant marigolds & portulaca in sidewalk planters!

PLG Walking Tour Sunday May 21

Lead by neighborhood historian, writer & activist Suzanne Spellén!

LMA Picnic Day Sunday June 3

At the Carousel in Prospect Park
Carousel rides & ice cream!

