

To New Orleans and Haiti with Love: Compassionate Manor Residents Travel Far to Aid Disaster Victims

Katrina Rehab Stint Becomes a Five-Year Commitment to Help

by MARTIN FRIEDMAN

When Hurricane Katrina occurred in 2005, I had never gutted a house, put up drywall, laid a tile or painted siding. Since Katrina, my partner John and I have been on 10 mission trips to the Gulf Coast, learning and doing all of the above and more in both New Orleans and coastal Mississippi.

The first two years were really rough, both in what we saw and the physical

announced that they would be ending their mission because of lack of funding. To date, 60,000 volunteers have participated, 3,500 homes have been gutted and 550 homes have been rehabbed or built.

We hope to return to New Orleans this fall to continue the work there. There are still thousands of homes and many neighborhoods that have not returned to anything resembling pre-Katrina conditions.

Initially, we made a personal commitment of five years. This is the fifth

Left: John (l) and Martin (r) installing tile in a home damaged by Katrina

Below: Years after the levee failure, some parts of New Orleans' Lower 9th Ward have not been repaired.

anniversary and there is at least another five years of work to do.

Closer to home, I have been volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, where I have been involved with a 41-



work of mucking and gutting. We have now been rebuilding for the last three years with no end in sight. In addition, there have been volunteer opportunities, such as helping to cook community meals at St. George's Dragon Café feeding ministry, assisting with St. Anna's mobile medical van and working with the Beacon of Hope community organization, clearing and beautifying the front yards of abandoned homes.

We have worked alongside some of the homeowners and they all have a story to tell. Sometimes, just being there and listening to them has served a purpose.

Recently, Camp Coast Care, the group we were working with in Mississippi,



unit complex in Bushwick, two condos in the Bronx and I am currently working on 16 units of housing in Bed-Sty.

Martin Friedman, a veteran of the Lefferts Manor Association Board, lives with his partner John on Rutland 2.

Witnessing the Desperation and the Determination of Haitians

by LOUISE DANIEL

Like most of you I watched the gruesome aftermath of the earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12 and I was overcome with sadness. Haiti has been through many desperate situations in the past, but this time, I knew that I had to do more than give a donation. More than 200 years ago in an incredible act of bravery and defiance, the Haitian people won their freedom by defeating the French and became a beacon of hope for the millions of Africans in the Americas, even me. But I know after volunteering for a week in rebuilding and teaching projects there, the same spirit that won Haitians their freedom will rebuild their nation.

Five weeks after meeting the founders of the NEGES Foundation – an organization which has operated community development and education projects in Leogane, Haiti for 218 schoolchildren since 1998 – I was on a plane to Haiti.

The NEGES founders, Marie Yoleine Gateau and James Philemy, who are Haitian-Americans from New York, let me travel to Leogane and volunteer to help them care for almost a thousand families, including 50 orphans.

I lived and worked in one of Leogane's tent cities. I trained teachers to recognize normal stress and trauma reaction in children. I also taught them positive coping mechanisms that would help them deal with the psychological consequences following a traumatic event. The goal was to leave the teachers with skills that they could use both in their daily lives and in their classrooms after I left. Everywhere I went, people thanked me for coming.

I knew that the living conditions would be bad, but what I saw when I arrived in

Haiti was worse than anything I had seen on television; "unbearable" hardly describes the conditions. There were countless garbage piles taller than the pancake-



Louise Daniel, second from left, leading a workshop with teachers on stress intervention

flattened buildings along the streets. People lived in thousands of improvised tents and other makeshift shelters. There was no electricity, organized system of latrines or garbage pickup.

But in the face of such squalor, what I also found in Haiti were people living and laughing and loving amid the devastation. I was amazed by the strength and resilience of the people. It was clear that the determination, courage and organized hope that led the Haitian people to defeat Napoleon's army two centuries ago were alive and well.

Five months after the earthquake, there are very few visible signs of change on the ground in Haiti. Your expression of care is an invitation to help keep hope alive for the Haitian people.

Louise Daniel, a sociology professor at Adelphi College, is a board member of the Lefferts Manor Association and lives with her family on Midwood 1.

With \$500,000 Rehab, PLG Montessori on Track to Earn Prestigious 'Green' Certification

by Milford Prewitt

When the Montessori School on Rogers Avenue and Rutland Road resumes classes in the fall, its pre-K students will enter only the second school building in all of Brooklyn to meet top standards for being green, energy efficient and environmentally toxic-free.

While the 2-to-6-year-old kids the school traditionally serves probably wouldn't understand the importance of their school earning a LEED School Building Certification, their parents may be comforted to know that in rehabbing the three-story building, contractors did not use any drywall, paint, adhesives, forest products or other materials that emit volatile organic compounds known as VOCs. Moreover, building materials had to be mold- and fire-resistant, too.

Why is that important?

"Decades of research have shown that children learn better, teachers and staff are more energized and efficient when school environments are free of VOCs," says Tony Briggs, the executive director of the school. A block away, an unrehabbed building the school previously used will be available for workshops, community meetings and other

functions. LEED Certification, Briggs notes, is a standard that is higher and harder to achieve than satisfying New York City's building and construction codes.

Tying the health of students and their teachers into building design and construction materials, along with energy conservation and efficiency, LEED – which stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, a rating system enforced by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a private non-profit organization that promotes green construction practices – has a specially designated school building division separate from residential, commercial and office structures.

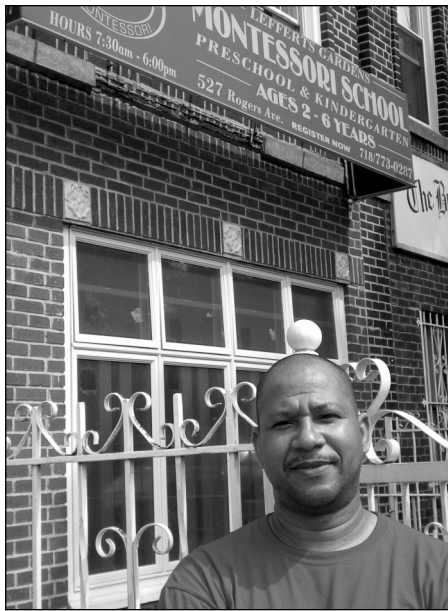
Yetsuh Frank, director of programs and policy for the USGBC's New York region, says that PLG Montessori is the second school in Brooklyn to earn LEED certification. (The other is Brooklyn Poly Prep, which earned its LEED certificate in 2008.) While the school did not have its certifica-

tion at the time of this writing, Briggs is confident the school satisfied the standards LEED requires for rehabbed structures and noted, "It's much easier getting a high LEED rating when you are dealing with new construction."

With the installation of a rear steel staircase the city's fire codes demanded, Briggs estimated that it cost \$500,000 to improve the building.

Meanwhile, Windy Wellington, education director, says she is looking forward to the school's 28th year of service in PLG. She said about 56 students will attend the school this fall, about 30 percent of them children of color or who are bi-racial.

It costs a family about \$11,000-\$12,500 a year to send a child to this Montess-(continued on page 2)



Tony Briggs, executive director of the PLG Montessori School.

photo: Milford Prewitt

{ ECHOPINIONS }

What Would You Do with the ‘Phat Albert’s Building’?

At nearly 150,000 square feet and occupying a full square block, the “Phat Albert’s Building” is among the largest commercial properties in Prospect Lefferts Gardens. It was once the iconic landmark of the neighborhood, with its wide-face clock tower and voluminousness that over the years housed a bakery, a furniture store, a garage that specialized in truck and bus repair, and warehouse storage for any of a number of industries. No one alive today remembers when the hands on the clock last moved. Even can-do Borough President Marty Markowitz suffered a rare defeat some years ago trying to raise money to get the clock repaired.

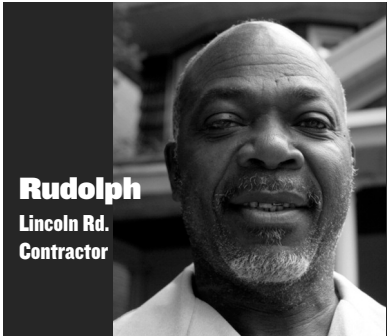
Today the building is dominated by the discount retailer Phat Albert’s, which shares the block with a car wash and a beer wholesaler. On the second floor is a children’s woodworking studio, a dance studio, and a few government back offices. And no one is saying that Phat Albert’s doesn’t deserve to be there. They pay their taxes and their rent. They enjoy strong demand for their goods and services from local residents. But in a neighborhood where commercial bank branches, book stores, gyms and recreational facilities for teens and senior citizens are far and few between, the Echo fantasized:

If money were no object and you were put in control of repurposing the Phat Albert’s space, what would you do with it?

Reporter Marcia Lloyd asked that question to random pedestrians in the Manor, outside Phat Albert’s, and one neighbor she found in her wading pool.

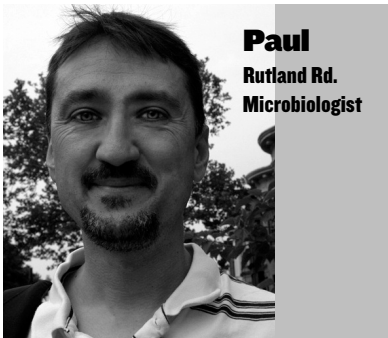
Photos by Marcia Lloyd

Do you have a vision for the Flatbush Avenue clocktower building? Send your ideas, with your name and the street you live on, to the Echo’s editor at milfordprewitt@aol.com. If space allows we will print responses in an upcoming issue.



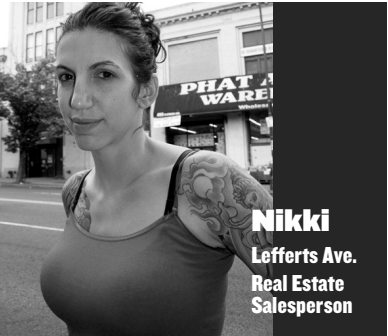
Rudolph
Lincoln Rd.
Contractor

“The building needs a face lift, so I would like to see it get new windows and whatever else is required to improve its function and appearance. Then, I would build an upscale shopping mall, a place where you can buy a nice suit and a nice dress shirt to go with it.”



Paul
Rutland Rd.
Microbiologist

“I would love to see a community center that serves all the diverse populations in the neighborhood: our seniors, our youth, our artists. For example, it could house yoga and exercise classes, bingo and card nights, crafts activities, performances, a venue for local artists, and a store like Whole Foods or Fairway.”



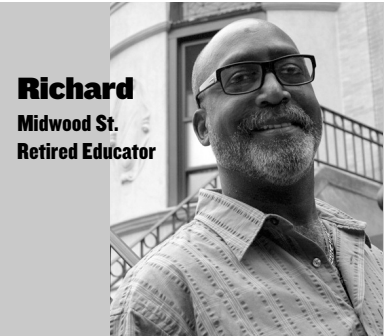
Nikki
Lefferts Ave.
Real Estate Salesperson

“A center for all artists and entertainers, including out-of-the-ordinary performers like fire breathers and silk aerialists, who perform suspended from silk cords. Every space in the building would cater to the artists’ needs: a performance space, a gallery, a hair salon, a copy shop, a cosmetics store—even a tattoo parlor.”



Avellino
Flatbush Ave.
Fashion Designer

“How about a college teaching dying vocational arts like tailoring, carpentry, and masonry? These are subjects which are generally not taught in schools.”



Richard
Midwood St.
Retired Educator

“I’d like to see a multifaceted facility with programs engaging our youth in positive ways, promoting cultural diversity and education in how to get along and practice the Golden Rule. It would be funded, with stipends to encourage parental involvement.”



Joan
Maple St.
Artist/Writer

“We need a pool in a YMCA with a water therapy class, good programs, and an exercise room to serve the older population. We senior residents want to keep physically fit. There are facilities in Park Slope and at Brooklyn College, but they involve travel, and at some point, some of us will not be able to drive.”



KINGS COUNTY NURSERIES: PUTTING THE “GARDENS” IN PLG FOR 55 YEARS

BY JACKIE MYERS

One of the joys of being an urban gardener and living in Lefferts Manor is the easy access to Kings County Nursery, arguably one of the best nurseries in Brooklyn. Located on New York Avenue in the middle of the block between Rutland and Fenimore where it was founded 55 years ago, the nursery has been the not-so-secret secret that makes the yards and gardens in Prospect Lefferts Gardens among the most lush in all of Brooklyn.

Now under the caring and thoughtful ownership of second-generation family owners – husband-and-wife Joe and Lisa Merola – Kings County Nursery has planted roots for another 55 years as daughter Stephanie intends to follow in her father’s footsteps. The Merolas are knowledgeable, outgoing, charming and have a strong sense of commitment to the neighborhood and its residents, many of whom they know by name.

“Throughout the history of our business we’ve seen many changes and realize we are located in a solid, strong community with many great people in it,” says Joe who specializes in the retailing and operations of the business, while Lisa focuses on design and landscaping.

Joe Jr.’s father started the business in 1955, years after he immigrated from Italy as an 8-year-old boy in 1937. Later, Joe Sr. served in the U.S. Navy near the end of the war, and during a trip back home to Italy, met and married Joe Jr.’s mother.

Both DNA and proximity predetermined that Joe Jr. would go into the family business: He was born in the house that is right next door to the nursery. The family moved to Queens when Joe Jr. was about 2 years old and he went to work with his dad every chance he could.

Lisa says the employees, which includes other family members, are devoted and loyal to the business and have long tenures.

“Billy Magro, also family [a brother-in-law], has worked for us for 35 years and has been a great asset to our business especially, with his knowledge and experience,” Lisa says. “Andre has been with us for seven years and helps keep my plants healthy and customers happy.”

“Sean has also joined our family at Kings County Nursery. He works hard and learns quickly.”

Joe Jr. and Lisa bought the nursery from his uncles about three years ago and immediately upgraded and broadened the inventory.

On a recent visit there were Dwarf Southern Magnolias, a fraction of the size of their larger cousins, displaying huge white flowers. Heuchera, a wonderful plant in our garden on Rutland Road, thrives in shade and is available in a wide range of colors. Kings County Nursery stocks Hostas in many sizes and shades of green including one of my favorites called “Mouse Ears.” It remains tiny and has a lot of character. What’s especially beautiful is a small species of American Wisteria, good for containers, and with proper pruning will flower in small spaces or on a trellis.

“We are willing and able to give advice and instructions for do-it-yourself projects,” Lisa says. “

So stop by the shop and garden center.

A three-year resident of the Manor, Jackie Myers lives with her husband, Stan, on Rutland 1.

Montessori School’s ‘Green’ Renovation

(continued from page 1)

ori School, Wellington adds. She notes that the student body is evenly split between neighborhood students and kids who live outside of PLG.

Although a pre-K school environment, Montessori schools are not nursery schools or daycare centers, per se. They see their function as providing a “structured learning environment” in which children are encouraged to pursue the activities that interest them, in contrast to being directed by a teacher in a formal classroom setting.

“When our kids move on to kindergarten, they are the embodiment of the Montessori Philosophy; order, concentration, coordination and independence, as termed O.C.C.I. in the Montessori community,” Wellington says. “I guess you could say they have a head start.”

An open house party for the new school is being planned.



Windy Wellington, education director of the PLG Montessori School, with one of her students.
photo: Milford Prewitt



Family owners of a growing business: Joe Merola, Jr. (above), Lisa Merola and daughter Stephanie (left).
photos: Stan Myers



Deborah Mutnick Documents Our Vibrant History and Lively Neighbors

BY SUSAN FOX

Recently, the Echo got wind that PLG resident Deborah Mutnick was taping interviews with neighborhood old timers.

A writer, documentarian and English professor at Long Island University, Mutnick has lived in PLG for 13 years with her husband – also a writer – and their 12-year-old son. One hot summer morning, this reporter sat down with Deborah amidst the churning fountain, vibrant flowers and birdsong in her relaxing Midwood 2 garden to discuss exactly what she’s up to.

And it’s a lot. Interviews with neighborhood seniors is just one layer of the many voices she is capturing in a multi-project, mixed-media, Studs Terkel-like oral history that celebrates the history and residents of her beloved PLG. Deborah is a powerhouse of ideas on how to document the history of the PLG community in our own voices and weave it together with the larger tale of our city and nation.

“It’s kind of like the pied piper [what I do],” she explains in a melodious voice, while the breeze tickles wind chimes in the background, “and you just keep playing the song and then people follow along and they drop off...and then more people come. I just love doing it.”

Having worked on last year’s *HomeGrown Stories*, a series of three themed story circles with PLG residents, Deborah is currently embarking on a project with Nelson Simon of Hawthorne Street and Jamie Yuenger of Midwood 2. They intend to “use the StoryCorps model to have two people [in the neighborhood] who know each other interview each other and record it,” Deborah says.

“Using the StoryCorps model we would have [multiple pairs of neighborhood] people who know each other interview each other and record it,” Deborah says. The aim is to “get these stories out and to archive them.”



Deborah Mutnick, resident of Midwood 2, is documenting the history of PLG.

photo: John Sandman

But she also intends to weave the interviews into larger projects such as this fall’s National Day of Listening, planned by StoryCorps, or to produce them as podcasts or radio programs through LIU.

The Prospect Lefferts Gardens Neighborhood Association’s proposed neighborhood guide to build community between residents and merchants has given her a bright idea. She hopes to draw on students from her upcoming course, “Writing in the Community,” to document interviews on this and other PLG-based projects.

“I would love to see an exhibit of PLG Arts at the Brooklyn Historical Society,” Deborah says, referring to Public Perspectives, a Society-run competition for community-curated exhibits to win display space there.

“PLG is one of the most truly integrated neighborhoods that I’ve ever lived in,” Deborah boasts. “It’s not uniform, not one voice. There are tensions in the community and...they have to be worked out. But that’s what fascinates me,” she says ebulliently. “It’s a very lively, vibrant community.”

PLG will garner a chapter in Mutnick’s book in progress, *Writing Memory and the Politics of Place*.

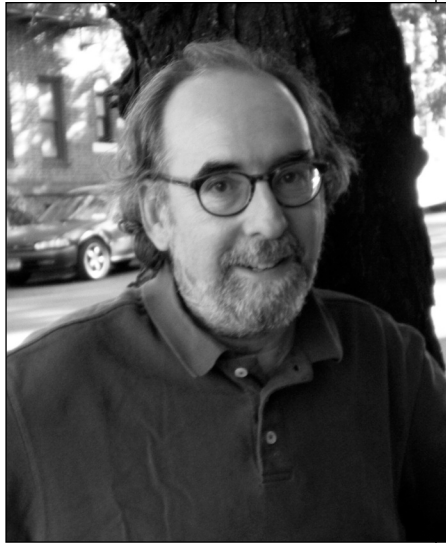
Susan Fox, a writer and documentarian, lives with her husband and two children on Fenimore 2.



Author Stephen Hall Tackles the Nature of Wisdom

Ask five or six people what “wisdom” is and the chances are you will get five or six different answers. Like love, wisdom is an indefinable something in our emotional, psychological and intellectual being, and it could be a byproduct of pain, joy and experience. In his sixth and latest book, *Wisdom: From Philosophy to Neuroscience*, Rutland Road resident and science writer Stephen Hall examines one of the most inscrutable facets of human experience. And like his well-received work from 2006, *Size Matters: How Height Affects the Health, Happiness, and Success of Boys*, Hall serves up some uncomfortable truths and optimistic insights about ourselves.

Born in Cleveland, Ohio, Hall has lived on Rutland 2 for the past 11 years with his wife, Mindy; son, Alessandro, 12; and daughter, Micaela, 14. In fact, Micaela plays a big role in her father’s newest work. Their experiences together within blocks of the World Trade Center on the morning of September 11, 2001 contributed to pushing Hall on the road to *Wisdom*.



Noted science writer Stephen Hall, who lives on Rutland Road, just published his sixth book. It deals with the science of wisdom.

photo: Milford Prewitt

Echo: How did you come to move to the Manor?

SH: My brother’s college roommate grew up on Rutland 2. At the time, Mindy and I were living in Cobble Hill and needed more space. When my brother’s roommate showed me the area, I was totally uninterested.

Two to three years later, we saw it again and moved over.

What do you like about living here?

It really wasn’t until after we had been here for a year that I really came to love this neighborhood. It’s a great place to raise kids, great neighbors and the quality of the homes can’t be beat.

Why did you write about wisdom?

Wisdom factors in all that we do. Raising a family, managing money, avoiding dangerous situations. It shapes our political and social decisions or writing a book.

Where you were and what you saw and did on 9/11 is a personal backdrop to your book. Don’t give any details away, but how did wisdom help you out that day?

We don’t have a 9/11 everyday. Yet it is a tragic example of how uncertainty, events, and change shape our lives immediately and forever. So it is a challenging moment. You are trying to make sense of something you’ve never seen before, events you are right in the middle of. Wisdom could be the clearing to survival.

You are walking down an alley and a guy pulls out a gun and demands your wallet. Is that a different kind of wisdom from what you used on 9/11?

A Harvard professor once boiled down wisdom to knowing the difference between what is important and what is not. And if you ask yourself what is genuinely important at a time like that, you know that your wallet and money are not as important as your life or getting hurt.

How do intelligence, common sense, book knowledge, emotions and all that shape being wise?

The argument I make in the book is that sometimes our emotions counsel us well and sometimes they give us a bum steer, and wisdom lies in discerning the difference—that is, knowing when to trust our emotional brain and when to trust our thinking, reasoning brain.

Why are some humans—like Gandhi, Socrates, Dr. Martin Luther King, Nelson Mandela, Jesus or Confucius—virtual synonyms for wisdom?

When you look at those sages, you are also looking at exemplars of wisdom who were very antagonistic toward the prevailing cultural, political and ethical values of the societies in which they lived, which is why they are often seen as cranks by society rather than wise people. Most of them were marginalized, imprisoned or killed because what they had to say about their society, people didn’t want to hear it. All of them were compassionate, too. Almost all of them were not recognized for their wisdom until after their deaths. So history decides who is wise. What that suggests in our modern era is that if there were a truly wise person by cultural consensus, we might not recognize it until after the fact or until they were in danger.

Can you reach a ripe old age and have no wisdom? Or as my mom used to call it, are there “old fools”? In the same sense, can you graduate magnum cum laude and not be wise?

Absolutely. People think that wisdom is a birthright. What I would say is that it is very easy to fall into bad habits and wisdom is antagonistic to habits.

Can being wise be taught?

No. Wisdom has to be experienced. It can’t be taught. It can only be encouraged.

Interview conducted by Milford Prewitt, Echo Editor

Julia Child’s Great-Nephew, a Manor Neighbor, Visits Rutland 2 Book Group

BY JOAN KELLEY

It’s one thing to belong to a book group whose members appreciate good food, good company and good stories mixed with lively conversation. It’s quite another matter when the members of this group get to share them all with the co-author of the memoirs of a famous chef.

But that’s exactly what happened when The Rutland 2 Readers, a book group made up of women who all live on Rutland Road between Bedford and Rogers Avenues and who find the culinary arts as important in their meetings as literary introspection, were entertained by Alex Prud’homme, the great-nephew of the late chef and cookbook author Julia Child.

And talk about timing: his visit came soon after the release of Nora Ephron’s wonderful film, *Julie and Julia*, which weaves the stories of Julia Child’s life in postwar France, as she learned to cook and researched recipes for *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, with Julie Powell’s attempts, in post-9/11 New York, to cook every recipe in “MtAoFC”

(as she called it) in the space of one year.

Our group’s reverence for Julia Child’s accomplishments, and Meryl Streeps’s efferescent performance in the film, sparked our interest in Child’s book, *My Life In France*. The decision was settled when Mindy Levine offered to host the meeting and to invite Julia’s co-author and Lefferts Manor resident, Prud’homme, to join us. In the family line, Prud’homme is Julia Child’s great-nephew and grandson of Paul Child’s twin brother, Charlie. Prud’homme, his wife, Sarah, and their two children, have lived in Lefferts Manor for the past 10 years.

Late in 2003, Julia asked Prud’homme to work with her on a book about her years with Paul in France. By this time, Paul was gone (he died in 1994) and Julia was 91 and living in a California retirement community.

Prud’homme spent the next months traveling back and forth to California each month. He and Julia would spend a few hours pouring over letters that she and Paul had written to their families, Paul’s wonderful photographs, and reminiscing about

those years. Then Julia would rest, and Prud’homme would write “vignettes” taken from the stories and letters. Julia would read them later and add more thoughts on the subject. They worked this way until Julia’s death in August, 2004. After that, Prud’homme worked alone, “hearing her voice in my head and wishing she were here to fill in the gaps.”

He said he was very fortunate to work with Julia’s long-time editor, Judith Jones, who had been close to Julia and had also lived in France around the same time.

We asked Alex whether Julia would have approved of Julie Powell’s not-always-successful attempts at her recipes. Alex said that Julia was probably not aware of Julie’s blog, but that Julia “... considered herself first and foremost a teacher and she believed that if you carefully followed all of the instructions to a recipe, just as she wrote it, the recipe would be a success.”

We spent a lovely evening enthralled by Alex’s wonderful memories of his great aunt. She gave us the courage to believe that we

too, could master the art of French cooking!

On another topic much closer to home, Alex shared some of his thoughts with me about Prospect Lefferts Gardens:

“We’ve loved the neighborhood since we moved here 10 years ago. We’ve become friends with many of our neighbors. The kids went to Maple Street School when they were young, we’ve had great block parties, there are a lot of creative people nearby, and a good supply of babysitters; we use the park in many ways (dog walking, ice skating, exercising, boat rides, concerts, picnics, etc), and are grateful for the Zoo, Botanical Garden, and multiple subway lines.”

For more about Alex Prud’homme’s work, as a journalist and author of several non-fiction books, see his website at www.alexprudhomme.com. On his home page is a beautiful photo of Alex and Julia, taken by Sarah Prud’homme, in Julia’s garden while they were working on *My Life in France*.

Joan Kelley lives on Rutland 2 with her husband, Dennis.



It Was Good While It Lasted!

Flatbush Avenue between Lincoln and Maple turned into an impromptu, traffic-stopping street party Saturday, June 26th when fans of Ghana's soccer team poured out of the Meytex Cafe, our local West African restaurant, to celebrate Ghana's 2-1 victory over the U.S. in the World Cup. Alas, the thrill lasted just another week before Ghana was ousted by Germany, 1-0.

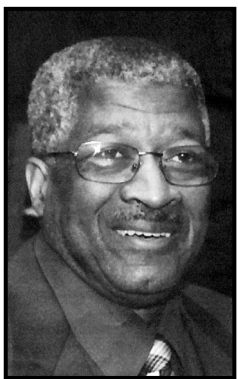
photo: Milford Prewitt

Burglars Entering Homes Via AC Units

The 71st Precinct is investigating a number of home burglaries in which criminals entered apartment buildings and single family houses by pushing in the window air conditioners on lower floors. With more people buying air conditioners during this summer's record-breaking heat, police advise residents to be more security conscious when installing the units.

Kenwyn A. Sandy, Lincoln Road Resident and Architect, Dies

Kenwyn A. Sandy, a 16-year resident of Lincoln 1 and an architect who had a specialized practice remodeling and rehabbing churches, died June 26 after a three-year fight with blood cancer. He was 68 years old and lived with his wife, Stephani, for 32 of them.



Born in Grenada, Sandy immigrated to Trinidad and Tobago with his family as a child and earned a scholarship to attend the prestigious Fatima College there. He later came to the U.S., graduated from Columbia University with a Master's degree in architecture, and subsequently became a licensed architect in New York and Maryland.

Semi-retired, he opened his own practice, Ken Sandy Design Collaborative, several years ago. He had a successful practice not only in church redesign and renovation, but also in the private residential market. He returned to Trinidad and Tobago to start up his first architectural business in the 1980s, but when it folded the family eventually decided to return to the U.S.

Until he became ill, Stephani said her husband had boundless energy. He loved to travel, but he regretted not having enough free time to do so. His favorite pastimes were reading, watching tennis and golf.

She said he was passionate about architecture and other visual arts and supplemented his skills by learning to draw and paint with some distinction and style. He was also a poet, civil rights activist, philanthropist and avid gardener.

"He could grow anything back there," Stephani recalled, "He planted peach trees, eggplants, tomatoes, green peppers, cucumbers and other varieties of vegetables. Unfortunately, gardening was another pastime he was unable to devote adequate time to."

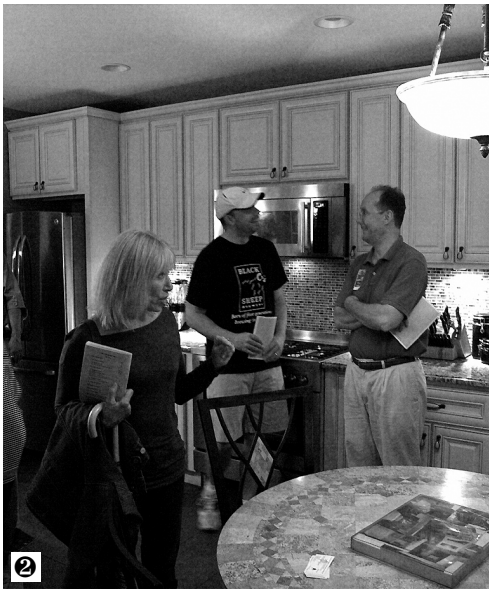
Besides Stephani, Mr. Sandy is survived by five children, five grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

The Annual 'National Night Out', hosted locally by the 71st Precinct, along with the 71st Community Council, will be on August 3rd, from 4pm to 8pm. The event will be held on Sterling Street between Bedford and Rogers Avenues. Free food, refreshments and rides for all. For more information, please contact the 71st Community Affairs office at 718-735-0527.

The Plaza Swing Series, has Brooklynites dancing to the sounds of jazz on Thursdays in front of the Brooklyn Public Library in Grand Army Plaza. There are swing dance lessons starting at 6:30pm and the music kicks off at 7. And it's all free! Shows remaining this summer are:
July 29 Swing Songs with Matt Munisteri
August 5 One Hundred and One Strings
August 12 Paul Shapiro's Ribs and Brisket Revue



Setting It Straight The *Echo* made a couple of factual errors in the all-house-tour issue in May. The errors were in the story about the integration of Prospect Lefferts Gardens. First, both black and white brokers participated in block busting schemes. Second, Bob and Jane Thomason live on Lefferts 3 and bought their home in 1973 for \$36,500, not \$30,000. The *Echo* regrets the errors.



40th PLG House Tour Well Attended and Busy

Despite dark skies, the theft of a car that very morning of a neighbor who opened her home for the event, and another participating neighbor whose basement flooded when the sewer line backed up just a few hours before the 40th Annual PLG House & Garden Tour kicked off, the event was among one of the series best.

While it didn't break any records for attendance, the Tour drew high marks from visitors and neighbors alike for the breadth and depth of the houses and the awe-inspiring design schemes of a few.

From its inception, the PLG House Tour is high on the Manor's social calendar and often comes to a close with backyard barbecues and house parties as neighbors reconnect or make new friends.

Among the more popular homes this year were Jackie and Stan Myers's limestone on Rutland 1, the garden and elaborate backyard deck of Roxanne and Matthew Sarno on Rutland 2 and the inspiring renovations and decorative details in the brownstone owned by two Broadway actors on Midwood 1.

Carole Schaffer, a 34-year resident of the Manor, LMA board member and chief organizer of the Tour for more than 20 years, said the 2011 Tour is already looking to be another crowd pleaser, noting that a couple of families have volunteered a year in advance to put their homes on view.



- 1 Throughout the day neighbors compare notes and make recommendations of the best places to see
- 2 Visitors admire the newly installed, Mediterranean-themed, garden-level kitchen of Milford and Renee Prewitt on Midwood 1
- 3 Tour-goers discuss the ultra-modern kitchen design at 75 Maple St.
- 4 Roxanne Sarno in the backyard of her Rutland 2 home.
- 5 The bird's eye view from the second floor atrium in the Myers home on Rutland 1.
- 6 Young entrepreneurs on Tour Day know a sales opportunity when they see one.

Photos by Bob Marvin



THE LEFFERTS MANOR ASSOCIATION

was founded in 1919 to maintain and improve our historic neighborhood, enforce the restrictive one-family dwelling covenant, and bring together residents for their better acquaintance and mutual benefit.

If you're not a member, please join now.

Dues, Jan.-Dec. 2010: \$20 per household / \$10 per senior citizen household

Please send application and check to:

The Lefferts Manor Association / P.O. Box 250-640, Brooklyn, NY 11225

or put in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Road.

I (we) subscribe to LMA's efforts to improve our neighborhood and continue it as a community of historic, landmarked, single-family homes.

NAME

ADDRESS

TELEPHONE

E-MAIL

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

Dues, Jan. through Dec. 2010: \$20 per household / \$10 per senior citizen household
Send application and check to: Lefferts Manor Assoc. P.O. Box 250-640 / Brooklyn, NY 11225
or dues/form can be put in the mail slot of the LMA's treasurer at 214 Rutland Road.

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