

Lefferts Manor

{SUMMER 2019}

ECHO

THE 49TH ANNUAL PROSPECT, LEFFERTS GARDENS HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR

Sunday, June 2, 2019 • Noon–5 PM

SPONSORED BY The Lefferts Manor Association

TICKETS/\$25 IN ADVANCE AT:

Ix Café 43 Lincoln Rd. * **Drink** 492 Flatbush Ave.
The Chameleon BK 546 Flatbush Ave.
Trixie's Pet Food & Supplies 575 Flatbush Ave.
PLG Coffee House & Tavern 499 Rogers Ave.
Little Mo Wine & Spirits 1125 Nostrand Ave.
 Online: click on the [eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) at leffertsmanor.org

TICKETS/\$30 ON TOUR DAY AT:

Ix Café 43 Lincoln Rd.

This year's tour is a special centennial edition in honor of the Lefferts Manor Association's 100th anniversary!

Houses and architecture on each of the ten Lefferts Manor blocks will be spotlighted displaying the variety of styles and expressions in the Manor. There will be diverse interiors on show, highlighting period detailing, meticulous renovations, and unique personal art collections. In addition, the exterior architecture and the history of the houses and blocks will be a major focus this year. We expect the tour brochure to be a collector's item and something that you'll want to read long after the tour is over! AND...amid all this historical wonder, visit the refreshment stop to enjoy live music brought to us by our local PLG Arts organization and take advantage of discounts from local merchants and restaurants!

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

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: leffertsmanor.org
 E-MAIL: plghousetour@gmail.com CALL: 917-207-6807
 FACEBOOK: PLG HouseTour 2019 #plghousetour

REFRESHMENT DONATIONS NEEDED Cookies, brownies, pastries and other snacks should be brought to 77 Midwood Street on Saturday, 6/1, noon–2PM or on Sunday, 6/2 (tour day), 11:30AM–noon

Energized by Past Momentum, New LMA President Is Ready For a Vibrant Future

By Pia J. Raymond, LMSW The shrill screech of bus brakes, the rhythmic honk of dollar cabs amid the mélange of music contribute to the soundscape that is the lifeblood of our community, Flatbush Avenue. To a visitor, this bustling Brooklyn neighborhood seems too busy to navigate. To those of us who call this home, we find excitement in our anchoring avenues and comfort on our beloved blocks.

As we celebrate the centennial year of the Lefferts Manor Association, I have a flood of fond memories from the last few decades. LMA, as we affectionately abbreviate it, continues to be a bridge to connect neighbors and a foundation to support the perpetuity of landmarked one-family homes.

Driveway hopscotch, backyard barbecues, and sidewalk chalk masterpieces enliven childhood pleasures on tree-lined streets. Vibrant maples, robust oaks and verdant pines summon the sun and cultivate environmental awareness in the heart of an urban niche.

The ornate architectural splendor decorates our homes, imprinting a historical snapshot into the album of our Lefferts Manor experience. But most important, we celebrate the impact of the people, the relationships that have lasted a lifetime and those yet to grow.

We bloom in spring with the LMA's flower barrel planting, enjoying the aromatic oak of whisky barrels filled with tulips. We look forward to the annual gathering to beautify our blocks bringing old friends, new neighbors, children and seniors together.

Our house tour is a spotlight on the magnificence of our beloved community while giving an opportunity to appreciate the richness of our shared experiences. We culminate the year adorning doors with a holiday wreath to bid good tidings. *(continued on page 3)*



Pia Raymond

A Personal Perspective by Bob Marvin

The PLG House Tour Has Evolved Along with the Neighborhood

The annual Prospect Lefferts Gardens house tour started in 1969, but I came to it late. My wife and I went on our first PLG tour in 1974, when we were actively looking for a house to buy. That tour changed our life. We stopped looking in other neighborhoods and closed on our Midwood Street house four months later. I've worked on every tour since 1975, as has my wife, Elaine, because the house tour is so important to us. This year's tour will be the 49th annual outing and my 43rd. It's 49 and not 50 because the sponsors skipped one year in the 1980s.

The house tour was started by PLGNA just a year after that neighborhood organization was founded. The neighborhood was just recovering from the wave of blockbusting that had been a plague in the late '50s and early '60s when there was increasing racial integration and unscrupulous real estate people exploited the fears and prejudices of white homeowners in an attempt to drum up business through panic selling. Fortunately, blockbusting here was not successful in re-segregating our neighborhood. PLGNA was started with an aim toward making our neighborhood attractive to people of all races and Bernice Sealy, who lived on Maple II, came up with the idea of a house tour to show off the newly named Prospect Lefferts Gardens part of Flatbush as a means of achieving that goal.

She was assisted by PLGNA co-founder Bob Thomason, a community activist who campaigned for a more diverse and affordable neighborhood. Now in his early nineties, he still lives with his wife, Jane, in their home on Lefferts III.

Soon after moving into our house, I took a New School class on the brownstones of New York, taught by Everett Ortner, the Park Slope brownstone guru and founder of the Brownstone Revival Committee, which encouraged middle-class families to buy and renovate historic row houses in NYC. Ortner thought it was imperative to publicize one's neighborhood or, as he put it, "don't hide your

light under a bushel." With that in mind, I volunteered to organize a PLGNA publicity committee and that also made it logical to become a member of the house tour committee. I've worked on every tour since then and our house has been on tour five times, possibly a record, first in 1977 and most recently last year.

The first tour I worked on was something of a disaster, with only about 60 tickets sold, probably because it was held on the same day as the more popular Park Slope



Ben Edwards and Carole Schaffer (standing in the center, back row) making the rounds at the 2011 house tour.

tour, which had been started ten years earlier than ours. That disappointment led me to volunteer to represent PLGNA at meetings of the Brooklyn Brownstone Conference, an organization of neighborhood groups that, among other things, tried to coordinate tour dates—no small feat because there were at least a dozen tours, mostly in the spring.

Within a few years I found myself "volunteered" to be chair of the house tour committee. I continued in that role alone for a while, but was soon joined by Carole Schaffer as co-chair. Eventually Carole took over as chairperson and continued to head our tour for more than 30 years.

The tour was intended to publicize PLG. Fund-raising was also a goal, but we were usually lucky to break even. Attendance improved in the late '70s *(continued on page 2)*

HOUSE TOUR '19 What's On View

On view this year is Lefferts Manor itself, in honor of the Lefferts Manor Association's 100th anniversary. Tour goers will learn about the ten-block neighborhood which extends from Lincoln Road to Fenimore Street and from Flatbush to Rogers Avenues. All are encouraged to look up from their tour maps and take in the beauty, note the similarities, the differences and all of the unique details that abound. There were at least 20 architects active in the design of Lefferts Manor in the late 1890s and early 1900s but, to quote the Landmarks designation report for the PLG Historic District, "it is the work of Brooklyn architects Benjamin Driesler, Axel Hedman, and the firm of Slee & Bryson that gives the area its cohesive feel."

Here is a taste of what you'll see on this special LMA Centennial tour...

A large freestanding frame house designed in 1910 by Slee & Bryson that features rich



wood paneling and stained glass windows and a gorgeous fireplace in the dining room.

A 1907 three-story brownstone by architect Axel Hedman includes a grand piano on the parlor floor surrounded by enviable refurbished woodwork.

A limestone row house that is one of many in a row designed in 1909 by Axel Hedman. Inside, don't miss the beautiful fireplace mantles and look for the cool antique fire extinguisher.

A 1928 neo-Classical brick house designed by A.J. Daidone that is full of delightful surprises. Round-top windows, exquisite wood and plaster details and original light fixtures wow the eyes in this unique, respectfully renovated house.

A Benjamin Driesler designed brownstone from 1909 features an entrance with beautiful double wood-and-glass doors complemented by decorative iron grilles. Oversize dining room windows look out to an interesting view of the houses behind.

A neo-Renaissance styled limestone built in 1910 has gorgeous oak woodwork, Arts & Crafts furniture and eclectic personal collections as well as a slate-floored hangout space in the basement.

A unique neo-Tudor style row house that is one of eighteen designed by architect/builder Peter J. Collins in 1914-15. It sports a meticulously presented and well groomed front garden. *(continued on page 2)*

Family's Patience and Persistence Restore Neglected Maple I Doctor's House

by Kendall Christiansen

Like a number of the large free-standing brick houses on Maple I, the Leon family's home had a sad history of neglect, disrepair and a years-long estate dispute before they rescued it from further decay.

Unfortunately, the damage was done. Not only was the mini-mansion dilapidated, but squatters—both human and animal—had taken it over for shelter.

Earlier owners Arthur and Baila Caledonia, who relocated to a Park Slope co-op in 1985, fondly note the house's heritage: It was built by the owner of a lumber yard who had access to the best wood and woodworkers.

The interior of the home lavishly shows off the well-appointed use of wood detailing, especially in the stairwell marquetry and the dark-paneled upstairs office.

Like several of the homes on the block, a doctor who had his medical office in the front parlor sold the house to the Caledonias, with the stipulation that his office remain.

Three years after first making their first offer to buy it, Alex and Linda persevered and closed in 2017. They personally led the design aspects of a ten-month renovation. Only the kitchen and master bath were gut-renovated. New mechanicals were also installed.

Their eye for renovation will be aimed at the backyard this spring: pavers and an outdoor kitchen. And just over the horizon, their basement awaits conversion into a theater room and home gym.

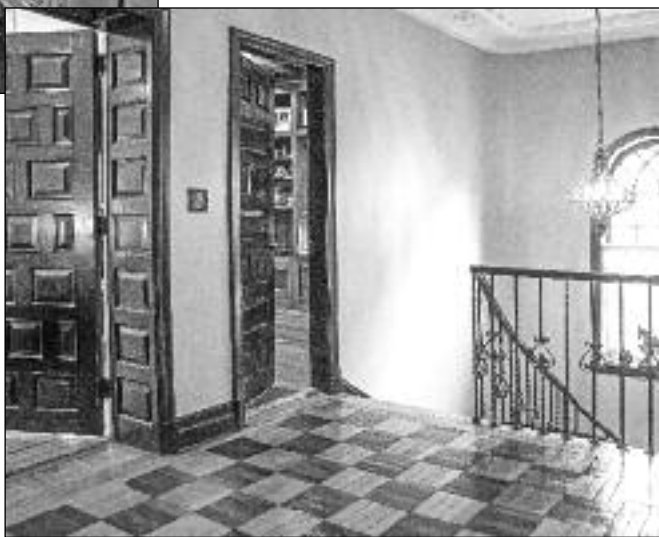
Alex, a financial advisor who was born and raised in Prospect Heights, and Linda, a real estate agent originally from New Jersey, have been together for 18 years. They started a



But the blight didn't dismay Alex and Adelinda (Linda) Leon. Experienced homeowners and renovators who years earlier had revived a Crown Heights brownstone, the couple was actually attracted to the eyesore. (They also admit a major turn-on was the two-car garage.)

Already attracted to PLG, the Leons saw potential and beauty when they discovered this house in 2014. A charmer in the making with its center stairwell, brick-arched windows and slate roof, the house had extraordinary woodwork, much of which escaped water damage from a leaking roof.

Linda said the relative good condition of the woodwork was the best surprise in finding the house. (The worst surprise? A six-burner Viking stove and exhaust system that mysteriously disappeared just before the final walk-through.)



family back in their previous Crown Heights brownstone. Their son, Alexander, is now 12 and his sister, Ava, is 10.

The Leons have become active in the community since moving to PLG. They are involved in their block association and are showing their house on this year's tour. They also hosted the dessert course for their block's annual progressive dinner. Their home is clearly a wonderful place to entertain.

Kendall Christiansen is an LMA board member who has lived on Maple II for 30 years.

'So Much Has Gone Right' For 40-Year Lincoln II Homeowner

by Carlene Braithwaite

In 1977, Tom and Emilie Jambois were living in a Manhattan apartment on Riverside Drive when their desire to become homeowners led them to the Brooklyn Brownstone Fair.

The fair was hosted by Brooklyn Union Gas at their offices on Montague Street and co-sponsored by the Brownstone Revival Committee of New York (publisher of the *Brownstoner*) and the Brooklyn Brownstone Conference.

PLG HOUSE TOUR 2019

PLG homeowners participated, hosting open houses and sending current homeowners to speak to potential homebuyers about the neighborhood. It was there that Tom, a math professor, and Emilie, a psychiatric social worker, met Bob and Elaine Marvin, who then (and now), live on Midwood II.

At the Marvins' suggestion, Tom remembers attending the PLG house tour. That began an earnest look in the neighborhood, which led to the Lincoln II home they were destined to buy in 1978.



The story of the Jamboises' experience on Lincoln II is the story of how one family's home restoration journey brought them closer to the community and their neighbors.

For example, they delayed their closing date so that the owners' children could finish the school year. In return, the owners let Tom and Emilie stay in their Fire Island beach house for a couple of weeks. This sparked a long-term friendship with the prior owners and an annual June getaway to Fire Island—a tradition that lasted for over 20 years.

Tom recounts that another neighborhood tradition started when Tom offered to host dinner for a family on the block when their



kitchen was under renovation. That neighbor reciprocated and soon it became a tradition; once a month the neighbors host dinner for one another at their respective homes.

The Jamboises' home has been impeccably restored with an exacting eye to the details.

Emilie passed in 2010, but Tom has kept busy with a steady stream of improvement projects. He has redone his first-floor kitchen, which is bathed in light and showcases a large center island, installed custom cabinets, sliding doors to the garden and updated the breakfast nook. Of particular note are the period gas light fixtures installed in the dining room and in the parlor on the middle floor. Tom purchased the antique fixtures and had them wired for electricity.

Tom likes the changes he sees in the neighborhood and is glad to see younger people moving in. He is pleased by the upturn in commerce, especially the new restaurants. He remains close to his neighbors, and notes that he stays in the neighborhood out of his love of the area and those who live in it.

He is struck by what he sees as his good fortune since his arrival on Lincoln II, a place where through the years, "so much has gone right," Tom says.

Carlene Braithwaite is an LMA board member. She recently retired from her career as a lawyer for the Port Authority.

Personal Perspective: House Tour Has Evolved

(continued from page 1) when the NYC Commission on Human Rights started to pay for advertising for tours in neighborhoods like ours, as a way to foster racial integration throughout the city.

Over the years the tour became less central to PLGNA, which came to concentrate heavily on tenant organizing. Nevertheless, PLGNA remained the sole tour sponsor, even though most tour organizers, including Carole and I, were on the Lefferts Manor Association board. When I was LMA president in the early 90s, I was initially unable to get the board to co-sponsor the tour. Then, in 1993, we had a Lefferts Manor-only tour to celebrate the centennial of our single-family covenant. LMA took over sponsorship of the house tour a couple of years later, when PLGNA, facing difficulties, went on hiatus.

Under LMA leadership our tour continues to represent the entire PLG neighborhood, with tour houses and apartments throughout the area. Tour volunteers are equally diverse. The number of Brooklyn house tours has dwindled with only PLG, Park Slope and Bedford-Stuyvesant retaining annual tours and a few neighborhoods having tours every other year. At the same time attendance at our tour has increased with over 600 people attending last year. I expect that the Prospect Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour will continue for many years to come.

Bob Marvin is currently a board member of the LMA, a previous LMA board president and a former editor of the Echo.



The 2019 house tour guidebook will be a departure from the guides of recent years and promises to be special. In addition to a new easier-to-read layout, the guidebook will feature vintage photographs of Lefferts Manor. There will also be reproductions of real estate advertising from the first two decades of the 20th century promoting Manor homes. (Nearly all transactions were under \$10,000!) Available only with a tour ticket, it will be a valuable resource for local history for years to come.



What's On View (continued from page 1)

A Colonial Revival frame house designed by Axel Hedman in 1906 that has been carefully renovated to create a bright, spacious modern home that still keeps its period detail.

A Roman brick and limestone row house designed in 1898 by William M. Miller is one of the earliest homes built in the Manor. It has beautiful woodwork and a delightful glass block-floored deck to the back garden off the parlor level.

A very cool side/backyard with modern patio furnishings and plantings where you can relax to live jazz entertainment and enjoy complimentary drinks and goodies donated by local businesses and residents.

Stop by at the wine and spirits store **Drink**, 492 Flatbush Ave., (across from Planet Fitness) for an exhibit sponsored by **Voices of Lefferts**, a community writing and publishing project. Learn more about the people that make up this great neighborhood.

And get a glimpse of house tours past. At the coffee house **The Chameleon BK**, 546 Flatbush Ave., there is a display of vintage PLG House Tour posters from the '70s and '80s. Two examples are on the left.

All the photographs for the *Echo's* 2019 PLG House & Garden Tour feature are by Martin Friedman.

Art Consultants Open Their Rutland II Gem for the Third Time

by Milford Prewitt

Sonnet Takahisa has lived in Prospect Lefferts Gardens twice. The first time was in the 1950s when she was just two years old and her bohemian parents moved from a small Greenwich Village loft to a more traditional abode in a Hawthorne Street apartment building to accommodate their growing family.

The second time was 40-plus years later in 2004 when she and her husband, Hollis Headrick, bought a two-story limestone on Rutland II.

Fortunately, the infrastructure and interior styling of their new home did not require major updating, though every few years, the family has taken on modest improvement projects to fit their lifestyle. That included a new landscaped, backyard garden.

This outing marks the third time Sonnet and Hollis—who have the enviable advantage of working from home as successful and highly respected art educators, consultants and philanthropy advisors—are opening their home for the house tour.

During Sonnet's first incarnation here as a toddler, PLG was hardly the welcoming or culturally inviting neighborhood it has become.

Because her mom was a Russian-American Jew and her dad was Japanese-American, neighbors actually floated a petition around the neighborhood to keep them out.

Although the family moved in anyway, it decamped to Canarsie three years later.

Fast-forward a few decades later and Sonnet and Hollis—both of whom met in the art world as educators and consultants—married in 1989 and started a family.

Hollis is also a multi-talented musician and is a co-president of PLG Arts.

At the time they met, he was a program officer at the New York State Council of the Arts and she ran the School Youth and Families Department at the Brooklyn Museum.

Ironically, Sonnet noted, the home they ultimately bought would be two blocks directly north of the Hawthorne Street apartment building where she spent her toddler years.

But unlike the first time she lived here, they found a different neighborhood. Diverse and welcoming, it was full of creative people who worked hard on community building and valued inclusion, not exclusion.

"I didn't realize till I was walking down the street and remembered somehow that our address had been on Hawthorne and there was such a familiarity to it," she says. "But I hadn't been back here since I was a toddler. It was a weird sort of recollection."

Today she and Hollis work together in a home-based business, Arts and Cultural Strategies, which fosters partnerships with the city's museums, arts organizations, and schools, to develop plans and evaluate programs in museum learning, performing arts and grant making.

Their son, Tylor—a big collector of Japanese anime figurines (a part of whose collection will be on display tour day)—was the linchpin that brought them to PLG. He had a close classmate who lived on Rutland II and that's how they learned about the neighborhood.

It brought back wispy memories of Sonnet's first incarnation here.

Milford Prewitt is the editor of the Echo.



Using a Real Estate Agent's Edge to Find Her Dream House

by Roberta Woelfling

It was 1996 and Carol DeFreitas was ready to say goodbye to apartment living. Sharing walls coupled with the pounding footsteps of running children above had become trying.

She loved her place near Brooklyn College and the fact that it came with parking was hard to beat, but she was unhappy with the building's management and maintenance.

So she decided that it was time to buy a house.

The interior was more spacious that it looked from the outside, and it too was in great shape. All it needed was a fresh coat of paint.

The wood-burning fireplace was very inviting and there was lovely detail throughout the house including finished wood beams at the ceiling of the wood paneled dining room. The kitchen had been renovated already and it was twice as big as her apartment's. Carol was very excited that it came with built-in wine rack.

It was a warm summer day so Carol took a stroll up and down Rutland Road to check things out, meeting friendly neighbors along the way, most notably the late Joyce L. Johnston and Cecelia Monte (who moved away a few years later).



Disappointed with the properties a real estate agent was showing her, Carol—who works in finance for the city—decided to become a real estate agent herself in order to have immediate access to all of the listings.

After a six-week course and passing her exams, Carol became a licensed real estate person and started working part-time for a neighborhood broker.

Carol took her time waiting for the right house to come along. But little could she have expected while working from home one day in 1998 that an unpleasant encounter with a noisy neighbor would speed up her timetable.

She went to the office the next day to search for homes, determined to buy the first one that fit within her budget limits. She hit pay dirt when she found a bank-owned property on Rutland Road that had been sitting empty for a year.

The location was great as it cut in half her commute time to work. But having grown up on Clarkson Avenue, she knew the area and was a bit wary.

But that caution melted into attraction when she rounded the corner from the chaos of Flatbush Avenue onto Rutland Road. She remembered it feeling like an old medieval English village with the rows of Tudor style homes flanking both sides of the street.

The house she was there to see was one of these homes. The neighbors had tended the flower barrels and kept the front stoop clean and tidy.

They initially thought Carol was looking for someone. But when she shared that she was interested in buying the vacant house, Joyce encouraged her to do so. Joyce said some of her friends were departing to Florida, but she loved the neighborhood too much to ever leave.

Carol took Joyce's endorsement to heart. Despite no dedicated parking, Carol committed to buying the first house she saw that day.

She moved in September 1998. Carol said she couldn't have made a better choice than if she had meticulously planned it.

By sticking to her guns, not only did she buy the first home she saw that day, but it also turned out to be her dream house.

Roberta Woelfling is the secretary of the LMA board and co-coordinator of the 2019 house tour.

New LMA President Ready for a Vibrant Future

(continued from page 1) Last holiday season, we mourned the passing of the esteemed long-term LMA president Ebenezer "Ben/Eddie" Edwards and we emerged in 2019 celebrating his life as a community.

I am deeply honored to be the newly elected president of the LMA. I look forward to an impactful year of honoring the service-filled spirits of Ben Edwards and Carole Schaffer.

Long lines and ticket number counters bring instant memories of Vinnie's Prime Meats, a neighborhood platform to come inside, share a story, a laugh and unwind while shopping locally. That energy fueled the community for years to come and our growing repertoire of shops and cafes continue to connect us as our local economy thrives.

The growth of our artistic community enriches us and allows us to experience varied perspectives through visual art, music, movement, photography and more.

Block clean-ups and block parties allow for intergenerational mixing and mingling with games, activities and family-style dinners as the sun sets over Flatbush Avenue.

Our bi-annual LMA meetings convene conversation and empower our collective voice to city and state agencies, elected officials and other state and city stakeholders.

I am excited that we are galvanizing around our Lefferts Manor Association centennial. My vision is that it truly marks the zeitgeist of our collective Lefferts Manor experience. In years past the threat of crime kept many indoors and children shuttled out of the community. Driveways separated more than houses, but rather impeded encounters. At this moment in time, we have endured, cultivated and nourished our special enclave and now it's time to express that which makes us individually unique within our collective experience.

Tell your Lefferts Manor story, connect with neighbors, stroll through the tour and have fun along the way. Stay tuned for the Lefferts Manor Association Centennial Gala on Saturday, September 14, 2019. See you around the way!

SAVE THE DATE FOR THE

LMA 100 GALA

SEPTEMBER 14, 2019

Celebrate a century with a gala at Brooklyn Commons where friends, neighbors, and supporters will gather for an evening of fellowship, food, and a great time. More information will be coming this summer.



Ben Edwards's Accident Results in Safety Improvements at Flatbush and Maple

by Milford Prewitt

The New York City Department of Transportation is planning to fit a new crosswalk and a new traffic signal in the Flatbush Avenue corridor bounded by Beekman Place and Maple Street, spokespersons for the agency confirmed.

That short section of Flatbush is where a pickup truck struck Ben Edwards, the long-time president of the Lefferts Manor Association, on December 10, 2018. He was crossing Flatbush from the east side to the west and died from his injuries on December 28.

Meanwhile, the police say they are finished with their investigation, noting that the driver was not charged.

"DOT takes every fatality on our roadways seriously, and has a proactive program of redesigning streets to reduce tragedies like this one," a spokesperson said. "As with all locations where a fatal crash occurs, DOT evaluated the design of the street and the circumstances of the crash in order to improve the safety of that location."

The study led to the decision to improve pedestrian safety with a new crosswalk and traffic light.

"At the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Maple Street, DOT plans to install a traffic signal and crosswalk to increase safety in the area," the spokesperson continued.

When finished, Flatbush between Beekman Place and Maple will have three crosswalks and three traffic signals covering about 400 feet.

DOT traffic statistics show that from 2012 to 2018 there were 20 serious, but nonfatal injuries within the corridor. Ben Edwards's death was the only fatality in that time frame.

Despite the number of injuries, the Flatbush corridor from Beekman Place to Lincoln Road is not considered a Vision Zero high priority corridor, a special designation the DOT gives to select corridors and intersections with a high rate of pedestrian fatalities or injuries.

Vision Zero is an ambitious citywide plan to reduce pedestrian fatalities to none. In its recently released annual survey of pedestrian safety, the report documented that in the five years before Vision Zero was established, 28 pedestrians a year were killed or seriously injured (KSI) on high priority corridors in Brooklyn.

In total, 17 pedestrians were KSI in Brooklyn in 2018, a 40 percent drop from the 28 pedestrians killed or injured the year prior.



The city will soon install a third crosswalk and another traffic signal near the corner of Flatbush and Maple.

PLG Arts Music Festival 2019

PLG Arts presents the third annual PLG Arts Music Festival, a weeklong event taking place June 15-22, 2019. The schedule features over 50 prominent and upcoming New York musicians in 12 locations throughout Prospect Lefferts Gardens, which happens to be home to many of the participating performers. Among the performances during the festival: *Axiom Addicts at the Maple Street Block Party on June 15; The Sivan Arbel Quartet at Salem's Hour on June 16; Rafael Rosa Guitar Duo at Drink Wine & Spirits on June 19; Dayeon Seok Group, led by a drummer and playing a wide array of music, at Bar Bayeux on June 19; and People of Earth salsa dance band at Brooklyn Commons on June 21.* To see the complete lineup or to become a member of PLG Arts visit www.plgarts.org.

Joyce L. Johnston, Rutland Rd. Neighbor for Half a Century, Dies at 89

by MILFORD PREWITT

Joyce Louise Johnston, of whom it was said summer didn't start until she held court from the stoop of her home, died New Year's Day, just one week shy of her 90th birthday.

A beloved neighbor with wide ranging interests, culturally engaged, and politically perceptive, Mrs. Johnston had been battling COPD for years, said her daughter, Laura E. Johnston.

For 51 years, she lived with her family in one of the iconic Tudor townhouses that marks the unique architectural character of a quarter of Rutland I.

For all of her working life, Mrs. Johnston was a laboratory technician in the blood banking industry, retiring in 1991 as a Blood Bank Supervisor at Kings County Hospital.

She was born January 7, 1929 in Wilkes-Barre, Pa. When she was four, she was sent to Jamaica, West Indies to live with an aunt and a grandmother. She attended high school there and graduated with a strong interest in and an aptitude for biology.

She moved back to the U.S. at 21, settled in the Bronx, and landed a job at the now-shuttered Goldwater Memorial Hospital on Roosevelt Island.

Three milestones occurred in her life in 1956: she earned a bachelor's degree from Hunter College; met the love of her life, Vincent Llewelyn Johnston; and moved to Brooklyn.

Joyce and Vincent would marry in 1958, living at first in Crown Heights. They would also produce two children, Laura and Glenn F. Johnston.

The family moved to Rutland Road in 1967. Vincent, a train dispatcher for the MTA, was dubbed "The Mayor of Rutland Road" for his block association involvement and for being a block watcher.

He died in 1996.

Funny and quick-witted, Mrs. Johnston loved television crime shows, going to the movies, reading mysteries, and trying new restaurants. The Brooklyn Public Library and the Botanic Gardens were virtually obsessions of hers.

She was spotlighted in an article in the Metro section of the June 30, 2002 *New York Times* about her membership in the "Wedding Watchers," a group of women who flocked to Bailey Fountain at Grand Army Plaza on the weekends to watch wedding parties being photographed and who offered emergency stitching and sewing assistance if bridal party gowns needed fixing.

In her retirement years, she enjoyed traveling and spending her summer afternoons socializing with neighbors.

Besides Laura and Glenn, Mrs. Johnston is survived by a daughter-in-law; a grandson; two step-granddaughters; and a host of nephews, nieces, cousins, friends and neighbors.

Mrs. Johnston is interred at Plain Lawn Cemetery in Hicksville, N.Y.



Prospect Park's Famed Concert Pavilion to Get \$2M Makeover



The historic Concert Grove Pavilion, designed by Prospect Park co-creator Calvert Vaux in 1874, is going to get a \$2 million restoration, thanks in no small measure to former City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and the Brooklyn City Council delegation. Restorers plan to enhance the Hindu, Chinese, Moorish and Egyptian motifs and strengthen the eight cast-iron columns supporting the stained-glass skylight. The surrounding pathways, lighting and landscaping will also be restored. The scheduled completion date is 2020.

The pavilion is located on the west side of the park between the Audubon Center and the LeFrak Center.



For a stronger community,
join the

Lefferts Manor Association

MANOR RESIDENTS:

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

Dues: \$25.00 per household or \$15.00 per senior citizen household

NON-RESIDENT FRIENDS:

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

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ + \$ _____ = \$ _____

DUES ADD'L CONTRIBUTION TOTAL

Dues cover January through December 2019. Make checks payable to Lefferts Manor Association.

Send payment and form to: Martin Friedman, 214 Rutland Rd., Brooklyn, NY 11225 or drop in the mail slot at 214 Rutland Rd.

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