SPECIAL * PLG HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR * EDITION

Lefferts Manor ECHO

{ SPRING 2025 }

THE 51ST ANNUAL

PROSPECT LEFFERTS GARDENS

House & Garden Tour

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Sunday, June 1, 2025 Noon-5pm

HOSTED BY The Lefferts Manor Association

TICKETS: $40 IN ADVANCE AT:

Ix Restaurant 43 Lincoln Rd.
Awesome Home 653 Flatbush Ave.
DRINK 492 Flatbush Ave.
Trixie's Pet Food Supplies 575 Flatbush Ave.
Little Mo Wine & Spirits 1125 Nostrand Ave.

ONLINE: Go to eventbrite.com and search for PLG House
OR Scan the QR Code below

TICKETS ON TOUR DAY AT:

Check-in table at **Ix Restaurant** 43 Lincoln Rd.

Join us for a fun-filled day exploring beautiful homes and gardens in our very own PLG. Check in at the tables next to Ix Restaurant on Lincoln Rd. to get your wristband, guide booklet and booties, then stroll through the picturesque streets to the various stops on the tour. Take a break at the "Lefferts Lounge." Grab a glass of lemonade, sample a Little Mo crafted cocktail, or enjoy a tasting of wine provided by DRINK. And there will be live jazz from 1:30-3:30pm!

Note: No children under 12 except infants in front packs only

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT: leffertsmanor.org
EMAIL: leffertsmanorassoc@gmail.com
FACEBOOK: PLG House Tour 2025 #plghousetour

REFRESHMENT DONATIONS WELCOME
Bring baked goods to 106 Midwood on Saturday 5/31 12-2pm

House Tour 51: What's On View

By Roberta Woelfling

The Prospect Lefferts Gardens House & Garden Tour is back again this year, and while the weather is usually excellent on the day of the house tour, the event will go on rain or shine.

PLG's 51st house tour is full of personality, color and flavor. Eight sets of homeowners have generously agreed to open their homes and gardens so tour goers can get a glimpse of what exists beyond the buildings' facades. As house tours start to disappear in Brooklyn, we are pleased that PLG's is still going strong. As always, we encourage friends and neighbors to come out and support this event. It's great running into people you know on the sidewalks or chatting with other tour goers while viewing the fabulous venues. This year's tour has a compact footprint so there will be plenty of time to see everything and enjoy street views in between. It extends from Lefferts Avenue to Rutland Road and from Flatbush to Rogers Avenues.

Here's a preview of what you'll see on this year's tour…

A **1906 brick rowhouse with terracotta ornament** designed by architect Frank S. Lowe, that has been renovated and updated to reflect its owners' love of color. Without fear, bold choices were made. The kitchen is pale pink to match the refrigerator. The staircase and some walls are vibrant blue. And the trimmed openings are yellow, green, and rusty orange. Floor tiles are equally vivid! This daring medley is not to be missed.

A **brick and limestone townhouse** designed in 1897 by architect John J. Petit. The look of the open ground floor lends a nod to the traditional styling of the house but with super modern pendant lights and a state-of-the-art kitchen. The clean and bright parlor upstairs features slender Ionic columns and a stunning, over-sized contemporary chandelier. The rear study is pure luxury with gold crown mouldings and ceiling coffers.

A **ground floor apartment with a rear garden**. Wall covering with tropical palms leaves, exposed brick and collections

Photo: Martin Friedman

of antiques from Hong Kong and beyond are what you'll find at this exotic gem. Treasures everywhere! The backyard is a Zen place to entertain and hang out.

A **neo-Renaissance brownstone** designed in 1909 by Brooklyn architect Benjamin Driesler features a kitchen that has an industrial vibe with exposed wood joists and brick walls, an opened-up rear wall with steel windows and doors, and deep emerald-green kitchen cabinets. Matte black accents are found throughout the house, on the walls, fireplace, bathtub etc.

An **'L' shaped rear/side garden** in a three-story limestone designed by Axel Hedman in 1909. This shady oasis was designed and planted to attract songbirds and bees. The weathered pine tree has a mysterious quality, and the dark pebbled ground cover adds to the ambiance. The neo-Japanese styled portal/gate from the driveway and the perimeter fencing are a

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Keeping the House Tour Tradition Alive

By Thea Ulrich-Lewis

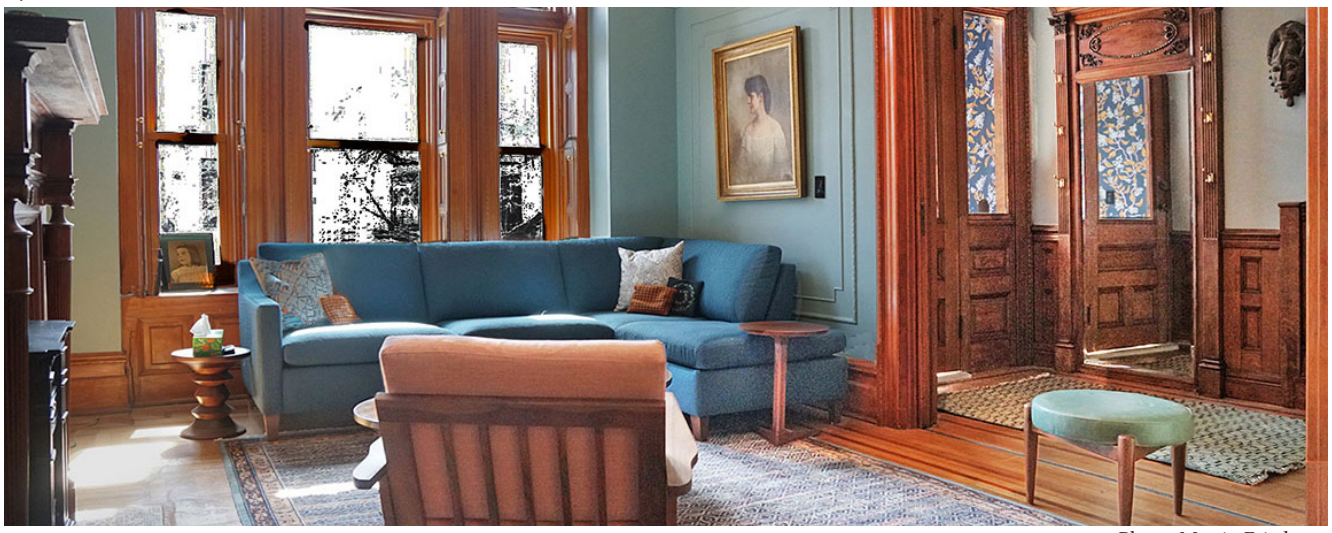

Photo: Martin Friedman

The PLG House Tour has always been a cherished tradition in our family. My parents moved into the neighborhood over 35 years ago, just a year before I was born. Since then, the tour has been part of our lives. Growing up in the 1990s, I remember walking to Midwood I with my mom for planning meetings. She often helped with the planning or served as a tour guide, and I remember delivering flower arrangements on tour day. I have vivid memories of being taken from house to house—sometimes eagerly, sometimes reluctantly, depending on my age.

As my brother and I moved out and started our own lives, our connection to the tour became more distant. We didn't attend for many years, but the event stayed a regular topic of conversation with our parents. We talked about which homes were featured, what renovations were done, who had original moldings or standout gardens. It was a way to stay close to the neighborhood and each other, and to dream about what could be for our house.

Our parents hoped to renovate the house and put it on the tour, and while they were able to make some upgrades and improvements over the years, other priorities meant this hope was never realized. When we inherited the house, my brother and I knew we had a big task ahead of us to renovate it. As our remodel progressed, we started to wonder: was it finally time for our house to be on the tour? Our parents never included it, but we felt ready to share it.

We're excited and honored to be part of this tradition. It feels like a full-circle moment, and we're proud to contribute to the history of a neighborhood and take part in this 51-year tradition!

The History of the LMA Flower Barrel Project

By Mary Miller

Have you ever wondered how long the Lefferts Manor Flower Barrel Project has been going on? The deterioration of some of the old oak barrels may make it obvious that this is not a new project. It actually started around 1985.

Nancy Asher, a board member from Midwood I, was thinking of a beautification project, especially one to improve the many derelict tree pits. She came up with the idea of flower barrels to be placed along the curb. I became her second-in-command.

We surveyed the neighborhood and asked who might be interested in paying for a barrel and topsoil. After a small pilot was successful, we got orders for 90 barrels the following year. We sourced the barrels and topsoil from the Terminal Market, and Jim Davis of Rutland I stored the barrels in his driveway and drilled holes in the bottom of each one.

The distribution of the barrels and topsoil (two 40-pound bags per barrel) occurred on a remarkably warm day in late May. Nancy was a great general, who had her troops well in order, but it was a memorable undertaking. John Milby told me my face was as red as a beet as we rolled barrels and lugged sacks of topsoil to their destinations.

The planting of the barrels was not as dramatic. The Lefferts Manor Association paid for the flowers, and volunteers, as always, contributed their labor. We started with geraniums, then turned to impatiens when passersby tended to twist the flower heads off the geraniums. Begoonias replaced impatiens during an impatiens fungus siege. Then back to impatiens.

Over the years the barrels became such a sign of our neighborhood that Vince Lisi incorporated them into our logo. I hope they remain an emblem of LMA and the cooperative spirit of our neighborhood for years to come.

The Lefferts Manor Echo is published by The Lefferts Manor Association. Please send comments or article ideas to editor David Flumenbaum at leffertsmanorecho@gmail.com.The Echo reserves the right to edit or omit article submissions. We thank the writers and photographers who contributed to this issue. ©2025 Lefferts Manor Association

New Hardware Store Adds to Rogers Renewal

By Pam Glaser

If you live on the Flatbush side of the neighborhood, you may not be spending a lot of time on Rogers Avenue, discovering the new retail options that are popping up. But as the weather warms up, I highly recommend a Rogers stroll: perhaps starting on the west side, just below Empire, at the tiny Italian espresso and pastry shop Bomberino, and moving south, checking out Pasa Pasa, Trove (formerly Glou) and The Green Room.

Cross to the east side of Rogers and pass The Bobbed Bandit, Anything, Hamlet coffee shop, and you will have come to Maple.

It's likely that you are already familiar with the block between Maple and Midwood streets: neighborhood stalwart PLG Café is there, the now-you-see-it, now-you-don't music venue The Owl, and the FDNY station. This is where you will discover a new hardware store at 485 Rogers. Proprietor Fouad "Frank" Basha has been in the hardware business for much of the 30 years he has been New York, including working in stores on Fifth and Franklin Avenues in Brooklyn. When he was scouting locations for his own place, Frank noticed that there was no other hardware store on the PLG stretch of Rogers Avenue.

Originally from Yemen, Frank and his family are residents of Southern Brooklyn, near Kings Plaza, and previously lived in Flatbush.

While business has been slow since he opened just after the New Year, Frank has been impressed by how friendly the locals have been, sticking their heads in and chatting with him as he has loaded in all the stock. Now he is hoping that local homeowners and apartment building supers stop by the store, get to know what is on offer, and say hello to him and his employee, Wilke. Frank's has the bags of soil and gardening tools you may need for spring planting and garden shapeup; and the cleaning, painting, plumbing, carpentry and electrical supplies you expect. And if you find yourself peering in the windows while walking the dog, go on in. Pets are welcome!

Photo: Pam Glaser

House Tour 51

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cedar-toned, natural wood channeling the Pacific Northwest.

A **1899 brick and stone rowhouse** design by George Lawton that's been renovated top to bottom. The original wood detailing is complimented by thoughtful new work that heavily features the color blue. There are two main bedroom suites in this house and a cozy library that walks out to the backyard. And surprise... there's a TV room with bar and a gym downstairs AND upstairs, and a staircase leading up to the roof terrace through a huge operable skylight.

A **Roman brick and stone house** that is one of many in a row designed in 1899 by George Lawton. The dining room is dripping with original detail and complimented by a large-scale floral wallcovering. The kitchen has an old-world patina with thick marble counters and solid brass fixtures. It is open and bright with European multi-paned doors and windows that offer views of the all-white flower garden beyond.

A **classically inspired brick rowhouse** designed in 1921 by architect Peter J. Collins. This unique three-story house features an enviable attached garage, a rear basketball setup and a stunning roof terrace. The interiors are spacious and bright. The kids' domain up top has two cute dormer windows that add to the playfulness of the room.

And when a break is needed, take advantage of the refreshment stop. "The Lefferts Lounge" will offer tour-goers a place to relax in a lush backyard, wet their whistle and enjoy some live entertainment arranged by PLG Arts.

HOUSE TOUR BONUS

Landscaper David Tockman of Tulip King Brooklyn will be on hand at the Midwood I garden stop to offer guidance and answer questions about Brooklyn backyards and outdoor space (like the garden gate pictured below!)

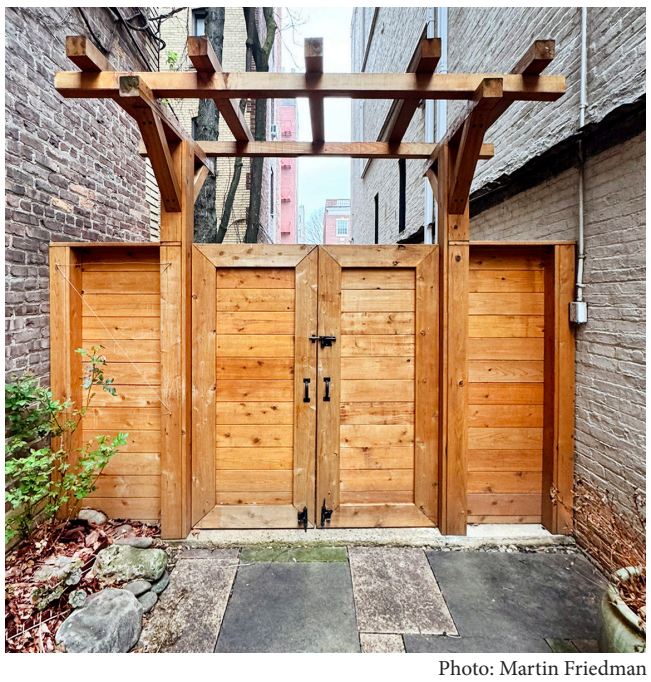

Photo: Martin Friedman

Five Plants That Will Thrive in Your Manor Tree Well

By Jackie Harrison

Street trees and perennials flourish together in our neighborhood thanks to large tree wells lining the blocks. The plants that work best in tree wells are shallow-rooted, or spread by rhizome, which means they do not compete with our street trees. If you're wondering what to plant in our wells, here's a list of hearty, low maintenance perennials I've seen thrive.

1) **Iris** was a popular garden plant in the 1920s, making it a likely garden favorite of the first residents of The Manor. There are endless varieties available in nearly every color. Successful varieties found in the neighborhood's gardens include **tall bearded iris** and **Siberian iris** . Stroll any block in late April through early June, and you are sure to see an Iris in full flower. They prefer well-drained soil and a somewhat sunny location. Once established, Iris are easy to divide, making them a great plant to share with your neighbors!

2) **Hardy geranium**, also known as Cranesbill, is one of the earliest plants up with the bulbs in the spring and one of the last to remain, with beautiful color in the autumn. And better still, they flower all summer long! There are a number of great performers on display throughout The Manor. **Geranium 'Bevans Variety'** is one of the largest, with big foliage and a purple flower. **Geranium 'Biokovo'** is a white flowering variety. **Geranium 'Max Frei'** is a smaller leafed variety with brilliant magenta blooms.

3) **Solomon's seal** is a true no-maintenance perennial that adds elegance. The plant thrives in shady, moist locations, making it perfect for a spot where not much else will grow. There are two popular varieties of Solomon's seal often found in Manor gardens. **Variegated solomon's seal** is the most common and will grow densely once established. The larger **solomon's seal** is a native plant, with graceful arching stems.

4) Indigenous to the woodlands of the New York State, **Heuchera 'Autumn Bride,'** is a native plant well-adapted to local conditions, even here in Brooklyn! A great performer in nearly every lighting condition, its delicate white flowers rise above velvety green foliage in late summer. Heuchera, also known as **coral bells**, is available in a variety of colors, though only some of the varieties are native.

5) For difficult, sunny or dry locations, **Yucca 'Adam's Needle'** is a great native plant whose sculptural leaves attract moths and hummingbirds. Each summer, mature yucca plants produce a dramatic flowering stalk that can read nearly six feet! Yucca looks great in a planter as well as in the ground. Both drought and salt-tolerant, yucca will stand up to the most difficult NYC tree well conditions.

Good luck in the garden this growing season. Rooting for you!

The 2nd Annual Great PLG Stoop & Sidewalk Sale
Sat, June 14, 2025 11am to 4pm
(Rain date: June 15)

Scan the QR for more info.

Meet Your Neighbor: Jerry Bennett

Interview by Patricia Swan; Portrait by Kendra Williams

Originally from South Carolina, Jerry is a long-time resident of Rutland II and the Treasurer of Lefferts Manor Association. He has been responsible for the distribution of Pepperidge Farm cookies and crackers in this part of Brooklyn for almost 50 years. He recently spoke with The Echo about PLG.

When did you move to Prospect Lefferts Gardens?
I came in 1974 as a renter, then bought a home in 1982.

What was it about PLG that made you choose to move here?
I was living in Crown Heights, but I used to pass through PLG as a teenager on my way to Erasmus High School. It was so beautiful—green and lush.

What's the best change you've seen in the neighborhood since you've been here?
Property values! I believe that the value of PLG homes will stay strong, because the neighborhood is so unique. Even when the 2008 recession came, and property values in other parts of Brooklyn and the rest of the city went down, PLG property values paused, but they didn't go down.

What do you most wish had stayed the same from when you moved here?
I wish a lot of my friends were still here. Some have passed, some have just moved on. I miss them.

What's your favorite neighborhood spot or secret?
PLG Cafe. I'm friends with the owner. I go there a lot.

Anything else to add about PLG?
Overall, I will say that the vibe of the neighborhood is different since I first came here: not better, not worse—just different!

Dues are $25 per household or $15 per senior citizen household. Dues cover January through December 2025.

Pay online by using QR code below or clicking on membership link at LeffertsManor.org or go to Lefferts-Manor-Association.square.site.

Or make checks payable to Lefferts Manor Association. Send or drop-off payment with your name, address and contact info noted to:

Linda Leon, 50 Maple St., Brooklyn, NY 11225

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