



Black Rock Gardens Cooperative *Community Newsletter*

Spring Edition: April 2019

“Kindness is the language which the deaf can hear and the blind can see.” -MarkTwain



Welcome Back!

The Return of the BRGC Newsletter

We're pleased to present the first edition of the updated BRGC newsletter. The newsletter has been a beloved tradition for many years and now that the committee responsible for producing it has re-formed and resumed meeting, we plan on publishing one every quarter in accordance with the seasons.

The mission of the newsletter is not only to share current information relevant to the BRGC community, but to include content with a nod to our past as well. As residents of a unique and historic cooperative located in a city that has largely mirrored this country's changing economic and social landscape, we think that looking back is as integral to our identity as looking ahead.

In that regard, we're lucky to have Paul Baudner, Jack Lyons, and Steve Golias featured in this edition. Paul, a local historian, has written a piece about Bridgeport movie theaters through the decades; Jack is profiled in the "Get To Know A Neighbor" feature as the resident who has lived here the longest; and Steve chronicles the creation of his beautiful vegetable garden. Finally, Board President Nancy Worriolow shines a light on a neighborhood staple, The Black Rock Senior Center.

Our hope is that the newsletter in its present form will provide a pleasant and informative way for us to connect to each other, to our homes, and to the greater Bridgeport community in which we live. If you're interested in joining the committee or have an idea for a submission, please come to the next meeting. All are welcome. While we may be "accidental" neighbors by virtue of choosing to live here, we can promote greater familiarity and camaraderie with each other simply by writing and reading what's shared on these pages.

-Cover photo by Gemma Tummolo



Neighborhood Notes

A Hidden Gem in Plain Sight: *The Black Rock Senior Center* - Nancy Worrillow

We all know that BRGC is a prime location for the beach, the train, restaurants and movies. Did you also know that we are right across the street from the Black Rock Senior Center? The Center is one of four senior centers established in Bridgeport by the Department on Aging. Their mission is that “all Bridgeport seniors will be able to reach their full potential by providing opportunities for socialization, elderly education, information and referrals and other supportive services to increase awareness of nutrition, health and wellness, transportation, fitness, preparedness, social services, recreation and leisure activities that promote an appropriate level of independence.”

The Center offers classes in Tai Chi, Zumba, Fall Prevention, Technology Training, Balance, and Weights at either no cost or for a donation of \$1.00. Movies, bingo and occasional field trips are also on the calendar. Lunch is available for \$3.00 on certain days, with holiday lunches or dinners also offered. For more information, drop by the Center and pick up a schedule available at their front desk. If you are over 60, take advantage of your tax dollars and join a class or have a meal. You may even bump into some of your neighbors. [Black Rock Senior Center, 2676 Fairfield Avenue, (203) 243-7248.]

Historical Perspectives: *The City of Twenty Movie Theaters* - Paul Baudner

Through the decades Bridgeport was the home to twenty movie theaters. Two of them were located in our community. In fact, one was directly across the street from our complex. The Orpheum Theater opened in 1916 at 2470 Fairfield Avenue on the corner of Princeton Street. The Second New Light Church Thrift Shop now stands where the theater was located.

The Orpheum had one screen and 492 seats. The front of the building had a tall round façade to make it look taller than it actually was. Above the entry doors was a large three-sided marquis. A Bridgeport Musicians Union directory listed two members employed by the Orpheum. Musicians and sometimes other entertainers would perform before and between the movies. This is how the famous Radio City Rockettes got their start in New York. In 1930 it was renamed the Black Rock Cinema. It operated under that name until 1951 when it became the Art Cinema. The Art Cinema put up a large neon V-shaped marquis. The marquis was so modern for its time that it won a local design award. The Art Cinema closed in 1957 and was demolished.

A few blocks down the street stood the Beverly Theater at 3029 Fairfield Avenue. The building is still standing and is the home of Black Rock U-Haul. The Beverly opened in 1949. It had one screen and 978 seats on one level. The design of the building was mid century modern. A company called the Elmwood Theater Corporation operated the Beverly as well as a chain of theaters in Connecticut.

The Beverly had great name recognition. In the early 50's a neighboring restaurant which is now the Hub and Spoke was called The Beverly Restaurant. In 1964 a fixture of our community, Beverly Pizza, opened. Toward the end of its life the Beverly showed second run



movies for \$.99. The movie, combined with a pizza, was a great affordable night out for many students. The Beverly and the Showcase Bridgeport, which opened in 1995, were the only two theaters to open in Bridgeport after World War II. The Beverly closed in 1985.

Get To Know A Neighbor: *Jack Lyons*

Meet Jack Lyons. Jack was born on June 3, 1948, at which time his family resided at 55 Nash Street in Apartment 1. When they had the opportunity, they moved to the larger 5 room unit on Brewster, where he lives today.

Jack's memories growing up, typify the 50's American childhood of innocence. There were mostly families living here. On each of the two circles there were 30 or more kids play with every day. On the Brewster circle was a grand old playground of yesteryear, eventually deemed dangerous, as they all were, and replaced with the boring but safe plastic versions of fun. There was a sky high slide, swings that entered the tree tops, and a favorite was a sandbox large enough for 20 kids to play in. Jack remembers days filled with hide and seek and tag. Wiffle ball was played against the buildings with first floor being a first base hit, second floor, second base and so on. Occasionally a window was broken and the kids "ran like hell".



to

Many of the trees had rope swings and the kids found barrels in which to roll down the hill. The back area where the vegetable gardens are today, was the football field. Kids played until dark and all lined up after dinner at 6:00 for the ice cream truck that came every night in the summer. Strolling through the neighborhood was an organ grinder with his dancing monkey. Kids threw coins in his cup to watch him dance. There was the laundry man who picked up everyone's clothes and brought them back clean and folded, the milkman with his occasional treat of chocolate milk.

At 8 years old, Jack was the paperboy for BRGC. The kids all went to the Black Rock School when they were small but many transferred to private schools for high school. Jack went to Notre Dame where he was a local track star, running 1/4 mile in 51 seconds. As a teenager, the kids from BRGC hung out at Black Rock Duckpins which is where the Cuban Club is today. The bowling alley also had pinball machines and pool tables. Many of the kids were pinsetters. Their job was to stand at the back of the lane and reset the pins after every roll before there was automation.

Jack said the lanes are the existing floor in the Cuban Club. Paramount Pizza was Collin's Pharmacy. The teenagers went there for 5 cent sodas. United Cigars was another store that in addition to cigars, sold penny candy and 45's. Jack bought his very first 45 there; Jerry Lee Lewis, Great Balls of Fire. Next to United Cigar was Namian's Fur Taxidermy. They had all the taxidermy animals up front in the windows and sold fur coats in the back of the store.



Where the Senior Center is now, was a firehouse and a small police station. On Fairfield Ave, which was a very busy road then, pre-I95, there was a fruit stand. Occasionally one of the boys would steal an apple and run down the street. If the cop on the beat caught him, he would put him in a jail cell for an hour to warn him about the consequences of stealing. Teenagers could also take the bus to enjoy a vibrant downtown Bridgeport; to shop in the department stores, record stores, candy shops, and the 5&10 cent stores.

Jack’s life changed when at 20, he was drafted to Vietnam. He spent one year as the Night Guard, for the Army’s 56th Transport Aircraft Direct Support. He remembers leaving for Vietnam and still feeling like a kid, and after a year of fearing everyday for his life, coming back a different person. Although he was lucky to have survived his experience, he was a victim of Agent Orange, as were all of his friends. He returned to BRGC a well decorated Vietnam Vet with 2 Bronze stars and 2 Presidential Citations. Jack got married, moved out of the neighborhood, had two boys and became the Black Rock mailman for 47 years.

After his mom died and he got divorced, he moved back into his childhood home at BRGC. Jack is now retired. He has one son living with him and enjoys a great deal of time with his granddaughter. He loves going to concerts with his son. He has many more stories to tell about BRGC and the changes he has lived through. The one thing he feels has not changed is how nice the people always were that lived here. *-Interview with Nancy Worriow*

BRGC Real Estate Updates (as of 3/28/19)

For Sale		Recently Sold	
3 Room		3 Room	
61 Rowsley St. #4	\$69,500		
44 Haddon St. #2	\$69,500		
61 Rowsley St. #1	\$69,900		
4 Room		4 Room	
81 Nash St. #4	\$97,900	13 Nash St. #3 (3/2019)	\$69,900
78 Rowsley St. #2	\$134,900		
2773 Fairfield Ave. #3	\$50,500		
2759 Fairfield Ave. #3	\$108,000		
2773 Fairfield Ave. #6	\$125,000		
5 Room		5 Room	
78 Haddon St. #5	\$139,500	108 Rowsley St. #3 (3/2019)	\$79,500



Bloom 'n Grow

Garden News: *Interview with Steve Golias*

One of the special things about living at BRGC is the ability to have a garden. Most apartment dwellers don't have that privilege. In addition, we are lucky enough to have vegetable gardens and we have our neighbor, Steve Golias, to thank for it.

In 2003, Steve dug out, with the help of our maintenance department, the first vegetable patch in the small area at the back of the remote parking lot. As his vegetables grew, so did his garden. Other neighbors, like Judy Noel, decided it was a great idea and Judy became the second farmer. Shortly after, Judy's daughter Deb was also gardening. Now we have several neighbors growing everything from tomatoes to eggplants, cucumbers and squash.

Steve started his vegetable garden because gardening has always been a hobby of his, one that he didn't want to give up when he moved here. Vegetable gardening works into his life as a chef. Steve was one of the last graduates of the Culinary Institute of America in New Haven, before they relocated to their prestigious address in Hyde Park on the Hudson. Steve was also the gardener on our maintenance crew for seven years.



Steve manages the gardening area. If you are interested in having a small area for vegetables, call Steve at 203-367-4373. He will talk to you about the rules; keeping your garden neat, clean and well taken care of.

There are limited spaces so making the commitment to the space, also means making the commitment to take care of it. Steve can show you what space is available for this season and he can give you expert recommendations about how and what to grow. If you like the idea of growing your own vegetables this summer, talk to Steve. You can see him any day of the week walking around with his beloved Schnauzers, Axel and Schwartz. Hurry because it is almost time to put your gardening gloves on!



What's Happening

Apr 1- May 1, 2019 Mon-Wed @10am-6pm, Fri-Sat @10am-3pm; **BGRC resident Paul Baudner** will be presenting a showcase exhibit of vintage images of spring and summer in Bridgeport at the Easton Library, 691 Morehouse, Rd Easton, CT. Free to all.

Apr 4/5, 2019 Fri. 5-9pm / Sat. 5-8pm: [Shades of Black and Blue](#) Art show by local artists Clyde Theophilus McLaughlin and **BRGC resident Meighan Morrison**; Blends Gallery, 1163 Main St., Bridgeport. Free to all. Complimentary wine, snacks and music.

Apr 5, 2019 Fri. 6pm; [Black Rock Art Guild \(BRAG\) Open Reception](#) BRAG will be celebrating poetry month with poetry and artwork during the month of April at the Fairfield University Bookstore, 1499 Post Rd, Fairfield, (203) 255-7756. The BRAG membership includes several artists who live here at BRGC. Come out and support your artist neighbors.

Apr 11, 2019 Thus. 5:30-7pm; [Citizens Forum; Save Black Rock Harbor](#) Black Rock School Gym; 545 Brewster St. Bridgeport. Come and learn about what can be done to stop the polluting of the harbor. There will be speakers and an open Q&A.

Apr 27, 2019 Sat. 7pm: [Black Rock Day Parade Fundraiser](#) Norden Club; 4 Seabright Ave, Bridgeport (203) 366-9618. More details to follow but in the meantime, save the date and spread the word!

May 18, 2019 Sat. 8:30am: [Walk to End Homelessness](#) Captain's Cove; Bridgeport. Registration 8:30am; Walk Begins 9:30am; Sponsored by Alpha Community Services YMCA. Call for more details, (203) 366-2809 x2502.

May 23, 2019 Thurs. 7pm: [Yiddish Cabaret](#) hosted by Congregation for Humanistic Judaism of Fairfield County; 4200 Park Ave., Bridgeport. FREE! Donations to the Saul Haffner Jewish Enrichment Fund are welcomed. Please reserve your table via email to: chjctprograms@gmail.com, with the number of people in your party.

May 23 - Aug 4, 2019 Opening reception Thurs. May 23 at 7pm [Black Rock Exhibit at Fairfield Museum](#) hosted by Black Rock 375. "Celebrate 375 years of Black Rock's rich community history and heritage through rare artifacts and photographs in this anniversary exhibition." 370 Beach Rd., Fairfield, 203-259-1598.

Jun 1, 2019 Sat. 1pm: [#100GirlsLeading](#) McLevy Green, Bridgeport. "The girls will get a chance to interact/ be connected with women who are leading STRONGLY in their careers and making an impact in their communities. Finally the girls will be exposed to different mentoring programs Bridgeport & surrounding areas offers."

Jun 7, 2019 [BRAG artists celebrating Black Rock 375 Anniversary](#) During the month of June at HARBORVIEW Market BRAG will host a joint celebration/reception. The artwork will be depicting life here in Black Rock. BRAG will also be displaying artwork at the Burroughs Center during June.



Hummus To Your Own Taste (for a lot less dough!)

If any of you attended the Christmas party at Nelson’s last year, you might have tasted his wonderful homemade hummus. Instead of waiting for next year’s gathering, we asked if he would share his recipe and he kindly obliged. *Enjoy!*

Let’s Get Cooking!



Ingredients

- 2 cups canned chickpeas (reserve the drained liquid)
- ½ cup tahini
- ¼ cup olive oil

Suggested quantities to taste; less or more: (*Go for It!*)

- 2 cloves of peeled garlic
- Juice of a lemon
- 1 Tablespoon ground cumin
- Salt and pepper

Directions

1. Drain the canned chickpeas but reserve the liquid.
2. Put all but the liquid in a food processor (a blender can work but a food processor is better) and let her rip.
3. The idea is for it to become very smooth but firm. Add the reserved liquid from the chickpea can SLOWLY until the desired consistency is reached. There should be enough liquid but if not, you can use water.
4. Taste and adjust the seasonings to your liking. Optional chopped parsley to garnish.

Lemon Roasted Asparagus

Asparagus is high in fiber, vitamins A, C, E and K, and is a good source of chromium and folate. Here’s a simple way to enjoy this quintessential spring veggie. Makes a great side for the Easter or Passover table.

Ingredients

- 1 lb fresh asparagus , trimmed
- 2 tbsp olive oil
- 2 cloves garlic , minced
- 2 tbsp parmesan , grated
- 1 lemon , thinly sliced
- 2 tbsp freshly squeezed lemon juice (approx. 1 lemon)
- 1/2 tsp sea salt
- 1/4 tsp ground black pepper

Directions Preheat oven to 400F. Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment paper. Add the asparagus, lemon slices, olive oil, lemon juice, sea salt, ground black pepper, minced garlic, and parmesan cheese to the **baking sheet** and toss to evenly coat. Place in the oven and roast for 8-10 minutes or until the asparagus is crisp on the outside and tender in the center.



BRGC Committee Announcements

Social Committee is Formed -Committee Co-Chairs Gemma Tummolo and Lisa Lawliss

We are so excited to have had our first BRGC SOCIAL COMMITTEE meeting on 3/14/19. It was both well attended and enthusiastically received. It looks like we have a great group of residents with fun ideas to kick off the spring at BRGC. Our first event will be a Memorial Day Picnic in the main courtyard. Watch for updates with more details.



The Social Committee proudly presented its first Apartment Closing WELCOME BASKET on March 22nd at the BRGC office. All contents including the basket were locally sourced by foot from beloved neighborhood businesses.

- Photos by Doreen Birdsell



Newsletter Committee: Call for Submissions -Committee Chair Nelson Johnson

The Newsletter Committee relies on the participation of all BRGC residents to make the most of this publication. Here are some ways you can contribute:

- **ADVISE** Let us know what you would like to see in the Summer Edition: Coming events, interesting organizations or establishments in the area, fun things to do, a neighbor profile, a kind action of a neighbor acknowledged, a generous garden area maintained by a neighbor and many other things that you can think of that we may not.
- **CONTRIBUTE** Become a published author: Submit comments, thoughts, recipes, jokes, stories, poems, reflections on what you like about our home and the Black Rock area. Write about the history of the area or the Coop, especially if you are a long-time resident with unique knowledge. Tell us what it was that lead you here and the reason you decided to purchase.
- **COPY 'n PASTE** Pass along materials from other sources (with citations): Articles, quotations, poems, recipes, passages of literature that seem appropriate to our shared but unique experience.
-

If you have something to share for the next edition, you can (1) email it to Nelson Johnson at Nellojtwo@yahoo.com with "Newsletter" in the subject line; (2) drop it off at the office with the request to pass it on to the Newsletter Committee, or (3) place it the mailbox of Apartment #2, 29 Haddon Street. Please include your name and a way to get in touch with you. And, please, no anonymous submissions or comments. **Submission deadline for the Summer Edition is June 7, 2019.** We hope to hear from you.



Board Notes

Being a new Board, we are overwhelmed by both the challenges and the opportunities here at BRGC. The dynamics of serving 36 buildings, with over 400 people on 6.5 acres of a 100 year old property is daunting. The greatest advantage we have is the people. The many talented, gifted, hard working, knowledgeable and supportive people who make the job possible. From people who have helped us make the office clean, organized and beautiful, to the people who have stepped up to address the rewriting of our bylaws and many others have contributed so much. The newly formed committees have provided an opportunity to meet new friends, write articles, be a photographer or a graphic artist, share gardening experiences and help recreate picnics from the past. These committees are helping us accomplish our goal of creating a vibrant community.



A community that provides opportunities to get together, volunteer together, pursue and even learn new interests together, is hard to find in our changing world. Everyone who lives here is a valuable member of BRGC and has something to contribute. Come to the monthly board meetings and share your interests and ideas. Join one of the committees. Take advantage of living here at Black Rock Garden Cooperatives. If you are too busy for all of that, we hope to see you at one of the picnics this summer!

We are grateful to be given the opportunity to serve on this Board. We will continue to do our best to help create, with each of you, a community that provides a positive and supportive place to call home.

Nancy WorriLOW - President

Erin Walsh - Vice President

Wanda Weber - Secretary

John Oh - Treasurer

Margi Tallman



This Newsletter has been approved by the Black Rock Gardens Cooperative Board of Directors and the content herein is provided solely at the discretion of the Board and the Newsletter Committee.