



# Black Rock Gardens Cooperative Community Newsletter

Summer Edition: July 2019

*“We must become the sanctuary we seek. By stopping to listen, we connect with one another and true community is born.” - Jack Kornfield*

## Summertime and the Livin’ is Easy

A BRGC tradition was revived on Memorial Day when the Social Club hosted a community picnic in the Rowsley courtyard. It was heartwarming to see so many residents gathered together enjoying each other’s company. Thanks to all who worked so hard to make this event happen. We truly appreciate your efforts. For more photos and info, see the special photo spread at the back of the Newsletter and the BRGC Club and Committee Announcements section.



As we move into the warmer months of the season, we can begin to enjoy the fruits of recent groundskeeping efforts. Grub-free lawn growth and splendid edged garden beds are projects that highlight the horticultural aspect of our shared living space; a focus that allows for maximum benefit across the community. Whether on the way to our cars in the morning or out on an evening stroll, the beauty of our natural surroundings are evident and inspiring.

Inspiration is the perfect word to describe the life of our featured *Get to Know A Neighbor* resident, Michela Griffo interviewed by fellow

resident Deb Larsen. Learn about Michela’s influential life and how she found her way to the neighborhood. And speaking of the neighborhood, Paul Baudner treats us to the fascinating history of that little gem on the corner, the Black Rock Library, and Nelson Johnson uncovers a paint recycling resource right down the street. Finally, we check in with Maintenance for updates and announcements.

*We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!*



Neighborhood Notes

Historical Perspectives: The Black Rock Library- Paul Baudner

The Black Rock library opened in a portable building at the corner of Fairfield and Melrose Avenue on July 1, 1922. In the first month three hundred thirty-three people signed up to use the library. The portable building was used for nine years.

In 1931 land was purchased from the Bridgeport Housing Authority who was the operator of the Garden Apartments at the time. The portable building was sold to the Boy Scouts who used it as a recreation hall at Lake Zoar in Newtown. Ground was broken on the building in August of 1931. While under construction an old bank building on Brewster Street served as a temporary library. The building went up quickly and was completed in February 1932. A total of \$50,000 was spent on the land and the building.

The Black Rock Library is a Carnegie library. A Carnegie library was one that could receive funding from the foundation set up by industrialist and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie. Between 1883 and 1929 a total of 2,509 Carnegie Libraries were built in the US and around the world. The money spent on libraries by this foundation was one of the largest philanthropic programs of all time. The design of the Black Rock Library, like other Carnegie libraries, was classic formal. Patrons would be welcomed through a permanent doorway reached by a staircase. The staircase symbolized one's elevation through learning. Also, outside each library were lampposts or lanterns that symbolized enlightenment.



The library closed for renovations in 2002. It re-opened in 2009. The building was expanded from 6000 ft.<sup>2</sup> to 11,000 ft.<sup>2</sup>. Additions were made to program rooms and one small conference room. Twelve public computer terminals were installed

In order to bring the building up to code and make it ADA compliant the outside stairs were eliminated. You can see from the outside where the old entrance was. The lanterns were lowered to line up with the new door. In the front of the building a lovely sky mural was painted by Connecticut artist Sacha Shotler. It has a great 3-D look. From the front the building looks very much the way it looked in 1931. It gives the neighborhood a nice vintage look.

Today besides offering standard library fare, the Black Rock library is a community center. It hosts all kinds of programs and events. Some of the notable ones are yoga, tai-chi, computer classes and movies. There is something for everyone. What a great neighbor!

Library Hours: Mon/Wed 10-6 ~ Tues/Thurs 12-8 ~ Friday/Sat 10-5 ~ CLOSED Sunday
Email: Bportlibrary.org ~ Telephone: 203.576.7025



## “Green” Solution for Old Paint Cans -*Nelson Johnson*

Many of us have paint and related items in our storage units that we no longer need and don't know how to dispose of. Section 3.1 of our by-laws state, “The long-term storage or accumulation of household combustibles, i.e....oil-based paints...is prohibited...Hazardous products are the responsibility of each leaseholder to dispose of in compliance with city, state and federal regulations”.

For peace of mind and a little extra space, there is an excellent solution - [Sherwin-Williams Paint Store at 695 Post Road Fairfield \(203-255-3523\)](#). They are a “Paint Care Recycling Center” and will accept up to 5 gallons “per visit” of old house paint, stain and varnish, urethanes, sealers and more, regardless of age.

This service is mandated by Connecticut's Paint Stewardship Law which charges manufacturers a fee for each can of paint sold in the state. Excluded are Paint thinners, Aerosol, auto and marine and craft paints and some other special items. I've returned paint and they are as delighted to see you as if you were making a purchase. Information about the program is available at [www.paintcare.org](http://www.paintcare.org) or 855.742.6809. Call if you are unsure.

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## Get To Know A Neighbor: *Up Close with Michela Griffio Artist, LGBTQ and Women's Rights Pioneer ~ Interviewed and Written by Deb T. Larsen ©2019*



In some people's lives you see clear milestones where if something else had happened in single moments their lives would be completely different. It's like that with Michela Griffio. Maybe it is with many of us that the cause and response cycle creates a reaction that is only half followed through or half ourselves rendering the turning points of our lives less... monumental. With Michela, there is always a response and it is always her responding.

By the time Michela was in her early twenties she had already experienced several such milestones in her life. She had been put into

Catholic convent school; ran away from extreme trauma at home alone to NYC; departed from her fiancé; and absorbed a first encounter (or two) with society's limitations for being a woman. Michela had wanted to be a Neurosurgeon with all of her heart and had never considered that she couldn't be based on her gender. In 1966 while working on her undergraduate degree in pre-med at University Michigan she had come to believe (even then) that psychosis was not simply caused by trauma, but that there were chemical reasons for it. Michela wanted access to brain physiology to prove it. Well I'll be damned- this was *pre-women's lib!* Ultimately her dream was shattered when her Guidance Counselor looked at her like she was nuts and said, “Your options *as a women* are Gynecologist, Pediatrician or Obstetrician”. To this day, it is her biggest regret. Many would beg to differ because- as Michela stood at that fork in the road she decided that if she couldn't do what she wanted to



in the medical field she would pursue her second love art, and guess what...? Her responses to the world were coming and she was going to make a difference no matter what.

It was June of 1969 as Michela was about to finish her Masters in Fine Art at Pratt Institute and was living on Horatio Street in NYC with her fiancé and high school sweetheart when the reality hit that there could never be a marriage due to religious differences. At the time, she had already started her political life by becoming a member of the Redstockings, the first feminist group whose purpose was to change the abortion laws in New York. Joining this group was a deeply personal mission for Michela whose friend almost died from an illegal abortion in Harlem when she was sixteen. Michela swore she would never see anyone go through that again.

Redstockings met every Saturday at Washington Square Methodist Church which was the hot bed for all the social action groups. Many new doors opened for Michela. It was there in August of 69 that she met a beautiful woman and wildly successful model holding an invitation to an Andy Warhol party. Once Michela finally figured out they were “dating” they fell in love and she never turned back. By then, Michela was one of the first members of the National Organization for Women and the New York Radical Feminist where she learned (much to her surprise) that she would lose her job and apartment because she was in love with a woman. Michela said, “This is unacceptable!! I am still the same person that I was!” It was just as unacceptable to her as Harlem was at sixteen. “No way!” she said, “I’m going do everything in my power to change this situation.” Well she looked in the back of the Village Voice and there was an ad for the Gay Liberation Front and they were doing everything she wanted to and were planning a march up Sixth Avenue- *the* march.

The events leading up to the First Gay Pride March and the march itself on June 28, 1970 were Michela’s proudest moments. Michela and the GLF women stood up to the police and the Mafia controlled gay bars in NYC by holding dances on the same streets and drawing the women away from the bars and standing up to their guns. By the time they marched up Sixth Avenue, the police wanted the lesbians dead because they had ruined their cash cow: the Mafia controlled bars. It was not the guys as everyone thinks, Michela said. “The guys didn’t want to rock the boat with regard to the mafia controlled bars as they were not dependent upon on the bars for meeting other gays and so for the most part didn’t get political until the eighties with the AIDS crisis. But the women cared. We had no place to meet each other!” So it goes, they got organized, and strong.

To look at Michela’s art it cannot be separated from her life and her personal experiences for to use a feminist sixties argument: the personal is political. Michela explains, “I knew I couldn’t sit around making abstract paintings. I wanted to tell the truth about our society”. Her work is political but not limited to her sexuality, the same she explained, was true of the GLF which was not just about our sexuality. “It wasn’t enough to just be gay. We had to be integrated into society and work with other marginalized groups. We wanted to educate people as to *who we were as people*”. She paints in a pop art style that is influenced by Warhol, Jasper Johns, and artists of her time in NYC but it is unlike any other, often incorporating her fascination with Disney narratives with social political commentary and a noir comic book style.

This month (pride month), Michela is a part the historic exhibit “Art after Stonewall: 1969 to 1989” at the Leslie Loman Museum of Gay and Lesbian Art in New York City. The show marks





an impressive who's-who of gay artists from the time. For those unfamiliar, Stonewall Inn police raid and uprising in June of 1969 in Greenwich Village marks the beginning of the modern movement for LGBTQ rights. This was the first *major* raid and the first to have continuance that echoed in the days and years to follow. The anti-war movement, the civil rights movement, Black Panthers, Young Lords, all of it, was born of the generation that now said, "We are going to change society!" ... "And we did," she said.

Immediately following Stonewall they met at Alternate University (then on 14th Street and 6th Avenue) and started planning the march. The Gay Liberation Front was born. Michela explains, "The GLF was the first political group to say we are not going to walk away from this. We are going to confront the police. We are going to confront the Mafia. And we are NOT going to be controlled anymore". They fought back, picketed, made noise, confronted the police, and were there as soon as someone was beaten. It was a vigilant full-time fight. "It wasn't just in the streets and in your face." Michela explained, "We were organizing to change society from within".

In May of 1970, the women of GLF (now a group called Radicalesbians) made history when they confronted the anti-lesbian feminists at the Second Congress to Unite Women while wearing t-shirts bearing the slur from Betty Friedan toward lesbians: LAVENDER MENACE. They got the first New York City gay rights bill to the City Council 1975. Michela was arrested and chained to city hall fence. She says, "We all got our heads beaten in a lot in those days but we were not going to stop until we had full civil liberties- not special rights. We wanted CIVIL RIGHTS." In 1977 the GLF was back on the streets along with people who had come out of the closet in droves to fight against Anita Bryant's outspoken opposition to gay rights, again fighting the Moral Majority for all social justice.

When the march became a parade Michela went MIA for a while until the AIDS crisis. During this time, Michela focused on painting and was in a very prominent show at the Aldrich Museum in Ridgefield, CT and had her first solo show. She also started freelancing as a Graphic Designer for top companies in NYC: American Express, Con Edison, Colgate-Palmolive and even though she struggled tremendously with substance abuse, she started "making money up the wazoo".

In 1984, Michela got sober and stopped making art but eventually found a new support system. After a hard come back, she went on to get a Masters in Social Work at 42 years old specializing in sexually abused children and adults, all the while working for Colgate-Palmolive for fourteen years as the Director of e-Communications as an independent contractor (which she wouldn't have any other way).

Michela eventually found a second home in Black Rock in 1998. Her partner at the time encouraged her to start making art again and she began showing her work in New Haven and got involved in running the Black Rock Arts Center in the old bank on the corner of Fairfield Avenue and Brewster Street whose mission was to promote cross cultural understanding in our community through the arts. For five years it ran art classes, films, and cultural diners bringing the different ethnic and cultural groups of our neighborhood together until then Mayor Finch forced them out in 2009.

Today, Michela lives both in NYC and (since 2005) at Black Rock Gardens Cooperative. She continues showing her art (which is still political) and is active with filming and speaking



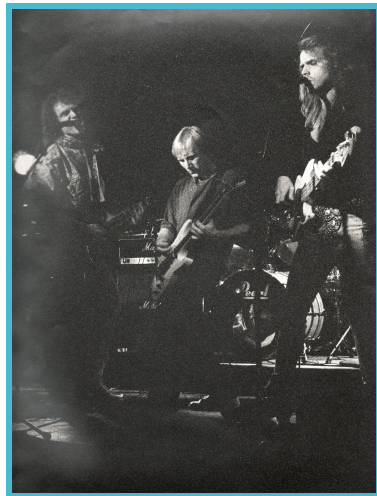
engagements. She also contributes to the greater good through philanthropy and volunteering several times a year with Remote Area Medical (ramusa.org). The poverty she sees right here in this country predominantly in the Deep South with working class poor whites who don't qualify for Medicaid but cannot afford medical treatment is deplorable, she says. "Once a rebel, always a rebel" is her motto. Thank you Michela- for your service, for your life, heart and soul.

### BRGC Real Estate Updates (as of 6/24/2019)

For Sale		Recently Sold	
<b>3 Room</b>		<b>3 Room</b>	
61 Rowsley, #1	\$64,900	61 Rowsley, #6	\$95,500
44 Haddon, #2	\$69,500	<b>4 Room</b>	
61 Rowsley, #4	\$69,500	2773 Fairfield, #6	\$120,000
		81 Nash, #4	\$93,000
		91 Rowsley, #4	\$125,000
		2773 Fairfield, #6	\$120,000
		<b>5 Room</b>	
		78 Haddon, #5	\$131,500
		590 Brewster, #2	\$90,000



By the time we get to BRGC, some of us have had as many lives as a cat. Can anyone guess whose former life is depicted in these photos?







## Bloom 'n Grow

It's the season when BRGC comes into full bloom. We're lucky to have so many gifted gardeners as neighbors and are grateful for their dedicated efforts. -Photos by Gemma Tummolo [Strawberry by Steve Golias]



### *The Summer Day* - by Mary Oliver

Who made the world?  
 Who made the swan, and the black bear?  
 Who made the grasshopper?  
 This grasshopper, I mean-  
 the one who has flung herself out of the grass,  
 the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,  
 who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and  
 down- who is gazing around with her enormous and  
 complicated eyes.  
 Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly  
 washes her face.  
 Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.  
 I don't know exactly what a prayer is.  
 I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
 into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
 how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through  
 the fields, which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?  
 Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?  
 Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
 with your one wild and precious life?





## Maintenance Updates

The 100 year-old BRGC complex is situated on 6.8 acres with a total of 216 units housed in 36 buildings each with its own boiler for heat and hot water. That adds up to 72 front and back hallways and porches that all require attention and upkeep. Our current maintenance crew consists of Dave Holodnak, manager, and John Talmage, who are full-time employees. Luke Benedict picks up the trash every Monday, Wednesday and Friday starting at 8 AM. Oscar Capriel cleans our front and back stairwells once every three weeks. The maintenance phone number is available 24/7 at 203.727.7380. Texting is not available.

What can we expect from our maintenance crew in the coming months? Dave and John are finishing up the foyers this week. In addition, they will be painting windows, front doors and back steps. Dave will be overseeing the cleaning of the boilers. Eighteen boilers are cleaned each year so that every other year the boilers are cleaned. The handling of leaseholder calls is sometimes a full time job with calls regarding lost keys, blown bulbs, leaking valves, no hot water, parking problems, noise issues, and more. Dave is also overseeing all renovation requests from the original paperwork, to ensuring proper permits and procedures and through to a final inspection.



Our bike racks are here! Dave and John did a great job installing the Varsity Bike Docks in the large parking area, and it wasn't easy! The ASLA (American Society of Landscape Architects) award winning bike docks are the invention of west-coast based Ground Control Systems. With 25 years of experience, Ground Control offers innovative and space efficient bike parking solutions and are the choice in over 100 college campuses. These docks are designed for u-shape locks which should go through both your tire and frame.



These have proven to be the safest of all locks. The docks are installed in a well lit area and will be regularly checked as our parking area is. Dave also created an air hose for our bike and car tires located at the shop near the large trash bins. Enjoy bike riding this summer in beautiful Black Rock, an ideal place to ride!



**REMINDER:** If you haven't already contacted Joe Dellamarggio about installing the spring-loaded hinges for your unit's front and back doors, please text or call him at 203.258.9153. Fire code requires that all units are outfitted with these devices, so 100% compliance is required. Call and schedule an appointment soon. It's quick and painless!





## *What's Happening*

**BRAG Members Art Show through July 31, 2019 at Harborview Market and Burroughs Center.** Last chance to see a joyous celebration of Black Rock inspired artwork featuring BRGC residents and neighbors.

**Annual Summer Concerts at St. Ann Field: Tuesdays through August 13th; 6:30pm-8:30pm** (August 13 will start at 6pm.) Rain dates are Wednesdays.

**July 11, 2019: We Rise Storytelling Event - Stories of Music and the Memories Between the Notes; 7pm; Hub and Spoke.** An evening of storytelling, song and community gathering. Free. Suggested donation \$10.

**July 13, 2019: 3rd Annual Classic and Antique Car Show; 9am-3pm; Captain's Cove.** To benefit the Lebo-DeSantie Center for Pancreatic and Liver Disease at St. Vincent's SWIM Across the Sound.

**July 25, 2019: Magic Show; Black Rock Branch Library; 6:30pm - 7:30pm; Program Room 2.** Join magician Jay Reidy for a fun trip into the world of magic and reading. This program is aimed at children 5 to 10 years of age and their families. Come in, have fun and take the magical feeling home!

**July 28, 2019: BRGC Midsummer Picnic; Rowsley Quad.** (Rain date August 4.)

**August 17, 2019: Goody Knapp Memorial Dedication; Burroughs Community Center.** Goody Knapp, a woman executed for witchcraft in 1653, will be honored.

**August 24, 2019: Porchest.** Join your Black Rock neighbors for this ultimate family friendly outdoor party. Dancing in the streets is encouraged!

**September 10, 2019: "The Charles Cooper"; 7pm; Fayerweather Yacht Club.** Dean Nest will tell the story of this merchant ship launched in Black Rock in 1856.

**September 14, 2019: Agricultural Fair; 10am-3pm; Greenfield Hill Grange, 1873 Hillside Rd., Fairfield.** Join resident Steve Geskos at Fairfield's only agricultural fair. Vendors, Raffles, Food, Crafts, Entertainment. There will be a juried Fruit/Veg/Baking contest. Entries welcome.

**September 25, 2019: "The Lighthouse"; Fairfield Museum & History Center.** Historian Jeremy D'Entremont, the leading expert on New England lighthouses, will be speaking.

**September 28, 2019: The Black Rock 375 Dinner Dance; 7pm; Captain's Cove.** Celebrating 375 years of this amazing community. For tickets visit [blackrock375.org](http://blackrock375.org).



**RUSSIAN POTATO SALAD** BRGC resident Adriana Dominguez contributed a tasty Russian potato salad at the Memorial Day picnic. Also known as the Olivier salad, it's a traditional dish popular in many post-Soviet countries as well as Iran, Israel, Mongolia and Latin America. There are many versions to choose from. Adriana included beets in hers, which gave the salad a lovely pink hue. Here is a basic recipe with different options. *Priyatnogo appetita! (Bon appetit!)*






Let's Get Cooking!



- 1 lb of potatoes
  - 2 large carrots
  - 3 hard boiled eggs
  - 1 cup of diced boiled chicken (or ham, bologna or sausage)
  - 1 apple (tart is best) or 1 cup pre-cooked beets
  - ½ cup each of celeriac; brined dill pickles; sweet corn; green peas (choose your own)
  - 1 medium red onion , diced into small cubes
  - ½ - 1 cup mayonnaise
  - Chopped dill
1. Boil and peel the potatoes, carrots, and eggs; peel apple; dice all into small cubes
  2. Mix mayonnaise, dill, and remainder of ingredients in large bowl .
  3. Salt and pepper to taste.

**Via Wikipedia:** *The original version of the salad was invented in the 1860s by a cook of Belgian origin, Lucien Olivier, the chef of the Hermitage, one of Moscow's most celebrated restaurants. Olivier's salad quickly became immensely popular with Hermitage regulars, and became the restaurant's signature dish. The exact recipe—particularly that of the dressing—was a zealously guarded secret, but it is known that the salad contained grouse, veal tongue, caviar, lettuce, crayfish tails, capers, and smoked duck, although it is possible that the recipe was varied seasonally. The original Olivier dressing was a type of mayonnaise, made with French wine vinegar, mustard, and Provençal olive oil; its exact recipe, however, remains unknown.*

**“Weber” on the Weber** Board Vice President Wanda Weber, one of the skilled grillers at this year’s picnic, offers a few tips for making the perfect burger:

-  Keep the burgers cold until they’re ready to throw on the grill. Staying cold right before hitting the grill will help hold in the juices.
-  Keep the lid closed while grilling.
-  Don’t press the burgers. You’ll squeeze all the moisture and flavor out.
-  Flip the burgers only once. Constant turning will toughen and dry out the meat. 3-4 minutes per side on high heat.
-  Let the burgers rest for a few minutes off the grill before serving. This allows them to finish cooking and redistribute the juices.



## BRGC Club and Committee Announcements

### Social Club: - Chairperson Gemma Tummolo

Our first event together was fun and memorable because so many residents and friends came out. The Memorial Day picnic truly had a “cooperative” spirit. We have great people here at BRGC. The Social Club would like to thank the following people: **Betsy Krobot** and **Wanda Weber** for doing most of the shopping and hauling as well as providing tables, chairs and many supplies. **Dave Krobot** and **Wanda Weber** for being our tireless and cheerful grillers. **Lisa Feistel** for helping with so much of the planning, set up, tables, providing the entrance booth and serving her iced tea. **Wendy Sawyer, Henrietta Bartovik, & Karen Andre** for their generosity and many hours of hard work setting up, and breaking down. **Colin Neenan** for printing and posting flyers. **Lisa Lawliss, Judy Noel** and **Henrietta Bartovik** for providing sound advice and decorating touches. A big thank you to **Nancy WorriLOW** for all of her support and hard work to help make it all happen. Finally, we will miss Lisa Lawliss as she moves out of state. *Goodbye and Good Luck, Lisa!*



Mark your calendars for **July 28th** when we will host a *Midsummer Picnic* in Rowsley Quad. (*Rain date is Aug 4th.*) We’re also in the planning stages of an outdoor movie night. Details to follow. Hope to see you all there!

### Newsletter Club: Chairperson Nelson Johnson

We are pleased to report that the April Newsletter was a resounding success. Thanks to all who contributed and to those who took the time to give us feedback. This is a community effort, so the more voices we include in these pages the greater reflection we can provide of the diversity of experience and interests represented in the BRGC family. If there’s a resident you know who you think the rest of us should know too, contact us about the possibility of interviewing them. Please submit your ideas for interviews or articles or dates for events happening in the area by emailing them to [Nellojtwo@yahoo.com](mailto:Nellojtwo@yahoo.com). Better yet, join us at a meeting. Look for upcoming meeting announcements.

### COURTESY ALERT !!!

When walking your dogs on the property, please steer them clear of all flower/garden beds. Dog urine contains waste products that can harm plants, resulting in burned, wilted leaves, damaged roots, and in some cases, the death of the plant itself. In fairness to those residents who plant and tend our gardens, be mindful of where you allow your dog to urinate. And of course, pick up all other animal waste.

<https://homeguides.sfgate.com/dog-pee-hurt-plants-75960.html>





## Board Notes

Summer is our time for reading a book on the beach or bike riding along the Sound, but for our maintenance department, summer is the busiest time of year. Our challenge on the Board has been to figure out the best approach to tackling the painting of porches, windows and doors, while staying within our budgetary restrictions. Consulting with both Dave, our Maintenance Manager and John our Treasurer, we have decided to turn over the lawn care to Contour Landscaping. Having done a great job with our gardens, Contour will be coming in one day a week to mow, edge and weed whack. This will allow our crew to focus on painting and repair. We have Amazonian Professional Painters coming in the second week of July to begin their 6 building porch painting. The porches to be painted this summer will be in the following buildings: 23 Rowsley, 37 Rowsley, 62 Rowsley, 109 Rowsley, 60 Haddon and 2759 Fairfield Avenue. We are exploring ways to expand the professional painters role in our plans. We look forward to a productive few months and an improved BRGC!

We are grateful for all the positive comments regarding the appearance of our property. With the help and support of leaseholders, we can still be doing a better job. Some things to remember:

- Please keep all gardening materials in the back of your property, including bags, hoses, watering cans. We know there are a couple of exceptions like Brewster where there is one very large and old garden and keeping the hose in the back would not be workable.
- Please use the back stairs with pets and use in inclement weather. Many leaseholders (without dogs) have requested this. Do your best to protect our front foyers and painted staircases. This ultimately saves us money.
- Any new front gardening should be approved by the board. While the back of our building allows us private gardening, the front of our buildings preserve our history with foundation gardening and consistency.
- Planting trees should always be approved by the board. Large trees affect a building and are no longer part of private gardening. Trees also require careful planning.
- The more old windows that get replaced, the less work we have to do. New windows do not require maintenance.

There are many other things that we are working on. Please come to the Board meetings. We welcome all contributions and would love to see everyone involved. Have a wonderful summer and enjoy our beautiful home here at BRGC. Remember we now have picnic tables on the large circle for everyone to enjoy! Once again, thank you for the opportunity to serve.



*Nancy WorriLOW - President*

*Wanda Weber - Vice President*

*Jen Dayton - Secretary*

*John Oh - Treasurer*

*Margi Tallman*

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*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.*





## Memorial Day Memories - 2019

The weather couldn't have been more beautiful for our community-wide picnic. It was a fitting day on which to honor all those who have died while serving in the line of duty. And for those among us who have lost a friend or family member in this way, we take this moment to remember their sacrifice for the hope of a more peaceful and just world. Thanks again to the Social Club and the efforts of Gemma Tummolo, who was instrumental in putting this event together for our enjoyment.







☆ 🎂 Birthday Alert 🎂 ☆

The lovely lady with the big smile sitting next to Steve Golias above, Mrs. Flori Critcher, will be turning **99 years young** this November 7th. If you happen to see Flori before then, please feel free to wish her a very Happy Birthday!







We had a great turn out at the picnic with over 65 people in attendance. Lucky raffle winners went home with one of 12 prizes including a Harborview gift certificate, various artisan items from Pious Bird, Save the Elephant illustrated t-shirts and mugs donated by Get Loose Tea owner Lisa Feistel, and a large beach towel with cooler set. Steve Golias guessed the closest number of jelly beans and and won the jar! There were many laughs and smiles all around.