

Brook Hills News

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CAROLYNN DICK

A Letter from the President

Our thanks again to Nancy Steed and Marge Barham for the preparation and publication of this newsletter. While we encourage our neighbors to keep an eye on our website (www.brookhills-community.com), feel free to attend our monthly Board meetings (the second Monday of every month, held in the clubhouse)

and to feel comfortable communicating with our management company via phone 948-6100 or email cdick@rmrrealty.com, we think these newsletters add to our sense of community and allow greater information-sharing.

We have been very pleased with the preparedness and professional attitude of our new management, led by owner Robin Steiner and our site manager Carolynn Dick. In introducing them to the various issues and areas of work necessary to keep Brook Hills

running well, the entire Board has been of necessity re-focused to the nuances of property management. Thus far,



the many good questions raised by our new agents about how we get things done or how we want things done has led, I believe, to better insight in where we want to go as a community and how we want to get there.

Our many committees have thus been busy with new tasks, as this newsletter will attest.

Landscaping is attentive to maintaining our maturing grounds, often diverted by the aging of the larger trees. New plantings have been sown and we look forward to seeing how this will turn out.

Pool and Tennis are involved in a new mandated water filtration system and court painting.

Maintenance has been busy with driveway repairs.

Insurance has prepared new proposals.

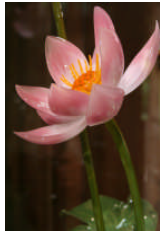
Painting/Carpentry is readying our cycle-painting. We have made repairs and updates to the Clubhouse and our front

entrance walls.

An early reminder: the Community Picnic is set for Sunday June 28, at the "Mansion House" again graciously hosted by the Arango's. Also, the all-important annual meeting for the property will be Wednesday, September 23rd at Ridgeway School, 7:30 pm. See you all there and around our beautiful community.

Michael M. Silver
President

Remembering Jean Stern



As many of you may know, Jean Stern, 12 Brook Hills Circle, passed away on March 3rd

from a lung condition, unrelated to smoking. A memorial service was held for her at the Renaissance Hotel on March 29th where a large number of her friends and family gathered to celebrate her extraordinary life – and what an extraordinary life it was!

Mention the name Jean Stern, and anyone who knew her will sing her praises as a modest, gentle, kind, intelligent, giving human being. Over the years, among so many other volunteer activities, Jean managed three Large Foundations, including the *Jean L. and Robert A. Stern Family Foundation* which focuses on Children and Education. (Bob, her husband will be continuing to manage that Foundation). Jean also was a Trustee on the board of the Children's Aid Society in New York.

Jean is survived by her devoted husband, Bob, two living and one deceased son, and two grand-children. The Sterns have lived in Brook Hills for five years and Bob reports that they have loved living in our community and he has no plans of leaving it.

The History of the Cottage

This small one story, stone building that is located east of the garage and immediately uphill from the storm water detention pond. The building is approximately 30 x 40 feet and contains one room which is outfitted with a toilet, kitchenette and large stone fireplace. The plumbing and electricity are not connected. But still it remains in very good condition with wonderful brass chandeliers hanging from the beamed ceiling.



The son of Gertrude Mosbacher, Emil "Bus" Mosbacher, Jr., was chief of protocol during the Nixon administration. Emil Mosbacher successfully defended the America's Cup against Australian challengers when he skippered the *Intrepid* in 1962 and again in 1967. Emil knew George Gershwin well. The composer used to visit him at his Westchester estate to escape the summer heat, where George, would compose in his "teahouse" seven hours each day. It was then that George began working on an early version of the song "Summertime" from "Porgy and Bess". In a letter he wrote to Dorothy Heyward he mentioned that he was going to the Mosbachers' to get

some work done on Act III, Scene 2. Kay Swift would frequently visit to lend a couple of hands. Mosbacher has said, "She used to work day and night to help George with his orchestrations".

George Gershwin was just 36 years old when he completed the musical "Porgy and Bess" in September of 1935.

One more bit of history, French President George Pompidou visited with Emil Mosbacher at his home on Rosedale Avenue in 1970.



The **Brook Hills Book Club** will be meeting on Thursday, May 7th at Helen Burtman's home, 20 Brook Hills Circle. The book they are reading for discussion is John Updike's *Rabbit Run*. New members definitely are welcome. For further information, please contact Lea Schacht at **328-0996**.

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Landscaping

Spring is here and spring clean up has commenced. We are grateful to LNL Landscapers for the excellent job they did on snow removal, promptly cleaning our roadways and paths. Luis, Luis Jr., Nora and their crew have been serving our community with friendly, professional work and we are very happy with the results.

One measure of the success we've had has been the recent recognition by the White Plains Beautification Council. Brook Hills has been lauded

for outstanding condominium landscape. We have proudly placed this award on the meeting room wall in the clubhouse for all to see.

The bulb plantings are now flowering and we will be decorating our entryway and pool area with fresh blooms. We look forward to seeing the plantings in the Moss Run and Ingleside Circles in their first full year of display. If there are other areas that residents think would benefit from a new landscape approach, please let us know.

We will soon be sending out the annual forms assessing damaged or dead plantings for replacements so please try to be timely in returning them for us to evaluate; and as a final gentle reminder we ask that attention be paid to curbing pets and keeping the lawns free of litter. Perhaps it is too much to wish for as wonderful a growing season as last year, but we can still hope.

Marge Barham and Michael Silver— co-chairs

A Tribute to "The Kid from Brooklyn" Jack Thaw

We were neighbors and we were Board members and both of us are original residents of Phase One in Brook Hills. We were both from the city. Jack from Brooklyn and I from Manhattan. The Jack Thaw that I got to know over the years was the proto-typical kid from Brooklyn.

I used to call him the challenger. He was very competitive. Whether it was on the sandlots of Brooklyn, or later in life as a teacher's aide in Bronxville, Jack had a strong desire to win. He was an avid sports fan. He loved tennis and was a regular on the courts. He played varsity basketball for Midwood High

School and could talk the game, especially college hoops, Columbia and Syracuse, with any sports fan. He enjoyed writing and occasionally would send essays and sports trivia to newspapers for publication.

He enjoyed literature and loved to talk politics. He was one guy who always would let you know his point of view. His words were like a basketball falling into the basket. He used no rim and no backboard, everything simply fell cleanly through the net. He didn't need to bank his thoughts. He was honest and straightforward. He was a straight shooter.

"The kid from Brooklyn" left us January 29th. He is with his pals Jackie, Roy and Gil, the Ebbits field gang who are Dodger Icons. He's in good company. Like his pals, he leaves behind many memories of another era long gone, but cherished forever. Thanks Jack for your friendship. And yes Jack, and I know you don't want to hear it, but my Bronx "Bombers" will win their 27th World Championship this year in their new stadium.

James Zafiros

Your Friend and Brook Hills Neighbor

Maintenance

After a very hard winter the maintenance committee is continuing to do their best and work on many projects throughout the community. The driveway sealing project is scheduled for early spring. This work is weather sensitive and will be completed as soon as possible.Carolynn, our manager, will contact each homeowners before the work starts in your driveway working out all the details and timing. There are a few driveways that are in need of repair and pricing is still being investigated and negotiated for this work. The masonry work is an on going project and will be done as needed continuing to work within our yearly budget.

Bruce and I continue to walk the property watching for repairs that are needed to keep our community safe and beautiful while challenged with the economy and budget.

Stan Circle and Bruce Selby, Maintenance Committee

Work
like
you
don't
need
the
money,
love
like
you
have
never
been
hurt,
and
dance
like
no
one
is
watching.

Anonymous

Brook Hills Community Association

c/o RMR Residential Realty, LLC
76 Lexington Avenue
White Plains, NY 10606

Brook Hills, it's a great place to live!

Community Life

With the onset of spring we look forward to seeing more Brook Hills folks out and walking about.

When you have a moment, we encourage you to pause and visit with your neighbors or at least give a wave and a smile.

“Friendly is as Friendly does.” And I would hope we want to be a friendly community.

We ask you to mark the date, **Sunday, June 28th** on your calendar for our **Annual Brook Hills Party**. Once again the Arangos have graciously offered their beautiful home for the



gathering and we have planned a tasty supper along with a lovely evening. This is an excellent time to meet some neighbors you don't know, and visit with those you already know. You won't want to miss it so please plan on attending.

As always, I am eager to hear any special news about

Brook Hills residents, including joys and concerns (or as some have said, *the Roses and the Thorns*). So please let me know if you know of something so that we can perhaps include it in the newsletter or communicate with the individual(s). I am a firm believer in the importance about

caring for one another, and that includes both the celebrations and the challenges. My phone number is 328-9658 and my email is steadheart@aol.com.

Happy Spring to all.

Nancy Steed
Community Life Chairperson

Pool and Tennis

Preparations are currently being made for opening the pool on Memorial Day weekend. Reminders of the Rules and Regulations regarding them will be forthcoming. All residents and their guests are respectfully requested and expected to adhere to them for the benefit of all in the community.

Cathy Calarco, Chairperson