



VIEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS

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Jackson Heights
Beautification Group
www.jhbg.org

Jackson Heights – “A Garden in the City”

JHBG’s Children’s Halloween Parade Marks 28th Year

On Wednesday, October 31, thousands of participants are expected at the Jackson Heights Beautification Group’s annual Children’s Halloween Parade. Set to kick off at 5 p.m. from 89th Street and 37th Avenue, the parade will proceed to 76th Street, where dozens of volunteers will distribute more than 3,200 goodie bags to the children.

New York City’s largest such event specifically for children, the parade regularly includes over a dozen local schools, as well as marching bands.

Participants in past years have included P.S. 69, P.S. 89, P.S. 148, P.S. 149, P.S. 212, P.S. 222, P.S. 228, P.S. 280, I.S. 230, 82nd Street Academics, Garden School, Lexington School for the Deaf, The Renaissance Charter School, St. Joan of Arc, JHELIC, Performing Arts of Conservatory of New York, and Brownie Troop #4545.

Financial supporters, along with JHBG, include local merchants, individuals and organizations.

Very much a neighborhood event, the parade would be impossible without the efforts of local volunteers. On Tuesday, October 30, dozens of volunteers will be packing the goodie bags. The bags, a feature unique to the JHBG parade, depend on the support of additional groups, including Dime Savings Bank, which provides the bags



themselves, and organizations such as Queens West Kiwanis, the Newtown H.S. Key Club, and the St. Joan of Arc Holy Name Society, which help distribute them.

Keeping everything safe, as always, will be the dedicated officers of the 115th Precinct, as well as other officers from around the city.

Interested in helping out? JHBG is proud of this very special event and always needs an army of volunteers. Please let us know by

contacting us at info@jhbg.org.

JHBG Leads Historic District Expansion Effort As Development Pressures Increase

BY LEN MANIACE

The campaign to expand the Jackson Heights Historic District took a big step forward this summer, even as development pressure continued to grow.

More than 600 signed postcards urging the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission to expand the district were collected and prepared for mailing by the beginning of August. The postcard effort is designed to convince the Commission to consider an eight-year-old application by the Jackson Heights Beautification Group to extend the district west toward 69th Street and east toward 91st Street.

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★★★★ VOTE! ★★★★★

The voters of Jackson Heights have a chance to make their voices heard twice this fall – in the **State Primaries in September** and the **General Election in November** – if they choose to take advantage of this extraordinary privilege. Only 14% of eligible voters turned out for the Federal Primary in June. If you didn’t, and you question the result, you have only yourself to blame. JHBG is not political, but we urge all of you to vote.

Not sure if you’re registered or where your polling place is? Go to the New York City Board of Elections website, vote.nyc.ny.us or call **866-VOTE-NYC** (866-868-3692).

- ★ **Thursday, September 13** State Primaries
- ★ **Friday, October 12** Last day to register in person or postmark by mail, and last day to change party enrollment.
- ★ **Wednesday, October 17** Last day to file a change of address.
- ★ **Tuesday, November 6** General Election



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From the Editor

It may be a minority opinion, but I hate the summer. Heat and humidity equal torpor – and torture – for me, but that first snap of fall air brings me alive again, ready for new beginnings, celebration and action.

And all are definitely on the agenda for Jackson Heights this fall.

Want to start things? JHBG's two gardening programs – Tree LC and Clean and Green – will be going strong through Thanksgiving, and our efforts to expand the Historic District will be intensifying with a new video and vigorous public meeting schedule.

Want to celebrate? JHBG's Children's Halloween Parade will be turning 37th Avenue into a family-friendly festival for the 28th consecutive year. And it's just the topper for Jackson Heights' annual roster of summer and fall parades, continuing this month and next with Hispanic, Dominican and Bolivian events.

Want to act? The easiest and most important way is to vote. We have two opportunities to cast our ballots this fall – in the state primaries on Thursday, September 13, and the general election on Tuesday, November 6. JHBG has already been a co-sponsor for a debate in June and will be doing it again on September 6. In a neighborhood where

everyone has a passionate opinion on just about everything, our level of participation in this vital area has been, frankly, pathetic. Just 14% of eligible voters cast ballots in the federal primary in June. This would be alarming in any area, but in Jackson Heights it's both puzzling and frightening.

This issue of *Views From The Heights* highlights all of the above, while taking a look at some of the other signature JHBG programs, including Coffee with the Principal, now in its second year; JH-CREW, our neighborhood dog run; Graffiti Busters, turning 25 this year; and the Jackson Heights Orchestra, our own professional ensemble.

It also focuses on some of the many other things that make Jackson Heights truly special: Diversity Plaza, now refurbished and ready for exciting new programming; the unique Momo Crawl, showcasing Himalayan food and culture for the eighth year; and the Queens STEM Girls Conference, exposing fourth- to eighth-grade girls to the wonders of science, technology, engineering and math. We are also continuing to cover the arts, with a look at *Griffins' Tales: Stories from Jackson Heights*, a fascinating text, art and history project, and, this being Jackson Heights, taking time out for food, with a profile of The Queensboro, just one of the many new restaurants in the area. And we're going back to our regular neighborhood guides with a survey of the many political clubs open to area residents.

On the new beginnings front, this is also the first issue for our new Design & Production Director, Rommel Alama, an experienced graphic designer and enthusiastic resident – and booster – of Jackson Heights. We welcome Rommel as we bid a reluctant farewell to Lynn Cole, his wonderful predecessor. At the same time, we invite all of you to join us at *Views* – we always need more writers, production assistants and distributors. If you're interested, contact us at info@jhb.org.

Have a great fall.

Victoria



President's Message

BY NUALA O'DOHERTY

This year marks JHBG's 30th anniversary. For 30 years, JHBG has been cleaning graffiti, combating rats, picking up trash, planting flowers and building community, but we can only do this with the community's support. We are a 100% volunteer organization that works with our neighbors to make this a better neighborhood. So please help us by coming out and volunteering at one of our events or by donating at www.jhb.org. These donations are even more important now that we are more active than ever.

JHBG supports our neighbors who want to make the community better. Our board is full of hardworking volunteers who make Jackson Heights the special neighborhood it is by keeping the many JHBG traditions going – such as the Historic Weekend Lecture and Garden Tours every June, the Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park in July and August, the Halloween Parade in October, the Tree Lighting in December, our Jackson Heights Orchestra performing from December to May, the Christmas Tree mulching in January, and of course, Saturday gardening from April to November. We have volunteers who manage the Dog Run, JH-CREW, and our Composting Center, JH-SCRAPS, year round. Our volunteers also advocate for Jackson Heights by

attending meetings with the City Planning Commission, Community Boards 3 and 4, Community Education Council 30 and the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

We are ever expanding: this year we held a series of community bike rides and bike safety events, co-hosted three outdoor movie screenings, and organized a number of forums on local educational issues, as well as establishing a series of open "Coffee with the Principal" events at

"JHBG supports our neighbors who want to make the community better."

our local schools. We do this in an effort to build a supportive community for all. If you have a project, plan or even just an idea to make the neighborhood better, contact us at info@jhb.org and we will see how we can work together to get it done.

My main project during my past 10 years of volunteering with JHBG has been working on improving 69th Street, the entrance to Jackson Heights. Each year, JHBG takes another section and tries to clean and green the area. We started with the dog run, going on to establish the composting center, and then a series of garden areas.

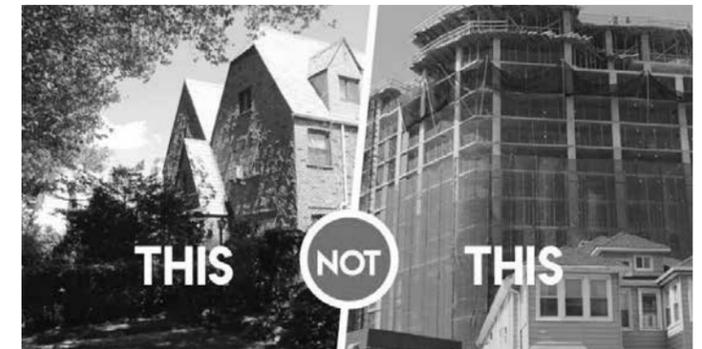
While the dumping along the Jackson Heights side of the BQE has been reduced, there is still a severe litter problem. On the east side of the BQE there are still issues with dumping, homeless encampments and litter. These conditions have allowed the rat population to explode, so JHBG has been working to keep the area clean. Each day, a JHBG volunteer collects the trash around the BQE and puts it in green trash bags for collection. JHBG has also installed metal, rat-resistant trash cans and mesh fencing to keep trash from blowing behind fencing where it is difficult to clean. In addition, this year we have been working with Breaking Ground, a homeless outreach organization, to deal with the homeless population living around the BQE. Beyond that, we have engaged with our city and state representatives to improve the conditions around the BQE. We ask you to join us in advocating for daily street sweeping and trash collection daily along 69th Street, as well as changing the parking direction along 69th Street to discourage people from cleaning out their cars and dumping. We have also put up signs asking people to not litter. Our goal is to turn 69th Street into a garden entrance into our garden community. With the help of our neighbors we can make a real difference. **Please support JHBG at www.jhb.org.**

Historic District (continued from page 1)

The latest development proposals include residential construction on the site of the Sterling Bank at 73rd Street and Broadway, and at 96th Street and Northern Boulevard, as well as a large building to include a public school on the site of Pacific Market at 75th Street and Broadway. These come on top of seven other residential buildings, ranging five to 13 stories, under construction in and around Jackson Heights.

Expansion of the 25-year-old historic district would protect much of the 11372 zip code as it was developed by the Queensboro Corporation beginning more than 100 years ago. That plan resulted in a neighborhood that now is among New York City's densest but, because of ample front and rear gardens, does not feel crowded compared to neighborhoods of similar and even lower density. In fact, only two zip codes outside of Manhattan – both in the Bronx – have a greater population density than the 11372 zip code, according to analysis of 2017 U.S. Census Data contained in the Simply Analytics data base available at the New York Public Library.

This fall we expect to expand the campaign, with intensified outreach to local elected officials and a series of public meetings including a presentation before Community Board 3. Aiding in



these efforts will be a video on the historic district expansion produced by Wesley Swinnen for JHBG.

If you want to help, we hope you'll join us at upcoming events. In addition, the postcard effort is continuing and we invite you to sign one at one of our cooperating merchants: Table Wine, Espresso 77, Lockwood, Happy Kitchen and the Jackson Heights Greenmarket, as well as the Jackson Heights branch of the Queens Public Library.

Len Maniace, an award-winning journalist, is a member of the JHBG Executive Board and a former president of JHBG.



Gardening and Tree Care Programs Set Through Thanksgiving

To keep Jackson Heights the blooming – and beautiful – place it is, JHBG maintains two separate gardening programs, Clean and Green and Tree LC, both active from early spring through Thanksgiving. Open to anyone who wants to participate, the two programs meet every weekend, including every Saturday and some Sundays.

Clean and Green: 19 Gardens and Counting

BY NUALA O'DOHERTY

Each spring we hold a planning breakfast where people eat pancakes and propose gardening spots to work on. Once the schedule is set, we have a group of about 10 to 30 people who meet each Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. JHBG supplies the plants, tools, gloves, and water. We're gardeners, so we work rain or shine.

Want to join us? Just check the schedule in the calendar or go to our website, www.jhbg.org.

As of this fall, we are active in 19 separate areas, as outlined in the map below:

Cleaning and greening along 69th Street from 37th Avenue to Northern Boulevard:

1. Vegetable garden at 64th Street and Northern Boulevard
2. Sunflowers along the BQE
3. Vegetable and flower garden on the hill
4. JH-CREW dog run
5. JH-SCRAPS compost center
6. 69th street garden with sitting wall by train tracks
7. Tulip Garden
8. Planting and caring for 34th Avenue median (10 blocks)
9. Working with street trees along 37th Avenue,

including the Post Office garden

10. Mural painted along concrete barrier and trash collection

Working with local schools including:

11. I.S. 230
12. I.S. 145
13. P.S. 69
14. P.S. 148
15. P.S. 149
16. P.S. 280
17. P.S. 92

18. Food Bazaar garden
19. Plants at 90th Street subway triangle

Nuala O'Doherty directs the Clean and Green program and is the president of JHBG.



TreeLC: Curbside Gardens Bloom

BY LEN MANIACE

Many people tell us they've seen the change along 37th Avenue this summer: more plants in bloom, fewer weeds and less litter in dozens of curbside tree gardens. 2018 marked several major steps forward for a greener Jackson Heights, topped off with a merchant outreach program to involve this important sector of our community in maintaining the gardens.

JHBG's TreeLC volunteers visited stores up and down the avenue, handing out flyers with tips on cleaning and watering the gardens. We are supporting the merchants with signs that encourage passersby to appreciate the gardens and to avoid littering, while also crediting specific merchants who look after these jewel boxes. These are mini-habitats whose plants are visited by bees, butterflies and other beneficial insects. Meanwhile, beneath the surface, is soil that's alive with earthworms, pill bugs and other critters.

This year JHBG had three more tree guards installed: in front of the storefronts for Arepa Lady, Original American Chicken and the Downtown Natural Market. More than 15 additional tree guards were planted through the efforts of Council member Daniel Dromm, along 37th Avenue in front of the renovated Bruson Building and down 75th Street, where JHBG has been planting and caring for several tree gardens since last fall.

Without these sturdy tree guards, the gardens and trees won't survive. A seemingly innocent human action – footsteps – poses a major hazard to tree health. Repeated footsteps compact soil

(continued on page 5)

A Big Beautiful Garden Blooms in the Center of Jackson Heights

BY LEN MANIACE

Jackson Heights was not built in a day, and neither was JHBG's new 900-square foot garden in the center of our neighborhood.

Planning for the Post Office garden began three years ago, but the shrubs that form the garden's back row were planted in fall 2017 and flowering perennials went in this May.

The garden is a project of JHBG's TreeLC program, which created and is caring for approximately 50 curbside gardens along 37th Avenue, from 74th Street to 87th Street, as well as on 75th Street.

We considered many plants for this project, but in working with New York City Department of Parks landscape architect and neighbor, Grace Tang (who volunteered her services), we focused on:

- ★ Plants that will provide close to four seasons' interest, as well as a variety of colors and shapes.
- ★ Shrubs and long-lived perennials, so we don't need to replant every year, including natives and drought-resistant species to the extent possible.
- ★ Plants that will attract beneficial insects, such as bees and butterflies, especially butterfly weed and milkweed, the only plant on which monarch butterflies will lay their eggs.

As for fragrance, we have several Russian Sage plants in the garden, which have an amazing scent – something that our TreeLC volunteers have delighted in as they weed and clean the garden.

We will continue to do some fine-tuning of the garden. For instance, having the nursery replace 20 Black-Eyed Susan



The garden features a variety of plants designed for year-round interest.

plants that were not the variety we ordered. They have tiny flowers and are way too big for the front of the garden, blocking the view of other plants.

In addition to thanking our wonderful TreeLC volunteers, a big thank you goes to Jackson Heights' Postmaster Sean Duffy for his cooperation and patience in making the garden possible.

Tree LC (continued from page 4)

around trees into a concrete-like surface, sealing off roots from essential water and oxygen.

This effort would not be possible without the efforts of our regular volunteers, Kathy Smith, Erika Custer, Ed Walters, Priiti Patel, Julia Kinsey, Marlon Moncrieffe, Jennifer Lantzas, Meredith Faltin, Barbara Monteiro, Lucas Paul, and Felicia Simion, as well as another 30 or so occasional volunteers.

If you enjoy gardening and/or like the challenge of turning concrete city sidewalks green, we'd love to have you join us. We are out working most weekends, usually Saturdays, but occasionally Sundays. We generally meet at 80th Street and 37th Avenue at 10 a.m. For information send me an email at LenManiace@gmail.com, with "Tree Gardens" in subject line, please.



One of over 50 JHBG curbside tree gardens.

Goldman Joins JHBG Board

Elected to the JHBG board this past spring, Jerold Goldman – and his border terrier, Nell – have long been active participants in JH-CREW, the JHBG dog run.

A native of Cleveland, Jerry has lived in Jackson Heights since 1999, and is currently retired after a long career in the New York City restaurant industry.

"I love Jackson Heights," he notes, "I can't imagine living anywhere else. And I'm very pleased to have the opportunity to contribute to the community by working with JHBG."



Jerry Goldman and Nell.

“Coffee with the Principal” Returns for Second Year BY MARTHA SÁNCHEZ

Coffee with the Principal”, a JHBG program that aims to unite parents and principals, returns this fall.

With monthly sessions

planned, in both English and Spanish, the program will run from September to May, bringing parents into their children’s schools and making them feel welcome.

Because parents’



Meeting with Principal Ronald Zirin at I.S. 230.

involvement in their children’s education is vital, the idea is to create positive communication between parents, principals and school communities, promoting interaction and an exchange of ideas to benefit the children and their educational facilities.

Last year, the schools involved in the program were P.S. 148, P.S. 280, I.S. 145 and I.S. 230. The hope is that more schools participate this year.

Among the complaints neighborhood parents have had about the schools is the difficulty in establishing good communications with principals, often due to their busy schedules. Beyond that,

some parents do not feel comfortable entering the schools.

More than a breakfast, this program is an opportunity to motivate parents to be part of their children’s schools, visiting classrooms, chatting with the principals and working together to improve education.

JHBG board member Martha Sanchez initiated the Coffee with the Principal program. A public education advocate, she serves on Community Education Council 30 and is a member of the school leadership team for I.S. 145 and past PTA president at P.S. 92.

Conference Introduces Girls to STEM Careers

Created to help girls discover the worlds of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math, the 2nd Annual Queens STEM Girls Conference returns to Jackson Heights on Saturday, October 20.

Open to girls in grades 4 through 8, the event, running from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m., will once again take place at The Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81st Street, partner in the project with Queens STEM Career Women, Inc.

The brainchild of neighborhood resident, Karen Wellington, the conference is designed to encourage girls to pursue careers in STEM and related fields through hands-on activities and conversations with active STEM career women.

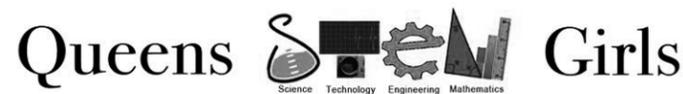
Wellington, retired after 26 years as a high school math teacher, had spent 10 years volunteering at a similar conference held by the American Association of University Women in Westchester, and thought it would be a perfect event for the girls of Queens. Starting from scratch with a group of local friends, including Eleanor Batchelder, Abby Drucker, Karen Heau, Be Hopper and Anita Kishore, as well as Renaissance’s Peggy Heeney, Wellington put together the first conference, held in May of 2017, in less than a year, along the way incorporating the organization with help from New York Lawyers for the Public Interest.

The first conference drew almost 50 girls and covered a range of fields, including nutrition, plant science, climate science, architecture and forensics. Free-flowing presentations and discussions at tables were followed by a snack and an assembly including topical games, a forensics presentation and a keynote speech from Sarinya Srisakul, the first Asian-American woman to serve as a firefighter in the New York Fire Department.

With outreach through Renaissance, other schools, Girl Scout



Organizer Karen Wellington addressing last year’s inaugural conference.



troops, flyers and local social media, the group hopes to draw 75 girls this year, all paying a nominal \$3 fee. Parents and relatives are welcome to attend as well. Presenters, all volunteers, will include returning representatives from the Queens Botanical Garden and the Vaughn College of Aeronautics, which is headed by a woman. All participants will also receive free copies of the book Women in Science by Rachel Ignatofsky.

For more information, go to queensstemgirls.org.

EN ESPAÑOL

El Desfile infantil de Halloween de JHBG cumple 28 años

El 31 de octubre se espera la asistencia de miles de participantes al Desfile Infantil Anual de Halloween de JHBG. Programado para comenzar a las 5:00 p. m. desde la calle 89 con la avenida 37, el desfile se dirigirá hacia la calle 76, donde docenas de voluntarios repartirán más de 3200 bolsas de dulces a los niños. ¿Te interesa ayudar? JHBG está orgulloso de este evento especial y necesita un ejército de voluntarios. Por favor contáctanos en info@jhb.org

JHBG encabeza el esfuerzo por la expansión del Distrito Histórico mientras la presión por el desarrollo residencial aumenta

POR LEN MANIACE

La campaña para expandir el Distrito Histórico de Jackson Heights dio un paso adelante este verano, incluso mientras crecía la presión para continuar el desarrollo residencial. A principios de agosto se recolectaron y prepararon para su envío más de 600 tarjetas firmadas, en las que se pedía la expansión del distrito a la Comisión para la Preservación de Edificios Históricos de Nueva York. El proyecto de las tarjetas postales está encaminado a convencer a la Comisión a considerar la solicitud hecha hace ocho años por JHBG para extender el distrito Este hacia la calle 69 y el Oeste hacia la calle 91. Este otoño esperamos expandir la campaña. Si quieres ayudar, asiste a los próximos eventos. Te invitamos también a firmar una tarjeta en alguno de los negocios partidarios: Table Wine, Espresso 77, Lockwood, Happy Kitchen y el Mercado Verde de Jackson Heights, así como en el edificio de la Biblioteca Pública de Queens en Jackson Heights.

Los programas de jardinería y cuidado de árboles continúa hasta el Día de Acción de Gracias

Para mantener Jackson Heights como el florido y hermoso lugar que es, JHBG tiene en funcionamiento dos programas diferentes de jardinería, Clean and Green y Tree LC, ambos activos desde principios de la primavera hasta el Día de Acción de Gracias. Abiertos a quienes deseen participar, los dos programas realizan actividades cada fin de semana, incluidos los sábados y algunos domingos.

Clean and Green: 19 jardines, y continuamos

POR NUALA O’DOHERTY

Cada primavera organizamos un desayuno de planeación, donde comemos panqueques y proponemos puntos de jardinería sobre los cuales trabajar. Una vez que el programa queda establecido, formamos un grupo de entre 10 y 30 personas que se reúnen cada sábado por la mañana, de 10:00 a 1:00. JHBG proporciona plantas, herramientas, guantes y agua. Somos jardineros, así que trabajamos llueva o truene. ¿Quieres unirte? Revisa el programa en el calendario o ve a nuestra página de internet jhb.org.

TreeLC: los jardines a orillas de las banquetas florecen

POR LEN MANIACE

El 2018 marcó varios importantes pasos adelante por un Jackson Heights más verde: los voluntarios visitaron las tiendas a lo largo de la avenida 37 y entregaron volantes con algunas sugerencias para limpiar y regar los jardines; apoyamos a los comerciantes con señalamientos que motiven al peatón a apreciar los jardines, y dimos crédito a cada comercio que vigila estas cajas de joyas; también instalamos tres nuevas protecciones para árboles. Si disfrutas la jardinería, únete, trabajamos los fines de semana, normalmente los sábados y ocasionalmente los domingos. Por lo general nos reunimos en la calle 80 con la avenida 37 a las 10:00 a. m. Para más información, envíame un email a LenManiace@gmail.com, con “tree gardens” en la línea de asunto.

El programa “Café con el director de la escuela” regresa por segundo año consecutivo

POR MARTHA SÁNCHEZ

Este otoño regresa “Café con el director de la escuela”, un programa de JHBG que pretende reunir a los padres de familia con los directores de escuela. Vamos a continuar tomando “café con el director” cada mes. Este programa es una buena manera de atraer a los padres a la escuela y hacerlos sentir bienvenidos. Porque su participación en la educación de sus hijos es muy importante, necesitamos trabajar juntos para establecer una buena comunicación entre ellos, el director y la escuela, así como promover la interacción y el intercambio de ideas en beneficio de los niños y de su espacio educativo. En el ciclo escolar pasado participaron las escuelas P.S. 148, P.S. 280, I.S. 145 e

I.S. 230. Mi deseo es que más escuelas realicen esta actividad, que se lleva a cabo de septiembre a mayo y se ofrece en inglés y en español.

Durante el tiempo que llevo trabajando con las escuelas he escuchado muchas quejas, una de las cuales es, precisamente, la dificultad para establecer comunicación con el director, debido a sus múltiples ocupaciones. Además, algunos padres no sienten la confianza de entrar a la escuela.

Más que un desayuno, Café con el director quiere motivar a los padres para que se integren a la escuela de sus hijos, visiten su salón de clases, charlen con el director, interactúen entre ellos e intercambien ideas.

Eliminemos el grafiti con JHBG

POR JAMES RICCIO

Hace más de 25 años el grafiti abundaba en Jackson Heights, pero no tenía nada de artístico: feos garabatos y manchas arruinaban el paisaje. Los fundadores de JHBG reconocieron que promover el “embellecimiento” en el barrio tenía que comenzar con la limpieza de ese grafiti, así que el grupo hizo de esa tarea una de sus prioridades. En los años siguientes, muchos voluntarios han dedicado colectivamente una gran cantidad de tiempo y energía a este esfuerzo de limpieza. Sin embargo, a pesar del grandioso progreso, la batalla no ha terminado. Afortunadamente, los eliminadores de grafiti de JHBG continúan trabajando y poniendo su granito de arena para mantener limpio el barrio. Tú también puedes ayudar: pinta un buzón del correo, un poste, la reja de alguna tienda, o contacta al programa Graffiti Free NYC, que se encargará de borrar el grafiti sin costo alguno (solo llama al 311 o visita la página www.nycedc.com/program/graffiti-free-nyc) o ponte en contacto con los Eliminadores de Grafiti de JHBG y considera unirte al equipo.

¡Vota!

Los votantes de Jackson Heights tienen la oportunidad de hacer que sus voces se escuchen este otoño. Den las elecciones primarias del Estado, en septiembre, y en las elecciones generales, en noviembre. Si eligen sacar provecho de este extraordinario privilegio. ¿No estás seguro si estás registrado o dónde se ubica tu casilla? Visita el sitio de internet del Comité Electoral de Nueva York, vote.nyc.ny.us o llama al **866-VOTE-NYC** (866-868-3692).

Canine Wonderland Marks 8th Year

BY JERRY GOLDMAN



Is your poodle pouting for companionship? Your yorkie yearning to run free? The airedale aching to show off her new rain wear? Cavalier craving tug of war or chase the ball?

Good news pups! The place for all that and more is just down the road at JH-CREW, the Jackson Heights Canine Recreation Wonderland. With the support of JHBG, our community dog run serves as a safe, friendly space for our four-legged pals to play off-leash.

What was once an unruly, trash-strewn plot of Department of Transportation land along 69th Street between 34th and 35th Avenues was transformed over eight years ago into a spacious, landscaped playground for the local canine crowd. Come join us and meet your dog loving neighbors.

Membership is free and open to all. For more information and to apply for membership visit us on the Dog Run page of the JHBG website, jhbg.org/programs/jh-crew.

A newly elected member of the JHBG board, Jerry Goldman – and his border terrier, Nell – are actively involved with JH-CREW.



Busting Graffiti With JHBG

BY JAMES RICCIO

Over 25 years ago, graffiti was rampant in Jackson Heights – and there was nothing artistic or Banksy-like about it! Ugly scribbles and tags marred the landscape. No structure was safe. And our precious landmark buildings were as vulnerable as any others.

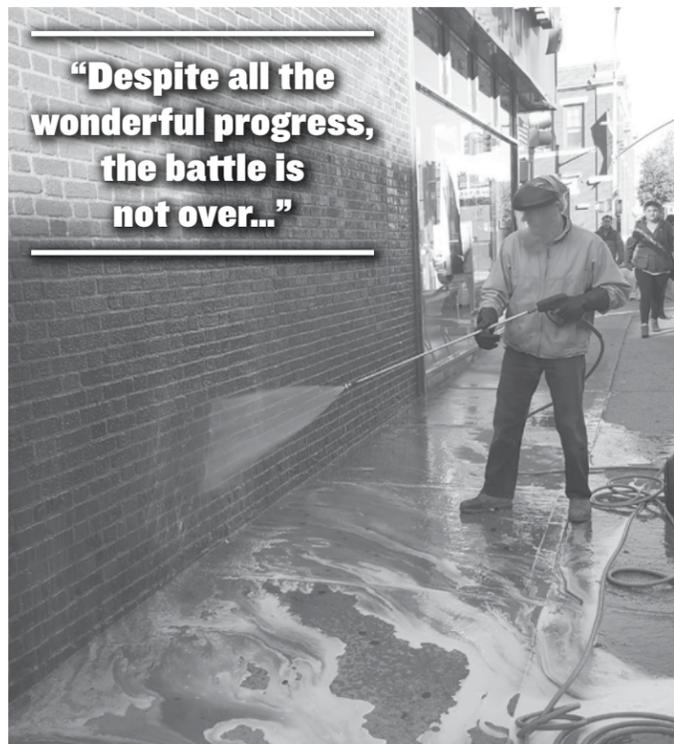
Understandably, the founders of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group recognized that promoting “beautification” in the neighborhood had to begin with cleaning that graffiti, and so the group made that task one of its top priorities.

In the ensuing years, many volunteers have collectively contributed a tremendous amount of time and energy to this cleanup effort. Neighborhood residents who have lived here for decades know that the results have been transformative, and many have generously supported the group’s work over the years with their donations.

Despite all the wonderful progress, the battle is not over, as anyone can see walking through the neighborhood today. But fortunately, the JHBG Graffiti Busters are still on the job – doing their small bit to keep the neighborhood clean.

You can help too. Paint a mailbox. Paint lamppost. Paint a storefront gate. Contact NYC’s “Graffiti Free NYC” program, which will remove graffiti free of charge (just call 311 or go online at www.nycedc.com/program/graffiti-free-nyc). Or contact the JHBG’s Graffiti Busters—and consider joining the team!

JHBG board member James Riccio leads the JHBG Graffiti Busters team.



JHBG Graffiti Busters on the job.

Jackson Heights Revealed in Buildings and Lives

BY VICTORIA STEINBERG

It started with our extraordinary buildings.

Several years ago, artist Linda Ganjian, a Jackson Heights resident since 2003, received a grant from the Queens Council on the Arts to do a study of the elaborate architectural details of the neighborhood. Yet as she worked, she realized that the stories of the people who lived in each building, and beyond that the history of an area that has changed profoundly over the past century, were equally compelling.

The result was *Griffins’ Tales: Stories from Jackson Heights*, a series of 10 artworks, which were on display this spring at Lety Bakery and Café (77-07 37th Avenue).

Originally slated for a more traditional setting, the exhibit landed at the café after other sites had fallen through. “It turned out to be the perfect venue, because a lot of old timers go there and they understand what I’m trying to express,” notes Ganjian. “It’s also quite visible, and Lety was very welcoming.”

“Every building is slightly different, as is every story,” she explains, “I wanted to highlight that and create a dynamic between the histories and the architecture.”

Central to the narrative is the story of a neighborhood that has changed from an exclusionary enclave to an immigrant hub, with attention to the race and class issues that form a stark contrast to the landmark exteriors.

“I love Jackson Heights,” observes the Boston native, “and I was surprised by the history of discrimination.” In exposing that, in alternately poignant and disturbing ways, she has worked to create a story of endurance and change.

The sculptor, painter and graphic designer plans to continue the project, with a larger exhibition and perhaps a book in the future. “In this first section, I was talking to neighbors and acquaintances, which limited the narrative a bit. In the next phase, I plan to reach out more to immigrants and people of color.”

To deepen the story, Ganjian has also been working with the Queens Memory Project, a program created by the Queens Library in collaboration with Queens College to compile accounts and images of life in the borough. In a two-way partnership, she has been both exploring the project’s digital archives and inviting her subjects to allow their interviews to be included in the collection. Selections from the program are available on its website, QueensMemory.org.

Fresh off a residency at the Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art, Mass MoCA, Ganjian is about to begin a new round of interviews. Those interested in participating or getting more information about the project can contact Ganjian at lindaganjian@gmail.com.



Diversity Plaza: Redesigned and Open to All

BY EIRIK DAVEY-GISLASON AND SHEKAR KRISHNAN

In 2016, in a *Time Magazine* article entitled, “240 Reasons to Celebrate America Right Now,” Karl Vick wrote of Diversity Plaza, “One city block holds the world.” It is a simple but powerfully apt description of the Plaza, expressing our collective goal of inclusion, unity across the diversity of races, languages, and religions, and care for one another. This is a shared community space that brings us all closer together.

By now, you may have seen the beautiful redesign and renovation, completed in late July. We are excited by the potential of the new Plaza in terms of programming, and by the more inviting atmosphere to relax and enjoy time with neighbors and friends.

As of this week, event permits can be obtained through the City’s Street Activity Permit Office (SAPO), by going to nyceventpermits.nyc.gov or calling (212) 788-0025. Friends of Diversity

Plaza is happy to help advise groups on the process of planning and scheduling every event, big or small!

Upcoming events include: **Queensboro Dance Festival** – Saturday, September 8 from 1 -5 p.m. (raindate, September 9).

The 3rd Annual Family Day Event, sponsored by Council Member Daniel Dromm’s office and Friends of Diversity Plaza. Fall 2018, date to be determined.

Diversity Plaza has a special spirit and provides our community with a space to celebrate together, protest, pray, play, sing, dance, laugh, cry, eat, learn, debate, mourn, observe, hold hands, gather, and stand—all together—as a community and an example to the city, the country and the world.

We invite you to visit the Plaza every day.

Eirik Davey-Gislason and Shekar Krishnan are co-chairs of Friends of Diversity Plaza.



One of 10 panels from *Griffins’ Tales: Stories from Jackson Heights*.

Neighborhood Guide: Political Clubs

Time and again, the people of Jackson Heights have shown their willingness—their eagerness, actually—to be involved. We want to stand up and be counted. We make our opinions known. We care and we're always ready to match our beliefs with actions. It's no surprise then that the community is filled with organizations addressed to a broad spectrum of interests.

The following is a guide to some of the general political groups active in the area. In the coming months, we'll focus on other Jackson Heights organizations, including political groups devoted to a specific issue, but also those centering on arts and culture, as well as social welfare. If we've left any out, please contact us at info@jhbg.org.

PARTY-AFFILIATED: Conservative



Queens County Conservative Party

Meets on the third Thursday of every month, 7:30pm
Forest Hills Volunteer Ambulance Corps, 92-29 Metropolitan Ave., Forest Hills
For more information, go to queensconservativeparty.com
First fall meeting: Sept. 20



Democratic District Clubs – Organized by Assembly District. To find out your district, go to the New York State Board of Elections website, elections.ny.gov.

John F. Kennedy Democratic Club

34th A.D., Part A
Meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month, 7:30 or 8:00 pm
Community United Methodist Church, 81-10 35th Avenue
For more information, go to JFK Democratic Club 34th AD, Part A, on Facebook
First fall meeting: Sept. 26

New Visions Democratic Club

– 39th A.D., Part A
Meets on the second Thursday of every month, 8:00pm
The Jewish Center of Jackson Heights, 37-06 77th Street
For more information, go to New Visions Democratic Club on Facebook
First fall meeting: Oct. 11

Wood-Heights Democratic Club

34th A.D., Part B
Meets on the first Thursday of every month, 7:00pm
Christ Lutheran Church, 33-57 58th Street, Woodside
For more information, go to wood-heights.com
First fall meeting: Sept. 6

Other Democratic Clubs Lesbian and Gay Democratic Club of Queens

Meets on the third Monday of every month, 7:30 pm
St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33-50 82nd Street
For more information, go to lgdcq.nyc or LGDCQ Lesbian & Gay Democratic Club of Queens on Facebook
First fall meeting: Sept. 17

New Queens Democrats

Meetings scheduled individually.
For more information, go to newqueensdems.org or New Queens Democrats on Facebook

Queens County Young Democrats (QCYD)

Meetings scheduled individually. For more

information, go to queensyoungdems.com or Queens County Young Democrats (QCYD) on Facebook

Democratic Socialist



Queens Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)

Meets monthly, scheduled individually. For more information, go to socialists.nyc or NYC Democratic Socialists of America on Facebook



Republican America's Mayor Republican Club

Meets monthly, scheduled individually.
Community United Methodist Church, 81-10 35th Avenue
For more information, go to queenscountygop.com



Socialist NYC- ISO (International Socialist Organization, New York District), Queens Branch Meets weekly, Wednesdays at 7 pm

Queens Pride House, 76 -11 37th Avenue, Room 206
For more information, go to nycsocialist.org

Working Families



New York Working Families Party

Meetings and events scheduled individually.
For more information, go to workingfamilies.org or New York Working Families Party on Facebook

NON-PARTY AFFILIATED:

Hearts Across Queens
For more information, go to heartscrossqueens.org or to Hearts Across Queens on Facebook

One Queens Indivisible
For more information go to onequeensindivisible.org or One Queens Indivisible on Facebook

Sunnyside Woodside Action Group (SWAG)
For more information, go to SWAG on Facebook

Women's Action Group of Forest Hills
For more information, go to wagfh.com

The Queensboro Brings Bistro Fare to the Heights

BY VICTORIA STEINBERG



Windowed and airy, The Queensboro offers an open kitchen and a full-length bar.



Offering “American bistro” fare with an eclecticism reflecting the neighborhood, The Queensboro opened in June with a special mission.

“We wanted to create a place where people can come together and foster a sense of community,” explains Michael Fuquay, one of the Northern Boulevard restaurant’s trio of owners. “The kind of place that you’ll want to come back to again and again, and feel confident that you’ll see people you know.”

Styled as a “modern new American,” Fuquay notes, the restaurant was designed to provide a type of food and service that the ownership team found unavailable in Jackson Heights. “We felt there was a real need for a high-quality neighborhood restaurant that you could take family to for casual meals or special occasions.”

The three owners, all long-time Jackson Heights residents, approached this goal by pooling their years of experience in the restaurant industry, with Fuquay, whose resume includes management stints at Manhattan’s Savoy, Mas Farmhouse and Balthazar,

joining with experienced restaurant owner, Dudley Stewart, and executive chef, Tony Liu, a veteran of such kitchens as Lespinasse, Daniel, Tabla and Babbo.

Menus, designed to change seasonally, are crafted to be accessible to a wide-range of budgets and preferences,

“...a place where people can come together and foster a sense of community.”

with pastas, pizzas and burgers included alongside salads, vegetables, snacks and more sophisticated meat and seafood entrees. In addition, chef Liu has incorporated flavors that express the variety of area tastes, such as an Indian-inspired Spicy Popcorn Chaat appetizer and the Thai Steak Salad entrée with lemongrass vinaigrette. A number of ingredients, notably fish and some produce, are sourced from the Jackson Heights Greenmarket, as well as from the

Long Island City rooftop farm operation, Brooklyn Grange.

Heightening the neighborhood feel is an almost exclusively local staff, many, Fuquay says proudly, trained by the owners for their first restaurant jobs.

Anchoring the airy, windowed, 110-seat room is a full bar, with a rotating mix of eight beers on tap, including offerings from Queens favorites, SingleCut, Finback and LIC Beer Project. While the kitchen closes at 10 p.m., and 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, the bar, as befits a true neighborhood destination, stays open, Fuquay explains, “until everyone leaves.”

Located at 80-02 Northern Boulevard, The Queensboro is open for dinner seven days a week, Sunday through Thursday, 5pm–10pm, Friday and Saturday, 5 pm–11pm, and for brunch, Saturday, Sunday and holiday Mondays, 10am–3pm. For information, call **929-296-0038** or go to thequeensboro.com.

Victoria Steinberg, a writer, editor and community organizer, is the editor-in-chief of Views From The Heights.

Momo Crawl Slated for October 7th

BY VICTORIA STEINBERG

Get ready to be stuffed – and delighted. It's time once again to immerse yourself in the culinary and cultural delights of Jackson Heights' vibrant Himalayan community, all while supporting a great cause. The 7th Annual Momo Crawl is set for Sunday, October 7 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A neighborhood original, founded by local food authority, Jeff Orlick, the event allows participants to sample signature dumplings from area outlets, including both restaurants and food carts, while learning about Himalayan culture and selecting the winner of this year's Golden Momo championship belt.

The festivities begin on Diversity Plaza, 37th Road and 74th Street, where visitors can pick up their \$10 event "passport" route guides from the Momo Crawl booth. They can then proceed on foot or via free trolleys to over 20 different vendors, feasting on meat or vegetable momos at \$1 each before returning to the start to vote on their favorites.

Previous winners have included Phayul, Lhasa Fast Food, the Amdo Kitchen food cart, Little Tibet and Nepali Bhanchha Ghar.

At the conclusion of last year's Crawl, Orlick, having seen his creation go international with a sister celebration in Toronto, formally ceded event operations to



Since 2012, the Crawl has highlighted Himalayan food and culture.

Students for a Free Tibet, an international non-profit based in New York that works for human rights and freedom in Tibet. The organization has been the beneficiary of profits from sales of the "passports."

And Urgyen Badheysang, Campaigns Director for the group and main coordinator for this year's Crawl, pledges to make it bigger and better than ever. "Last year there were 24 locations, many of which have signed up again, and there will be at least six or seven new ones," he explains. "In addition to the Jackson Heights vendors, we include places in Elmhurst and Woodside, and we've gotten inquiries from places as far away as Flushing."

With over 1,000 momo aficionados attending last year's event despite a steady downpour, Badheysang expects an even larger crowd, with the numbers bolstered by the event's inclusion in the New York City Department of Transportation's "Weekend Walks" program, which promotes events using streets as public space.

Of equal importance to the food

will be activities, games and cultural activities. "We want to make this as much a cultural experience as possible," he notes. "The members of the organizing committee, both Tibetan and Nepali, are young and passionate about their communities. We want people to be able to immerse themselves in the culture."

Born in Nepal to Tibetan parents, Badheysang moved with his family to Canada in his teens, and worked on the Toronto Momo Crawl before relocating to New York in 2016, a background that makes him uniquely qualified to weigh in – diplomatically – on the controversy that ensued last year when Jackson Heights' Nepali Bhanchha Ghar became the first non-Tibetan winner of the Golden Momo. "Well the seasoning is a bit different, and Nepali momos are sometimes in a sauce, which Tibetans would never do, but it's really just a matter of taste," he insists.

For more information, and to buy passports in advance, go to sfthq.cc/Momo2018.

JHO Announces 2018-2019 Schedule

The Jackson Heights Orchestra has announced its upcoming schedule, with concerts slated for December, February, March, May and July.

The 2018-19 season will open on December 14 with a new work by Lev "Ljova" Zhurbin, performed by the JHO with the Quintet of the Americas, the P.S. 148 chorus and P.S. 69 recorder students. The February 9 concert will highlight the orchestra's string ensemble in works by Mendelssohn, Corelli and Dvorak. On March 13, Andrew Sord will perform the Sibelius Violin Concerto, and, on May 15, JHO member

Fred Trumpy will premier an original work for percussion and orchestra written by the orchestra's ASCAP award-winning composer and associate conductor, Joseph Bartolozzi. The July concert, with light orchestral music, will be the opening date for 2019's Summer Sundays in the Park.

The February and July events are set for 4 p.m., with the others scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Dates and times are subject to change.

A component organization of the Jackson Heights Beautification Group, the JHO is a group of skilled musicians aged 18 to 87, and aims to showcase local talent and

reflect the diversity of Jackson Heights.

In its seven years, it has presented over 20 concerts in Jackson Heights, as well as other communities in Queens and on Long Island, and has commissioned many new works from local composers.

The orchestra is always looking for members who have had orchestral experience and music training.

Those interested in joining should contact Patricia Glunt, Founder and Artistic Director, at jack.hgt.orch@gmail.com.

For more information on the upcoming season, go to jhb.org.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: FALL 2018

For up-to-date information on JHBG events, visit our website jhb.org.

JHBG ONGOING EVENTS

Saturdays 11am-1 pm
JH-SCRAPS (composting)

69th St. & 35th Ave.
For information on what is compostable, contact jhscraps@jhb.org.

Most Saturdays 10 am
Tree LC

(April-Thanksgiving)
Meets at the NE corner of 80th St. & 37th Ave.
Schedule may vary and include some Sundays. Check the **JHBG Facebook page** for complete information.

Saturdays 10 am
Clean and Green

(April-Thanksgiving)
See poster on next page for dates and locations. For complete details, go to jhb.org

Daily
JH-CREW dog run.

69th St. between 34th & 35th Aves. To join, go to jhb.org for application. Suggested donation, \$25/year.

Neighborhood Greenmarkets

Sundays, 8am-3pm
Jackson Heights, 34th Ave. bet. 79th and 80th Sts.

Tuesdays, 8am-4pm
Elmhurst, 41st Ave. & 80th St. (until 11/27)

Fridays, 8am-3pm
Corona, Roosevelt Ave. & 103rd St. (until 11/30)



September

Thurs. 6	★ 6:30-8:30 pm Jackson Heights Democratic Primary Candidate Forum. Candidates for State Senate and State Assembly. The Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81st St. Hosted by CHHAYA CDC, in partnership with JHBG, APA Voice: Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement, The New York Immigration Coalition, and Common Cause New York.
Sat. 8	1-5pm The Queensboro Dance Festival. Performances and dance activities. Diversity Plaza, 37th Rd. & 74th St. (raindate: 9/9)
Thurs. 13	6am-9pm Primaries – State Elections. For information on registration & polling sites, go to vote.nyc.ny.us or call 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3292).
Sat. 15	12-7pm Viva La Comida Festival. 82nd St. & Roosevelt Ave. Presented by the 82nd Street Partnership. Food and performance.
Sat. 15	3:30 pm Salsa Masala: A Jackson Heights Block Party. Indo-Latin fusion musical performance, commissioned by the Queens Council on the Arts. 82nd Street & Roosevelt Ave. as part of the Viva La Comida Festival.
Sun. 23	12pm Queens Hispanic Parade. 37th Ave. from 69th to 86th Sts.

October

Sat. 6	7 pm The Queens Consort. Baroque Carnival of the Animals. A celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi. Children encouraged to attend with parents. St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 33-50 82nd St. Admission: \$20/\$10 for students & seniors/\$5 children under 10.
Sun. 7	12pm Dominican Day Parade. 37th Ave. from 69th to 86th Sts.
Sun. 7	1 pm 7th Annual Momo Crawl. Diversity Plaza, 37th Rd. & 74th St. Maps \$10. For information, go to sfthq.cc/Momo2018 .
Sat. 20	9:30 am-12 pm Queens STEM Girls Conference. The Renaissance Charter School, 35-59 81st St. For girls, grades 4–8, admission \$3. For information, go to queensstemgirls.org
Sun. 21	12pm Bolivian Day Parade. 37th Ave. from 69th to 86th Sts.
Wed. 31	★ 5pm JHBG Children's Halloween Parade. 37th Ave. from 89th to 76th Sts.

November

Tues. 6	6am-9pm Election Day. For information on registration & polling sites, go to vote.nyc.ny.us or call 866-VOTE-NYC (866-868-3292).
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★ JHBG Event

VIEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS

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**Jackson Heights
Beautification Group**

PO Box 720253
Jackson Heights, New York
11372-0235
info@jhb.org

Editor-in-Chief
Victoria Steinberg

Design & Production Director
Rommel Alama

Distribution Director
Louise Mulvihill

Contributors
Eirik Davey-Gislason
Jerold Goldman
Shekar Krishnan
Len Maniace
Nuala O'Doherty
James Riccio
Martha Sanchez
Victoria Steinberg

Proofreader
Louise Mulvihill

Translator
Julia Erika Negrete Sandoval

Graphic Design
James Stonebraker

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“WHO CARES?”

We do!

That’s why we meet between 10am and 1pm every Saturday to make this neighborhood look more beautiful.

Would you care to help us?

JHBG 2018 FALL SCHEDULE*

Sat 09/01	BQE: 69th Street at 35th Ave
Sat 09/08	Leverich Cemetery: 72nd St & 35th Ave
Sat 09/15	IS 145: 34th Ave & 79th St
Sat 09/22	BQE: 69th Street at 35th Ave
Sat 09/29	PS 280: 35th Ave & 94th St
Sat 10/06	BQE: 69th Street at 35th Ave
Sat 10/13	PS 149: 34th Ave & 93th St
Sat 10/20	IS 145: 34th Ave & 79th St
Sat 10/27	Leverich Cemetery: 72nd St & 35th Ave
Weds 10/31	Halloween Parade 5 PM on 37th Ave at 89th St
Sat 11/03	PS 148: 32nd Ave & 89th St
Sat 11/10	PS 92: 34th Ave & 99th St
Sat 11/17	BQE: 69th St & 35th Ave

* We provide the tools, gloves, water, plants and work rain or shine as gardeners do!

www.jhb.org info@jhb.org

Friends & Neighbors: Please join us or renew your membership

Do not let your JHBG membership expire, or if you are not a member, please consider joining. Membership not only provides you with a subscription to our quarterly *Views from the Heights*, but more importantly it helps fund our numerous community activities. JHBG is a volunteer organization – we need your help, your support and your ideas. JHBG is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, so your contribution is tax deductible.

There are two ways to register:

1. Online: Go to www.JHBG.org/donate and pay by credit card. It’s quick and easy!

2. By Mail:

Send a check in the amount of the membership level you select, along with this letter, to:

**JHBG – Membership
P.O Box 720253
Jackson Heights, NY 11372**

Please circle membership level:

Individual–\$50 Family–\$100 Patron–\$250
Benefactor–\$500 Sponsor–\$1,000 Other _____

Please print the following:

Name: _____

Address (Include apt. #): _____

City/State/Zip: _____

E-mail address: _____

Are you interested in being contacted about any of the following JHBG activities?

Yes _____ No _____

Which programs most interest you? (please circle your choices)

- Clean and Green
- Graffiti Busters
- Jackson Heights Orchestra
- JH-CREW
- JH-SCRAPS
- Newsletter
- Tree LC
- Website
- Special events (Halloween Parade, Holiday Lighting, Summer Sundays, Town Halls, etc.,)
- Other: _____



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IEWS FROM THE HEIGHTS – Fall 2018

JOIN US!

To Celebrate The Best Of Jackson Heights And Help To Make It Even Better

GET BUSY:

TREE LC and CLEAN AND GREEN

EVERY WEEKEND

HAVE FUN WITH THE FAMILY:

JHBG CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN PARADE, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31

MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD - VOTE:

STATE PRIMARIES, SEPTEMBER 13

GENERAL ELECTION, NOVEMBER 6

www.JHBG.org