

Brooklyn NEWS

NEIGHBORHOOD

January/February 2021



Brooklyn Neighborhood

General Meeting

Wednesday, January 27

Virtual Meeting at 7 pm

BAC SEEKS NEIGHBORHOOD INPUT

“The BAC Board will hold a focusing session annually in order to garner general recommendations to pursue for the following year.” BAC Bylaws

The Neighborhood Board would like to hear your concerns and vision for the neighborhood, so please bring your ideas on how we can better serve the needs of our neighborhood, including how we can find out those needs in the first place!

Discussion with Rob Nosse, State Representative

If you are not already included in the neighborhood “Brooklyn Happenings” email, contact us at board@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Go to www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org for the latest updates and this newsletter in full color.

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these many years.

Getting through the “Tunnel”
Call BAC To Help
by Stuart Zeltzer

This past year has been a challenging and trying time, from COVID-19 to racial justice to economic and personal hardships. We have come through a lot. As a physician and BAC board member, I have seen our struggle up close and personal, and know that there is possibly more pain to come. While there is new light on the horizon with the COVID-19 vaccine, I wanted to call attention to the light that has brought us this far: neighbors helping neighbors. We have seen countless examples throughout the Brooklyn neighborhood, from bottle drives to food pantry donations and supporting our local businesses, to checking in on our next door neighbor. As we enter a new year, I would like to say on behalf of the BAC that we are here to help.

Please feel free to reach out with worries or needs at any time using our phone (971) 222-9454 and/or email board@brooklyn-neighborhood.org.

Calendar of Events

BAC Board Meeting Wednesday, January 13, 2021 Virtual Meeting, 7 pm	Neighborhood General Meeting Wednesday, January 27, 2021 Virtual Meeting, 7 pm
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BAC Board Meeting
Wednesday, February 10, 2021
Virtual Meeting, 7 pm

Openings For BAC Board

The BAC has two open board seats! To be eligible for election to a seat, you must attend a minimum of two board meetings. Please find upcoming dates on our website calendar or email us with questions.

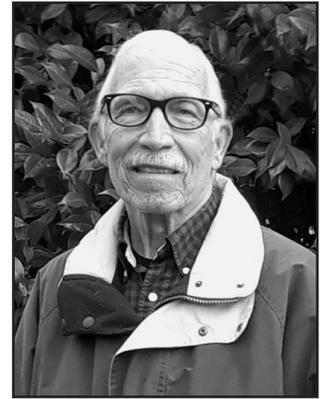
RETIRING BOARD MEMBER

Don Stephens joined the BAC board around 1993 and participated in the Brooklyn Foot Patrol as long as it lasted. In the mid-1990s he was active in the successful coalition to bring Max to Brooklyn. He was also chair of the Brooklyn Historical Society from 2001-2012, documenting Brooklyn's history and preserving our historical archive. Don has served as the BAC treasurer since 2009, maintained the historic banners that are mounted on telephone poles throughout the neighborhood since 2007, replacing them all in 2014. Besides being a long time deliverer of the Brooklyn News, he also managed orders for the Brooklyn Historical Plaques that are mounted on houses and according to his records, the current count is near 70.

Don has served as the Brooklyn representative on the Portland Neighbors for Diesel Action coalition as well as a member of the Land Use and Transportation subcommittee. Most recently, he joined the new Equity and Social Justice subcommittee.

Don retired for health reasons and to make room for new blood.

THANK YOU DON, FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF SERVICE.
YOU WILL BE MISSED!



Out and About in Brooklyn

Cream Brick Streetcar Commercial Building (1911)

Perhaps you have passed by the two-story cream brick building on the southwest corner of Milwaukie Ave and Bush St. without giving it a second look? Or, like me, have you admired the distinctive but sadly neglected property and wondered about its past, and hoped for a restoration and new use in the future? Built during the post-Lewis and Clark Fair prosperity in Portland, this building is a fine example of Streetcar Commercial architecture which defines the commercial districts throughout 'Old Portland,' especially on the east side.

The basic elements of Streetcar Commercial include: Retail shops on the ground floor with large plate-glass windows and recessed entry; A horizontal band of windows along the top of the first story called transom windows, and a second story for apartments or offices. On this building the band along the top of the second story, called a projecting cornice, is decorated with dental molding and a Greek key motif which display a Classical Revival influence. The row of dental molding is repeated along the façade, just above the transom windows. Another striking Classical element is the delightful stringcourse of pale pumpkin-colored brick that continues horizontally along the second story extending up to and over the windows. However, the clincher



for me is the pebble-dash stucco door-surround on the main entry in the middle of the building. This whimsical touch and the abstracted 'drops'

flanking the central entry are elements of Craftsman-influenced commercial architecture. To Brooklynites in 1911, this would have looked like a very 'modern' building.

Comparing the archival photo from the 1920s with a current photo, one can see a mostly intact



and unaltered exterior. A nearly identical building in terms of massing and ornamentation is the Laurelhurst Public House in NE Portland, also built in 1911. Is there a connection between the owner/builder/architect of these two buildings? The original owner of the Brooklyn building was a member of the wealthy and prominent Gerlinger family. Perhaps it was built as an investment/speculation property. Through the 1920s the building was occupied by the Kiser Studios, a very successful photography and film production company in Portland.

(For a history of the Kiser Studio see the excellent article by local historian Dana Beck in the November issue of The Bee.)

This fine example of Streetcar Commercial architecture is currently the Western Toy Manufacturing Company, which began business in the mid-1950s. Mostly boarded up and perhaps used for storage today, this 'diamond in the rough' could be an attractive and highly visible contributor to the commercial and historic character of the Milwaukie Ave. corridor. Maybe the owner would entertain an offer?

This is another installment of a regular feature spotlighting the history and architecture of the Brooklyn neighborhood by architectural historian and Brooklyn resident, Eric Wheeler, ericwheeler2@gmail.com

A **BIG THANK YOU** to the following volunteers who deliver this newsletter to your door, come rain or shine, hot or cold! The neighborhood saves thousands of dollars every year by hand delivering instead of mailing. Also, thanks to **Emily McKinnon** for always being available for proofreading.



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Thanks to our retired distributors: J Tom Field, Shanti Holland, Samantha Rousculp, Don Stephens, Jen Winfrey and Heather Williams. If you are interested in delivering newsletters, please call the Help Line or email brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

GROCERIES 4 GROUT EXPANDS, SEEKS RECURRING DONATIONS

by Melaney Dittler

Groceries 4 Grout is an organization that started as a small backpack initiative at Kenilworth Presbyterian Church that provided extra food to Grout Elementary School's most vulnerable families over extended breaks. Grout has at least 40% of families that qualify for free-and-reduced lunch so it became crystal clear that food insecurity would become a critical concern for most families at the onset of COVID-19. Since the effort began, numbers have steadily increased from approximately 7 (pre-COVID) to 50-60 (Spring-Summer) to 90 families served per week as of December. This equates to roughly 1,440 individuals fed per month through scheduled deliveries of food boxes and a walk-up pantry happening every Tuesday from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm at Grout Grounds.

What started as a passion project is now a combined community strong effort with regular Food Security Stakeholder meetings and strategy sessions. Members recently added include school counselors from Abernathy and Winterhaven schools, nutritionist lead from Grout, and PTA leaders from all 3 local schools and the Brooklyn Action Corps Neighborhood Association. G4G is currently seeking recurring donations to sustain current needs and expansion into 2021.



On Saturday, Nov. 21st, BAC Board members, Melaney Dittler, Kimberlea Ruffu and Josh Hetrick collected an SUV full of food. Thank you Brooklyn!

Here are some ways you can donate to the organization:

1. Food Donations: If you are interested in donating food resources, please contact Grout SUN Coordinator Chelsea Kimura at chelsea.kimura@portlandoregon.gov or call/text 503-278-1017.

2. Money Donations: Please contact Laura Schaefer by email at groceries4grout@gmail.com for more information on how to donate. You can also donate to the BAC's Grout Groceries fund – the pantry will get 100% of your donation, plus a 1:1 matching donation (up to a total of \$750) provided by the BAC and Brooklyn neighbors! Contact the BAC for info."

BROOKLYN HELP LINE

971-222-9454

The Helpline is always available for the Brooklyn neighborhood to voice their concerns or pass on information to the Brooklyn Action Corps.

Brooklyn Neighborhood News is published bi-monthly by the BAC. To contact the Brooklyn News, call the helpline or email the newsletter at brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org

Community announcements, local events and press releases are accepted on a space available basis. Closing date for the newsletter is on the 15th of even-numbered months. This newsletter is designed and edited by Marie Phillippi.

FOCUS ON BROOKLYN BUSINESS

UPSIDE DOWN FOOD CART

3318 SE Milwaukie Ave 971-373-8607

upsidedownpdx.com

Winter Hours Open: Tuesday-Saturday, Noon-2:30; 5 pm-8 pm

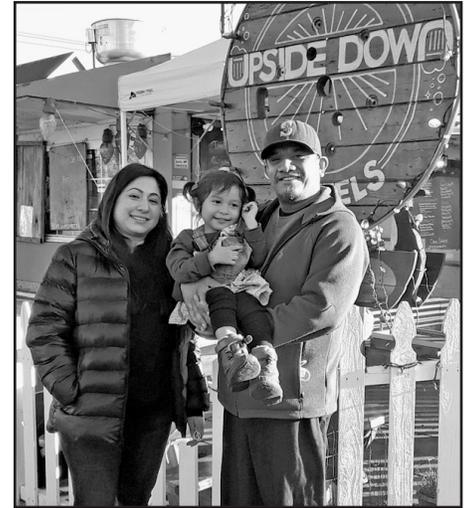
Oswaldo Bibiano and Maria Hernandez opened The Upside Down Cart in 2017. They chose Brooklyn after walking around the neighborhood and thought it was beautiful and wanted to be here. Oswaldo came to Portland from Mexico in 1995 mainly because he heard that the best chefs resided here along with great restaurants. He first worked doing minor jobs like dishwashing, etc. but knew he wanted to be a chef and have a food cart because there were very few of them in Portland at the time.

Maria, coming from El Salvador, has worked in the food industry since 2010. Her family still own a Salvadorian restaurant in Gresham. The two met here in Portland and now are the proud parents of 3½ year old Amber.

The menu is unique and created special for Brooklyn, therefore, a favorite: the 'Brooklyn Sandwich' to honor the neighborhood. When asked, "What is most popular on the menu?" Without hesitation, the Chicken Burrito!

Asked why the name Upside Down? "We didn't want to just focus on Mexican food, we wanted to mix it up a little bit, like our menu meats are not as regular as other food carts because instead of Carne Asada (sliced beef) we have the Adobada (beef) and instead of Carnitas (pulled pork), we have the Cochinita Pibil (roasted pork dish) which is great for tacos. It's all just a little Upside Down."

The couple wanted to be sure that everyone knows the neighborhood and customers have been especially supportive during the pandemic and wanted to thank everyone. This time has brought a lot of people together like family, and they have been able to make it through this hard time because of the great support.



Thanksgiving Day Fun Walk/Run

by Matt and Jody McComas



With Thanksgiving travel plans cancelled, our family wanted to do something to make the day fun for us and friends in the neighborhood. After mapping a neighborhood 5k walk/run, we put the word out to neighbors and friends and about 25 people gathered on Thanksgiving morning.

We love all the neighborhood events we have attended and hosted over the years but this year, Covid-19 has taken most of those things away, so we decided to do something new

(and Covid-19 safe) and at the same time, make memories in the process. Maybe this will be a new Thanksgiving tradition!

Thanks to all those who came out and made it a fabulous time together!



ESJ Update

The Equity & Social Justice Subcommittee wants to ensure we reflect the community we represent and are always welcoming new participants! Join your neighbors at one of our meetings to help shape an inclusive and thriving community for everyone. For more information, email socialjustice@brooklyn-neighborhood.org.

El comité de la equidad y justicia social quiere asegurarnos de que reflejamos la comunidad que representamos y por eso siempre estamos dando la bienvenida a nuevos participantes. Unirse a sus vecinos en una de nuestras reuniones para ayudarnos a formar una comunidad inclusiva y prospera para todos.

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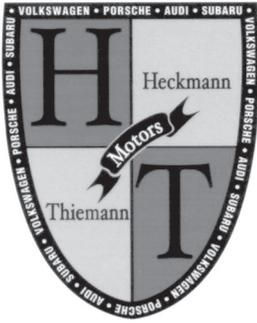
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