

# Brooklyn NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

January/February, 2025

HAPPY NEW YEAR, BROOKLYN



## Grocery Store Vision Becomes Reality

by Cheryl Crowe

In 2024, the BAC was approached by members of Know Thy Food Cooperative asking for help to keep the cooperative in the neighborhood. Their landlord was not renewing the lease at the store on Milwaukie Avenue.

The Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT) stepped in and worked with Know Thy Food to find a solution to keep them in the neighborhood. They took on the mission of helping Know Thy Food expand grocery inventory so the store can service the neighborhood better. They were able to find a space in the neighborhood, right next to the Post Office on SE Powell Blvd.

BCAT folks also mobilized neighborhood volunteers to pack up the entire store and move it by bike. They also took on turning a performance venue and bar, the former Mano Oculata and Twilight, into a grocery store, rebranded as Brooklyn Grocery Co-op.

**We now have a neighborhood grocery!**

The Brooklyn Grocery is evolving, bringing in new vendors like Flour Market with fresh baguettes and pastries and recently opened up a cafe where you can find tasty sandwiches and soups for lunch. They have a constantly expanding menu.



## Brooklyn Neighborhood General Meeting

Wednesday, January 22, 2025

Meeting at Sacred Heart Villa, 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 bring your ideas on how we can better serve the needs of our neighborhood.

Please refer to the article on Page 2 about sharing your ideas in the Visioning Survey as well.

Go to [www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org](http://www.brooklyn-neighborhood.org) for the latest updates.

For the weekly online news update, go to the website or scan this QR code.



The Brooklyn Grocery held its first Brooklyn Sunday Market in December, featuring a holiday fair bringing local artists, unique food vendors, and knife sharpening. Brooklyn Sunday Markets will continue on the first Sunday each month with an array of vendors and expanding into a farmers' market in the spring.

Be sure to stop by Brooklyn Grocery to have a bite, pick up your groceries, and see what we Brooklyn neighbors can do when we have a vision.

## Calendar of Events

**BAC Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 8, 2025  
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

**Neighborhood General Meeting**  
Wednesday, January 22, 2025  
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

**BAC Board Meeting**  
Wednesday, February 12, 2025  
Sacred Heart Villa, 7 pm

**GBBA Coffee Chat Networking**  
February 2nd 9-10am  
Location: TBA

**BCAT Meetings**  
Thursday, Jan. 2 & 16, 2025  
The Chomp Restaurant  
Thursday, Feb 13 & Feb. 27, 2025  
Rose City Coffee

**New Neighbor Night**  
February 6th 5:30 pm -7pm  
at Brooklyn Grocery Co-Op,  
1420 SE Powell Blvd.

**BCAT 100 Member Celebration**  
Thursday, Jan. 30, 5:30 -7:30  
Brooklyn Grocery Co-op

**Community Connections Meetings**  
Tuesday, January 7th & February 11th at 5 pm.  
Brooklyn Grocery Co-op, 1420 SE Powell Blvd.

**Brooklyn Movie Night**  
February 12th 7pm  
Aladdin Theater

## **More Board Members Needed!**

The Brooklyn Action Corps (BAC) is currently eight strong, and looking for more members! If you're committed to keeping Brooklyn healthy, vibrant, and thriving, and would like to volunteer, please attend our General Meeting in January and connect with a current member.

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## **2025 Brooklyn Neighborhood Visioning Survey** by Myong O

If you appreciate the following aspects of living in Brooklyn and want them to continue,  
**WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

The Ice Cream Social and other events, such as the regular Neighborhood Clean-up efforts, Newsletter Delivery, Active Contact to Email about neighborhood concerns, an Active Board to help address various needs, and a Neighborhood Climate Action team that is working to offer mutual aid, etc.

Starting on Jan. 1, 2025, the 2025 Visioning Survey will be available online for you to share your ideas about what you would like to help make happen in Brooklyn in 2025. A link will be available on the BAC website and in the weekly newsletter. Then on Jan. 22 at 7 pm (General Neighborhood Meeting) a Visioning/Work Party will start actively planning for the year together!

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## **The Greater Brooklyn Business Association Update** by Melaney Dittler

The Greater Brooklyn Business Association (GBBA) has had a great 2024! We now have 56 members, who have hosted monthly "Member Hosted Networking" events, and put on a successful "Best of Brooklyn BBQ" in July. We also sponsored a Thanksgiving Food Drive for "Groceries for Grout" food pantry and a Bloodworks NW "Vampire" Blood Drive in October.

We are now working on plans for 2025 and will be having a special board meeting on Jan 16th 11:30-2:30 at The Frankie Apartments. Any GBBA members are welcome to join us to help plan our year. We are actively looking for more board members for 2025 and marketing professionals to help with small projects. Our next "Member Hosted Networking" event (open to any business owner/representative within our boundaries) will be Feb 7th at 9am, location to be announced in January, check the GBBA website for the location. If you are interested in joining the GBBA or would like more info about membership or events, check out [GreaterBrooklynBA.com](http://GreaterBrooklynBA.com).

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**Brooklyn Neighborhood News** is published bi-monthly by the BAC. To contact the Brooklyn News, email the newsletter at [brooknews@brooklyn-neighborhood.org](mailto: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.

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.



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## Rebirth of a Building 3833 SE Milwaukie

Built in 1910 by Anna Gerlinger of Gerlinger Theatre/Aladdin fame, 3833 is a great example of Streetcar Commercial style. The terra cotta walls and large bay windows attracted the passerby. For years it had an assortment of businesses on the ground floor and tenants renting rooms above.

Fame arrived in 1922 when Fred Kiser brought his successful photography studio to the site. The Kiser Studio was famous for its photos of the Columbia Gorge, Crater Lake and Mt. Hood. He was the official photographer of the 1905 Lewis & Clark Exposition. He went on to photograph businesses, railroads and natural sites, then took a step further into the world of silent motion pictures. This very site was the makeup and costuming location for the production studio at the site of Sacred Heart's Gregory Hall. Unfortunately, this effort survived only a few years, being replaced by a grocery, then a furniture store and finally a carpenter's shop.



Then in 1955, fame of a different type turned 3833 into a factory - a toy factory, owned and operated by Moshe Lenske. Moshe was a force in his own right. His father Rueben was a noted lawyer and Moshe after graduating from Lincoln HS went on to Reed. WWII intervened and he joined the 9th Armored Division and saw 30 days of combat, ending at the Battle of the Bulge. He finished Reed on his return, became a lawyer, got very involved in both the Woodstock Neighborhood and SE Uplift; a mover and shaker within the Multnomah County Democrats.

Western Toy Co. produced stuffed toys designed by his wife, Hilda. Local neighborhood highschoolers were the employees who stuffed the toys. Custom orders were common; they made anatomically correct dolls used by counselors and carnival prizes. Once in 1977, Moshe's truck spilled 12 stuffed snakes near Grand & Morrison. Traffic was too heavy for him to stop so he left the snakes behind!

After 69 years the Asian production low costs forced Western Toy to close. For the past several years, local builder TJ Civis was helping clean the building. The BAC approached Moshe to donate the building, but no planning followed. In 2023, Moshe went back to France for D Day event. While there he contracted Covid and passed on July 25th, 2024. His wife predeceased him and with no children, and any plans he had for 3833 are unknown. So the next time you walk pass 3833 SE Milwaukie, recall the history within it's walls and hope for one more restoration.

## Business Focus

### Away Days Brewery

1234 SE Cora St.



Niki Diamond and Pete Hoppins are the owners of Away Days Brewing, a new business in Brooklyn. The company moved to the Brooklyn neighborhood in October from the Central Eastside District because they preferred to be in a REAL neighborhood. The British transplant owners opened a brewery and tap room in 2019 with a focus on European styles of beer, specifically English ales and European lagers.

The name 'Away Days' is a well-known term in English football (soccer) culture, referring to the days you go and watch your team play in another city. The brewery is inspired by the love of the beautiful game and favorite beer-drinking memories of the owner's European travels.

The taproom is open 6 days a week: Tues.-Thurs: 3 - 9 pm,  
Friday & Saturday: noon - 9 pm and  
Sundays: Noon - 8 pm.

They open early for Saturday and Sunday Premier mornings, depending on the match schedule, and they host a weekly Run Club on Thursday evenings at 6:30.

There is a large covered patio in back, with a food cart, Champs Burger, coming in early 2025.

For more information, check out their website: [www.awaydaysbrewing.com](http://www.awaydaysbrewing.com)



WELCOME TO BROOKLYN!

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## Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT) is 100+ members strong!

by Myong O

Approximately two years ago, concerned neighbors created a BAC subcommittee, the Brooklyn Climate Action Team (BCAT), in hopes of identifying 100 neighbors who were concerned about the ecological crisis and wanted to work collaboratively to take positive action. We recently achieved that goal and want to celebrate together!

Please join us on Thursday Jan. 30, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Brooklyn Grocery Co-op (1420 SE Powell). We will have food, music, activities (screen printing BCAT t-shirts from Psanctum Thrift Store), postcard writing, planning projects for 2025, etc). RSVP to [climate@brooklyn-neighborhood.org](mailto:climate@brooklyn-neighborhood.org) by Monday Jan. 20.

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## Adopt a Block Update

by Kathy Orton

**DO GOOD IN THE NEW YEAR!** Join many of your neighbors in picking up litter and being watchful for hazards on one or more blocks. Many blocks are still available. Your commitment is to walk your block/s at least once a month, pick up litter, call in hazards. That's it... but it makes a huge difference towards the livability in Brooklyn.

Interested? Contact Kathy Orton: [kt\\_orton@hotmail.com](mailto:kt_orton@hotmail.com) or attend a BAC meeting and check the map of available blocks and sign up at the meeting. Happy New Year to Brooklyn!

## Brooklyn Historical Plaques

If you have admired the Brooklyn historical plaques on homes and businesses throughout the neighborhood, have you thought of adding one to your home or business? The Brooklyn Action Corps will provide the plaques for \$32 each. The plaques are identical in design and color to those already in existence, except for the date, address and a custom script if desired.

Ordering details are online at [brooklyn-neighborhood.org/historic-plaques](http://brooklyn-neighborhood.org/historic-plaques).

Questions? Contact [treasurer@brooklyn-neighborhood.org](mailto:treasurer@brooklyn-neighborhood.org)

