

# Forest Hills Gardens Bulletin

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FOREST HILLS GARDENS, LONG ISLAND

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## ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE TAPPAYERS ASSOCIATION.

The necessity for adequate school facilities brought nineteen residents of Forest Hills together one evening in 1909. F. L. Holmes was elected Chairman and F. A. Dede, Secretary. The need of a public school for the community was discussed and a committee was chosen to draft a letter to Mayor Gaynor, setting forth the situation, and also to interview the local school Commissioner. Both matters were promptly attended to and within four months the present temporary building on the North Side was erected, two teachers installed, and the school in session. It was determined to form a permanent organization and call it the Taxpayers Association. Chairman and Secretary of the meeting were elected to fill these offices for one year. Charles T. Schneider was chosen Treasurer. Several meetings were held, a Constitution and By-laws adopted, and committees appointed to cover various matters of local interest. The work of the Association was carried on by its various committees and so energetically did they work that everything they had set out to obtain was accomplished within a year.

It was not until a year or more thereafter, when the New York Telephone Company attempted forcibly to annul the residents' contracts by separating Forest Hills from the Newtown zone, putting it with Jamaica, thus adding five cents per call on all messages to Manhattan, besides limiting the area, that the activities of the Taxpayers were revived. At a meeting to consider this the following officers were elected: Chairman, F. L. Holmes; Vice Chairman, R. A. Clinchy; Treasurer, Charles T. Schneider. Three committees were appointed: School Committee, Charles Pope Caldwell, Chairman; Telephone Committee, Wm. H. Wood, Chairman; and Railroad Committee, Charles Pope Caldwell, Acting Chairman. As a result of the work of the Telephone Committee, the Telephone Company decided to restore the five cent Manhattan call, but they have never restored the former and more advantageous local area.

About this time the Russell Sage Foundation purchased one hundred and forty-two acres of land from the Cord Meyer Development Company, and rapidly developed what is now known as The Gardens. As soon as a sufficient number of residents were located in this section it was determined to ask them to join the Association. A meeting was called and every resident was invited to attend. The meeting was a great success. The office of Second Vice Chairman was

created, and T. Comerford Martin elected to fill the position, and R. P. Kaighn was elected Secretary. Several new committees were created, and all reorganized so as to represent equally the north and south sides of the community. From this meeting dates the cordial feeling that now exists throughout Forest Hills.

At the September meeting it was decided to hold the annual election on the last Tuesday in October and to choose a new Chairman each year, from the north and south sides alternately. The following meeting elected John Hazelton, Chairman; R. A. Clinchy, Vice Chairman; R. P. Kaighn, Secretary; and Charles T. Schneider, Treasurer. The most distinctive feature of Mr. Hazelton's administration was the introduction of prominent speakers, who talked on topics of both general and local interest. A temporary school building of four rooms was erected on the south side and increased railroad facilities were obtained.

At the next election Charles Pope Caldwell was chosen Chairman; Mr. Emerson, Vice Chairman; T. J. Buckley, Treasurer; and E. M. Bristol, Secretary. Immediately following Mr. Caldwell's election as Chairman, he was elected to Congress. This was the first distinction of this kind that had come to our community and the "Taxpayers" felt signally honored. Mr. Caldwell's administration was instrumental in securing several improvements. A playground was opened in connection with the school on the south side, and equipped by the Sage Foundation Homes Company. The grounds were opened to all school children. The kindergarten was also opened and the little tots of from four to six provided with educational facilities.

## ACTIVITIES OF VARIOUS COMMITTEES.

School Committee—James E. West, Chairman.

The work of the School Committee for the coming year will be to co-operate with the school authorities in securing for the children ways and means by which they can receive an education which at least equals the minimum standard required by the rules and regulations of the Board of Education. It is hoped that it will be possible to make some advance in preparing a way for the proper consideration of the need of permanent buildings on both the north and south sides. While this effort is important and somewhat urgent, the chief aim will be to make sure that the children who are now in school are not at a disadvantage by comparison with the children in similar grades in other schools in Greater New York.

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### OFFICERS

ROBERT W. DeFOREST - - - - - President  
 JOHN M. GLENN - - - - - Vice President and Secretary  
 JOHN M. DEMAREST - - - - - Vice President and General Manager

Committee on Health and Sanitation—Dr. T. C. Chalmers, Chairman.

This Committee will do its chief work along the lines of educating the residents on how to keep well. To this end the meeting in January on the prevention of epidemics and infectious diseases should be well attended, especially by families in which there are children, as the two epidemics of whooping-cough which we have had were largely due to ignorance or carelessness. This Committee will be very glad to have its attention called to any facts bearing upon the Public Health, either from the standpoint of sanitation or disease.

Committee on Fire Prevention—Fred Neumer, Chairman.

This Committee will recommend that the Forest Hills Hose Co., Inc., of which Mr. Neumer is President, issue a card to all families, giving information as to what should be done by the householder in case of fire. It will also seek to have the residents of Forest Hills Gardens get out the apparatus in the different hose-houses and learn to use it. It will seek to organize the entire community in what to do in case of fire.

Anti-Mosquito Committee—S. W. Eckman, Chairman.

This Committee, with the greater part of its funds already in hand, will employ in the early spring a practical mosquito man to undertake the extermination of our home grown mosquitoes. The remainder of the money of the Committee will be contributed to the Queensboro Anti-Mosquito Committee, which was organized by our Committee. This Queensboro Committee will conduct a Borough-wide anti-mosquito advertising and educational campaign. It has just been learned that largely through the efforts of our Committee, the Committee of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment having the matter in hand will, on the twenty-first of this month, recommend to that body the appropriation of \$150,000 in corporate stock for the drainage of the salt marshes of Queens for the purpose of exterminating the salt marsh mosquito.

Committee on Taxes and Assessments—C. Gordon Pearce, Chairman.

This newly formed Committee proposes to inquire into the high land tax in Forest Hills and its relation

to other land taxes in the Borough of Queens, to ascertain the existing methods of taxation followed by the assessors in Forest Hills, and upon what they are based; and whether other elements than land values are included in the tax. Other questions will be discussed, such as the assessed versus the real value of Forest Hills property, what is property and just what real value means, low valuation versus high valuation, the relation of State taxes to local taxes, why the land is not assessed at its full value as required by law, remedies of tax payers, etc.

Committee on Streets—Arthur H. Shapiro, Chairman.

The main work of this Committee will be directed toward bringing the streets on both sides of the track up to the highest standard.

Railroad Committee—F. L. Holmes, Chairman.

This Committee is working as a branch of a joint committee composed of the Citizens Association of Jamaica, the combined Taxpayers Association of Kew Gardens, Forest Hills, Elmhurst, Winfield, and Woodside, and the Transportation Committee of the Chamber of Commerce of the Borough of Queens, to secure from the Long Island Railroad a fifteen minute train service during the rush hours, between Jamaica and intervening stations to Long Island City (Hunters Point Avenue Station) and the Pennsylvania Terminal, also a half-hourly service during the balance of the day up to twelve o'clock midnight, and an hourly service between one and five A. M. This joint committee is trying to secure a ten cent regular fare in either direction between Jamaica and intervening points and the Hunters Point Avenue and Long Island City Stations. This is urgent in view of the fact that the Hunters Point Avenue Station connects with the subway that uses the old Steinway tube between Long Island City and the Grand Central Terminal, New York City. The Committee has ascertained that Forest Hills commuters who now use the subway may save \$2.00, beginning the first of February, by purchasing their monthly ticket from our station to Hunters Point Avenue Station, instead of to the Pennsylvania Station, and use the subway as they do at present in New York.

Market Committee—Mrs. G. B. Rossman, Chairman.

This Committee will keep track of the relative prices and excellence of household commodities on the north and south sides, in the neighboring communities and in Manhattan and Brooklyn, and will seek to encourage the patronage of our local tradesmen provided their prices and commodities warrant such patronage.

Committee on Water, Gas and Electricity—Harold P. Daniels, Chairman.

This Committee announces that anyone may secure an impartial meter test by applying to the Public Service Commission and paying a small fee which will be returned in case the meter is found to run more than 2 per cent. fast. The Committee will be glad to give

any resident full information as to rates for the various tests or in relation to any matter having to do with water, gas or electricity.

Committee on Postal Service—John M. Demarest, Chairman.

This Committee will promote the patronage of our local post office with a view to the betterment of the service.

The Committee on Telephone Service has not yet been organized. It will be announced later.

### THE GARDEN CONTEST.

The garden contest, which was inaugurated by the Gardens Chapter of the Women's Club, in co-operation with the Flower Shop, was successful in that it stimulated the interest of the community to a large extent in its gardens.

The entries for the contest closed June 1, with a total of nineteen names. Three inspections of the gardens of these contestants were made during the months of June, July and September by John Trivett, an experienced English gardener of the firm of Stumpf & Walter, New York City, whose services were paid for by the Flower Shop.

Points were counted for (1) general maintenance; (2) vegetables and flowers; (3) lawn; (4) trees and shrubs, with a possible total of 300 points. The three prizes offered by the Flower Shop were plants to the amount of \$10, \$5 and \$3 respectively, and were won by Mrs. C. W. Johnson, Mrs. T. C. Chalmers and Mrs. G. C. LeBlanc. The first received 280 points, the second 265 and the third 255 points. The next three, Mrs. Hooper, Mrs. Washburne and Mr. Foster, were tied with a score of 245 points. Nearly all received a total of 200 points or over.

Below is a picture of one of the contesting gardens in Forest Hills Gardens.



### GENERAL NEWS.

Miss Gertrude F. Ryan, of Slocum Crescent, spent her Christmas holidays in Hartford, Conn.

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. H. Robinson, of Puritan Avenue, left on Monday last for the west coast of Florida, where they expect to be about three months.

Mrs. Raymond P. Kaighn is soloist at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, New York City.

Lyman Beecher Stowe's book on Booker T. Washington is announced by the publishers for issue in the spring.

J. F. Hutchinson and family have moved into the MacFarlane house in Puritan Avenue.

Nat C. Goodwin has rented the house at No. 10 Greenway Terraces.

The Book Exchange bazaar planned by the Women's Guild will be held about the first of February. Full particulars in next issue.

The Journeyman's class of boys has installed weathervane feeding shelters for the Washburn's, and Goudy's. They are ready to install others at \$3.00 each and to take orders for bird boxes at 75c. to \$1.50 each, according to the size and design. Those interested may communicate with Miss Knevels or Mr. McGahie.

### THE INN.

J. C. Tressler and bride are making their home at The Inn until their new house is completed at Kew Gardens.

Mrs. Harris, mother of Mrs. C. L. Peters, whose home is in Montclair, Canada, is staying at The Inn.

Mrs. Yates, of Chicago, is the guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wallace.

Mrs. M. E. Hewitt has returned to The Inn, after a visit to her home in St. Louis.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cary, of Niagara Falls, are visiting their son, Richard Cary.

Fred J. Keegan has returned to The Inn, after an extended business trip through the West.

Mr. Barron has returned to his home in Chicago after a lengthy visit at The Inn.

A. H. Guiler and sister, Miss C. Guiler, have left The Inn after having made it their home for some time.

Don't forget the delightful musicale at The Inn every Sunday evening at 8:30 o'clock. Everybody invited.

### CHURCH-IN-THE-GARDENS.

"The Best Personal Influence in the World" will be the subject of Dr. Kent's sermon Sunday morning, the 16th inst.

At the mid-week meeting Thursday, the 20th, Mr. Kaighn, leader, the chapter in the book, "The Meaning of Prayer," to be considered is "God's Care for the Individual," and the following week, Mr. Stickel, leader, "Prayer and the Goodness of God."

## COMING EVENTS.

(To make this column as complete as possible, we desire the co-operation of all organizations of the community. Kindly send all communications to the office of the Homes Company, addressed to the "Bulletin.")

## NEARBY EVENTS.

Tuesdays—2 P. M., at the Sales Office, meeting of Volunteer War Relief Division of Women's Club.

Thursday—10 A. M., at the Inn, meeting of the Musical Art Society.

Monday, January 17th—8.15 P. M., Church-in-the-Gardens, lecture by Dr. B. B. Kendrick, "Italy and the Countries of Eastern Europe." Admittance, 25 cents.

Thursday, January 20th, 2:30 P. M., at the residence of Mrs. Rufus G. Angell, 56 Shorthill Road; address by Mrs. C. H. Marsh, President, Montclair Housewives League. Auspices of Household Economics Chapter of Women's Club. Tea will be served.

Sunday, January 23rd, 8 P. M., Church-in-the-Gardens. Address on "Socialism" by Alegrnon Lee, Director of the Rand School of Social Science. Auspices of Church Forum.

Tuesday, January 25th, 8 P. M., Gardens Club. Lecture by Dr. C. B. Slade, Medical Examiner for the Board of Health—"Prevention of Infectious and Epidemic Diseases." Auspices Taxpayers Association. Admittance free. Special invitation to parents.

Friday, January 28th, 8 P. M., Gardens Club. Lecture by T. Comerford Martin, of Forest Hills, Secretary of National Electric Light Association—"Lessons from the Panama-Pacific Exposition—Architecture, Color, Lighting." The colored lantern slides used to illustrate the lecture are the finest to be obtained.

Monday, January 31st, 8:15 P. M., Church-in-the-Gardens. Lecture by Dr. B. B. Kendrick—"The Spread of European Civilization and the War of the Nations." Admittance 25 cents.

## PUBLIC MEETINGS.

The Taxpayers Association announces the following meetings:

January—Address by Dr. Charles B. Slade, "The Prevention of Infectious Diseases."

February—Address by a member of the Board of Education on matters relating to our schools.

March—Address by Hon. Robert Adamson, on prevention of fires.

April—Address by an official of the Long Island Railroad on our railroad service.

May—Address by Hon. Lawson Purdy, on the system of taxation.

June—Address by Dr. Haven Emerson, on anti-mosquito work.

## NEW ARRIVALS.

Carew Sanders, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George C. LeBlanc, December 7th.

## CHURCH SERVICES.

Roman Catholic—Sunday mornings at 8 and 9.30 o'clock, Fife Street, near Seminole Avenue, North Side.

St. Luke's Episcopal—Sunday morning at 11 o'clock at the home of Charles C. Foster, 36 Slocum Crescent. Holy Communion, second Sunday of each month at 8 A. M.

Church-in-the-Gardens—Sunday mornings. Sunday School at 10 o'clock. Preaching service at 11 o'clock. Greenway North and Ascan Avenue.

Church of Forest Hills (undenominational) — Regular preaching services each Sunday at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. Sunday School at 10 A. M. Prayer Meeting Wednesday at 8 P. M. Seminole Avenue and Gown Street.

## CATHOLIC CHURCH OPENED.

Services are now being held in the new Roman Catholic Chapel on Ascan Avenue near Queens Boulevard. Mr. George Dostal gave much distinction to the inauguration mass on New Year's morning by a magnificent rendition of Gounod's "Ave Maria." Although Mr. Dostal sang without accompaniment his fine tenor voice was never clearer, stronger, or more perfectly attuned. The Church was crowded and all were deeply impressed.

## CHURCH-IN-THE-GARDENS.

About ninety people sat down to the supper preceding the annual meeting Wednesday night, January 5th. It proved to be the most successful social event in the history of the Church. After supper, while seated at the tables in the social room, the business of the annual meeting was transacted. Dr. Kent reported 26 members received during 1915, with two dismissals, leaving a net membership of 128. The report of the treasurer showed receipts of over \$3,000 and that the Church starts the new year without debt, excepting \$300 still due on the chapel and the balance of the purchase price of the land on which the new Church stands, which is being paid in monthly installments according to contract. The election of officers resulted as follows: Trustees to serve three years, Dr. William A. Rice, Rev. Geo. T. Scott, James Rea; Church Clerk, Norman Baker; Treasurer, Dr. Rice; S. S. Superintendent, R. P. Kaighn; Deacons, M. J. Stickel and Norman Baker, to serve three years; R. P. Kaighn, to serve two years, and Howard Duff, to serve one year. The report of Mrs. Rea, Secretary of the Woman's Guild, and the report of Mr. Kaighn, Superintendent of the Sunday School, showed both organizations in flourishing condition. Mrs. Bevier, Mrs. Stotler, and Miss Barden were re-elected members of the Church Committee.

Dr. Emerson's address on Sunday night on "Alcohol" was most excellent. It was the calm exposition by a clear-headed and well informed man of science of a subject of tremendous importance. In arranging for the lecture the Woman's Guild rendered a fine service.