

Forest Hills Gardens Foundation



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Latest Archival Committee Scanning Project - Soon To Be Up On Website!

The mission of the FHGF is the preservation of the legacy and history of Forest Hills Gardens. To accomplish this goal, we actively archive relevant documents and photographs both digitally and physically, with the assistance of professional archivists. Through the maintenance of our website (<https://foresthillsgardensfoundation.org>) we share the rich history of our neighborhood, and make it accessible to all. While both the archives and website are entirely funded through community outreach, the Foundation tackled a big project this year – the professional scanning and archiving of the complete set of the Gardens earliest newsletters, The Forest Hills Gardens Bulletins.

While these paper documents are now over 100 years old, they provide a unique picture into the very beginnings of our community. Ranging from 1915 to 1924 (227 newsletters in all!), they are a wonderful snapshot of the challenges and activities of The Gardens earliest residents. Projects such as these are costly but so vitally important in capturing our neighborhood's rich history and early days. Knowing how delicate the work would be, the Foundation worked closely with a professional scanning organization in Maryland, known for handling historical documents, where these aging newsletters were both digitized and cataloged page by page, assuring both their preservation and the ability for future generations' enjoyment. Community support and private donations have allowed the Foundation to tackle this important project – Thank You!

More work needs to be done. Website updates - adding more documents to our archives and improving search capabilities - will hopefully be started in the coming year. Working with professional certified archivists, the Foundation now has a helpful "FHGF Finding Aid to the Collection" and custom "FHGF Archive Collecting and Management Policy Guidelines" as well as training sessions for the Archive Committee and Board members. Working with the archivists at Cornell University and the Queens Library, as well as through thoughtful donations of materials by Gardens residents, we hope to be adding to our archives greatly in the coming years. It is important to note that as some long-time residents sell their homes, relatives have generously passed on valuable photographs and documents of our neighborhood. For example, the Esakof family recently donated items when preparing their Greenway North home for sale, resulting in wonderful additions to our collection.



Home on the corner of Standish and Slocum, 1917



FHGF Board Members Promoting Raffle Sales, 2024



THE COMMUNITY TREE
Will Stand in the Bowl of the Fountain in Station Square.

The Forest Hills Gardens Bulletin, 1921

Visit us online at: www.foresthillsgardensfoundation.org

New Project: One Hundred Plus Year Old Document to be Updated in 2025

In 1915, Will Phillip Hooper, a prominent Gardens resident at 84 Greenway South, compiled responses to the question: "Why We Have Chosen Forest Hills Gardens For Our Home", summarizing the reasons various families chose to purchase a home in the newly-created neighborhood of Forest Hills Gardens. The 28-page document chronicled the numerous and varied answers to this question from the 188 homeowners at that time. The FHG Foundation hopes to revisit this question and create an updated booklet to be added to the archives. It should be interesting to see if the reasons have changed and if so, how. To view the historical 1915 document, visit our website foresthillsgardensfoundation.org/documents. Add your voice! Please participate in this recreation and submit your own "why" response to foresthillsgardensfoundation@gmail.com.

Free Presentation November 9th: Nick Hershon - Early History of The Gardens

While an experiment at its time, Forest Hills Gardens is America's first garden city, created out of 142 acres of undeveloped land, beginning in 1909. On Saturday, November 9th, the FHG Foundation will host author, Nick Hershon, for a free informative exploration of the Gardens' early years. Copies of his book, "Images of America: Forest Hills," will be available. Be sure to be on the lookout for flyers outlining the details and plan on joining your neighbors at the Community House, 15 Borage Place at 3:30 pm on Saturday, November 9th. To support its mission, the FHGF raffled off tickets to a Neil Young concert, as well as the U.S. Open tickets to both the Men's and Women's Quarterfinals. Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us raise funds for the work that we do on behalf of our community.

Tax Status and Finances

The Forest Hills Gardens Foundation is a registered 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to preserving the history and culture of Forest Hills Gardens. The FHG Foundation is not affiliated with the Forest Hills Gardens Corporation and we get all of our operating budget through generous donations and raffle purchases from Gardens and area residents. No one on the Board receives any salary and the vast majority of our expenses are related to preserving and archiving historical documents, making them accessible via our website, as well as putting on informational events for the community. A sincere thank you to all donors for helping us advance our mission.

Please help to preserve the history of our community!

PayPal or Credit Card:

Go to www.foresthillsgardensfoundation.org and use the left navigation and click on the "Donate" link

Venmo:

To pay by Venmo, scan the QR code to the right or via the app, send your donation to **@FHGF22**

venmo



Via Check:

I would like to donate: \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ Other Amount \$ _____

Please make check out to: Forest Hills Gardens Foundation

Name: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

Cut off this form and mail with your check to:

Forest Hills Gardens Foundation

C/O Ms. Maureen Shillet
10 Holder Place, Apt. 5E
Forest Hills Gardens, NY 11375

All donations are tax deductible,
to the Forest Hills Gardens Foundation,
aka Forest Hills Taxpayers Association.