A Letter from the Executive Director

This year has been an amazing opportunity to appreciate living in a civically engaged community. From voter lines for the Presidential election that ran along both side of 4th Street and curved onto Fifth Avenue, to a steady schedule of organizing for marches, policy planning sessions, and fundraisers to support disaster survivors, we’ve seen Park Slope respond to the current state of world affairs with Revolutionary spirit.

This level of care and concern is what makes it so special to be part of the community here at the Old Stone House & Washington Park. In turn, our goal is to give back by providing a home for all this engagement, be it education programs like our contemporary art exhibit program and our beautiful wood-fired oven, And it’s your financial support that allows us to say YES to this incredible array of opportunities.

Thank you for your enthusiasm and energy. You’re our heroes.

Warm regards,

Kim Maier

A Letter from the Board Chair

Despite the Old Stone House & Washington Park’s branding as Revolutionary Brooklyn, most visitors think of the House & Park as their town square, a place to go for recreation, civic inspiration, artistic and cultural nourishment, and a place to reflect on how the past is relevant to the present. Old Stone House & Washington Park is a hub, a center for all community activity.

Town square is a fitting moniker for a site that existed when that kind of public space provided a crucial means for Brooklyn’s early colonial settlers to meet and share news.

With that in mind, our theme for Old Stone House & Washington Park in the coming year is “Greening the Square” as we work to make the House & Park ever stronger in financially and administratively.

As the conservancy organization the Old Stone House & Washington Park, the Board and staff, not the City, raise the funds that keeps the House and Park open and provide all the great programming enjoyed by our 500,000 annual park visitors.

We urge you to become a local hero, and provide a sustaining monthly donation that will help us Green the Square. Your support will help keep the park green and ensure that more than 7000 New York City school children benefit annually from high quality history and civics education.

With thanks for your support,

Nancy Rosenberg

Kim Maier and longtime park supporter Julie May at OSH’s June fundraiser for the park.
Photo: NY1 Minute Weddings

Board Chair Nancy Rosenberg with fellow board member Cathleen Game Leff. Photo: NY1 Minute Weddings

Weddings

With thanks for your support,

Nancy Rosenberg

Kim Maier
Maggie Weber and her team of per diem educators continue to strengthen OSH’s education program, providing classes for 209 school groups from across the city, as well as history focused after-school programming in partnership with the New York City Department of Education.

Creating links between yesterday and today, hands-on activities and inquiry-based learning are at the core of student driven education at the Old Stone House & Washington Park. Programs on elementary and secondary students, as well as on professional development, and meet New York State Social Studies guidelines.

Offerings include:

*The Battle of Brooklyn, Dutch Toys and Games, The Gowanus Creek, Primary and Secondary Source Documents, Searching for Freedom, and Traditional Medicinals*

**School Group Numbers**

School Groups ........................................................... 209
Adults ............................................................. 418
Children ........................................................... 6270
Afterschool ............................................................ 71

**PROGRAMMING**

OSH Programs provide multiple opportunities to access the history of the site. Outdoor park events—including the Brick Oven Brooklyn meet-up, where neighbors gather at the hearth to cook over a wood-fire, to the annual Kings County Fiber Festival, to the weekly Down to Earth farmers market and Fishkill Farms CSA—help raise awareness of the relevant links between Brooklyn’s past and present. OSH’s contemporary art exhibition program; folk and classical music programs; youth theater programs; and topical lectures reflect a continued appreciation for ideas and experiences that build community.

Last year, we presented theater residencies with Piper Theatre, South Brooklyn Shakespeare and Spellbound, as well as three art exhibits—Appropriating Revolution and Multilocational (curated by Katherine Gressel) and Domesticated (curated by Abby Subak); and 17 concerts and lectures. We also hosted 12 weddings, 2 bar mitzvahs; and events with MS 51, PS 321, PS 118, Park Slope Civic Council, Park Slope Parents, Arts Gowanus, Gowanus Canal Conservancy, NY City Planning and the GOBK committees – too numerous to count.

**EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH**

Old Stone House School Attendance by Zip Code (2014-15)

- <6 school visits
- 6-10
- 11-15
- 16-20
- 21-25
- 26+

Old Stone House School Attendance by Zip Code (2014-15)
Individual donors and our annual party for the park, chaired by board member Stacey Bosworth, continue to be the primary source of income for the Old Stone House & Washington Park. We are deeply appreciative of this support.

The New York City Department of Cultural Affairs provides a significant level of funding for our exhibit and education programs, which are also supported by our elected officials, Councilmember Brad Lander, Councilmember Steve Levin, and Assemblymember Joanne Simon.

As a member of the Historic House Trust of New York City, we are grateful for maintenance support provided by the New York City Department of Parks & Recreation, as well as the donated time and expertise provided by members of the Old Stone House board of directors and our community.

**Major Donors**
Carol & Willard “Kwame” Anthony  
Julia Beardwood & Jonathan Willens  
Constance L. Christensen  
Beverly Crilly & Louis Mintz  
Adrian “Buzz” Doherty  
Jennifer & Steven Eisenstadt  
Marcia Ely & Andrew McKey  
Cathleen Game & Sanford Leff  
Barbara & John Lehman  
Rosalee & Bruce Lovett  
Alice Marcus Krieg  
Elisabeth Martin & Michael Duddy  
Pamela Maffei McCarthy & Joseph M. McCarthy  
William P. Parry  
Nancy Rosenberg & David Sternlieb  
Emily Sharrock & Leo Kim

Three-term board member Jonathan Willens was presented with a medal for his commitment to the Old Stone House & Washington Park. Photo: NY1 Minute Weddings
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ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Old Stone House & Washington Park has fulfilled its mission in a variety of ways during the past 13 years. We have:

- developed and installed the new permanent exhibit, Old Stone House: Witness to War after raising $350,000.
- increased participation in our school programs from 23 classes to 220 classes per year.
- developed seven native and useful plant gardens in the park and neighboring Middle School 51.
- overseen $9.5 million in renovations to the play and recreation areas in Washington Park and JJ Byrne Playground.
- increased our annual budget from $23,893 to $336,000 to provide hundreds of programs each year.
- increased overall visitation to The Old Stone House from 2,267 to 52,583 per year and now provide additional services for more than 500,000 park users annually.
- been formally recognized as a landmark by the New York State Department of Parks and Historic Preservation and are now listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

PRIORITIES FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

The priorities for the Old Stone House & Washington Park over the next three years are:

- Focusing on educational and community programs related to The Old Stone House’s history in order to strength its role as a civic leader and an educational and cultural gathering place for the community.
- Advocating for a new parks building to provide restrooms and additional community space.
- Re-structuring 4th Street and the cul de sac as a public plaza area.
- Expanding the House’s role as the conservancy organization for Washington Park and building a strong Friends group.
- Increasing and diversifying funding to support the programs and operations of the organization.
- Continuing to work with partners to develop the site in ways that will increase visibility and access to the House and expand the potential for educational exhibits and programming.
Mission

Rooted in Brooklyn’s revolutionary history, the Old Stone House & Washington Park fosters civic engagement through education, culture, recreation and environmental programs serving more than 500,000 annual visitors.

The Old Stone House

Board of Directors

Nancy Rosenberg, Chair
Cathleen Game Leff, Secretary
Rosalee Lovett, Treasurer
W. Kwame Anthony
Stacey Bosworth
Peter Joseph
Alice Marcus Krieg
Elisabeth Martin
Joseph M. McCarthy

Emeritus
Michael Armstrong
Joseph Ferris
Philip Forbes
John Muir
William Parry
Marilyn Pettit*

*in memoriam

Ex Officio
John Krawchuk, Historic
House Trust of New York City
Martin Maher, Brooklyn Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Emeritus
Michael Armstrong

Ex Officio
John Krawchuk, Historic
House Trust of New York City
Martin Maher, Brooklyn Commissioner
New York City Department of Parks and Recreation

Staff

Kimberly Maier, Executive Director
Margaret Weber, Director of Education
Vik Bensen, Outreach Coordinator

Kim Fenwick, Program Coordinator
Mina Jones, General Manager
Claudia Joseph, Environmental Educator
Deyse Rodriguez, Keeper of the House

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718.768.3195 | www.theoldstonehouse.org | info@theoldstonehouse.org

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