



July 2022

Ben Franklin Community Garden News

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Ice Cream Social!

Our annual Ice Cream Social took place on Saturday, July 16th. After an early morning of rain and clouds, the sky cleared and the weather was perfect!

Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped make the social a fun community event! And thank you to all of our gardeners and their families in attendance. The Operating Committee appreciates your support!!

A good time was had by all! And who doesn't love Honey Hut, right?



Volunteer Hours

Volunteer sign-up sheets were available at the Ice Cream Social. In case you did not attend, or did not have the opportunity to fill out a form, please use the link below for online sign-up. For any volunteering questions, contact Mark.

mtapajna@yahoo.com

As a reminder, all gardeners must complete a minimum of 5 volunteer hours. Donations of \$25 per hour can be made in lieu of volunteering. **Thank you!**



[Sign up here.](#)

The BFCG Operating Committee

In the July and August newsletters, we are spotlighting our Operating Committee. Some of us may be familiar to you, while others are new faces. The Operating Committee consists of 11 members who work directly with Greg Noeth, our Garden Coordinator. This month we have included bios of six of our current members. Next month we will feature the rest.

Are you interested in becoming a committee member? We are looking for individuals willing to dedicate their time, and share their skills and talents to help continue our mission of providing a beautiful space for gardening while fostering community. Skills of interest include event planning, marketing, building trades, accounting and IT skills, but most importantly is the desire to work collaboratively to maintain and improve our beautiful garden refuge. If you would like to share your talents and become more involved, please email the garden. Link is below.

[Email BFCG](#)



Mark Tapajna

Mark has been a gardener at BFCG for over 25 years. He was a founding member of the garden Operating Committee and has served for 12 of the 15 years it has existed. ***"The goal of the committee has been to assure the continued existence of the garden as a community asset and to improve the sustainability of the garden to the benefit of the land, its gardeners and the community as a whole,"*** says Mark.

Mark has a PhD in Education, a Masters in Religious Studies and a Clinical Counseling license. He currently works part-time at CCC and spent 30 years prior as a case worker supporting children with mental health issues and their families.

He played keyboards in a local band for 25 years, loves creative and nuanced music and art, enjoys working with his hands, practices yoga and meditation and feels a deep passion for being a steward of the Earth, especially at Ben Franklin Garden.

"My greatest hope is that the Ben Franklin Gardeners find comfort and a sense of renewal in our garden oasis and will reach out to share their creativity, unique talents and positive energies to nurture this extraordinary space and each other," says Mark.

Mark is Vice-Chair of the Operating Committee, Chair of the Projects sub-committee, and serves on many other sub-committees including Grants and Art & Music.



Libby Lehman

Libby has been a resident of Old Brooklyn since 2018 and gardening at Ben Franklin was one of the things she most looked forward to upon moving to the neighborhood. She has been a gardener for 4 years now, with mixed successes. She most likes growing dahlias and leeks and has almost never had success with peppers. Aside from gardening, she likes hiking, biking, running, playing ultimate frisbee, and sitting on her porch with her partner, Eric, her cats Miso and Mari, and her (new!) puppy June. During the 9 to 5, Libby is the Sustainability Manager for the City of Cleveland.

This is Libby's first year on the Operating Committee, where she serves on the Grants and Finance sub-committees.



Renata Jelito

Renata and her husband became BFCG members 4 years ago, shortly after they moved to Old Brooklyn from Kew Gardens, NY. She is a lifelong lover of nature and became an avid gardener at the age of 30 when she bought her first home.

“By the time I was 45 years old, I was deep into studying landscape design at the NYBG School of Horticulture and Design, which led me to working for a landscaper in Sommers, NY. This opportunity exposed me to commercial properties, rooftop gardens, as well as high-end residential property design,

install and maintenance. I also installed and maintained natural and artificial landscapes at the Queens Center Mall in Elmhurst, NY,” says Renata.

Prior to landscaping, Renata worked in the beauty business. She worked as a stylist, manager, senior manager and after 12 years, became a business owner.

“I am now in stage three of my working life. This involves taking care of my husband, our two dogs, volunteering, gardening, painting, cooking, baking, the occasional stroll and a visit to Playhouse Square from time to time,” says Renata.

This is Renata's first year on the Operating Committee where she serves on the Beautification sub-committee. You can see her dedication in the beautiful landscaping she has been working on around the pavilion area. *See photo at beginning of newsletter.*



Kathy Delaney

Kathy has been an Old Brooklyn resident for 34 years and spent many of those years raising her son and daughter in close proximity to the garden. ***“I walked past the garden with my children often, always wondering what it was like on the other side of that fence on Tampa Avenue. In 2018, after both kids had graduated from college and were on their own, I got my first garden plot. I had no idea how beautiful it was inside those garden gates! This is my fifth summer at Ben Franklin and I am very thankful for this***



beautiful space and the friendships I have made there," says Kathy.

Kathy works full-time as a graphic designer, and also does free-lance design work. When she's not gardening, she enjoys water color painting, walking, spending time with her family including her two grandbabies, and taking a few trips a year to NYC to visit her daughter.

This is Kathy's second year on the Operating Committee, where she serves as Secretary and on the Communications and Art & Music sub-committees.



Bernadette Glorioso

Bernadette is a contemporary artist based in Cleveland. Bernadette's unique approach of weaving fabrics or clothing as canvas, together with her signature vibrant brushstrokes inspired by her natural surroundings, have captivated an international audience. Her collections and commissions can be found across the United States and abroad. Dedicated to her local community, she has also been commissioned to multiple public murals throughout the greater Cleveland/Akron area, the most recent being a mural for the renowned Cleveland Metroparks.

Bernadette is a former board member of ArtHouse, has managed multiple art galleries over the years, and loves hosting pop-up shows that gather today's creative minds. She also enjoys sharing her creative process with fellow artists, and currently works for Carroll Graphics and the

Broadway School of Music and the Arts.

This is Bernadette's first year on the Operating Committee, where she serves on the Art & Music sub-committee.



Marie Mathie

Marie is an Old Brooklyn resident, buying a home in the neighborhood 19 years ago. Having been gardening at home for the past decade, she decided to spread out and joined the Ben Franklin Community Garden family in 2021. Marie is also a member of the Little Free Pantry movement and placed a food pantry in her front yard to provide food for residents in need and has been inspired by the fortunate residents who donate to the pantry on a regular basis.

Wanting to get more involved in her community, Marie joined the Ben Franklin Community Garden Committee in 2021. Since joining the committee she has been involved in several events and loves meeting more residents and fellow gardeners. She looks forward to seeing the garden continue to flourish and be a gold star landmark in Old Brooklyn.

This is Marie's first year on the Operating Committee, where she serves on the Communications and Marketing sub-committee.

Music in the Garden

On Wednesday, June 22, **Austin Walkin' Cane** brought his fiery voice and delta blues chops to the garden! Balalaika Virtuoso, **Oleg Kruglyakov** (*pictured below*) entertained the crowd with his amazing talent on Saturday, July 2. On Saturday, July 16, **Sororii**, (*pictured below*) featuring BFCG's own **Arleigh Savage** performed their newly released album, *Esperanza*. It was a beautiful evening of music!

If you haven't attended a concert yet, please join us and bring your friends. Our line-up is chock full of amazingly talented musicians. **Remaining concerts are on Wednesdays, July 27 and August 24; and Saturdays, August 6 & 20, and September 3 & 17 at 6p.**





Please join us for family art activities!

**Saturdays
from 2-4 p.m.**

**July
30**

**Aug
6**

Additional class & parade dates to be announced!

BFCG is excited to collaborate with local artist, Hector Castellanos, who has impacted our community through numerous artistic endeavors including the Cleveland Museum of Art's *Parade the Circle*.

Led by Hector and operating committee member, Bernadette Glorioso, children will be using natural elements to create banners, drums, crowns and butterfly wings and in the fall, the children will *Parade the Garden* showcasing their creations!

Email communications@benfranklincommunitygarden.org to register. Parent or guardian must accompany child.

This art series is sponsored by MyCom
www.mycomcle.org



Our family art series continues! We will be adding an additional class date and Garden Parade date soon. (See photos below.) Please email the garden, using the link below, to register your child/family for this wonderful art series!!

[Register Here](#)



Items of note and reminders:

Bulletin Boards and White Board

Remember to check the bulletin board on the shed and the white board regularly.

Garden Plot and Pathway Maintenance

Garden plots and pathways must be maintained. Pathways must be clear of objects and weeds. If you receive a notification your plot OR pathway needs work, please tend to it as soon as possible. If you are having trouble keeping up with your plot, reach out to a committee member.

Garden Opening & Closing

Please note that garden hours are Monday-Saturday 9a - 8p and Sundays 9a - 4p. (Labor Day hours will be 11a - 4p)

BFCG 2022 Calendar


[View Calendar](#)

Monthly Garden Committee Meetings

Unless otherwise indicated, committee meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Garden classroom. **All gardeners and members of the public are welcome to attend!**

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Benjamin Franklin Community Garden

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