



Dozier Hasty Remarks

Award for Responsible Brooklyn Journalism

The history of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle has been a distinguished chapter in Brooklyn journalism and in the life of our borough. During its initial 114-year history, the paper mirrored the borough's rise and fall, and when it quit publishing in 1955, it signaled the start of Brooklyn's decline over several decades.

Fortunately, the Daily Eagle's name lives on under the stewardship of Dozier Hasty, the publisher who revived the name and paper in 1996 and created a media empire. Through Dozier's leadership, dedication and single-minded determination, the Brooklyn Daily Eagle has continued its namesake's tradition by reporting on the people, politics, events, issues, and indeed, the life of the borough whose name it shares.

In an era in which journalism is often under assault from the increasingly fragmented political system, the impact of digital media, or the changed readership habits of the public, Dozier has dedicated himself to journalism that respects true and objective reporting. Whether by the daily summary that appears in our digital mailbox or the physical paper that arrives at our homes or businesses, Dozier's Daily Eagle reports on the local issues that are important in our daily lives, reinforces what it means to be a community, and fosters the dialogue that is needed more than ever today to sustain our democratic institutions. In a highly uncertain world, we can depend upon the Daily Eagle for its fair and accurate coverage of the issues that shape our borough and of the people that animate what happens in our community.

We pay tribute tonight to Dozier Hasty for his hard work and devotion to our community. For over 22 years, he has kept alive the spirit of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle and chronicled our present, and in so doing, reflected the remarkable and still evolving renaissance of our borough. The BHA is pleased to honor Dozier with its Award for Responsible Brooklyn Journalism.

Design-Build Volunteer Remarks

Award for Outstanding Volunteerism to the Community

A year ago, a group of committed, community-minded volunteers, joined with the BHA and boarded a bus very early in the morning to set out for Albany to persuade State legislators to authorize a Design-Build approach for the BQE Project.

In the thick of our present opposition to the City's plan for a 6-lane Promenade Highway, the success of this campaign is easy to overlook. However, this campaign's achievement will result in a faster, less expensive project, and will lessen the disruption to our neighborhood.

The bus was occupied not only by Brooklyn Heights residents, but by volunteers from the Promenade Gardens Conservancy and residents of Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Boerum Hill and Park Slope. This group had a shared commitment to find a better solution to fixing the BQE that will expedite construction by reducing the potential for delays.

On the day of the bus trip last March, the Design-Build Campaign volunteers were split into two teams to meet with the many Senators and Assembly members who could influence this legislation. A team also met with Governor Cuomo's top transportation officials who had a significant role in getting the legislation into the State budget, which made its passage much easier.

For these volunteers, it was not just one exhilarating and exhausting day in Albany. In the weeks leading up to the Albany trip, they rallied their own communities and stakeholder groups to sign petitions and to call and email the key legislators with whom we met.

In the end, this campaign finally succeeded in getting design build authorized after years of failure. There can be no question that the volunteers demonstrated the strength and influence that local communities can exert.

For their commitment, we recognize tonight these volunteers who helped the BHA to carry the day in Albany:

Roger Adler
Cheryl Baker
Neil Calet
Glenn Kelly
Craig Meachen
Sid Meyer

Jane Platt
Bridget Reel
Karen Schlesinger
Kurt Steele
Franklin Stone
Marian Wood

Please come forward so that we can recognize your efforts.

CAMBA Remarks

Award for Outstanding Service to the Wider Community

Presented to CAMBA for its Respite Bed Program

Currently, 1 of every 110 city residents lacks a home and must fend for themselves by sleeping on streets and subways throughout the city, including Brooklyn Heights. As part of the obligation we share to the wider community, Brooklyn Heights is actively involved in helping to ameliorate this situation.

For many years, a Brooklyn nonprofit organization, CAMBA, has worked with clients, staff, volunteers, donors, neighbors and partners to build a more inclusive city where all residents have access to the resources and support services they need to thrive.

With the assistance of religious institutions throughout Brooklyn, CAMBA operates the Respite Bed Program to house homeless single men. The program functions in tandem with CAMBA's Gathering Place Drop-In Center, which operates 24 hours per day, seven days per week. At the Drop-In Center, clients receive three meals a day and have access to shower and laundry facilities, case management services and assistance with entitlement programs, as well as medical and mental health services. Following a rigorous screening, those who qualify are transported each night to a Respite Bed site.

In Brooklyn Heights, CAMBA partners on a rotating basis with the Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Brooklyn Heights Synagogue, Grace Church and St. Ann and the Holy Trinity to provide safe overnight shelter for up to a dozen homeless men. Each night, 7-8 volunteers from these institutions are involved in cooking, serving meals, and preparing the cots, and some of them stay overnight.

These volunteers bring vital care and compassion, but the program is sustained by CAMBA's expertise, experience, resources, and above all, its dedication. Tonight, we honor CAMBA, and in particular, Yehudit Moch, the Operation Manager of the Respite Bed Program, who ably manages 20 sites throughout Brooklyn and the 40 congregations involved.

We also extend a warm welcome to CAMBA's President and CEO Joanne Oplustil, Vice President Carol Rubinstein, and Directors Annette Rivera and Sheila Stainback, and to the coordinators at each of the local institutions – Kathy Reynolds, Anne Landman, Elizabeth Stong, and Nancy Trott - and ask all of you to be recognized for your service to Brooklyn Heights and to the wider community.

First Presbyterian Church Remarks

Award for Outstanding Service to the Community

Presented to Jane Woland, Coordinator of First Presbyterian Church's Food Pantry Program

For nearly 15 years, Brooklyn Heights' First Presbyterian Church has opened its door every week, 52 weeks a year, for a good cause - to reduce hunger in our neighborhood.

All who come on Thursday mornings are warmly welcomed by the 10 volunteers who distribute the wholesome food that is found on the church's food pantry shelves. No questions are asked. No one is turned away.

The pantry serves the working poor, those with fixed incomes or limited mobility, out-of-work breadwinners, and low-income caregivers. All clients receive the same respect and dignity as members of our extended community.

More than 100 people are served every distribution day. They choose from among the stocked items those foods they would like, rather than being given a prepackaged selection.

Before the church began the food pantry, the Brooklyn Heights area was not well served by hunger-relief services. The First Presbyterian Church responded to the need. By stepping forward, it tapped into a rich vein of support, contributions, and volunteerism from the community, and provided funds from its own resources.

In addition to members of the congregation, volunteers from Packer Collegiate, the Brooklyn Autism Center and St. Paul's Episcopal Church work at the pantry on a regular basis. Further assistance comes from two Community Supported Agriculture groups, which supply fresh food, and from grant support by the Food Bank for New York City, which enables the church to buy food from wholesale sources.

The program's success depends in great measure on Jane Woland, a volunteer who has overseen the program for 10 years. She keeps things running smoothly when the doors open and people are admitted in small groups to a modest space at the entrance to the sanctuary. And behind the scenes, Jane manages the budget, directs the volunteers, buys the food, coordinates deliveries, makes sure the shelves are neatly stocked, and accepts donations.

Tonight, the BHA is proud to honor the First Presbyterian Church, and to recognize Jane Woland for her dedication to reducing hunger in our community by our presentation of an Award for Outstanding Service to the Community.