

Briarwood Action Network (BAN) Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE BAN PRESIDENT A THOUGHT ON COMMUNITY

The last BAN event for the summer of 2014 was Briarwood Action Network's 'Day of Service and Remembrance' Volunteer Event on September 13; where we cleaned, raked, painted, spread mulch, and cleared over 25 bags of garbage at Briarwood Playground. This event was in honor and remembrance of the victims of 9/11 and the heroes who rose in service in response to the attacks. Seeing neighbors come together, and work together, for the betterment of our community, I was filled with pride. I was proud to count myself among Briarwood's residents. It was a day of service, history, emotion, and reflection. And my thoughts continually came back to community. Please let me share a few of those thoughts with you.

From its very beginning, you've shown us that there is a place in Briarwood for an energetic, hands-on organization run by a board that truly works in collaboration with the community. And by sustaining your support -- as members, volunteers and participants in our projects and meetings -- you've proved that again and again.

The work you've put in has inspired us to continue to make BAN a uniquely exceptional civic group. We will do this by continuing our model of motivating Briarwood residents to engage with us and with each other; by bringing neighbors together to work to improve the neighborhood; by having respectful, but independent, discourse with our elected representatives and government officials; and by recognizing that all of us are partners in making this a more vibrant place to live and do business.

We are very gratified to have tapped into this community's deep spirit of volunteerism and neighborhood pride. Our mission from the beginning was to activate that spirit -- that's what the "Action" in Briarwood Action Network stands for.

Aida Vernon
President
Briarwood Action Network

WERE YOU THERE?

Were you with Briarwood Action Network (BAN) at "It's My Park Day" in early May of this Year?

BAN members and about 100 Briarwood neighbors were joined by local school students and Parks Department personnel as we all cleaned, painted and beautifully spruced up Hoover Park and Playground. We enjoyed refreshments provided by Briarwood businesses, Flagship Diner, Alba Restaurant, and Pani Dolci Bakery. We swayed and tapped our toes to music of the Dave White Band. Arts and crafts were available for kids of all ages. To top it all off, those with energy remaining took aim at a festive piñata. BAN was happy to welcome the participation of other Briarwood non-profit groups such as Melrose Credit Union's Brokerage division, Friends of the Briarwood Library and our NYC Fire Department. This was one of BAN's signature events and a great opportunity for our community to come together to accomplish important work and exemplify community spirit.

Were you there when BAN hosted a free Puppet Show, "Little Red's Hood", put on by CityParks PuppetMobile?

This took place in late June, offering entertainment for the children just as the school year ended. Staging was in Hoover Park Playground. The talented staff from the CityParks PuppetMobile brought us a most creative, and clever performance, which turned out to be fun for children from toddlers to teens. About 50 young people attended along with family and caregivers. There was continual applause as they enjoyed Little Red's exploits and the final reward was BAN's distribution of balloons and lolly pops. Who could ask for anything more?

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH THE 'ACTION' OF VOLUNTEERING.

In the last issue of the BAN newsletter, I wrote an article about the "Network" part of the Briarwood Action Network. Recently though, I've been thinking about the "Action" part. In that last article, I started by looking at some definitions of "Network." So, this time, I decided to look at some definitions of "Action." Action is defined as; 1. *The fact or process of doing something, typically to achieve an aim, and 2. A thing done; an act.* And just as BAN exemplified the part of the definition of "Network" that means 'to connect', I saw that BAN also lived up to the 'Action' part of its name. It was clear and immediate that BAN does things. But I realized that BAN can only be 'in the process of doing something' because of the people, the volunteers, who decide to get things done. So as I contemplated the 'Action' in Briarwood Action Network, I thought about it from my perspective as a volunteer. And one of the things I love best about being a volunteer is that it is a great way to get to know the neighborhood.

I have lived in Briarwood for ten years and have seen more of it in the three years that I've been volunteering than I did in the previous seven. Before volunteering with BAN, I saw Hoover Park only out of the corner of my eye as I was walking from the subway. After planting daffodils, painting benches, sweeping, etc. at many BAN organized park clean-ups, I have great appreciation for, and pride in, our local green space. Before volunteering with BAN, I didn't know that the Briarwood Family Residence existed. After participating in multiple BAN organized Holiday Food and Toy Drives for the benefit of the Residence, I not only saw how well and professionally it is run, but I got to witness and be a part of the generosity and good heartedness of Briarwood residents. Samaritan Village was just an anonymous building before I handed out flyers for and attended several BAN organized informative community meetings there. Now I see it as a valuable neighborhood resource. I always felt a little safer with a police precinct in the subway, but I had new gratitude for them after meeting some

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WERE YOU THERE?

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Were you there to attend BAN's Theater Party in July?

Those who attended were treated to a wonderful "Broadway Quality" anniversary production of Fiddler on the Roof. We laughed and cried right along with the excellent actors and musicians. We were certainly inspired to give a final shout out "To Life."

Were you there to get the important information provided at BAN's August Community Meeting?

Those who came to the meeting learned updated information about how to reduce housing costs for seniors and the disabled members of the community. New York City Department of Finance representatives told the audience about rent increase exemptions based on the SCRIE and DRIE laws and senior homeowner savings based on SCHE legislation.

Were you there?

We hope so. We hope you received the benefit of working, learning, being entertained; all while being actively involved with BAN and our Briarwood Community.

Never too late!

Whether you were part of all of these events, some of these events or if you've yet to have the experience of working with BAN, there is much more to anticipate.

You can join BAN's active participants in the community or one of our committees, who help to plan and organize these projects. See website, www.briarwoodactionnetwork.com, for important news, upcoming activities and happenings, and more. See how next time you can be a part of it all!

**Sylvia Sherman
Vice President
Briarwood Action Network**

BAN FICTION CORNER:

THE NO BUMPY ZONE



Bumpy: Erika, can I come to your room and watch television with you?

Erika: No, you cannot.

Incredulous look from Bumpy.

Bumpy: What do you mean?

Erika: I do not want you in my room.

Bumpy: Why can't I watch television with you?

Erika: Because this is my room and I like to watch television after I come back from work. I need to relax and do not need you hopping around and chatting and annoying me.

Bumpy: Does that mean I can't come into your room?

Erika: That's right.

Bumpy: Can I come and watch television with you, Erika?

Erika: Bumpy, you have your own room with your own television. Disappear won't you.

Bumpy: Can I just sit with you?

Erika: No, you cannot.

Bumpy: Why not?

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GETTING TO KNOW YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD THROUGH THE 'ACTION' OF VOLUNTEERING.

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marvelous TD20 officers who facilitated a BAN organized "Operation ID" event and after BAN arranged with NYPD-Transit District 20 to locally collect donations for people affected by Hurricane Sandy's devastation. There are more examples than I have time or space for here.

New York neighborhoods can be full of people who live right next to you whom you never meet. Through volunteering with BAN, I've actually met some of the wonderful, diverse people in my neighborhood. Maybe you'll consider volunteering in Briarwood too. You may discover treasures. And you can definitely join in taking pride in the great things about Briarwood and in working to improve things where they can be better. That is action. That is a great thing done.

**Crystal Courts
Board Secretary
Briarwood Action Network**

A BRIARWOOD RESIDENT REMEMBERS... THE WORLD'S FAIR

1939, the Nazis invade Poland. The World's Fair, with its wonderful projections of the future, opens in Flushing Meadows, Queens. My, what a contradiction. But in 1939, I was six years old. And this was my coming out party. I remember loving every moment - the lights at night, the fountains, all the people, The World of the Future! And my world was expanding.

1940, War rages in Europe. We got our first phone. I could not wait for the fair to open. I remember wearing the Heinz Pickle Pin; and my new favorite instrument - the kazoo; and my, and the public's, first exposure to what would come to dominate the future - Television!

1941, Pearl Harbor.

To be continued in the next issue. See what else a Briarwood resident remembers. The war years, the 50's, and the 1964-65 World's Fair!

**Larry Sherman
Director, Communications Committee
Briarwood Action Network**

THE NO BUMPY ZONE

(Continued from 'The Fiction Corner' on Page 3)

Erika: You are making me crazy. No means just that. No.

Bumpy: I will only stay a little while.

Erika: How many times do I need to say this? Bumpy, go torture someone else. We go through this all the time. You do not get the message.

Bumpy: Just for a little while.

Erika: You don't get it. My room for now and forever is off limits. This is a *No Bumpy Zone*.

Bumpy: Really.

Erika: Really. In addition, things are not going to change. I do not need you to snoop around at everything in my room and changing channels on my television.

Bumpy: (walking away and mumbling quietly to himself): Oh, well, maybe I can try again tomorrow.

Erika: I heard that.

Barbara Pramberger D'Ambrosio

Upcoming Events: Check the 'BAN Events' page of our website often for more details on the events below and other BAN activities:

September: September 13 - 9/11 'Day of Service' event

October: October 18 - It's My Park Day

November: Late November 2014 - Early January 2015 - Food Drive for the Briarwood Residence

December: End of the year BAN Party!

Do you have a submission for the BAN Newsletter '***Fiction Corner***' ?

Would you like to share your own '***Briarwood Resident Remembers***' ?

Do you have another piece you'd like to include in the newsletter? We would love to hear from you!

Go to the 'Newsletter' section of the website for submission guidelines.

WWW.BRIARWOODACTIONNETWORK.COM

Community/Volunteer Survey: Briarwood Action Network is always seeking the input of Briarwood residents in determining the needs of the community, and finding ways we can all work together to address those needs. Please complete the **Community/Volunteer Survey** to help us plan for our future activities. Complete the survey online via a link on the 'Contact Us' page of our website. Surveys can also be printed & mailed to **Briarwood Action Network**, PO Box 356068, Briarwood, NY 11435

BAN continually strives, via emails, community meetings, and our website, to keep our neighbors informed. Check our website - **WWW.BRIARWOODACTIONNETWORK.COM** -, facebook page, and twitter feed -**@BriarwoodAction** - for neighborhood information. Please also use those forums to make us aware of any news. You can also email us at **briarwoodactionnetwork@gmail.com**. Or send mail to:

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