

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Brooklyn Queens Land Trust's 6th Annual Celebration of Gardens



Demetrice Mills, BQLT board president, presents the Presidential Award to Iris Harvell.



(L-R) Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark, 33rd AD, Rose Bibuld and Robert Jurgens

On Saturday, November 2nd, over 125 gardeners, community members and elected officials gathered for a day of workshops, music, food and fun at the the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust's 6th Annual Celebration of Gardens. The event was held at the Brooklyn Job Corps Center in Bedford-Stuyvesant. Brooklyn Queens Land Trust (BQLT) is the non-profit organization that owns and stewards 32 community gardens in central Brooklyn and Queens.

During the morning, BQLT presented a series of garden-related workshops with topics ranging from plant propagation to permaculture to art in nature. Gardeners of all ages - kids and adults - took part in these lively sessions, which were followed by lunch and a formal program.

Demetrice Mills, BQLT Board President, presented an honorary award to Council Member Albert Vann (36th District), who is retiring this year. Mr. Mills said, "We appreciate the fact that you have recognized the importance of greening open spaces and community gardening in the urban areas, and especially in connecting people to the environment and their source of food, by assisting the Brooklyn Queens Land Trust organization in its continued stewardship and ownership of public green open spaces."

Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark

(33rd AD) then presented proclamations to two gardeners from 227th Street Cambria Heights Community Garden - Rose Bibuld and Robert Jurgens - and commended them as "individuals who give of their time and energies and serve the best interest of their communities."

In addition, BQLT Community Service Awards were given to 11 senior gardeners who have contributed their time, energy and activism since long before BQLT was established, all in the interest of protecting community gardens as open space for future generations.

Recipients of these awards were: Rose Bibuld and Robert Jurgens, 227th Street Cambria Heights Community Garden, Queens; Ansel and Floree Williams, Back to Eden Community Garden, Queens; Thomas J. Walker, Euclid/Pine Street Block Association Garden, Brooklyn; Rev. Molley Golden, John the Baptist Community Garden, Brooklyn; Ada Smothers, McIntosh Neighborhood Association Garden, Queens; Samuel Belton, Merrick-Marsden Neighbors Association Garden, Queens; Robert Matthews, Ralph Lincoln Service Center Garden, Brooklyn; Elizabeth Rogers, Central Bainbridge Community Garden; and Patricia Ferrine, United Herkimer Garden Club, Brooklyn.

Finally, Mr. Mills presented Presi-



Community Service Awards (L-R): Demetrice Mills, BQLT board president, Elizabeth Rogers, Meg Fellerath, BQLT board secretary, Floree Williams, Ansel Williams, Ada Smothers, Thomas Walker and Robert Matthews



Demetrice Mills, BQLT board president makes a presentation to Councilman Al Vann.



(L-R) BQLT Board of Directors, Khemene Pantin, Meg Fellerath, BQLT board secretary, Jamel Evans, Meera Bhat, Demetrice Mills, BQLT board president, Amelia Blanquera, Ola Akinmowo, Ashley Cruce, Jennifer Madrid, Taina Evans, Hiawatha Campbell

dential Awards to five individuals who have demonstrated ongoing, outstanding support which has helped to make BQLT into the organization that it is today. Recipients of these awards were: Joe Robinson, Classon Ful-Gate Block Association Garden, Brooklyn; Carl Greene, Dunton Civic Association Community Garden, Queens; Iris Harvell, Central Bainbridge Community Garden, Brooklyn; Jaime Alvarez, Concerned Citizens of Grove Street Community Garden, Brooklyn; and Dorothy Ford Mills, Classon Ful-Gate Block Association Garden, Brooklyn.

The afternoon was rounded out by guest speakers and performances of poetry, music, and drama, followed by a raffle and giveaway of garden tools,

supplies and seeds.

BQLT is a 501c3 non-profit organization, comprised of a 15-member Board of Directors, 32 garden representatives, and a membership of over 500 gardeners. In Brooklyn, BQLT gardens are located in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Boerum Hill, Bushwick, Clinton Hill, Crown Heights, East New York, Flatbush, Fort Greene, New Lots, Park Slope, Prospect Heights, and Williamsburg. In Queens, BQLT gardens are located in the Cambria Heights, Corona, East Elmhurst, and Jamaica neighborhoods. BQLT gardens cannot be sold or developed and by law are permanently saved as open spaces.

Photos: Lem Peterkin