BQE MEDIA

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GOTHAM FC WINS 2026 NWSL SHIELD!
BATS ENTER POSTSEASON AS TOP SEED, WILL HOST SEATTLE SUNDAY!
PLUS – JJ ASKS IF THIS IS THE WORST JETS SEASON – SPORTS PAGE 31

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TIMES

FOREST HILLS / REGO PARK

Established in 1873

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This Week in Queens

• It's official! **Machka**, an Anatolian shepherd mix from Sunnyside, was elected **NYC Dog Mayor**. Congratulations to the runner-up, Bronx-born Dr. Computer Chips.

• The city announced **New Yorkers enrolled in SNAP will now be able to earn 40% more through Health Bucks**, a program that matches money spent on fresh produce at farmers markets and farm stands.

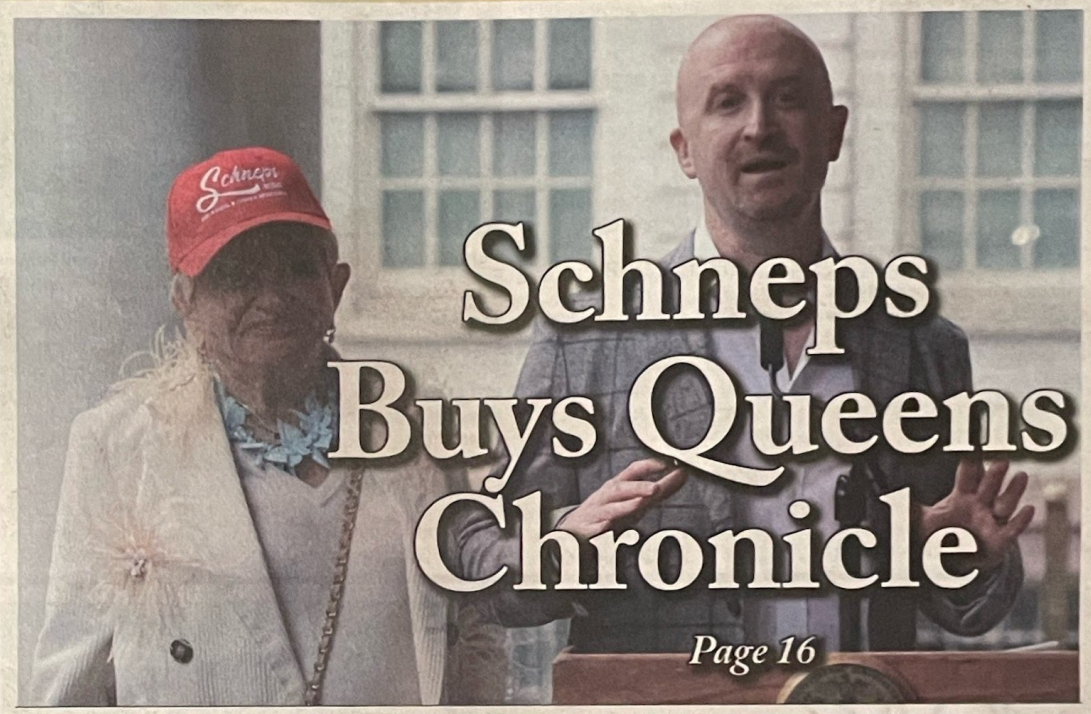
• The **Queens Night Market ended on October 31**, but not before a last-call campaign visit from **Mayor Mamdani and Governor Hochul**. (Meanwhile, Blakeman headed to Juniper Valley Park in Middle Village.)

• A science teacher from Townsend Harris High School in Flushing, **Micheal Quach, has won a national teaching award** from Honored, a nonprofit that chooses one winner each month to receive $5,000. Congrats, Micheal!

• The **Queens Tech + Innovation Challenge** is offering a two-part virtual workshop to help small businesses and solo entrepreneurs make the most of AI tools – part one is on Wednesday, November 11.

• Queens reps are kicking off the brainstorming process for next year's **participatory budgeting vote.** Visit rnd.council.nyc.gov/ideamap/ to share your thoughts.

Read more local news on Neighborhood Watch (Page 5) and Timeline (Page 7)!



Schneps Buys Queens Chronicle

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The Mah Jongg Queen of Forest Hills

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"Restore Roosevelt?" Not So Fast...

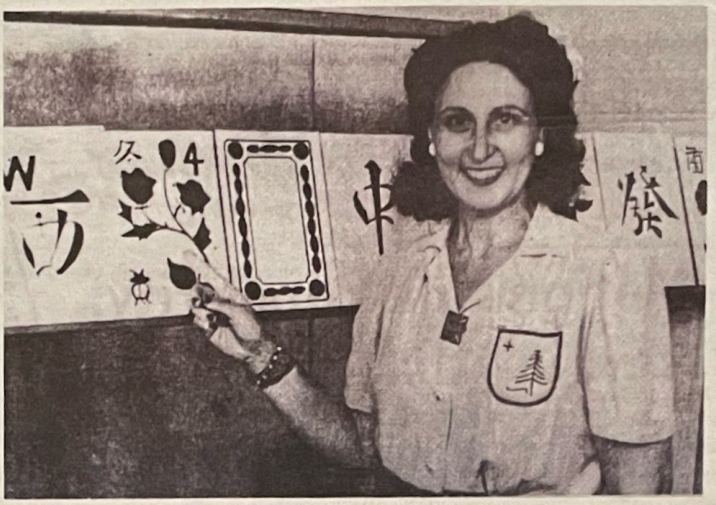
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Honoring Dorothy Meyerson, "Mother of American Mah Jongg"



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CHAIRMAN, REGO-FOREST PRESERVATION COUNCIL



Dorothy Meyerson on TV, Summer 1942.

Mah Jongg has been among the favorite local games for generations, and yet the majority of local residents and visitors are unaware that Forest Hills is where American Mah Jongg was placed on the map, thanks to the innovative nature of former resident Dorothy S. Meyerson. In the near future, Forest Hills resident Barry Joseph, a creative visionary and humanitarian dynamo, will bridge the gap with an eye-opening commemorative mural across the Yellowstone Boulevard LIRR trestle's west wall, and a street co-naming of "Mah Jongg Way" is slated to materialize nearby.

The Meyerson Memorial will preserve Dorothy Meyerson's legacy as "The mother of American Mah Jongg" by exploring her largely untold story, while capturing the game's enriching joy.

This diligent cause signifies historic pride, community spirit, and the power of creativity, which will turn a banal wall into a stunning educational resource and unifying destination. Afterall, public art is a gift for the masses. Time and time again, it has been proven that Forest Hills is a breeding ground for the arts, historic architecture, and culture, and is where hidden gems, such as a legendary game's launching pad, are being rediscovered.



Dorothy Meyerson with her book, How To Play Mah Jongg.

Joseph reminisced a Renaissance moment upon discovering that Meyerson resided in Forest Hills. He learned about it while conducting research for his new book, as he read, "Mahjong: A Chinese Game and the Making of Modern American Culture" by Annelise Heinz. "I am not sure what floored me more; learning that she lived just a few blocks away from me, or that she first wrote her Mah Jongg ruleset for a fundraiser for Forest Hills Jewish Center, a community I know well. It was an immediate connection with my personal and local pass, and it was wholly unexpected. She could have lived anywhere and I could have lived anywhere, and yet our activities intersected when she did something, and I decided to write about it 90 years later."

Enter the world of 57-year-old Barry Joseph, who achieved an MA in American Studies from NYU, where he proudly teaches digital design in museums at the graduate level. Additionally, he is an author and founder of Barry Joseph Consulting. Raised in Woodbury, he relocated to Forest Hills with his wife and son twenty years ago, when his daughter was on the way. "We love Forest Hills. It's a beautiful neighborhood, with a rich history and dynamic demographic, where people are not pretentious, and it's easy to meet people," he said.

Joseph and his family joined the Reform Temple of Forest Hills when it was time for their children to join a Temple Tot's program. At the time, their assistant cantor was active on Twitter, and they developed a bond. "It's a warm and welcoming community, with people from a range of backgrounds, deeply committed to a joyous and meaningful expression of their Jewishness," he explained.

Back in 1937, Meyerson joined three other Jewish women to establish the National Mah Jongg League. As its founding vice president and longtime Chairwoman of Standardization, she shaped the American version of the Chinese game. That included the League's annual selection of winning hands.

Fast-forward to 2026, Joseph teamed up with the close-knit synagogue, and is spearheading a fundraiser to produce the commemorative Dorothy Meyerson / American Mah Jongg mural, which is initially being considered on Dibond panels at 16 feet by 4 feet for the Yellowstone Boulevard trestle. "It will look good when driving past, but content-rich if you walk by and pause to take in the details," said Joseph.

Mah Jongg players across America can play a role by purchasing their 2027 National Mah Jongg League cards through the "Buy a Card for Dorothy" campaign. To contribute to the fundraiser, visit Tinyurl.com/ThankYouDorothy

For each standard card ($16) or large-print card ($18) purchased through this campaign, the National Mah Jongg League will donate back $7 to the Dorothy Meyerson Memorial project. The campaign order deadline is January 15, 2027, and the anticipated card delivery is in April 2027 from the National Mah Jongg League.

In October, the National Mah Jongg League will tally the funds raised and cut a check to the Reform Temple of Forest Hills, who has earmarked those funds to cover the mural and related activities. That consists of a street co-naming where Dorothy Meyerson's Exeter Street home stands, and a celebratory Mah Jongg block party to bring together the Forest Hills community, Mah Jongg enthusiasts, and specifically local Jewish and Asian communities that tie into the history of the game. "It will be a day of fun and play," said Joseph.

Perhaps a plaque or sign can also be installed in front of Dorothy Meyerson's former Exeter Street house, where American Mah Jongg was launched. "I visited the house twice, but no one was home. Wish me luck on my next visit," said Joseph. Meyerson resided in a circa 1925 charming brick freestanding row house at 68-35 Exeter Street from 1932 until sometime between 1940 and 1943. Then circa 1940 to 1943 until 1946 she resided at 69-37 Fleet Street, followed by 67-90 Groton Street from 1946 to 1971.

Since the campaign originated, people began purchasing cards and provided Joseph with their reasons

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for lending support. "Dorothy was a legend in our Mah Jongg world and should be recognized for all she did to bring others together," said one supporter. To market Joseph's unique community project, he visits mahi-related Facebook groups and spreads the word. He proceeds in the same manner on Facebook, and shares details on his Instagram account @JewishMahj and through supporters such as the Reform Temple of Forest Hills.

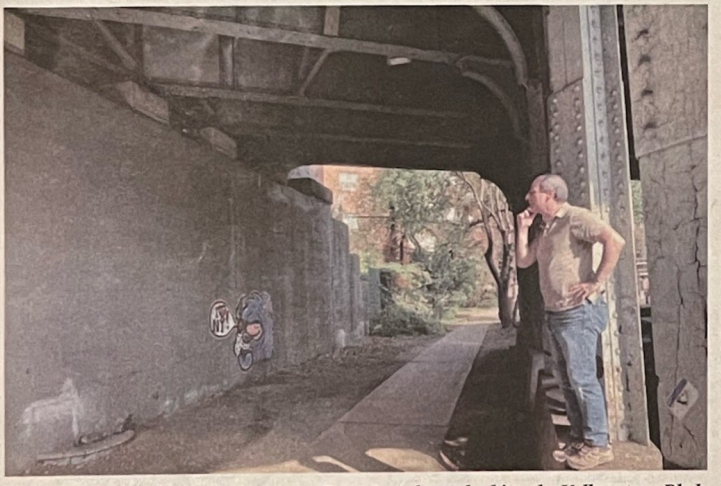
Joseph shared his expectations after the mural and street co-naming comes to fruition, which could offer the ambiance of an outdoor living museum. "Once the Meyerson Memorial is fully in place, there will be a website providing additional details about Dorothy S. Meyerson, as well as information on local events celebrating her life. If the block party is a success, perhaps it can become an annual event. There can be a table at the Forest Hills street fair, depending upon who volunteers to help celebrate Dorothy's legacy and the contemporary world of Mah Jongg."

The mural would add to the success of other local public art achievements, such as "A Tribute To Forest Hills Gardens and Ascan Avenue" (2017) and "Helen Keller Forest Hills Tribute" (2019) at the Ascan Avenue LIRR trestle, developed by this columnist and painted by Crisp and Praxis. At The Bagel Spot is "Wish You Were Here: Forest Hills & Rego Park Historic Buildings" (2025) by Gigi Chen, which this columnist also coordinated. Another is "The Ramp: Birthplace of Punk" (2016) at the Thorneycroft Ramp, which serves as a tribute to the Ramones by Ori Carino.

Joseph feels proud to have learned much about Dorothy Meyerson's personality from her daughter, Marjorie. Characteristics include being strict and organized, as well as having a great mind for innovation. He explained, "She never stopped. She sang in the Forest Hills Jewish Center choir, learned to paint, was a piano teacher, and a good cook. As I learned from Marjorie, 'She wasn't going to sit home and play Mah Jongg all day. That wasn't her idea of life. She wanted to get out in the world.' And boy, did she ever!"

Dorothy Meyerson is remembered as an all-around incredible woman, who touched numerous lives through her enriching pursuits in Forest Hills and beyond. She desired Forest Hills as a community to raise her family, live her adulthood, and participate in civic and religious communities.

Joseph explained, "She led a remarkably active life, creating what became American Mah Jongg and using every means to promote it through teaching, authoring a book, promoting it from the sales floor of Macy's for nine years, training women countrywide to represent her in their own local department stores, appearing on radio, and having her own TV show.



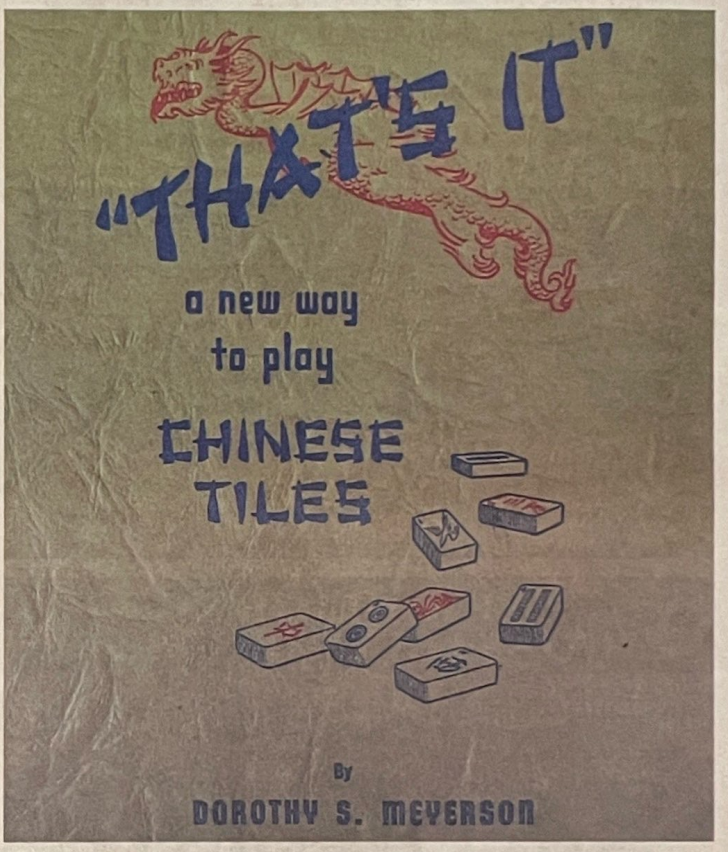
Creative visionary & project manager Barry Joseph overlooking the Yellowstone Blvd trestle wall for the Dorothy Meyerson American Mah Jongg mural.



Dorothy Meyerson's former home at 68-35 Exeter Street, 1939 tax photo from the Municipal Archives.



Dorothy Meyerson's mail order business card.



Dorothy Meyerson's book.

All that is in addition to co-founding the league and being its VP for almost 35 years. She took that back into Forest Hills, running Mah Jongg tournaments for her PTA at Forest Hills Jewish Center, running tournaments at Jewish Center of Forest Hills West, raising funds locally during WWII to do her part, and running a Mah Jongg mail-order business from her home on Exeter Street."

As a well-accomplished author, Joseph anticipates the publication of his Mah Jongg book by next fall, which would have a subtitle, "How a Century of Jewish Women Built Community Through a Chinese Game." "That will provide more detail than a mural ever could, and I am hoping through that book tour to spread the message about Dorothy far and wide," he said.

To date, he authored five books. His latest draws inspiration from two themes in his work, consisting of topics of interest to Jewish Americans, such as seltzer and Broadway, as well as games, such as game design in museums, and the puzzles and games of Stephen Sondheim.

His other noteworthy titles are "Seltzertopia: The Extraordinary Story of an Ordinary Drink," "Matching Minds with Sondheim," "Making Dinosaurs Dance: A Toolkit for Digital Design in Museums," and "Friday is Tomorrow or The Dayenu Year: Chronicles from the NYC Covid-19 Oral History, Narrative and Memory Archive."

"When I set out to write a book for a national audience about a game, the last thing I expected was to be inspired to build a local monument, especially to someone I had never before heard about," said Joseph. "It feels like a blessing to get to appreciate the accomplishments of an exceptional, but largely unknown Jewish woman during a time of increased antisemitism and political authoritarianism."