



2880 Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11234
www.brooklyngolfalliance.org



Brooklyn Golf Alliance/Bergen Beach Youth Organization Spring 2021 program at John Malone Community Center and Field

FROM THE PRESIDENT:



To us at the BGA, it is wonderful to see the *confidence building satisfaction* of our young participants when they hit a good golf shot, when the practice results in a well-struck shot. It is also terrific to know that even for those kids who do not exactly *master the game*, they are on the *path to mastering life* by challenging themselves to accomplish something new. But it is especially terrific just to see them in the *fresh air of a green space* playfully growing in many ways along with old and new friends.

Our mission is to create an enriching program of activities to help in the development of our great young people. What could be better for our families and our city? We believe we have done just that, but we want to do more. As we look to the future, we would like to expand our programs to include more young people. Among the things we are doing, we are seeking help from the business community and our government representatives to bring a professional women's golf tournament to Brooklyn to support and expand our programs. Keep watching this space.

I want to thank the PGA of America for supporting our efforts, to thank our volunteers and organizations who make this possible, to thank the retiring Herb Rubenstein who developed our golf programs, and in particular to thank Mike Weiss, who has made this all possible by selflessly contributing an unbelievable amount of time and resources to make our programs a success.

Let's make 2022 the best year ever for our kids!

Lucius J. Riccio Ph.D., Acting President

2021 Year End Report

Despite the difficulties of delivering in person programs in the COVID era, we had a highly productive and successful year. Our programs had to be reorganized to comply with health concerns and facilities constraints. In the end, we were able to introduce a wonderfully diverse group of over seventy neighborhood youngsters to the great game of golf.

Board and Staff Update:

Our Director of Instruction, Herb Rubenstein has moved to Virginia and thus, resigned his position at the BGA. We thank Herb for his energy and drive and his commitment to our young people. Herb will be replaced by Sal Frasca Jr, a PGA carded pro, who has been teaching for a number of years at Dyker Beach and Marine Park. Sal collaborated with Herb on our program this past summer to ensure a smooth transition.

We are also delighted to announce that our stalwart Board member, Jeff Rodus, has been appointed to serve as Chief of Staff to First Deputy Mayor Lorraine Grillo in the administration of Mayor Eric Adams. Many thanks to Jeff for all his support and involvement as it helped get us to a new, expanded, level of program delivery. We wish both these gentlemen well in their new endeavors.

PGA Junior League and youth activity:

SPRING, 2021

Thanks to our partner, the Bergen Beach Youth Organization (BBYO), we were able to provide a free five week, after school, **Introduction to Golf program**, for thirty-five youngsters, on-site at the BBYO facilities in Bergen Beach. The youngsters were recruited from local Elementary and Middle Schools in the Bergen Beach, Mill Basin, East New York and Flatbush neighborhoods.



Spring 2021 putting instruction at the John Malone Community Center, Roman Matthews and Lester Futernick, instructors

Utilizing a grant from City Councilmember, Alan Maisel, we were able to purchase necessary equipment for the Bergen Beach facility including full swing and putting hitting matts, plastic golf balls, netting and youth golf clubs.

Families were asked to transport youngsters to and from the facility each week; a departure from our previous model, where BBYO provided the transportation. Under the leadership of our Director of Instruction, Herb Rubenstein; volunteers from the BGA Board and friends and the staff of the Bergen Beach Youth Organization, we were able to deliver a series of introductory golf sessions which was enthusiastically received by both the youngsters and their families.

Spring 2021 Youth Instruction Program



For the first time, we introduced a 20-minute video classroom session, each week, that reinforced, highlighted, and added to the instructional components presented in the field.

The final session, in June, culminated in a Pizza Party and recognition ceremony for the youngsters, their families and our staff.



SUMMER, 2021



Practice chipping green at the Marine Park Golf Course

With the great support and cooperation of the management of the Marine Park Golf Course, we were able to conduct our free six-week (one afternoon per week) PGA Junior League program at MPGC in July and August. Again, in partnership with BGA and BYO, we recruited thirty-five youngsters (some were carried over from our Spring program) for this on-site effort. Led by our Director of Instruction, Herb Rubenstein and our new PGA carded instructor, Sal Frasca, Jr. the youngsters showed exceptional progress in sharpening their golfing skills as well as gaining an appreciation of teamwork, safety, and the park-like environment of the golf course.

We also were able to include a special field trip to the Dyker Beach Junior Golf Center, where the youngsters were able to sharpen their skills on their beautiful par three facility.

The summer program was concluded with a wonderful recognition ceremony and reception for the

youngsters and their families with food donated by our BGA Board member, Bob Rozzi and La Villa Pizza on Avenue U. Each student was also issued two personalized PGA Junior League tee shirts, a hat, a swag bag and completion certificate and medallion.



Many thanks to our PGA Junior League Captains Herb Rubenstein and Sal Frasca Jr as well as our loyal group of volunteer instructors: including Lester Futernick, Roman Matthews, Bob Rozzi, Reggie Swiney, Desmond Nation, Bill Lange and Rich Centano as well as our summer intern Harry Rodus.

PGA Junior League players with their shirts



Summer 2021 recognition ceremony with coaches Paul Curiale, Mike Weiss Reggie Swinton, Captain Sal Frasca Jr., Harry Rodus

THE FUTURE:

IS THE NEXT TIGER WOODS LIVING IN BROOKLYN?



Summer 2021 recognition ceremony

This year, City Councilmembers Farah Louis and Alan Maisel allocated funds to the Brooklyn Golf Alliance for a continuation and expansion of our Junior Golf Programs, including the PGA Junior League in the Spring and Summer of 2022. We will shortly be announcing the details of these programs, including registration information.

Term limited Councilmember Alan Maisel, who has been a staunch supporter of our work stepped down from office on December 31, 2021. This Fall, Mercedes Narcisse, was elected to fill the Council seat in the 46th Election District. We wish both well in their new adventures.

We also continue to pursue an effort to bring a Professional Women's golf tour event to Brooklyn in the Summer of 2023. This would be the first professional golf tour event held in New York City since 1939. Our efforts have been slowed by the continuing waves of COVID variants and the uncertain economic outlook for potential tournament sponsors. However, there are some encouraging discussions that continue to take place and we will report on our progress as these talks evolve.

If you have any comments about this project, or would be willing to assist, please let us know.

Wrap Up:

We are looking for volunteers to assist with our junior league instructional program and/or to serve on our Board of Directors. If you know of anyone who would like to be involved with our programs, please contact our President, Lou Riccio, at ljr14@columbia.edu or Mike Weiss at m.m.weiss@verizon.net.

Finally, if you wish to **send in a donation**, just click the donate button on our website at www.brooklyngolfalliance.org.



Thank you to our sponsors: Bical Auto Mall, Robert B. Catell, NY City Council, Professional Golfers Association, Bergen Beach Youth Organization, Marine Park Golf Course