# BloomAgainBklyn

## NewsInBloom

*Summer 2021*

It's Summer and Here's What's Blooming at BloomAgainBklyn!

*"BloomAgainBklyn is a wonderful partnership for PS 307...I loved watching the students get to experiment with new materials and take ownership in creating something for a loved one."*

Jordanna Gatoff, Art Teacher, PS 307

PS 307 Students

We are featuring a few of our new programs that address the social isolation and loneliness of the most vulnerable in our community through the healing power of upcycled flowers. BloomAgain is committed to fostering intergenerational understanding and community involvement:

- "Bloom Always," a silk initiative spawning over 350 silk flower cards made by Brooklyn children and families
- Bed Stuy Restoration Corp and Buena Vida Rehabilitation and Nursing Center became new partners
- BloomAgain to debut on Japanese TV
- Welcome Back Collaborations with YWCA Brooklyn, New York Cares & Plymouth Church!
- Music and Flowers "Take Over the Streets" for Cobble Hill Health Center

**Bloom Always**

Silk flowers are a new medium but a familiar art for BloomAgainBklyn volunteers and now an integral part of our program and mission to foster intergenerational understanding. New initiatives are underway to upcycle these silks in the forms of card making workshops for kids and families, silk bouquets, and silk jewelry including crowns, rings, necklaces and boutonnieres.

Bloom Always launched its first **Virtual Card Making Workshop for Children and Families**, helmed by core BloomAgain member and floral designer expert, Lisa Oberholzer-Gee, who brought our neighbors and community together in supporting our community partners through the beauty and creativity of silk flowers and card making. (Check out "working with silk flowers" video.)

Over 350 creative silk flower cards were designed by children and their parents from neighborhoods throughout Brooklyn from Crown Heights to Bay Ridge to Park Slope. The cards went to residents at Cobble Hill Health Center and Buena Vida Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Bushwick; to trauma and homeless survivors at YWCA Brooklyn as well as home bound older adults served by Heights and Hills.

**SUPPORT A CARD MAKING WORKSHOP - DONATE TODAY**

### Welcome New Community Partners

BloomAgain is thrilled to partner with **Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation (BSRC)**, a community development corporation based in Bed Stuy, Brooklyn. In July, BSRC hosted an event, "A Day with Seniors," for around 50 participants at one of their low-income housing satellites providing services, food, and featuring BloomAgain arrangements!

We are also excited to add **Buena Vida Rehabilitation and Nursing Center** in Bushwick as a new community partner now receiving BloomAgain's upcycled flowers on a regular basis.

### Japan TV Series to Feature BloomAgainBklyn

TV viewers in Japan will soon learn about BloomAgainBklyn's work and mission in a featured segment on "Future Runners" -- a series that profiles people and organizations making the world a better place for others. We recently welcomed a film crew from FUJI TV which is producing the "Front Runners" segment as part of a United Nations initiative to support the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

### Music and Flowers Take Over Brooklyn Streets

BloomAgain was honored to co-sponsor with the Cobble Hill Association, a "Music and Flowers Celebration" for longtime partner, **Cobble Hill Health Center** (CHHC), paying tribute to CHHC's health care heroes–its residents and staff. This community collaboration was highlighted by music, hundreds of floral arrangements, and hand-made silk flowers cards–all presented by the children of **PS 29** to the staff and residents.

There were speeches and thank you's from Danny Tuchman, CEO of CHHC, New York State Assembly member JoAnne Simon, and State Senator Brett Kavanagh. Then the podium was turned over to the real stars of stage and street: over half a dozen "Agents of Change" 3rd graders. The children read their notes of caring and encouragement and then presented the beautifully crafted silk flower cards they made to the residents including a big podium banner honoring health care heroes.

The celebration was capped off by none other than the resident neighborhood cheer squad, the Kitchen Sink Band to finish with a bang!

## BloomAgain Appreciates Teachers

*"After a year of the pandemic and feeling so separate from the school community working remotely, it was beautiful to still feel recognized and special on Teacher Appreciation Day. It was one of the highlights of an extremely difficult year."*

Carla Jusma, 5th Grade ASD Teacher, PS 307

BloomAgain appreciates teachers, and even more so after this exceptionally challenging school year. We were honored to provide **PS 67**, Brooklyn; **PS 307**, a Magnet school for STEM studies; and **PS 29** with upcycled, hand-tied arrangements for teachers, staff and administration.

## Flower Arranging Alfresco

BloomAgain is enjoying the wonderful workspaces generously donated by Christ Church in Cobble Hill, where we are once again hold regular workshops. Weather permitting, volunteers work in the church courtyard and arrange in the fresh air. Our volunteer community safety is paramount, and we mandate that our volunteers be vaccinated as well as follow COVID compliance safety guidelines.

BloomAgain is thrilled to be back harvesting flowers on Governors Island at our extraordinary partner, **GrowNYC's Urban Teaching Garden**, with the Freedom Tower and lower Manhattan skyline as the backdrop. It's been a great joy to work with wildflowers and our community partners truly enjoy the beautiful bounty we've been able to gather into bouquets! A huge "thanks" to **GrowNYC**

for all that they do for the city.

Stay tuned, as we are going to “fall” back into our wonderful home base, historic **Plymouth Church**! BloomAgain has a rewarding partnership with Plymouth Church that enables us to spread the healing and joy of reporposed flowers to many of the Church's mission partners. Plymouth Church has a very long and active history for being in the forefront of racial justice and human rights movements, and remains a vibrant force today through its continued mission programs and community care initiatives.

**SPREAD JOY BY MAKING A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATION**

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### BloomAgain Cares About New York Cares

New York Cares

BloomAgain is so excited to welcome back volunteers from our longtime partner, New York Cares. New York Cares was born as a centralized way of recruiting, training, and placing volunteers, and serves leading nonprofits, schools, and government agencies at locations around New York City. BloomAgain is fortunate to be one of them!

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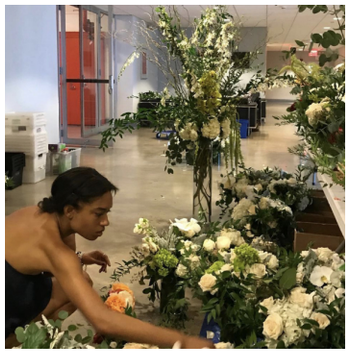
### Weddings Are Back and So Are We!



We've waited over a year, and now BloomAgain is back to being the beneficiary of generous donations from wedding couples. And one of the best parts is that we are back at longtime community partner, the YWCA Brooklyn, for our wedding workshops! For over 130 years, the YWCA has supported former trauma survivors and homeless providing safe permanent homes for its residents and programs to educate, develop, and advocate on their behalf. BloomAgainBklyn couldn't be prouder to support this amazing organization.

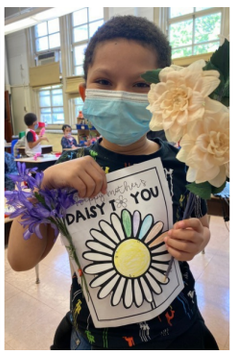
If you are getting married or celebrating a corporate event and have flowers you'd like to donate, please visit our website.

### BloomAgain Introduces Silks into the Classroom

*"The students were so proud of their creations and couldn't wait to gift their mom's the beautiful bouquets!"*

Ashley Mee, 2nd Grade ASD Teacher, PS 307

BloomAgain's silk flowers made their maiden appearances in the classrooms at **PS 67 (Charles A. Dorsey Community School)** and **PS 307 (Daniel Hale Williams School)** as more than 250 students learned how to create bouquets and flower cards with beautiful, imported silk flowers from Asia and Europe. At PS 67, the children created silk flower cards for Mother's Day. At PS 307 the school's art teacher organized a school-wide initiative to have silk flower arrangements and flower cards designed by the students in K-5 for their families and homes.



Students at PS 67

### Foundation Support Continues to Grow in 2021

We are very pleased to report that BloomAgain recently received grants from the **Cobble Hill Foundation**, **Christian Ministry of Plymouth Church**, **Herman Goldman Foundation** and **ALLINBROOKLYN** in recent months.

### Spreading Blooms

In April, BloomAgain did a virtual workshop "Flowers with a Purpose" for **NYU WagnerCares**, a branch of NYU's Wagner Student Association dedicated to public service.

**Midwood Branch of the Brooklyn Public Library** reached out to BloomAgain as part of an effort to re-engage the community due to COVID. BloomAgain hosted a virtual flower workshop using both fresh and silk flowers. Our volunteers led the interactive demonstration as participants were provided silk flower kits and supplies beforehand in order to get crafty and creative themselves during the workshop. This will become a model for future workshops and other collaborations with **BPL** branches in the future.

### Petals to Patches

Creating Colors: This spring BloomAgain collected thousands of petals for the **NYC Fair Trade Coalition's** natural dyeing event.

**Petals to Patches**: In April, BloomAgain provided the **Girl Scouts** around 300 silk stems to arrange into bouquets to hand out to their Bay Ridge neighbors and create community ties.

BloomAgain continues to combat loneliness and social isolation by creating community through the beauty and healing power of flowers. Thank you for believing in the work BloomAgain does—you are the centerpieces that we need to stay sustainable! Please help us continue these important initiatives by donating today.

Caroline Gates Anderson
Founder & President

**PLEASE DONATE NOW**

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