

Leland Garden History postscript by Kathleen Robinson:

A lot of wonderful things have happened in the garden since 2008. We have changed our name from Leland Street Community Garden to Leland Street Cooperative Garden to reflect the fact that the space continues to be maintained and used by the Forest Hills community as a whole, rather than by individual plot holders.

We now have work days once a month rather than bi-weekly, and every workday includes a potluck picnic. Many neighbors enjoyed these days in 2016 - maybe we should call them play days! Every one is welcome at the picnic lunch whether or not they work in the garden. All the flowers, herbs and vegetables continue to be available to any neighbors who can make use of them.

Although there have been fewer events organized in recent years, a number of very memorable occasions have happened. These include a concert and poetry reading by talented neighbors of the garden; a film showing on a warm summer evening, complete with popcorn and drinks; two weeks of nature learning for kids in a local church summer program and a weekend design project in our garden by a permaculture design class which resulted in practical proposals to move our garden in the direction of a sustainable food forest. All the while, the winter solstice Luminaria Celebration has continued unbroken and, though our bee colonies have not always provided ample honey, we have continued to celebrate the bees the weekend before Labor day with a garden event.

We look forward to Leland Street Cooperative garden being shared by the Forest Hills neighborhood in old ways and new in the coming years. Come join us and bring your ideas!

-Kathleen Robinson