

## 3S Art Newsletter

# August 2020

## Inspiration from the Past

**Growing up in Brooklyn was an experience.** Inspiration comes from many places including the past. And let me tell you, growing up in Brooklyn is pure inspiration.

If you grew up in Brooklyn back in the day, the streets were your playground. You knew everyone on the block and didn't go very far outside the neighborhood. We didn't go to Europe or Fort Lauderdale for Spring Break. Why bother? (And who could afford it?) A big vacation for me was going to Coney Island. And you didn't have to go far for some of the best food. A short ride would take you to Bay Ridge to the Italian restaurant New Corners, Coney Island's Nathan's for the best hot dog, Sheepshead Bay's Lundy's for fish or Brennan and Carr for roast beef sandwiches and pizza at Bensonhurst's Spuomni Gardens.

I never knew my family was poor. My father died when I was 10 years old, in a car accident on Knapp Street in Brooklyn and my mom had it tough. Left alone with two young sons to raise, she worked as a seamstress, making dresses in Brooklyn sweat shop. Nevertheless, she always had the best Italian food on our table and we had the best time playing in the streets with tons of friends.



*Brooklyn Street games back in the Day (Click here)*

### Street games in Brooklyn NYC

Forget about video games, chat lines or smart phones. We had the streets and if you were lucky enough, you lived near a NYC park. Games were played in the streets all day, from the time

you woke up in the morning until you went to bed at night. There was stickball, punch ball, skully, stoop ball, marbles, flipping for Topps baseball cards, Johnny on the Pony, War, Ring O Leary, or Asses Up.



*See Video*

## Asses Up

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Asses up is a simple, albeit somewhat brutal, ritual. You stand facing the wall, actually leaning in head-wise so your protruding bottom acts as a target. Your “pals” stand about 30 feet away, rear back and fire a ball at your butt. The ball of choice was the Spaldeen, a pink rubber ball, the size of a tennis

ball without the felt. Each player gets one turn.

It didn't hurt too much unless one of the Mariotti brothers substitutes a hardball for the Spaldeen. Still, it's embarrassing and painful enough to heighten the competitiveness of the game.

So why were you in this compromised position? Plain and simple, you lost the game--and this is payment. Typically, there are only a few games in which this ritual is employed, Ace-King-Queen (aka Chinese Handball) being the most notable. In fact, when guys reminisce about these street games, they might not remember most of the rules, but the consequence of losing is likely indelibly ingrained in their gray matter (shows just where the gray matter is).

Asses Up, one of the more high-brow games in our repertoire, is also known by the other sophisticated names like Booty's Up, Mooney's Up, Butt Up, etc.

## Steeplechase Park in Coney Island - a luxury vacation Brooklyn style

A special treat was going to  
Coney Island for  
Steeplechase in the old days



Steeplechase Park video

or riding the rides like; the Steeplechase horses, the Cyclone, the parachute jump, the Wonder Wheel, the bumper cars, the Bobsled, the parachute jump or a trip to Coney Island Aquarium.

## Dining in Brooklyn



Nathan's for a hot dog in Coney Island  
 Spumoni Gardens for a square Pizza in Benshurst  
 Brennan and Carr for roast beef sandwich dipped in gravy on Avenue U  
 New Corner for Italian food in Bay Ridge. This was a special treat.  
 Lundy's or Randozzo's for fish in Sheepshead Bay. (Also, see the boats selling the fresh catch of the day from a day of fishing out in the ocean.)

## Music and Art Section

### "Under the Boardwalk" song

This song always reminded me of the

Coney Island and Brighton Beach boardwalks. This version is the studio version sang by native born Brooklyn kid **Ernie Massarotti**. Ernie does a terrific job with this song. I had fun making this video for Ernie.



*Baby Bear's Lullaby*  
music and art video

## Music and Art video

Imagine Elder Bear singing the gentle, instrumental melody. Join Baby Bear in gliding into a spacious dream state.

**Baby Bear's Lullaby by Pamela Whitman and Rich Kurtz**

**Album - Ancient Vision (PeaceHear Recordings)**

[Amazon.com](#)

[Spotify](#)

**Artist Statement-** Pamela Whitman

*"When Rich and I write a song, we usually start out with a visual concept. As the music evolves, a storyline emerges that informs the direction of the song. Our music has become what we think of New Age Impressionism. We combine ambience and world music influences. You will hear our orchestral training in the often lush arrangements.*

*Working with Anthony is a true joy, as it allows us to see our musical imagery come to life!*

*As we wrote Baby Bear's Lullaby, we imagined Elder Bear singing a gentle, instrumental melody to Baby Bear. The young cub eventually glides into sleep a spacious dream state. In the video the Anthony created for us, we get to see Baby Bear's dreams as well as hear them! This video also features some of Anthony's awesome paintings. Rich and I are happy to share this multi-media version of Baby Bear's Lullaby from our album Ancient Vision."*

## Paintings of Brooklyn

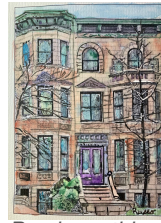




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