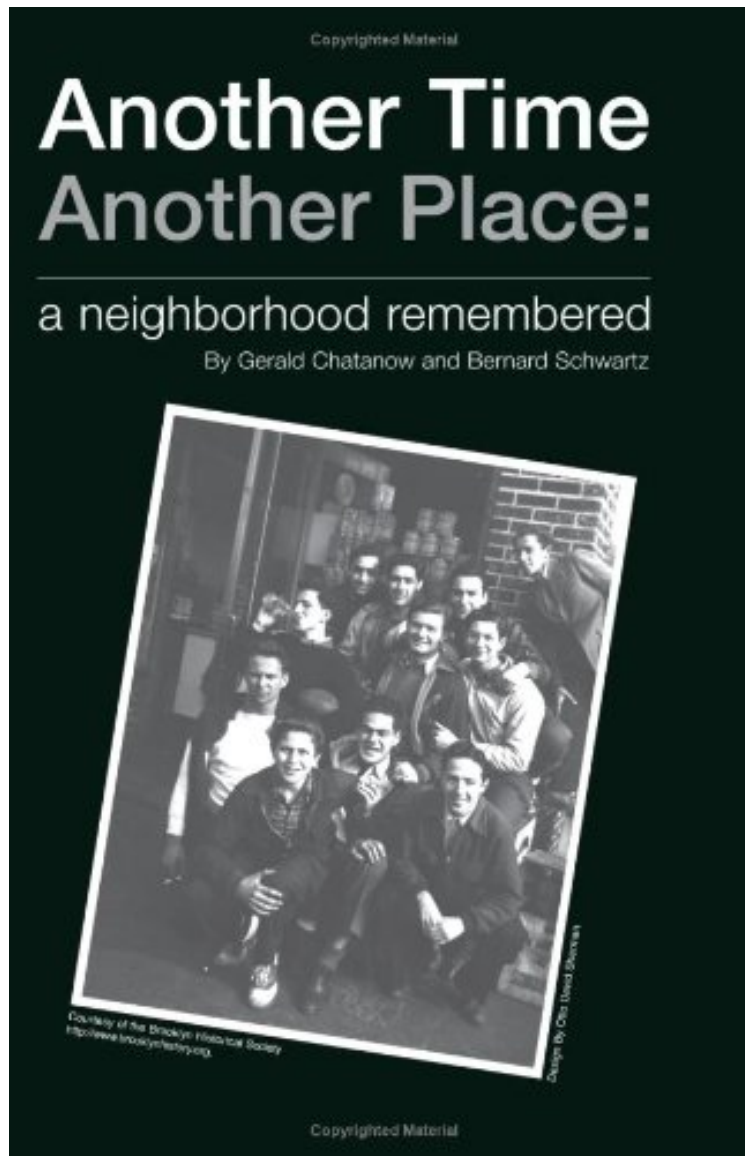


Another Time Another Place

*Gerald Chatanow and Bernard D. Schwartz, Gerald Chatanow/Bernard D. Schwartz
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Gerald Chatanow and Bernard D. Schwartz, Gerald Chatanow/Bernard D. Schwartz : Another Time Another Place before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Another Time Another Place:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating but disjointedBy Sandra L. AndinaHaving grown up in first Brownsville 1951-64 and then E. Flatbush 1964-71, I was expecting both a more linear and structured account of

the neighborhood by those more or less my contemporaries. What I got instead was a history recounted mostly by those of my parents' generation (or older), in a tangled, disorganized jumble of often redundant reminiscences. Most of those folks had long moved on to the suburbs or out of state by the time I reached my sentient childhood, so I barely recognized those institutions and entities with which I'd grown up. Later books concentrated on the race riots and ghetto poverty and gangs, so there's definitely a gap that needs to be filled by those Baby Boomers who lived there. I was disappointed to find very little mention of the schools I'd attended, nor of my part of the neighborhood. (Certain schools and areas were overrepresented). What was especially frustrating were the many spelling errors, misdefinitions (especially by those with faltering memory), redundancies and stylistic/structural inconsistency. Perhaps that's peculiar to the Kindle version I'd read, but more paragraph breaks, spacing, and better outlining would have made this a more pleasant read. I also noticed that it is more than a decade and a half out of date, and most of those interviewed or who responded to the authors' questionnaires are long gone by now. I get the sense that having bitten off way more than they could chew, the authors at one point simply decided to reprint verbatim quotes from questionnaires submitted to them, yet occasionally veered off into editorial narrative and even opinion. This book, with better editing, consulting blogs, and updated reporting by respondents who grew up in Brownsville during the Boomer years, as well as the historical arc not just of the area's rise but also (and perhaps, more compellingly) its metamorphosis and decline, could become the book for which I've sought in vain. If the authors are indeed still with us, I'd be willing to collaborate on just such an expanded and more coherently structured version. Otherwise, with some of my contemporaries' assistance, I would be willing to fill in the blanks and pick up where this book left off.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A walk down memory lane

By H. Eisenberg

For anyone who lived in or near Brooklyn's Brownsville section at any time prior to the early 1960s, this book is sheer nostalgia. By having interviewed a substantial number of people (many of whom now live in Florida), the authors do an outstanding job of conveying the flavor of "the old neighborhood" in days gone by. At the end of the book there's a series of interviews with Brownsville celebrities, that is people who went on to become nationally famous, including Steve Lawrence and "Grandpa Munster" Al Lewis. The authors clearly convey a picture of Brownsville in its heyday as a nurturing neighborhood and the experience of having grown up there as not at all unlike my vision of small-town America--a place where people knew and cared about one another. Perhaps small-town America is still like that. However, one would be hard pressed to find an urban neighborhood that could be called nurturing anywhere in America today. I only wish the authors had told us more about the history of Brownsville all the way up to the present time and why the neighborhood changed so drastically, but perhaps that was beyond their purpose. Still one can't help but wonder what became of the elderly people who had lived there all or most of their lives and were "left behind" through no fault of their own when the area turned into a crime-ridden slum.

The Brownsville/East New York neighborhood of the 1930's, 40's and 50's is now but an almost faded memory, a "time warp" as it were. Today it is a neighborhood that has been eviscerated and exists only as a geographic locale. Through the collective memories of the famous and the not-so-famous, Jerry Chatanow and Bernie Schwartz have elicited and chronicled a treasure trove of anecdotes and remembrances that bring back to life a once vibrant and exhilarating neighborhood. The authors vividly transport the reader back to a bygone era of street games, egg creams, mello rolls and knishes, patriotism at the home front, plush movie palaces, the Dodgers, the Knicks, boxing venues, old time radio and the neighborhood settlement houses with its open doors waiting to welcome the teeming masses. Anyone from small town or big city who was ever enriched by the nurturing warmth, the loyalties and camaraderie of a "neighborhood" will enjoy this major contribution to the oral history of America. This is a story told within the context of this country's transformation from "The Great Depression" to World War Two to "Baby Boomer" prosperity. The authors were both observers of and participants in what in retrospect proved to be a triumphant generation.

About the Author

Gerald Chatanow, who grew up in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, lived his formative years there, attending the local schools and participating in typical boyhood activities of the area. After receiving an MBA from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, he established a financial and estate planning consulting practice in New York City in which he is still active. Bernard D. Schwartz, who also grew up in Brownsville, taught at Junior High School 263, one of the neighborhood schools. After teaching at the school for fourteen years, he accepted an assignment at the Central Board of Education of New York City, where he coordinated citywide programs, including the In-Service Program and the Textbook Program. He retired in 1991 and devotes much of his time to writing and other pursuits.