



JUNE 2009

westsidecommunitygarden.org

**WEDNESDAY JUNE 10, 6 pm-8:30 pm Annual Benefit Gala DIG IT! Be there Music, Fine Fare, Prizes**

**SATURDAY JULY 4, 2009 PICNIC 6—8:30**

**MONDAY JULY 12, 7:30 pm Board Meeting**

*♪♪♪* **MUSIC IN A GARDEN** *♪♪*

**SUNDAY JUNE 14, 6 pm Bill Saxton Quintet**

**SUNDAY JUNE 21, 6 pm Andre O'Neil**

**SUNDAY JUNE 28, 5 pm NY Consort of Viols**

**SUNDAY JULY 5, 6 pm Geoff Burk Quartet**

**SUNDAY JULY 12, 6 pm Sweet Plantain**

**SUNDAY JULY 19, 6:30 pm Community Sing**

### **Children's Theater Series**

**Mini Midsummer Night's Dream Returns!**

**Saturday/Sunday July 18/19 5 pm**

**Saturday/Sunday July 25/26 5 pm**

**Saturday/Sunday August 1/2 and August 8/9, 5 pm**

**Info: Jackie 212 316 5490**

*♪♪♪* **MUSIC IN A GARDEN** *♪♪*

### **Free Concerts Begin Sunday June 14**

Thanks to the tireless organizing by Garden member Randa Kirshbaum and grants from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund and the New York City Department of Community Affairs administered by the Lower Manhattan Cultural Council. These Concerts, range from Renaissance Music, ( NY Consort of Viols) to straight ahead Jazz ( Bill Paxton) are a perfect summer evening in in the Garden.

### **The Return of The**

### **Children's Theater Shakespeare Series!**

**Dramatune's** Company will reprise last year's popular "Mini-midsummer's Nights Dream. Sarah Bolger, whom children met and loved as Puck last summer, will be back to lead the Faery troupe. Also returning are Ellen Boyce as Helena, Zelda Knapp as Hermia. Tony Scheinman as Oberon, King of the Fairies, David Lutzer as Bottom who plays Pyramus, and Barry Liebmann as Flute who plays the girlish Thisbe. Morna Murphy Martell, who adapted Shakespeare's magical play down to one hour, will again direct." All performances are free, and everyone is welcome.

### **ANNOUNCEMENT of Closing**

▶ The Garden will be closed all day June 10, for the benefit and June 9, afternoon, June 11 morning.

## **YES WE DIG !**

### **June `10 Annual Benefit**

**6:00-8:00 PM**

Don't miss this wonderful event. It's a great opportunity to celebrate our twentieth year of Garden ownership, meet with fellow gardeners, compare notes, eat wonderful food, enjoy good music and the best dishes from over thirty Fine Restaurants and Garden Cooks. What could be better? If you haven't sent your response in, you may pay at the door. Garden members who have paid dues as of June 6 may attend at half price, \$30.

The New York Renaissance Trio will be playing at the event, and our Mistress of Ceremonies, **Angela LaGreca** six-time "Manhattan Association of Cabarets and Clubs" winner comedian, singer, writer, actress, and producer ( The Today Show) will be our Mistress of Ceremonies hosting the event. The West Side Community Garden will honor Susan Henshaw Jones, Director, Museum of the City of New York, for their enrichment of life in New York City and The Green Market Farmers for their dedication to bringing wholesome farm fresh food to the people of New York City.

The evenings festivities will include a special Raffle with exciting prizes and an Auction of "Lunch with Brad."

**Bradley Whitford**, Emmy Award-winning star of "The West Wing," political activist, and former neighborhood resident of many years.

HEARTFELT thanks to the following members for their hard work in organizing and producing this event. **Barbara Raleigh** – design and printing

**Sylvia Lefkowitz** for organizing our donor list, letters to vendors and benefit committee. **Awilda Bernard**, **Linda Cardona**, **Michael Estwanik**, **David Kupsy**, **Betty Lerner**, **Lisa Sarajejan**, **Brad Smith**, **Jane Wilson**, for stuffing and mailing. **Maureen Nipar** for confirming donations, **Edith S. Marks** for overall organization and pinch-hitting where necessary.

**\*\*\*\*FREE! ANNUAL FOURTH OF JULY BASH\*\*\*\***

Join us in the Garden at 6 pm for our Annual Independence Day party. It's a shared dish meal with BBQ and beverages provided by the WSCG. Cook up your best picnic fare - salads, casseroles, desserts, to serve six or more for this Community Picnic. Everyone is welcome. For more information or to volunteer call **Jackie or Mira at 212 875 0632**

▶ There will be partial closings of the Garden June 15-22 for paving installation.

## Who Likes Lasagna? Your Plants Do!

The **Lasagna Garden Technique** is a no-till, no-frills method of restoring soil fertility and building precious topsoil. The idea that we need to turn over the soil is unnecessary and detrimental, except in the most extreme circumstances of impenetrable or clayey soil. It's important to remember that the soil itself is a living ecosystem teeming with insect and microbial life. They place themselves on the levels and in the areas favorable to their specific needs. Flipping the soil over and mixing it like cake batter destroys this highly structured organization. It is this invisible behind-the-scenes activity and soil structure that offers the real benefit to plants.

This is the classic lazy gardener's approach. Use it to top off a raised bed or convert lawn to garden. It's good for the soil and easy on your back. It's not rocket science; it's rock science. Plus, it benefits our garden by using up the compost so we don't have to spend \$\$\$ buying bags of pre-packaged, plastic bagged stuff from far away, using precious fossil fuels to have it shipped here. Peat moss is a non-renewable resource dug in and shipped from Canadian bogs. Each of us can choose local, low-tech, high return approaches. This is definitely one!

**Lasagna Gardening** has multiple benefits. It:

1. uses organic waste materials immediately
2. builds up the soil level
3. sequesters carbon
4. preserves the strata of microorganisms
5. improves soil fertility
6. holds water, slows evaporation and run-off
7. blocks out weeds
8. keeps root systems cool

What you need is a stack of newspapers and / or corrugated cardboard, unfinished compost, water, hand pruners, a shovel, and a trowel.

Here's how to start on a plot with mostly overgrown weeds.

1. **Clip** and discard any developed seed heads and
2. **Clip** the plants off at the soil level leaving the roots. Lay the tops down (they have pulled up nutrition to the surface, so use them to your advantage).
3. Lay down a barrier of newspaper (4+ sheet thickness) or cardboard over the whole area.
4. Wet down the newspaper so it doesn't move a round. (I soak the cardboard in a barrel so that it is more flexible and easier to mold.)
5. Dig out any plants or perennials you wish to keep and replant higher or paper around them.
6. Add a 4 - 6" layer of unfinished compost onto the entire area.

Identifiable scraps will breakdown over time, as the quintessential 'slow release' soil nutrient amendment. Water deeply. Repeat Steps 3-5 to build up the soil, if needed. Top off with a layer of newspaper or cardboard. Add a 1-2" layer of mulch (straw or wood chips).

**Continued next Column**

Without the sun, the grass and other roots systems will decompose leaving rich a soil habitat. To plant, simply push the mulch aside a bit, cut an 'X' or a slit in the paper layer, peel back the paper, make a small hole or valley, place a handful of finished compost in it, and either place a seedling or your seeds. Firm the soil. Flap back the newspaper (if it's intact). Pull the mulch back around the stem or opening. Water the area to settle the soil around the plant or seeds. Voila! It's so easy. Over time, the plant roots will 'knit' the layers together expanding the healthy soil habitat.. **Sharon Kimmelman**

## TULIP PERFECTION

Thanks to excellent publicity in "Time Out" the New York Times, The WestSider, and other media the Garden's First Annual Tulip Party Hosted over 2500 people passing through. April 25. The weather was balmy, and the Tulips were all at peak for the event. Thanks to Emma Curtis ,Veronica Humphreys, Lisa Sarajian, Mira Stulman and Allison Yobage. and all the cookie bakers for this wonderful event highlighting our annual Tulip display.

### An Advisory to All Vegetable Plot Holders

It is expected that you will keep the paths next to your plot neat and trimmed. Please do not allow plants, either flowers or vegetables, to grow so tall that they shade the space of your neighbor. It is expected that plot holders will actively maintain and grow plants in their plots. Thanks, in advance, for your co-operation. **Brad Smith**

### Help Wanted

**People to help with our Annual Fourth of July Picnic**  
Set up/break down, servers and drinks meisters needed :  
Call Jackie 212 316 5490 or Mira 212 875 0632

Responsible person to mow and maintain the Lawn. This could serve as your fulfillment of a suburban dream as well as your four hour work commitment to the garden! Other projects available :tool shed organizers , path and sidewalk sweepers, and people to water during hot and dry summer months call Brad Smith at 212-749-6861 or Tom Thies at 2123696183. Thanks!

**2009 Board of Directors:** Jackie Bukowski – Klugerman president, 212 316 5490; Brad Smith, Vice president; Lisa Sarajian, Secretary; Veronica Humphreys, treasurer; Tom Thies, special projects; 212 369 6183 Mary Ann Brun, David Kupsky, Michael Estwanick, Blanche Hodges, Michael Modlock , Sandy Owens . Sitting Board member and Development Chair Edith Marks- 212 873 9661

♣ **WestSide Community Garden** is a New York State Not-for-Profit all Corporation which owns and operates the Garden Property located at 123-25 West 89th Street. Contributions may be sent to: Post Office Box 20301 Park Finance Station New York, NY, 10025 westsidecommunitygarden.org

The Garden property is open daily conditions permitting, (see announcements first page)

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