

**Pleasant Village Community Garden Newsletter**  
**354-35 Pleasant Avenue, Block 1815, 502 E. 119<sup>th</sup> Street**  
**East Harlem, NYC, NY 10035**

Pleasant Village Community Garden, Inc. has had a great summer this year. We have three new members (Robert Seyffert, Nam Yoon, Trudy Silver) and we welcome them! Trudy has been instrumental in bringing students from P.S. 112, Jose Celso Barbosa School, who were busy this spring planting flowers and vegetables. We also greatly appreciate the generous monetary contribution from Principal Eileen Reiter and the teachers of P.S. 112 (see pictures below.) Garden members Carlos Melendez and his crew constructed nice new bed frames (thank you!), which the kids will use once we get the much-needed soil. With our corn fest and flea market we raised funds, of which a part will be used towards developing the plots for kids. Thanks Trudy! We are happy to have you and the kids in our garden!



Left: The teachers and students of P.S. 112 present P.V.C.G. President Margaret McQuillar (first adult from right) with a check for the garden. Trudy Silver is second adult from right.

Photo: Jenny Blind

Sadly some of our members have had some health problems. We wish them well!

### P.S. 112, Jose Celso Barbosa School Gardeners



P.S. 112 students hard at work pulling weeds and planting plants!



Photos: Jenny Blind

The finished product!

## 2008 Events

### Juneteenth Emancipation Day 2008

This was an exciting year for PVCG events. We had our first annual Juneteenth event to commemorate the emancipation of slaves, and it was a great success. The day was beautiful and we had lots of food, friends and fun.

**Dr. Carolle Charles** from the Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Baruch College gave a wonderful presentation on the history of slavery. **Representative Yvette Zayas** from **Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell's** office also attended and spoke about the importance of our communities recognizing days such as Juneteenth.

**Patzy's Pizza, Dunkin Donuts and Creole Restaurant** generously donated food; **Pathmark** and **Associated Supermarkets** generously donated vouchers for other food and supplies. We thank all these people as well as all those from PVCG that donated time or funds (Nancy Lee, Jesse Brown, Josephine Jones, Carlos Melendez, Ms. McQuillar, Nam Yoon, Robert Seyffert). We also thank friends who attended the event and took over the grilling as well as took photographs (**Hyon Mi Chang, Tam Nguyen**) and **Katherine Winkleman** for her public relations. We hope that next year will be bigger and better. To volunteer time, suggestions or funding or to suggest sources of funding for Juneteenth 2009, please contact Christine Johnson [pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com).



Above: Invited speaker, Dr. Carolle Charles from Baruch College, spoke about the history of slavery, the Emancipation Proclamation and Juneteenth Day.

Photo: Tam Nguyen

## Juneteenth Emancipation Day



Left: President of Pleasant Village Community Garden, Inc., Ms. Margaret McQuillar.  
Below: A youngster enjoys the day.



Left: Representative from Assemblyman Adam Clayton Powell, IV's office, Yvette Zayas.



Above: Nancy Lee introduced Juneteenth & Dr. Charles.



Above: Organizer, Christine Johnson, with Ms. McQuillar and invited speaker Dr. Carolle Charles.

Photos: Tam Nguyen

### The Bees of PVCG 2008



Above: Dr. Kevin Matteson speaking about bees. (Photo: C. Johnson)

In July, we had an old friend, **Dr. Kevin Matteson** from Fordham University, speak to us about the bees in our garden. PVCG was one of the community gardens that was part of Kevin's Ph.D. research. PVCG had among the highest diversity of bees in New York City! He told us of the importance of bee diversity and how colony collapse disorder in bees may drastically reduce our agricultural output as bees are necessary to pollinate the flowers that eventually produce fruit. It was a great time and very informative. Kevin also provided us with several plants that attract butterflies and these plants have taken root and are now blooming away in PVCG! We hope Kevin will visit us again.

Right: PVCG members listen to Dr. Matteson talk about bees. (Photo: C. Johnson)



### Easter Egg Hunt 2008



Our Easter Egg hunt was a blast! Kids ran through the garden searching for hidden eggs and chocolate bunnies. One young lady showed garden member Diane Downs her basket full of goodies. Thanks to Nancy Lee, Christine Johnson and Frances Mastroda for donations.

Left: A treasure hunter shows Diane her catch. (Photo: D. Downs)

## Halloween 2007



Halloween is coming soon and we will have our second pumpkin-carving event on Tuesday, October 28 at 5:00 pm. Last year, we had a small crowd of children and they had a ball, especially with my (Chris Johnson) particularly bad carving abilities! We hope this year there will be even more kids and the weather will be a bit warmer. Thanks to garden members Nancy Lee & Christine Johnson for donations and former member Frances Mastroda for help with the carving. We thank **Walkill View Farm & Greenhouses** for providing a generous discount on this year's pumpkins.

Left: One youngster helps to carve her pumpkin. (Photo: C. Johnson)

## Tree News 2008

You have probably already noticed that the large dead tree on the adjacent property is has come down (and the monster mall on the FDR is being built up.) This tree was dangerous and we thank the efforts of former member Frances Mastroda and Community Board 11 to bring this tree down.



A tree falls in PVCG. (Photos: C. Johnson)

## Other News 2008

Ms. McQuillar, Nancy Lee, and Christine Johnson attended the GreenThumb annual Grow Together. Christine Johnson attended a pruning workshop. One of the classes was held at PVCG and the arborist, Luis, pointed out that many of our bushes and trees are being pruned incorrectly and showed me and other workshop attendees how to prune properly. He also indicated that our garden needs a lot of pruning....We hope we can use his expertise in the near future for help with this daunting task. Chris Johnson also attended a 3-bin composting workshop and was placed on the list for **PVCG to receive soil**. PVCG will receive notice 3 days before the soil is to arrive



Luis describes how to care for your pruning tools. (Photo: C. Johnson)

and we will need volunteers to help secure a spot on the street for the soil truck to park as well as to help move the soil into the garden. **PLEASE HELP.** The soil should arrive early morning sometime at the beginning of November. Contact Christine Johnson to be placed on the soil receiving team [pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com).

Shawn Spencer, the Director from Land Restoration, paid us an early morning visit this spring. Unfortunately, he was unable to attend to our requests this year for peach tree treatment, rat traps, and fence repair on 119<sup>th</sup> street. We hope that next year there will be resources for us to take care of these issues.

Our bylaws have been updated and now await votes for approval from PVCG members. If insufficient numbers of members are present at the October 18, 2008 meeting, the vote will be deferred until our first spring meeting.

In January, we must register PCVG. We cannot register if we are in violation of GreenThumb rules. Please help ensure that PVCG is not in violation. If you notice problems, please notify Ms. McQuillar.

Below is a tentative events schedule for 2009. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer time or funds for an event, please contact Chris Johnson at [pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com](mailto:pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com).

**NOTE: GREENTHUMB HAS EXTENDED SIT HOURS TO 20 HOURS A WEEK.**

If you would like to become a member of Pleasant Village Community Garden, contact Ms. McQuillar at (212) 289-4910 or attend one of the three annual meetings on Saturday mornings at 10:00 am.

Christine Johnson, Events Coordinator  
Margaret McQuillar, President  
Nancy Lee, Secretary  
Mary Young, Treasurer

**Tentative Events Schedule 2009  
Pleasant Village Community Garden**

Date*	Event	Time
April 11	Easter Egg Hunt	10 am
April 25	Plant Sale; flea market	10 am
May 2	Health Day: Speaker TBA. cancer, diabetes & blood pressure screenings	10 am
May 16	Sunflower Project: Kids plant seeds & eventually count bees	10 am
June 6	Grow Your Garden Well: Speaker Harry	10 am
June 21	Juneteenth Event: Speaker TBA	11 am
July 18	Garden Art: Show & sell local art	10 am
Aug. 22	Corn Fest; flea market	10 am
Sept. 12	Edible Mushrooms: Speaker TBA	10 am
Sept. 26	Garden BBQ	12 pm
Oct. 30	Pumpkin Carving	5:30 pm

NEW! Knit Club! Sit & teach others or learn how to knit from  
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm on Fridays

\* All dates fall on a Saturday, except for Oct. 30, which is a Friday.

Finalized events will be posted on PVCG's gate.

Garden member participation for any or all events is welcome!