

Pleasant Village Community Garden Newsletter - 2009
354-35 Pleasant Avenue, Block 1815, 502 E. 119th Street
East Harlem, NYC, NY 10035



Pleasant Village Community Garden, Inc. had a great and eventful 2009! We welcomed new members Nick & Rina Baldwin with their son Rune, Liz Chae, Lisa Faibish, Gina Puzanghera, Vanessa Schweitzer and Leo Tavaras, and Diana Zavala!

Unfortunately, some of our members will not be returning this year. Jesse Brown moved to the west side of Manhattan, but he is now a full-fledged lawyer and we wish him well.

This year, we celebrated President Margaret McQuillar's 90th birthday at the 5c Café with delicious food from Dallas BBQs that was purchased with donated funds. It was a grand time and we were happy to celebrate the long and full life of our dear friend.

Left: Mrs McQuillar's 90th birthday party.
Photo: Chris Johnson



In Memoriam

On a very sad note, we experienced the passing of Mary Whitted and Bennie Lee who have been associated with PVCG for many years. We would like to extend our sincere condolences to families and friends. We will miss you.



IMPORTANT!

Gardens in the neighborhood are being THREATENED! Gardens will either close or be taken over by organizations with other agendas. We need to keep PVCG looking good and active. Please also help our neighbor gardens when necessary. Keep your eyes and ears open and share vital information with PVCG members!

2009 Events

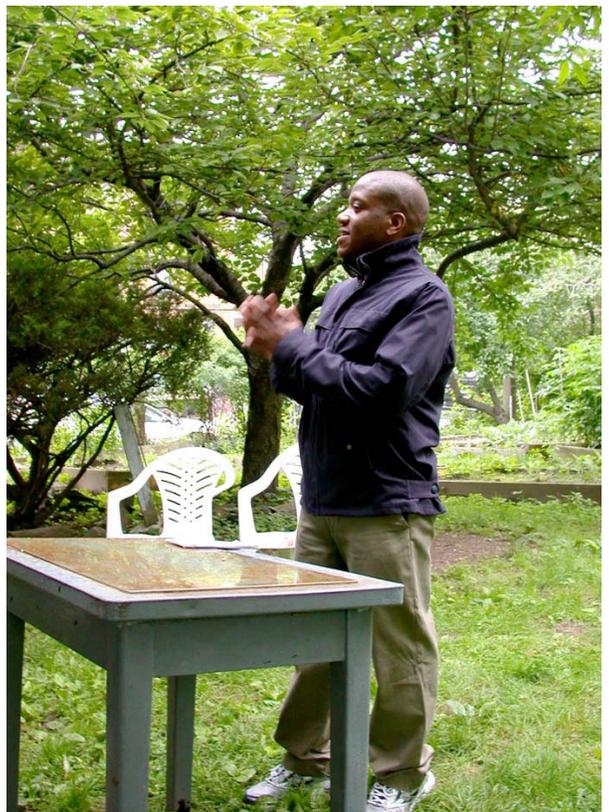
Juneteenth Emancipation Day 2009

This year, we had our second annual Juneteenth event to commemorate the emancipation of slaves. **Dr. Tschombe Walker**, Assistant Professor at NYC College of Technology, was our guest speaker.

Dr. Walker is in the Department of African American Studies and his research specializes on early African-American history and literature. He also is actively involved in public service and co-produced James Tops' 'Black Memorial Day 2007' and 'Eye of Heru', a mural representing Nile Valley civilization. He spoke to us about the history of slavery and how one must take a stand and fight to be free.

We had a special treat from **Linda Brookins**, who read her beautiful poetry that she dedicated to her father, who also attended. We thank both **Dr. Walker** and **Ms. Brookins** for sharing with us, especially since it was a rainy and rather cold day.

We also thank PVCG members who donated time or funds (**Nancy Lee, Christine Johnson, Josephine Jones, Carlos Melendez, Ms. McQuillar, Vanessa Schweitzer, Robert Seyffert, Leo Tavaras**) and all the folks who braved the weather to celebrate this important day. We hope that next year will be bigger and better.



Above: **Dr. Walker** tells us about the history of slavery and the fight for freedom.

Photo: Chris Johnson

To volunteer time, suggestions or funding or to suggest sources of funding for Juneteenth 2010, please contact Christine Johnson at pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com.

Juneteenth Emancipation Day 2009



Left: **Linda Brookins** reads her beautiful poetry with the protection of an umbrella from the rain.



Right: We enjoyed a great spread of food, albeit a bit soggy.



Above: Guests of Dr. Walker.



Above: PVCG members discuss the history of slavery and importance of celebrating Juneteenth.

Photos: Chris Johnson



Left: PVCG members listen to Dr. Walker.



Counselors from Harlem Community Justice Center
March 2009



Counselors & students from Harlem
Community Development Corporation
April 2009



The Harlem Community Helps!

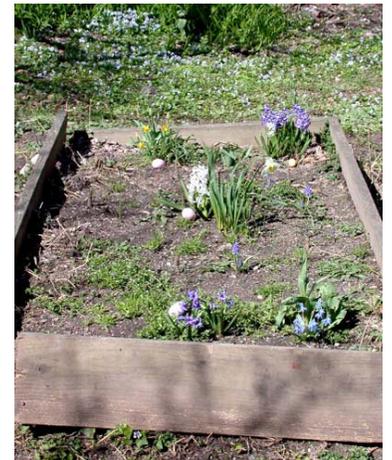
In preparation for the 2009 events and growing season of PVCG, we had some extraordinary help from students and counselors at **the Harlem Community Justice Center and the Harlem Community Development Corporation**. We cannot thank them enough for all their hard work. They worked tirelessly for a full day, raking leaves, picking up bricks, collecting garbage. You can see the results of their labor in the piles of garbage bags and bricks collected, and the cleanliness of the garden. They kept Nancy Lee and Chris Johnson on their toes the entire day. We would also like to thank our wonderful garbage man, who gladly collected all our garbage.

Photos: Chris Johnson



Volunteers from Harlem Community Justice Center

Easter Egg Hunt 2009



Our Easter Egg hunt was a blast again this year! The garden was full of spring flowers and plastic Easter eggs hiding delicious chocolate. The children ran through the garden searching for Easter treasures. Thanks to **Nancy Lee and Christine Johnson** for donations.

Left: **Diane Downs** sold beautiful notecards with her photos of flowers in the garden. They were a big hit!



First Annual Art Fair!

This year PVCG held its first annual art fair and it was very well received. Local artists, including our own **Diane Downs** and **Robert Seyffert**, displayed their work for sale to raise money for the garden. Each artist contributes 15% of the sales to the garden. Also available are cold beverages, corn and hot dogs for sale. This is a wonderful event for everyone!

If you would like to participate or know of an artist who might like to participate, please let me (Chris Johnson) know!

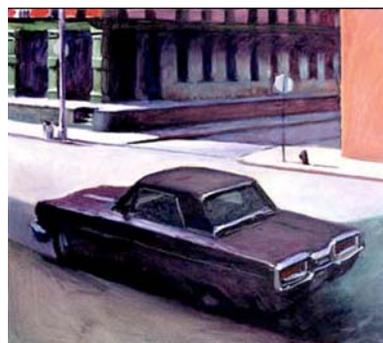
Photos: Chris Johnson



Above: Steve Thurston sold prints, t-shirts and cups of specialized fish prints.



Above: Watercolors by Chris Johnson's dad, **Robert Johnson**.



Above: Oil on canvas by our own **Robert Seyffert**.



Halloween 2009

Many thanks to **Rina and Nick Baldwin** for doing a fantastic job on the pumpkin carving event in PVCG this year!! They provided pumpkins, decorations, cookies, and juice and braved the cold weather! Thanks!!

Tree News 2009

You have probably already noticed that our fruit trees (the apple and peach trees) are not doing so well. We would like to replace them eventually. We need first to get approval from GreenThumb and appropriate authorization to replace them. If you are interested in donating funds to purchase new trees or have suggestions as to where to get new trees, please see one of the garden officers.

Photo: Nick & Rina Baldwin

Soil News 2009

We finally received the large shipment of soil that was promised at the 3-bin composting workshop that Chris Johnson attended. It arrived at 6 a.m. one cold morning, and I would like to extend a special thanks to **Carlos Melendez** for clearing the entrance-way to the garden so the soil could be delivered. Unfortunately, this soil was more like cement and large quantities of compost are needed to make it good for growing. **Lisa Faibish and Chris Johnson** attended a recent GreenThumb composting event at New York Botanical Garden and have placed another order for **PVCG to receive soil**. We hope the quality will be better this time around. **Please, again, we need volunteers to help receive the shipment. Please contact Chris Johnson at pleasantvillagecommunitygarden@yahoo.com to be on the soil team.**



Photos: Chris Johnson



Mulch Fest 2010

This has been a cold winter and we extend a hearty thanks to all those who helped with this year's mulch fest (**Lisa Faibish, Rina & Nick Baldwin, Vanessa Schweitzer & Leo Tavaras, Mr. Young, Dyanne Norris, Chris Johnson, Carlos Melendez**). We had quite a few trees that were collected for mulch, and in return we received mulch! A big thanks to **Lisa Faibish** for shoveling all the mulch (with two young anonymous helpers) into our garden from the sidewalk. This mulch will be great for the new compost we hope to build and for your gardens. Enjoy!

Above: A lot of soil.

Right: A lot of mulch.

Happy Day!

Photos: Lisa Faibish





PVCG Snow

PVCG looked beautiful in the snow this year! Remember that we have just four hours after the snow ends to shovel the sidewalks of PVCG both on Pleasant Avenue and 119th Street. Let's share the responsibility!

Photos: Lisa Faibish

Below is a tentative events schedule for 2010. If you have suggestions or would like to volunteer time or funds for an event, please contact Chris Johnson at 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 a.m.

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

Finalized events will be posted on PVCG's gate.
 Garden member participation for any or all events is welcome!

Pleasant Village Community Garden

Date	Event	Time
April 3	Easter Egg Hunt	10 am
April 17	Official Opening	11 am
May 15	Plant Sale; flea market; Sunflower Project: Kids plant seeds & eventually count bees	10 am
June 19	Juneteenth Event: Speaker TBA	11 am
July 18	Garden Art Show: Sell local art	12 pm
Sept. 12	Corn Fest; flea market	12 pm
Sept. 25	Garden BBQ	12 pm
Oct. 30	Pumpkin Carving	3 pm