

EAST RIVER NEWS

April 2009

PUBLISHED BY THE EAST RIVER HOUSE COMMITTEE

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THE HOUSE COMMITTEE is a group of your East River Co-op neighbors who are elected to advise and to report to the Board and Management on quality-of-life issues of importance to shareholders. The committee meets monthly and focuses on several areas, including grounds and maintenance, security, transportation and sustainability. We also arrange lobby get-togethers so that you can meet your neighbors and discuss your concerns. A Physical Plant Subcommittee conducts monthly walk-throughs noting maintenance issues and making suggestions for improvement. The committee also resolves disputes between owners. The newsletter is a means of communicating with residents and we hope that you will find it useful and interesting. We look forward to your comments and suggestions. You may contact us confidentially at our new email address, erhousecommittee@gmail.com or through the Management Office, 530 Grand Street. All written suggestions or concerns will be discussed at our meetings.

MARY LEVINE REMEMBERED

With sadness, the House Committee wishes to recognize the loss of an important guiding light at the passing of Mary Levine on January 15, 2009. Mary was a long-time member of the House Committee, including many years as Chairperson. She was an active and tireless worker for the East River Co-op and Lower East Side communities, a welcoming and caring individual, and a good neighbor. We were inspired by her leadership, positive attitude, and dedication to her family, neighbors, and the variety of community causes she supported. Grateful for the time that she was with us, we will miss her very much.

ELECTION UPDATE

As you know, East River's election for the Board of Directors and House Committee was held on March 12 and was just a few votes short of a quorum. As a result, all officers will continue to serve until the next regularly scheduled election. The good news is you have another opportunity to consider running for a position. While the board's focus is primarily financial, the house committee deals with quality-of-life issues. There will be a number of positions available at the next

election in November. Serving on the board or house committee is a great way to make a difference, get involved, serve your community and have your voice heard.

NORC KNITTERS NEEDED NOW

East River's NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community) still needs knitters to work on hand-made creations which will be sold at NORC's Flea Boutique. The *Knitter's Group* meets Mondays at 12:30 pm and provides the wool. Call Rita at (212) 358-8489 for more information.

GRAND STREET GREENMARKET IS COMING

Excited about the Grand Street Green Market? You'll have to wait just a little bit longer. The market opens on Sunday, July 5 and runs through Sunday, November 22. The hours are 8am-4pm, and the market is on Grand Street between Norfolk and Essex. If you can't wait, check out the Tompkins Square Greenmarket at 7th Street and Avenue A, open Sunday 10am-5pm. For more information visit the Council on the Environment of New York City's website, www.cenyc.org. See you in July!

EAST RIVER PARK – FROM SHIPBUILDING TO SNOWBOARDING

When you walk through East River Park, you're walking through history. The waterfront from Montgomery Street north to East 12th Street was once one of the world's busiest shipbuilding centers. Some of the great clipper ships and the first steam ship to cross the ocean were built and launched from docks here.

As New York's shipbuilding days ended by the end of the 19th century, the area deteriorated into slaughterhouses, glass factories and railroad yards.

Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia decided to create the park, and Robert Moses designed it pretty much as we know it today. It opened in 1939. Some original ideas were never completed, like an ice skating rink. And over the years, various features of the park have required some major renovations or outright replacement, including the bandshell. But it has remained a center of culture, sports and entertainment. The park was the original home to *Joseph Papp's Shakespeare in the Park* in 1956. And just this winter, *WinterJam* was held in the park with a 9-story snowboarding ramp.

Today the park offers a running track, baseball, football and soccer fields, and tennis courts as well as picnic areas and playgrounds. There are places for quiet contemplation and the new promenade, which is making great progress, will provide wonderful river views.

CAPOEIRA AT EAST RIVER

Capoeira is a dance form inspired by Brazilian slaves who were not permitted to practice martial arts but were permitted to dance. This expressive, exotic and energetic dance was performed by Dance Brazil at East River Park last summer. *Capoeira* classes are now being offered by East River resident and experienced *capoeira* dancer Amy Yan for children ages 5-12. Classes are held Saturday afternoons at the Hamilton-Madison House at 50 Madison Street for \$10. For more information, call Amy at (646) 468-0289.

CULTURE CORNER

Here are a few interesting and exciting upcoming events right in our neighborhood.

KERNEL OF SANITY by Kermit Frazier An action-filled 90 minute play about a young actor traveling from New York to California coming face to face with his sense of marginalization and betrayal. Abrons Arts Center, 468 Grand Street, through May 3, www.Henrystreet.org, \$20.

ALEXANDER BELLER Internationally acclaimed choreographer and dancer Alexander Beller performs two premiere dance-theater works. **Abrons Arts Center**, May 7-10, \$20/\$15 for seniors.

ALL ABOARD THE MARRIAGE HEARSE A romantic serio-comedy about a magazine humorist struggling to retain his bachelorhood. *Theater for the*

New City, 155 First Avenue, www.theaterforthenewcity.net
April 23 – May 16, \$20.

BABYCAKES BOOK PARTY Erin McKenna, owner of *Babycakes* on Broome Street, shares her vegan, gluten and sugar-free recipes (samples included), **Tenement Museum**, 108 Orchard Street, May 14 at 6:30 p.m. FREE

FROM THE ECOLOGY DESK

Spring is officially here and that means flowers, festivities and gardening in East River Park. **CHERP** (Community Hooked on East River Park) is hosting *It's My Park Day* on Saturday, May 16 from 10am-2pm. Meet at the Seal Park area in East River Park at the foot of Grand Street. This is your chance to help beautify the park by cultivating planting beds and adding compost and mulch to garden areas. Everyone is welcome. Gloves and gardening tools will be provided. No need to sign up, just show up!

Electronic Recycling – Wonder what to do with your old computers, TVs, VCRs, cell phones, pagers or stereos? Donate them to the **Lower East Side Ecology Center**. Bring your working and non-working electronic equipment to 119 West 23rd Street (between 6th and 7th Avenues) on Saturday, May 2 from 10am to 4pm. Donations are tax deductible.

CONTACT US by email at erhousecommittee@gmail.com or in writing through the management office.