

LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

NEWSLETTER



Delightful Debut of Meredith Willson's *The Music Man SR.*

We were proud to present *Meredith Willson's The Music Man SR.*, featuring members of our Older Adult Centers, at three stellar, jam-packed performances. This heartwarming production captivated audiences with our members' vocal and acting prowess, as well as stunning costumes to fit the early 1900s setting. Through our Intergenerational Art Project with our Visual and Performing Arts team, older adults and neighborhood youth brought the Broadway classic to life with handmade props and a beautiful mural backdrop. The enriching performances sparked the discovery of new talents and rekindled the love for theater for so many of our older adult members and our greater community.

For more info and to check out photos and video clips from the performances, visit lenoxhill.org/the-music-man-sr



The Music Man SR. is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.com

IN THIS ISSUE

5 Visits with Members
of Congress

7 Spring Gala Celebrates
All the World's a Stage

10 ESOL Students Put Learning
into Action



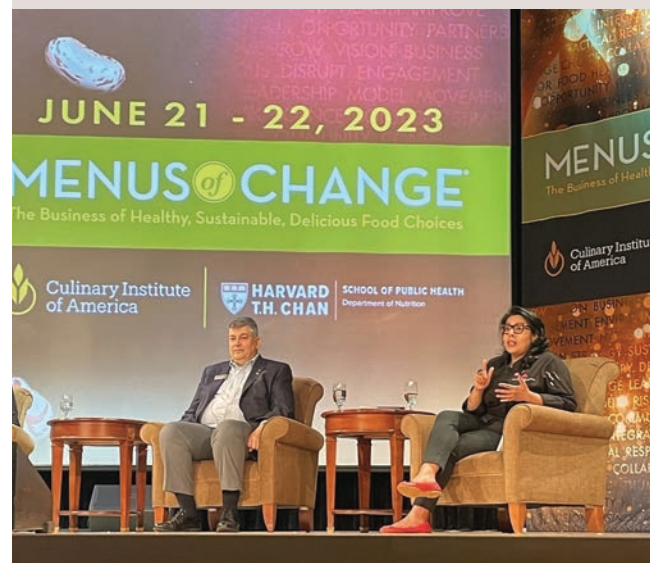
Students Race in Playscape Grand Prix

Students and teachers from our Starlight Classroom celebrated the completion of their unit on race cars and teamwork with their very own Grand Prix event. Throughout the unit, students learned about the various roles in the race car world, such as drivers, pit crew members and race marshals. The class engineered their own multi-colored cardboard race cars and enjoyed taking laps around our Environmental Playscape—and everyone loved learning how to work together as a team.

Chef Evelyn Selected for James Beard Boot Camp and Shines at Menu Summit

Teaching Kitchen Executive Chef Evelyn García was selected by the James Beard Foundation to attend their Chef Bootcamp for Policy and Change at Carnation Farms in Washington State. Evelyn joins 17 fellow chefs dedicated to advocacy, sustainability and food system change for this prestigious program, which has trained and inspired culinary leaders from across the country to mobilize in support of policy decisions that impact our food system. Chef Evelyn was also proud to present at the Culinary Institute of America's Menus of Change Summit as a panelist for "Building Consensus: How to Create Buy-In at Every Level for Plant-Forward Culinary Training and Professional Development." A CIA Class of 2006 graduate, Chef Evelyn shared our "secret sauce" with fellow food changemakers about how to integrate local, fresh produce into menus at nonprofits and schools, as well as the crucial elements in training hundreds of peers at institutional kitchens.

Visit lenoxhill.org/teachingkitchen to learn more about Chef Evelyn and our award-winning *Teaching Kitchen* program.



Summer Artist-in-Residence Sparks Joy in Clients

Our Summer Artist-in-Residence, Syma, has been working with clay for most of her life, but during the pandemic, accessing a kiln oven became a challenge. Syma therefore did what she has done best as a multimedia artist for nearly five decades—she found an unexpected new material: Play-Doh!

Syma brought the playful medium to jewelry making classes with clients at our Women's Mental Health Shelter and Older Adult Centers. The colorful material is just one aspect of how Syma integrates joy and whimsy in her drawing, jewelry and collage classes for our clients. "It's a challenge to just let go and play. In our world, we don't do all that much playing, do we? In my classes, the idea is to experience joy through art and experience play and learn how to see the way an artist sees," says Syma. A freelance Teaching Artist at the Metropolitan Museum of Art since 1999, Syma has led workshops and been an Artist-in-Residence at museums around the world.



Beloved Annual Tradition Celebrates Diversity

The Ninth Annual Intercultural Festival at our Older Adult Centers was filled with a variety of enriching performances, discussions, workshops and trips to celebrate the diversity of our members and staff. Older adults enjoyed traditional Korean and Indian dance performances, celebrated the change in seasons with member-led performances at our Happy Spring concert and cheered on their peers at showcases by our Tap Dancing Class and Actors' Performance Workshop. Members also learned how to make dumplings, practiced Muay Thai and connected with the United Nations' NGO Committee on Ageing to learn about sustainable development goals and aging around the world. Another beautiful festival celebrating our diverse and brilliant community!



Neighborhood House Celebrates Community at First Avenue Festival

We welcomed thousands of New Yorkers of all ages to rejoice at our annual Lenox Hill Neighborhood House First Avenue Festival. Our teams presented a fun and interactive lineup of performances and activities, from creative watercolor painting and chalk art stations with our Visual Arts Teachers, to an invigorating boxing demonstration with our Fitness team and homemade granola prepared by our chefs. We are grateful to our festival goers and partners for such a joyous occasion in building community connection and for helping us to kickstart the summer season.



More Than 100 Artworks Featured at Neighborhood House Art Exhibition

Our annual Art Exhibition featured 100+ beautiful and creative pieces from so many talented artists across our Neighborhood House community. The showcase presented works created in our Visual Arts and Art Therapy programs by clients from our Women's Mental Health Shelter, Casa Mutua supportive housing residence and two Older Adult Centers. The reception welcomed clients, colleagues and friends to revel in the mastery of various media and awe at the plethora of colors, materials and techniques.



Young Scholars Shine at Annual Curriculum Events

Our Early Childhood Center students loved sharing their learning adventures and achievements with their families at our annual Curriculum Events. The students covered topics including the solar system, life cycles, plants and safari animals, and explored our broader Neighborhood House community through dynamic classroom projects. Our young learners had a blast showing off their new knowledge and skills while cultivating confidence to share their development with families and classmates.



Members of Congress Tour Our Historic Headquarters

We were honored on two occasions to welcome members of Congress to talk with our staff and see our programs in action—Rep. Jerrold Nadler from our local 12th Congressional District and Rep. Jim McGovern, who represents Massachusetts' 2nd Congressional District. Congressman Nadler spoke with some of our colleagues and Board members to learn more about our storied history and our work to provide critical services to our East Side community. Congressman McGovern joined our chefs and *Teaching Kitchen* team for a tour and discussion about how we have trained hundreds of nonprofits and schools in our farm-to-institution model. We were grateful for the opportunity to showcase our groundbreaking programs and impact in our community and beyond.

Connected Series Builds Community Among Colleagues

As part of our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts, we launched the Connected Panel Series to create space for candid and thoughtful conversations with our colleagues of various identities. These events inspire colleagues to learn more about each other while engaging in meaningful discussions about race, culture, identity and professional experiences. For Women's History Month, the panel shared personal and professional tales and insights—what led them to nonprofit work, how to advocate for clients and themselves, women role models and more. In our Leaders of Color panel, colleagues shared their journeys and how they approach their career paths while embracing their authentic selves. In celebration of National Hispanic Heritage Month, an intergenerational group of Hispanic and Latinx colleagues amplified the beauty and diversity of their cultures and navigating the world as a Hispanic or Latinx person. Our staff continue to engage in intentional cross-departmental conversations while building community and solidarity to drive our DEI efforts and sustain an equitable and inclusive environment.



Staff Spotlights

Jasmine McFarlane, Deputy Chief Program Officer

Jasmine McFarlane has always been drawn to working with older adults in her social work career—inspired by her grandmother’s service in the supportive housing field as well as what Jasmine feels she can learn from the clients themselves. “Older adults have lived and experienced far more than I, and though I may know about how government agencies and benefits work, they have plenty to teach *me*,” says Jasmine, who first joined the Neighborhood House in 2015 as a Geriatric Care Manager. Jasmine subsequently served as a Social Worker in our Caregiver program and later as Senior Program Director before transitioning to Deputy Chief Program Officer. Jasmine is a graduate of Lehman College (BSW; focus on Gerontology) and Hunter College (MSW), a Licensed Master Social Worker and is fluent in Spanish.



Throughout various leadership roles, Jasmine has built bridges between myriad older adult programs, allowing for seamless transition when the needs of our older adult clients shift as they age. In her new role as Deputy Chief Program Officer, Jasmine is excited to expand her efforts across even more programs and understand the varying elements that affect how our organization operates, all while supporting her colleagues. “Every person in the organization is so valuable and cares about our community. In my role, I want to assure that my colleagues feel empowered while providing vital services for our clients.”



Patricia Tu, Director of Data, Evaluation and Performance Management

In her time leading our Data, Evaluation and Performance Management team, Patricia Tu has always kept our clients front-of-mind—guided by her colleagues’ keen sense of client strengths and needs and her previous social work experience. Our Data, Evaluation and Performance Management team is essential to tracking and improving our 130-year-old organization’s impact and to empowering colleagues with skills and information to enhance their day-to-day efforts on behalf of our 16,000 clients. “It is a gift to be able to closely track our Neighborhood House impact through data collection and analysis. Our robust systems allow us to improve service delivery for clients with a solutions-focused approach as challenges arise along the way,” says Patricia,

who first joined us in 2017 as an Assistant Director of Social Services at our Older Adult Centers. Patricia is a graduate of New York University (BSW and MSW), a Licensed Social Worker and is fluent in Mandarin and Cantonese.

Though Patricia misses working directly with our older adult clients, her vision for our four-person Data team is to continue being accessible to colleagues to assist with skills development, automate current systems and processes to improve efficiencies and ensure all staff have access to timely data about their frontline work. “By understanding the needs of our colleagues, who understand the strengths and needs of our clients, it ensures better quality data which leads to the highest quality services.”

Spring Gala Celebrates “All the World’s a Stage”

Our Spring Gala on May 4th at Cipriani 42nd Street welcomed 500 supporters and partners, surrounded by enchanting tablescapes from more than 40 renowned designers, to celebrate and raise critical funds for thousands of New Yorkers. The evening saw the presentation of the Elizabeth Rohatyn Awards for Community Service to Dr. Soyoun Im of Northwell Health-Lenox Hill Hospital and acclaimed Chef and Writer Natasha Pickowicz.

Diana Ronan Quasha served as Gala Chair Emerita with Board Chair Juan Sabater as Emcee. Thomas & Ingrid Edelman and Wilkinson Global Asset Management were the Dinner Sponsors. Benefactors included Audrey & Martin Gruss, Arthur Loeb, Neha Motwani-Lepanto, Diana Ronan Quasha, Juan & Marianna Sabater and Sydney & Stanley Shuman. Patrons included Christine & Adam King, Thomas Melton & Saara Pritchard, Elizabeth Munson & Robert von Stade, Weston & Tracy Quasha, Warren Scharf & Jane Spinak and Helene & Hugh Tilney. Friends included Mal & Ann Barasch, Citigroup, David & Beth Greenwald, Greg & Ali Kwiat, Renée & Carl Landegger, John & Anne Manice, Northwell Health, Dusty & Yesim Philip, Margery & Stephen Riker, Robert Schwenkel & Suzanne Puls, Christopher Spitzmiller & Anthony Bellomo, Stephanie & Paul Stamas, Charles & Jacqueline Warren, Hedi & Tom White and William Blair. The Media Sponsor was *New York Cottages & Gardens*.

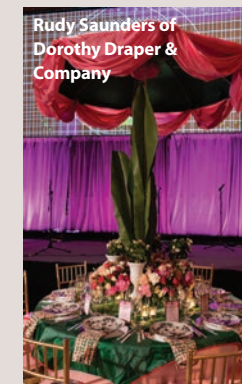
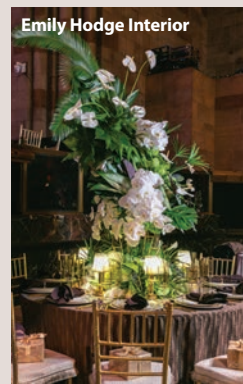
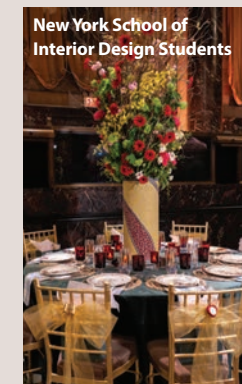
Guests enjoyed table viewing and cocktails followed by dinner, live music and dancing. Honorary Design Chair and Board Member Christopher Spitzmiller and Design Chairs Lindsey Coral Harper and Harry Heissmann guided the celebrated list of interior designers who integrated this year’s theme of “*All the World’s a Stage*” into their elaborate artistic creations.



Top Row: Rachel Bender, Dr. Soyoun Im, Jarnely Serrano; Joseph Haslip, Juan Sabater, Lexi Bolandhemat, Jon Koval, Eila Motley, Gil Flores; Robert Rufino, Diana Quasha; Ingrid Edelman, Thomas Edelman; Warren B. Scharf. **Middle Row:** David Greenwald, Jane Spinak; Hedi White, Tom White, Gretchen Stone, Lewis Stone, Bart Stone; Natasha Pickowicz; Anne Manice, John Manice; Gregory Fowlkes, Dusty Philip, Yesim Philip, Annabelle Fowlkes, Reha Kocatas. **Bottom Row:** Michael Milograno, Elie Rizel, Brian Gemino, Christopher Spitzmiller, Anthony Bellomo; David Salas, Margery Riker, Stephen Riker, Loren Ruch; Christina Proctor, Elizabeth Thompson, Margaret Ostrow, Christine Colley King; Patrick McBride, Harry Heissmann, Kathy Angele, Raymond Schneider; Katharina Plath, Ludovica Villar-Hauser, Renée Landegger, Amy Lau.

VISIT LENOXHILL.ORG/2023GALA TO VIEW MORE PHOTOS

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR 2024 SPRING GALA ON THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024



ESOL Students Put Learning into Action

Students in our English for Speakers of Other Languages classes visited the Brooklyn Museum for an interactive opportunity to bring their skills outside the classroom and engage in new and unique conversations. Our Intermediate ESOL class practiced grammar and vocabulary while discussing colors and symbols embedded in the artworks. Advanced level students discussed social and personal identities and applied critical thinking and fluency in English while observing paintings by Osca yi Hou—whose identity as queer and Asian influenced his art and poetry. Integrating real-world experiences is a fundamental component of our Adult Education curriculum to ensure our students excel both inside and outside the classroom.



Finding Ease with Nielsen, the Therapy Dog

Meet our newest CARE volunteer—Nielsen—an adorable therapy dog who visits regularly with our clients to provide comfort and companionship to the group. Nielsen is a most welcome addition to our day program for older adults living with dementia, building on our award-winning, arts-based programming, which includes art therapy, sing-alongs, meditation, chair yoga and musical performances. To better meet the needs of our CARE clients and their caregivers, we offer in-person, remote and hybrid programming as well as farm-to-table breakfast and lunch. These vital activities, led by our dedicated colleagues and volunteers, help to increase participant self-understanding and acceptance while also providing respite to caregivers and loved ones.

Casa Mutua Residents Cultivate Connections

Residents of Casa Mutua, along with Director of Homelessness Prevention Program Gina Reitmeier, spent a fun-filled day at the American Museum of Natural History as part of our ongoing efforts to build community and friendship within our East Harlem supportive housing residence. The group explored the museum's classic exhibitions on dinosaurs and gems and minerals, as well as the special exhibit and film *Serengeti*, which showcases the annual wildebeest migration in Tanzania. In addition to these community-building adventures, our team provides vital wrap-around support, from case management and psychiatric services and counseling to regular community activities such as holiday and birthday celebrations, arts classes and chair yoga.



What We're Reading

Our monthly Staff Book Club is among the myriad opportunities for collective conversations related to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion topics—and a fun way to connect with colleagues. We aim to amplify underrepresented writers, including BIPOC and LGBTQIA+ authors, and make space for conversations about race, gender, sexuality, culture, identity and more. Below are recommendations curated by our Staff Book Club Committee.

1. *¡Hola Papi!: How to Come Out in a Walmart Parking Lot and Other Life Lessons* (John Paul Brammer)
2. *A Burning* (Megha Majumdar)
3. *Boy Meets Boy* (David Levithan)
4. *Crying in H Mart* (Michelle Zauner)
5. *Honey Girl* (Morgan Rogers)
6. *How We Stay Free: Notes on a Black Uprising* (An Anthology)
7. *Red at the Bone* (Jacqueline Woodson)
8. *Sabrina & Corina: Stories* (Kali Fajardo-Anstine)
9. *The Chinese Groove* (Kathryn Ma)
10. *The Fortunes of Jaded Women* (Carolyn Huynh)
11. *We Should All Be Feminists* (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)
12. *Winter Counts* (David Heska Wanbli Weiden)
13. *You Can't Touch My Hair: And Other Things I Still Have to Explain* (Phoebe Robinson)

Caregivers Gather for Special Wellness Days



Our dedicated Caregiver team organized Caregiver Appreciation days to curate relaxing and restful afternoons of activities for clients in the program. Care Manager Natalie Cloarec took clients on a mindful movement journey and Fitness Instructor Brandon Dottin led a meditative chair yoga class. Caregivers play a vital role in ensuring older adults can age in place with dignity. At the Neighborhood House, our team aims to ensure caregivers can thrive while doing this work, often in support of their loved ones. After the Appreciation days, the groups shared how the event made them feel seen, acknowledged and renewed. To learn more about our Caregiver program and see if you are eligible, please call 212-218-0438 or email Jazmin Reyes, Caregiver Director, at jreyes@lenoxhill.org.

Leave Your Legacy to Ensure a Better Tomorrow for Our Community

Planned giving, or legacy giving, is a wonderful way to support Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and to ensure that future generations benefit from our life-changing programs and talented staff. Those who make a planned gift to Lenox Hill Neighborhood House are recognized as members of the 1894 Society, ensuring that their legacy is forever tied to the history of the Neighborhood House and to the improvement of our community.

"The 1894 Society reflects the wonderful history of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and our individual commitment to ensuring that the organization will continue to meet the needs of future generations of New Yorkers." – Helene Goldfarb, Member of the Board of Directors

For more information, please contact Derek Samuelson, Director of Advancement, at 212-218-0544 or dsamuelson@lenoxhill.org.

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