

# LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

## NEWSLETTER



## The Great Ladybug Release

**Y**oung scientists in our Early Childhood Center released ladybugs on our Environmental Playscape to help our plants and flowers to grow and thrive. As part of our curriculum, the children learned about nature and how ladybugs feed on other insects that are sometimes damaging to plants and trees. Our students especially loved returning to the Playscape each day to search for their helpful friends. They were also thrilled to plant beans, cilantro, cucumbers, peppers and tomatoes, and to harvest the vegetables as part of our healthy foods initiative.

## Teaching Kitchen Trains Hudson Valley School Districts

**W**e continue to expand *The Teaching Kitchen*®, our leading-edge farm-to-institution professional development and technical assistance program, across New York State, not only training more nonprofits but diving deep into the farm-to-school movement. Our chefs journeyed up the Hudson River to train the Newburgh and Beacon school districts, representing a full circle journey for Chef Evelyn Garcia, who grew up in Newburgh and first developed her love for cooking while attending Meadow Hill Elementary School. The trainings were a fabulous success—we now have more than one dozen additional upstate school districts on the docket to provide our hybrid model, which combines in-person sessions with participation in *The Teaching Kitchen* Online program. Our award-winning program has now trained more than 400 nonprofit staff from 200+ programs serving 17 million meals annually.



## IN THIS ISSUE

4 Staff Spotlights: Janet Sanchez and Jessica Leylavergne

6 Spring Gala Celebrates A Garden of Earthly Delights!

10 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Events Unite Community

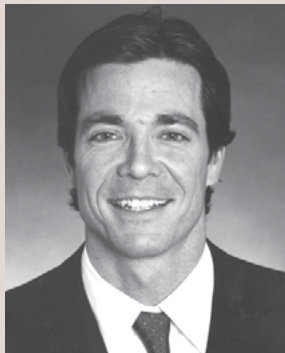




Christine Colley King



Thomas L. Melton



Dusty Philip

## Christine Colley King, Thomas L. Melton and Dusty Philip Join Board of Directors

**L**enox Hill Neighborhood House proudly welcomed three new members to our Board of Directors: Christine Colley King, Executive Managing Director at Jones Lang LaSalle; Thomas L. Melton, Executive Vice President at Pritchard Industries, Inc.; and Dusty Philip, Co-Chairman of Global Mergers & Acquisitions at Goldman Sachs. “We are so thrilled to welcome Christine, Tom and Dusty, and we look forward to the contributions they will make to our Board,” says Board Chair Juan A. Sabater. “Each of them brings a range of experiences that will add to our conversation and ability to support the Neighborhood House in its important mission.”

Christine Colley King has distinguished herself as one of the most accomplished young professionals in the real estate industry. Prior to joining Jones Lang LaSalle as an Executive Managing Director, Christine served as a Managing Director at Cushman & Wakefield for 10 years and was the youngest professional at the firm to hold this title. “The Neighborhood House has been a beacon of hope in New York City for more than 125 years,” says Christine. “I am so inspired by what we do every day to impact thousands of New Yorkers, and I am honored to join our dedicated Board of Directors in supporting this critical work.”

Thomas L. Melton has led business transformation initiatives and merger and acquisition strategies for a diverse group of companies and private equity firms over the last 15 years. Prior to his role as Executive Vice President at Pritchard, Tom developed a natural resources investment strategy at Encourage Capital and facilitated new investments and managed portfolio companies at American Capital. “My interest in Lenox Hill Neighborhood House stems from not just living, but raising our children, in the neighborhood,” shares Tom. “I am so honored to support such a long-standing institution that assists with a diverse set of needs in our local community.”

Dusty Philip joined Goldman Sachs in Mergers and Acquisitions in 1991 and was named Managing Director in 1999 and Partner in 2000. Prior to being named Co-Chair of Global M&A at Goldman Sachs, Dusty was Global Co-Head of M&A and Global Co-Head of the Industrials Group. “Lenox Hill Neighborhood House is an incredible organization that has never been more important to New York City than right now,” says Dusty. “I am so proud to be part of this story and to support the great work our teams are doing for so many in need in our community.”



## Students Celebrate Wonderful Year of Learning and Achievement

**O**ur Early Childhood Center students commemorated the end of their school year with special performances in front of their classmates and families. Each class celebrated in their own special way—from singing and dancing to their favorite classroom songs to showcasing how they plan to change the world—as teachers shared tales of the students’ incredible growth and development. We are so proud of our students as they embark on the next chapter in their learning adventures, which for some includes another fabulous year of preschool here at the Neighborhood House!

## Members Shine at Singin’ Seniors Recital

**O**ur Singin’ Seniors group, made up of members of our Older Adult Centers, presented their Spring Recital for fellow members and Neighborhood House staff. The talented ensemble has been a long-standing fixture at our Older Adult Center @ Saint Peter’s Church and continued to meet and sing together virtually throughout the pandemic. They were so excited for their first in-person performance in more than two years as they graced the audience with crowd favorites such as “Under the Boardwalk,” “Lovely Day” and “You’ve Got a Friend in Me.”



## Older Adult Members Revel in Annual Intercultural Festival

**O**ur Eighth Annual Intercultural Festival at our Older Adult Centers featured an enriching lineup of in-person and virtual workshops, performances, film screenings and readings to spotlight many diverse holidays and cultural traditions. In celebration of the Lunar New Year, members engaged in cross-cultural discussions, Lunar Yoga, calligraphy, Tai Chi and a presentation of New Year traditions. In honor of Black History Month, groups participated in literary discussions as they read works by Langston Hughes, Maya Angelou, Alice Walker, bell hooks and Lorraine Hansberry. Members also enjoyed cooking demonstrations, social dances, an open mic poetry slam and a member-led fashion show.



## English Language Students Discover Egypt at the Met

**S**tudents from our Intermediate ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) class explored Egyptian art and culture on a special field trip to The Metropolitan Museum of Art. As an homage to a fellow classmate who is from Egypt, the group selected the Egyptian wing for their self-guided tour. They were fascinated by the mysteries of mummies and tombs and especially enjoyed the beautiful jewelry, the Temple of Dendur and the hieroglyphics on the papyrus. Our Adult Education team continues to provide practical and engaging learning experiences to enrich our students’ lives.



## Staff Spotlights

### Jessica Leylavergne, Director of Visual and Performing Arts

Jessica Leylavergne has led our Visual and Performing Arts team since 2019 after serving as an Administration Manager and Music Teacher at the Neighborhood House since 2016. Jessica has a unique background as an actress, vocalist and pianist, appearing in regional theater productions as well as performing as a Soprano with the Westminster Symphonic Choir. She spent time as a staff accompanist at American Repertory Ballet, The Joffrey Ballet School, Ballet Academy East and Ballet Tech Public School for Dance. Jessica is a graduate of Westminster Choir College and received her Master's in Arts Administration from Baruch College.



Jessica has spent most of her career providing musical and art experiences to spark joy and meaning with diverse populations. Jessica continues to advance our arts programming and increase participation and access across our broad Neighborhood House community. Under Jessica's direction, our Older Adults Centers welcomed dozens of new classes this year including Sketching on the Playscape, Comedic Improv and The Art of Collage, and introduced a summer Artist-in-Residence at our Women's Mental Health Shelter and Older Adult Centers. She and her team are also working on a special intergenerational theater project to bridge connection and community between older adult clients and Neighborhood House youth.

Jessica is passionate about the power that art can have on one's community: "we have all experienced times of grief, uncertainty, fear. Through art classes and programs, our clients have been able to learn and develop skills that excite and motivate them and beauty that has been able to give them distraction and comfort through difficult times."

### Janet Sanchez, Executive Chef



Janet Sanchez has been at the Neighborhood House for more than 22 years since first joining us when her children attended our Early Childhood Center. As a classroom parent, Janet immersed herself in our community, volunteering to deliver meals to students in the afternoon while also attending English language classes with our Adult Education program. After her children went to kindergarten, Janet wanted to further her connection and began working on our Food Services team.

It is now difficult to imagine the Neighborhood House and our kitchen without Janet, who recently was promoted from Sous Chef to our Executive Chef of our fabulous Food Services team. Janet has a deep passion for providing delicious and nutritious farm-to-table meals to satisfy a wide range of clients, tastes and culinary traditions. "My vision is to continue to teach the importance of feeding healthy and delicious meals to our clients, knowing that we have a responsibility to feed them both what they want and what they need," shared Janet. "I want our team to cook as though they are cooking for themselves as we continue to advance the legacy of Lenox Hill Neighborhood House in feeding and serving our community. I am so fortunate to work with such wonderful chefs who bring their passion daily to preparing scrumptious meals from scratch."



### Summer Artist-in-Residence

Clients from our Women's Mental Health Shelter and Older Adult Centers were overjoyed to work with Karrolyn Belkis, our summer Artist-in-Residence. Adding to our already robust Visual and Performing Arts programming, Karrolyn is a collage artist and nurse practitioner who led weekly workshops with our clients while also working on her own pieces in our Art Room. Karrolyn skillfully guided the groups as they developed series of art pieces influenced by their experiences. "I love how collage inspires people to see things they haven't seen before and try things they haven't tried before," shares Karrolyn. At the end of the residency, we were excited to present two art shows presenting finished works to our Neighborhood House community.

### Neighborhood House Empowers and Uplifts Staff

In fostering an equitable and inclusive workplace, we continue to provide opportunities for enrichment, education and supportive platforms to center the experiences and identities of our staff. We invited Joy and Alexander Gruezo from TSR Kali Martial Arts School to lead awareness-based self-defense classes, where staff learned about mindfulness and survival strategies to avoid violence. In our Summer Book Club, colleagues explored the writings of Megha Majumdar's *A Burning*, Jacqueline Woodson's *Red at the Bone* and Michelle Zauner's *Crying in H Mart*. We also hosted a "Leaders of Color" panel, moderated by Deputy Volunteer Director Ramona Gross, where panelists Anthony Snowden (Volunteer Director), Patricia Tu (Data and Evaluation Manager), Tania Cortes (Deputy Director, Geriatric Care Management Program) and Sam Mahon (Director of Human Resources) spoke with colleagues about their professional journeys and navigating their career paths while embracing their authentic selves.





## Spring Gala Celebrates A Garden of Earthly Delights!

**W**e hosted our Spring Gala benefit on Thursday, April 28, 2022, at Cipriani 42nd Street. The dazzling event welcomed 500 supporters and friends, surrounded by breathtaking tablescapes by 43 designers, to celebrate and raise funds to support our essential programs for thousands.

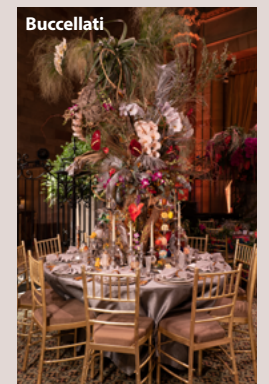
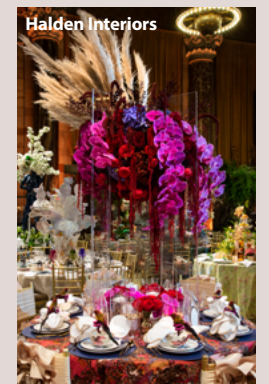
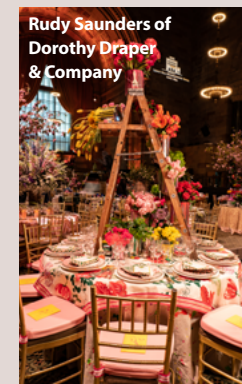
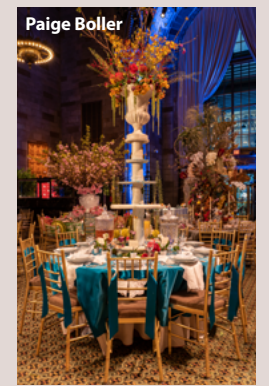
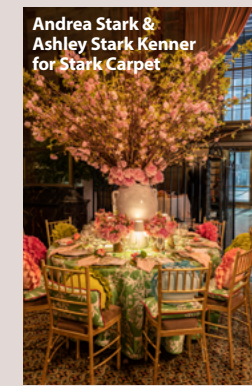
The evening honored Elizabeth P. Munson, former Chair of the Board, for her remarkable leadership of the Neighborhood House and presented the Elizabeth Rohatyn Awards for Community Service to Marian Detelj and Lila Gimbel. Ingrid and Thomas J. Edelman and Wilkinson Global Asset Management served as the Dinner Sponsors; Audrey and Martin D. Gruss, Lisa and Christopher Manice, Elizabeth P. Munson and Robert L. von Stade, Mariana and Juan Sabater, and Sydney and Stanley Shuman served as Benefactors; additional corporate support provided by Citigroup, Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, Lauracea, Rockefeller Capital Management and others. The event included a press preview and cocktails followed by dinner and dancing to live music from a marvelous eight-piece band. The Media Sponsor was New York Cottages & Gardens.

Stewarded by Honorary Design Chair and Board Member Christopher Spitzmiller, and Design Chairs Lindsey Coral Harper and Harry Heissmann, the group of talented designers incorporated the festive theme *A Garden of Earthly Delights!* into their enchanting tabletop creations. Special thanks to our wonderful Sponsors, Benefactors, Patrons, Friends, Committee Members and guests—along with our amazing designer friends—for their outstanding support and partnership in this magnificent event!



## Save the Date for Our 2023 Spring Gala on Thursday, May 4, 2023

1. Honoree and Board Member Elizabeth P. Munson
2. Mark Gimbel, Award Recipient Lila Gimbel, Dede Wells
3. Award Recipient Marian Detelj, Executive Director Warren B. Scharf
4. Board Chair Juan A. Sabater
5. Ingrid Edelman, Board Chair Emeritus Thomas J. Edelman, Maja DuBrul
6. Board Member Margery Riker, Stephen Riker
7. Christopher Manice, Lola Iraola, Victoria Acosta, Lisa Manice, Fernando Iraola
8. Board Member Thomas L. Melton, Saara Pritchard
9. Lewis Stone, Gretchen Stone, Board Member Hedi H. White, Tom White
10. Byron James, Ignacio Ariza
11. Kamie Lightburn, Paige Boller, Kathy Angele
12. Victor Geraci, Board Member Helene H. Tilney, Honorary Board Chair Sydney Roberts Shuman, Mark Gilbertson
13. Board Member Guy G. Rutherford, Jr., Emily Talamo
14. Fernando Acosta, Victoria Acosta, Board Member John H. Manice
15. Board Member David J. Greenwald, Julie Jeung, Kayla Marie Sizemore
16. Nicole Sexton, Hunt Slonem, Design Chair Lindsey Coral Harper
17. Bradford Shaheen, Honorary Board Member Renée Landegger, Brooks Landegger, Elizabeth Burnett
18. Kara Young, Chele Farley
19. Frank Futia, Board Member and Honorary Design Chair Christopher Spitzmiller, Design Chair Harry Heissmann, Brian Gemino
20. Judy Gallagher, Tamara Makris





## Volunteer Spotlight: Yoko Kobayashi

Our volunteers make a profound difference in the lives of our clients and our broader Neighborhood House community and join us through diverse paths. After working in Human Resources and Accounting for 15 years in Japan, Yoko Kobayashi moved to New York in 2020 and quickly discovered our Adult Education programs. Yoko enrolled in our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) High Beginner class and subsequently completed our Intermediate class, while also attending our Speaking and Pronunciation classes. Adult Education Coordinator Allison Horwitz describes Yoko as “a dedicated student who has worked hard to improve her English and is both thoughtful and curious about the English language and different aspects of culture in the United States.”

Looking to become more involved in her community, Yoko began to volunteer in 2022 and serves lunch regularly at one of our Older Adult Centers. “I wanted to volunteer to connect with society, help someone and meet other people. Volunteering also gives me the chance to practice my English. When I serve food at the Center and the people say ‘thank you,’ it makes me happy.” Volunteer Director Anthony Snowden observed that Yoko was a bit nervous at first due to some anxiety with speaking and understanding English in an environment outside of her ESOL classes. “I’ve seen Yoko increase her confidence in communicating in English the more she has interacted with our members and fellow volunteers,” said Anthony. “She’s an important part of our volunteer team and such a pleasure to work with.”



## Exciting New Classes for Older Adults

Members love our new Fitness and Aquatics classes as part of our jam-packed schedule of free programs through our two Older Adult Centers. In *Learning to Lift*, members are taught proper techniques and form while being introduced to free weights and machines in our state-of-the-art fitness center. Our *Watercize* classes offer fun and engaging cardio exercise in our beautiful swimming pool. Members also enjoy the benefits of *Free Swim* and *Lap Swim* offerings, in addition to swimming lessons and a relaxing new *Floating Meditation* class. With *Ballet*, *Charcoal & Shading*, *Opera Appreciation* and so much more, our loaded class schedule includes more than 100 in-person and 25 remote classes each week.

## Pen Pals Across Generations Form Meaningful Connections

Students from our Early Childhood Center and members of our Older Adult Centers have embraced Pen Pals Across Generations, an exciting new collaboration through our Visual and Performing Arts Department designed to create cross-generational connections within our community. Our young writers crafted messages and drawings to share with their new friends, while older adult members rejoiced in awakening their inner child and creating memories with new pals. The groups also exchanged fun and educational activities and puzzles. We love how writing and sharing can foster intergenerational connections and strengthen and enrich our community.



## Art Exhibition Dazzles

Clients from our Women’s Mental Health Shelter, Casa Mutua supportive housing residence, Older Adult Centers and Caregiver and CARE programs showcased their fabulous works in a special Art Exhibition for our Neighborhood House community. Working with staff from our Art Therapy and Visual and Performing Arts teams, artists utilized a range of mediums including coloring sheets, photography, collage and textile weaving, with many pieces inspired by music or through meditation. Visit [lenoxill.org/art](http://lenoxill.org/art) to view our Virtual Art Gallery with beautiful creations from across our myriad programs.

## Neighborhood House Hosts Annual Community Street Fair

We welcomed thousands of neighbors and friends to our annual First Avenue Street Fair. Stretching from 72nd to 79th Streets, this fun event brought together generations of New Yorkers to enjoy food, shopping, games and entertainment and to celebrate our East Side community. Neighborhood House staff shared information and introduced new neighbors to our community and vital programs. Our tents also featured engaging art projects with our Visual and Performing Arts team, which were a hit with children and families.





## Support Group Brings Shelter Clients Together

**C**recemos Juntos: Grupo de apoyo para hispanohablantes (We Grow Together: Support Group for Spanish Speakers) has been a popular new support group for Spanish-speaking clients at our Women's Mental Health Shelter at the Park Avenue Armory. In the group, residents share their experiences related to living in the shelter and navigating their mental, physical and emotional well-being. The group has fostered meaningful connections among our diverse clients, allowing them to support and learn from one another in a space where they all speak the same language. Social Worker Allison Adler, who founded the group, shares that "the central purpose is to create a sense of belonging and community among Spanish speakers in an environment that is predominantly English-speaking. At the same time, this does not necessarily have to be a problem-focused group; it can also just be a space for connecting and speaking about the interests of the group members, ultimately building peer connection and supports within our community."



## DEI Events Unite Community

**T**he Neighborhood House strives to provide empowering, awareness-building events as we continue to raise consciousness within our organization and community. In celebration of Black History Month, our *Teaching Kitchen* Chefs were joined by special guests Chef April Smith and her Aunt Doll for a virtual cooking workshop of recipes with connections to Black history and their family roots. We also hosted a community discussion with poet and writer Javan Howard, writer and essayist Jared Michael Lowe and artist and author Isabel Villarreal, who shared how they are creating their own spaces to tell and preserve their narratives. "Uplifting Our AAPI Elders," in honor of Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, welcomed guest speakers Ryan Letada from NextDayBetter, Vandana Pawa from Asian American Writers' Workshop and Ron Scolesdang from Seniors Fight Back to share their efforts in empowering AAPI older adults. For Pride Month, we curated a special Resource Guide to share with our community which centered on the important history and influence of the LGBTQIA+ community. We continue to work together to strengthen solidarity efforts for historically oppressed communities and create safe spaces where individuals feel they can speak their truths.

## New Elevator to Transform Lives at Casa Mutua

**W**e have undertaken significant capital projects over the past few years at Casa Mutua, our permanent supportive housing residence for 54 formerly homeless individuals living with mental illness, including full renovations to all tenant apartments and common spaces and the creation of a beautiful outdoor garden. We now proudly enter a new chapter in our Casa Mutua story with the construction and installation of the first elevator in the building, a five-story walk up in East Harlem. Many of our clients, some who have lived with us for 30 years, live with physical frailties and struggle with the stairs as they age in place. This new elevator will be lifechanging for all—our tenants are so excited for the completion of this truly transformational project. We expect to be up and running by year's end.



## Neighborhood House Partners with Encores! in Iconic Musical



**W**e were so proud to partner with Encores! at New York City Center in their hit production of the beloved musical *Into the Woods*, which received rave reviews for its special two-week run. This unique production ushered in a new tradition that brings together Broadway's biggest stars with a multigenerational group of community members. In searching for talented and committed older adults to join the cast, we hosted auditions for members of our Older Adult Centers and were thrilled that nearly two dozen members were cast in the Community Chorus. Together our older adult members joined the star-studded cast, which included Emmy and Tony Award Winner

Neil Patrick Harris and Grammy Award Winner Sara Bareilles, for a magical on-stage finale. Our members are certainly familiar with this Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine Broadway classic—just a few years ago we presented *Into the Woods SR.*, a pilot production for older adult theater groups which was featured in *The New York Times* and even prompted a visit to our rehearsals from Sondheim and Lapine!

(*Into the Woods SR.* was presented through special arrangement with, and all authorized materials were supplied by, Music Theatre International, New York, NY: 212-541-4684 or mtishows.com.)

## 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.



# LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

## NEWSLETTER



**LENOX HILL  
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**  
331 East 70th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
T: 212 744 5022  
[www.lenoxhill.org](http://www.lenoxhill.org)

**CASA MUTUA**  
159-61 East 102nd Street  
New York, NY 10029  
T: 212 348 0223

**CENTER @ LENOX HILL  
NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE**  
343 East 70th Street  
New York, NY 10021  
T: 212 218 0319

**OLDER ADULT CENTER @  
SAINT PETER'S CHURCH**  
619 Lexington Avenue  
New York, NY 10022  
T: 212 308 1959

**WOMEN'S MENTAL  
HEALTH SHELTER**  
Park Avenue Armory  
643 Park Avenue  
New York, NY 10065  
T: 212 218 0500

## LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



**HONORARY CHAIR**  
Sydney Roberts Shuman

**CHAIR EMERITI**  
Thomas J. Edelman  
Diana R. Quasha

**CHAIR**  
Juan A. Sabater

**MEMBERS**  
Nancy S. Baker  
Thompson Dean  
Richard E. Farley  
Helene D. Goldfarb  
David J. Greenwald  
Audrey B. Gruss

Christine Colley King  
John H. Manice  
Thomas L. Melton  
Elizabeth P. Munson  
Dusty Philip  
Weston Quasha  
Margery Riker  
Guy G. Rutherford, Jr.  
Robert C. Schwenkel  
Christopher Spitzmiller  
Helene H. Tilney  
Charles S. Warren  
Hedi H. White

**HONORARY MEMBER**  
Renée Landegger

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Warren B. Scharf

Follow us on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**  
for regular updates from the Neighborhood House.

