

[Q & A]

A Brooklyn Gardener Speaks Out

On April 30, 1998, in response to the announced transfer of GreenThumb Leases to HPD, over one hundred community gardeners turned out for a hastily scheduled news conference at City Hall. At that news conference, Herran Pagan of Peoples' Garden in Brooklyn spoke. His spirit and ideas were so inspirational that we at "Our Garden's Gate" felt that we would like to interview him for this edition. Below is an interview held June 7th at People's Garden.

GG How long ago was the "People's Garden" established?

HP This garden was established about 18 years ago by Mr. Cooper, who was the Founder, and in September of '96 I changed the whole configuration and renamed it the "People's Garden".

GG Why the name "People's Garden"?

HP Because this garden is open to everybody. Before, a select group used to come here and enjoy it. Now it is the People's Garden because everyone from every religion, every race, even the neighborhood drunk, is welcome here. We are the people.

GG How many current members are there here?

HP This is a real grassroots garden, there's no members, no board, just "us" working. "Us" could be myself or whomever shows up on a particular day.

GG Is this a "GreenThumb" garden?

HP Yes, for about 18 years.

GG Has Green Thumb been beneficial?

HP Some of the people at GreenThumb have been great! They give me ideas, supply materials, overall they've been very cooperative.

GG How about giving us a brief survey of your garden.

HP I'd love to! We'll start right at the gate where I began my first work. Do you see these rock paths? I laid these by

JOIN THE NYC COALITION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF THE GARDENS

I can make a donation:

- \$5 Voting Member
- \$25 Friend/Garden Group
- \$50 Donor
- \$100 Supporter
- \$250 or more Sponsor

My skills are:

- Computer graphics
- Word Processing/Database
- Writing
- Public Speaking
- Bilingual (what languages)
- Photo/Video
- Other (please specify)

I can volunteer to:

- Act as community liaison
- Work on phone bank
- Do computer work
- Work on the Newsletter
- Help with mailings
- Attend rallies/events
- Assist Events Committee
- Assist Legal Committee
- Assist Research Committee
- Assist Outreach Committee
- Assist Media/Press Committee
- Other (please specify)

YES! I want to join the fight to save New York's community gardens.

Name

Address

City / State / Zip

Tel: (Day) (Eve.)

Fax:

E-mail:

Enclosed is my check for \$

Make checks payable to Earth Celebrations, with note: "for NYC Coalition" (All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.)

Detach this form and mail to:

NYC Coalition for the Preservation of the Gardens
638 East 6th Street, 3rd Floor New York NY 10009
or call (212) 777-7969 or Fax (212) 505-7303



CONCERTS AND WORKSHOPS in the 6BC Botanical Garden:

July 19, Solar Power Workshop, 5 to 7pm; **July 26**, Jazz Music Concert; **August 2 & 9**, Classical Music Concert, 5-7pm; **September 6**, Children's Herb Workshop, 5-7pm.

REELS ON WHEELS:

Movie series sponsored by SBOSA (The South Brooklyn Open Space Alliance) and RetroVision with special thanks to The Trust for Public Land. All begin at 9:00pm. Call (718) 852-2876 for information. **July 10**, "Seventh Voyage of Sinbad" at the Human Compass Garden at Sackett and Columbia Streets; **July 17**, "Rocket Ship" at The Amazing Garden at Carroll and Columbia Streets; **July 24**, "Mighty Joe Young" at Summit Street Community Garden at Summit and Columbia Streets; **July 31**, "Invaders from Mars" at The Backyard at Summit and Van Brunt Street; **August 7**, "Doctor Cyclops" at Woolcot