

myself, in the winter time, one rock at a time. If you want to have a successful garden it has to be accessible to children. If you don't give it to children, they can get angry and be destructive, so what I did was build these paths so they can walk and run through the place. They come here and play tag. Sometimes they destroy a plant or two, but you replace it and you keep going. If you come this way [along the center path] you can see the lovely petunias and marigolds. Here [along the front fence] is a row of corn with Chinese hibiscus. You see, when you walk in here, no matter where you walk, you'll be surrounded by flowers, fruits or vegetables. Here are mulberry bushes, cherry trees, apple, nectarine, peach, and pear trees. We don't use no chemicals in this place, everything is organic. Here are miniature roses. I took those from the front of Mayor Giuliani's house.

**GG** You mean Gracie Mansion!

**HP** Right, I rescued it from Giuliani's domain. I just clipped a little piece and put it here, and look at the beauty of it. So if you want a rose bush you know where to go get one. And these are my favorite, Gladiolas. They'll bloom deep red and pink, red, pink, red, pink, all the way down the path.

**GG** Herran, because we can't possibly describe with words the richness and beauty of this garden, let me proceed to some other questions. What impact will the recent transfer of Green Thumb Leases to HPD have?

**HP** We're in danger here of disappearing. Now at any time HPD can come here and build their buildings. Giuliani and developers have joined forces for the purpose of profit making and they do not take us and our families into consideration. They couldn't care less! That angers me. And they plan to build houses that we cannot afford. The houses are not for the people who live within the community. They're going to bring people from all over.

**GG** What do you think it will take to safeguard this and our other community gardens?

**HP** I think we're going to have to hit the street, like we did in the 60s, and create a ruckus. An atmosphere of rebellion, because you cannot sit down and talk to people who will not listen. Sitting down to talk doesn't seem to have gotten us anywhere except further back. It's going to have to be a loud, vociferous, energetic movement.

**GG** Is there anything else you'd like to add?

**HP** The most important message I have for the gardeners is: please open the gardens, open them up! Open them up to everybody, mainly to children! Do not exclude anybody! And I mean anybody. Because the gardens should cater to the community. And that's everybody. That's the only way these gardens are going to succeed, if we don't open them, the community itself will close them down!



Herran Pagan in All People's Garden.  
Photo by Calmhe Buttery

## garden events

Summer time is a very active time for community gardens. The gardens have participated in a wealth of summer events including the *More Gardens March* in the Bronx and the *McCarren Park Environmental Festival* in Brooklyn, both on June 21; *Our New York*, an art exhibition of the work of over 20,000 community gardeners at the Bus Stop Gallery, Red Hook, Brooklyn, ran concurrently with Mayor Giuliani's "Vintage New York" photo show at the Leica Gallery from May 15-June 12 in response to the Mayor's plans to destroy all community gardens; An art exhibit of works by Loisa artists who have been intensely involved in the creation and preservation of community gardens called *Artistas De Loisa* was at the Cork Gallery, Avery Fisher Hall, Lincoln Center Plaza from June 15-22; On June 28, community gardeners and their friends marched in the *Gay Pride Parade*, passing out 2,000 "Seeds of Change" packets clipped to Giuliani postcards; and *The Mulberry Festival* at Project Harmony in Harlem on June 5, 6 and 7 brought people together to harvest mulberries, learn about the fruit trees and share recipes.

Listed below is just a taste of garden events; contact gardens in your area or call our main office to find out what's happening in the gardens today!

### All Summer Long Starting July 9th:

**YOGA AND MOVEMENT FOR HEALING, Thursdays 10:30am – noon at Green Oasis Garden**, 8th St. between Aves. C and D, facilitated by Judith Ginsberg, Dance/Movement Therapist, Certified Movement Analyst and Practitioner of Shiatsu and Body-Mind Centering. Free to the Public, sponsored by Green Oasis Garden. Please call to confirm (212) 477-2713.

Street Healing Garden at Van Brunt and Richards Streets; **August 14**, "The Jungle Book" at Waterfront Museum/Garden Pier at the end of Conover Street; **August 21**, "Forbidden Planet" at Coffey Park at Visitation Place and Richards Street; **August 28**, "Golden Voyage of Sinbad" at Louis Valentino Jr. Pier at the end of Coffey Street.

### July 11 and July 18:

**BANNER-MAKING WORKSHOPS to make banners and signs for the July Action at the City Auction.** Make a banner for your garden and for all community gardens! We will provide materials. Both workshops are from 12:00-4:00pm. **Locations:** **July 11**, Adverse Possession Gallery and Community Space, 672-674 East 136th St. (Cypress Ave. and Bruckner Blvd.) South Bronx, Take the #6 Train to Cypress Ave. **July 18**, Earth Celebrations, 638 East 6th St. (betw. Aves B and C), 3rd Fl. Call 777-7969 for details.

### July 17, 18, 19:

**SECOND ANNUAL NYC GARDEN FESTIVAL** sponsored by Kodak, Cover Magazine, and Erica Jong. Music, art, poetry, dance and theater in community gardens citywide all weekend long including: Pete Seeger, David Poe, Francis Dunnerly, The Fickle Musheads, Chris Alastair, Andy If, Reidpaley, Jerry Trudell, Max Isaacson and Ish, Gospel Choir and Tea Party. Call 777-7969 for a full listing of events, locations and times.

### July 26:

**FIFTH ANNUAL MOTT HAVEN SUMMER STREET FESTIVAL** organized by Cherry Tree Association, Inc. The theme of this fun and educational event this year is THIS LAND IS OUR LAND. There will be food, music, speakers, poets and other artists, all for Mott Haven and all for Free. Volunteers and participation Wanted! 137th ST. between St. Anne and Cypress Avenues. Take the 6-Train to Cypress Ave. Call (718) 292-6443 for info.

### SUMMER EVENTS AT PROJECT HARMONY:

**Every Other Saturday at 7:00pm at the Joseph Daniel Wilson Community Garden**, meditation & prayer hour. During the summer there will be music, poetry and garden theater as well. Call if you wish to attend events, participate or just stop by. Volunteers to Garden Sit Are Needed! Project Harmony, Inc. (212) 662-2878. **The garden is available again** to you for Birthday Parties, Showers, Cook-Outs, Picnics, Weddings, etc. For details and specific dates call (212) 662-2878.

UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED, EVENTS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Call for updated information (212) 777-7969