

For each of the past two seasons that I have been volunteering with you all to revive the Carrie McCracken TRUCE garden; I've offered a theme; in declaration of intent for our progress as an urban green space. The first theme was Diversity Grows- to indicate that new interrelationships were needed across organization, age, and ethnic lines for this garden to have a rebirth befitting the diversity of its population base. This year the theme was "Building a garden to give Harlem H.U.G.S.", with H.U.G.S. being an acronymic for a range of cultural, educational, and economic initiatives. Along the way we adopted the motto "Stone Soup" as an apt descriptor for the contributory nature of our venture and that the gardens survival depends on the will-

ingness of people to shed their inhibitions so they can share their knowledge and skills.

It's time for a new theme y'all...any ideas? Post them to the website so we can get a 2010 theme ready for April's opening.

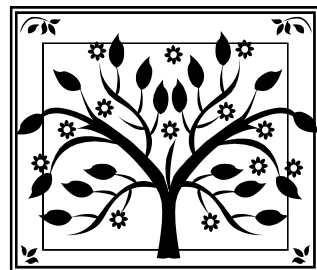
At all times the state of this garden is a barometer of the *people's will* to come forward and build something good together. This does not mean that it is a fantasy land where everyone is always in cheerful agreement; nor one, where everyone is always available to keep and make the garden's needs an immediate priority. It is, however, a space where those who can hold on until the return of those who also care, but can't be present. This is a different conception of

tenancy; where stewardship and caretaking replace mere forceful domination and occupation.

2010 is a critical year for our garden and all gardens in this city. We need to hit the ground running after the holidays; to make our garden not just "the most improved" but the brightest example of community green development and cooperation in town.

This year we began a number of initiatives that need work to come to fruition; and I am hopeful that people will continue to come forward, take leadership and make progress. But a most important item is to take a census of our membership. We need to know what members plans are for the coming year.

S. Kidd



NEXT YEAR WE ANTICIPATE MORE MEMBERS COMING ABOARD. THE MORE MEMBERS WE HAVE; THE TIME SPENT IN THE GARDEN CAN BE DIVIDED ACCORDINGLY IN ORDER FOR THE PUBLIC TO BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE SPACE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO MORE ACTIVITIES BEING HELD IN THE GARDEN.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO COME IN AND ASK QUESTIONS AND ENJOY THE SPACE.

**NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

**seasons greetings  
happy new year!**  
**CARRIE McCRACKEN**  
**from the members of**  
**TRUCE GARDEN**



# STONE SOUP NEWS

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Welcome to **STONE SOUP NEWS**.

*This issue is dedicated to the importance of green spaces and gardens in our communities.*

*The season is over. These years are going by fast and the garden is growing in it's own time and way.*

*To further commemorate CMTG we placed a collage in the center of the newsletter showing the garden's transformation after Ms. McCracken's stewardship was over up until this past year. Also, pictured are some of the people who came together to make this happen.*

*Unity is the order of the day.*



## PROTECT OUR GREEN SPACES

This past November, Steering Committee Member Marilyn Moseley, followed by Ivy Walker and Gregg "Soupman" Strayhorn, introduced our garden to the New York City Community Gardens Coalition (NYCCGC, which has a link on our website).

NYCCGC is the key networking organization for community gardens in New York City. They are a coalition of representatives from community gardens around New York City.

By joining with the NYCCGC; we can call attention to the issues of all gardens; as we should all stand with fellow gardens to address issues of mutual concern and not tackle obstacles individually. No one garden is able to meet the nutritional security and green space needs of a neighborhood. So even as we begin the work of improving our own garden for 2010; we should also keep an eye out for how we can all help and learn from each other.

One task that was given at



their December meeting, was to outreach to other gardens for the coalition's effort to get permanent status for citizen-managed green spaces. Please see the flyer (p.2) and attend the next coalition meeting, if all possible. If you can assist with the outreach effort; call Steve @ (212) 662-9557.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT ...



Those who planted were successful with their crops. We had plenty of tomatoes, squash, sunflowers, herbs and flowers.

Green spaces are in danger in this city and with the economic climate such as it is, saving money is a priority for us all and land is at a premium for developers.

We're coming into our second official season of gardening. Members of the community coming together to make the garden what it is today; through unselfish gestures and a willingness to contribute skills and abilities to a project close to everyone's heart and stomach.

This past season was still trial and error and as with any group there were disagreements but we all have the same goal and that is to make the garden a success.

Prices are going up on food and organic food is very high. This is because not enough people are buying organic for the price to come down (supply and demand). Processed food is not healthy eating. Buying organic food locally, growing vegetables and fruits are a two fold advantage. Healthy living saves on doctors bills and eating organic is healthy living. Green urban gardens, with cooperation, can supplement a neighborhoods diet. Health-

care costs are anticipated but the cause of ill health is ignored. Wouldn't it save money to have healthy people? "You are what you eat" is not just a slogan; it means what you consume affects your body. We need plant life around us to survive, especially in this concrete jungle

Getting back to nature shouldn't be difficult. Progress has its place. Convenience is very comforting; but when it is compromising one's health; one has to be careful what is embraced in the name of progress.



# NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS COALITION NYCCGC FORUM 2010



In 2002, most community gardens were "saved" by a legal agreement. That agreement expires in September, 2010. Will community gardens be safe after the agreement expires?

United we will demand to know from our state and city representatives what is being done to make our community gardens permanent!  
All community gardeners and supporters need to be at this event!

# NEW YORK CITY COMMUNITY GARDENS COALITION NYCCGC FORUM 2010

Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> 9:00am – 4:30pm  
The New School 66 West 12th St, NYC

**Keynote Speaker Livia Marqués**  
Director, US Dept. of Agriculture People's Garden Initiative

The keynote address and panel discussion will be followed by afternoon break-out sessions where you can voice your concerns and learn what you can do to keep our gardens safe. Lunch will be available for \$5 suggested donation.

**FREE!** Registration begins January 4, 2010  
online at [nyccgc.org](http://nyccgc.org) or by calling (888)311-3993



### NOTES & QUOTES

*Our task, then, even in this emerging era of great expectation is, as it has always been and remains:*

*To know our past and to honor it;  
To engage our present and improve it; and  
To imagine our future and forge it:*

*.... in the most effective, expansive, and ethically-grounded ways.*

Dr. Maulana Karenga, founder of Kwanzaa  
Speech: Kwanzaa and the Seven Principles:  
Repairing and Renewing the World

**CARRIE McCracken/TRUCE**  
Community Garden  
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**WE HAVE A WEBSITE!**  
[WWW.HARLEMGARDEN.ORG](http://WWW.HARLEMGARDEN.ORG)




CMTG LOGO

### STONE SOUP NEWS

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**Gregg "Soupman" Strayhorn** is a fixture in Harlem along Lenox and Fifth Avenues. Vending his *Soups De Jour*, he is well known and well liked by young and old.

"Soup", as those in the neighborhood call him, came to the garden as an entrepreneur. "I see the value of fresh vegetables for my soups. I support all gardens and think they should be protected at all costs. We need to get back to growing our own fruits and vegetables and not depend on corporations to feed us. I am glad to be a member of CMTG and I see great things in the future for the garden".

## comm nity

It doesn't work until **U** get in the middle  
of things



# CARRIE McCracken TRUCE GARDEN

Winter 2009-2010 Redesign Challenges

## PERFORMANCE PLATFORM

At a duly called meeting; held on Monday, November 2, 2009. There was a quorum present and one proxy vote was acknowledged. After extensive discussion and by a majority vote it was agreed that:

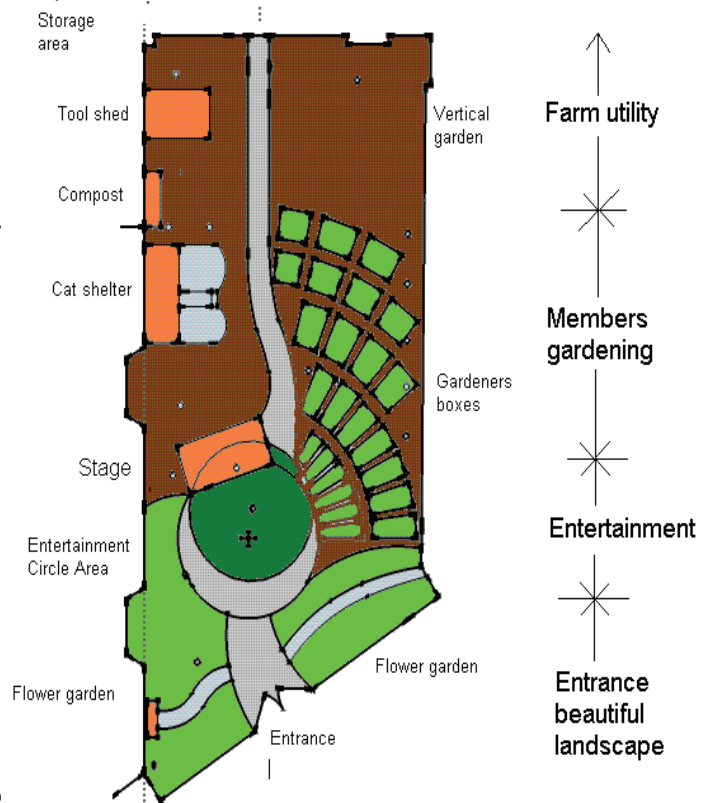
1. The current platform is not to be moved. Repairs would be made to strengthen its support.
2. A Tool Shed will be placed on it. Further study would be made on putting a new performance platform near the shaded Sitting area: which would be more accessible and impinge Jess on planting areas.
3. Feasibility for electricity supply, also needs to be investigated with Con Ed.

## CAT RESERVE SHELTER

It has been shown, unfortunately, that there is not enough volunteer support to keep both, control of the cats and garden for food safety. Yet; the problem of feral cats, is still an issue. The cat shelter needs to be enclosed. All the resident cats need to be captured, treated, and moved to homes or suitable shelters. The shelter would remain for the required isolation of cats who have been treated, before they are relocated. We will support neighborhood humane efforts, but we can no longer be a domicile for cats.

## TREE CENSUS ADJUSTMENT

Early this year we received advice from two professionals: that the two large trees should be removed. We thought maybe one: but not both. After observing the smaller tree provide berries for so many new visitors this Spring; it became evident which tree would be spared the axe. Thanks to donations by Matt and Norbu; we have a new growth in the number of trees supported by the garden. So the larger Chokeberry tree ( a very root invasive kind) must go. This loss will allow for improvements to the shaded seating area, including a new performance platform.



Plan rendered by Ian Clarke

## CMTGARDENING NEWS...



Pictured above left: Steve & Marta  
Left: Denise & Steve  
Above right: Yvette Russell, Director of TRUCE

Harlem Children's Zone honored the Carrie McCracken Community Gardeners with their Community Leadership award, recognizing our Most Improved Garden. TRUCE and other components of the Harlem Children's Zone program saluted an inspiring group of community organizers, activists and volunteers at a reception in the Rio II Gallery on Friday, September 18, 2009 (see web for video)

## DESIRES AND DEEDS

### APPRECIATION AND THANKS GO OUT TO:

Alessandra for our CMTG logo

Ian Clarke for the composting workshop. The improvement to the water system and building the tent structure.

Marta Dansie for our Website.

We desire to have a rooftop water system installed. A gazebo built and a new fence in the years to come.

WE WILL APPRECIATE AND ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS OF ITEMS FOR AND OR TIME TO THE GARDEN IN PREPARATION FOR SPRING PLANTING. IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING YOUR SERVICES TO THE GARDEN AS A MEMBER OR JUST WANT TO LEND A HAND. GET IN TOUCH WITH STEVE OR MARTA.

STONE SOUP INVITES ANYONE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER- JUST SEND US AN EMAIL.

## CMTG MEMBERS!

BOXES ARE AVAILABLE! SIGN UP NOW TO RESERVE YOUR BOX FOR SPRING PLANTING!



## THOUGHTS IDEAS AND INFO

Going green is the rage of this new millennium and we should all do our best to make an effort to conserve energy, not be wasteful, to recycle as best we can and grow a garden or join one.

Ever wonder where your food comes from? How it gets to the supermarket? If you don't ask these questions you're doomed to be manipulated for the rest of your life. (...He who controls the food and water controls the world).

We live in a country where we have abundance, but we take it for granted. What if those trucks were to stop delivering to the neighborhood supermarket? What do you suppose would happen?

There is nothing like the feeling of satisfaction when you observe the bud of a seed that you've planted, knowing that this life will grow to give you and others sustenance.

Eating live food is the healthiest thing you can do for your body. Unfortunately we have been taught to eat for taste. We as consumers are obligated to read labels and only purchase nutritionally enhanced food, not fodder to fill up our stomachs. We owe this to ourselves as living breathing creatures; to sustain our bodies with what the consciousness that created this earth provided for us, live vegetables and fruits.

There are four documentaries that are essential for everyone in the world to see, they are - **FOOD, INC., FOOD MATTERS, FLOW and The World According to MONSANTO.** All of these films are available on the net (FOOD, INC. is at BJ's).

These films stress that we should eat healthy and not consume foods that have been processed or sprayed with pesticides. Flow is about the worlds

water sources, all four show how our health and well being are being controlled by large corporations.

Food and water, the most important things to human life, are treated as if they will be available forever. With the demand for food comes sacrifice; if nothing is replaced it will be depleted. Food processors are find the solution is fake food with no nutritional value and is cheap (shades of SOYLENT GREEN...).

For more information on food issues go to [www.centerforfoodsafety.com](http://www.centerforfoodsafety.com).

**SUPPORT GREEN LIVING!**

"If we build it they will come".



# THE EVOLUTION OF A GARDEN



# THE EVOLUTION OF A GARDEN

