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*This is the forth issue of our newsletter and as the garden improves so goes the publication.*

*This season we're improving on the structure of the garden space and new initiatives such as the market garden club and planting sunflowers all around Harlem as a tribute to our youth.*

**Unity is the order of the day.**



## Sunflowers in Harlem

Students from the Central Harlem Montessori Elementary School located in the Truce building, along with their Director and Teacher, Ms. Orundun DaCosta Johnson, came out for a session of planting.



The students were enthusiastic and got a lesson in container planting from Steve and Marilyn Moseley. They enjoyed planting tomatoes and sunflowers, so taking care of them is a special project.

This was a community-based floral demonstration—campaign to have sunflowers planted all over Harlem, by the community, as a tribute to Pablo David (pg6) and the youth of Harlem, to show the bright future they have ahead of them. (see our website for more details on participation or contact Steve).



The pots are located just outside the entrance on St. Nicholas Ave. The children are excited and can't wait to see their crop come in and harvest the fruits of their labor.



# CMTCG's THIRD PLANTING SEASON

We're Back... diverse neighborhood reflected in the garden's membership, activities, and emerging layout.

Since the revival of this garden the membership has gone through changes like the seasons. Luckily we still have most of the core group who have endured.

The Max/Sage garden (pictured below right) has been part of this revival from the beginning. The brother and sister team came in right after Steve; with their par-



ents guidance, they have had a productive harvest from their box, each of the past two seasons. They've harvested fresh vegetables for the family and have spent quality time in the garden, as mom's (Lydia) busy R.N. professional schedule permitted. This year they accepted relocation to a larger box; befitting their greater capability and success. We prefer to start new gardeners in a manageable space where they can be assisted to succeed as they adjust to the schedule; demanded by mother nature. Better a small success at first, than a large failure.



Above and left are members of CMTCG in the garden

So how, much garden can you really handle? By starting early the Max /Sage garden will soon be ready to be thinned. With careful transplanting; some new gardener will get some free starts from an experienced gardening family.



John Freda and Eren T. Gibson are both members of our garden. Eren, who migrated to New York from

Colorado, is an actress and along with her partner John Freda, who is also an actor, have put on a production called "Cracking the Code."

Eren, an admitted foodie has been called in by the Food Network as an amateur gourmet and is in collaboration on a cookbook. Her recipes have appeared in Food & Wine magazine and has some other online food recipe collections.

John and Eren care deeply about the garden and are always willing to contribute.

Eren's mission is to get the TRUCE theatre space (which is next the

garden) renovated so she and the students can put on productions.

She and John have a box in the market area and are a part of the Market Garden Club. She will have to thin her rows that she had started early and will soon have



s o m e seedlings for new comers to t r a n s - plant.

**CMTCGARDENING NEWS...**

Last month we had a visit from the members of the Urban Environment Program at Cornell University Cooperative Extension – NYC and participants of the Garden Mosaics training program.

This project connects youth and elders to investigate the mosaic of plants, people, and cultures in gardens, to learn about science, and to act together to enhance their community.



They talked with Steve, Roy, Eren and other gardeners. They were very impressed with our progress. Upon their return to the classroom they made a collage of their experiences touring gardens around the city. Veronica Lambert, Extension Associate sent us a thank you letter which is posted on our website .



As of this writing Green Thumb has delivered compost and created a path from the gate to the Gazebo which makes the garden leisure area accessible to wheelchair bound. Community members can now join in the festivities of the garden.

**THANKS GREEN THUMB and Land Restoration!—for a job well done just in time for our Sunflowers in Harlem and summer festivities.**



**THOUGHTS IDEAS AND INFO**

“One mans garbage is another mans treasure.” In these economic times that saying couldn’t be more apropos.

People throw things out practically everyday. When funds are scarce recycling or free-cycling is the way to go. There should be no shame in “dumpster diving.” Others have done it and found things worth millions.

Some gardens have a lot of items in them that most people would con-

sider to be “junk”. However, it takes a creative eye and some imagination to come up with a use for almost anything that is discarded. Broken pottery could be turned into mosaics. Everyone has seen planters made of tires, bathtubs and toilets. Old wood can be signage or stakes to hold up vegetation. Some food items can be used as compost. Also, a fresh bag of Cederific an organic cat litter that will also keeps bugs away.

There is a website that the city

has online for the purpose of diminishing the amount of garbage on the barges and in landfills. There are a lot of things on it that someone could find useful, not just in the garden.

Info:

City College of New York  
Steinman Hall, Rm 102  
140th Street & Convent Avenue  
N Y , N Y 1 0 0 3 1  
(212) 650-5832

[www.wastematch.org](http://www.wastematch.org)

**NOTES AND DEEDS**

**APPRECIATION AND THANKS GO OUT TO:**

Royland, for his landscaping and his mate Tina, who extended the garden for more planting areas and putting in basic crops for the market garden.

Geddes for planting trees and procurement of rain barrels.

Pewee, his cousin Spencer and Michelle for the elbow grease.

Michelle for extensive recap of garden meeting and some of the pictures in this issue, especially the overhead shot of the garden (pg4) and the group picture.

Eren for her picture of the sunflower that grew in the garden (light yellow variety) and her salvaging efforts. John for his help.

Everyone who attended the meeting and participated in spring clean up.

**Thanks to Sean Spencer and his crew from the land restoration project for ADA pathway into the garden and cutting down the damaged trees.**

Congratulations to Sally on her new addition to the family.

**Accolades to NYCGC** for their forum this past Feb. Steve, Ivy and Michelle were in attendance. Steve is now a board Member of the Coalition.

“If we build it they will come”.



# THE EVOLUTION OF A GARDEN AND ...



# IT'S GARDENERS





**PABLO DAVID** a teenager, who was born in Honduras, raised in the St. Nicholas Projects in Harlem, was just a name and an obscure image on the wall to me. I had heard of him from TRUCE members and was very curious as to who this person was, what did he look like, what was it about him, that they held in him in such high esteem?

Recently I got to see a video of Pablo at TRUCE, that featured footage of him from the age of about ten to 18 years of age. At the beginning he is constantly looking up, observing his surroundings and daydreaming, I suppose. Then he starts to speak, I was entranced. This young man gave me the impression that he was far beyond his years. He was proud of his culture, his people and his neighborhood. He believed that the ghetto wasn't such a bad place if you knew your neighbors and didn't cause any trouble. To be socially aware at such a tender age is rare and I became a believer.

In this film he spoke about police harassment and how he wanted to make a complaint, but it would be the police officer's word against his. He appeared on Good Day New York and was interviewed by Lynn White, very articulately representing Reedlin, I could tell she was taken by him. After learning about female genital mutilation he commented about how it would affect him if his mother and sister were involved in such a ritual, he was moved to write a poem.

Pablo wanted to be a filmmaker and I have no doubt he probably would have surpassed that aspiration and made even more of a difference, through his capacity to inspire the belief that anything is possible. Even though I didn't know him personally, he has taught me to respect the sunflower, which is his favorite and through him I learned of the Garifuna culture. It is evident that his roots and ancestry manifested in him a consciousness about his environment and who he was.

*Between 1635 and 1670, two slave ships coming from West Africa sank off the island of St. Vincent in the Lesser Antilles, they found themselves on a tropical island populated by a hostile indigenous population known as the Red Caribs.*

*After the Red Caribs rescued the shipwrecked, they attempted to enslave the newcomers, but they resisted, retreating into the western mountains of the island, forming a maroon community that in time was sought out by other runaway slaves and fugitives. Conflict with the Red Caribs was constant and occasionally brutal, but somewhere along the line love overcame differences and the fruits of their union became known as "karibena galibina" child of the Caribe, indigenous galibi and eventually became Garifuna. (Ga -ree- funa).*

*When the British seized control of St. Vincent from the French and the Caribs at the end of the 18th century, the Garifuna were deported to the uninhabited island of Roatan off the north coast of Honduras. Many died at sea, but the rebellious Garifuna survived once more.*

*The Garifuna spread out along the Honduran coast, eventually surrounding the Caribbean coastlines of Honduras, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Belize. Over 100,000 Garifuna live along the Caribbean coast of Honduras, speaking their own dialect, which is a combination of Arawaco, Swahili and Bantu.*

To know who you are is even more astounding and rare, especially in a black child, growing up in Harlem, or *anywhere*.

Pablo touched all those who he came in contact with and I hope that all people in Harlem, in New York, especially males learn about him and emulate his essence. It is said that "only the good die young," this can not be more palpable than in this instance. To think of what he could have become and accomplished leaves a hole in our society. Will anyone step up and take his place, among us? Probably so, I haven't met that someone yet., but when I do I will tell them of Pablo David, an angel who came for a short time to teach us all something about ourselves and the world we live in. Nikki Giovanni wrote a poem called "A Rose Grows from the Concrete." - I know of a sunflower that did the same. —  
**Marilyn Moseley CMTG**

"Even though I was three years older than Pablo, I looked up to him as an older brother. He encouraged me to join him at Rise and Shine (precursor to TRUCE). It saved my life and I will forever be grateful that I knew him and he was my friend." - **Jorge Zuniga Video—Coordinator T RUCÉ**



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WWW.HARLEMGARDEN.ORG**



**STONE SOUP NEWS**  
  
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**Newsletter designed by  
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**Photography by  
various contributors**  
  
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and future contributions  
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**COMMENTS & QUOTES**

**"If we could see the miracle of a single flower clearly, our whole life would change."**

**Buddha**

**If we are all in agreement on the decision - then I propose we postpone further discussion of this matter until our next meeting to give ourselves time to develop disagreement and perhaps gain some understanding of what the decision is all about.**

**Alfred P. Sloan**

**There's only one corner of the universe you can be certain of improving, and that's your own self.**

**Aldous Huxley**



**Geddes Hox our newest member hails from Trinidad.** He naturally took to our garden when recruited to plant the trees that reside in front of the garden, by Michelle.

Back in his native Trinidad he enjoyed gardening and is very knowledgeable on the subject, offering suggestions such as planting in the early morning before the sun comes up while the earth is cool. He was impressed with the diversity of the people and believes we can all learn from each other. "I take pleasure in the peace and quiet while reaping the fruits of my labor. I would be happy to contribute my skills to the garden."

comm nity

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



## CMTCG GARDEN MEETING

### This is a synopsis of our May 8th meeting-

The long term plan for the summer is to set up an irrigation system in the garden so that there will be sprinklers.

Marta suggested a policy of what we'll refer to as "garbage in, garbage out." Please take out the garbage that you bring into the garden. This will help to minimize the work in maintaining the site and also will help to decrease any problems with vermin.

Sally, Yoko and Eren would be in charge of compost.

Marilyn and Michelle have been discussing ideas for a sign at the entrance of the garden...stay tuned.

TRUCE Director, Yvette Russell, discussed their plans to collaborate with the garden. They are interested in having a group called "TRUCE Roots" (8-10 students) to engage in

the garden's activities, also a group of students that are interested in painting a mural on the garden wall. Other ideas about the inclusion of the students in garden initiatives include making rain barrels and turning compost. We should be receiving follow up information on these initiatives shortly and will forward along the information once we've received it to the membership.

Michelle talked of her interest in collaborating with Abishai. She looks forward to discussions with Abishai and will report back about how to forward input on the mural initiative when she has more information. Garden membership requested that we have new artwork in the garden. The overall feeling was that the current artwork does not represent the overall message of the garden.

Michelle spoke with the owner of the property next door. In their initial conversations, he expressed an interest in helping the garden in terms of splitting the cost of the tree pit guards, and

possibly a new fence. He also suggested that his architect might be willing to work with us to better develop the space. Michelle will continue her conversations with them to figure out what their level of involvement would be and how much they are willing to contribute. She will also discuss the potential of collection of rain water from their roof.

Steve is seeking help to reinforce the stage and then assembling the tool shed on top. (pictured below)



### CMTCG—MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

#### STEERING COMMITTEE-

Requires attendance at least one meeting which is held on the second Saturday of every month @ 12pm in the garden or at a site TBD for inclement weather. Ten hours of service in the garden. Signature on the preamble.

#### TO PLANT-

Requires a seasonal fee of \$20.00—this includes a box, some seeds( if you want the variety we have on hand) a place on the Steering Committee which enables you to a vote, privilege of hosting events in the garden and a key.

Boxes are assigned on a first come first serve basis. You can sign a waiting list. Should someone drop out or not tend their garden for at least two weeks, then that box becomes available.

If you cannot afford the fee, you can still participate in group planting, or the **Market Garden Club** (info on website). For participation in a group or activity talk with a contact. (pg6)

We encourage members to attend Green Thumb classes in order to acquire supplies for themselves as well as the garden.

[www.greenthumbnyc.org](http://www.greenthumbnyc.org)

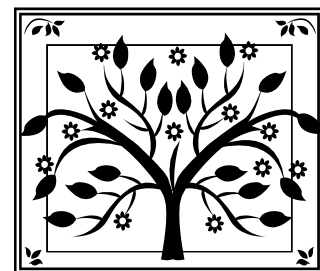
Children are welcome but not allowed to be in the garden without adult supervision, meaning parents and teachers are

responsible for their welfare while in the garden.

**No pets are allowed to live in the garden. Smoking is discouraged. And no personal items should be stored.**

Members presence in the garden is needed in order to make it accessible to the public. Activities in the garden are open to the public. (Except private events)

WE WILL APPRECIATE AND ACCEPT ANY DONATIONS OF CURRENCY, ITEMS FOR AND OR TIME, TO THE GARDEN. 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 (pg7).



STONE SOUP NEWS INVITES ANYONE TO CONTRIBUTE TO THIS NEWSLETTER- JUST SEND AN EMAIL to [stonesoupnews117@yahoo.com](mailto:stonesoupnews117@yahoo.com)

**NEW MEMBERS AND COMMUNITY ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

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