



Summer–Fall 2008 • Volume 7, Number 3  
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## The Broadway Initiative: Be One of the 150!

Jennifer M. Hoppa  
Administrator, Northern Manhattan Parks

In past issues of the *Gazette*, you’ve read about a series of improvements planned to restore the eastern side of the park and to reconnect the community to the natural and historic resources that had deteriorated as a result of the city’s fiscal crisis in the ‘70s. Over the past few years, the Parks Department, the Fort Tryon Park Trust, private partners, and Washington Heights and Inwood community members have been collaborating to make these improvements, known as the “Broadway Initiative.” We want you to join us in this effort if you haven’t already.

The goals of the Broadway Initiative are to:

- Involve area residents, institutions and corporations in improving sight lines into and out of the park by removing invasive species along the Broadway berm and expanding adjacent lawns.
- Enhance partnerships with local community groups and organizations to increase the amount of programming offered on the Broadway side of the park.
- Restore the three-acre historic Alpine Garden, with its meandering staircases and plantings
- Activate the historic Grotto water feature, the heart of the Alpine Garden
- Remove dead limbs and invasive species on the slopes to create “windows” in and out of the park
- Reinstate drinking fountains and water service throughout the eastern slope
- Rehabilitate the grand staircase along Broadway

As reported in the *Gazette*, we have received grants from three foundations for components of the Broadway Initiative.

In 2005, the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation provided \$500,000 to initiate the restoration of the Alpine Garden, as part of the planned \$2.5 million Alpine Garden Project. These funds will provide resources for masonry work, a restoration plan, and plant material, as well as for staff to sustain the improvements made to the garden. In 2006, the Greenacre Foundation provided funding for the first phase of needed tree work around the Alpine Garden. By creating windows to and from the community to the area, the tree improvements enabled us to get a glimpse of what the Alpine Garden could become.

More recently, the Dodge Foundation has provided a generous gift of \$50,000 to help reactivate water service to the Grotto and throughout the eastern section of the park. Designer and Trust board member Nicholas Quennell is leading this aspect of the restoration. With its flowing water and marsh plantings, the Grotto will be a destination in the Alpine Garden. The rusticated drinking fountains along the interior promenade of Broadway will

also be reactivated, and water will be available for horticultural improvements throughout the eastern slope.

Just as private partners are key to the Broadway Initiative, so are public partners. Last year, the City installed a new sidewalk along the entire length of the park’s Broadway exterior. Council member Robert Jackson’s allocation of \$500,000 in capital funding resulted in reconstructed pathways around the dog run



*The Grotto in the Alpine Garden in 1936 (left) and a rendering of its proposed restoration (right). (Photos courtesy of the Olmsted Archives and Nicholas Quennell, Designer.)*

and will make possible additional pathway improvements from Dongan Place up toward the Gazebo. Borough President Scott Stringer has provided \$600,000 in capital funds, which will help restore a staircase that provides access from Broadway up to the heart of the park and its amenities. We also plan to provide new seating along the Broadway exterior and interior of the park over the next two years as resources permit.

Equally or even more important to the private organizational and public partnerships is our partnership with local and regional park patrons who want to contribute by literally digging in to the earth. Individuals are the key users and sustainers of our park. Since March, our director of horticulture, Marechal Brown, has coordinated the work of over 1,800 volunteer hours, the majority of them along the Broadway side of the park. Most volunteers have been removing invasive species on the Broadway berm and planting groundcover in keeping with the park’s historic character. Marechal has also partnered with the Parks Department’s Greenapple Corps staff and their weekly volunteers to remove invasives to expand the lawns that flank the Broadway

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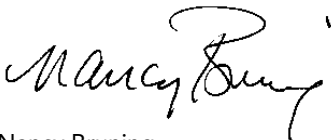
## Letter from Nancy: Open Your Eyes

It was the end of a Sunset Yoga class on Abby's Lawn. The class was unusual because there were fewer late arrivals than generally and that meant I didn't need to keep jumping up from my yoga mat to get people's signatures on the attendance sheet. I could actually participate in the class more and feel more of the relaxing benefits.

So there we were at the end of a wonderful outdoor class, lying down at last for the final relaxation. The instructor said, "You can close your eyes or keep them open." Usually, like other people, I close my eyes during an indoor class. Who wants to stare at a ceiling that's in all likelihood either boring or cracked and peeling? But during Sunset Yoga, I usually keep them open so that I can see the clouds floating, the bugs flitting, the birds soaring overhead. When else do we get to lie down and just look? There were no clouds that night, but a bird did fly over me, about two feet above my face. Two butterflies cavorted playfully, and the leaves were rustling in the breeze, forming and reforming a myriad patterns and shapes. And then, my reverie was interrupted: "What's that?" the yoga instructor exclaimed, "a prairie dog?" Forty torsos sprung up and turned around to face the stone wall and swath of greenery behind us. "It's a ground hog!" one of the students said. And sure enough, a sleek, brown-gray animal the size of a small dog scampered away down the path. We looked at each other in wonder, laughed a bit and finished the class.

Afterward, I watched the blood-red sun setting over the Hudson River. And then the fireflies came out, twinkling like soft stars in the humid air. You can close your eyes or you can keep them open. That night, I was glad I kept them open.

See you in the park,



Nancy Bruning  
Chair, Friends Committee  
Fort Tryon Park Trust

## Letter from Edie and Joseph

Summer greetings from the board of the Fort Tryon Park Trust!

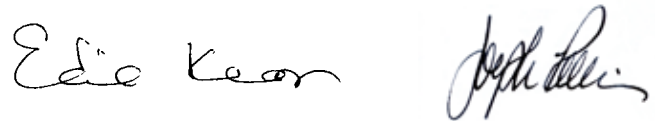
Several of our board members had fun celebrating with the 250 people attending a Toast to Fort Tryon on May 29th. The wines were delicious. We could not have asked for a lovelier evening on the Hudson, and we were thrilled to have another community partner, Cabrini Wines, join us in fundraising for the park.

We had a productive board meeting in June, which fostered new partnerships for programming and events and helped identify possible resources for continued park improvements along the Broadway side of the park. We hope you'll help spread the word about the free Spanish fitness program in the park that we're collaborating on with the Parks Department and Bally's Fitness. Thanks to the Friends Committee and Trust board member Moises Perez, the executive director of Alianza Dominicana, we will be partnering with the Alianza on outreach efforts for this program, with an emphasis on residents along the Broadway perimeter of the park.

On July 24th, we came together with the Parks Department and Council Member Robert Jackson to honor another Trust board member, Stanley Michels, for his decades of public service as the area's former council member. In that role, Stanley secured millions of capital dollars for all of Northern Manhattan Parks, in particular Fort Tryon Park. Stanley provided the funding for the restoration of the Linden Terrace, the Jacob Javits Playground, Margaret Corbin Circle, the Anne Loftus Playground, and multiple pathways throughout the park. His commitment to the park's ongoing revitalization was instrumental in transforming the park after its decline from the fiscal crisis of the 1970's to its current beauty. Stanley died a week later. We were most fortunate to have him serve on the board. His death is a great loss to the community, and we mourn his passing.

We hope you'll take advantage of the upcoming Alpine Garden tours on Thursdays at 3 PM this summer and get a foretaste of the enchanted garden that the Peter Jay Sharp Foundation and the Dodge Foundation will make possible.

Enjoy your summer holidays in and out of the park!



Edie Kean and Joseph Pierson  
Co-Chairs, Fort Tryon Park Trust

## Save the Dates!

### VOLUNTEER BEAUTIFICATION DATES

- August 31, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM
- September 21, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM

See "Beautification Report," p. 4, for details.

### BROADWAY BERM PROJECT

- September 20, 9:30 AM–1 PM
- Rain date: September 21, 9:30 AM–1 PM

See the end of "The Broadway Initiative," p. 3, for details.

## Stanley Michels, 1933–2008

Stanley Michels, our devoted Fort Tryon Park Trust board member; former council member of 24 years; successful legislator for environmental protections, public health, and housing rights; and devoted friend passed away on Friday, July 30. Please look for the tribute to this generous park leader and funder in the next issue of the Gazette.

## The Tulip Tree— What's in a Name?

Aliza Holtz, Ph.D.

Contrary to its various names, the tulip tree, also known as the tulip poplar, yellow poplar, and white poplar, is unrelated to either tulips or poplars. Rather, this eastern hardwood gets its name from its large tulip-shaped flowers and from its leaves, whose silhouette resembles that of the tulip. The tree is related to magnolias—both are part of the family Magnoliaceae—hence yet another name: the tulip magnolia.

You can find tulip trees in a few places around Fort Tryon Park, most notably on the lower edge of the eastern slope of the Alpine Garden and just west of Cabrini Boulevard on the northbound approach to the gardener's cottage near the park entrance at Margaret Corbin Circle. Once you locate them, take a moment to appreciate just how tall and straight they are. When you stand near the base of a tulip tree, you'll notice that you have to tilt your head back quite a bit, looking up past the lower two-thirds of the tree's height before you see the crown of branches.

One of the tallest of the eastern hardwoods, the tulip tree is an erect, deciduous, perennial tree native to the Eastern United States. During its early years, it grows rapidly, reaching a height of up to 50 feet at age 20 and an average height of 120 feet when mature. Anchoring this structure are the tulip tree's roots, which dig down a minimum of 32 inches into the soil. The typical spread of the oval-to-pyramidal-shaped crown is 30 to 50 feet, but a 100-foot-diameter crown has been reported.

Most tulip trees live for 200 or 250 years until their natural death. Some trees, though, may live for more than 300 years, sometimes much more.

Most of the tree's active growth occurs during the spring and summer, and production of flowers occurs from late May through June. The majority of tulip trees don't flower until they're at least 15 years old, and then only their upper branches bear flowers; only when the trees mature do the lower branches display the upright flowers, which they have been known to produce for 200 years.

The tulip-shaped flowers are large (1 to 2 inches wide) and solitary, each with six predominantly light greenish-yellow petals that have a yellow and orange base. During the summer, the flowers yield a great abundance of small seeds in a central spire anchored in the base of the flower—14,000 seeds per pound. The seeds serve as a food

source for songbirds, game birds, squirrels, mice, and rabbits. Whitetail deer browse the young growth (twigs) of tulip trees, sometimes causing severe damage.

After the flowering period, when the petals have fallen away, the cone-shaped fruit clusters usually persist on the branches and turn light brown in winter. The winged seeds (or samaras)

are disseminated mainly by the wind from mid-October through mid-March. After the seeds have fallen, the central spire of the cone sits within an upright ring of stiff, dried-out, light brown spikes for the rest of the winter.

Because of the tulip tree's rapid growth, the oval shape of its crown, and its relatively high resistance to damage by insects and disease, it's useful as a street, shade, or ornamental tree, but it requires a good deal of space because of its need for full sunlight. In contrast, the seedlings can photosynthesize at near-maximum efficiency under low light intensities (3 to 10 percent of full sunlight).

Native Americans used tulip trees to make canoes. Pioneers called the tulip tree the "canoe tree" because the wood was light and soft and could be used for dugout canoes or to help float rafts of heavy oak and walnut logs. The tree was also used for joints, rafters, and shingles in colonial homes and for log cabins. Today, tulip tree wood is used for furniture stock, veneer, crates, toys, musical instruments, and pulpwood because the olive- to off-white-colored wood is relatively strong, not easily split by nails, relatively soft, and easily worked or bent. The wood does not shrink or warp much, is durable, and takes paint or glue better than any other native tree.

According to folklore, Native Americans used the trees medicinally: the bark and roots were used to make a tincture that had antipyretic (fever-reducing) and antirheumatic activities; the seeds were used for their laxative effects; and the leaves were used to make an ointment to fight inflammation and gangrenous infection.

Interestingly, tulip trees are valuable also as honey trees: in one season, a young tree (less than 20 years old) produces about eight pounds of nectar, which can be turned into about four pounds of honey. Tulip trees depend heavily on cross-pollination by honeybees for its flowers.

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### The Broadway Initiative *continued from page 1*

promenade.

All of these improvements are significant, but we need your help to keep the momentum going. We're asking for 150 volunteers to come out on Saturday, September 20th, to help us plant the next two blocks of the Broadway Berm project, cleaning up the berm and planting 15,000 groundcover plants to beautify the park perimeter. Sign up as an individual, or bring members of your synagogue or church, your friends, or co-op or condo board members to roll up their sleeves. ■

#### Broadway Berm Project: September 20th

We will work from 9:30 AM to 1:00 PM.

Gloves and tools will be provided.

RSVP to [linda.huntington@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:linda.huntington@parks.nyc.gov) by Sept. 7th.

Rain date: September 21st.



*Tulip trees grow to 120 feet, on average, with a crown typically 30 to 50 feet wide at the top third of the trunk.*



*The tree's tulip-shaped flower is 1 to 2 inches wide. After the flowering period, the cone-shaped fruit cluster usually persists and turns light brown in winter.*

## A Fond Farewell

*Jennifer M. Hoppa Administrator, Northern Manhattan Parks, and Jane Schachat*

This spring we said farewell to a passionate friend of Fort Tryon Park. After more than nine years of dedicated service, the park's head gardener, Matilda Mosleh, has moved on and will be contributing her horticultural knowledge and extensive skills to Bronx Parks, where she will be closer to her family and home.

Matilda began her work as a New York City gardener on a mobile crew in Central Park's Conservatory Garden and in the initial restoration of the Heather Garden in the mid-1980s. Next, she moved to Brooklyn, helping design and maintain the Brooklyn Heights Promenade and the War Memorial, among other horticultural areas. Following that, she spent close to a decade in the Bronx Greenhouse cultivating plants. She came back to Fort Tryon Park in 2000 and worked closely with Jane Schachat, the then administrator of Northern Manhattan Parks, to restore the Heather Garden based on Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.'s design. Since then, she has overseen the planting of more than 3,800 heaths and heathers of almost four dozen different varieties. Her review of historical plans, soil assessments, and experimentation with distinct varieties of heathers and heaths facilitated the full revitalization of the Heather Bed so that it echoed the essence of Olmsted Jr.'s vision. She engaged the Northeast Heather Society to advise on species, help propagate select Erica and Calluna plants, and strategize on how to retain the health of the garden, given the unique conditions of Hudson River winds and the acidity of the soil.

Matilda's skill as a propagator at the Parks Department's greenhouse contributed significantly to the revitalization of the Heather Garden and Fort Tryon Park. Because of her skill, we were able to grow and plant heirloom annuals and perennials that historically would have been in the park and garden but are no longer available from the trade. Her skill and knowledge, possessed by very few, have added to the value and beauty of the landscape.

Matilda also was instrumental in the initial phases of revitalization of the Alpine Garden. She executed the preliminary horticultural research to determine historical plants, mapped out existing conditions, and made recommendations on plants to install that would be compatible with the historical design but suitable for the conditions of the garden today, with its extensive shade.

Her enthusiasm and commitment were contagious. She answered community questions faithfully, and she inspired park visitors with her passion. It is simple to say a gardener can be replaced. However, Matilda's dedication, as well as her special skills and knowledge, is uncommon in any public or private employee and unlikely to be easily replaced. We are extremely fortunate to have had her contributions for so many years and wish her all the best in the Bronx! ■



*Matilda Mosleh (second from the left) and gardener Anna Malmude (left) consulted with the Northeast Heather Society on the restoration of the Heather Garden. (Photo courtesy of Jane Schachat)*

## Beautification Report

*Mike Klein  
Vice Chair, Parks Liaison & Beautification*

This year's Earth Day celebration, held on April 27th, was another great day for working in the park. We got a tremendous amount of work done. Despite the iffy weather at the start of the day, we had 34 volunteers, who came from far and near: Michigan, Connecticut, New Jersey, Dobbs Ferry, Queens, the South Bronx, Bensonhurst, Brooklyn Heights, and all parts of Washington Heights and Inwood. We planted hay-scented ferns, *Liriope* "Majestic," pink ridge phlox, and homestead verbena in and around Abby's Lawn; removed English Ivy from the perimeter walls of the Linden Terrace and weeds in the wooded areas next to the Terrace. The volunteers were rewarded with bagels, matzo, and other goodies, as well as beautiful acoustic music by singer-songwriter Mary Beth Stone (212-740-2072, [stonepulse@aol.com](mailto:stonepulse@aol.com)).

For the citywide celebration of It's My Park Day on May 24th, we had 27 extremely hard-working volunteers. We scraped, primed, and painted two additional sections of the historic cast-iron fence along Fort Washington Avenue. It was a tremendous effort, because of the fence's many decorative elements. We also removed English Ivy from the stone walls around Margaret Corbin Circle and weeds from the center plantings, and we swept the sidewalks and pruned the trees lining the circle. In addition, a few volunteers fanned out in various areas of the park to pick up litter. At the end of the day, we enjoyed refreshments, and the children that volunteered received It's My Park T-shirts and water bottles.

June 29th was Broadway Beautification Day. It had been a long time since the Friends last held a beautification event in the northeast quadrant of the park, and we hope to do more projects there in the future (see also "The Broadway Initiative," p. 1). Although we had 20 volunteers, only 2 were from the immediate neighborhood surrounding the park; 10 were from Stuyvesant High School's Key Club. When we arrived on Broadway, one lone volunteer was working, sweeping a large volume of trash on the sidewalk at the southern perimeter of the park. We joined him to clean the remaining portion, as well as the sidewalk along Riverside Drive. We also cleaned and raked leaves in the Anne Loftus Playground and adjacent areas, and we removed English ivy from the bark of all the London plane (or sycamore) trees in the playground area. As usual, refreshments were provided for all.

### Upcoming Beautification Events

We hope you'll come spend an hour or two making the world a cleaner and greener place. The beautification events are from 10 AM to 2 PM; meet at the entrance to the park at Margaret Corbin Circle, at the end of Fort Washington Avenue. If you come after 10 AM, visit our membership table at the entrance to the park to find out where the beautification crew will be working. We supply all tools and work gloves, and all ages are welcome. Stay for refreshments afterward. Heavy rain cancels an event.

**August 31:** We plan again to prune and remove English ivy from the walls and trees on Margaret Corbin Circle. Afterward, we will do a roving cleanup on the western paths from the Heather Garden leading to Riverside Drive.

**September 21:** Weather permitting, we will scrape, prime, and paint a section of the iron fence along Fort Washington Avenue, as well as do some weeding. ■

BECOME A FRIEND OF FORT TRYON PARK  
**VOLUNTEER • PARTICIPATE**  
**CONTRIBUTE**

I wish to contribute to the Fort Tryon Park Trust to help secure the future of Fort Tryon Park and protect the improvements made to date. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$500     \$250     \$100     \$50     \$25     other \$\_\_\_\_\_

which includes membership in the Friends Committee.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed. Make checks payable to: CITY PARKS FOUNDATION.  
Write in the memo line: FORT TRYON PARK TRUST.

Credit card #: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa     MasterCard     Amex    Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ FORT TRYON PARK T-SHIRT(s). T-shirts are \$15 each.  
(number)

I wish to purchase \_\_\_\_\_ FORT TRYON PARK BASEBALL CAP(s). Caps are \$25 each.  
(number)

Please allow three weeks for delivery. Thank you!

I prefer to receive the *Gazette* by e-mail.

I would like to receive updates of the Northern Manhattan Parks Events Calendar by e-mail.

Please let me know of any volunteer opportunities in Fort Tryon Park. As a volunteer, I will help design community park programs, directly participate in the park's beautification, help plan for the park's future, and work with city agencies and the community to maintain a vital and safe public park. (Check the other side for opportunities and circle any that interest you.)

Return this form to: FORT TRYON PARK TRUST  
P.O. BOX 1044  
FORT GEORGE STATION  
NEW YORK, NY 10040

# FORT TRYON PARK TRUST VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

*Work with a team of other volunteers*

## **DIGGING IN . . .**

**Staff the visitor table in Fort Tryon Park** (1 hour a week):

- Answer questions about the park and the Fort Tryon Park Trust
- Collect contact information for mailings and listserve about Northern Manhattan events, programs, and activities.

**Act as a community liaison to the Parks Dept. Forward community concerns and issues about the park to the Parks Dept.** (approximately 3 hours a month).

- The Trust will provide you with an e-mail address expressly for this activity.
- You will submit reports every two weeks (immediately in an emergency). Reports will consist of as much of the following as possible: date of contact, date of incident, type of incident, and name and contact information of the person reporting the incident.

**Translate Fort Tryon Park Trust materials, including the *Gazette*, into Spanish**

(whatever time you can spare).

**Help plan our MP3 audio tour of the Heather Garden in four seasons** (whatever time you can spare):

- Help select narrators from the neighborhood.
- Help translate gardeners' information.
- Help write the script.

**Help with our quarterly newsletter, the *Gazette*.**

- Writing (approximately 3 hours an issue)
- Proofing (1 hour an issue)
- Disseminating (as much time as you can spare)

## **DIGGING DEEPER . . .**

- Photograph park events (when you can spare the time).
- Put-up flyers about Fort Tryon Park events on park and community bulletin boards (1 hour a month).
- Help plan and/or work on events (approximately 2 hours every quarter):
  - Beautification Days in the park
  - Pancake Breakfast
  - Toast to Fort Tryon Park
  - Trust Benefit
  - Meditation in the Park
  - Fitness Program
  - Concert Series
  - Annual Family Picnic
  - Storytelling for Children
  - Parents Committee

## Northern Manhattan Parks & Related Activities

In addition to all the other wonderful Urban Park Ranger programs, this summer the Rangers are offering a new program, **Park Ed-ventures for Kids with the Urban Park Rangers**. On **weekdays through August**. Call the Rangers at the Inwood Hill Park Nature Center, Northern Manhattan Ranger Headquarters, 212-304-2365, for time, place, and more information.

The **Summer Sprint** evening cross-country races continue **every other Thursday, from August 7th through September 18th, 7:00 PM; registration at 6:45 PM**. The free xc (cross-country) and mini-dh (down-hill) races, on the Highbridge Park Mountain Bike Trail, start and finish at the corner of Dyckman Street and the Harlem River Drive, at the base of the paved climb. For more information, go to [www.nycmtb.com](http://www.nycmtb.com).

On the **final Saturday of each month, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, join the New York City Mountain Bike Association for free **Highbridge Mountain Bike Beginners' Clinics & Trail Cleanups**. Meet at the BMX trail at Fort George Hill.

The Gorilla Repertory Theater Company presents William Shakespeare's **Hamlet Wednesdays through Sundays, 8:00 PM, August 6th through the 31st**, on the Cloisters Lawn north of Linden Terrace in Fort Tryon Park. Bring a blanket and enjoy a classic al fresco.

Highbridge Park again hosts a free **Latin music concert series**, part of **CityParks Concerts**. The concerts will be held on **August 12th, 19th, and 26th, at 7:00 PM**. See the individual dates, below, for more information.

The Lower East Side Ecology Center ([www.lesecologycenter.org](http://www.lesecologycenter.org)) and the RING Garden ([www.ringgarden.org](http://www.ringgarden.org)) are sponsoring **Inwood's first electronics recycling collections, August 16th and 17th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and August 18th, 4:00 to 7:00 PM**, at the RING Garden, at the confluence of Dyckman Street, Broadway, Riverside Drive, and Seaman Avenue. (Take the A train to the Dyckman Street stop.) Discarded computers and other consumer electronics (so-called e-waste), the fastest-growing

portion of our waste stream, are toxic, hazardous waste! Bring in your unwanted or nonworking: computers, servers, and mainframes; monitors; printers, scanners, fax machines, and copiers; network devices (routers, hubs, modems, etc.); peripherals (including cables); components; TVs (plastic housings only), VCRs, DVD players, and audio visual devices; radios and stereos; and cell phones, pagers, PDAs; telephones, and answering machines.

During the summer, **Dyckman Farmhouse Museum**, Broadway at 204th Street, has children's, adults', and family programs during the week and on weekends. Go to [www.dyckmanfarmhouse.org](http://www.dyckmanfarmhouse.org) for more information. **Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum**, 65 Jumel Terrace, at 160th Street, east of St. Nicholas Avenue, offers public programs and concerts throughout the year. Go to [www.morrisjumel.org](http://www.morrisjumel.org) for more information.

And let's not forget **The Cloisters**, in Fort Tryon Park. It presents **gallery talks** and **gallery workshops for families** with children ages 4 through 12. The events are free with museum admission. No reservations are necessary, but gallery space is limited. For information about the talks and the workshops, call 212-650-2280. The museum presents special seasonal programs, as well, also free with museum admission; consult the museum's calendar at [www.metmuseum.org/cloisters/events](http://www.metmuseum.org/cloisters/events) at [www.metmuseum.org/cloisters/events/](http://www.metmuseum.org/cloisters/events/).

### Regular Events

The Parks Department is launching a new free program, **Bally's Fitness Program in Spanish**, meeting **every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday at 7:00 AM and Saturdays at 10:00 AM through October 12th**, in Fort Tryon Park. Enter the park at Broadway and Dongan Place.

The existing **Fitness Walking Program** meets **every Tuesday and Thursday 7:30–8:30 AM and Saturdays 8:30–9:30 AM** (with an optional additional walk to the Green Market on Isham Avenue). The meeting place is at the entrance to the Heather Garden. These are hour-long classes with a 10-minute warm up; 30-minute fitness walk; and 20 minutes of strengthening, stretching, and cool-down. All levels of fitness are welcome. The program, cosponsored by the Friends Committee of the Fort Tryon Park Trust, is free, but advance registration is required; contact [healthwriter2@aol.com](mailto:healthwriter2@aol.com).

**Heather Garden Walking Tours** take place **every Sunday at 1:00 PM**. Learn about the plants and history of Fort Tryon Park and the Heather Garden from members of Parks' expert horticultural staff. On the first Sunday of the month, the walk will include the Alpine Garden.

The **Weekly Nature Walks with Mike Feller**, the chief naturalist for the Parks Department, begin again on May 4th. They take place rain or shine, May through November, **every Sunday 8:00 –10:00 AM in Inwood Park**, except the **last Sunday of the month**, when they are held in **Fort Tryon Park**. See migrating songbirds and learn how the ecosystems of Northern Manhattan parks influence which plants and animals can thrive here. In Inwood Park, meet at the small bridge on the east side of the salt marsh; enter the park at 218th Street and Indian Road and walk west toward the river. Fort Tryon Park walks meet at the entrance to the Heather Garden.

NOTE: The listings are subject to change and new events may be added. Check the Northern Manhattan Parks' Web site, [http://nycgovparks.org/sub\\_your\\_park/vt\\_north\\_manhattan\\_parks/vt\\_north\\_manhattan\\_parks.php](http://nycgovparks.org/sub_your_park/vt_north_manhattan_parks/vt_north_manhattan_parks.php), for updates (click on "Events Calendar" at the upper-right side of the latter page). In addition, you can click on the appropriate link there to see what's in bloom at the Heather Garden.

## Required: Permits for Special Events

You need a Parks Department Special Event permit if:

- You're having any gathering of 20 or more people.
- You're having a wedding ceremony in the park.

(Receptions are not allowed in the park but can be accommodated at the New Leaf Café, 212-568-5323, or Morris Jumel Mansion, 212-923-8008).

- You're using the park as a setting for providing services, such as fitness classes, community outreach activities, field days for schools, church picnics, camp outings.

Permits are issued on a first-come; first-served basis. Allow at least one month for your permit application to be processed. For more information about Special Event permits and how to obtain one, go to [https://webmail.nyc.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://nycgovparks.org/sub\\_permits\\_and\\_applications/planning\\_an\\_event.html](https://webmail.nyc.gov/exchweb/bin/redir.asp?URL=http://nycgovparks.org/sub_permits_and_applications/planning_an_event.html).

## AUGUST

**13–17** *Hamlet*, 8:00 PM, Fort Tryon Park, Cloisters Lawn.

**16–17** **Electronics Recycling Days**, 10:00 AM–4:00 PM, RING Garden (at the confluence of Dyckman Street, Broadway, Riverside Drive, and Seaman Avenue; take the A train to the Dyckman Street stop). Bring your unwanted or nonworking consumer electronics.



**16** **Hawk Walk**, 11:00 AM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Explore the park in search of our resident red-tailed hawks and their babies!

**18** **Electronics Recycling Days**, 4:00–7:00 PM, RING Garden.

**19** **CityParks Concerts: Shino Aguakate & DJ Lobo**, 7:00 PM, Highbridge Park. (The closest park entrance is at 174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.) With a rapper's flow and a big band's flavor, Shino Aguakate and his crew deliver traditional Latin orchestral sounds with Latin street flavor.

**19** **Environmental Poetry Night**, 6:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Join the Urban Park Rangers for an evening of open-mike poetry, as we express our thoughts and feelings on the environment.

**20–24** *Hamlet*, 8:00 PM, Fort Tryon Park, Cloisters Lawn.

**23** **Wilderness Survival**, 12:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Join the Urban Park Rangers for their classic survival workshop. The topics include compass skills, fire starting, and shelter building.

**23** **Cinderella Samba**, 1:00 PM, Highbridge Park, Wallenberg Playground, 192nd and 193rd Streets and Amsterdam Avenue. Set in the lush landscape of Brazil, this timeless fairy tale finds Cinderella and her prince in a Samba contest at the Carnival Ball. **Nature Crafts**, 12:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Use natural materials to make crafts.

**26** **CityParks Concerts: Tulile**, 7:00 PM, Highbridge Park. (The closest park entrance is at 174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue.) Dominican-born Tulile blends the intensity of Latin mambo and salsa with the frivolity of a circus ring leader. His unique blend of Latin sounds creates an uplifting merengue tropical.

**27–31** *Hamlet*, 8:00 PM, Fort Tryon Park, Cloisters Lawn.

**30** **Highbridge Mountain Bike Beginners' Clinics & Trail Cleanup**, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Highbridge Park. Meet at the BMX trail at Fort George Hill.

**30** **Camp Out!**, 6:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Join the rangers as they teach about the fundamentals of camping. Learn basic survival skills and how to pitch a tent. What better way to spend the evening than camping out under the stars? To register, please call 212-304-2365 on August 18th.

**30** **Summer Trees**, 1:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Do you know which tree was used to flavor gum? Did you know that we have an orange tree in the park? Join the Urban Rangers as they show you some unique trees and share their history.

**31** **Urban Park Ranger Biathlon**, Inwood Hill Park. For time and meeting location, call the Urban Park Rangers at 212-304-2365. Join the Rangers in the surf and on the turf! Bring your bikes, helmets, and water. We'll canoe to Fort Washington Park; your bikes will meet you there to take on the winding paths of Fort Washington and Riverside Parks. To register, call 212-304-2365 beginning August 25th.

**31** **Fort Tryon Park Trust Friends Committee Beautification Day**, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM. Meet at the entrance to the Heather Garden on Margaret Corbin Circle where Fort Washington Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard converge, and join your friends and neighbors to help keep Fort Tryon Park in tiptop shape.

## Suns & Moons

### SUNS

#### Sunrises and Sunsets

|             | Sunrise | Sunset  |
|-------------|---------|---------|
| August 1    | 5:52 AM | 8:11 PM |
| September 1 | 6:23 AM | 7:27 PM |
| October 1   | 6:53 AM | 6:37 PM |

### MOONS

#### New Moons

August 2, 6:13 AM  
 August 30, 3:58 PM  
 September 23, 4:12 AM  
 October 28, 7:14 PM

#### Full Moons

August 16, 5:16 PM—Sturgeon Moon  
 September 15, 5:13 AM—Harvest Moon  
 October 14, 4:02 PM—Hunter's Moon

### OTHER EVENTS

Autumnal equinox occurs on September 22 at 11:44 AM

Source: U.S. Naval Observatory and *Farmers' Almanac 2008*

## SEPTEMBER

**6** **Heather Garden and Beyond!**, 11:00 AM, Fort Tryon Park. Join the Urban Park Rangers for a stroll through the park in search of herbs, plants, and bushes, focusing on uncommon uses of common plants. Meet at Margaret Corbin Circle.

**7** **Basic Canoeing**, 12:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. First come, first served.

**14** **Tour of the Highbridge Water Tower**, 1:00–4:00 PM, Highbridge Park, Tower Terrace. Learn how the High Bridge, its water tower, and the Old Croton Aqueduct System allowed New York City to become a thriving metropolis and world capitol. Enter at 174th Street and Amsterdam Avenue and walk east to the tower.

**20** **Broadway Berm Project**, 9:30 AM–1:00 PM, Fort Tryon Park, meet at the corner of Broadway and Bennett Avenue. Help clean up the berm and plant 15,000 groundcover plants to beautify the park perimeter. Gloves and tools will be provided. RSVP to [linda.huntington@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:linda.huntington@parks.nyc.gov). Rain date: September 21st.

**21** **Fort Tryon Park Trust Friends Committee Beautification Day**, 10:00 AM–2:00 PM. Meet at the entrance to the Heather Garden on Margaret Corbin Circle where Fort Washington Avenue and Cabrini Boulevard converge, and join your friends and neighbors to help keep Fort Tryon Park in tiptop shape.

**27** **Highbridge Mountain Bike Beginners' Clinics & Trail Cleanup**, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Highbridge Park. Meet at the BMX trail at Fort George Hill.

**27 Camp Out!**, 6:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Join the Urban Park Rangers to learn the fundamentals of camping. You'll learn basic survival skills and how to pitch a tent. To register, call 212.304.2365 on Sept. 15th.

**28 Medieval Festival**, 11:00 AM–6:00 PM, Fort Tryon Park The festival, cosponsored by the Washington Heights and Inwood Development Corporation, includes costumed performers, authentic medieval music, dance, and magic, as well as jugglers and jesters. The finale is a joust between four knights on horseback. Rain date: October 5th.

**28 Ranger Theater Presents**, 12:00 PM, Inwood Hill Park, Inwood Hill Park Nature Center. Join the Urban Park Ranger puppeteers for an afternoon of fun.

## OCTOBER

**19 Uptown Treasures Celebration**, 11:00 AM–5:00 PM, various sites in Northern Manhattan. The 16th Annual Uptown Treasures Celebration invites the public to explore eight unique places and enjoy a day of family-oriented events at the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Cloisters, Dyckman Farmhouse Museum, the Heather Garden and Fort Tryon Park in general, the High Bridge Water Tower, the Hispanic Society of America, the Morris-Jumel Mansion Museum, and the National Track and Field Hall of Fame and Museum. Special events and activities for children and adults, tours, demonstrations, and performances will occur throughout the day.

**25 Highbridge Mountain Bike Beginners' Clinics & Trail Cleanup**, 9:00 AM–1:00 PM, Highbridge Park. Meet at the BMX trail at Fort George Hill.

**25 It's My Park! Day**, generally 10:00 AM–2:00 PM but times may vary, parks throughout the city. Come out to your local park and dig in! Support your favorite park by weeding, pruning, painting, and cleaning up. Call Kate at 212-408-0283 for information about Northern Manhattan parks. ■

## Wine and Pancakes: Two Tasty Fundraisers

There was something for everyone at this year's "A Toast to Fort Tryon" and "Pancakes in the Park." On June 29th, 250 friends and neighbors mingled on the Linden Terrace tasting wines supplied by Quintessential Wines and made available during and after the event by Cabrini Wines. We swooned to the strains of the superb Brazil Bossa Trio as the sunset provided a golden orange glow.



On June 8th, pancakes were served to over 250 munchers of all ages again on the Linden Terrace. (Special thanks to Trust board member George Sanchez of the Washington Heights Business Improvement District for support; to MBJ Foods for helping underwrite the food; and to Louise Rogers, who enchanted all with "kiddie jazz.") As one happy



parent volunteered: "This was our first year attending, and it exceeded our expectations; it really was fantastic, a great Sunday community event. It was lovely seeing neighbors, and my kids just loved the yoga, magi-

cian, and music. My son hasn't stopped singing the jazzy fairytales. Thanks for helping to make Washington Heights a great community to raise a family and enjoy the city."

—Nancy Bruning

## Wanted: Note Card Photos

Send us your best photographs of Fort Tryon Park for the Fort Tryon Park Trust's 2008 note card series promoting the park. We are looking for photos that emphasize the uniqueness of Fort Tryon Park. The deadline for submissions is August 24th, 4:00 PM.

For further information and requirements, please e-mail [friends.ft.tryon.park.trust@gmail.com](mailto:friends.ft.tryon.park.trust@gmail.com).

## Alianza Kids Reach Out to the Hispanic Community

This summer the Friends Committee has teamed up with a group of teens from Alianza Dominicana to reach out to the Hispanic community. "We want to make sure people from all backgrounds feel Fort Tryon Park is their park," explains Nancy Bruning, Friends Committee chair. The teens will promote the new Spanish-language fitness program, talk to park-goers about keeping the park clean, and administer a survey to assess priorities for improving the park. They'll also do a weekly cleanup or beautification project.

## The Tulip Tree—What's in a Name? *continued from page 3*

On a couple of occasions, tulip trees were honored in our local history. The July 3, 1910, issue of the *New York Times* described a then-320-year-old tree as an "antique of the forest world." It was the oldest known tulip tree in Manhattan at the time and stood more than 125 feet tall on the edge of Cold Spring Grove, a 200-acre forest in Inwood Hill Park. The report noted that the tree had two severe wounds that required attention because decay had already set in.

Two years later, as reported in the October 31, 1912, issue of the *Times*, the "Giant Tulip Tree of Inwood," located "in a hollow on the river at 207th Street," was honored as the oldest tree on Manhattan Island (apparently the older tree had succumbed). It was then 225 years old and 123 feet tall. It died in 1938 and is commemorated by a plaque placed at the site in 1954. The tree is thought to have been planted by the Indians to commemorate Henry Hudson's visit; it is also considered to be the site of the purchase of Manhattan Island by the Dutch.

Additional information about tulip trees is posted on the Friends' Web site, [www.hhoc.org/fftp](http://www.hhoc.org/fftp). ■

*Special thanks to Marechal Brown, Nancy Bruning, Jennifer Hoppa, Linda Huntington, James Renner, and Scott Sendrow, who answered my numerous questions and provided information for this article.*

For a list of references, please e-mail [NatureLover3333@yahoo.com](mailto:NatureLover3333@yahoo.com) and write "Tulip tree references" in the subject line. Other communications also are welcome.

## Contacts

- Friends Committee Web site: [www.hhoc.org/fftp](http://www.hhoc.org/fftp)
- Friends Committee phone: 212-795-1388
- Friends Committee e-mail: [friends@forttryonpark.net](mailto:friends@forttryonpark.net)
- Fort Tryon Park Trust Web site: [www.forttryonparktrust.org](http://www.forttryonparktrust.org)
- To volunteer in the Heather Garden:  
212-795-1388
- Council Member Robert Jackson: 212-928-1322
- Speaker of the City Council Christine Quinn:  
212-788-6979 or 212-564-7757
- Northern Manhattan Parks Administrator Jennifer Hoppa:  
212-795-1388 or [jennifer.hoppa@parks.nyc.gov](mailto:jennifer.hoppa@parks.nyc.gov)
- To report an emergency: 911
- To report dangerous conditions or graffiti and other vandalism: 311
- Forestry (tree pruning, dead tree and limb removal): 311
- For information on Fort Tryon Park:  
[www.nycgovparks.org](http://www.nycgovparks.org)
- For information on the Cloisters: 212-923-3700  
or [www.metmuseum.org](http://www.metmuseum.org)
- The New Leaf Café: 212-568-5323
- For permissions and forms:  
[www.nycgovparks.org/sub\\_permits\\_and\\_applications/permits\\_and\\_applications.html](http://www.nycgovparks.org/sub_permits_and_applications/permits_and_applications.html)

## Mission Statement

The Friends Committee of the Fort Tryon Park Trust aims to involve the entire community surrounding the park in maintaining and improving the park's appearance and condition, and promoting its constructive use by the public. The Friends' structure and programs are designed to achieve these goals in partnership with other groups with similar concerns. Such involvement and cooperation should help solidify and enliven this community, and make it and the park more attractive, safe, and desirable.

## Officers

**Chair:** Nancy Bruning

**Vice Chair, Parks Liaison & Beautification:** Mike Klein

**Vice Chair, Cultural Outreach Coordinator:** Rosa Naparstek

**Treasurer:** Jack Murad

**Membership Coordinator:** Gwendolyn Boey-Augenblick

**Resource and Policy Coordinator:** Francisco Menendez



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The tulip tree gets its name from the tulip shape of its large flowers, as well as from its leaves, whose silhouette resembles that of the tulip.

## Gazette

**Editor:** Mike Robinson

**Contributors:** Nancy Bruning, Aliza Holtz, Jennifer Hoppa, Mike Klein, Ellen LeCompte, Jane Schachat

**Photography:** Sarah Graham, Aliza Holtz, Olmstead Archives, Richard Quinnell, Jane Schachat

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## Friends Committee of the Fort Tryon Park Trust

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