

Circle of Friends

Economic forecasts may be grim, but thanks to our circle of friends, Project FIND is keeping time-honored traditions going while celebrating new ones.

Thanksgiving 2008 was a great success, with a record number of attendees and homebound meals delivered, thanks to Michael O’Neal, O’Neal’s Restaurant, Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon, and an army of volunteers. And seniors took home a very special token — the first annual, full-color Project FIND calendar, which includes stories and pictures of our residents and center members. Kudos to Blessed Sacrament Church, Church of St. Paul the Apostle, Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, Marble Collegiate Church, New York Society for Ethical Culture, and Broadway United Church of Christ for their unwavering support and dedication over the last three decades and counting. On Christmas, men and women were lined up outside the Coffeehouse Senior Centers to take part in the noontime celebration and enjoy a festive meal.

Inauguration Day was highly anticipated, and Project FIND was ready. Project FIND broadcasted the entire ceremony at all five of its senior centers. Be sure to check out the personal stories of that day on page three of this issue of the newsletter.

More and more seniors are coming to Project FIND’s senior centers for meals and activities. In just the last two years there has been an 18%



Project FIND volunteer joins center members James Armstrong and Dorothy Kelley on Thanksgiving.



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increase in the number of lunches served at our senior centers. Word on the street about our free classes have brought some; and the free meals — which help take the edge off a senior’s stringent budget — bring others. And while the Department for the Aging has rescinded the request for proposals that might have endangered so many senior centers, Project FIND is developing strategies to ensure we will be here for the long haul. ■

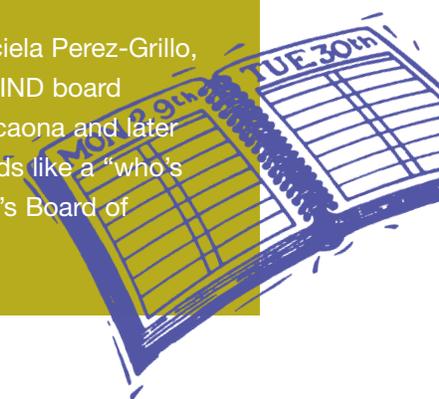
Graciela Perez-Grillo



MARK your calendars now and join us for:

We Are Family: An Evening of Friendship and Celebration • MONDAY, JUNE 8, 2009, 6:00 PM
O’NEAL’S RESTAURANT, 50 WEST 65TH STREET, NEW YORK CITY

This year Project FIND is proud to honor the legendary First Lady of Latin Jazz, Graciela Perez-Grillo, along with attorney Milton Norman, longtime activist in our community and Project FIND board member. As a young girl, Graciela was part of the famous all-female Orquestra Anacaona and later joined Orquestra Machito. The list of personalities with whom she has worked sounds like a “who’s who” of twentieth century jazz. Attorney Milton Norman has served on Project FIND’s Board of Directors for ten years, including three years as treasurer. ■



FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

B

uddy, can you spare a dime? What dramatic times these are: exhilarating, scary, of an uncertain duration and trajectory, for sure. Somehow, in the fog of the present, we must figure out a way to strengthen our foundations in order lay the basis for the future.



What are the forces shaping our present? In December, the New York City Department for the Aging (DFTA) withdrew its restructuring plan for the Senior Centers, removing with it the fear that dozens of centers across the city would close. While the restructuring plan has been put on hold, we expect that many of the good ideas it contained — a heightened emphasis and tighter focus on healthy aging activities — will resurface. With the selection of the highly respected Lilliam Barrios-Paoli to lead DFTA, the provider community and advocates have high hopes for a constructive dialogue over how to make our senior centers better address the challenges of a graying New York.

To be ready for these changes Project FIND has embarked upon several initiatives to increase our ability to reach new audiences, use data to drive program development, and to restructure our healthy aging activities. First is a complete overhaul of our website, to be unveiled later in the spring. The new site will be easier for community members and seniors to navigate and will be full of exciting news about the classes, activities, and topical issues as well as an extensive list of resources for seniors and caregivers. We have also installed at the Hamilton and Woodstock centers state of the art software specifically designed for senior centers. Unlike the DFTA mandated data collection programs, My Senior Center, will allow us to fully track individual use data across activities and to analyze macro-trends and patterns. Finally we are refining the structure of several of our core healthy aging activities — strength training, tai chi, yoga, dance — so that each will contain appropriate progress benchmarks for participants. More on that later.

If you would like to get a better glimpse of the people who make up Project FIND, please call or write at any time. We want to get to know you better too. Thank you for your commitment and support, and I look forward to seeing you at our Annual Gala on Monday, June 8th. ■

DAVID GILLCRIST



MISSION STATEMENT

Founded in 1969, Project FIND's mission is to provide low- and moderate-income and homeless seniors with the services and support they need to enrich their lives and live independently for as long as possible.

Today, Project FIND operates three supportive housing residences that are home to almost 600 persons and five senior centers with over 2,500 members.

Our residents and members range from the healthy and active to the frail and homebound to the homeless. For all of these men and women, Project FIND is a critical resource, providing housing, meals, and programs that help seniors navigate the challenges of aging by encouraging community engagement and healthy living.

**Annual Dinner
for Hamilton and Hargrave Seniors**

Thanks to the generosity of Mary Tyler Moore, 90 seniors enjoyed a sumptuous dinner at the famed restaurant Sambuca on West 72nd Street in Manhattan.

The annual celebration is one of the most highly-anticipated events on Project FIND's calendar, and would not be possible without the generous support of Ms. Moore. ■

top: Coffeehouse member Phylis Hilliard enjoys a quiet moment of reflection.

bottom: Rodrigo Rodriguez relaxes at the Coffeehouse Senior Center, a welcoming retreat from wintry weather.

Inauguration Day at Project FIND: An Historic Day in Words and Pictures



Woodstock Senior Center was especially crowded on the morning of January 21, 2009, where Project FIND had erected a large screen to televise the Inaugural proceedings. As the ceremony began, a hush fell over the room, in a moment filled with special poignancy and pride. Many of Project FIND's seniors, especially those at the Woodstock, have experienced discrimination and racism, hunger and homelessness, and perhaps most insidious, a pervasive sense that they just were not capable enough to reach their aspirations. The inauguration of Barack Obama as the forty-fourth President of the United States has been a resounding message to all those who were told they "couldn't" that in fact they "can."

"What a relief," sighed Joanna, a member of our Woodstock Center. "I love President Obama and his whole beautiful family. Electing Obama is like winning the lottery!" KM, who was also present that morning, said it was a good day for all of us. "Obama represents change," she said. "His message is 'stop complaining, get out there and make a difference.'" Ismael spoke of the experience as "once in a lifetime. Burnell said it was "an important historic moment, not just in the United States, but globally."

Everyone commented that so many would not have been able to see the Inauguration if Project FIND had not televised the ceremonies in its senior centers. Israel, a longtime Woodstock resident, said "It's the only way that homeless people even knew what was going on."

The Inauguration was also broadcast at our other four senior centers. At the Hargrave Center, in particular, there was a steady stream of people coming in from the street just to catch a glimpse of the proceedings — people of all ages passing by and drawn in by that day's freeflowing sense of excitement and joy.

The excitement may have leveled off in the weeks since the Inauguration,

and now we are all hard at work to bring about the kind of change of which President Obama speaks. "It's a long road, perhaps even a slippery slope," said a staff member who asked to remain anonymous. "We've all been dreaming for years that 'change is gonna come.' Now we just have to stick together and make sure that happens." ■



How YOU Can Help



tough economic times like these, the support of friends and neighbors like you is more important than ever for neighborhood-based agencies like Project FIND. We have been

providing housing and services to the elderly on Manhattan's west side since 1969. Every dollar you contribute makes a difference:

- \$25 enables four seniors to receive an aromatherapy treatment.
- \$50 pays for a restorative yoga class for ten seniors.
- \$75 provides strength training instruction

for fifteen seniors.

- \$100 provides an evening meal for ten homeless elders.
- \$250 enables four seniors to attend summer camp in 2009.

Won't you take a moment now to make a contribution, for whatever amount you deem appropriate? We promise that your donation will go a long way in helping the men and women we serve stay happy and healthy. Thank you very much for your generous support. ■



FIND Aid for the Aged, Inc.
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 New York, NY 10023

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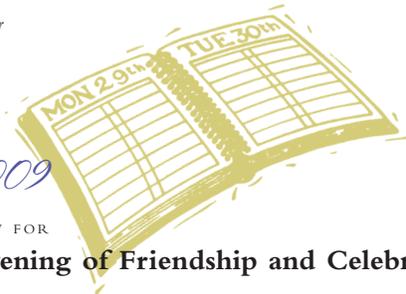
DAVID GILLCRIST, *Executive Director*
 DIANE MAGNUSON, *Editor*

Spring 2009

Monday, June 8, 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR

We Are Family: An Evening of Friendship and Celebration



R E S I D E N C E S

The Hamilton
 141 West 73rd Street
 New York, NY 10023
 (212) 595-3385

The Hargrave
 111 West 71st Street
 New York, NY 10023
 (212) 579-7881

The Woodstock
 127 West 43rd Street
 New York, NY 10036
 (212) 730-1442

C E N T E R S

Clinton Senior Center
 530 West 55th Street
 New York, NY 10019
 (212) 757-2026

Coffeehouse Senior Center
 551 Ninth Avenue
 New York, NY 10018
 (212) 947-5466

Hamilton Senior Center
 141 West 73rd Street
 New York, NY 10023
 (212) 787-7710

Hargrave Senior Center
 111 West 71st Street
 New York, NY 10023
 (212) 580-0888

Woodstock Senior Center
 127 West 43rd Street
 New York, NY 10036
 (212) 575-0693

Your Support Counts

Thousands of elders are able to enjoy a wide range of services through Project FIND, from housing to recreation, from counseling to day trips. But, many of our programs rely entirely on private support. Please consider making a gift today. Your donation will help ensure that Project FIND can continue to meet the growing needs of seniors on Manhattan's west side.