



Jefferson Market Garden News

Volume 9, Number 2

Winter 2009

I wonder if leaves feel lonely when they see their neighbors falling.

—John Muir

THE TALK OF THE TOWN. The **Harvest Festival** in October traditionally closes the Garden's seasonal program for children. This year's event, organized as always by the incomparable **Mary Giannusa**, JMG's Director of Children's Festivals, was boffo!

Proudly supporting the Garden and the community, our friends at **Citarella** provided a lawnful of kid-size pumpkins to decorate. **Julie Averill** from **Kids at Work** joined Mary and a JMG crew to help our pint-sized gang of Festival fans create amazing crafts. The "two-faced" pumpkin and macaroni-and-leaf necklaces were VERY BIG this year. Wow-Wow!

Our volunteers set up and "struck the set" at day's end as a parade of happy kids, pumpkins and crafts in hand, drifted out the gates after taking one last roll on a bale of straw. A hearty round of applause to everyone involved. We invite you out there to join us as a volunteer next year for Spring and Fall Festivals: e-mail marygiann@optonline.net.

THE MORE THE MERRIER. As a bonus to the 2009 season, we were pleased to present the Garden's first-ever sculpture exhibition from October 19 to 29. "**Autumn Trees**" was created by the students of the **Village PreSchool Center** on West 10th Street as a site-specific installation for the new back bed.

The students decorated two 3 1/2-foot tall painted plywood trees with autumn ornaments they made of natural and "found" materials—in close collaboration with parents and teachers. Their artistry in celebrating Mother Nature's spectacular Fall beauty was a singular gift to the Garden and the community. A special shout-out to Heads of School **Jeff Ramsay** and **Suzette Burdette**, who conceived and proposed this project, and to Coordinator **Nadia Jona**.

WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE? was the question each time we bumped umbrellas with concerned Garden Friends during the Great Wet of 2009.

It took patience and careful planning from Horticulturist **Susan Sipos** and the JMG Green Team of gardening volunteers to cope with the bacterial and fungal infections that repeatedly brought rot and ruin to our annuals. "Most of these plants are native to South Africa," Sipos said. "So it is no mystery that they did not thrive in the coolest, wettest summer in memory." She added that the volume of rain also made the natural and organic solutions used here to treat these problems less effective.

Finally, happily, after several costly replantings, the weather dried and warmed sufficiently for the remaining annuals to take hold. They began to hit their stride in August and had a good bloom well into Fall, including a rebloom of several fragrant roses.

Were the perennials adversely affected? "Perennials are more deeply rooted," Sipos said, "and so are much better equipped to handle changes in weather." And the trees? A few are "on watch." Stay tuned.

PRETTY IN PINK. On a cold day in August, we had a small revelation as we gazed at the rose bed with its underplanting of geraniums. There is one color, we realized, in one flower or another, one hue that is eye-catching,

no matter the month. We smiled as Kay Thompson's advice in "Funny Face" came to mind: "Banish the black, burn the blue, and bury the beige. From now on, girls, think pink!"

Of course. We rushed to Sipos to check our list of the pleasing "pinks" that have graced the Garden this season. Here it is, starting with the roses:

Our English lovelies Mary Rose, Gertrude Jekyll, and the peachy pink Abraham Darby; plus The McCartney Rose (donated by **Paul's** designing daughter **Stella**), Aloha (on the arbor), Knockout (at the front gate), New Dawn (on the 6th Avenue fence), and, not least, the dainty pink but tough-as-nails Fairy Rose bushes at the base of the same fence that **Nancy Pasley** has worn out several pair of sturdy gloves pruning!

More 2009 pinks: begonias, cosmos, dianthus, gazania, geraniums, hydrangea (lace cap and oak leaf—as it stops at rose on its way from cream to rust), impatiens, magnolia, mandevilla (the vine on the Greenwich Avenue fence in Fall), peonies, petunias, verbena.

There may be others we have missed, but our list proves one thing: Whatever else you plant, always, ALWAYS add that touch of pink!

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We thank all of our Friends who have reached out to support the Garden in this challenging time. We also thank all of our volunteers, without whom we could not operate. Blessings to each of you in this season of light and hope. Whether we decorate our homes with a Menorah, a Christmas tree or just a warm glow, we rejoice with our friends in the gifts we treasure most: joy, peace and love.

*It has turned cold.
The mountains grow more vast and more blue.
The Autumn waterfalls are louder.
I take my cane and go out the gate for a walk.
I can hear the last crickets
Singing in the chilly evening.
I am happy.*

--Wang Wei

Poems from the Chinese translated by
Kenneth Rexroth

Send a Living Gift. If you wish to make a living holiday gift donation in the name of someone dear to you for the support of the plants and trees of the Jefferson Market Garden, we will mail a handwritten holiday card to the recipient of your choice to convey your greeting and thoughtfulness. Please send the recipient's name and address by December 12 with your tax-deductible contribution to:

Jefferson Market Garden, 70A Greenwich Ave., PMB 372, New York, NY 10011.

Or Become a JMG Godparent. For a donation of \$500 or more, you can join the JMG Godparents, whose gifts support a summer aide each year. You will receive the garden book of the year, **PLANTHROPOLOGY**, by Ken Druse, with custom bookplate, courtesy of Clarkson Potter/Publishers, a division of Random House.

Visit us on line at **JeffersonMarketGarden.org**.

Village Committee for the Jefferson Market Area, Inc.

Our latest annual report may be obtained, upon request, from the Office of the Attorney General, Charities Bureau, 120 Broadway, New York, NY 10271.