



newsletter

January 1, 2012
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www.mrhsny.org

President: Rita Marie Pullium
Executive Director: Ronald Bruno

Hands Across the Street

On **Saturday, January 14**, the Morningside Gardens Community Relations Committee and the Grant Houses Residents' Association will hold their 18th Annual "Hands Across the Street" celebration and dinner at **7:00 PM in the Recreation Center of 100 La Salle Street**. For admission, please bring a dish to feed at least 4 people. It can be an appetizer, main dish or dessert. Dance or just enjoy jazz at its best provided by the Swing Tones and led by Albert Sheldon of Bldg. 4.

"The Hands Across the Street" event celebrates the 18 years that Morningside Gardens and Grant Houses have worked together for community betterment and friendship. This event is held yearly at Morningside or Grant Houses and is an important event for our two complexes.

So cook up (or purchase) your favorite dish and come enjoy yourself with new friends and old.

Joan Levine, Co-Chair
Morningside Gardens
Community Relations Committee

Technology For You

The next **techNet meeting** will be on the subject of **Internet Buying**. The date is **Thursday, January 19, 2012 at 7:30 PM** in the MRHS Tuttle Center. There will be information presented on buying through major ecommerce sites such as Amazon and overstock.com, as well as buying through major "brick & mortar" retailers' websites such as Macy's, Target or JC Penny. Registering with the sites, storing credit card information on the sites, and utilizing Gift Codes and Promo Codes will all be covered. Building II resident **Robert Marcus** will lead the discussion.

**** MRHS would like to thank the following sponsors of the Silent Auction that took place during the MRHS Flea Market in November. We appreciate your generosity!*

Appletree Market
Eden Salon and Spa
Robert Marcus
Anne Canty
Deluxe Restaurant
Suzy Fraser
Massawa Restaurant
Columbia Opticians
Fairway Market
Garden of Eden
MRHS Circle of Hands
Len Costa
International Wine
Kamu Kamadoli
Marlo Du Boulay
Mary Davidson
Kitchenette
Le Monde Restaurant
Susan Miller
Nikko Restaurant
Nussbaum & Wu
Pisticci Restaurant
Settepani Restaurant
University Housewares
Estate of Jeanne Felker
Bettolona Restaurant

**** It's not too late to help your community! MRHS is still accepting donations to our annual fund drive. Join the list of nearly 200 donors included as an insert in this Newsletter! ****

Director's Column

Muriel Petioni, M.D.

Former MRHS Board member, Dr. Muriel Petioni, passed away on December 6 at the age of 97 at Calvary Hospital Hospice. Dr. Petioni served on the MRHS Board from 2000 to 2006 and was also a former member of the MHHC Board.

Dr. Petioni was a remarkable person, an African-American woman who earned a medical degree from Howard University in the 1930's and then served her Harlem community for over seven decades, mostly at Harlem Hospital. Towards the end of her life she was the recipient of many honors, including the highest honorary degree from Barnard College and a spread as a "hero" in the NY Daily News. She was a role model to many. I had the privilege of interviewing Dr. Petioni at length in 2001 to learn more about her background, the video of which was used for many years as a teaching tool at the Columbia University School of Social Work.

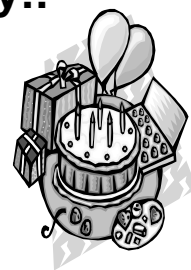
Dr. Petioni was an avid supporter of MRHS, for example coming to the MRHS Legacies fundraising event at the Fashion Institute of Technology on a cold April night in 2010. She was also full of constructive criticism for MRHS, having suggestions for improvements as recently as a few months ago. Every time you use the handrail just outside the MRHS Tuttle Center office, you can thank Dr. Petioni, whose idea it was.

I attended Dr. Petioni's funeral service at Riverside Church. The nave was filled with friends and family of Dr. Petioni. Speakers included Representative Charles Rangel, Assembly Member Keith Wright, Rev. Calvin Butts, Rev. James Forbes and the dean of the Howard University Medical School. All told of how they relied on Dr. Petioni's ongoing guidance and advice, which was not her wont to withhold!

Dr. Petioni will be sorely missed by the Morningside Gardens community and by MRHS.

Happy January Birthday!!

To: Judith Anderson, Sandra Czajkowski, Joy Cooke, Shirley Davidson, Ann Foshay, Hsin-Pao Han, Paul Haskins, Beatrice Hawkins, Florence Keller, Ruth Kivette, Lydia La Fleur, Beulah Lawless, Chun Fan Mao, Fritzi Martin, Ruther Miller, Marion Rothenberg, Gloria Robotham, Edward Rosenblum, and Juanita White.



Do you have a friend, relative, or neighbor in the Gardens who is having a birthday this month? Come and celebrate with MRHS!

People with birthdays in January are all invited to our Birthday Party! Come on **Tuesday, January 17** at **12:30 PM**. MRHS provides coffee, tea, and birthday cake.

Saturday Afternoon Movies

Jan. 7 *Biutiful* (2010) 2 hrs., 28 min.

Javier Bardem stars in a Spanish-language drama set in Barcelona. An engrossing character study of a troubled man dealing with the awareness of his own mortality. With English subtitles.

Jan. 14 *Good Night, and Good Luck* (2005)

1 hr, 33 min. About the determination of the famous CBS newsman Edward R. Murrow as he exposes the tactics of the red-baiting Joseph McCarthy. David Strathairn stars and George Clooney directs.

Jan. 21 *Camille* (1936) 1 hr, 49 min.

A good example of George Cukor's skill in handling women characters. This famous love story, set in 19th-century Paris, stars Greta Garbo and Robert Taylor.

Jan. 28 *Changeling* (2008) 2 hrs, 22 min.

Angelina Jolie plays the mother of a kidnapped boy who has returned but whom she does not believe to be her son. Clint Eastwood directed this suspenseful account of her harrowing experience, based on real events.

Movies start at 2:00 PM. Please arrive early. Contribution is \$1.00.

Just a Reminder

Tuesday Lunch – Bring a lunch and join us for terrific conversation every **Tuesday at 12:30 PM** in the Tuttle Center.

MRHS Sing-Along –Come to the Sing-Along every **Tuesday at 1:00 PM**.

MRHS Office Hours – The following is the MRHS Tuttle Center schedule:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
9 – 6 9 – 6 9 – 6 9 – 6 9 – 6

Nurse's Hours – Marie Phillips' schedule:

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday
9 – 5 9 – 5 9 – 5 9 – 5 9 – 5

Hypertension Screening –Alternate Wednesdays from 9:00 to 11:00 AM

Next on January 4, January 18

The Fairway Shuttle departs from the bus shelter near 90 La Salle St., Mondays at 1:00 PM and Fridays at 10:00 AM.

Nurse Marie Phillips' "Take Charge of Your Health" group will this month on **Thursday, January 19 at 2:30 PM** in the Tuttle Center.

"Later Life Transitions" group meets this month on **Thursday, January 5 at 3:00 PM** in the Tuttle Center.

The **MRHS Book Club's** next meeting will be take place on Wednesday, January 11 at 3:00 PM in the Tuttle Center. The discussion is on the novel, **My Antonia** by Willa Cather. All are welcome to participate.

MRHS is closed on Monday, January 2 for the New Year Holiday and on Monday, January 16 for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Best Wishes for a Happy New Year from the staff and Board of MRHS!

MRHS on Facebook!

MRHS invites residents to 'like' us on Facebook. Our page is frequently updated and we welcome the community's participation.

Computer Lessons

Do you have computer questions or are just interested in learning more? MRHS social work intern, **John Jacob** will be offering one on one computer lessons on Mondays between 10:00 AM and 12:00. Please contact MRHS to schedule an appointment.

MRHS Cluster Care Services

Shopping, Laundry and Personal Care Services are available to Morningside Gardens residents over the age of 60. Every Tuesday the MRHS Health Aide does shopping for people who need assistance. On Thursdays, the Health Aide will do your laundry. Just call Marie Phillips at the Nurse's Office (212-666-2050) one day before you would like the services. On the day you requested the service, the Health Aide will call you to let you know what time she will be at your apartment.

Publication of the Newsletter is made possible by a grant from Columbia Community Services.

For Your Information

If you have information that you think will be useful to Morningside Gardens' residents and you want it announced, please send the information to the MRHS office by the third Friday of the month (i.e. Friday, January 20). Please print clearly or type all information that you want included in the Newsletter. *

***Due to space limitations, it may not be possible to include all information submitted.**

“Mrs. Farnsworth”

Review by **Anne Leo Ellis**

The Morningside Players' first production of the year, “Mrs. Farnsworth” by the prolific American playwright A. R. Gurney, spoke once again to the skills of a group that for years has been a much-loved feature of life at Morningside Gardens. HAPPY THIRTIETH ANNIVERSARY, MORNINGSIDE PLAYERS! May you have many more!

The entire one-act play happens in front of a classroom, the audience serving as the class. As its title suggests, the play centers (in an engaging performance by Cecelia Riddett), on Mrs. Farnsworth, a middle-aged Connecticut woman of elite WASP heritage who has enrolled in a writing course at a New York City university in order to write her first book. Gordon Bell, the lecturer (given extraordinary life and vitality by Josh Banks), concludes from her vague statements that the book will be about her brief (and, as it turns out, scandal-ridden) friendship with someone who, from her description, could only be George W. Bush, the current president. This she steadily denies until it is no longer possible to do so. Bell, avid opponent of the Bush regime, is ecstatic at this chance to undermine it, and plans to do all he can to see that the book gets written and, hopefully, published well before the upcoming elections.

Mrs. Farnsworth lets herself be caught up in Bell's plan until her husband undercuts it, suggesting that her actions are a complete betrayal of her WASP heritage in their vicious attack on a decent person of similar background. Very surprisingly she capitulates, completely giving up on the book. Farnsworth (Stephen Bradbury, convincing in his role as perfect WASP gentleman and deeply devoted husband), thus saves his wife from being “badgered by the press, . . . joked-about on late-night television, and ultimately dismissed as some Connecticut Paula Jones.” She, however, informs him—perhaps playfully—that she once spent what appears to have been an

(continued above right)

intimate football weekend with John Kerry at Yale—and found him highly appealing. Ouch! Thus ends the play.

Becca Landis, Emme Bonilla, and Patrick Mahaney deftly portrayed several of the students in the audience. The roles were so well done that one wished they might have been a little more extensive. Members of the backstage staff (Patrick Mahaney—Sound and Lights; Mike Mahaney—Set Execution; and Karen Lashinsky—Set Design), lived up to their usual care and competence. Finally, our thanks to Director Susannah Frazer and Assistant Director Bridget Leicester for their imaginative and thoughtful presentation.

Research On Improving Memory

The **Family Studies Research Center** at the **Mount Sinai School of Medicine** is conducting a research study of healthy cognition in aging. The study will assess two computerized cognitive training programs, to see if they are effective at improving memory and attention. Individuals age 85 and older with minimal memory problems and regular access to a computer with internet access are eligible to participate.

Participants will be visited by research staff. In visit one, participants will complete memory and thinking tasks and will use the computer program for the first time. They will then use the program every other day, for 24 sessions (the program takes no more than 1 hour per week). In visit two (after the program is complete) and visit three (4 months after visit two), participants will again complete the memory and thinking tasks.

If you have any questions, or are interested in participating, please contact Rebecca West at 212-659-5603. You can also contact Ms. West at Rebecca.west@mssm.edu.

***“Ancora Imparo”* Michelangelo is supposed to have said on the occasion of his 87th birthday. “I am still learning.”**
