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RING News

In Cooperation with Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School

Summer, 2005 issue

Volume 16 Issue 3

Riverside-Inwood Neighborhood Garden, RING, is located at the confluence of Riverside, Dyckman, Broadway, and Seaman Ave.

Butterfly Festival and Potluck Dinner Sunday, August 14



Our butterflies have never let us down. They come around this time of year, in the hottest, muggiest afternoons. Sometimes we have as many as 10 butterfly species, including swallowtails, painted ladies, red admirals, and monarchs. They feed on the nectar of the butterfly bushes (those with lilac blossoms).

So come on out and enjoy an afternoon at RING - 2 to 6 pm Sunday, August 14 and bring your camera!

We will immediately follow this with a **Potluck Dinner**. What's a potluck dinner? It's a way to get to know your fellow RING members and neighbors by preparing dishes, bringing beverages (non-alcoholic), and desserts to share. So that we end up with a rough balance of main dishes and salads, beverages and desserts, please contact Martia at 212-569-2030 to tell her what you're planning to bring.

See you at 6pm on Sunday!



If you have an idea for an event and would like to work with a member of RING's Board on it, please let Maggie know (212-567-8272) or email her at mclarke@hunter.cuny.edu. See more —>

CRAFTS IN THE GARDEN

An event by Liz Popiel

FALL CRAFT WORKSHOP:

Sat., September 10th — 2pm sharp* to 5pm.

Come join us for an afternoon of beadwork and nature crafts. Participants can make a traditional **wall decoration**, press a **flower** and make a piece of **jewelry**. No experience is necessary. This workshop is for adults but may work with their child over 12 on a project. The workshop is free but donations toward materials will be accepted. There will also be some free take home literature with instructions AND light refreshment. This workshop is being run by artist/designer Elizabeth Popiel who curates ART IN THE GARDEN each year [project choices subject to change based on materials availability.]

(Crafts — Continued on page 4)

What's Inside

Want RING to be open more?	Page 2
RING's Trees for Inwood project	Page 3
RING Wins Award!	Page 3
Renew Your Membership	Page 4

Want RING to be open more?

This year we have had a great Flea Market in May, and a wonderful Art in the Garden in June. August is Butterfly Festival Month, and we have a Crafts Workshop planned for September and our Fall Flea Market and Plant Sale in October. But there are some gardens downtown that have 100 events a year! Can you imagine?

Planning and bringing about these events made us think about how we at RING could and should hold more public and semi private gatherings. The possibilities are endless: live music, plays, poetry readings, teaching workshops, children's activities, exhibitions, bible studies, potluck dinners, small birthday parties or celebrations, craft workshops, regularly scheduled events are also possible such as yoga classes, tenants or co-op board meetings, Tai Chi, training sessions etc. The list could go on and on but you get the idea.

RING is a place where you can hold any Not for Profit event without incurring usage fees. The RING Garden is public space on City Parks Land, and so we are not permitted to charge a fee for anything

held in the garden. You may ask for a donation or a suggested donation for RING where appropriate.

Now we get to the technical part. Private gatherings are not permitted. The gates must be open whenever you are holding an event in the garden. Small organized gatherings of less than 20 people do not require a permit from The Parks Department. These should be cleared with the RING Board well in advance to avoid conflicts. You would do advertising, though we could send out an email to RING members if you give us a blurb. For events where over 20 people expected to attend (including those who wander in), a permit is required from The Parks Department. These must include rain dates and be submitted for approval at least (6) weeks prior to the event. Contact a RING Board member for more information on how to hold a large event.

Another reason for holding events? Parks insists that we be open at least 10 hours a week.

If you have an event idea, please contact Maggie 212-567-8272 or mclarke@hunter.cuny.edu

RING's Open Hours for 2005

Historically, we've had the garden open Saturday mornings and one to three evenings per week during the growing season, weather permitting. Parks Dept requires us to keep it open at least 10 hours per week. Of course, keyholders can open the garden whenever they want. It's really a fun habit to get into. You can bring the newspaper, or enjoy a cup of coffee with neighbors. We just ask that at least one gate be left open

and that you write down your name / time you were there in the volunteer log in the bench under the arbor.

So far, this year's schedule is:

Saturday Mornings 10 - 12
Tuesday Evenings 6:30 - dusk

If you'd like to help us keep RING open during these or different times, please stop by and introduce yourself!

Street Trees for Inwood

by Maggie Clarke



Last time we told you about RING's Green Links grant to plant 25 new street trees to provide canopy for Inwood's commercial streets. We have learned more about the process and we are gearing up to move forward in Fall to get those trees.

We urgently need volunteers to help make the initial contacts with businesses to secure their permission for Parks to dig tree pits and plant the trees. We have a simple one-page Parks Dept. form for the businesses to fill out. Once Parks Dept. finishes its survey of all of the places they can legally plant trees, they will supply us with addresses of businesses to contact. We are looking for volunteers to cover one or more blocks of Dyckman St. (from Broadway to Nagle), Sherman (from Broadway to 207th), and Broadway (from Dyckman to 207th). We have wonderful color flyers from Trees NY to give to businesses about how great trees are for their businesses and how to care for them. This grant contributes towards purchase of a wide format color printer so we can prepare flyers to introduce the business to RING and our street trees project.

Once we have secured 25 approvals, we can work with Parks to select tree species with wide canopies, great fall color, and/or spring flowers and schedule when they can be planted. **Won't this be GREAT?**



Use your Keys!
Keep RING Open!
 and remember to record your garden sitting time in the Volunteer Log in the Storage bench under the arbor

A very important part of this project is ongoing care of street trees. Most street trees die before they have been in the ground 3 years. We want our trees not only to survive but thrive. Research has shown that a canopy of street trees actually lowers crime and calms a chaotic neighborhood. It also brings us all closer to nature that we so desperately need in this concrete world.

Andy Woods, Principal of Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School is working with RING to create a way for his student volunteers to coordinate with the businesses to prevent damage to the trees (often by dogs, people walking in the tree pits, garbage, etc), and to foster good health and growth by helping businesses with watering, fertilization, removing impediments to rain infiltration, and decompaction of the tree pit soil. Thanks, Andy and students of OLQM for your help, not only with this, but also black & white photocopying of this and previous RING News and event flyers.

If you already know of a business on Dyckman, Broadway or Sherman that would want one or more street trees, would you please let us know?

If you would like to help us establish contact with businesses by surveying one or more blocks, please get in touch with Maggie: 212-567-8272 or mclarke@hunter.cuny.edu

RING Wins 2005 New Yorkers for Better Neighborhoods Award

Citizens for NYC has awarded RING a grant to help us get a color printer and supplies to increase its outreach to neighborhood residents about RING and its events. If you would like some RING brochures for your group, color event flyers for your building or business, or would like to hand some out at events or on street corners, please let us know.



RING
c/o M. Clarke
1795 Riverside Dr. #5F
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FIRST CLASS



**Butterfly
Festival**

RING NEWS

www.ringgarden.org

Page 4

Summer, 2005

Time to Renew Your Membership?

RING survives and thrives on support from Members Like You! Our annual expenses include \$350 for garden liability insurance, PLUS hundreds more for over a dozen flats of annuals, perennials and evergreens to replace those lost in winter, replacing tools, fish food, fertilizer, new signs, polyurethaning the benches, spring bulbs, locks, keys, mailing this newsletter, you name it! We also have larger projects, such as repairing the sprinkler / watering system.

(Crafts — continued from page 1)

*Please be prompt if you want to participate. Instructions cannot be repeated (in order to stay within tight time frame.

Though we sometimes get grants, it is not enough to cover all our expenses. We have kept the basic membership at \$10 to encourage everyone to renew. Please take this opportunity to do so now. Ask for a key if you want one. You'll feel all warm and fuzzy inside to know you're supporting your garden.

Please visit the garden or go to www.ringgarden.org for a membership form.



Please Remember
to give us your new email
when you change email ad-
resses or you'll miss out
on important announcements!