Celebrate Community’s Homecoming

With our new Senior Minister, Reverend Peggy Clarke

Join us for Homecoming Service
Sunday, September 8 at 11 a.m.
MEMBERS OUT AND ABOUT THIS SUMMER

This June I was honored to receive the lifetime achievement award for “amazing glass work and teaching” from the SGAA (The Stained Glass Association of America.)

Best of all were the words accompanying the presentation by Sister Ann Kelly, “Ellen Mandelbaum is a artist who came to stained glass bringing her unique, gestural expression and boundless enthusiasm with her and who has now spent decades inspiring us all.” Sister Kelly then quoted Sam Halstead who had submitted the following: “Ellen Mandelbaum is an artist who has a very individualized approach to stained glass and, as such, one of the innovators of our time - a true original. Her work is very gestural, very nuanced, and very expressive.

She is not a traditionalist. Not a copyist or an imitator. She makes marks with feeling. She puts herself on the glass canvas. She absorbs what feels good to her from the work of others, and then creates something new - an art never before seen.

“Like most glass artists of the 70’s and 80’s, Ellen studied with the contemporary German masters who were widely influential at the time. Ellen came through all that emphatically expressing her own feelings rather than imitating others. Her work is from the heart. It is from her own life. In a medium which still has one foot planted firmly in the past, Ellen has always been stepping out and finding new directions. She has been moving forward in her own way, with no regard to history or trends. Because of this, I believe she should be appreciated, and honored, as a treasure of our time.”

I was not only honored but totally surprised because the first time I heard about it, I was innocently eating my dessert at the awards dinner and noticed the speaker was calling me to the platform. Of course this was immensely gratifying because my major life’s work has been making unique, creative stained glass installations for churches, synagogues and even an Aquarium building geographically ranging from South Carolina, to Minneapolis, to Hawaii.

If you’ve been coming to the receptions at the church’s Gallery35 you might not know about my stained glass because I’ve mostly been exhibiting water colors. However, if you look towards the left as you enter the Hall Of Worship you’ll see a long series of horizontal windows under the balcony and, at the center, a beautiful blue stained glass window. This is the Mc Knight Memorial Window made by me as my gift to the church.

~ Ellen Mandelbaum

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SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS
1 Michelle Asencio
2 Jeannette Juanita Gilmore
3 Carol Apicella
4 Molly Scott
5 Rev. Dr. Hope Johnson
6 Dr. Janice Marie Johnson
7 David Asencio
8 Jil Novenski
9 Marvin Carlson
10 Robert McNatt
11 Kay Xanthakos
12 Heriberto Rosario
13 Christopher Asencio
14 Samuel Gale

HOMECOMING . . .

Home in the 30s was our small Bronx apartment
Home was where Mommy and Daddy were
Home was High School with great teachers
Home was riding the subway to NYU
Home was the many classrooms I taught in
Home was Mesones Street in San Miguel
Home is the Manhattan that nurtures me
Home is CCNY that focuses me
to question, to reason and to
be comforted . . .

Sandy Brooks
July 16, 2019

Members Out And About This Summer --continued on page 3
A Beginning: By Olivia Legan (granddaughter of Reena Kondo)  
(For Her White Coat Ceremony as she entered Medical School)

Always in awe of how the human body functions  
talks within itself, fights back, adapts, knows, falters

Always in awe of how families weather the worst days  
of how I’ve been welcomed and trusted  
of how sickness forces everything on the table

Always angered by how the burden of disease is heaviest  
on those who already shoulder so much more:  
illness taking hold and growing, quietly

Never doubting that I’m in the right place  
to be thrust into wonder again and again  
to adapt, know and not know, fight back for those  
who already shoulder so much more

Reena Kondo’s granddaughter is a very talented writer who just started  
Medical School in August. Congratulations to Olivia and family!

Community Church or NY ~ Church Council Recap

Hello from members of the Community Church of NY Church Council – Jody Leight, chair; Kevin Maxwell, Michelle Asencio, David Asencio and Anna-Lisa Hofgren. Valerie Lynch, Esther Rosado, Reena Kondo, Louise Brown and Brenda Shrobe join our meetings as well.

We met at the end of May and made plans for the coming year. Our meeting schedule is as follows — 8/28, 9/10, 10/8, 11/12, 1/14, 3/10 and 5/12. Meetings are open to all and we start at 6:30 pm.

The Council will be working closely with Rev. Peggy Clarke on her Installation service to be held on Sunday, October 27, at 4 pm. Leonore Tiefer is working with the Council to assist in the organization of the service.

Going forward we will continue to create, help organize and assist with all-church events. Think Seder, concerts, seminars, speakers, movies, women's group, social justice etc.

If you are interested in helping with our program and supporting committees; if you have an idea for a program or or regular activity that you are willing to help organize, or if you have a suggestion for new ways to structure volunteer work, please contact Jody Leight at j_cyberbunny@yahoo.com. You do not have to be a voting member to join a program and support a committee. Volunteers are always needed for the shelter, ushers and greeters, and hospitality.

We will also support new committees in the coming year or two. As we work with Rev. Peggy Clarke and our community, we will weigh interest and commitment before instituting a committee with charter, chair and members.

No matter what your schedule is like, there are plenty of ways to get involved at Community Church and the Council is ready to help you do just that!
Jonathan Hampton – Combat Medic – Djibouti, Africa

Jonathan Hampton (son of Helene Summa and the late Wade Hampton) was deployed with the Army Reserves to Djibouti in support of Operation Enduring Freedom – Horn of Africa. He mobilized out of Texas in April and met his unit in Djibouti in early May. He is attached to the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion as a combat medic. His team’s missions include English Discussion Groups, installing solar panel lights at a refugee center and other humanitarian missions. While deployed, he participated in a medical exchange with the Japanese Defense Forces, obtained the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge and has recently graduated from the Army Basic Leadership Course to promote to the rank of Sergeant. His expected return date is early next year.
Big Celebration in the Bronx

On June 17, 2019, we finally got to celebrate Fatoumata’s asylum victory along with Fanta’s college graduation and 23rd birthday. Quite a few from Community Church made it to Fatoumata’s apartment in the Bronx, laden with cakes and fruit and side dishes to go along with Fatou’s African chicken and rice. It was so great to be together and congratulate this family on huge strides forward.

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CER and DRUUMM ~ New York City Area Gathering UU People of Color were invited to attend the annual summer meeting and luncheon, hosted again by Community Church on June 1.
A sizeable and enthusiastic group gathered in the Gallery on June 21 to celebrate Juneteenth, an event honoring the 128 years delayed notification of Texans of the end of the Civil War and the Emancipation Proclamation. The Juneteenth event has been held at Community Church for many years. George Duckett and Rose Crayton were the co-hosts this year and shared the m.c. role. There was generous food, including a main course of green salad, roast chicken, rice, collard greens and homemade corn bread thanks to the efforts of Fay Bennett-Lord and George Duckett; the guests supplied numerous beverages and delicious desserts.

The guest speaker this year was Roger Wareham, a human rights defense attorney and activist whom Rose has known for many years. In relating the injustices that precipitated Juneteenth celebration with those that remain today, Mr. Wareham, a graduate of Harvard University and Columbia Law, drew from his forty years of activism that included being a member of The December 12th Movement; a role as the International Secretary-General of the International Association Against Torture (AICT); lead attorney in historic lawsuits filed in the United States Federal District Courts in 2002 suing private corporations for reparations due the descendants of enslaved Africans in the United States, and a phase as the defense attorney for the three of the five “Central Park Five.”

The formal part of the program began with Rose Crayton pouring libations, a West African tradition, followed by some musical selections, the most memorable being Rose’s solo rendition of “Deep River” accompanied by Lois Ross. The final part of the formal program was attorney Wareham’s one hour lecture including questions and answers. The Community Church of NY staff (Ameer Ali) delivered the heated buffet supper promptly at 7:00 pm. Following the supper, the informal, open mic portion of the celebration took place where George Duckett, Sandy Brooks, Leslie McKenzie and Nafisa Degani presented selected literary pieces.

George Duckett welcomes Guest Speaker Roger Wareham (photo by Leonore Tiefer)
For the second year, Gallery 35 is proud to be part of the arts festival of The Community Service Society of New York (CSS)’s 2019 conference—Full Participation is a Human Right – Moving Beyond Punishment—at Community Church, October 17-19. We are presenting the work of guest artists from CSS as well as that of Gallery35 members in our social justice exhibit, WE BEND, NOT BREAK.

Artists’ Reception: September 21, 6-8 pm
Closing Reception: October 19, 6-8pm

America’s history has been faced with 400 years of perseverance starting with the Jamestown Settlement. Taking people from their homelands and placing them in shackles for the sake of sowing land is an old story but continues in other forms of bondage.

We hope this show will enlighten our visitors to the plight of African-Americans today along with Latinos, Dreamers, indigenous peoples and today’s immigrants. We have made strides from slavery to the election of the first Black President of the U.S—but there is more work to be done by changing the judicial system, education and through the arts in opening our eyes to the continued struggles and perseverance of our fellow citizens.

Twelve artists are showing works which dramatically depict both the struggles and triumphs of oppressed peoples in a variety of media and styles: Cari Clare, Denisha Wright, Pastor Isaac Scott, Jil Novenski, Jody Leight, Kevin H. Maxwell, Maureen Chen, Michael Davis, Pat Gericke, Rick Perez, Valerie Lynch, Virginia Asman.

Michael Davis’ oil on canvas, Sharecropper Family circa 1870, was painted from a reproduction of a daguerreotype or other early photographic process. Sharecropping was a form of agriculture that began mainly after the Civil War as an alternative to land grants of 40 acres and a mule in which a landowner allowed a tenant to use the land in return for a share of the crops produced on their portion of land. It was widespread in the South but fell out of favor in the mid-20th Century when mechanized farming became the dominant form of agriculture.

We are also pleased to include two thought-provoking paintings by Rick Perez—Man in a Hoodie and Woman in a Head Wrap. The hoodie has become an emotionally-charged article of clothing from its still strong association with the wrongful shooting of Trayvon Martin. This portrait of a white man wearing one resonates with some of the many contradictions that characterize our attitudes towards race in this country. A head wrap accentuates the sense of dignity of a proud woman. She looks ahead decisively and purposefully and with a sense of fearlessness in being able to confront the obstacles put in her path.

Please plan to see the exhibit and meet the artists at our festive receptions. There will also be an extra opportunity for Community Church visitors to view the exhibit on October 20th, 12:30–1:30 pm. Related events in conjunction with the CSS conference will be listed on the church’s weekly announcements during the run of the exhibit.
HERE AT COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITIES 2019

Pranayama Breathing Exercises with Nafisa
By Appointment, Chapel
Pranayama Breathing Exercises with Nafisa. By Appointment, Chapel
Learn the breathing technique which improves breathing capacity, opens the upper chest muscles, strengthens the lungs and opens air passages while releasing tension through the spine and shoulders. Requested Contribution: $20

Hatha Yoga with Nafisa Degani
Tuesdays, 6-7:30 pm / Saturdays 10:30-12 pm, Gallery
Hatha Yoga is a branch of yoga which concentrates on physical health and mental well-being. Hatha yoga uses bodily postures (asanas), breathing techniques (pranayama), and meditation (dyana) with the goal of bringing about a sound, healthy body and a clear, peaceful mind. Please bring a yoga mat to the class. Requested Contribution $20/$5 Students (No sessions on some holiday weekends)

NYC Street Singers – Most Tuesdays, 7 pm, 3rd Floor Classroom
(Often meets at local parks in pleasant weather)
The NYC Streetsingers are now doing community outreach with Sing for Hope, a volunteer artists program that performs in Healthcare facilities throughout NYC. Open to all who also believe in the transformative power of the arts to inspire and unite, please join us on Tuesday evenings. For more information/summer meeting locations, please contact clisbin25@aol.com.

First Saturday Feeding of the Hungry in the Bowery
Saturday, September 7, 10:45 am-12 pm, Offsite
We invite you to help the Sai Baba Group feed the hungry on the First Saturday of each month. We meet on Forsyth, just south of Houston at 10:45 am. Please bring vegetarian food to share with the over 100 people who come. This is an outdoor event so dress for the weather. For more information contact Valerie Lynch at vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988, ext. 126.

Art and Card Making Circle
Sunday, September 15, 1-4 pm, Front Lounge
Join us after Fellowship Hour for an afternoon of crafting fun. Create art and/or cards for holidays or other special occasions. Supplies will be provided but feel free to bring your own as well.

Gallery35 at Community
We Bend, Not Break – Opening Reception
Saturday, September 21, 6-8 pm, Gallery
Again this year, Gallery 35 is proud to be part of the arts festival of The Community Service Society of New York’s 2019 conference to be held at Community Church: Full Participation is a Human Right – Moving Beyond Punishment, October 17-19. (See page 7)

Secular Humanist Society of New York Book Club
First Thursdays, September 5, 7-8:30 pm, Front Lounge
Some of us will have dinner together afterwards at a nearby (inexpensive) restaurant. Please join us. Join us even if you haven't finished reading. The book club is open to all ... and free! Sept 6: FASCISM: A WARNING, Madeleine Albright Oct 4: What is Populism, Jan-Werner Muller Nov 1: The Righteous Mind: Why Good People are Divided by Politics and Religion, Jonathan Haidt See www.shsny.org for upcoming titles.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH – 11 am
- September 8– Homecoming Program
- September 15 – Sunday School Begins
Register now. All Children and Youth are Welcome!
Contact Estyher Rosado, DLRE, 212-683-4988 ext. 123

OPPORTUNITIES continues on page 9
HERE AT COMMUNITY

OPPORTUNITIES 2019 continued from page 8

~ Save the date ~
Sunday, October 27, 4 p.m.
Installation of our new minister,
Reverend Peggy Clarke

Governance/Committee Meetings:
Board of Trustees Meetings – 4th Wednesdays, 6 pm, Gallery
Church Council Meetings – Meets Quarterly
6:30-9 pm (next meeting – Tuesday, September 10)
Finance Committee – 3rd Wednesdays, 6 pm, Gallery
Shelter Committee – 2nd Sundays – 9:30-10:30 am
Shelter Kitchen
UN and Global Affairs Committee – 2nd Sundays, 1-2:15 pm,
Conference Room
Gallery35 at Community (Art Group) – 1st Wednesdays,
6:30-8 pm, Gallery

Other Opportunities

Join the Volunteer Choir
New Singers Welcome!
Rehearsals on most Sundays,
12:45-2 pm, Hall of Worship
Would you like to be part of our volunteer choir? If you are interested, please contact Gerald A. Brown, our Music Director
email jbrown@ccny.org or call 212-683-4988, ext. 133.

Pulit Flowers
We are setting up our Pulpit Flowers
schedule for the new church year.
Several Sundays are still available.
If you would like to order flowers in
memory of/in honor of someone special in your life,
please contact Valerie Lynch, Membership
Coordinator, vlynch@ccny.org or 212-683-4988,
ext. 126. The cost this year is $70.

Peoples' Voice Cafe – Fall 2019
at Community Church of NY, lower level
40 East 35th Street, NY, NY 10016
Most Saturdays at 8:00 pm, Assembly Hall
Doors open 7:30 pm • www.peoplesvoicecafe.org
Here’s what’s coming up:
Sept 14 : Jaeger & Reid and Lizzie Hershon & The Living Room Singers
Sept 21: Scott Cook and Such as Us
Sept 28: Rachael Sage and Ellen Bukstel
EVENTS CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

FRIDAY, AUGUST 30
Church Building Closed

SUNDAY, SEPT. 1
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
12:45 Volunteer Choir

MONDAY, SEPT. 2
Labor Day Holiday
Church Building Closed

TUESDAY, SEPT. 3
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa
7:00 NYC Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, SEPT.4
6:30 Gallery35 Meeting

THURSDAY, SEPT.5
7:00 Secular Humanist Society Book Club

FRIDAY, SEPT. 6
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class

SATURDAY, SEPT. 7
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa
6:30 Gallery35@Community hanging

SUNDAY, SEPT. 8
~ Homecoming ~
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
9:30 Shelter Meeting
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
1:00 UNGA Meeting

MONDAY, SEPT. 9
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa
6:30 Church Council
7:00 NYC Street Singers

FRIDAY, SEPT. 13
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class
4:00 Board Retreat II

SATURDAY, SEPT. 14
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, SEPT. 15
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
12:45 Volunteer Choir Rehearsal
1:00 Art & Card Making Circle

TUESDAY, SEPT. 17
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa
7:00 NYC Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, SEPT.18
6:00 Finance Committee

FRIDAY, SEPT. 20
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class

SATURDAY, SEPT. 21
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa
6:00 Gallery 35 Opening Reception
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, SEPT. 22
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
12:45 Volunteer Choir Rehearsal

TUESDAY, SEPT. 24
6:00 Yoga with Nafisa
7:00 NYC Street Singers

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 25
6:30 Board of Trustees Mtg.

FRIDAY, SEPT.27
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class

SATURDAY, SEPT. 28
10:30 Yoga with Nafisa
8:00 People’s Voice Café

SUNDAY, SEPT. 29
9:30 Choir Rehearsal
11:00 Morning Worship
11:00 Sunday School
12:15 Fellowship Hour
1:00’ Path to Membership Class

MONDAY, SEPT. 30
2:00 Nifisa’s Breathing Class

FOR MORE Adult Religious Education and Opportunities / Events see pages 8-9

Reverend Peggy Clarke, Senior Minister
Esther Rosado, Director of Lifespan Religious Education
Gerald A. Brown, Director of Music
Valerie Lynch, Membership Coordinator
Jeffrey Loveland, Finance and Operations
Reverend Bruce Southworth, Minister Emeritus

COMMUNITY connections

The Community Church of New York
Unitarian Universalist
40 East 35th Street
New York, N.Y. 10016
www.ccny.org
Tel: 212.683.4988

ISSUE: NINETY
Here At Community, Opportunities, Calendar and much more...
Deadline for October/November issue due September 4, 2019