



THE MANHATTAN MIDTOWN

The Official Newsletter of Community Board Five
Vikki Barbero, Chair

June 2010

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COMMUNITY BOARD FIVE

Dear Friends –

Splendiferous Bryant Park just keeps getting better and better. Last Monday evening I wandered over for the first of a new series called “after work music with Bill McGlaughlin.” Through June 14th, every Monday at 6pm a different jazz/classical/bluegrass/what-have-you musician or small musical ensemble will take the stage on the 6th Avenue side of the park. Last Monday, jazz singer and pianist Karrin Allyson and her quartet performed for a wonderfully appreciative crowd. You even get 10% off on the fixings at the fabulous outdoor Southwest Porch, which abuts the performance space, just by showing your program. What a wonderful way to spend an early evening in May or June in NYC – and I like New York in June, how about you?

There’s so much happening in Bryant Park this year - from Ping Pong to reading groups to free fencing (!) to that old staple, Monday night at the movies - it’s enough to make a fella fall in love.

Sincerely,
Wally Rubin
District Manager

News and Events

That’s Entertainment! - *The French Connection. Rosemary’s Baby. My Man Godfrey. 12 Angry Men.* What do these movies have in common, you ask? They’re all part of the **Summer Movie Series in Bryant Park!!** And they all have NYC as a backdrop. It’s that time of year once again to grab a blanket, pick up a bottle of wine (we didn’t say that), and park yourself on the giant lawn under the stars with your fellow New Yorkers, and mouth the words to some of Hollywood’s most memorable moments.



The fun starts on June 21st, and continues every Monday night through August 23rd. The Lawn opens at 5p so you can stake your claim to a patch of grass early, with the films starting at dusk. Watch Papillion chase the bad guys under the elevated subway tracks! Swoon over the sophisticated trappings of Fifth Avenue socialites in pre-WWII NYC!! Drool at the apartment in The Dakota where Rosemary and her *unemployed actor husband* live!!! It's fun, it's free, and for more information visit the [Bryant Park](#) website.

Take A Stab At It - The average cost of an apartment in Manhattan is \$1.7 million. (Let's hear it for the outer boroughs!) The average cost of a gym membership is \$50 a month. The average cost of a fencing lesson in Bryant Park? FREE!!! Every Friday through the month of June, [The Manhattan Fencing Center](#) offers free fencing instruction to anyone who wants it. Master teachers will guide novices in the fine art of sticking it to your opponent. No need to have your own foil and mask, because all equipment is provided. Just show up at the Fifth Avenue Terrace at 41st Street at 1pm and sign up. After a few lessons, you'll be able to impress people at parties with your ability to skewer hors d'oeuvres with class and style. For a schedule of dates, visit the [Bryant Park website](#).



Remember, It's Only A Game - Challenge your nerves, mind and patience with some good old fashioned board games! Each Wednesday night from 6:30p - 8:30p on the [Southwest Porch in Bryant Park](#), board games such as Jenga, Scattagories and Taboo are free for the asking. Sit down, order a drink (or not - it's not required!), and challenge your co-workers to bruising battles of brainiac brawn! But remember, you still have to work with them in the morning.



And You Don't Even Need A Passport - They play Baccì out in Queens, but here in Midtown, it's Pétanque! Yes, that classic Sunday afternoon favorite. (Well, perhaps if you happen to live in France.) Pétanque is a French game of "boules" (French for balls), where each player strives to throw metal balls as close as possible to a smaller wooden ball, named the "cochonnet." Bryant Park has gravel paths alongside The Lawn where visitors can pass the time with this French pastime, all you have to do is bring your own balls. (Hold for laugh.) [Le Boule New Yorkaise](#) offers free lessons Monday - Friday from 11:30 am - 6:00pm, weather permitting, of course. Who wants to play on wet gravel?





Keep Breathing, Grasshopper - What's that, you say? You're a pacifist and weapons of any kind make you all itchy? Well, have no fear, non-violent means of relaxation are also on tap at Bryant Park. Every Tuesday on the Upper

Terrace from 10a – 11a, and Thursday on The Lawn from 6p – 7p, **lululemon athletica** leads the hurried and harried among us through an hour of **recharging and relaxing yoga** under the clear skies of summer. **And it's FREE!!!** Sounds good, doesn't it? All levels are welcome and mats are provided. And if you wish to unwind a little more and connect to your happy place, **tai chi** happens every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 7:30a at the Fountain Terrace. **That's FREE, too!!** Check the **Calendar of Events** on the Bryant Park website for current schedule information.



Not Those Kinds Of Needles! - You look out your office window and see the sun streaming across the buildings and you think, "I need some fresh air!" You take a walk over to Bryant Park and what should appear? Board games! Books! A knitting class!! Bryant Park is ripe with all manner of quiet activities you can explore right in the middle of your day. **The Bryant Park Reading Room**, first begun in 1935 as a response to the Great Depression, has books and periodicals for the asking, so you can sit in the sun and soak up the



Vitamin D on your lunch hour. And while you're sitting in the sun, maybe you start thinking about the many holiday gifts you have to get for all the people in your life. Then you think, "Wow, if only I could knit, I could make them gifts!" And then you realize: Bryant Park even offers free knitting classes!! Is there nothing this little park can't do? Every Tuesday afternoon from 1:30p – 3p, **gotta knit** provides knitting instruction to newbies, along with all yarn and needles (just don't wander over to the fencing lesson with one of them!) For locations of all these activities within the park, visit the **Bryant Park website**.



Why Read A Book?! – Let the author read it for you! At various times during the week and throughout the day, **The Bryant Park Reading Room** holds **Word for Word**, a casual gathering where authors read their own words for the gathering masses. With such categories as Kids, Writers and Reel Talk, there's a little something to



interest everyone. And with authors ranging from Daryl Strawberry to Dr. Ruth Westheimer, there's bound to be plenty of food for thought. Talk about a line-up!

Music Hath Charms - Let's see, we've satisfied the eyes with cinematic classics, the rest of the body with physical activities, and the mind with creative endeavors. Let's tickle the ears a little, shall we? And what better way to tickle the ears than to tickle the ivory! **Piano in Bryant Park** takes place every day from 12:30p – 2p in the Upper Terrace. Ragtime, Jazz, Brazilian, contemporary compositions – it's a veritable music sampler! And much better than the listening station at your local mega-bookstore. For a full listing of performers through October, [click here](#).

A bird's eye view of where all the fun happens in Bryant Park!



Parking Calendar

NYC Parking Regulations – There are many legally recognized holidays on which parking regulations are suspended. For the month of June, parking regulations are officially suspended on the following days:



Sorry kids, there are no scheduled suspensions for the month of June.

Changes occur often, so call 311 for daily updates. For more information on Parking Regulations, visit the [DOT Parking Calendar](#) at www.nyc.gov.

Precinct Community Council Meetings

Each month local Police Precincts hold **Community Council Meetings** where community members can voice their concerns on local issues affecting their quality of life. Council meetings are open to all residents of the precinct. The four precincts located in **Community Board Five**, and their respective Council meeting times are:



- **10th Precinct** - Last Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm, 119 9th Avenue, Hudson Guild Senior Center.
Contact: Det. Mike Petrillo at 212-741-8226
- **13th Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 6:30pm, 230 East 21st St.
Contact: P.O. Mike Hnatko at 212-477-7427
- **Midtown North Precinct** - Every 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm, 427 West 47th St.
Contact: Det. Stephen Giaco or Det. Diane Menig at 212-767-8447
- **Midtown South Precinct** - Every 3rd Thursday at 7pm at the Hotel New Yorker, 8th Avenue and 34th St.
Contact: Det. Adam D'Amico; Det. Joe Bunster at 212-239-9846

Liquor License Applicants

[Click here](#) to be taken to the CB5 website for information on Liquor License applicants.

If you have any questions regarding this list, please call the office or email office@cb5.org.

Contact Community Board Five

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We're on the Web!
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If your organization would like to publicize an event in **The Manhattan Midtown**, email your request to: office@cb5.org. To be considered for publication events must be free and open to the public.

