The New York Times

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Nancy Siesel/The New York Times

Fall Is in the Air, Finally

Residents of Greenpoint, Brooklyn, participating in an autumn festival in McCarren Park yesterday as the temperature reached 56 degrees. Today is to be colder, with gusty winds, showers and a high of 49 degrees.

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McCarren Autumnfest

by Jennifer Downey

Hundreds of Greenpoint and Williamsburg residents turned out for the October 18th Autumnfest organized by Independent Friends of McCarren Park. Held in McCarren Park's Nulty Square, the event celebrated the two-year anniversary and the formal dedication of the Rainbow Garden, which seventeen local community groups came together to plant in November of 1990.

Festival-goers were invited to taste international foods, plant bulbs in the Rainbow garden, paint a mural and frolic in an enticing sprawl of streamers and paper laid out by Kwok, a local installation artist. Entertainment ranged from Pakistani songs by Talent Gilani to danceable jazz-phunk by Bartimes to a performance by Vivat Russia, a Russian choir.

Charrette Boogaerts

The Harvest Procession includea a paper mache Earth Goddess and was joined by many participants through the festival to Father Popieluszko Square.

Neighbors Come Together

Felicia Young, the event's organizer who was decked out in a broad straw hat festooned with grapevines and wildflowers, described the festival as an opportunity for neighbors to break down language and race barriers by "interacting creatively."

Many residents did just that by working together on Autumnfest related projects throughout early October.

Leslie Berns, a local artist, and Tim Culbert, an architect, constructed a "Harvest Hut" of dried tree trunks, branches and leaves. The hut was a rich tribute to the season, surrounded by piles of pumpkins and squash, and hung with messages and pictures painted on cardboard squares by young Autumnfest visitors.

Muriel Hotaling, a Southside resident since 1947, Veronica Koziol of the Northside and others from the Young At Heart Senior Citizen Center used brigl.tly colored leaves, plastic flowers and paint to transform their wide-brimmed hats into flaming October-licked tree-tops.

Community Concerns Aired

Citizen action groups concerned with neighborhood issues such as recycling, the planned Brooklyn Navy Yard Incinerator, and waterfront development gave out information and asked neighbors to sign mailing lists and petitions. Felice Jergens, owner of Teddy's bar and a long-time neighborhood residents, expressed delight at their presence and the turn-out in general. "Before Reagan, Williamsburg-Greenpoint had an active coalition of a hundred citizen organizations. All this new energy is touching. I'm really proud to have a business here. It's a wonderful neighborhood," she said.

Mid-afternoon, a harvest procession left from the Russian Orthodox Church to wend its way through festival-goers and then out to Popieluszko Square to offer a planting and blessing to Polish residents gathered there to commemorate Father

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Students from Harry Van Arsdale High School (left and center) proudly display the trash cans they and fellow students painted for the McCarren Park recycle and clean-up.

Colorful Clean-Up and Recycling

by Hillary Homzie

Recycling may have a better chance in McCarren Park thanks to concerned kids and residents. Fifty-two trash cans received colorful make-overs as part of a kick-off effort to get McCarren Park to clean-up and recycle.

Over 150 school children in Greenpoint and Williamsburg painted trash cans that will be designated for recycling. Northside Seniors and local residents participated as well.

"I want to help the world recycle," said Daniel McLauglin, 12, who thought that straightening up his local park was a good start. "It cleans up the neighborhood."

The painted cans were unveiled the McCarren Garden Autumn Festi on October 18th to dozens community groups, the major's offi city councilman Ken Fisher and parks department. The re-done were among the most color attractions at the festival wh promoted keeping the earth healthy

"I tried to abscond one for office," joked District 1 Park Supervi Harold Tier.

Rachel Elkind, who organized efforts, set-up a painting booth at autumn celebration so festival go could join in the fun.

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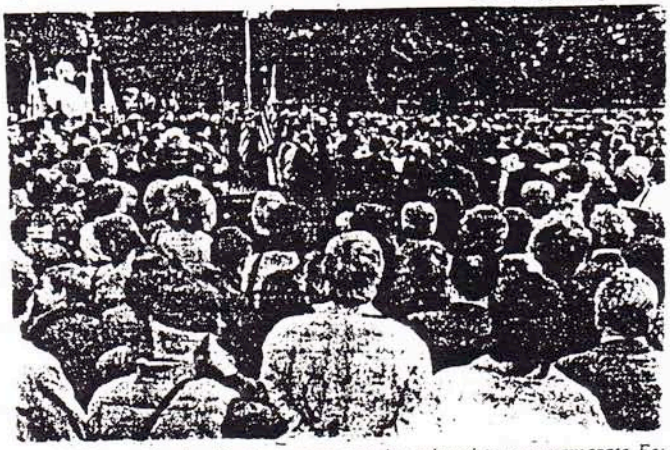

At the McCarren Garden Festival, many people gathered to commemorate Fa Popieluszko after a procession to the square in Greenpoint, named in his mem

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS III

HOMELESSNESS

To commemorate all those who have died of AIDS, starvation, exposure to the elements, as well as society's indifference to humanity in this age of homelessness, the Alternative Museum presents its Third Annual Day Of The Dead exhibition and candlelight procession based on the traditional Mexican and Central American festival celebrating and honoring the dead.

Exhibition curators,
Fran Resch, Geno Rodriguez
Additional curatorial assistance
by David Fisch

Candlelight Procession organized and
designed by Felicia Young
Volunteer coordinator Marcia Altieri

THE ALTERNATIVE MUSEUM
NEW YORK

NOVEMBER 2, 1990

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS CANDLELIGHT PROCESSION

HOMELESSNESS

The Candlelight Procession led by Frank London and The Big Brothers Band along West Broadway to City Hall.
Organized and designed by Felicia Young.

Photography by Ed Castro, Vince Eng, Sally Savage and Andrew Sciaulino.

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he New York Times NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY, CONNECTICUT/MONDAY, JULY 30, 1990

Fred R. Conrad/The New York Times

Marchers at a recent demonstration in Brooklyn calling for the restoration of the McCarren Park swimming pool, which closed in 1983.

A Crumbling Pool Divides a Neighborhood

By NADINE BROZAN

Larger than a football field and graced with majestic architecture, the McCarren Park swimming pool was considered a wondrous place when it opened in Brooklyn in 1936.

The pool, which is in the Greenpoint section, could accommodate 6,800 people. From the day it opened, it became a resort for people who could not afford vacations and the hub of the working-class neighborhood's summertime social life.

Now it sits crumbling, a huge and lonely bulwark against the Manhattan skyline, devastated by neglect, vandals and drug addicts who regularly breach its walls since the pool was closed seven years ago.

But it has not been forgotten.

It is the focus of a bitter neighborhood dispute between those who want it restored to its original splendor — including some famous non-neighbors: Spike Lee, the film maker, Eddie Murphy, the actor, and Geraldo Rivera, the television personality — and those who want it modernized and reduced in size.

A debate over restoration takes on racial overtones.

But recently the debate has taken on racial overtones.

In the process the pool has become a metaphor for the ways in which the city's plans can be derailed by the best intentions. "This is not a story of red tape run amuck," said Jack Linn, an assistant parks commissioner, "but of the problems inherent in the participatory form of government we have chosen."

Construction on the pool is unlikely to begin before 1995. But plans cannot proceed until the Landmarks Commission rules on whether to confer landmark status on the McCarren Park pool and the 10 other giant pools built in 1936 by Robert Moses. If it does, then plans for major renovation would require the approval of several governmental agencies.

Haven for Drug Dealers

Renovation was to have begun in 1984, but was halted by the objections of residents living near the pool, who wanted it closed for good. They contended that the pool had become overrun by thousands of teen-agers and had become a haven for drug dealers and prostitutes.

After more than a year of study by a committee drawn from a broad spectrum of the neighborhood, the local community board adopted a plan to turn the pool complex into a year-round recreational center. The plan

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The New York Times/Chester Higgins Jr.

Arrival of Summer Is Warmly Welcomed

Musicians, artists and others parading at Battery Park yesterday to mark the summer solstice, at 5:53 A.M. The season's arrival brought an end, if only a technical one, to one of the wettest springs on record.

the Westsider
NEW YORK, NEW YORK/SEPTEMBER 8—14, 1988

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

STACY ROSENSTOCK

Twenty years after Columbia University abandoned plans to build its now infamous gymnasium at the perimeter of Morningside Park — with separate entrances for the school and neighbors — the park reverted, participants in a parade last Saturday say, to the people. This time, it took much magic and chanting, including religious rites of various sects to drive the park's newest occupiers — drug dealers — from what had become one of Manhattan's most notorious areas.

From now on,

ONE NEW YORK

Cathedral of St. John the Divine and Yomoma Arts Inc. present

Citywide Arts Celebration and Morningside Park Festival
Saturday, September 3, 1988, 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.