

The New York Times

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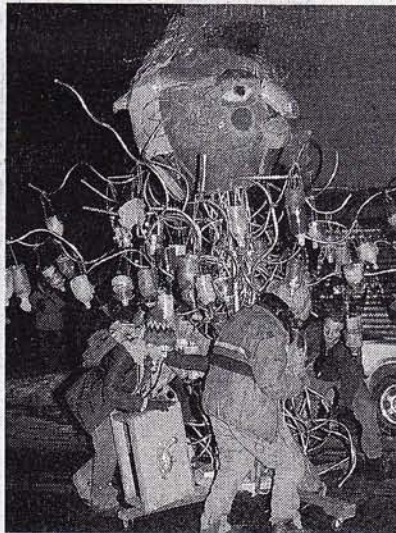
NEW YORK, SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2000

SundayStyles



Jan. 29, 7 to 7:50: Even by East Village standards, the dress was extraordinary at the fifth annual Odyssey of the Earth Winter Pageant. The event celebrates community gardens in

the city. The procession of winter spirits carrying lanterns wended its way through the neighborhood and made stops at gardens along the way.



The New York Times

The City

THE NEW YORK TIMES, SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2001

EAST VILLAGE

Extravaganza For Community Gardens

In a celebration of community gardens on Saturday, their admirers will be bundled in glittering costumes while carrying a galaxy of 30 glowing lanterns, glittering snowflakes and giant puppets around Tompkins Square Park.

The parade, "Odyssey of the Earth: Winter Pageant" is sponsored by Earth Celebrations. Aliza Lewis, adorned in a white gown with a long train, will sing an aria; an illuminated winter angel designed by Steve Jones, a local artist, will fly from the roof of a six-story building into the garden, and hot cider and roasted apples will warm the attendees.

"Odyssey of the Earth: Winter Pageant" Saturday 7 p.m., storm date next Sunday; meet at 638 East Sixth Street, between Avenues B and C; free; (212) 777-7969 or www.earthcelebrations.com.

TimeOut

New York

The complete weekly guide

January 24-31, 1996 Issue No. 18 \$1.95



Meet puppets: Alphabet City revels in the Winter Candle Lantern pageant (Sat 27).

Steal this garden

A winter bacchanalia to defend Lower East Side green space

Felicia Young knows something about grass-roots action. "There's a tendency to feel like if you're writing letters or yelling at public officials, you're getting something done," says the green-thumb advocate and festival planner. "But there's a lot to be said for uniting people through celebration."

Young has planned Saturday's "**Let the Gardens Live! Winter Candle Lantern Pageant**" to honor and preserve the Lower East Side's public gardens, some of which have been earmarked by the city for new housing developments. The costumed procession around Tompkins Square Park is gushing with political purpose and pagan allegory, and its general message, "It's not nice to fool with Mother Nature," should be clear to anyone who wants to build where flowers grow.

A 15-foot puppet of Father Winter will head up the parade, along with a puppet "snowflake spirit" decked out in a cobalt-blue lamé hoop dress and a gleaming tiara. Ice dancers in crystal blue gowns and shimmering snowflake headdresses will flank them, adding a sort of *Donny and Marie* touch, and more than 40 hand-carried candle lanterns will light the way. Throw in a

bonfire, free hot cider, a trapeze artist dressed as a blue bird and a "winter angel" flying from the roof of a six-story building and you've got a nice companion piece to Young's annual Rites of Spring. That May festival unites all 50 local gardens in an exhausting, 12-hour parade.

But is all the greenery really preferable to new, affordable housing? City Council Member Antonio Pagan claims that green-thumbers are stalling the neighborhood's salvation. "They can pageant all they want, but the lots are for housing," he says. "They know that, and they just want to change the rules. I am a big green person, but I will not allow these interlopers to dictate what's going on. They can pack up their Four-by-fours and go out into the country."

With few friends in City Hall, Young prefers metaphor and ritual to city council slugfests. "My thought is, I can't walk away from the political side," she says. "But it gets petty. I'd rather take people to another world."

—Robert Kolker

The "Let the Gardens Live!" Winter Candle Lantern Pageant is Saturday, January 27 at 7pm (777-7969). Meet at Earth Celebrations, 638 E 6th St between Ave B and C. Subway: F to Second Ave.

EAST VILLAGE

Winter Spirits Dance So Gardens May Bloom

THIRTY glowing lanterns will make their way around Tompkins Square Park on Saturday, accompanied by giant puppets of Father Winter and icy snowflake dancers. The occasion will be the third annual Winter Candle Lantern Pageant, put on by Earth Celebrations, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing environmental issues through the arts. The issue at hand is the preservation of community gardens in the city that are threatened by proposed development plans.

One of those endangered gardens, at Sixth Street and Avenue B, will be the end point of the procession, which is to begin at 7 P.M. at 638 East Sixth Street, between Avenues B and C.

A Uruguayan candombe band will lead the procession along with a dancing bell chorus. It's a "bring your own bell" event, the organizers say. In last year's event, right, snowflake dancers surrounded the North Wind on stilts.

"Winter Candle Lantern Pageant," Saturday, 7 P.M. at Earth Celebrations, 638 East Sixth Street, between Avenues B and C; rain date is Feb. 8; (212) 777-7969.



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LOWER EAST SIDE

Bells and Lanterns Accompany Winter Pageant



Light from 50 candle lanterns and music from hundreds of bells will fill the air during the second annual Winter Candle Lantern Pageant and Parade to rally support for the Lower East Side's community gardens.

"The winter is a time when we might forget about the gardens, but we want to keep people together," said Felicia Young, executive director of Earth Celebrations, a nonprofit group sponsoring the event. "The pageant is an artistic approach to the issue."

Giant puppets, including the Father of Winter, will appear in Tompkins Square Park. The parade, which will also include snowflake dancers and a Uruguay candombe band, will go around the park and end with a ceremony in which a trapeze artist, representing hope, unfurls from a garden gazebo.

"Winter Candle Lantern Pageant"; Saturday, Jan. 27, 7 P.M.; begins at 638 East Sixth Street between Avenues B and C; free; (212) 777-7969.

The Villager

West Village, East Village, Soho, Tribeca and Lower East Side



Villager photo by Brad Rickerby

SAVE THE GARDENS: Advocates for more community gardens in the Lower East Side gathered last Saturday night for the annual Let The Gardens Live Winter Candle Lantern Pageant sponsored by Earth Celebrations. The event combined a celebration of the area's community gardens with a protest against Community Board 3's decision to approve development for some of the gardens. Most of the gardens are on city-owned property and are temporary until the city finds someone to develop the space.

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NEW YORK, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 1995

\$2.50 beyond the greater New York

EAST VILLAGE

The Spirit of Nature In the East Village

There are more than 50 community gardens in the East Village and the Lower East Side.

"They've transformed vacant rubble-strewn lots into these beautiful gardens," said Felicia Young, director and founder of Earth Celebrations, an organization that is trying to make sure they are preserved.

To bring more attention to the project, the organization is holding a

Winter Candle Lantern Pageant on Saturday night.

A Water Ice Princess (left) and dancers in crystal-blue gowns and snowflake headdresses will encircle Tompkins Square Park with glowing lanterns and then will walk to one of the gardens, on the corner of Sixth Street and Avenue B.

The organizers say they expect more than 500 gardeners, artists, environmentalists and neighbors. Roasted apples and hot cider will be served in the park.

Meets at 638 East Sixth Street (between Avenues B and C); Saturday, 7 P.M.; free; (212) 727-8283.



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NEW YORK, MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 1995

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Ozier Muhammad/The New York Times

One of Downtown's Leading Lights

The Winter Candle Lantern Parade in Tompkins Square Park in lower Manhattan on Saturday night began a campaign by Earth Celebrations, a nonprof-

it organization, to preserve a network of gardens on the Lower East Side. A marcher in the community pageant twirled a flaming baton.

DAILY NEWS

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS
JUNE 26, 1919

NEW YORK'S HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER

Sunday, January 29, 1995

GUARDIN' THE GARDENS



THOMAS MONASTER DAILY NEWS

MARCHING in yesterday's chilly air, residents of East Village in Manhattan parade around Tompkins Square Park with lanterns, costumes and papier-maché figures to demonstrate support for preservation of area's community gardens.

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