



The Library Branch

The Parks Library

Room 240, The Arsenal, Central Park

64th Street & Fifth Avenue

Number 12

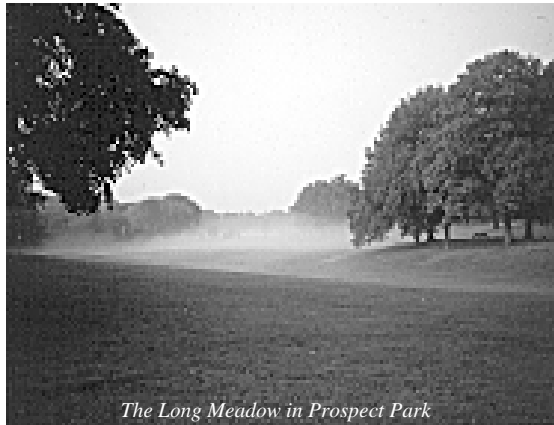
August 2002

Tupper Thomas Live in Central Park

Please join us in the Arsenal Gallery for a presentation and lecture by Tupper Thomas, the Prospect Park Administrator and President of the Prospect Park Alliance.

Considered Olmsted and Vaux's masterpiece, Prospect Park's 526 acres serve six million visitors a year and have become an essential component in the formula of

Brooklyn's greatness. Likewise, since 1987 the Prospect Park Alliance has been stirring up the elixir that has successfully rejuvenated the park, restoring its 19th century splendor while simultaneously enhancing its ability to serve Brooklyn at the dawn of the new millennium. Come to this event and learn about the glorious past, present, and future of Prospect Park.



The Long Meadow in Prospect Park

**Lunchtime
Library
Lecture
in the
Arsenal
Gallery**

Wednesday, August 21, in the Arsenal Gallery at 1:00 p.m.

Please call 212-360-8240 or e-mail Library@parks.nyc.gov to reserve your seat.

HISTORICAL SIGNS WEBPAGE UPDATED

Last year Parks installed the 2001st historical sign, marking the completion of the initial push to write and publish the history of New York City's Parks. Many park histories are closely interwoven with the history of the city, the state, the nation and the world. From Battery Park, where the Dutch set foot on the city in 1623, to Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, home of two World's Fairs and the National Tennis Center, to Central Park, where thousands convened in 1969 as the first man landed on the moon: history happens in parks.

As always all the historical signs are posted on the internet; however, now you can search through all the titles of all the signs in the city or one borough at a time. Want to find all the Doughboy statues in the city? Just go to www.nyc.gov/parks, click on *your park* and then *historical signs*. Type the word "doughboy" in the search window and presto: you can read about them all.

Perhaps you're interested in American history. Try to find out how many parks and monuments honor George Washington, or if you're really up for a challenge, try to find out how many parks are named for signers of the Declaration of Independence. Well, as of this month, it is all possible on the Parks webpage.

Finally, perhaps you do not have access to a computer. That's just one more reason to come to the Parks Library. We have a computer terminal that is available for public use.

JULY'S LUNCHTIME LIBRARY LECTURE SUCCESS

On July 24th, more than 30 Parkies and Library patrons attended the lecture by Nancy Berner and Susan Lowry, authors of the new book *Garden Guide: New York City*. Originally planned to be in the Library itself, the list of people wanting to attend grew so long that the event was forced to move upstairs.

The authors discussed just a small selection of the 100 gardens included in their book, and the accompanying slides were all excellent, engaging images that show beautiful garden scenes from all four seasons.



photo by Spencer Tucker

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Adrian Benepe, Commissioner

THIS MONTH IN PARKS

Now in its seventh month, this column highlights notable events in Parks history that occurred any number of years ago during the current month.

1929 August 9: The land for Sara D. Roosevelt Park was acquired. Although the land was originally acquired for the purpose of widening Chrystie and Forsythe Streets and building low-cost housing, Robert Moses was able to use it for playground construction. The construction of the park in 1934 was the largest park project on the Lower East Side since the acquisition of Tompkins Square Park a century earlier. Parts of four streets were closed (Hester, Broome, Rivington, and Stanton) to accommodate seven distinct play areas, with separate playgrounds for boys and girls, as well as two wading pools, a roller skating rink and a perimeter of benches and shade trees.

1985 August 14: Mayor Koch joined community leaders and other dignitaries to designate Bunche Park (across from the United Nations) as New York City's first peace park. Ralph Johnson Bunche (1904-1971), an American educator, political scientist and United Nations mediator was one of the most respected international civil servants of the 20th century. In 1947 Bunche joined the United Nations Secretariat. Between January and July 1949 Bunche successfully brokered the armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab states; for his efforts he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1950. In 1955 Bunche was appointed undersecretary of the United Nations, and in 1957 secretary for special political affairs. For a lifetime of extraordinary achievement in the international arena, he was awarded the United States Medal of Freedom by President John F. Kennedy in 1963.



1988 August 8: The Central Park Zoo reopened. Except for four perimeter buildings, the old zoo was demolished in 1983. The artworks, or facsimiles, were incorporated into the new facility. The new zoo delighted visitors with its naturalistic tropical zone, expanded polar bear environment, and Japanese snow monkey island. The sea-lions exhibit—a theater in the round—remains. Lavish plantings laid out by landscape architect Lynden Miller, and lovingly maintained by zoo horticulturists, turn the center into a true zoological garden.

Finally, a reminder . . .

there's still time to come and see:

QUEENS JEWELS

A History of Queens Parks

Located in the Arsenal Gallery and open to the public Monday through Friday, 9:00 to 5:00, until September 5, 2002.

This exhibition is sponsored by BP