



**HENRY STREET  
SETTLEMENT**

# NEWS from HENRY STREET

FALL/WINTER 2010-2011

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## Q & A with DAVID GARZA, Henry Street's New Executive Director

David Garza assumed office as Henry Street's new Executive Director on July 1, succeeding Verona Middleton-Jeter, who retired after 38 years with the Settlement. The Harvard graduate and Brooklyn native, formerly the head of Henry Street's Workforce Development Center, sat down recently to talk about transitioning into his new role, his inspiration, and the importance of *feng shui*.

**At your first all-staff meeting as Executive Director-Elect, you wowed your audience with a rap. What hip-hop artists have influenced your style?**

[Laughs] These days, I mostly listen to what my daughter listens to. I am a big Snoop Dogg fan, though.

**How has the transition gone?**

I'm reluctant to use the word seamless, but it's been pretty close. I have Verona, our Board of Directors and Henry Street's staff to thank for that.

**Why did you want to be Executive Director?**

It was never something I wanted in the sense of professional ambition. I never said to myself, "Someday I want to be Executive Director." I look at this position more as a call to service.

**The Executive Office looks different. Walk us through what you've done with it.**

I moved the furniture around – just a little *feng shui*. I turned the desk so it's facing the door. I think it's important to be approachable and to be able to see what's happening around me.

**What's one of your proudest achievements?**

Adopting a rescue dog. I came across a dog on the street two years ago, and I took it into my home. It reinforced for me that you can't walk by a bad situation and ignore it.

**What have you learned from your past?**

I grew up in Brooklyn, and I learned that a person's value isn't determined by what he looks like, where he comes from or what he says he's going to do. It's about what you do and how you move through life that matters. That's a real Brooklyn thing.

**What's your most prized possession?**

This thimble. I've always thought of the work Henry Street does, helping to fight the effects of poverty, as like trying to empty an ocean with a thimble. A coworker of mine gave me an oversized thimble, and I keep it in my office. I even keep a box of thimbles in my desk, to give to colleagues...to remind them to do their part.

**Who are your heroes, real or fictional?**

My mother has been the greatest source of inspiration to me. She raised three kids alone on a limited income, and she always made sure we had access to every opportunity in life. No fictional character can match that.

**What's your idea of perfect happiness?**

Not to sound too depressing, but I don't believe in the idea of sustained perfect happiness. That means you don't have anything left to accomplish, that you're okay with the status quo. I experience moments of perfect happiness, like when I'm spending time with my family, but for me life is more about enjoying the ups and downs.



# HENRY STREET happenings

*Henry Street Settlement opens doors of opportunity for Lower East Side residents and all New Yorkers through innovative social services, arts programs and health care services. Here's a snapshot of some current programs:*

## Henry Street's URBAN CAMPUS

Henry Street's After-school Program offers more than quality childcare and educational activities. Its "urban campus" effect — created by having children move between the agency's six after-school program sites — helps youngsters develop skills needed later in life. "When youth graduate from elementary school to middle school, it's a big change," said Greg Rideout, Deputy Program Officer for Youth Services and Workforce Development. "They stop being in one classroom and that continues through college. Here at Henry Street, they become used to movement, which helps with that adjustment." After-school youth also learn responsibility (and reward) from the Turning Points program. Children earn points for good behavior and can "spend" those points on toys, games and other items at the Turning Points "store" located at 301 Henry Street. "It helps them learn the value of saving and delayed gratification," Rideout said.



◀ After-school programs focus on homework help *and* recreational activities, including arts and crafts.

## Good Companions Senior Center: A BRAND NEW VIEW

From the basement location of Henry Street's Good Companions Senior Center, one can "see" a Tuscan vista, a tropical paradise, a beautiful bridge and more — all thanks to a volunteer who transformed the Center's cinder block walls with eight large murals. The vibrant murals, painted by Julie Dickerson, a recent Princeton University graduate, were featured in the September 10 edition of the *New York Daily News*. The Center's seniors — who contributed a diverse mix of cultures and points of view — helped Dickerson compose the paintings. "A lot of the Center's seniors are from Puerto Rico and China, so I began painting images on the wall with the hope that it would remind them of their birthplaces," said Dickerson.



"For instance, when I was creating a tropical scene, many people would come up and say, 'You are painting Puerto Rico.' One man told me that adding pelicans would make it perfect." Dickerson plans to continue painting at the Settlement, this time working with adolescent clients to paint a mural at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, adjacent to Settlement headquarters.

◀ Seniors at the Good Companions Senior Center surround volunteer artist Julie Dickerson in front of one of the murals she painted.



▲ Kevin Charlotten, M.D., at Health Unlimited, Henry Street's family medical center.

## You Can GO HOME AGAIN – Just Ask DR. CHARLOTTEN!

There's a new physician at Health Unlimited (HUL), but he looks surprisingly familiar to many local residents. That's because Kevin Charlotten, M.D., was a "Henry Street kid" who grew up in the Vladeck Houses. The youngest of ten children, Dr. Charlotten attended New York City public schools, before earning his bachelor's degree at Cornell University and his medical degree at Stanford. He completed his residency in family practice medicine at Beth Israel.

"I've been recognized by people I grew up with," said Dr. Charlotten, adding that he, too, has reconnected with old friends from the neighborhood and enjoys working close to his family, who still live in the Vladecks.

"Some of my older patients I remember from my childhood; many were pillars of the community," he said. While growing up, Dr. Charlotten, along with many of his siblings, participated in Henry Street's after-school tutoring and recreational programs, as well as arts instruction at the Abrons Arts Center.

At HUL, Henry Street's family medical center, Dr. Charlotten provides primary care for both children and adults, including physicals; vaccinations; treatment of diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure; HIV and STD testing; and more.

To make an appointment with Dr. Charlotten at HUL, please call 212.233.5033.



▲ Two-time Tony nominee Karole Armitage presents *Think Punk*, a free afternoon of dance at the Abrons.

## Abrons Arts Center's EXCITING FALL Season

Henry Street Settlement's Abrons Arts Center is proud to present a sassy fall season of modern performance, cabaret, dance and theater. Downtown diva **Ann Magnuson** makes her first New York appearance in nine years in *Dueling Harps*, a musical battle with **Adam Dugas**. Internationally renowned choreographer **Jonah Bokaer** teams up with architecture firm **Harrison Atelier** to reimagine Greek mythology in the U.S. premiere of *Anchises*, and acclaimed "punk ballerina" and two-time Tony nominee **Karole Armitage** offers a free performance of her seminal works *Drastic-Classicism* and *Watteau Duets*. The Abrons is also pleased to reprise three favorite season staples: the *Steampunk Haunted House* is bigger and better, *Nutcracker in the Lower* puts a Lower East Side twist on the Tchaikovsky classic, and **Justin Bond** will again present his holiday show *Christmas Spells*, a ribald evening of singing, storytelling and spectacle. For more information, call 212.598.0400 or visit [henrystreet.org/arts](http://henrystreet.org/arts).



## Workforce Development Center's ALUMNI Night

Approximately 50 individuals — including current and past participants of the Workforce Development Center (WDC) and volunteers from Credit Suisse — attended the WDC Alumni Night held recently at Credit Suisse headquarters.

The event, designed to celebrate and encourage WDC participants' successes, featured resume consultations, career coaching and networking opportunities, all facilitated by Credit Suisse employees.

Credit Suisse has been hosting the quarterly event for the past year.

## From SHELTER to HOME

Providing temporary shelter is just the first step toward helping the homeless, but giving families the support they need to become independent and obtain permanent housing is equally essential. In the past year, Henry Street's Urban Family Center (UFC) has helped 72 families transition into permanent residences — no small feat, given the continuing effects of the financial crisis. "It's a testament to the devotion of the shelter's staff," said Geniria Armstrong, Henry Street's Deputy Program Officer for Transitional and Supportive Housing. UFC, which houses 82 families in temporary apartments, connects residents with the case management, counseling, housing search assistance and childcare services they need to find permanent housing. Founded in 1972 and funded by the Department of Homeless Services, UFC was the country's first apartment-style temporary shelter with on-site social services for families.

## The 2011 ART SHOW

Mark your calendar now to join us at the 23rd annual Art Show! The Art Show Gala Preview will be held at the Park Avenue Armory on **Tuesday, March 1, 2011**, and the show will be open to the public from **March 2-6, 2011**. Described by Roberta Smith in *The New York Times* as "a fair loaded with work you will be grateful to see," the Art Show is organized annually by the Art Dealers Association of America to benefit Henry Street Settlement's vital programs. Last year's Art Show was a huge success for the Settlement. More than 1,500 art lovers, philanthropists, and business and civic leaders filled the Park Avenue Armory for the Gala Preview, which saw an increase in ticket sales of 25 percent. In addition to ticket sales, a series of mono-prints were generously donated by artist Josh Smith and sold to benefit Henry Street. To learn more about the 23rd annual Art Show and buy tickets, call 212.766.9200 x247 or visit [henrystreet.org/artshow2011](http://henrystreet.org/artshow2011).



## Abrons & Burns: Henry Street 2011 GALA Honorees

Richard Abrons, philanthropist, playwright and Vice Chairman of Henry Street's Board of Directors, and Ursula M. Burns, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Xerox and a Lower East Side native, will be honored at Henry Street's Annual Gala on **Thursday, April 7, 2011**, at the Plaza Hotel's Grand Ballroom. The event's co-chairs are Veronica Bulgari, Eva Jeanbart-Lorenzotti, Kalliope Karella, Angela Mariani, Anna Pinheiro, Pilar Crespi Robert and Leslie Schulhof. Proceeds from the gala are a vital source of funding for the social services, arts and healthcare programs Henry Street provides to more than 50,000 New Yorkers each year. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit [henrystreet.org/gala](http://henrystreet.org/gala) or call Liz Gabay at Event Associates, 212.245.6570.

## Richard ABRONS Recognized in *The Wall Street Journal*

Richard Abrons, Vice Chairman of Henry Street's Board, and his family's 114-year bond with Henry Street Settlement were featured in a story in the June 9 edition of *The Wall Street Journal*. It all began in 1896, when Lillian Wald, Henry Street's founder, visited Mr. Abrons's widowed grandmother and her children. Seeing their poverty, Miss Wald gave the grandmother a job sewing nurses' uniforms, establishing a connection that exists to this day. Her descendants are still repaying that act of kindness by giving generously to the Settlement and serving on the Board of Directors. In addition to providing general support to the Settlement, the Abrons and Aranow family gifts have helped to create Henry Street's

Abrons Arts Center, Workforce Development Center and Parent Center, and provide scholarships annually for college students in the agency's college prep program. "It's part of our family's tradition," Mr. Abrons told *The Journal*. "If you strengthen neighborhoods, you strengthen the city."



## Schneeweiss's Legacy Gift Lives On

Samuel Schneeweiss, a prominent Manhattan attorney and member of Henry Street's Board of Directors since 1952, left a generous legacy to the Settlement when he died last year at age 90.

Schneeweiss, a Lower East Side native, was involved in the Settlement from a young age. "He practically grew up at Henry Street," said his niece Kara Yeargans. Indeed, former Henry Street Executive Director Danny Kronenfeld said that Schneeweiss was "a living oral history of Henry Street" and that he loved the agency "with every bone in his body."

When he was 10, Schneeweiss attended Camp Henry; soon after, he was spending all his free time at the Settlement, participating in clubs and taking classes in acting, speech, puppetry, photography and more. As a college student, he worked as a receptionist at Henry Street, and later was a counselor at Camp Henry.

In addition to his Board involvement (he was appointed to the Board in 1952 and remained active as an honorary member from 1979 until his death), Schneeweiss was a former director and officer of the Henry Street Settlement Credit Union.

"Even after he left Henry Street, he continued to closely follow all of the agency's activities, including careful readings of the annual reports," said Yeargans. "My uncle always wanted to support the Settlement and always wanted to stay involved."



## Planned GIVING

By including a gift to Henry Street Settlement in your estate plan, you can have an ongoing impact on individuals who benefit from the agency's services. You can direct your support to Henry Street Settlement as a whole, or to a specific program area, such as Youth or Senior Services. Your legacy will continue to touch the lives of everyone Henry Street helps. For more information, contact Kathleen Gupta, Chief Development & External Relations Officer at 212.766.9200 x 234 or [kgupta@henrystreet.org](mailto:kgupta@henrystreet.org).

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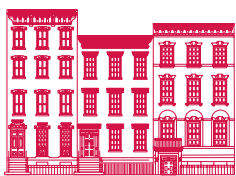
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