

# esna EXTRA

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

The Bulletin of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association

[Volume 63]

www.esna-nyc.com

[Winter 2019]

## NYC Parks Announces \$75 Million In Mayoral Funding For Ongoing Reconstruction Of East River Esplanade Projects

On Saturday, February 22, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell J. Silver joined by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Manhattan Deputy Borough President Matthew Washington and Council Member Ben Kallos - along with many other civic leaders from the Upper East Side and East Harlem - to announce that Mayor Bill de Blasio has allocated additional funding, \$75 million, to further East River Esplanade reconstruction projects spanning from East Midtown through East Harlem. ESNA was represented by President Barry Schneider and Vice President Judy Schneider.

"Thanks to Mayor de Blasio's continued commitment to addressing waterfront needs, we are able to continue the extensive work of bringing our beloved East River Esplanade into a state of good repair," said **Commissioner Silver**.



## ESNA Holiday Sing a Rousing Success!

Led by the Jolly Holiday Singers in Victorian-period costumes, esna's annual event to collect toys and games for the young patients at NewYork-Presbyterian

*Continued on column at right*

## "Build The Block Neighborhood Safety Meeting

On the evening of Friday, February 8, ESNA hosted the first "Build the Block" Neighborhood Safety Meeting in Sector A of the NYPD 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct. "Build the Block" neighborhood safety meetings are strategy sessions between local police officers and the people they serve. The meetings have two simple goals: identify the public safety challenges of a specific neighborhood and discuss potential solutions.

Moderated by our **Neighborhood Coordination Officers** Bryan White and Michael Haigh, and **NCO**

**Supervisor** Sgt. Sandy

Rodriguez the discussion raised a number of issues of general concern – traffic enforcement, illegal electric bikes, errant bike riders flouting the rules of the



road and endangering pedestrians day and night. As the meeting was wrapping up, there was consensus that the next quarterly "Build The Block" meeting, should have representatives of the Traffic Enforcement Division in attendance to address our many concerns regarding safety in our streets and on our sidewalks.

ESNA will notify its members when the next quarterly meeting is scheduled. Keep tuned and be sure to attend!

*Continued from column at left*

Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical Center was a fitting kick-off to the holiday season. We were joined this year by the administrators and nurses of the Pediatric Care Unit of NY-P/WCMC who expressed their deep gratitude to the esna community for the scores and scores of toys and games for their young charges. Your generosity went a long way to making a significant difference in the lives of many who would receive no other Christmas gifts but for your thoughtfulness. And a special "Thank you" to NYPD P.O. Officers Haigh and White, the NCOs of Sector A for their help in delivering the toys and games to the Pediatric Care Unit. And a belated Happy New Year to all!



## ESNA New Merchant Members' & Update

**Best Pizza II** – The name says it all! Third generation in the pizza business offering 22 varieties. Plus Italian entries, whole wheat spaghetti and penne available. Hot & cold heroes • Salads - including Chef & Greek • Appetizers • Soups • Wraps • Gyros • Burgers • Dinners • Catering • Fast & prompt delivery – **1140 First Avenue (62nd -63rd) 212 838-5080**

**CMX CinéBistro** – update: In addition to the VIP Dinner and a Movie experience, is an ideal spot for guests to gather and unwind. The venue hosts several multi-functional spaces available for private rentals, VIP movie screenings, corporate events, celebrations and special occasions. Complete with state-of-the-art technology, cuisine and hospitable service, CMX CinéBistro is the perfect option for a successful event - **400 East 62<sup>nd</sup> Street (York-1<sup>st</sup>) 646-677-9387**

**Hôtel Plaza Athénée** – A distinguished Manhattan hotel since 1984. A discreet residential style hotel featuring 143 rooms and suites. The lobby's interior has become a trademark design distinction. The hotel features the jewel box Arabelle restaurant, which offers breakfast, lunch, dinner and Saturday Brunch. The intimate Bar Seine, which serves light fare, Afternoon Tea and Cocktails and the only Spa Valmont in the United States. – **37 E. 65th Street (Fifth & Madison) 212 734-9100**

**JLL** - Tom Gammino has been a real estate professional dedicated to the success of his clients for over 20 years. As Managing Director at JLL, Tom handles investment sales in New York City with a *focus on Manhattan's Upper East Side*. **212 377-2135**

**Joe's Jewelry & Pawn** - We sell jewelry, buy, trade and pawn. Don't throw away your broken jewelry and those timepieces that no longer work. We deftly replace watch batteries and watch bands. And we'll expertly repair your jewelry and watches. **1163 Second Avenue (61st – 62nd) 646 398-7333**

**Veterinary Emergency Group** – The Veterinary Emergency Group is open evenings/nights/weekends & holidays for urgent care. We treat pets like people and people like human being. You can speak directly with a doctor. You and your pet can stay together. **1215 Second Avenue (63rd-64th) 212-223-3500**

## Become an ESNA Citizen Tree Pruner!

Please join us! The tree pruning certification and license renewal course is being offered by Trees New York this spring beginning on May 2 at The Arsenal, 830 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The Citizen



Pruner Tree Care Course trains volunteers in tree care, biology, identification and pruning. The course consists of eight hours of classroom training and four hours of hands-on experience in the field. To register, visit [treesny.org](http://treesny.org). Trained pruners who work

with ESNA will have the \$100 course fee reimbursed by ESNA. Please phone us at 212 713-5826. We'd be pleased to discuss becoming an ESNA Citizen Tree Pruner with you.



***SAVE  
THE  
DATE!***

**ESNA'S 24<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL STREET FAIR**

**SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2019**  
Between Fifth and Madison Avenues –  
Noon to 5 PM  
Contact us if you wish to volunteer at the Fair!

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (*Circle One*)

Individual Co-op/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Co-op/Condo Owner	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*And now you can join online at [esna-nyc.net/membership](http://esna-nyc.net/membership).*



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[Spring/Summer 2019]

## Queensboro Oval Tennis Now Accepting NYC Tennis Permits for Summer Season and Beyond.

ESNA members may recall that back in the spring of 2016, the association urged the city to return the Queensboro Oval - York Avenue at E. 59 – E. 60th Street, - to the public as a year-round public park. Unfortunately, that was not to be. The city has issued a 10-year lease for the entire Oval to Sutton East Tennis.

But wait - there is a Silver lining to the story. Thanks to the efforts of NYC Parks Commission, Mitchell Silver, the Sutton East Tennis is now much more community friendly. From now until September 15, 6 courts will be reserved for NYC Parks Tennis Permit holders. Plus, there will be free and/or low-cost public programming, and 2 courts will be

reserved for the Licensee's fee-based programs. In addition, there will be free Senior Citizen Clinics and Cardio Tennis, Pee Wee Programs and Junior Development Programs. For more information, contact Sutton East Tennis at



(212)751-3452 or [info@suttoneasttennis.com](mailto:info@suttoneasttennis.com)

\* NA's Barry Schneider, Council Member Ben Kallos, Manhattan Borough Commissioner Wm. Castro, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Sutton Tennis East's Tony

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

ESNA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM

Colonial Dames of America

417 E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street

(between York & 1<sup>st</sup> Avenues)

Refreshments, Door Prizes, Everyone Welcome!

## Pedestrian Alert! Traffic Changes at Second Avenue and the Queensboro Bridge May Pose Challenges to Local Residents.

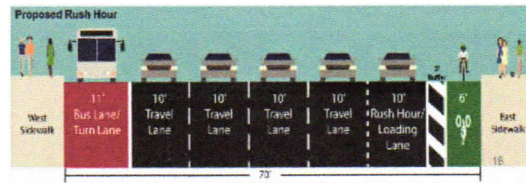
When the NYC Department of Transportation added a

dedicated bike lane on the east side of 2<sup>nd</sup>

Avenue,

they also

changed how foot traffic moves north and south at that location. After decades of requiring pedestrians to traverse that intersection on the west side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, pedestrians can now cross directly in front of the traffic coming off the bridge at the traffic light. In the last couple of weeks, the the Crime Prevention Offices of the 19<sup>th</sup> NYPD Precinct have been on the scene to alert motorists, bikers and pedestrians of the new configuration. A word to the wise: Be especially mindful of the cars coming off the bridge – be sure they have come to a full stop at the light before you cross the street. ESNA wishes you well!



## JOIN US AT ESNA'S 27TH ANNUAL STREET FAIR!

A Summerfest that's a veritable bazaar of exotic ornaments, fashion eyewear, house wares, bric-a-brac, NYC souvenirs, ESNA's unmatched **White Elephant Table** and food, food, food!

**SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2019**

**East 60<sup>th</sup> Street**

Between Fifth and Madison Avenues

Noon to 5 PM

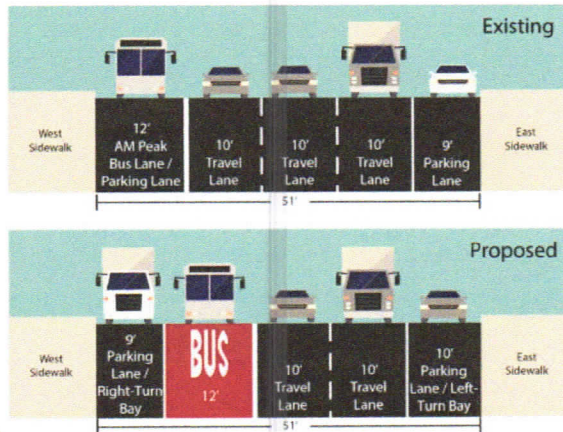


## NYC Transit to Challenge Mighty Mollusk with Lexington Ave Bus Lane Enhancements



Beginning this summer, the MTA will begin implementation of a plan to modify Lexington Avenue to improve service. This fall/winter 2019 will be the post implementation and data monitoring

period. The goal: Beat the snail at its own game - by moving the bus lane away from the curb. Currently bus speeds of Lexington Avenue are **very slow** (3.9 MPH). The proposed design will improve bus speeds and reliability for thousands of daily bus riders, enable loading during peak period along the west curb, improve curb access for local businesses by updating regulations and have minimal impact on traffic flow. The proposed curb regulations updates: to add commercial metering to improve curb access and reduce double parking to the existing regulations which are generally metered parking 10 am – 7 pm on west curb and 7 am – 7 pm on east curb. We wish the project godspeed.



## Welcome our New Community Affairs Officer at the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct – Brian Larkin

Officer Larkin has joined the team of Community Affairs Officers having served at the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct for more than 12 years. For the past three years, Brian served as a Crime Prevention Officer and before that he was a Conditions Officer dealing with quality-of-life crimes. We look forward to continue working with Brian in his new role.



**FLASH! 24 Sycamores Playground Comfort Station Renovation to Start This Summer**  
ESNA will send out details when they are available.

...and one more Save The Date!

**NYPD**  
19<sup>th</sup> Precinct  
**TUESDAY**  
**AUGUST 6<sup>th</sup>**  
5:30-8PM  
**Carl Schurz Park**  
East 86th Street & East End Avenue

Join us for **FREE:**  
**Live Music • Giveaways**  
Ice Cream & Cotton Candy • Food & Refreshments  
Arts & Crafts • Meet your Neighborhood Police  
Activities for All Ages & Pets

For more information call:  
(212) 452-0613 @NYPD19Pct

Join the **NYPD**,  
19<sup>th</sup> Pct. Community Council,  
& Your Neighbors to Build A  
Stronger & Safer Community!

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY: (Circle One)

Individual Coop/Condo Owner	\$25.00
Senior Coop/Condo Owner (65+)	\$20.00
Renter	\$15.00
Senior Renter (65+)	\$12.00
Townhouse Owner	\$50.00
Commercial/Business/Professional	\$50.00

Membership Dues Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

ESNA's PROJECTS  
(Circle those you want to join.)

Beautification & Sanitation  
City Services  
Communications  
Fund Development & Social Activities  
Government & Community Relations  
Mailing & Distribution • Membership

To join, go to the ESNA website at  
ESNA-NYC.NET/Membership or  
mail your payment to

**ESNA, Inc.**  
**1173A Second Avenue-#110**  
**New York, NY 10065**



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## Graphic Arts On View In The East 60s

Feast your eyes on the way some of our neighbors have enhanced the streetscape in our community! Drab garage doors don't have to present a blank stare but can come to life with a Cubist flare – Garden Suites Hotel by Affina, 215 East 64<sup>th</sup> Street. And while Fusion Apothecary may be gone from 1158 Second Avenue

at E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street, its DNA lives on in this intriguing mural.



Now cross the street and just around the corner of E 60<sup>th</sup> Street, you'll come across the



proclamation, "Love comes in every color", a ray of sunshine brought to us all by Stonehenge 61 at 252 East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, of course. And it's

year-round, too!

Continuing on your journey, just a few blocks further uptown and a short block to the east is Stonehenge 65, at 360 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, with its celestial-themed overhead canopy. Heads up! It's the art-full East 60s!



## Election Day is Tuesday, November 5, 2019

This year, be sure to turn over the ballot to vote on the 5 proposals on the back. They are to amend the City Charter, the City's constitution, regarding Elections, Civilian Complaint Review Board, Ethics and Governance, City Budget and Land Use.



## Good News for Parks Enthusiasts

24 Sycamores Park, at York Avenue and East 61<sup>st</sup> Street, will get getting a face lift in coming months. Included in the project are be the reconstruction of the comfort station with ADA accessible ladies and men's rooms. After several delays, construction is expected to start this November. The work will take about approximately 18 months. The area will be regraded, the asphalt pavement removed and new pavers installed. The base of the flagpole will have some limited repairs. New fencing will be installed around the swings. The paint will be removed from the comfort station and the natural brick color will be restored. The architects for the current project are Jorge Prado and Carolina Charles. The last renovation to the park was over 20 years ago. We want to thank our former Councilmember, Jessica Lappin, for providing the funding for this much needed facelift.



**PLEASE  
JOIN US**

**ESNA's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting**

**October 6<sup>th</sup>, 1 PM**

**Colonial Dames of America**

**417 E. 61<sup>st</sup> Street**

**(between York & 1<sup>st</sup> Avenues)**

**Refreshments, Door Prizes, Everyone Welcome!**





...our 2019 Street Fair. See you in 2020!

### Please Note Our New Address.

**East Sixties Neighborhood  
Association, Inc.**

PO Box 1855

New York, NY 10021-0048

*Only our mailing address has changed.  
All other contact information remains the  
same.*

*info@esna-nyc / [www-esna-nyc.com](http://www-esna-nyc.com)  
212 713-5826*

## Winter Clothing & Coat Drive



Your serviceable winter clothing — in good repair and wearable condition — will be collected by volunteers on behalf of the East Sixties Neighborhood Association. The clothing will be distributed to neighborhood organizations that directly aid the city's needy.

**On Saturday ONLY, November 9th  
from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon**

If there is no collection table in your building,  
please bring your clothing to:

The St. Tropez at 340 East 64th Street

**SERVICE ENTRANCE**

enter either from E. 64th or E. 63rd Streets between  
1st and 2nd Avenues



### For the latest updates from ESNA...

...be sure to check out our bulletin  
board on the wall of CVS Pharmacy  
at E. 64th Street, just west of Second  
Avenue.

## Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Evening \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY (Circle One)

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Membership Dues Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### ESNA PROJECTS

*Please circle the project(s) that interest you*

Tree Pruning & Beautification  
City Services Communications Fund Development  
Social Services Membership  
Government & Community Relations  
Mailing & Distribution

To join, please go to the ESNA website at  
***ESNA-NYC.NET/Membership***

Or mail your payment to:  
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**PO Box 1855, Lenox Hill Station  
New York, NY 10021-0048**



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## BE A PARTNER - BE INVOLVED!

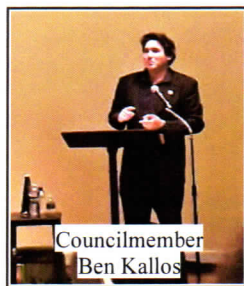
Partnership and involvement make a vibrant community. That was the message at ESNA's 28<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. As New York State Senator Liz Krueger put it – ESNA's eyes, ears and voice form the most valuable partnership that an elected official can have. It is that type of relationship that gives understanding and focus to the issues that matter to neighborhoods. That view was echoed by Assembly-member Rebecca



Seawright when she talked about coming up with programs to assist residents – legal clinics, screenings, shred-a-thons, senior summits and voting forums. Hearing the concerns of the community was also a theme of Assemblymember Dan Quart when he talked about the critical need for action in Albany on property taxes and transportation issues. The high property taxes, he said, represent a major contributor to the vast number of empty stores on the Upper East Side.



"Greening" also requires partnership, according to Manhattan Parks Commissioner William Castro. The Commissioner called Barry and Judy Schneider partners in the efforts to create and enhance park space in the East 60's. Councilmember Ben Kallos took up the green issue highlighting ESNA's involvement in the esplanade and the Andrew Haswell Green park programs. The councilman also talked about a senior program at the newly surfaced Sutton Tennis Club. Among others in attendance at the meeting was Ben Jacobs representing Councilmember Keith Powers.



After Captain William Gallagher, Executive Officer of the 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct, happily advised the group that the bank robber of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> avenue banks had been caught, Barry said that one of the ways to be involved in crime prevention was to attend the Monday meetings of 19<sup>th</sup> Precinct Community Council. Barry



thanked the Captain for always being available and introduced Officer Luis Quezada and Officer John Papa as officers who are also always available to the community. Being involved also means patronizing the shops of local merchants who are an essential part of the community. The information from restaurants, banks, cultural institutions and vendors displayed at the Merchants Table served to promote that aim as Barry thanked Dunkin Donuts and Bed Bath and Beyond for providing meeting refreshments and the Colonial Dames of America/Mount Vernon Hotel Museum for all of their help in setting up for the annual meeting. During the required segment of the annual meeting, financial results for the fiscal year were announced and Joan Ferrone and Judy Schneider were reelected as directors of ESNA. Barry gave the annual report of the president and mentioned that there would be a special event in February to highlight and promote ESNA's local merchants. He also gave the dates for **ESNA's Winter Clothing Drive, Saturday, November 9**, and its annual **Toy Drive/Holiday Sing, Monday, December 9**, a fun and meaningful way to "be involved". While not an ESNA event, Barry reminded everyone that on **November 5, election day**, there would be five New York City Charter Revision proposals on the back of the ballot that should not be skipped.

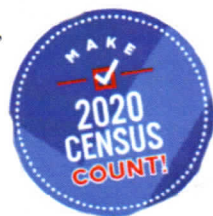
Sarah Malaika of the U. S. Census Bureau presented the "You Count! Be Counted!" feature of the meeting. She explained that the Bureau conducts about 130 programs, but the most important one is the census taken every ten years as mandated by the U. S.

*Continued on back page*



Continued from front page

Constitution. The census forms the basis for how approximately \$657 billion of federal government funds get allocated to state and local agencies funding hospitals, schools, parks, transportation and other vital services. It also forms the basis for how many members are allocated to each state for the U. S. House of Representatives. The aim of the census is to count where 330 million people in 140 million households reside as of April 1, 2020. Full details are available at <https://2020census.gov/>. In thanking Sarah for this valuable information, Barry stated that everyone should participate and tell others that they must answer this most important census questionnaire in order to be involved in assuring that not only New York State and New York City but the ESNA community as well receive their fair share of federal resources.



Following Sarah's presentation, Barry gave an overview of LinkNYC – those kiosks that are on certain sidewalks on the avenues. He explained how the equipment can be used -- for 24/7 emergency support with a 911 button; for free phone calls; for free Wi-Fi Internet access; for getting information about the weather, public service announcements, maps, directions; and even for charging devices. Barry then turned to ESNA's annual construction project review using the coded map (included with this newsletter), which has become the mainstay of each annual meeting. He advised great caution should be used in at the new pedestrian and bike crossing on the east side of 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue at the Queensboro Bridge. When other concerns were expressed about lack of plantings in the bicycle lane dividers on First Avenue, Barry suggested that ESNA's Beautification Task Force could be called upon to look into the issue. And with that thought, included in this newsletter are the current and planned ESNA Task Forces and names of the "task masters" for you to learn how to become involved.



What followed was the much-anticipated door prizes provided by the following merchants and won by the listed ESNA members. And to ensure the honesty of the draw, Captain Gallagher was summoned to do the task.

Continued in next column.

Continued from previous column.

#### Door Prize

#### Won By

CMX Cinebistro Event Space & Movie Theatre Movie Passes and Martini Set	<b>Racquel Gager</b>
Cork & Bottle – Veuve Clicquot Champagne	<b>Anne Forss</b>
TD Bank - Large green umbrella opening from bottom	<b>Elizabeth McCracken</b>
ESNA Gift Certificate for 2-year Membership	<b>Amy Miller</b>

#### *Dining Gift Certificates -*

Oath Pizza	<b>Angel Aguilar</b>
Patsy's Pizzeria	<b>Simon Benichou</b>
Patsy's Pizzeria	<b>Harold Siegel</b>
Primola Restaurant	<b>Debbie Slevin</b>
Primola Restaurant	<b>Richard Schmidt</b>

In closing, Barry thanked everyone for coming to the meeting and supporting ESNA. As he put it, ESNA can only continue to be an advocate, an aide to our local merchants and "your voice" in city government if you, the ESNA members, continue to **Be Involved!**

For ways to **Be Involved**, send an email of your interest in participating in an ESNA Task to our Task Leaders at [info@esna-nyc.com](mailto:info@esna-nyc.com)

#### Task

#### Leader

Tree Pruning	Phil Corradini
Gardening	Jennifer Benichou
Graffiti Removal	Judy Schneider
Membership Mailings	Joan Ferrone
Media and Communications	Barry Schneider
Social Media	Paul Higgins
Annual Summer Street Fair	Joan Ferrone
Annual Fall Clothing Drive	Joan Fabio
Annual Winter Toy Drive/Carol Sing	Judy Schneider
Planning Children's Events	Faith Bondy & Cindy Rachlin
Small Business Initiatives	Paul Higgins
Attending & Reporting on Community Board & other city agency meetings	Barry Schneider

*The digital version of ESNA EXTRA, prepared by Paul Higgins, is available by emailing us at [info@esna-nyc.net](mailto:info@esna-nyc.net).*

- Written by Joan Fabio