

Dear neighbors,

The resilience and kindness of our community never cease to amaze me. In the past few months, it has been easy to be caught up in feelings of helplessness. Instead, our community has rallied together to protect our neighbors and take care of one another.

This year, we convened the Lower East Side Community Care Coalition, a group of elected officials, faith leaders, and community-based organizations who are dedicated to fighting to protect our neighbors. Together, the coalition hosted our first event, titled "How Community Organizations and Faith Leaders Can Protect Immigrant New Yorkers," just a few weeks ago. We gathered to share resources and learn how to be stronger allies in the fight to protect our newest New Yorkers.

Across the district, folks stepped up to lend a hand to those in need. Since the start of the year, we have distributed thousands of pounds of food to NYCHA residents, packed hundreds of care kits for neighbors in need, and mobilized to fight back against cuts to gender-affirming care at NYU Langone. I've also been advocating in Albany to lower utility bills (A4870), make housing more affordable (A4954), and reform our criminal justice system (A1010). We could not do this work without the support of our community, and we're just getting started.

Sincerely

Harvey

## **Honoring Black History Month**

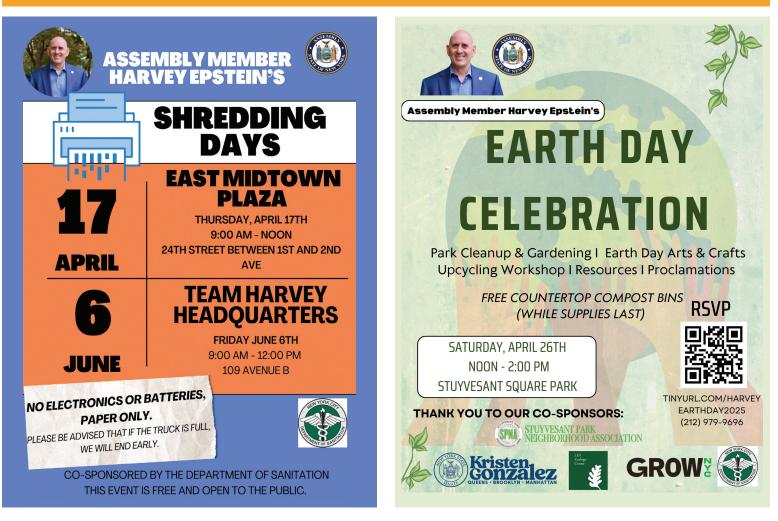
Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Black History Month Celebration with Assembly Member Grace Lee at the Wilmer Jennings Gallery at Kenkeleba House! We honored community leaders, watched performances, viewed artwork, and enjoyed pizza. Ayo Harrington provided a libation, and Shaheeda Smith led us in Lift Every Voice and Sing. We also saw a performance by the Dorill Initiative and Spoken Word by District Leader Mariama James. Congratulations to Vaylateena Jones, Ron Thomas, Janice McLaurin, TC Rosario, Concessa Alfred, and Oniel Bennett on being honored with proclamations for Black History Month.







## **Free Upcoming Events**



## **Celebrating Women's History Month**

On March 14th, we gathered as a community to enjoy short films, dance, tai chi, songs, and more at our Women's History Month Celebration at the Center for Wellbeing and Happiness. Incredible women and non-binary artists shared impactful performances with our audience.

We also honored Riis Houses TA Secretary Diane Gomez, Rev. Amanda Hambrick Ashcraft, and Joan Beranbaum with proclamations! Thank you to our incredible MC Ciara Lugo and everyone who came out to celebrate with us!





## **Achievements in Our District**



Marched in the Pride Parade with Equality New York and Assembly Members Simone, Simon, Bores, and Lee and constituents. We also worked to secure \$250,000 dollars in state funding for the purchase and installation of fencing for the park.

#### 23rd St. Subway Station

Power washed the 23<sup>rd</sup> Street Subway Station with the MTA and co-named it the 23rd Street-Baruch College Station.



#### **National Arts Club**

Secured a \$550,000 investment from New York State to fund accessibility upgrades so everyone can enjoy the arts and provided \$125,000 in capital to fund a new HVAC system.

#### **Union Square**

Cut the Ribbon on a new pedestrian plaza to improve safety and experience for pedestrians and cyclists from East 17th to East 21<sup>st</sup> Street and hosted many e-waste recycling and shredding truck events.

#### **Vineyard Theatre**

Funded critical repairs, accessibility upgrades, and upgraded safety measures on the block through a capital allocation of \$250,000.

#### **Union Square Academy** for Health Sciences



Won a \$150,000 investment by the state in a new dental lab for students to build careerreadiness skills.

#### Stuyvesant Park

Funded Summer in the Square through the New York State budget for the Stuyvesant Park Neighborhood Association to host tango, yoga, art exhibits, concerts, and more! We also established an interagency task force with 10+ agencies and offices to improve quality-of-life in the park.

#### **On Our Subways & Buses**

Our Youth Council's advocacy led to the expansion of 4 swipes/day 365 days/year Metrocards for all NYC public school students.

#### **Tompkins Square** Park Dog Run

Announced a \$400,000 Investment to rehab the Tompkins Square Park Large Dog



the Dog Mayor and NYC Parks. Also, advocated for a state investment of \$6.1 million to fully fund the reopening of the Tompkins Square Park Pool.



#### **Baruch College**

My bill A1395C of 2024 was signed into law, expanding access to reproductive healthcare for students on CUNY and SUNY campuses. I also provided \$30 million in Capital funding to rehabilitate the campus at 177 Lexington Ave.

Lexington Ave. Armory Broke ground on muchneeded upgrades to the historic Lexington Ave. Armory, funded with a

\$40 million allocation

in the State budget.

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Nathan Straus **Houses** Secured funding for and cut the ribbon on a new community center and media technology lab for

residents.

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#### **Ralph Bunche Park** Provided state funding to allow the Friends of Ralph Bunche Park to get new irrigation systems to beautify the park.

Bellevue Hospital HEALTH+ HOSPITALS Belley

Celebrated the new "Bridge to Home" program to address street homelessness and treat individuals living with severe mental illness and funded an expanded daycare center and capital improvements through the state budget.

#### **NYU Dental**

Hosted town halls to engage with constituents about the closure of Mount Sinai Beth Israel, the SPARC Kips Bay Life Science Campus proposal, public safety, and housing justice.

#### East Midtown Plaza

Hosted a resource fair and shredding truck event with free dental screenings that was attended by hundreds of constituents.

#### 244 East 23rd St.

Worked with the Sherriff's Department to close down this illegal smoke shop and 71 others across the district.

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#### Stuytown

Hosted mobile office hours in the community center, handed out resources at the flea market, and brought shredding trucks to Stuytown residents.

#### **Riis Houses**

Won over a billion dollars of capital investment for NÝCHA since 2019

#### **Campos Plaza**

Went on a ride-along with the 9th Precinct to inform citizens on bike and e-bike safety measures

#### **Center for Wellbeing** & Happiness

Provided \$500,000 through New York State to open the Center for Wellbeing and Happiness, a space dedicated to inter-generational wellness.

### Loisaida Center

Distributed over 7,500 Thanksgiving meals to families in need through our annual food drive with the Loisaida Center.



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Team

Harvey

**Headquarters** 

Assisted thousands

of constituents

with concerns

related to housing,

food insecurity,

mental health,

unemployment

benefits, education,

health care, and so

much more.

FA

Worked with NYCHA to fund security cameras and install an improved for residents, after several years in a state

basketball court of disrepair.

#### **Baruch Houses**

Secured capital funds to upgrade the community room and obtained tilt trucks for better waste management practices at Baruch Houses.

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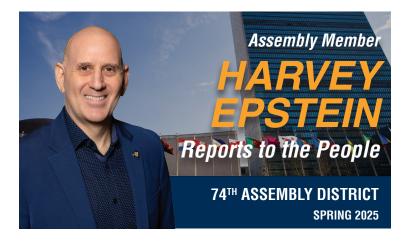


## Assembly Member Harvey Epstein Fights for Our Community





New York State Assembly, Albany, New York 12248





## **Keep Up with Team Harvey!**

Subscribe to our weekly e-blast list to see upcoming community events, important neighborhood updates, the pet of the week, and so much more! https://nyassembly.gov/mem/Harvey-Epstein/enews

