



## Advocacy in Action



Young people in the community participating at The Impact Symposium, a college fair hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity and members of the HBCU community at Beacon Community Center

Dear Colleague,

This month Grand St. Settlement traveled to Albany with our partners at United Neighborhood Houses to speak with our state representatives about the importance of settlement houses to our communities. We asked our representatives to prioritize the Settlement House Program in the next fiscal year. At Grand St., this state funding supplements our Single Stop program, which connects people at all of our locations with important benefits and resources.

Grand St. Settlement and United Neighborhood Houses are also fighting for state funding for the chronically underfunded New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). We are asking the state to create a special capital fund for improvements at nonprofit community centers in NYCHA buildings, where under-investment results in serious barriers for our programs. This directly effects 15 Grand St. Settlement sites such as Rutgers Community Center, Lafayette Gardens Community Center, Roosevelt Community Center, and our headquarters at 80 Pitt St.

If you'd like to help us fight for programs funded by New York State, please call your state representatives today and ask for them to include funding for the Settlement House Program and community centers in NYCHA buildings.

You can find your state representative [here](#).

In Solidarity,

Robert Cordero

## Congratulations Willing!



Willing Chin-Ma has been the recipient of multiple awards over the last few months. Willing received an award from Council Member Margaret Chin at this year's City Council Lunar New Year's Celebration in honor of her commitment to social work, She will is being honored by the Notable Women in Human Services Hall of Fame, and will receive the National Social Willing has spent the last 25 years fighting and advocating for the citizens of New York City. For the past 20+ years, Willing has been dedicated to the people of Grand St. Settlement and continues to make us proud. Congratulations Willing for this well-deserved distinction!

## Happening Now

### **BOLD INITIATIVES**

Essex Crossing is open for Events and Catering! Interested in using one of our spaces at Essex Crossing Community Center or GrandLo Cafe for an upcoming event? Email [events@grandlocafe.com](mailto:events@grandlocafe.com) for more information!

### **GRAND STRATEGY**

On Saturday, March 16, [GrandLo Cafe](#) is celebrating one year in business by throwing a birthday party for the community! Join us for events throughout the day between 10am-3pm.

### **INSPIRED WORK**

Over the next few months we will be highlighting the accomplishments of our staff, participants, and programs on social media. Follow along on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter [@GrandStSettlement](#)

## Moments of the Month



### Love is in the Air

Youth Programs celebrated Valentine's Day at Essex Crossing Community Center with There were raffles, food, games, and music

### A Celebration of Black History

Baruch Houses enjoyed a concert in honor of Black History Month by Concerts in Motion.





### Natural Aromatherapy

A Benefits of Natural Aromatherapy & Meditation Workshop was hosted at Baruch Houses for seniors. The event included mental health group counseling.

### All You Need is Love

Seniors at 80 Pitt St. enjoyed a Love and Friendship dance on February 14. celebrating their loved ones and each other.





### Career Day

AmeriCorps' COMPASS Explore participants visited Brookfield Asset Management Inc. to learn about careers in HR, accounting, research and analysis, and other fields within the real estate industry.

### More Food!

Participants of our monthly community culinary classes made veggie and pork dumplings with help from Target!





### Dance, Dance, Dance!

Grand Coalition of Seniors enjoyed a Zumba class at 80 Pitt St. With a theme of Love and Friendship, the seniors were encouraged to dress in red or pink.

### Love Shouldn't Hurt

Bushwick-Hylan Cornerstone Community Center held a Youth Panel Discussion in collaboration with the Mayor's Office and NYPD to discuss sexual assault and teen dating violence.



Happy Birthday!

The Grand Coalition of Seniors celebrated February birthdays with a dance and cake!

Aging Issues

Willing Chin-Ma and UNH members meeting with Caryn Resnick, Acting Department for the Aging



Commissioner of issues that are important to our older population.



Happy Lunar New Year!

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. Dinapoli celebrated his Lunar New Year event at Essex Crossing Community Center. The event starred lion dancing by our very own seniors!

Teacher Time

On Thursday, February 21, 23 teachers from our Early Head Start Child Care Partners came together for professional development. It was a fun day mixed with learning and exploring materials showcased by Lakeshore!



### Ingrid's Having a Baby!

Staff threw Ingrid Villatoro a surprise baby shower in her last week before heading on maternity leave. We'll miss you while you're gone!

## Next Up

- March 11- City Harvest Food Pantry will be open at 80 Pitt Street starting at 8am.
- March 16- GrandLo Cafe is celebrating its 1st year in business with a Birthday Party for the community! Come by between 10am-3pm to join the festivities!
- March 19- The Grand Coalition of Seniors is holding a Women's History Month Dance starting at 1:15pm.
- March 29- The seniors at 80 Pitt st. are holding their monthly Birthday Dance at 1:15pm.

Want to highlight your favorite moments in the newsletter or social media? Send a description and any pictures to [pictures@grandsettlement.org](mailto:pictures@grandsettlement.org)



Grand St. Settlement Executive Director Robert Cordero and his sons, Daniel and Lucas, met Council Member Carlina

Rivera at City Hall for the Lunar New Year Ceremony.

## Grand St. Settlement Staff Birthdays & Anniversaries

To make sure that you have time to wish a happy birthday to your friends and colleagues, we will begin listing the **upcoming birthdays and anniversaries** in the Roundup. For this month, we will be wishing happy birthday and congratulations for those in the month of February **and** March.

Happy February birthday shout-outs to Leidy Mosquera Quintero, India Mosley, Ashley Level, Gabriela Torres, Kevin Rios, Joel Rodriguez, Tonia Parker-Gordon, Ryan Chin, Ariel Pulla, Nicole Coley, Kevon Woods, Gley Garcia, Edward Perez, Joanna Huang, Anikka Wright, Claudia Michue, Parvin Begum, Shane Gonzalez, Lee Bong Li, Samantha Payne, Martha Gonzembach, Jason Das, Shu Ying Liao, Mimi Woldemariam, Jie Ding, Nickesha Thomas, Amobi Muojeke, Lewin Murrell III, Rolanda Young, Josephine Southerton, Maria Huertas, Aislee Nieves, Danielle Morris-McBayne, Marisol Cortes.

Thank you February anniversaries for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn! Happy Anniversary to Adam Perez, Stally Ojeda, Chantal Taveras, Danasia Wilson, Frank Nowak, Dustin Tabeta, Jason Das, Christopher Militano, Terell Blake, Celine Prescod, Jasmin Rivera, Sophia Brown, Paula Jaimez, Monica Martinez, Franklin Perez, Piedad Ruz, Reneida Juarbe, Marcial Cruz.

Happy March birthday shout-outs to Robert Cordero, Assata Terry, Daquan Jones, Pierre Chaudry, Julianne Elsayed, Esther Chon, Mark Richards, Victory Avarino, Imani Bailey, Ayotunde

Whitaker, Antony Diaz, Beyaniris Rivas, Xuezheng Cao, Christian Urrutia, Yamilex, Fadi Yassin, Frederick Adutu, Jessica Facenda, Marnelcy Rosario, Deisy Vasquez-Ovalle, Natasha Ortiz, Elsa Pereira, Carmen Caruso, Evan Fernandez, Fergie Cajamarca, Carlos Sosa, Annette Perez, Christin Christie, Kiara Malave, Piedad Cruz, Dennis Malave, Nambia McMorris, Noemi Echevarria, Jajuan Pinckney, Mary Caba.

Thank you March anniversaries for your service and dedication to the communities of the Lower East Side and Brooklyn! Happy Anniversary to Ashley Level, Jeron Saint Fleur, Brian Maldonado, Chantel Mclaurin, Lee Bong Li, Laura Li, Sade Sullivan, Ethel Simpson, Elsa Pereira, Andreina Rodriguez, Brandon Palmer, Chuck Martinez, Emily Hartford, Darlene Cuffee, Marsiol Torres, Marisol Cortes, Ines De La Nuez, Annette Perez, Gladys Fernandez, Michael Khaliq.



Grand St Settlement  
www.grandsettlement.org  
80 Pitt Street, New York, NY 10002  
P: 212-674-1740  
E: info@grandsettlement.org

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