

# HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

annual  
REPORT  
2016



## HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

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Henry Street Settlement  
opens doors of opportunity  
to enrich lives and enhance  
human progress for Lower  
East Side residents and  
other New Yorkers through  
social services, arts and  
health care programs.



BOB ROTHSTEIN



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The cover was created by Bob Rothstein, a freelance collage artist who was “discovered” by the Settlement when he set up his easel in front of our historic headquarters. This image is a special commission. For Rothstein, who was trained in biology and engineering, collage affords him a natural medium to capture the world around him. His work can be seen on Google at [Bob Rothstein Artist](#).







David Garza  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As I write this letter, there is great concern in New York City and across the nation about how the new federal administration will impact the delivery of social services directed at aiding our most vulnerable residents. I can't predict how this will play out, but I do know one thing for certain: Henry

Street will be moving forward, providing social service, arts and health care programs to those in need. As an anti-poverty organization committed to social justice — and one founded to help new immigrants make better lives for themselves and their families — we renew our commitment to our community, especially during times of enormous challenge.

On the eve of our 125th anniversary, Henry Street is working from a position of strength. We serve more clients than ever; each year, approximately 60,000 individuals participate in Settlement programs. At this moment, there are construction workers on scaffolding outside my window, restoring the façade of our historic headquarters. This is but one of \$19 million in capital projects underway across the agency, which operates out of 17 sites on the Lower East Side of New York. This investment in our facilities is being executed to improve access, reinforce and strengthen our identity and program quality, and enable us to be efficient stewards of our history and property.

We remain cautious, yet bold, and embrace the future, positioning ourselves to provide vital services for the community for the next 125 years.

message  
from the  
**EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR**

message  
from the  
**BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**



Scott Swid  
CHAIRMAN

More than 100 years ago, a revolutionary new concept emerged: the settlement house model. This new movement believed that poverty was a social issue and took a holistic approach toward providing social services. Settlement houses then, as now, delivered a variety of services to all ages to help people make better lives for themselves.

The prescience of the founders was such that, more than a century later, the settlement house model has proven the most effective means to drive positive change.

Many of the original 400 settlement houses that existed in the 1910s, including Jane Addams' Hull House in Chicago, are no longer in operation. Those that thrive today, like Henry Street, have shown the agility to change with the times, and respond to the evolving community. To that end, we are eagerly anticipating the imminent acquisition of the vacant firehouse next to our historic headquarters, an important step toward helping us serve the needs of our community today.

We are both privileged and honored to serve on the board of Henry Street. We are proud of the work accomplished by the front-line staff, and all who work to provide vital services to the 60,000 individuals who enter our doors each year. We are equally grateful to our fellow board members and our funders, whose generous support makes our work possible.



Ian Highet  
PRESIDENT





# 2016 it happened on HENRY STREET

Read more, and see more photos, at [henrystreet.org](http://henrystreet.org)



## ON THE INSIDE @ THE ABRONS

This extraordinary exhibition, in the Abrons' galleries from November 2 to December 28, displayed the works of incarcerated LGBTQ artists from across the country. *On the Inside* was organized by longtime Henry Street friend and neighbor **Tatiana von Furstenberg** in collaboration with Black and Pink, an advocacy organization for LGBTQ inmates. It was designed to give LGBTQ prisoners a voice through their artwork, and was complemented by a series of talks and programs. The exhibit was featured in *The New York Times*, *Vanity Fair* and other major media.



## RUNNING FOR CHARITY

Henry Street was an official Charity Partner of the 2016 TCS New York City Marathon. Runners, including Henry Street staff, represented Team Henry on November 6, and raised more than \$20,000 to benefit Henry Street programs.

## A GARDEN GROWS ON THE LES

The Richard Abrons Community Garden, a 90th birthday gift to Richard from three organizations close to his heart — Henry Street, GrowNYC and the United Neighborhood Houses — was unveiled in November.

Nearly 70 children from the Settlement's after-school programs attended the ceremony, where Richard was lauded by **David Garza**, Executive Director of Henry Street; **Susan Stamler**, Executive Director of United Neighborhood Houses; and **Gerard Lordahl**, Director of Open Space Greening at GrowNYC.

The new garden gives life and beauty (and vegetables!) to the corner of Avenue D and East Sixth Street, a space that had been neglected for decades. It is outside the Settlement's new Jacob Riis Cornerstone Community Center. The gift was inspired by Richard's family foundation, which has created 93 green spaces throughout the city.



## LES COMMUNITY SPEAKS OUT AT TOWN HALL

In September, Henry Street hosted its third annual Town Hall Meeting, where nearly 200 Lower East Side community members gathered to address topics like housing, gentrification, jobs, education, public safety and policing, and more.



## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

The Transitional and Supportive Housing division hosted an open house in October in recognition of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. "The Wall of Silence: An Afternoon at the Gallery" displayed the artwork and writings of survivors of domestic violence living at Henry Street.

## THE FIRST ANNUAL LILLIAN WALD SYMPOSIUM: CAN WE END HOMELESSNESS?

Henry Street's historic dining room was filled to capacity on May 16 for the Settlement's first annual Lillian Wald Symposium, entitled "Can We End Homelessness?" Answering this question, and others, were **Steven Banks**, Commissioner, New York City Department of Social Services; **Stephen Levin**, New York City Council Member and chair of the General Welfare Committee; **Christine Quinn**, President and CEO of Women in Need; and **Ethan Sribnick**, Ph.D., co-author of *The Poor Among Us: A History of Family Poverty and Homelessness in New York City*.



## PARENT CENTER SATELLITE

More than 50 parents attended the opening of Henry Street's Parent Center Satellite at PS 142 on October 14, where they were introduced to the innovative — and super convenient — new program. The Center provides workshops and information for parents, right in their child's school. It shares space with the Settlement's School Based Mental Health Clinic at the school.



## TREASURES OF NEW YORK: SETTLEMENT HOUSES

Henry Street was featured in *Treasures of New York: Settlement Houses*, a new documentary that premiered in November on WLIW21 and WNET13. The one-hour film explores the unique history of this dynamic social service movement, which began in the late 19th century.



# OUR PROGRAMS

Henry Street touches the lives of 60,000 individuals each year. Four current client stories are shared on the following pages — plus a special one from 1946!

## ABRONS ARTS CENTER/PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS

- Cutting-edge performances by emerging and acclaimed local and international artists in three theaters
- Contemporary art exhibitions in three galleries
- Residencies for visual artists, curators and performing artists
- Training for children and adults in visual arts, theater, music and dance; and summer arts camp
- StudioLab arts education for schools in all five NYC boroughs

## EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- Day care, after-school and summer camps
- College Success program for access and completion
- Youth sports and recreation programs
- Employment services for youth and adults
- Basic adult education (HSE and ESL)
- Customized staffing services
- Computer access and training at the ATTAIN Lab

## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

- Neighborhood Resource Center/Parent Center
- Primary health clinic (Health Unlimited)
- Mental health clinic (Community Consultation Center)
- Personalized Recovery Oriented Services (PROS)
- Satellite mental health clinics in schools and the senior center
- Supportive housing residences
- Senior Center, Meals on Wheels, NORC (Naturally Occurring Retirement Community), Senior Companion Program

## TRANSITIONAL AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

- Shelter and supportive services in four separate shelters for homeless families, single women and survivors of domestic violence and their children, and a supportive housing residence for formerly homeless individuals.

## HAPPY KIDS, grateful mother



Yanissa Estevez with son Jariel and daughter Jenalis at the Settlement's Early Childhood Education Center.

Three years ago, **YANISSA ESTEVEZ** began searching for full-time childcare for her son, Jariel. "I live in the neighborhood and had heard about Henry Street," she said. "People said, 'Oh, you should check it out, they're very good.'"

She enrolled Jariel in the Early Childhood Education Center, and noticed a positive change from the start. "My son learned a lot right away," she said. "He was processing information in ways that he wasn't before, and was able to communicate and socialize better immediately."

With such a positive experience, she didn't hesitate to enroll her daughter, Jenalis, in the Center the next year. Like Jariel, younger sister Jenalis, now 4, is thriving at the school.

Last year, when Jariel graduated from the Pre-Kindergarten class, he didn't have to say goodbye to Henry Street. Now a kindergarten student at a nearby Manhattan charter school, he attends the Settlement's after-school program there. He likes it so much that when his mother recently suggested he skip a day of after-school, as she was leaving her job early, he replied emphatically, "No, I want to stay."

The after-school program makes home life easier for the busy family. "The instructors help Jariel with his homework, so once I get home, I can go over it with him instead of us both getting started much later," she said. "He loves it, and I love it too."

Yanissa is grateful for the way Henry Street helps her take care of her family. "I am able to work a full-time job and I know my children are in a good place," she said.



Je'Jae Daniels outside the  
Abrons Arts Center.



## arts, education AND RESPECT

It's no wonder that **JE'JAE DANIELS**, 23, has a strong connection to Henry Street Settlement. They (Je'Jae identifies as genderqueer) took violin lessons at the Abrons Arts Center, prepped for college with Expanded Horizons, and even got jobs through both the Summer Youth Employment Program and the Young Adult Internship Program.

Along the way, Henry Street helped Je'Jae experience a sense of belonging and acceptance. "I grew up feeling like the odd ball out, even within my own community," they said. Je'Jae's mother emigrated from Israel, and the family found assimilating on the Lower East Side difficult. Je'Jae's classes at the Abrons started to turn that around right away. "The programs at Henry Street always made me feel safe and respected. I love the way Henry Street treats people, not like a client but as a person," said Je'Jae.

Another way Henry Street helped Je'Jae is through the inspiration of its founder, Lillian Wald.

"It's been so validating to learn more about her," said Je'Jae, who wrote a research paper on Wald. "She was like me, Jewish and gay. She created this nonprofit that was ahead of its time, especially for it to be headed by a woman.

"Lillian Wald has been a part of my whole life," said Je'Jae. "It's one of the most healing and affirming stories to hear that someone of your background and identity can make a difference."

Je'Jae is now a junior studying media and communications at Brooklyn College and hopes to continue in the footsteps of those who guided them through childhood and adolescence at Henry Street.

They have started by advocating for the Settlement. "I volunteer for Henry Street whenever I'm needed. I refer people to programs all the time," said Je'Jae.

"Having a stable institution to make sure that everyone is advancing their lives is so important. The community is so much better because Henry Street Settlement is on the Lower East Side."

## ONCE hopeless, NOW happy



For years, **AMARILIS SOTO**, 40, sought help to battle depression. But it wasn't until she discovered the Community Consultation Center (CCC), Henry Street's mental health clinic, that she found the help she needed.

Amarilis, a Lower East Side native, has endured a myriad of health problems. Diagnosed at age three with Type 1 diabetes, she suffers from complications of that illness, including poor vision, plus others that affect her breathing and mobility. In 2011, she underwent a kidney and pancreas transplant, which requires immunosuppressant medications that leave her vulnerable to infections.

Her health issues, among others, led to her depression. She had tried many counselors, to no avail. "I would try for a month or so, but didn't feel like they could help me," she said.

After seeing a brochure for the CCC, and when she was at her lowest point, she took a chance. "I was hopeless when I came to Henry Street," she said. "I could barely get out of bed or take a shower. I was practically screaming for help."

But from the moment she walked in, she felt a sense of comfort and connection that was lacking at other clinics. She met with Landis Block, mental health counselor, and instantly connected with her. "She is empathetic, and she treated me as a person, not a case," she said.

Initially, Amarilis had counseling twice a week; now she has weekly appointments. "While I'm still working on my issues, I feel so much better. Landis made a huge difference," said Amarilis. "I'm going to the beauty parlor, going out more and walking my dogs as much as I can.

"I'm so glad I found Landis — and Henry Street!"



Amarilis Soto with her beloved dog, and below, with counselor Landis Block, outside the Community Consultation Center.



# STEPPING stones TO independence

**MICHELLE DIAZ** never imagined she'd experience homelessness, but just over two years ago she suddenly found herself at the doorstep of Henry Street's Urban Family Center (UFC).

"It was a completely different world than I was used to," said Michelle, 34, who had owned her own home and business in Florida for a decade. The dissolution of her marriage "pushed my life into a whole new direction," said the newly single mother of two. She returned to her hometown of New York with her daughters to begin life anew. When plans to live with family members did not work out, she had no choice but to enter the shelter system.

At Henry Street, Michelle participated in the employment program at UFC and was placed in a job at the Settlement. She worked at several sites, including the Good Companions Senior Center and the Abrons Arts Center, where she still works per diem. UFC case managers and staff also helped Michelle enroll her daughters in classes at the Abrons, where they've taken everything from ballet to breakdancing.

Towards the end of 2016, the pieces began falling into place: with Henry Street's support, Michelle found an apartment of her own on the Upper West Side and began a full-time receptionist job at a nonprofit organization.

Michelle is confident the Henry Street connection will live on. "Henry Street gave me the stepping stones I needed to rebuild my life and make a better future for my children," she said. "They have become the heart of our family."



**Michelle with daughters Iyanna, 13, and Kymberly, 8.**



**Howard Storm and his HENRY ST license plate.**

## HOWARD STORM: FROM HENRY STREET TO hollywood

You can take a boy out of the Lower East Side, but you can't extract the neighborhood from his heart — or, in the case of Howard Storm, from his vanity license plate that reads: HENRY ST.

Howard, a successful Hollywood producer, director and actor, was raised

at 172 Henry Street in a railroad flat. He was smitten with acting after seeing a play in Brooklyn and, at age 14, enrolled in theater classes at the Henry Street Playhouse (now part of the Abrons Arts Center) to learn the craft. The year was 1946, and Howard remembers the class and his teacher with great affection. Concerned that his teacher might be mugged while walking from the Playhouse to the bus stop after class, Howard would accompany him. "I told him that it was a tough neighborhood and that if he was with me — everyone knew me — he would be fine," he said.

Howard began his career as a stand-up comedian in New York, appearing on *The Merv Griffin Show* (once bringing his father, a former star of vaudeville and burlesque, along), *The Tonight Show* and *The Dick Cavett Show*. He appeared in many films, and wrote episodes for *The Partridge Family*, *All in the Family*, *The Bob Newhart Show* and *Happy Days*. By chance, he filled in for a director on the set of *Rhoda*, and then became a director of series like *Mork & Mindy*, *Taxi*, *Full House*, *Everybody Loves Raymond* and more.

Recalling his "wonderful" experience at Henry Street, he credits his acting teacher with inspiring him to read plays and books. The first, which he performed in class, was *Cyrano de Bergerac*. And the rest, as they say, is history — or in this case, show business.

*For those budding performing artists, Henry Street still offers excellent arts classes. Please visit [Abronsartscenter.org](http://Abronsartscenter.org) for details.*



# thanks, HENRY STREET!

Many clients express gratitude to the Settlement for the help they've received. Here are two stories.

## CARING ON WHEELS: WARREN PIZARRO

To his friends and colleagues, he's Warren. But to the family of the late Mary Baio, he's known as Wonder Man Warren. That's because four years ago, Warren Pizarro, 47, a Henry Street Meals on Wheels driver, saved Mary's life. When he rang Mary's bell that day, he heard her cry out, "Help me, Warren. I've fallen!" He quickly got building security to open the door, and called 911 and Mary's five children. She had been on the floor for two hours before Warren arrived with her lunch.

"Who knows what would have happened if Warren hadn't been there?" said Janice Baio, one of Mary's three daughters. Mary recovered from her fall, and for the next four years, Warren delivered her meals, always with a smile, and developed a close relationship not only with Mary (calling on the weekends, just to check in) but also with her family. Mary's children agree that Warren is "just so nice. He really cares, and has a big heart. We all knew that he loved his job."

This past October 19, when Warren arrived to deliver lunch to Mary at her Stuyvesant Town apartment, the 90-year-old was in distress, being attended to by one of her daughters and emergency medical personnel. Warren continued on his route, stopping to text the family, "I'm praying for your Mom." Sadly, she passed away later that day. Even in their grief, Mary's family found time to contact Warren. They wrote, "Our mother passed away today. I am sure you probably knew. We wanted to say thank you for everything. We will always remember you for saving our mother's life. The fact that you were there again today is simply amazing."



Warren Pizarro, top, and Mary and her five children.

## ADVOCACY FOR A SENIOR: MARTHA NIEVES

Mahasin Tariq, 63, loves her job as a security guard at the Museum of Natural History. But when an ankle injury caused the Vladeck Houses resident to go on disability, she turned to Henry Street's Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NORC) for help. With the decrease in income, she needed help lowering her rent payments. She had tried in the past (her rent had more than doubled in the nine years she lived there), but had only been successful once. The annual rent increased continued, which she endured, but had difficulty paying with only a disability check.

Enter Martha Nieves, case manager at NORC, who "got right to work for me," said Mahasin. "She advocated on my behalf to get the rent reduction I was entitled to." Today, Mahasin is back on the job and financially secure.



Martha Nieves, left, with Mahasin Tariq

# coming soon HENRY STREET's QUASQUICENTENNIAL

IN 2018, HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT will celebrate its 125th birthday, and we are planning a year of exciting activities to mark the occasion.

We begin with two stories in this annual report.

*The History of Henry Street in Ten Objects*, on page 14, is a fun look back at some of the material culture that tells our story. The list is by no means comprehensive and, in fact, some might say that not of the ten are "objects." But please indulge our editorial license and enjoy the story.

When we read *Partners Against Misery in Philanthropy Roundtable Magazine*, we immediately sought permission to reprint an excerpt. Author Susan Hertog examines, in an entirely new light, the extraordinary collaboration between Lillian Wald, founder of Henry Street, and Jacob Schiff, the philanthropist who made Wald's vision a reality. The article begins on page 18.

# 1893-2018



# The History of HENRY STREET

## in ten OBJECTS

### 1

#### PETE'S PORTRAIT

Peter Lehman, the son of former New York Governor Herbert Lehman and Edith Lehman, was a volunteer at Henry Street, as was his father. A lieutenant in the Army Air Force, he was tragically killed during WW II. To honor their son, Herbert and Edith donated funds to construct a youth recreation center, called, fittingly, Pete's House, which opened in 1948. The painting hangs in the lobby. The portrait is by Alphaeus T. Cole (1876-1988), an artist whose work is in the permanent collection of London's National Portrait Gallery, the Brooklyn Museum and others. The Lehmans' granddaughter recalls it hanging in their bedroom and surmises that it was donated to Henry Street upon Edith's death in 1974. [Note: C.J. Wise, great-granddaughter of the Lehmans, is a vice president of Henry Street's Board of Directors.]



### 2

#### BRASS SAMOVARS

These brass samovars were gifts from Jewish immigrant neighbors to Henry Street founder Lillian Wald. To acknowledge her respect for immigrant contributions to America, Lillian gave these traditional Russian tea urns a place of pride — in the Settlement's dining room — where so many from all walks of life gathered to exchange views. They remain on display there today; one of the four was featured in *Activist New York*, an exhibition at the Museum of the City of New York.



### 3

#### BACKYARD GARDEN

Although today the space behind the Settlement's historic headquarters is a garden with pavers and plantings, it was once among the nation's first playgrounds. Lillian Wald took a strong interest in children's welfare and opened the space as an alternative to the hot, dangerous streets of the Lower East Side. The attended and shaded space, filled with playground equipment, was so beloved that it was called the Bunker Hill of Playgrounds. To expand the world of play beyond the Settlement's backyard, Lillian co-founded the Outdoor Recreation League, an advocacy group that built Seward Park, the first city-funded playground in the United States.



### 4

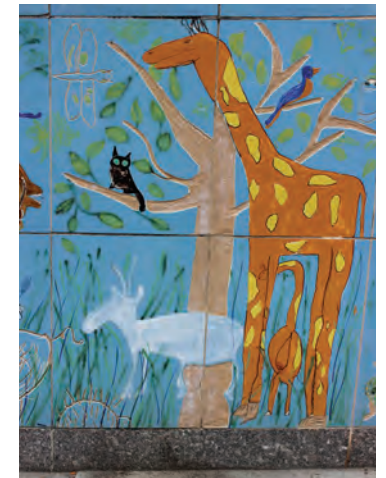
#### THE HOUSE ON HENRY STREET

*The House on Henry Street*, written by Lillian Wald, has been the bible of the Settlement since its publication in 1915. Originally a collection of articles in *The Atlantic Monthly*, this illustrated volume (along with its 1934 sequel *Windows on Henry Street*), reflects on the challenges faced by Henry Street's immigrant clients and the Settlement's response. Its influence was such that *The New York Times* named Wald as one of the 12 greatest living American women in 1922, and she later received the Lincoln Medallion for her work as an "Outstanding Citizen of New York."

### 5

#### CHILDREN'S MURAL AT 301 HENRY STREET

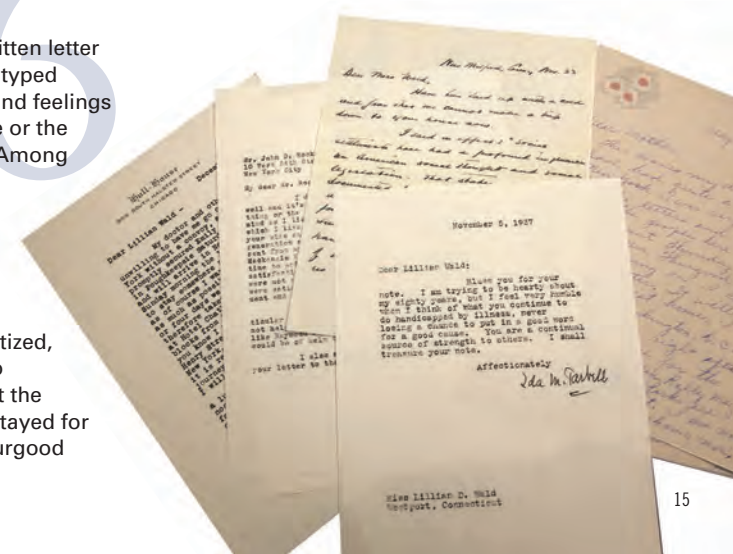
The colorful animal and jungle fantasy mural on the exterior wall of the Charles and Stella Guttman building was created by children from the Settlement's arts programs in the 1960s at the suggestion of architects DeYoung, Moscovitz and Rosenberg. The building was funded by Charles Guttman who, as a child, lived in a house on the same site and participated in Henry Street programs, including summer camp. At the dedication in 1962, Guttman said, "Henry Street took me and a lot of Irish and Italian kids and sent us off to the country. You can't explain what a thrill it was. I'll never forget it, and there's no way I can really pay them back. This contribution doesn't even the score, but at least it serves to mark an experience that helped open a poor boy's eyes to the possibilities of life in America."



### 6

#### CORRESPONDENCE

In the days before email, the written letter was king. These handwritten or typed ephemera illuminate thoughts and feelings in ways that the dashed-off note or the 140-character tweet rarely can. Among the correspondence at archival repositories are the treasured letters between Lillian Wald and John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Charles Beard, Ida Tarbell, Jane Addams and more. When Rosa Parks' papers were recently digitized, we discovered a letter written to her mother while in residence at the Settlement in 1956, where she stayed for several weeks while visiting Thurgood Marshall and others.





## 265 HENRY STREET

This c.1830 townhouse, gifted by philanthropist Jacob Schiff to Lillian Wald in 1895 to expand the home nursing service she'd begun two years earlier, remains Henry Street's headquarters. Originally home to an upper-class family and, as the neighborhood declined, working-class families, it is a rare survivor of the townhouses that once predominated in the neighborhood. Its dining room (pictured here) was used for classes, and hosted people such as Eleanor Roosevelt, Theodore Roosevelt and Jacob Riis. It became a founding site of the NAACP when Lillian invited the multiracial group to gather in the space for a meal (a transgressive act in 1909). She became a founding member of the group.



## THE PLAYHOUSE

Henry Street opened the Neighborhood Playhouse in 1915 at 466 Grand Street to provide a home for innovative performance on the Lower East Side. This experimental theater and two other "little theaters" (Providence Playhouse and Washington Square Players) formed the foundation for modern American performance. Some of the most iconoclastic and influential artists of the past century — Agnes de Mille, Martha

Graham, Alwin Nikolais, Aaron Copland, John Cage, Paul Taylor, John Zorn and Twyla Tharpe — have trained, taught or performed there. Funded by sisters Alice and Irene Lewisohn, the Playhouse is now part of the Settlement's Abrons Arts Center. It continues its history of innovation, winning two Obie Awards in 2014 and 2015.

## FIREPLACE TILE

Lillian Wald had a vision of the city and nation as an expanded family, one with an inclusive and generous citizenship. On a 1910 visit to Japan to explore international humanitarian issues, Lillian found a symbol that encapsulated this vision: the Chinese character Bao, for brotherhood. Wald interpreted it to mean "universal brotherhood" and adopted it as the logo for the Settlement. Today, visitors to 267 Henry Street can see the last vestige of the stylized depiction of the Chinese character in the green ceramic tiles surrounding the ground-floor fireplace. To create a universal brotherhood, Wald believed in connecting with those who were marginalized or merely different. This translated into advocacy for immigrants, women's rights, and equality for African Americans.



## PHOTOGRAPH OF PRINCESS DIANA

This iconic photograph was taken in 1989 when Princess Diana visited the Settlement's Urban Family Center, to see firsthand the nation's original family shelter. Opened in 1972, the shelter was the first to house families in traditional apartments and offer 24-hour social service support. It became a model for the New York City shelter system and has been duplicated nationwide. The shelter complex, which houses 82 families, also provides employment and housing services to its residents. Henry Street operates two other family shelters, one for single women, and a supportive housing residence for formerly homeless adults.



## Bonus Object: THIMBLES

When David Garza became Henry Street's Executive Director in 2010, he said that the Settlement's daunting task to end poverty was akin to trying to empty the ocean with a thimble, and one that requires collaboration, determination, focus and resiliency. (Henry Street-branded thimbles are given to recognize achievement.) A few years ago, a staff member giving a tour in the garden found a c.1900 thimble that had been overlooked by thousands of visitors for more than 100 years. Coincidence? We think not.





PARTNERS  
AGAINST  
MISERY:

# the founders of HENRY STREET SETTLEMENT

by Susan Hertog

A CENTURY AGO, WHEN PHILANTHROPY was a private affair, and gentlemen did not join forces with women, an extraordinary collaboration between one of America's most successful financiers and an unknown woman just out of nursing school changed the course of thousands of American lives. The financier was the great Jewish philanthropist Jacob Schiff, and his visionary partner was

Lillian Wald. She had been introduced to Schiff by his mother-in-law with portentous words: "Either she is a genius, or a madwoman." Wald and her colleagues, with the financial support, skills and

**Exterior of Henry Street's historic headquarters, purchased for Lillian Wald by Jacob Schiff.**

advice of Schiff, nursed, educated, Americanized, and defended the great tide of poor immigrants as they flooded into New York City.

Between 1892 and 1924, millions of immigrants passed through the port of New York. In the absence of government institutions and programs, it was social reformers and sympathetic philanthropists who took charge of ameliorating the illness, poverty, crime, and injustice that floated in with the new arrivals. Women working in squalid tenements did much of the work — acculturating displaced peasants to an urban life radically different from anything they had known. Lillian Wald was among these dedicated public servants.

A debutante from Rochester, New York, Wald was a brilliant idealist with big dreams and an instinct for organization. Defying her parents' more genteel expectations, she studied nursing amid the human bedlam of 1890 New York City.

Jacob Schiff was an immigrant from Germany, who came to America in the 1870s. Well educated, and eager to succeed in America's burgeoning economy, Schiff used his European banking connections to amass capital to invest in railroads and other American industries integral to this nascent national

economy. During the 1880s, Schiff made tens of millions of dollars for Kuhn, Loeb & Company, ascending to the company's helm at age 38.

As serendipitous as it was fortuitous, Betty Loeb, Schiff's mother-in-law, had funded a hygiene class for female Jewish immigrants that Lillian Wald was chosen to teach. When Wald described a visit to the tenement flat of one of her students, the filth and poverty of which shocked Wald into her resolve to establish a home nursing service, Loeb instinctively suggested that Wald meet Jacob Schiff.

So in the spring of 1893, Wald, feeling "nervous and like an inexperienced young girl" went to Schiff's office. The steel-eyed, impeccably dressed Schiff cut a striking figure at age 46. Yet, when Wald, 20 years his junior, began to speak of her plan for helping families who had risked everything to come to America, her nerves settled and her passion flowed.

As an observant Jew, Schiff believed it was his duty to give away at least 10 percent of his income to support Jewish charities and institutions, and to express gratitude to America for his economic success.

Schiff's interest in aiding the indigent Jews from Eastern Europe grew partly out of a desire to protect the reputation of the Jewish community at large. Fearing that new arrivals might taint the hard-won social status of his more educated co-religionists, Schiff and others had started a movement to resettle Russian Jews in the Pacific Northwest, Minnesota, Texas, and even Argentina. But these endeavors had failed by the time Schiff met Wald, and thousands of new refugees were arriving each day.

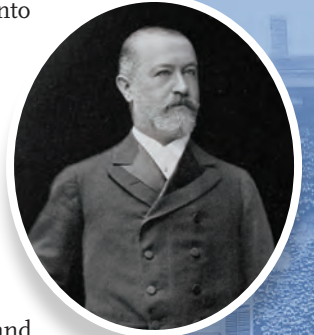
Wald's vision of home nursing — an intimate local effort to aid the sick, and instruct families on hygiene and nutrition — seemed to get to the heart of the problem of acculturating new immigrants. Impressed with her intelligence and drive, Schiff immediately agreed to follow her into a world about which he had only read: the dark underbelly of tenement life.

Moved by what he saw, Schiff offered Wald and her nursing colleague \$60 per month each (the equivalent of \$1,525 today) to start their home-nursing effort. In return, Schiff asked for monthly reports of their work, including expenditures. He recommended that the nursing service tend to people of all races and creeds, and he supplied names of colleagues whom Wald might approach for support.

WALD AND HER COLLEAGUES WERE INVOLVED in every aspect of immigrant life: nursing children and parents back to health, finding children places in schools, and raising funds for those too ill to work. But after two years, the nurses, in accord with Schiff, came to believe that their efforts would be futile unless they could prepare immigrants to care for themselves instead of relying on others.

The nurses had quickly learned that isolating one factor of poverty — physical health — was impossible. The settlement house movement offered a model: a community organization to aid the poor while giving concerned

Jacob Schiff



Lillian Wald





members of the middle class opportunities to serve, and understand, the indigent. Settlement houses became involved in all facets of life, from language training, to housekeeping and child-care instruction, to budgeting, to job assistance, to moral instruction.

In 1895, Schiff purchased a building for Wald on Henry Street. He soon added two adjoining buildings, and a farm upstate to enable impoverished children and ill adults to leave the heat and pollution of the city during the summer.

**SCHIFF marshaled his connections in business, law, and government to take an interest in Henry Street.**

While funding Henry Street, Schiff was mentoring Wald, tutoring her on the legal and practical underpinnings of owning property, limiting the use of coal to heat

buildings, on storing foodstuffs to reduce waste and expenditure, fundraising and managing what was, in effect, a large nonprofit corporation.

Schiff marshaled his connections in business, law, and government to take an interest in Henry Street, encouraging them to join its board. This turned the facility into a high-powered salon for new thinking on public policies. Wald readily used Schiff's access to city, state, and national leaders to encourage action on crucial social problems, including child labor. She called for reforms in public schools, including the hiring of nurses and instituting classes for the learning disabled. Wald also advocated for playgrounds and parks, believing that they were essential to good health. Furthermore, she initiated a lecture program at Columbia University Teachers College, which led to the establishment of a nursing school.

By 1915, Wald oversaw seven upstate summer camps, three storefront milk stations and health clinics, and 100 nurses who made more than 227,000 home visits a year. Her centers served tens of thousands of individuals.

**SIXTEEN YEARS AFTER THE INCEPTION OF THEIR PARTNERSHIP**, Schiff absolved her of the burden of writing monthly reports. "You and the ladies associated with you," he explained, "are constant living accounts of your great value, not only to the community, but to mankind in general."

When Jacob Schiff passed away in 1920, 1,500 friends and associates attended the funeral, and thousands more flowed from the Lower East Side to pay their respects. Wald wrote that Schiff represented "the best of the men who take their eleemosynary and communal interest with the same seriousness that they give to their family



Visiting nurses, who lived at the Settlement, leaving the building on their daily rounds.



Young boys in front of 265 Henry Street waiting to board a bus to an upstate Settlement summer camp.

relationships. I had many occasions to request his interest and his action, and he never once said, 'I am too busy.'"

Neither Wald nor Schiff alone could have accomplished all they had done together. Their 25-year partnership was a union of complementary personalities — he the hard-nosed, analytical investor, she the empathetic, visionary humanitarian. Both had organizational skills and indomitable energy and drive. Their mutual esteem and unflagging commitment to

**WALD readily used Schiff's access to city, state, and national leaders to encourage action on crucial social problems.**

rescue the immigrant poor of New York City from destitution, illness, and abuse, undergirded by Schiff's money, experience, and connections to other donors and officials, fueled their achievements.

Dedication plus clarity of purpose, constancy of oversight, innovative measurement, and continual self-correction lay at the heart of the model Lillian Wald and Jacob Schiff created. Their collaboration is timeless in its simplicity. Cutting through the complex social and political diversity of 21st century endeavors, their partnership remains an enduring paradigm for effective private philanthropy.

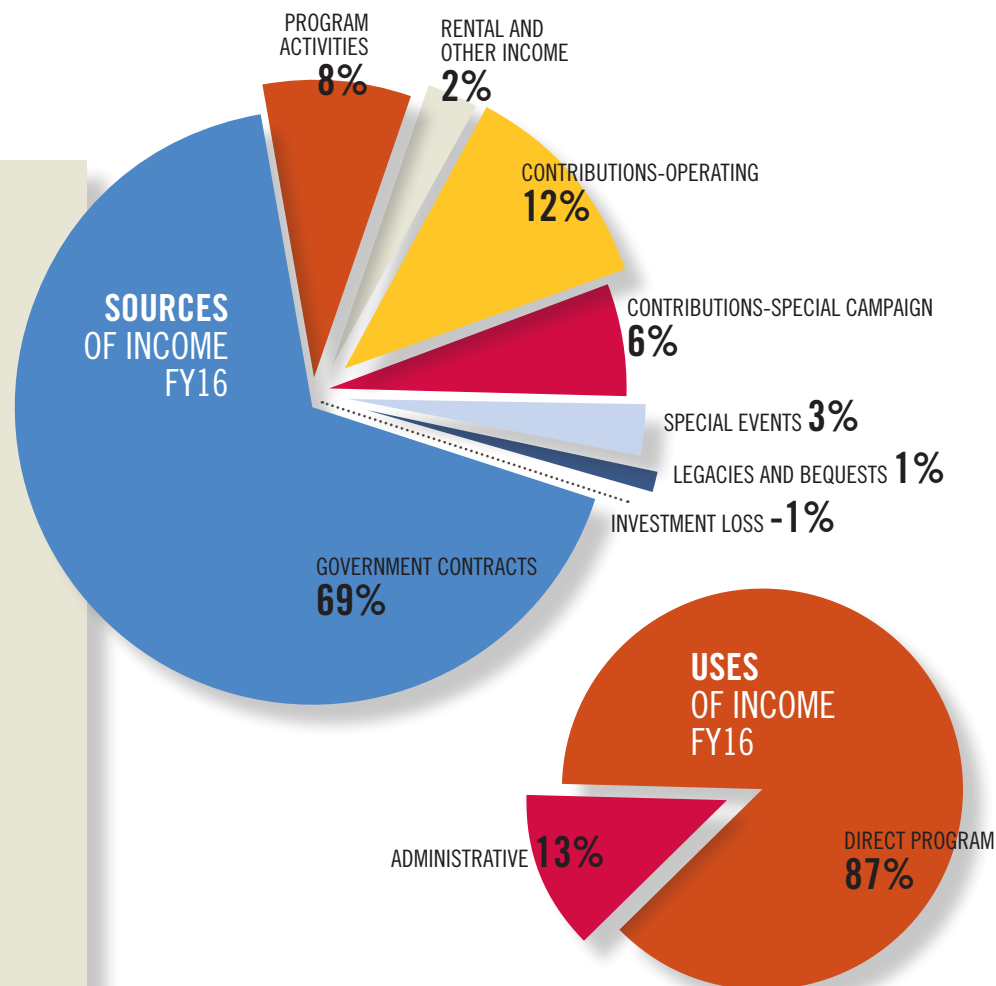
Susan Hertog is the author of *Anne Morrow Lindbergh: Her Life and Dangerous Ambition: Rebecca West and Dorothy Thompson*. Her work explores the lives of women in the context of world events, and the forces that converge to empower or thwart their role in shaping its course. This article is her first portrait of a New York Jewish woman — one who nurtured and educated a generation of immigrants, much like her grandparents. As native New Yorker, Ms. Hertog said that understanding Lillian Wald, the institutions she built, and her extraordinary partnership with the great philanthropist, Jacob Schiff, was a bit like 'coming home.'

This article is abbreviated and excerpted from *Philanthropy Roundtable Magazine*, Fall 2016. PhilMag.org



# financial REPORT

	2015	FY 2016
<b>Public and Private Support</b>		
Contributions—Operating	5,546,505	4,660,126
Contributions—Special Campaigns	483,908	2,442,046
Special Events	1,737,183	1,072,608
Legacies and Bequests	259,593	193,338
Government Contracts	27,021,449	27,578,153
<b>Total Support</b>	<b>35,048,638</b>	<b>35,946,271</b>
<b>Other Revenue</b>		
Investment Income (Loss)	825,195	(469,878)
Program Activities	2,550,431	3,207,571
Rental and Other Income	848,148	992,526
<b>Total Support and Revenue</b>	<b>39,272,412</b>	<b>39,676,490</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Health & Wellness Programs	9,693,316	10,140,690
Arts Programs	2,810,148	3,171,617
Education & Employment Programs	10,573,769	10,821,079
Shelter & Transitional Housing Programs	11,425,337	11,980,834
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>34,502,570</b>	<b>36,114,220</b>
Management and General	4,090,403	3,905,405
Fundraising	1,020,023	1,083,996
<b>Total Support Services</b>	<b>5,110,426</b>	<b>4,989,401</b>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>39,612,996</b>	<b>41,103,621</b>
<b>Change in Net Assets Before Other Adjustments</b>	<b>(340,584)</b>	<b>(1,427,131)</b>
<b>Other Adjustments</b>		
Required Minimum Funding – Defined Benefit Pension Plan (Note 1)	(257,982)	(1,444,476)
Satisfaction of mortgage requirement (Note 2)	1,918,326	—
<b>Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>1,319,760</b>	<b>(2,871,607)</b>



Balance Sheet as of June 30	2015	2016
Cash and Equivalents	9,080,168	6,471,848
Investments	26,923,401	24,486,514
Accounts and contributions receivable	11,982,431	13,002,587
Fixed Assets – net	12,061,746	13,818,344
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>60,047,746</b>	<b>57,779,293</b>
Accounts payable and Advances	6,450,563	6,225,209
Accrued Defined Benefit Pension Plan	2,213,111	3,041,619
Mortgage Payable	7,911,173	7,911,173
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>16,574,847</b>	<b>17,178,001</b>
Net Assets: Unrestricted	12,371,168	10,397,800
Temporarily restricted	16,221,596	15,323,357
Permanently restricted	14,880,135	14,880,135
Total net assets	43,472,899	40,601,292
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>60,047,746</b>	<b>57,779,293</b>



Note 1: The Settlement maintains a Defined Benefit Pension Plan which was frozen to new participants as of October 31, 2005. In conformity with Financial Accounting Standards 158 in accounting for such plans, the Settlement recognized an additional pension cost in the amount of \$257,982 for FY15 and \$1,444,476 for FY16. These are extraordinary adjustments and may not occur in future years.

Note 2: In FY15, the \$1.9M income from satisfaction of mortgage is for restricted purposes and is not considered income for normal operations.



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*\*\*FY16 is July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016.*

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*For more information, please contact the Department of Development and External Relations at 212.766.9200. Checks may be made payable to Henry Street Settlement, 265 Henry Street, New York, NY 10002. Donations can also be made on our website, [www.henrystreet.org](http://www.henrystreet.org)*





# THE 2016 art SHOW

It may have been Super Tuesday in other states, but New York had its own Super Tuesday with the elegant 28th annual Art Show Gala Preview on March 1 at the Park Avenue Armory. New York City's leading philanthropists, art enthusiasts, and business, cultural and social leaders filled the Park Avenue Armory for the not-to-be-missed event. The Art Show, one of the foremost art fairs in the nation, benefits Henry Street's vital programs and is organized by the Art Dealers Association of America.

Spotted among the guests were actor, writer and noted art enthusiast **Steve Martin**; art critic **Jerry Saltz**; and *New York Times* photographer **Bill Cunningham**. Attendees enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while exploring the curated art exhibitions by 72 of the nation's leading art dealers.

The Gala Preview is among New York City's most eagerly anticipated special events on New York's social and cultural calendars and launches Armory Arts Week across the city. **Agnes Gund** was honorary chair of the event. Co-chairs were **Barbara von Bismarck and Thierry W. Despont, Mitzi and Warren Eisenberg, Janine and J. Tomilson Hill, Alexandra Lebenthal, Louise and Leonard Riggio, Pilar Crespi Robert and Stephen Robert, and Byron and Anita Volz Wien.**

"The spirit, generosity and enthusiasm of the spectacular 28th Gala Art Show Preview was palpable. The resounding success reflects the dedication of the Art Show Committee, our Board of Directors, our funders, our staff, the Art Dealers Association of America and, of course, all the patrons who attended," said David Garza, Executive Director of Henry Street Settlement. "The Art Show is our largest fundraiser, and these critical funds help us open doors of opportunity for those in need."

Established in 1989, the show immediately garnered considerable acclaim among collectors and critics and has continued to set the standards of excellence with its museum-quality exhibitions of impressionist, modern and contemporary works. Today, it is the nation's longest-running fine art fair.



Among the guests at the Art Show Gala preview were actor and writer Steve Martin and beloved *New York Times* photographer Bill Cunningham.



## CINEMAtheque: BRINGING THE party DOWNTOWN



Henry Street rolled out the blue carpet on Ludlow Street on October 13, 2016, for more than 200 guests who attended the exclusive CINEMAtheque Party at Metrograph. The event celebrated the arts on the Lower East Side, including both its venue (the neighborhood's new art-house cinema) and the highlight of the evening, a film presentation by artist **Daniel Arsham**.

"Tonight our past, present and future come together in a magical way," said Executive Director David Garza to the crowd. "We are taking our uptown party and bringing it downtown." In previous years, Henry Street's annual gala was a dinner dance at venues like the Plaza, while this year's hip atmosphere included glowing signature cocktails, an after-party with a DJ spinning tunes, and of course Metrograph's selection of premier candy and popcorn.

The evening began with a blue carpet entrance and cocktail party. Joining the society photographers were students from Henry Street's Expanded Horizons college success and Abrons Arts Center engagement programs. The students had met with Daniel Arsham at his studio to learn about photography, his creation of unique props and sets for his films and more. The students snapped Polaroids of guests, posing them with Arsham's handmade film props, some of which were seen in the evening's presentation, *Future Relic*.

Following the screening, guests were treated to a Q&A led by film producer Jane Rosenthal. She also praised the Settlement's work, noting, "Henry Street Settlement was started by a powerful woman in the late 1800s but is anything but a relic."

Co-chairs of the event were **Sarah Arison, Kalliope Karella, Teddy Liouliakis & Yvette Quiazon, Angela Mariani, Anna Da Silveira Pinheiro, Lesley Schulhof and Terry Zucker.** On the Host Committee were **Ashley Boudier, Arturo Castro, Laura De Gunzburg, Tavi Gevinson, Karla Farach de Athanasopoulos, Ashlee Harrison, Barbara Hemmerle-Gollust, Philippe Hoerle-Huggenheim, Spike Jonze, Shari Liu & Anton Katz, Elizabeth Kurpis, Hercy Liodden, Jon Neidich, Jane Rosenthal, Chrissie Miller & Leo Fitzpatrick, Malini Murjani, Stella Schnabel, Susan Shin and Nora Ariffin & Duncan Sheik.**

Top: Artist Daniel Arsham (in black) and Henry Street Executive Director David Garza (left) with students from the Settlement. Center: Some of the Cinematheque co-chairs. Bottom: Sarah Arison, an event co-chair.



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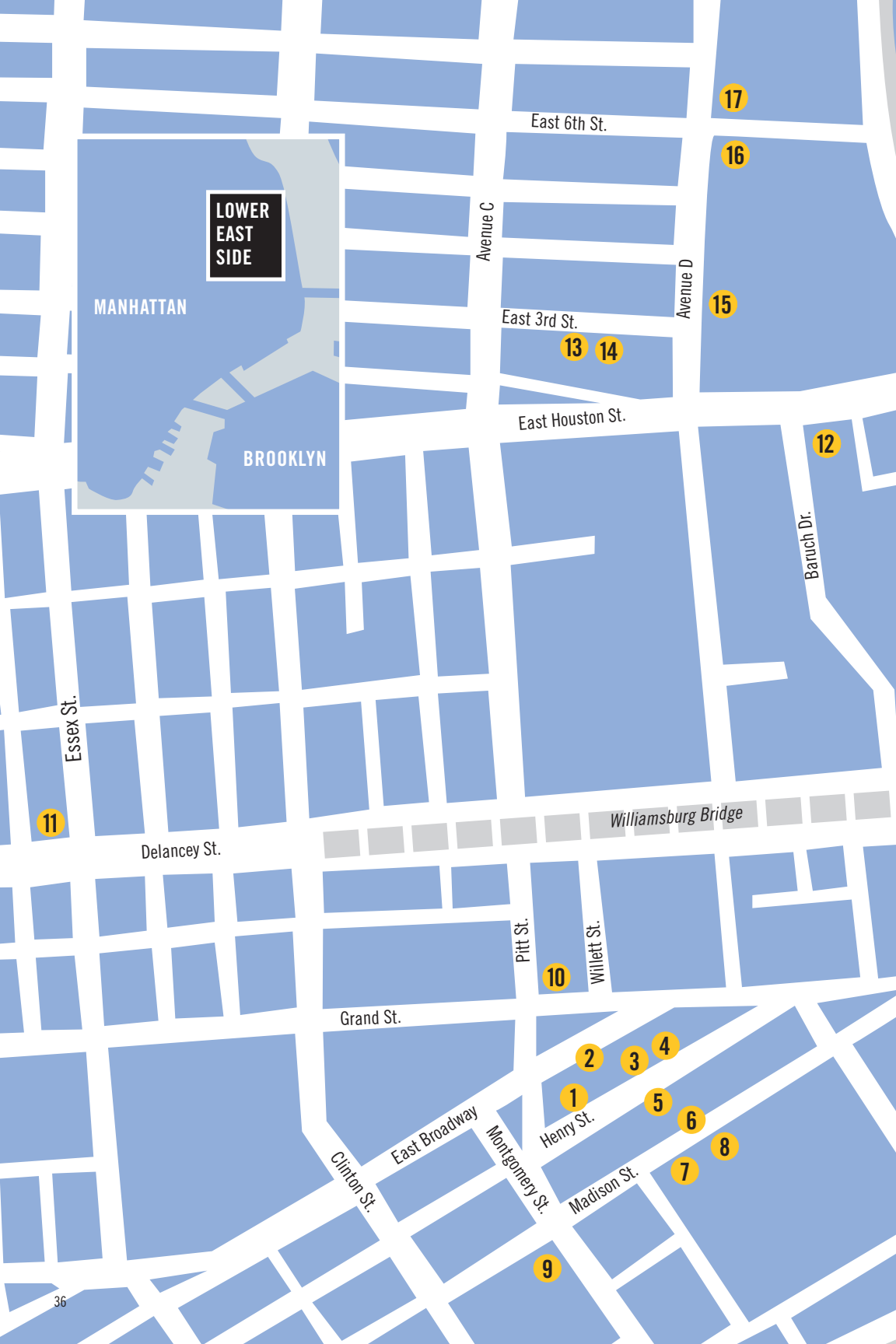
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