



Housing Conservation Coordinators
 777 Tenth Avenue
 New York City 10019
 (212) 541-5996
 www.hcc-nyc.org



Get a Listing of Affordable Housing

■ *HCC's Local Initiative*

Be a Green Ambassador

- *You can make a difference in your building and inspire your neighbors to take action for proper recycling.*
- *It's simple! If you don't recycle, we will have more landfills, more pollution and a larger carbon footprint.*



Save space by flattening beverage cartons and plastic bottles (it won't affect recyclability).

■ *Uncle Sam*



Free Tax Preparation Clinic

The tax clinic is scheduled to remain open every Wednesday from February 8th through April 11th (except March 14th).

Clients will be seen by appointment only and should call our

office to reserve a spot.

The tax clinic will be open from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at 777 Tenth Avenue (between 52nd and 53rd Street). For more information, please visit www.hcc-nyc.org. ■

■ *Personal Finance*



New Year without debt

Begin the New Year 2012 by requesting your free annual credit report online at www.annualcreditreport.com or by calling 1-877-322-8228.

Make it your resolution this year to start cutting your unnecessary spending and avoid using your credit card if you are unable to pay in full at the end of the month.

Remember: To qualify for new affordable housing opportunities, you must present a good credit report. Visit HCC's office to obtain an application and information on how to request your credit report by mail. ■

■ *Tenants Wanted!*

How has HCC helped you?



Do you have a story of how HCC helped you? Are you willing to share it with us on video? As we approach our 40th Anniversary, HCC is looking for former clients who can give us their testimonies on video about how we have helped them with their housing-related issues.

Please contact José Melendrez at 212-541-5996 or by email jmelendrez@hcc-nyc.org to make an appointment. ■

Recycle at home

The U.S. disposes of enough trash each day to fill 50,000 garbage trucks with 18,000 pounds of trash in each. By reducing, reusing, and recycling, our country can put resources back into productive use rather than disposing of them. Recycling just one cell phone saves enough energy to power a laptop for 44 hours.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) remarks that recycling also protects and expands U.S. manufacturing jobs and reduces the need for landfill and incineration use.

As a New York tenant, you can make a difference in your apartment building and inspire your neighbors to take action for proper recycling.

It's simple: If you don't recycle, we will have more landfills, more pollution and a larger carbon footprint. Companies will use more trees and absorb more of our natural resources (timber, water and minerals).

You can make a real impact now with the simple act of sorting and recycling your garbage. When doing so, remember to rinse out cans and remove labels before placing them in your building's bins for used paper, metal and plastic. For more information about green initiative, please visit our website www.hcc-nyc.org/weather. ■

■ Light Bulb Finder

New App Combats Energy Waste

With the new free Light Bulb Finder smartphone application, a user can quickly see whether they will get their money's worth by switching to energy-efficient light bulbs.

For each recommendation, the app displays an image of the bulb price, dollar savings,

payback period and carbon footprint reduction so that users can make informed decisions.

The Light Bulb Finder App was the winner of "best overall app" from the Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy. ■



■ Community

Get a listing of affordable housing opportunities

The cost of renting an apartment in the city can be out of reach and housing for low and middle income families is often difficult to locate.

But here at Housing Conservation Coordinators we are committed to serving our community by offering listings of all available affordable housing units in the city, including information about the income requirements, deadlines to apply, locations and selection processes. Ask at the HCC reception desk for a complete listing. Visit us at 777 Tenth Avenue (at 52nd Street). ■

■ Service

HCC: Free Tax Preparation Clinic



Housing Conservation Coordinators and Community Tax Aid are here to help you prepare for the upcoming tax season. Our tax clinic is scheduled to open every Wednesday from February 8th through April 11th (except March 14th). Clients will be seen by appointment only and should call our office to reserve a spot.

Due to the high volume of clients, anyone who does not attend his/her scheduled appointment will no longer be eligible to participate.

To qualify for free tax preparation services, an individual's income may not exceed \$25,000 annually. The household income of married couples and those with one or more dependants must be equal to or less than, \$50,000.

Remember to bring copies of all relevant documents, including your previous year's tax return and current W2 form – if you have worked – as well any 1099 form that you received this year. Bringing all relevant documents will help expedite the process.

Those who have not previously used HCC's services should also bring a state or federally issued photo identification and their social security card.

The tax clinic hours are from 6:00pm to 8:00pm at 777 Tenth Avenue (between 52nd and 53rd Street). For more information, visit our website www.hcc-nyc.org. ■

■ 7th Annual West Side Tenants' Conference

Thanks to Whole Foods Market and M&T Bank

More than 400 tenants gathered for the 7th Annual West Side Tenants Conference on Saturday, November 5th. Participants learned laws pertaining to succession rights, how to protect yourself from harassment from landlords, housing benefits for seniors, and to how to be more energy efficient at home.

The conference was made possible by a coalition of thirteen non-profit agency partners and seven elected officials from our area, whose

hard work and six months of planning for this event were evident in its success.

HCC would like to extend a special recognition to Whole Foods Market for generously donating lunch for more than 400 people and for their commitment to serve our community.

Thanks also to M&T Bank for their invaluable donation of 1,500 dollars at this conference, which was held at Fordham Law School. ■



■ Donation

Give back to your community

HCC needs your contribution more than ever. In this economic downturn, more neighbors need our help to prevent evictions or access repairs in their apartments. Do not leave them alone.

By making a donation online or by mail, you're helping us preserve quality affordable housing in our community. ■

HCC's Announcements

Every Monday

Jan. Free legal assistance for tenants

23 From 4:00pm – 6:30pm
30

If you have housing problems, visit us during our intake hours. To qualify you must live between 34th & 72nd Streets, from 8th to 12th Avenues and meet our income guidelines (See chart below). Please bring all relevant documents (Leases, rent bills, Con Edison bills and proof of income).

Feb.

6
13
20
27

Mar.

5
12
19

*For more information, please visit us at
777 Tenth Avenue, at 52nd Street.*

Tuesdays

Jan. Free legal immigration services

24 From 5:00pm – 7:40pm

We provide free legal information and possible representation. Appointments are required. You must live on the West Side of Manhattan between Canal Street and 110th Streets and be income eligible for our services. Spanish translation is provided. Please bring all relevant documents. Call us (212) 541-5996.

Feb.

14
28

Mar.

13
27

Every Thursday

Jan. Free legal assistance for tenants

19 From 10:00am – 12:30pm
26

To qualify, you must live between 34th and 72nd Streets, from 8th to 12th Avenues and meet our income guidelines.

Feb.

2
9
16
23

| Household Size | Total Household Income Limit |
|----------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | \$38,000 |
| 2 | \$41,500 |
| 3 | \$44,000 |
| 4 | \$47,500 |
| 5 | \$51,000 |

Mar.

1
8
15
22
29

Free legal clinic

HCC offers a free legal clinic every Monday night (except on holidays) from at 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm. To attend, clients must call in advance to determine eligibility and reserve a spot. Those given a confirmed appointment will be seen on a first-come, first-serve basis. Please note: the Legal Clinic is limited to 8 people. Call HCC at (212) 541-5996 for further information.

Designed and created by: Outreach Department
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■ HCC

Bob Kalin: A West Side Hero

As reported in our last newsletter, Bob Kalin received the Luis Arce Success Award from the Neighborhood Preservation Coalition to honor his commitment to the community.

Bob and some fellow HCCers traveled to Albany on October 27th to receive the award and a small donation to HCC.

In his acceptance speech, Bob spoke of the hard times tenants are facing in our current economy and how he was concerned about our most vulnerable neighbors during the Great Recession.

He spoke of tenants he was helping to avoid eviction by finding resources for them through stubborn city agencies, cleaning their cluttered apartments and sometimes, being a shoulder to cry on. While he was often exhausted from his work, he found strength in the the energy of the activists at Occupy Wall Street and was grateful to them for protesting how unjust and unevenly wealth is spread in our city. ■

■ WSNA

Celebrating our Success



On December 15th, over 100 people gathered to celebrate another successful year with the West Side Neighborhood Alliance at WSNA's annual Holiday Party. We celebrated some of our victories like successfully renewing and strengthening NY state's rent laws and passing the illegal hotels law, as well as some of our unfinished work, like the Living Wage Bill and tenant friendly rezonings.

WSNA invites all of you to join and participate in our work for next year to make our neighborhood more diverse, affordable and livable. We encourage you to take a more meaningful role in the planning of our community with WSNA. If you have any questions or would like to get more involved in our campaigns please contact Matt Klein at 212-956-2573 or mklein@hcc-nyc.org.