



NEVILLE PLACE AT FRESH POND

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, MAY 5

The Constant Garden: 2,000 Years of Botanical Art, at 2:00 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 7

Join us for Fresh Pond Day! Herb's Heard, a 14-piece swing band, will perform in front of Neville Place from 10:00-11:00 A.M. Lunch will be provided from 11:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M. for visitors, and a children's scavenger hunt will take place from 11:00 A.M.-2:00 P.M.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 18

Irish singer Paul Carroll at 2:00 P.M.

FRIDAY, MAY 27

Pianist Ethan Stone at 2:00 P.M.



Public welcome at all events listed!

RESIDENT PROFILE



Erna Benjamin was born in Montclair, New Jersey on October 20, 1917. Raised by Jamaican parents, Erna grew up in Harlem during the height of the Harlem Renaissance with an older brother and a younger sister. After she graduated from high school in 1934, Erna chose to attend Hunter College in New York City. There she studied history, social studies, and economics, graduating in 1937.

Since Erna had yet to live outside of New York, she decided after graduation to move to Washington, D.C. While there she worked for the United States Treasury assisting in the printing of money in the factory. After two years in D.C., Erna moved back to New York to take care of her mom after her father had died. She and her mother moved to Brooklyn to be near family. Once there, Erna applied for a job as a teacher at a new public school. It was the start of her 20-year career as an elementary school educator. Erna recalls that

continued on page two

WELCOME, NEW RESIDENTS!



*Clockwise, from top left: **Bernard Becker, Doris Schermerhorn, Susanna Robbins, and Haig and Roseen Ohanian***



MAKING PRAYER FLAGS

Residents of Neville Place along with Lesley University Interns **Liz Byrnes** and **Katie Lindquist** made "Prayer Flags" that will be sent to Japan. We are hoping to convey our prayers for that country's recovery.



*At left: **Lorna Rossinow, Liz Byrnes, Erna Benjamin and Cynthia Shoemaker** work on their flags; above: **Lylli Newton** (left) and **Erna** (right) focus on this very important project.*

BENJAMIN, from page one

all of the students at this new school were of different backgrounds, but there were never arguments in her classroom about race, religion, or ethnicity. Instead, her students focused on learning, and any fights that did occur were the typical fights of elementary school children. Erna loved teaching, and even now she is still in touch with some of her students.

After returning to New York, Erna married Anderson Benjamin. Anderson worked in the television manufacturing and repair business. Erna has one son, Kevin, and one grandchild, Asa (14). Kevin attended Harvard and MIT, and after he finished school he never left the Boston area, which is why Erna came to live at Neville Place.

Erna loves to read and thoroughly enjoyed Sidney Poitier's memoir, *The Measure of a Man*. She said she could really relate to it!

THINKING OF GOING GREEN?

SEND YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS TO

INFO@NEVILLEPLACE.ORG

AND WE WILL EMAIL THIS NEWSLETTER TO YOU EACH MONTH.



LET'S GO RED SOX!

Many residents were on hand to cheer the Red Sox on to a win against the Yankees during the home opener on April 8th. We enjoyed Fenway Franks, ice cream cones, and door prizes.

It almost felt as if we were at the game!



*Left to right: **Helen Gigante** won a Red Sox teddy bear; all the gang was tuned in to the game; **Roy Wiggett** may be our biggest Red Sox fan; **Lylli Newton** won a Red Sox teddy also!*