

# Neighbors Bulletin



Susannah Koteen (Lido Harlem), Beejhy Barhany and Padmore John (Tсион Cafe), and Laura Hart (RoboFun).

## Community Updates

### WITH HELP, LOCAL BUSINESSES BOUNCE BACK

The COVID-19 pandemic forced many local business owners to dig deep and get creative to keep their doors open. They sought out loans and grants, found opportunities to connect in the community, and expanded their business models. With help from a Columbia loan fund, government programs, and their own tenacity, they were able to make it through.

Neighbors spoke to the owners of three local establishments about how they managed it. At Lido Harlem, owner Susannah Koteen closed twice, but was able to reopen due the financial support they received and an understanding landlord. Now she and chef Serena Bass have opened two new restaurants and are looking forward to Frederick Douglass Boulevard's Open Street. Laura Hart, the owner of RoboFun, and her staff moved all their educational programming online in March of 2020, but are now holding in-person summer camps and classes. In Sugar Hill, the owners of Tсион Cafe partnered with local groups to feed essential workers and expanded their retail sales. They're now back with live music, art from local artists on the walls, and a wide array of Ethiopian Jewish dishes on the menu.

Read the full interviews at [neighbors.columbia.edu/smallbizrecovery](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/smallbizrecovery).

### GET READY FOR NEW YORK'S SECOND PRIMARY



On August 23, New Yorkers will head to the polls for this year's second primary election. This election is for United States House of Representatives and New York State Senate. It's being held now, instead of in June, because of delays finalizing the districts after the 2020 Census.

Here are the key dates you need to know for the second primary:

- If you need an absentee ballot, request it online or by mail by August 8 or in person by August 22
- Early voting is available from August 13 to August 21
- The polls are open on Election Day (August 23) from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm
- If you're voting absentee, mail your ballot by August 23

Check out [neighbors.columbia.edu/2ndprimary](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/2ndprimary) for any more information you need.

## Community Events

Check with event organizers for the latest updates, find more events at [neighbors.columbia.edu/events](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/events)



### Faces of Harlem 2022

Aug 6 – Nov 30

10 photographers share images that show life, creativity, relationships, and love

in Harlem in this Morningside Park exhibition.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/harlemfaces](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/harlemfaces)



### Uptown Night Market

August 11, 4:00 pm

Enjoy the atmosphere under the 12th Avenue arches with this monthly street festival that includes live performances, local food, and more.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/nightmarket](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/nightmarket)



### The Harlem Maker Fair

August 12, 10:00 am

The Harlem Maker Fair is back in person at the Pelham Fritz recreation center! Learn about robotics, art, and coding in Marcus Garvey Park.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/makerfair](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/makerfair)



### Uptown Stories: The 10-Minute Play

Aug 15 – Aug 19, 10 am

Take on the fundamentals of playwriting in this

character- and dialogue-focused workshop for ages 12-16. \$25 for the full week.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/uptownstory](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/uptownstory)



### Harlem Meer Performance Festival: Despers USA Steel Orchestra

August 21, 2:00 pm

Close out this

summer's festival with Despers USA Steel Orchestra, founded in 1976, which has performed around the world.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/despersusa](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/despersusa)



### Billion Oyster Project Presentation

August 27, 12:00 pm

Come learn about the Billion Oyster Project, a major effort to restore New York's harbor, on the Baylander's Jungle Deck at West Harlem Piers.

[neighbors.columbia.edu/billionoyster](https://neighbors.columbia.edu/billionoyster)