

COLUMBIA NEIGHBORS

B U L L E T I N



Photo credit: Brandon Vallejo

COMMUNITY UPDATES

A’Lelia Bundles Discusses ‘Joy Goddess’

On Dec. 2, 2025, community members, Columbia University students, and local scholars gathered at the Lee C. Bollinger Forum for a conversation between A’Lelia Bundles and Eric K. Washington.

“Joy Goddess: A’Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance” is Bundles’ new book about her great-grandmother, A’Lelia Walker, the daughter of Madam C.J. Walker and a Harlem icon whose legendary parties and “Dark Tower” salon helped define the Harlem Renaissance.

A key component of the conversation

was the importance of owning your own narrative and the impact of preserving familial legacy through historical documentation.

Bundles shared an excerpt from the book, sharing how A’Lelia Walker hosted a salon for Columbia’s International Poetry Group in 1929. Fun fact: Bundles also spoke about the influence of her Columbia Journalism School Professor Phyllis Garland, who inspired her to write about her family.

See photos from the event at neighbors.columbia.edu/joygoddess.

Year in Review: Top Neighbors Stories of 2025

The new year invites us to reflect on moments that shaped the past year. As we look forward to all that 2026 holds, we’re taking a moment to reflect on the stories that resonated with our readers throughout 2025.

Throughout the year, readers connected with stories honoring Harlem’s rich history and creativity, including tributes to civil rights leader Dr. Hazel N. Dukes to conversations about culture, justice, and identity. Seasonal guides invited neighbors to explore Uptown art exhibitions, local food, and cultural festivals, while community events like Manhattanville Community Day and back-to-school block parties showcased the joy of coming together.

We also shared stories about education and



Photo credit: Brandon Vallejo

opportunity, including programs that engage local youth and expand access to learning. As the year came to a close, features on community gardens, neighborhood traditions, and holiday celebrations reminded us of the care and connection that define Uptown life.

Read more at neighbors.columbia.edu/25-review.

COMMUNITY EVENTS



Tamar Mitts on Disinformation January 7, 10:00 am

Join a webinar with Columbia Professor Tamar Mitts as she shares findings from research on online disinformation campaigns and their implications for national defense.
neighbors.columbia.edu/disinformation

Between Faith and Fiction January 27, 12:30 pm

How did participants in the Jewish Enlightenment come to view the new distractions and technological transformations before the 18th and 19th centuries?
neighbors.columbia.edu/fiction



Crafts on the Corner: Sketch Sessions January 28, 12:00 pm

Take a break in your day to tap into your creativity and explore different observational drawing techniques.
neighbors.columbia.edu/crafts