

### Fresh Faces in Fashion

Metropolitan Pavilion, 125 W 18th St between Sixth and Seventh Aves (212-290-0312 or [www.genart.org](http://www.genart.org)). Subway: 1, 9 to 18th St. 7:30pm; \$50, standing room only \$30. Supermodel (and mom-to-be) Iman, photographer Bruce Weber, designer Marc Jacobs and FIT curator Valerie Steele host this fashion show of eight new designers presented by Gen Art, a national nonprofit arts organization that showcases emerging fashion designers, filmmakers and visual artists. Whether you buy the standing-room ticket or the seated one, the evening includes an open bar, an after-party, the fashion show and food.

### Pet Singing Contest

South Street Seaport, Pier 17, Fulton St at South St on the East River (212-732-8257). Subway: A, C to Broadway-Nassau St; M, 2, 3, 4, 5 to Fulton St. 11am. **FREE** Stand in awe (and maybe painful horror) as Fido howls "Figaro" in the finals of the best singing pet competition.

### Frank McCourt

The Seminar Center (212-655-0077, call for registration and location). 6:30-9pm; \$39, members \$33. At this program sponsored by the Seminar Center, ubiquitous escapee of Irish poverty Frank McCourt shares stories from his life and dispenses advice to help you write your own memoir of suffering and regret.

## Thursday 14

### Urban Affairs

#### Dinner by the Sea

New York Aquarium, Surf Ave at W 8th

St. Coney Island (718-265-3427). Subway: D, F to W 8th St-New York Aquarium. 6pm, \$300. This annual fund-raiser for the New York Aquarium includes a dolphin show, dinner and dancing by the sea.

### Young Republicans Club Meeting

Source of Life Center, 22 W 34th St between Fifth and Sixth Aves, fifth floor (212-533-4940). Subway: B, D, F, Q, N, R to 34th St-Herald Sq. 7:30-9:30pm; \$8, members \$5. Business-casual attire requested. Just two days after the primary election (see Tue 12), the Young Republicans hold a meeting to start thinking about the general election and, quite possibly, to discuss whether Ralph Nader's rising popularity is a bane to the Republicans or a boon, since it might split the Democratic vote.

### Listening to Mummies

92nd Street Y, 1395 Lexington Ave at 92nd St (212-996-1100). Subway: 6 to 96th St. 8:15pm, \$20. Ancient Egypt expert Rosalie David explains how modern technology has allowed scientists to learn more about daily life in the days of the pharaohs. Turns out, they didn't sing as much as *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* would lead us to believe.

### German-American Oktoberfest

South Street Seaport, Pier 17, Fulton St at South St on the East River (212-732-8257). Subway: A, C to Broadway-Nassau St; M, 2, 3, 4, 5 to Fulton St. Noon-9pm. **FREE** Despite all the fodder for cinematic villains that the Germans have provided us, they've also had the good sense to introduce us to good beer and wurst. Sample some of each at this festival.

## We interrupt this section...

### Oh, the Humanity!

Renovation is something that buildings and presidential reputations can have in common. Just ask Jimmy Carter, who 20 years ago found his administration beset by long gas-station lines, the Iranian-hostage crisis and his own complaint that the American people were suffering from "malaise." These days, however, the former president is viewed more fondly, thanks to his work as an international mediator and as the leader of Habitat for Humanity's annual Jimmy Carter Work Project (JCWP). During the week-long event, the president, along with former First Lady Rosalynn Carter, will join hundreds of other Habitat volunteers to build and rehabilitate homes in one of more than 2,500 Habitat affiliate chapters worldwide.

Since the first JCWP took place right here on Manhattan's Lower East Side back in 1984, it's only fitting that the Carters should be back in town September 10 to 15. Along with Habitat founder Millard Fuller and approximately 1,000 local and international volunteers, they will help complete the organization's 100,000th house, on 134th Street between Adam Clayton Powell Jr. (Seventh Avenue) and Frederick Douglass (Eighth Avenue) Boulevards, and try to get to some of the 19 other homes across the city.

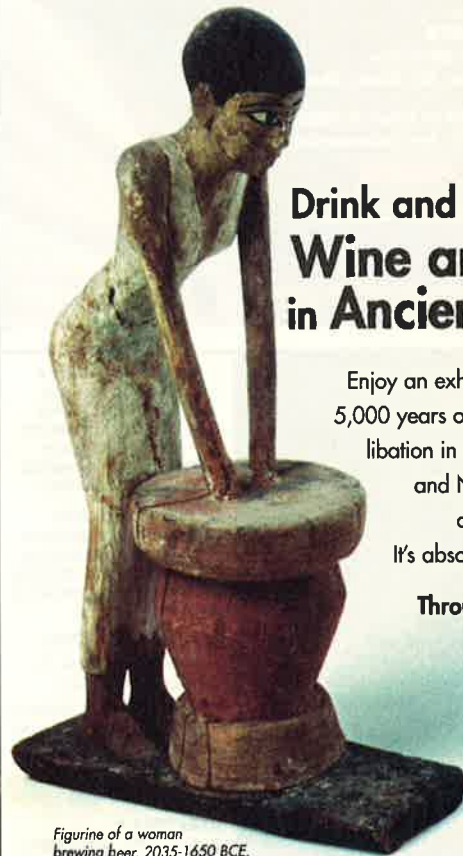
While the fanfare over this milestone should certainly net Habitat plenty of national coverage, many hope the event will also inspire New Yorkers to do something about the acute shortage of affordable housing right here in town. "It's the best of times and also the worst of times," says Roland Lewis, executive director of Habitat for Humanity's NYC chapter.

"The economy is booming and real-estate prices are rising through the roof; but there are plenty of working-class New Yorkers who are holding down two jobs and still can't find an affordable home. It's a horrible statement that New York can't provide its citizens with affordable housing."

Of course, none of this is news to the many New Yorkers who have seen their rents raised to all-time highs; a third of the city's apartment-dwellers pay at least 50 percent of their income to landlords. But Lewis says there's good reason to expect some changes in low-income housing. Habitat-NYC has invited four leading mayoral candidates, including Mark Green, Peter Vallone, Alan Hevesi and Fernando Ferrer, to address the local housing shortage during a conference planned for September 12 (see daily listings). And recruiting for Habitat is going well: A recent volunteer orientation drew more than 200 people on a rainy night, many of them hoping for a chance to build alongside Jimmy and Rosalynn.

Unless they have specific skills like drywall taping, however, volunteers may have difficulty getting those coveted spots, though Lewis says there are plenty of other ongoing projects for interested participants. Folks with some carpentry background are most desirable, especially if they can work on weekdays. Says Lewis, "If you're a skilled volunteer, and you're available during weekdays, I will come with a bouquet of roses." For further information on JCWP 2000 and other volunteer opportunities, contact Habitat For Humanity-NYC at 718-246-5656 or visit [www.Habitat-NYC.org](http://www.Habitat-NYC.org). —Paul Zakrzewski

# An exhibition that's been brewing for 5,000 years.



Figurine of a woman brewing beer, 2035-1650 BCE. The Israel Museum, Jerusalem.

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