



**Chair Report  
November, 2018  
General Board Meeting**

**Holiday Lighting Ceremony**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Barbara Askins, all her staff and other individuals that are working hard to ensure that the Harlem Holidays Lighting event on 125th st is a success. The event is a unique opportunity as our community ushers in the holiday period. Participation by the businesses, the community board, the general public and many other unforeseen hands, is integral to succeed. Each one must play their part and the board is proud to be playing a part in the Children's Village, the Health village and will have a float. We encourage participation by children of all ages.

But as we busy ourselves in making the most of the holidays, with gifts, parties and other exciting activities. Let us not forget that as community we also must consider, being there for each other, respecting our diversity, and working together to improve our community. We

**Election Results**

The most recent ballot had 3 proposal questions that were all voted in favor. The proposal that most concerned the community board specified that after 2 4-year terms, board members will be automatically removed from the board to allow for diversity and new board-members. This decision was made to essentially mollify the power of the historical knowledge of the board through long-standing members. There are better ways to achieve diversity, and equity.

**Census 2020**

Together with other bus riders, I was able to participate in a fact-finding opportunity around the 2020 Census. Our contingent was invited to speak to the Mayor's Office in Providence, Rhode Island, having recently conducted a dry-run of the 2020 Census data collection. Providence conducted the only dry-run in the country, something typically done by many other cities as well. However, due to a reduction in funding, only Providence was chosen. Furthermore, the decrease in funding will lead to less ad-buys on local radio to get the word out. Essentially, making sure that the Census is a success in our community is dependent on how well a community can marshall the troops and get everyone counted with little to no assistance and funding from the Federal Gov't. The 2020 Census will also be the first version to be offered on line. The paper version is still available and door knockers will again be hired. Currently there are ongoing court cases to determine whether the citizenship question will be listed on the census. We should all be prepared to ensure everyone gets counted.

## **Post Office Renaming Ceremony**

Honor the renowned Tuskegee Airmen on Monday, November 19th, 2018 at 11:00am, who served our country as the first African-American Military Pilots and Crewmen during World War II. Congressman Espaillat, introduced and pushed legislation to rename the Colonial Park Post Office, located at 99 Macombs Place, as the "Tuskegee Airmen Post Office Building."

The Tuskegee Airmen represent unwavering human spirit, courage and enduring determination by facing hardships of becoming the most skilled aviators and the racial injustice of their time. Their bravery and positive impact on our nation continues to inspire. Our office looks forward to honoring their legacy with this renaming and sharing their history.

Respectfully Submitted by,



Padmore John  
Chair