As Buds Open, So Do Doors

With warm weather, tours of houses, terraces and gardens.

HE season of spring is also the season of house tours, when long-closed doors and garden gates unfurl like flowers for a quick peek. Throughout the Northeast and beyond, there are mansions, studio apartments, bungalows and row houses to suit every taste, filled with antique china and contemporary paintings, stainless steel stoves and iron-grilled fireplaces, and parquet floors and historic wallpaper. Show houses remain open for a few weeks, but some house and garden tours slip by in an afternoon unless otherwise noted, all events are self-guided. SHELLY FREIERMAN

NEW YORK CITY

Greenwich Village, Sunday Seven residences, ranging from a 19th-century town house where Emily Post once lived to a 350-square-foot apartment, will be open from 1 to 5:30 p.m. for the 13th annual event to benefit the Greenwich Village Society for Historic Preservation. The tour will also include an Italianate home with an elaborately paneled entrance and intricate, original moldings. and an artist's town house and studio with a treehouse. The tour will be followed by a reception. Advance tickets, \$150 for the tour and \$300 for the tour and the reception, at (212) 475-9585, and gvshp.org/benefit. Advance tour-only tickets will also be offered at two for \$250. Same-day tickets, if available, \$175 for the tour and \$350 for the tour and reception, will be sold starting at 12:30 p.m. at the Greenwich House Music School, 46 Barrow Street (between Bleecker and Bedford Streets).

Manhattan, May 7 The 16th annual benefit for the Junior League of New York will include an interior designer's two-bedroom apartment that is a rooftop addition to an older building in the meatpacking district, and a Midtown residence which features the owner's collection of contemporary art and a terrace planted with perennials. The tour, from 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., will include six residences and two terraces from the book "Rooftop Gardens: Terraces, Conservatories, and Balconies of New York" (Rizzoli, May 2011). Tickets, which include a buffet lunch and a cocktail recep-



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Clockwise, from

NEW JERSEY

Montclair, June 10 and 11 Seven private gardens will be open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., including one that combines elements of a traditional English garden with tropical flowers, and is planted with boxwood, hakonechloa grass and clematis in stone beds surrounding a swimming pool. Tickets, good for either day, \$30, at Van Vleck, 21 Van Vleck Street (Upper Mountain Avenue). Information: (973) 744-4752 and vanvleck.org.



seven gardens open to visitors in mid-June in