

# **DAILY CHALLENGE**

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# **URBAN FARMERS REAP FOOD, SKILLS AND JOBS**



**Aerial view of an urban farm operated by Services for the Underserved that not only provided food for a recent harvest feast but allows participants to**

**get training they can use to find employment in related fields.**

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# Urban farmers reap food, skills and jobs

Urban farmers got to taste the fruits—and vegetables—of their labor with a special meal prepared and served by persons with developmental disabilities.

The event was the sixth annual Harvest Luncheon sponsored by Services for the Underserved (SUS), a non-profit organization that's been serving city residents since 1978.

On the menu at the event were seasonal dishes made using delicious organic produce from seven community farms located throughout the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens.

"It was a fantastic event," declared Sylva Keshishian, the organization's marketing manager. "There was a

wide range of exotic foods from our farms that had people going back for seconds."

Dozens of farmers are involved in the farming program as well as volunteers. The program itself started in 2010 and includes honey production and tree maintenance.

"The skills they learn enables them to get employment," Keshishian said.

The individuals with developmental disabilities are recent graduates of the Basic Culinary Arts training program at Kingsborough Community College. The program has professional chefs training students on how to prepare foods in a restaurant-style setting.



# President Obama's approval rating reaches new high

By AMY R. CONNOLLY

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama's approval rating stands at 55 percent, matching his best marks since his first year in office, a new CNN/ORC poll found.

The poll, released Wednesday, showed Obama's approval rating currently stands as his highest in his second term, continuing a 50 percent or higher approval rating that began in February. The seven-month run is his longest since he

took office in 2009. His average approval rating in 2016 to date is 51 percent.

One year ago, Obama's approval rating was some 10 percent lower. The boost crosses age and gender barriers and is from all geographic regions of the country, CNN said. There are partisan and racial divides, the poll found.

His approval rating since September 2015 is up 12 points to 89 percent among Democrats and 14 points among independents to 56 percent. Among Republicans, it stands at 13

percent, from 11 percent a year ago.

Among black voters his approval rating is 86 percent. It stands at 68 percent among Hispanics.

"Obama's approval rating is well above President George W. Bush's numbers at this point in his term in office, and about on par with Ronald Reagan's numbers at this time in 1988," CNN reported.

The telephone poll was conducted Sept. 28 through Oct. 2 among a random national sample of 1,501 adults. The margin of sampling error is 2.5 percentage points.

