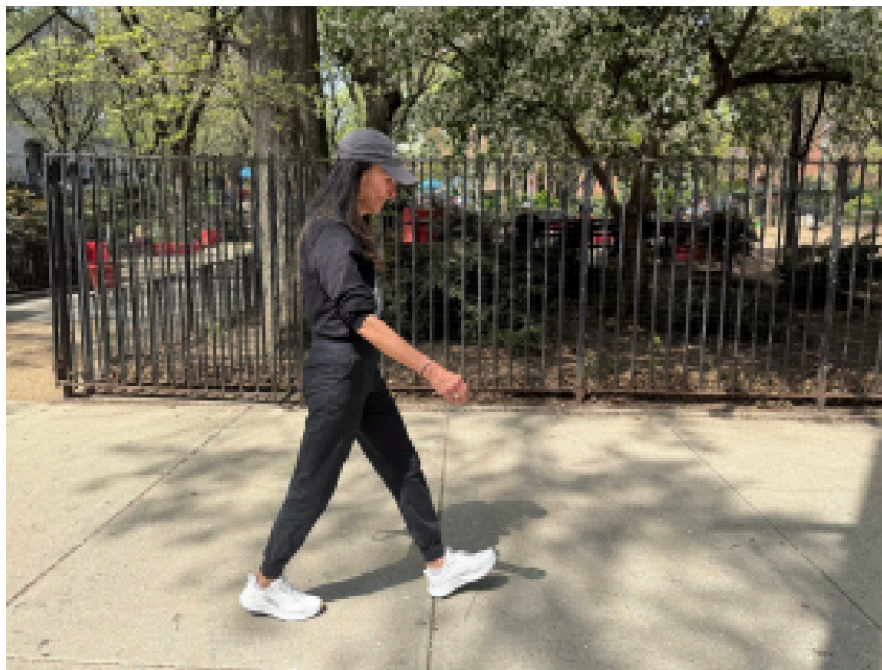


# UPPER EAST SITE

## UES Grandma, 77, Nearly Finished Walking Every Block in Manhattan

By Dashiell Allen | April 18, 2026 | 9:00 am



*The intrepid Upper East Side grandma is celebrating the end of her challenge to walk all 360 miles of Manhattan streets | Dashiell Allen/Upper East Site*

Intrepid Upper East Side grandma, Marilyn Menick, will celebrate an incredible milestone this weekend as the septuagenarian completes the final stretch of her two-and-a-half-year quest to walk every street in Manhattan — all 630 miles of

them — and she invites the community to join her in celebration.

*“For years I dreamed about it, but it was impossible,”* said Menick, 77, a born-and-raised New Yorker, avid walker and grandmother, who is a personal trainer and previously owned a fitness studio.

In June 2023, she turned her dream into a reality; with a map in hand, she set out from her apartment along East 96th Street, turned right onto Third Avenue and started her journey south, walking down to the East 40s before looping back up Lexington Avenue.



*Marilyn Menick, 77, set out on her quest from her East 96th Street apartment in June 2023 | Dashiell Allen/Upper East Site*

Since then, she has used her map — never ditching it for a digital app — to track her progress, crossing off every street she ventures down.

On Sunday, accompanied by friends and family, Menick will walk the last five miles in her ‘Marilyn Walks Manhattan’ challenge on Governor’s Island, a park to the south of the

Financial District that is technically part of the borough, while on Saturday, she’s planned another eight-mile stroll through Central Park. More than 170 people have signed up to attend, she says.

*“I’m proud of myself that I stuck to it,” Menick told Upper East Site, “but on the flip side, am I happy that it’s over? I’m not, because I loved every minute of it.”*

Menick is proud to have walked through every season, even the bitter cold of winter. Not only is she proud of her own athletic feat, “I’m inspiring older people to get up to walk and if by finishing it, I get one person off of the sofa, then I am happy that it’s over,” Menick reflected.

*“It was hard for people to believe that I would have this vision and this desire to do this at my age,” she added, but “that number is not important — if you want to do something, you need to do it.”*

Furthering that goal, she’s an ambassador for [EverWalk](#), a nonprofit that builds community by leading adults on long walks, and which produced shirts to commemorate her journey.

Menick is also an ambassador for EverWalk, a nonprofit that builds community by leading adults on long walks. Menick has also used walking to raise nearly \$70,000 for breast cancer research via the team she founded, Walking Warriors Battling Breast Cancer.

Throughout her walk, she got to see the city she grew up in from a completely new perspective —particularly the neighborhoods above 96th Street, which she has not previously spent much time in.

*“I went out in every single season and every type of weather,” Menick said proudly.*

Menick enjoyed getting to know Manhattan neighborhoods she was previously unfamiliar with, especially north of 96th Street.

From the murals of East Harlem and an over-30-year-old rubber-stamp mom-and-pop shop to trying countless slices of greasy NYC pizza, Menick remembers it all fondly.

*“Before I would go out, I’d read a little bit about the neighborhood I was going to walk in, about the people who came to this country and settled there,” she said. “When I looked at the apartments, I really could envision all of these immigrants living here.”*

Menick isn’t slowing down now, despite having nearly finished her 630-mile journey. She’s not slowing down now. After an interview with **Upper East Site** inside of Ruppert Park, Menick went right into demonstrating a hip flexor stretch as she prepared for her next adventure.

Free registration is available through her [website](#) for friends, family and neighbors who wish to join Menick for her last steps.