



# Journal

## Meet The New Leader Of The NYCHA Symphony Orchestra

Well, he's not really new. In fact, W. Marshall Sealy has now been the Executive Director of The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Symphony Orchestra for nearly a year. But for those of us who have become used to seeing Janet Wolfe in that role since the time she created the Orchestra more than 30 years ago, Mr. Sealy is certainly new.



W. Marshall Sealy

The NYCHA Symphony Orchestra was one of the first orchestras in the United States with the mission of achieving racial as well as musical diversity in classical music. Over the years, the Orchestra has offered extensive performance opportunities to classically trained musicians of color. Initially the musicians were

NYCHA residents with a few professionals "ringers" brought in. Now there are only one or two actual residents who play in the Orchestra but all residents can enjoy its music.

Mr. Sealy, a New York City native, is well qualified for his role, with a varied background

*(Continued on page 8)*

## NYCHA'S AMNESTY PROGRAM UPDATE

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who have not accurately reported their income and/or assets had a unique opportunity to "come clean" over a period of five months, beginning on September 1, 2001, and ending on January 31, 2002, through NYCHA's Rental Assistance Amnesty Program.

The Amnesty Program allows current and former conventional public housing residents (those who live in NYCHA developments) and Section 8 Leased Housing residents to report previously unreported income and/or assets to NYCHA without fear of criminal prosecution or termination of tenancy/subsidy. Based on the newly submitted information, NYCHA will figure out what the correct rent or subsidy should have been and will allow those who qualify to pay that amount without interest or legal fees. Once all of the past due money is paid back to NYCHA, Amnesty is granted.

The Housing Authority received a total of 5,824 applications from residents seeking Amnesty. Of these, 3,010 applications were from conventional public housing residents and 2,814 applications were from Section 8 Leased Housing subsidy recipients. Though most applications are still under review, based on those cases that have been resolved, NYCHA stands to recover over \$1 million. This includes over \$700,000 from conventional public housing residents and over \$280,000 from Section 8 Leased Housing subsidy residents.

To date, of the 3,010 applications received from conventional public housing residents, a total of 1,496 applications have been resolved. No further action was

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Sixth Annual Domestic Violence Conference

### *Holding Offenders Accountable*



PLAYS FOR LIVING, an acting troupe with a social conscience, presented "Apartment 3G" at the Domestic Violence Conference. Here actor Robert Baumgardner takes actor Clark Jackson away in handcuffs. Jackson's character, James, has just stabbed his wife.

By Eileen Elliott

The New York City Housing Authority/Safe Horizon Sixth Annual Domestic Violence Conference held on October 29 at the New York Academy of Medicine in Upper Manhattan made one point stunningly clear. That is that the not-so-long-ago days when police would respond to a domestic violence call by taking the batterer for a walk around the block — *to cool down* — are over for good. We live in a new era where the courts, the police, social service agencies, and even, perhaps your neighbors, are all working together to make sure that the offender is held accountable. As NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez said in his opening remarks on the topic of this year's conference, "Holding Offenders Accountable," "There have to be consequences for people who abuse people."

Over 350 staff from NYCHA, Safe Horizon, the NYPD, and a variety of community-based organizations participated in the day-long event that featured a keynote address, a dramatic presentation, a panel discussion and workshops.

"The purpose of this event is for you to network with one another, to share your resources, and to provide a forum for discussion," said NYCHA's Department for Social Services Director Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, who served as moderator.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## BRONX SOUTH COP INSTALLATION



The Bronx South Council Of Presidents (COP) held its Executive Board Installation Ceremony at the Classic Center at Melrose Houses on East 156th Street in the Bronx on October 21. **Joanne Smitherman (above)**, of Highbridge Houses, will continue as District Chair; Gary Coleman of Butler Houses will continue as Vice-Chair; Linda Ballou of Millbrook Houses will continue as Recording Secretary; Gloria Tull of Claremont Pkwy is the new Corresponding Secretary; Elsie Deans of 100 Teller Avenue will continue as Financial Secretary; Lutrell Simmons of College Avenue Rehabs is the new Treasurer; and Cornelius Foster of Franklin Avenue will continue as Sergeant at Arms. Each of nine districts in the City has a COP, which is made up of all of the Resident Association leaders in that district. The Chair for each COP district is a member of the Citywide COP, where they serve as the voice of the residents they represent. Elections are held every three years.

### *Inside:*

- **It's Time To Get Your Flu Shot** . . . . . page 2
- **Celebrating The Holidays** . . . . . page 3
- **More Dreamers At Melrose** . . . . . page 4
- **'Baby Think It Over' at Glenwood** . . . . . page 7

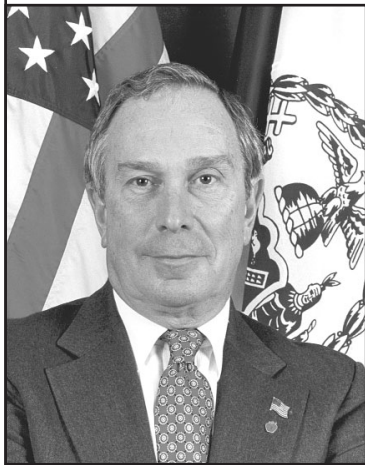
# Happy Thanksgiving





**Message From The Mayor**

**Elderly and At-Risk New Yorkers Should Get Flu and Pneumonia Vaccinations**



**W**ith the flu season approaching, I urge all New Yorkers over the age of 50 and those with underlying medical conditions to get vaccinated against the flu as soon as possible. While most people who get the flu are only sick for a few days, you may be surprised to learn that the flu is one of the leading causes of death in New York City.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, last year more than

21,300 Americans died from the flu. So, if you are over the age of 50, or have an underlying medical condition, please take the time to make an appointment with your doctor and get a flu shot. For those of you without health insurance or a doctor, the City is making the flu vaccine available through clinics and Senior Centers citywide.

Studies have shown that communities of color have lower rates of influenza vaccination compared to the citywide average. In 2001, 63% of persons 65 years of age or older reported getting a flu shot, but among African Americans, for example, the rate was significantly lower —only 52%. As a result, this year we are actively reaching out to communities of color in an effort to increase vaccination rates. The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) has partnered with community-based organizations, medical providers, and faith-based organizations to increase flu vaccination rates in these communities.

As an active participant in the City's Flu Immunization Campaign, NYCHA is canvassing its developments to make sure that public housing residents are properly immunized. You may have seen the Flu Shot posters in your development's Management Office or Community Center. NYCHA Resident Association leaders and Management Offices have received a list of vaccination sites, so that they will be able to direct NYCHA residents who need flu or pneumonia vaccinations to the nearest location. In addition, NYCHA staff are working with DOHMH and the Visiting Nurse Service to provide inoculations at 21 NYCHA-operated Senior Centers, at seven Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities, and to the homebound elderly.

DOHMH is also offering free immunizations to New Yorkers at walk-in clinics and Senior Centers throughout the City, in cooperation with the Department for the Aging and the Visiting Nurse Service of New York. The Health and Hospitals Corporation is currently offering flu shots at their hospitals and Communicare clinic sites as well. **For information on where to get a flu shot, New Yorkers can call the City's Flu Information Line (1-866-FLU-LINE), or visit [nyc.gov/health/flu](http://nyc.gov/health/flu).**

Some individuals should NOT receive a flu shot, among them, those who have severe allergies to eggs, or anyone who has had a serious, life-threatening reaction to a flu vaccination in the past. The flu shot is recommended for all individuals aged 50 or older. Other groups who SHOULD get the flu shot include: Individuals between six months and 50 years of age with heart, circulatory, lung (including asthma), or kidney problems (including renal failure); diabetes or other metabolic disease; cystic fibrosis or hemoglobin abnormalities.

Because persons at high risk for the flu are also generally at high risk for contracting pneumonia, DOHMH recommends that all people over the age of 65, and those with underlying medical conditions, get the pneumococcal (pneumonia) vaccine as well. New Yorkers should ask their doctors for the pneumonia vaccine when getting their flu shots. Unlike the flu shot, the pneumococcal vaccine generally provides long-term protection, and does not need to be administered annually.

For each year's flu season, a new flu shot is needed because flu viruses can change rapidly, making the previous year's vaccine obsolete. So, don't take any chances. Protect yourself and the ones you love from the flu and pneumonia.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**NYCHA Seniors Make Almost 1,000 Beds For Orphaned Cats And Dogs At CACC**

By Eileen Elliott

**U**nlike many of the cats who peered out of their cages stacked three high in the showroom at the Center for Animal Care and Control (CACC) Brooklyn Shelter on October 22, Mittens didn't seem to regard the Cage Comforter Recognition Awards Ceremony as a time to play. Instead, this tiny black kitten with white paws sat at the very back of her clean but stark steel cage while a smattering of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) seniors accepted awards on behalf of their community centers.

The Cage Comforter program is a collaboration between the CACC, which is a not-for-profit organization that runs the City's animal shelters, and NYCHA. Over 150 seniors from 28 community centers participated in the program from July through September, creating nearly 1,000 colorful beds for cats and dogs in the CACC's five shelters. They also made over 1,000 toys.

"We had a vision of how many beds we would create, and we never shied away," said Department of Community Operations Program Manager for Citywide Programs Ray Diaz, who oversees the program. "Seniors often feel underappreciated, or neglected and forgotten about. This program gives them an opportunity to make a difference and helps to raise their self-esteem."

CACC Director of Volunteers Jody Jones had the original idea for the project, but it was NYCHA's Department of Modernization Director and dedicated animal advocate Alice O'Neil, who took the idea and ran (or sewed) with it. In addition to being a volunteer with the CACC, Ms. O'Neil created CAT, or the Compassionate Action Team, made up of NYCHA employees who are dedicated to improving the lives of animals.

"Not only do the comforters help to alleviate stress for the animals during their stay at the shelters, they also help increase adoptions by making the animals and the facilities more attractive," Ms. O'Neil said. "In addition, they assist the animals in their transition to their new homes as they take their quilts and toys with them. If the animal isn't lucky enough to be placed in a home the tiny blankets can provide some comfort to them during their final moments."

"It's nice to know that you can help animals that need to be adopted," said Ethel Wells, 65, of Highbridge Gardens in the Bronx.



NYCHA seniors display the Recognition Certificates for their community centers at the CACC. (Inset) Mittens steps onto her new bed.

Sitting beside her, Doris Beavers, 68, of Sedgwick Houses, also in the Bronx, expressed her enthusiasm when she heard about the project, "I said, 'Oh, isn't that sweet.' My heart poured out."

The CACC is one of the busiest animal shelters in the United States accepting nearly 60,000 animals a year. In July of this year the City reduced the hours that the shelter can accept animals to 12 hours a day, seven days a week. It also reduced the number of hours the shelters can operate their adoption programs. At the same time the Mayor announced the creation of the Mayor's Alliance for Animals. The goal of the Alliance, of which the CACC is a member, simply put, is to find a good home for every cat and dog in New York City.

Ms. Jones thanked the seniors and NYCHA for their support. "It really helps us feel much stronger about what we do for these animals," she said. Then, Mr. Diaz presented the Recognition Awards and everyone took a hand at placing the beds in the cages. The transformation was immediate. By the time the ceremony was over Mittens was sitting contentedly on her bed in the front of the cage, increasing her chances of finding a home.

**To find out more about the CACC, call 212-442-2076, or log onto [www.nycacc.org](http://www.nycacc.org) to view adoptable pets.**

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**Journal**

**68**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

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*Michael R. Bloomberg* ..... Mayor

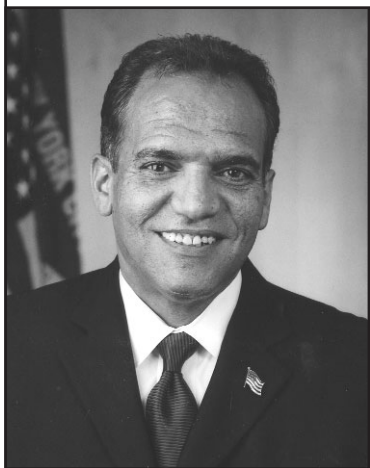
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Message From The Chairman

## The Holidays Are A Time To Celebrate



Can you believe that the holiday season is here again? With Thanksgiving just around the corner, followed by Chanukah, Christmas and Kwanzaa, there's going to be a lot to celebrate between now and the New Year.

All over the country families will be gathering together to enjoy Thanksgiving Day on November 28, during one of our most cherished holidays. Historically, Thanksgiving has been a celebration of the harvest as well as of the principles that drove

the first European settlers here to search for new freedoms in a new land. These days, for myself, and I think for most of us, Thanksgiving is first and foremost a celebration of family and home.

Those of you who don't have any plans for the holiday, or who just want to mix and mingle with your neighbors, might want to stop in at your Community Center for a Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings. The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) will be holding its traditional citywide turkey distribution toward the end of the month, presenting a free turkey to each Resident Association president. Check with your Community Center for the date and time of your development's Thanksgiving dinner.

Not too long after Thanksgiving, the Jewish festival of Chanukah will begin at sundown on November 29. It will end on December 7. The word Chanukah means dedication. Each night for eight nights candles will be lit on a menorah to commemorate the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after its defilement, over 2,000 years ago.

NYCHA residents always go out in a big way to celebrate Christmas, the birth of Christ, on December 25, and Kwanzaa, which begins on December 26 and is celebrated right up until New Year's Day. Kwanzaa means "first fruits of the harvest" in KiSwahili and is a time to focus on African and African-American heritage, history, and culture. To commemorate these holidays, NYCHA will hold a citywide Holiday Toy Distribution on December 17, at the Farragut Houses Community Center, and a Christmas/Kwanzaa Holiday Celebration on December 18 at the VanDyke Community Center, both in Brooklyn.

These are just some of the many celebrations that are sure to take place at NYCHA developments all over the City this holiday season. Check with your resident association or Community Center to see what else is planned.

NYCHA is also pleased to announce a special concert, NYCHA Holiday Sounds, to be held at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan on December 12. The concert will feature the best of NYCHA musical talent — the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra (see page 1), as well as the NYCHA Youth Chorus and Senior Chorus.

The holidays will have come and gone by the time you receive your next *NYCHA Journal*, with our special December/January issue due to arrive at your door by mid-January. In the meantime, however you choose to celebrate, I'd like to extend my wishes here that you and your family all have a wonderful holiday season.

Tino Hernandez

## AMNESTY UPDATE

(Continued from page 1)

required in 1,117 of these cases. Specifically, in 865 of these cases, there was no discrepancy of income. In other words, the people who applied for Amnesty were not found to have any other sources of income, other than what they had reported during their annual review. In 252 cases, the residents were already paying the ceiling rent, so the additional income they reported did not affect the amount of rent owed. In 177 cases payment plans were arranged which will net the Housing Authority more than \$700,000. Residents in another 18 cases have already made full payment, for an additional \$18,000.

"We are very pleased with the apparent success of the Amnesty Program," said NYCHA Inspector General Steve Pasichow. "There were many residents who chose to take advantage of this opportunity by applying for Amnesty. I just want to stress, however, our commitment to continue aggressive enforcement of the law by investigating and prosecuting those who do not accurately report their income and assets."

There were an unfortunate 184 residents who applied for Amnesty but failed to comply with the terms of the application for any number of reasons. These included: refusing to sign the application; not submitting additional information requested in writing; submitting inaccurate information; disagreements about the recalculated amount of rent due; and refusal to pay or failure to submit a signed payment agreement.

In 11 of these cases, payments totalling nearly \$74,000 were calculated. Retrocharges have not yet been calculated for the remaining 173 cases.

Residents who have alerted NYCHA to the discrepancies in their income and/or assets but have not complied with the terms of the application are in the worst possible situation. Without Amnesty, which is only granted once all of the back money is paid, these residents could be subject to criminal prosecution and/or lose their apartments. In addition, they may have to pay interest and legal fees.

Though it's too late to apply to the Amnesty Program, if you have submitted an incomplete application, please contact your Housing Assistant so that you can take advantage of this unique opportunity. **If you have applied for Amnesty and have questions, please call the Amnesty Program Hotline at (212) 306-6600.**



## Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

**Writers' Update** — In the August 2001 issue of the *NYCHA Journal*, I featured an article about Davy Johnson of Woodside Houses, Queens. You will remember that he became a published writer when his book entitled "The Figure, A Short Story" was published. Since then Davy Johnson has written over 18 books and seven of them are currently published. His list of published books thus far includes: "And Down Will Come Baby," a tale about teenage pregnancy and the affects it has on the teen as well as the teen's parents; "The Devil Light," a tale of horror in which unsuspecting folks become victims of prey; "Chameloman," a tale of a contemporary superhero; "Three Short Stories," a collection of short stories that form a trilogy of horror; "Dream Leapers," a science fiction tale filled with exploding themes, and his most recent science fiction story entitled, "Walkers." To obtain a copy of any of these intriguing books just log onto Maverick Publishing at Mitty.com or go to the Barnes and Noble site and type in the name of the author.

It has been a lifelong dream of Mr. Johnson to become an author. It all began in the third grade when he read his first novel. The novel took him to new heights and places he'd only dreamed of. Mr. Johnson hopes to publish the remaining 11 books in the near future. *Well, Mr. Johnson I see you've done it again. I congratulate you on all your publications and wish you success with the remaining books.*

*Deborah's Diary is a column that is for you, the residents of NYCHA, to share significant events in your lives with your neighbors. As always, I plan to tell you about those individuals who are the "talk of the town," but I need your help in getting that news. So, remember the Diary! If you have news, share it with me and I will share it with my readers. Drop me a few lines c/o The NYCHA Journal/250 Broadway/12th Floor/NY, NY, 10007, or by fax at 212-577-1358. Or, hey, make it personal! Give me a call at 212-306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.*

### SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

**If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General ("IG") at 212-306-3355 or the Department of Investigation ("DOI") at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959. The IG and DOI rely on NYCHA employees, residents, people who do business with NYCHA, and the public and large to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.**

Visit NYCHA's Web site at:  
[www.nyc.gov/nycha](http://www.nyc.gov/nycha)

### New York City Health Code Minimum Heating Requirements October 1 through May 31

**6:00 AM to 10:00 PM**

Outside Temperature Below 55 Degrees Fahrenheit  
Minimum Inside Temperature 68 Degrees Fahrenheit

**10 PM to 6:00 AM**

Outside Temperature Below 40 Degrees Fahrenheit  
Minimum Inside Temperature 55 Degrees Fahrenheit

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## The NYCHA “Not Wanted” List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on **June 6, 13 and 20, 2001. REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PERSONS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

### Prohibited as of June 6, 2001

Alberto Chevarria	Case 2065/01 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 980 Trinity Avenue, Forest Houses, the Bronx.
Vincent Ramos Jr.	Case 2074/01 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 40 Amsterdam Avenue, Amsterdam Houses, Manhattan.
Lamont Grant	Case 2101/01 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 240 Madison Street, LaGuardia Houses, Manhattan.
Danny Herman	Case 2115/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1960 Park Avenue, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.
Michael Ortiz	Case 2139/01 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 21 West 112th Street, King Towers Houses, Manhattan.
Abner Osorio	Case 2140/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 383 East 143rd Street, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx.

### Prohibited as of June 13, 2001

David Villafane	Case 355/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 130 Third Avenue, Wyckoff Gardens, Brooklyn.
Watzen Villafane Ubecca Bailey	Case 2201/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 775 Marcy Avenue, Armstrong Houses, Brooklyn.
Daniel Guzman	Case 2189/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 315 East 143rd Street, Patterson Houses, the Bronx.
Juan Breton	Case 2192/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 102 Cumberland Walk, Whitman Houses, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of June 20, 2001

David Allen	Case 2293/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 1841 Fulton Street, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.
Patricio De La Cruz	Case 2259/01 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1440 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Anthony Rosa	Case 2266/01 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 60 East 106th Street, Carver Houses, Manhattan.
Gregory Reed	Case 2277/01 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 681 Courtlandt Avenue, Melrose Houses, the Bronx.
Malik Hicks	Case 2287/01 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2140/01 Madison Street, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.
Ellis Williams	Case 2297/01 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 785 Courtlandt Avenue, Andrew Jackson Houses, the Bronx.
Lithaniel Singleton	Case 655/01 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 3204 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.

## Dreaming Big At Melrose Houses



**DREAM TEAM** (left to right) NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello, joins Sponsor Brian Heidtke, IHAD NY Metro Area Executive Director Kara Forte, Sponsor Stan Picheny, IHAD President Marina Winton, and Eugene M. Lang who created the IHAD program. The Dreamers pictured here are third-graders Natalie Plaza, Rebecca White and Jose Ralon.

The Melrose II “I Have A Dream” Program held its Class of 2012 Kick-Off Celebration at P.S. 1 in the Bronx on October 29, 2002. Thanks to the generous support of two individuals — former VP of Finance of Colgate/Palmolive Brian Heidtke, and private investor Stan Picheny — and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), 60 more Melrose Houses third-graders are now officially “Dreamers.” These children will be supported by a team of trained educators and counselors throughout their elementary, junior and high school years. Those who graduate from high school are guaranteed tuition for college or vocational schools, paid for by their sponsors.

NYCHA Board Member JoAnna Aniello brought greetings from Chairman Tino Hernandez. “We’re proud to be partners with the I Have A Dream Foundation,” Ms. Aniello said. She then presented a letter from Mayor Bloomberg to IHAD New York Metro Area Executive Director Kara Forte. “This wonderful program will bring together the entire community to ensure the success of the children of Melrose Houses,” the letter said. “Your commitment is commendable.”

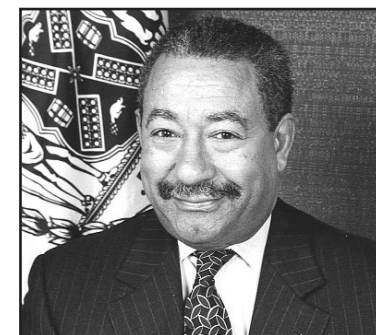
This is the fourth partnership between NYCHA and the IHAD Foundation. The collaboration began in 1994 at Ravenswood Houses in Queens, with 75 Dreamers; then in 1996 at Chelsea Houses in Manhattan with 97 dreamers; and in 1998 at Melrose Houses, with 54 Melrose I Dreamers.

## EARL ANDREWS, JR. RECEIVES AWARD FROM PRO-AM

NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. was honored by the National Pro-Am City Leagues Association at its 10th Annual Achievement Awards luncheon held on October 14 at the Madison Square Garden Theater Lobby. Mr. Andrews was one of nine awardees.

“These fine men and women are exemplary members of their communities and are most deserving of these honors,” said Master of Ceremonies John Andariese. Mr. Andariese is MSG Network’s Knicks Radio Analyst.

Pro-Am City Leagues is one of the most successful non-profit, community-service organizations in the country. In addition to being responsible for sports events like the Pro-Am National Basketball tournament held in Las Vegas, the Greater Pro-Am Summer Tournament, and The Ray Felix Classic, the National Pro-Am provides hands-on experience to young people interested in sports administration, coaching, officiating, athletic training, and game operations.



Earl Andrews, Jr.

## THE RESIDENT ADVISORY BOARD AT CAMP MARIAH



How many Resident Advisory Board (RAB) members can fit on a 4’ by 4’ foot wooden platform while balancing a plank over their heads? That was the question for the RAB members pictured here, who participated in this teamwork building exercise on the weekend of October 18 at the Fresh Air Fund’s Camp Mariah in Fishkill, N.Y. A total of 33 residents and 18 staff made the trip. Activities included leadership training workshops, arts and crafts classes, fishing, hiking, dancing, games and team courses. But it was more than fun and games. Residents also discussed issues related to the Annual Plan.





## Ask Mr. Maintenance...

### A FEW TIPS TO KEEP YOUR GAS STOVE OPERATING PROPERLY

November is turkey time, and a good time for a few tips on how to keep your gas stove working properly. By following the suggestions below, you can cut down on maintenance calls.

Remove and clean gas burners and grates periodically to keep the burners lighting. The burners should be soaked in hot soapy water to soften any grease and grime that may have built up and clogged the holes in the gas ring. If the holes in the burner are stopped up, clean them with a fine wire, hairpin, paper clip or pipe cleaner. You should never use toothpicks as they could break off in the holes. Rinse burners in clean hot water, and place them upside down to drain and dry before re-installing in the stove. The grates should also be soaked in hot water and detergent for approximately half-an-hour and if necessary scrubbed with a brush, then rinsed with clean water and dried.



Remove and clean stove knobs with a non-abrasive cleaner. This will help preserve the writing on the knobs. The sides, front and top of your stove may be porcelain enamel, but are more likely synthetic enamel. Synthetic enamel surfaces scratch easily and may be damaged by household chemicals. Acids from milk, tomatoes, and vinegar can damage these surfaces; therefore wipe up any spills immediately. Do not use abrasive pads or scouring powders as they can permanently scratch the finish. Instead, clean with a non-abrasive cleanser and soft cleaning cloth. A creamy appliance wax can be applied to protect these surfaces and make cleaning up spills easier.



Drip pans and bowls serve multiple functions. Not only do they catch food and spills, they also help radiate heat back to the pot or pan they are under. Drip pans should be wiped clean after each use and washed periodically with a non-abrasive household cleanser.

Oven door gaskets should be inspected to make sure that they seal properly. They should also be cleaned with a mild, soapy detergent to remove any grease that might prevent them from sealing. An improper seal will allow heat to escape from the oven, which makes cooking take longer and wastes gas.

Following these simple preventative steps will keep your stove operating the way that it should and reduce the need for repairs.

**Do you have a maintenance question? Please send it to: Mr. Maintenance, c/o New York City Housing Authority Journal, New York City Housing Authority, 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, New York, New York 10007.**

**Editor's Note:** In response to earlier Mr. Maintenance articles, we have received a number of letters from residents about outstanding repairs in their apartments. **Please keep in mind that Mr. Maintenance is here to provide answers to general maintenance issues and procedures in your developments, not to address individual residents' specific problems obtaining repairs or services.** If you are having difficulty obtaining a needed repair or service, please contact your development's Management Office first; if you are not satisfied with the response you receive at the development, you should then contact your Borough Management Office. Thank you.

## Albert A. Walsh Dies 'Giant' in Affordable Housing

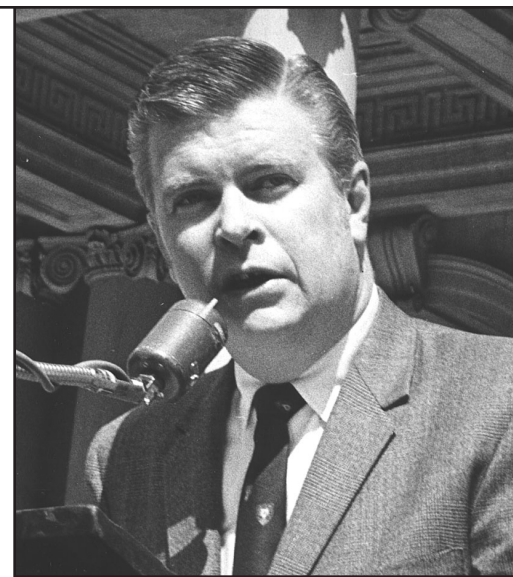
Albert A. Walsh, who was Chairman of the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) from October 31, 1967 to January 7, 1970, died of lung cancer in Red Bank, New Jersey on October 10. He was 74. A spokesperson for the National Housing Conference, of which Mr. Walsh was a longtime member and director, referred to him as "a giant in the affordable housing industry, working in leadership positions for nearly a half a century."

Under Governor Nelson E. Rockefeller, Mr. Walsh was appointed Assistant Counsel to the Division of Housing and Urban Renewal, before becoming Counsel and then Deputy Commissioner of the agency. While there, he oversaw the state's low-rent, middle-income housing and urban renewal programs.

At the time he was appointed Chairman of NYCHA, under Mayor Lindsay, there were 157 developments with 143,000 apartments and 533,000 residents. During his tenure as NYCHA Chairman, Walsh was influential in persuading Washington to subsidize the construction of public housing for low-income people. He also made social services, like addiction counseling and child care, part of New York's public housing program. Another of his achievements was obtaining an increase in the federal cost limit for building each apartment from \$3,150 to \$4,200.

After he left the Housing Authority, Walsh became Chairman of the New York City Housing and Development Administration, where he oversaw the construction of thousands of apartment units for middle and low-income people.

Albert Anthony Walsh was born in Yonkers on January 13, 1928 and attended Cathedral High School in Manhattan, then Charles E. Gorton High School in northern Yonkers. He served on a submarine in the Navy in the years immediately following World War II, before graduating from Fordham University and Fordham Law School. Mr. Walsh is survived by his wife Nan; his sisters Roslyn Gilligan of Pittsburgh and Marie Albert of Wilmington, Delaware; his daughters Maryellen Walsh of Cross River, N.Y., and Nanette Walsh of Manhattan; his son, Mark, of Rye, N.Y., and three grandchildren.



Albert A. Walsh  
1928-2002

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## 'Baby Think It Over' Comes to Glenwood Houses In Brooklyn



A young resident of Glenwood Houses in Brooklyn poses with her baby simulator at the "Baby Think It Over" baby shower on October 10.

By Allan Leicht

The "Baby Think It Over" (BTIO) Program had its "baby shower" at the Glenwood Houses Community Center in Brooklyn on October 10, and 19 teenage residents began a weekend adventure designed to steer them away from early parenthood. Initiated by Glenwood Resident Association President Carolyn Walton and totally funded by Brooklyn Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein, the main feature of the BTIO Program is an "infant simulator," a doll that looks, feels and sounds like a real baby. The "babies" come complete with birth certificates and are irresistibly squeezable; but they are actually cuddly computers programmed to "behave" like human infants and they judge those who care for them with no mercy.

"Your baby is going to need four kinds of care," said Ms. Walton to her group of prospective "parents," "burping, rocking, feeding and changing. When you hear the beep, that's the signal for care. And if you take longer than two minutes to care for your baby, it will start to cry and the computer inside the baby will record 'neglect.'"

The teenagers watched a video about how to care for their babies before being fitted with I.D. wristbands matched to their high-tech tots. A button on the wristband, touched to the contact point on the doll's back, identifies the parent and logs on to baby's computer. If that contact is not made in time, baby cries — nonstop — as a complete record of parental performance is then chronicled on the computer. How baby is handled, how long it cries, how often it's fed, if it has been held or left alone too long, or has been shaken, roughly handled, or physically abused — it all gets programmed into baby. At the end of the trial period, a weekend in this case, "parents" get report cards.

BTIO babies are capable of a variety of baby noises, all recorded from real infants: cooing, gurgling, coughing and crying — very realistic crying that gets louder, more and more exasperating, and can build to a true tantrum.

Glenwood resident Syrvella Hall, who co-facilitated the project with Ms. Walton, cautioned the

young people not to be too rough with their kids. "Remember, when the head falls back that's instant neglect." Not to mention that baby emits an ear-curling scream.

Each BTIO doll costs over \$100 and was purchased by the Glenwood Resident Association from the "BTIO Program for the Prevention of Teenage Pregnancy." State Assemblywoman Weinstein had spent four years working on legislation to prevent teenage pregnancy, but even before it passed in Albany the Assemblywoman responded to Ms. Walton's request with discretionary funds from her own office. The program was funded at the cost of \$3,500. Ms. Walton donated a television to the community center.

There has never been anything like it at NYCHA. The first phase of the program actually took place the previous September 23 when the teenagers, aged 13 – 18, registered and continued to meet for further orientation and evaluation. They got together every night for a week with the constant reminder to "think it over" and to get their own parents' consent. (A crying baby, even make-believe, can upset the most good-natured household.) They had a class on child safety, care, learned CPR resuscitation, all in anticipation of the new arrival, culminating in this "baby shower."



## Domestic Violence Conference

(Continued from page 1)

Chairman Hernandez commented on the success of the collaboration between NYCHA and Safe Horizon. "Through 15 years of working together on domestic violence issues," he said, "we have developed an integrated approach to this very complex problem that has helped thousands of people." After thanking NYCHA's Social Services staff, Safe Horizon staff, and NYPD officers, Mr. Hernandez introduced Safe Horizon Chief Executive Officer Gordon J. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell expressed the view of everyone who spoke that day when he called for a wholistic, coordinated approach to offender accountability. "Patterns of domestic violence can only stop once the men involved take responsibility for their behavior," he said. And to make that happen, "We must change our communities, our cultures, our way of thinking, along with the criminal justice system."

Amy Barasch, who is Director of the Domestic Violence Response Teams (DVRT) for the newly created Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence, described some exciting new initiatives. They include the digital 911 system, which provides prosecutors with clear, accurate recordings of domestic violence calls made to the 911 emergency response system within hours; an extensive advertising campaign which has already begun, aimed at the perpetrators of domestic violence, using 12,000 posters on the City's buses and subways; and the creation of the inter-agency DVRTs last May. DVRTs, which are operating as a pilot project in Brooklyn and the Bronx, pinpoint high-risk households and offer comprehensive services through a multi-agency approach.

Reading a letter from Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez, Ms. Barasch said, "My office is committed to prevention, intervention, and enhancing the criminal justice system."

Keynote Speaker, Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes, began his address by emphasizing the dramatically increased roles of the courts and the police in combatting domestic violence. "Not long ago you wouldn't see police officers in the audience, or someone like me speaking," he said.

He then went on to give a wrenching first-person account of his own experience with domestic violence that began when he was just a boy of five, growing up in Ocean Parkway. It started with a piercing scream coming from his

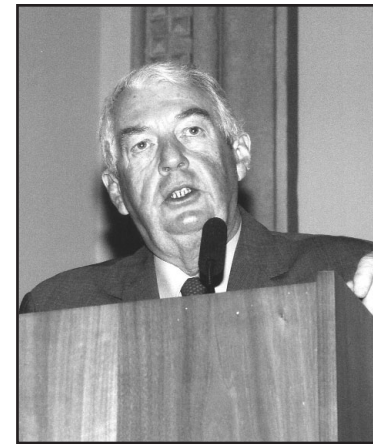
parents' bedroom. That his mother's particular incident ended with the hospitalization.

"I think I remember every time my mother was beaten up," he said. "My father was allowed to turn our home into a living hell because no one — not the police, not the district attorneys, not the judges — would do anything to help us."

In 1990, when Hynes took office as Brooklyn District Attorney, he vowed to place great emphasis on domestic violence issues. He created a Domestic Violence Bureau to handle the prosecution of all misdemeanor and domestic violence cases, as well as domestic violence homicides. It now has 40 assistant district attorneys and 40 prosecutors.

"I'm particularly proud that 911 is starting in Brooklyn," he said. "Next we'll be transmitting pictures that can be viewed by judges. Soon every hospital in Brooklyn will have Olympus cameras to take pictures of domestic violence victims and our office will transmit them to the courts."

The pain suffered by a domestic violence victim was made very real when a woman using the name "Mary" gave a tearful account of her own experience. Mary, who was relocated twice through NYCHA's Emergency Transfer Program, ended her talk with an expression of thanks.

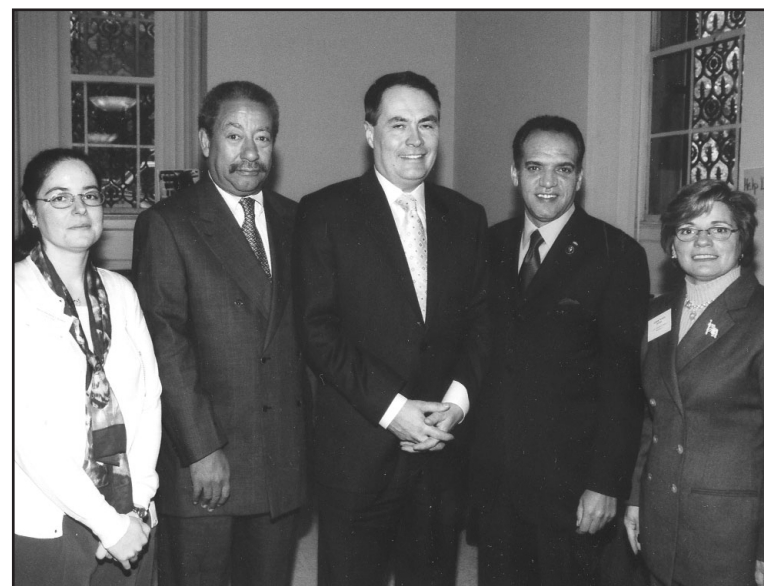


Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes

"If it weren't for the Domestic Violence Aftercare Program, I don't think I could have coped. There's help out there," she said, in a message to other domestic violence victims. "You must become a survivor so you can reach out and help others."

PLAYS for LIVING, a national nonprofit acting troupe then performed, "Apartment 3G." The play clearly showed the dynamics of a violent household, as well as depicting the attitudes of friends and neighbors. It also illustrated the roles played by social services, the police, and even NYCHA Managers and Housing Assistants in addressing the problem.

The issues raised during the keynote address, Mary's testimony, and the play were further discussed in the panel discussion and workshops that rounded out the day's activities.



Safe Horizon CEO Gordon Campbell (Center) joins (left to right) NYCHA Dept. for Social Services Director Nora Reissig-Lazzaro, Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr., Chairman Tino Hernandez and Board Member JoAnna Aniello at the New York Academy of Medicine.

**NYC 24-Hour Domestic Violence  
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## PUBLIC HEARING N.Y.C. Districting Commission

**Date:** Tuesday, November 19th  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** City College of New York, CUNY  
Arnow Theatre NAC Building  
Convent Avenue (b/t 136th &  
137th), Ground Floor.  
New York, NY 10031

**Date:** Thursday, November 21st  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Medgar Evers College, CUNY  
Medgar Evers Auditorium  
1650 Bedford Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11225

**Date:** Tuesday, November 26th  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Queens College, CUNY  
LeFrak Concert Hall, Music Building  
65-30 Kissena Blvd, Flushing, NY 11367

Public comment is sought relating to the proposed City Council districts lines. The public is encouraged to submit a written copy of their testimony. Proposed maps can be found on the commission's website at [www.nyc.gov/lines](http://www.nyc.gov/lines).

**Date:** Monday, December 2nd  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Hostos Community College  
CUNY  
Center for the Arts & Culture  
450 Grand Concourse  
Bronx, NY 10451

**Date:** Wednesday, December 4th  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.  
**Location:** College of Staten Island  
CUNY  
The Williamson Theatre  
Building 1P  
Center for the Arts  
Staten Island, NY 10314

## Symphony Orchestra

(Continued from page 1)

combining his talents as an administrator, a manager, and a performer.

He is an acclaimed and versatile musician — a French hornist — with over 25 years of experience. He has played with the Philadelphia Orchestra, the Philadelphia and Boston Pops Orchestras, the J.J. Johnson Orchestra, David Murray Big Band, Max Roach's So What Brass, the Opera Company of Boston, the Alvin Ailey Dance Company, and Orquesta Filarmonica de Jalisco (Mexico). He is also a former head of the Music Department at the Harlem School of the Arts, and a Master Craftsman in brass instrument restoration and custom modification.

Over the summer, the Orchestra played at more than 30 Family Days, at the NYCHA Salutes Harlem concert series on 125th Street, and at the Lincoln Center Out of Doors "Convergence" Concert in which performances took place at a number of venues simultaneously, beginning at Amsterdam Houses, then converged at Lincoln Center.

Other highlights of the year included playing at Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's Inauguration and at the opening of the new Police Museum. The Orchestra also plays regularly with well known artists at Alice Tully Hall and Aaron Davis Hall.

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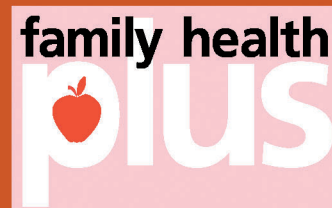
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