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QUEENSBRIDGE SOUTH 'GOES GREEN' WITH CFL KICK-OFF!

By Eileen Elliott

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT, QUEENSBRIDGE HOUSES, IS GOING GREEN! On a surprisingly chilly April 21st—the day before Earth Day—the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), joined the Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI), Citi (formerly Citibank), and the energy-solution company Ameresco, to begin installing 9,600 Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs) in 1,600 apartments at Queensbridge South. It is estimated that once all standard bulbs in the development's 3,142 apartments are replaced with CFLs, electricity costs for Queensbridge alone will drop by over 17%, saving the Housing Authority \$367,000 annually, and cutting carbon dioxide emissions by 1,400 tons a year! That's the equivalent of taking 600 cars off the road.

Residents of all ages gathered in the interior courtyard of the Jacob Riis Senior Center at the Long Island City development to hear the morning's speakers. Those speakers addressed the crowd from a stage covered with AstroTurf, beneath a 35-foot-long cast stone relief, entitled "Community Life." The relief was created by an Italian immigrant, Cesare Stea, in the 1940s under the Works Progress Administration Program.

"Since Queensbridge is the largest development, utility costs are enormous," said Queens Borough Director Carolyn Jasper, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies for the event. "NYCHA must find new ways of conserving energy. CFLs are the stepping stone for more energy-efficient projects."

Congress Member Carolyn Maloney reaffirmed her support for public housing and green initiatives, focusing on current legislation to require that all cars get 35 miles to the gallon by the year 2020.

Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott brought greetings from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. "On behalf of the Mayor, I am here to compliment NYCHA for its green initiatives," the Deputy Mayor said.

Queensbridge is the second NYCHA development to benefit from a collaboration between NYCHA and ReLightNY, a youth-run nonprofit organization that seeks to educate and inspire people to live in environmentally friendly ways by raising money to replace traditional

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FLICK THE SWITCH Residents are critical to NYCHA's green initiative, said Board Member López. "You need to switch it off."



OVER 10,700 TREES FOR NYCHA PROPERTY

Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg (left) and David Rockefeller (right) announced on April 22 that they were pledging \$10 million to the MillionTreesNYC initiative to plant trees in public spaces including New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) developments and public schools. NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (center) joined the Mayor and Mr. Rockefeller at NYCHA's Jefferson Houses in East Harlem for the announcement. Over 10,700 trees are slated for NYCHA property. All nine of NYCHA's public housing developments in East Harlem will be fully planted by the close of this year's tree planting season. MillionTreesNYC is a public-private campaign to plant and care for one million trees over a decade. It is part of Mayor Bloomberg's PlaNYC to reduce greenhouse gases and make NYC more sustainable by 2030. More trees were planted at NYCHA's Wagner and Taft Houses, also in East Harlem, earlier in the week.

NYCHA'S 38TH ANNUAL TALENT SHOW!

By Eileen Elliott

THE FOCUS WAS ON DREAMS AT THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) SPECTACULAR 38TH ANNUAL TALENT SHOW COMPETITION, HELD AT THE JOHN JAY COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN MANHATTAN ON MARCH 29TH. "What happens to a dream deferred? Does it dry up like a raisin in the sun? Or

fester like a sore—then run?" Setting the tone with the famous Langston Hughes poem, "A Dream Deferred," which was recited in an introductory video, the 22 performances by NYCHA residents from ages 8 to 55-plus were infused with big dream inspiration. For more than two

hours, residents showcased their dancing, singing and dramatic talents, honed under the skills of Director Raymond Rodriguez, Assistant Director/Choreographer Kenya Massey, Stage Manager Michele Hawkins Jones, and Vocal Coach Cheryl Freeman, as well as NYCHA's

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HEAVEN SENT The Dancing Angels from O'Dwyer Gardens in Brooklyn took the first-place prize in the "Children" category at NYCHA's 38th Annual Talent Show Competition. The angels are shown here with Community Operations Citywide Programs Deputy Director Ukah Busgith.

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THE TOWN HALLS ARE STARTING UP AGAIN

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SIGN UP FOR THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

MAYOR'S MESSAGE

Broadening Protections for Unmarried Victims Of Domestic Violence



THIS SPRING I JOINED CITY COUNCIL SPEAKER CHRISTINE C. QUINN TO ANNOUNCE THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CIVIL PROTECTION ACT, LEGISLATION THAT WOULD BROADEN PROTECTION FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS WHO ARE ABUSED BY THEIR PAST OR CURRENT DOMESTIC PARTNERS OR LIVE-IN BOYFRIENDS OR GIRLFRIENDS.

Current State law only gives the right to obtain civil orders of protection in Family Court to domestic violence victims who are married, divorced, related by blood, or who are parents of the same child. Everyone else has to seek an order of protection in Criminal Court, which requires criminal prosecution and may result in the creation of a criminal record for the defendant.

The Domestic Violence Civil Protection Act would allow unmarried individuals who live or have lived with an abuser, pregnant women who live with the fathers of their unborn children, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals who are abused by their live-in intimate partner, the right to get a civil order of protection in Supreme Court without having their current or former loved one arrested.

Domestic violence doesn't only happen to legally married people, but for too long, the law has not provided the same kind of protections to domestic violence victims in other types of committed relationships. Working with Speaker Quinn and the City Council, we are creating a new avenue for these victims of domestic violence who want protection but don't want to have their abuser arrested.

Civil orders of protection are an important way to prevent domestic violence because they let victims seek protection without initially requiring a criminal proceeding. Specific protections may include directing the perpetrator to stay away from the victim or requiring the perpetrator to enroll in an education program for batterers. These local orders of protection from the Supreme Court may also suspend the perpetrator's firearms license and allow the authorities to take away the perpetrator's guns. Violation of an order of protection would constitute criminal contempt, which can be prosecuted in Criminal Court. Should there be any violence after an order is issued, violation of a civil order of protection is a criminal offense and the perpetrator of violence will be prosecuted.

As Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez pointed out at the time of the announcement, domestic violence does not discriminate, and we continue to seek innovative solutions to help all domestic violence victims achieve safety. Victims do not have to suffer in silence. We provide assistance through the criminal justice, health, and social service systems to all victims and their children.

Everyone has a right to safety. This bill will help make sure they get it.

Michael R. Bloomberg

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It's Never Too Late to Start Over...

By Heidi Morales

MEET AMARILYS MARTINEZ. She is a social worker in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Aftercare Program, a division of the Social Services Department that provides support services to NYCHA residents who are victims of domestic violence and in the process of an apartment transfer.

Ms. Martinez holds a Master's Degree in Social Work; she is the first person in her family to ever attend and graduate from college; and, she has been a NYCHA resident for the past 23 years.

As a social worker, Ms. Martinez has to provide guidance and use her expertise to help people reconstruct their lives and deal with very sensitive and at times very hurtful issues. By talking with her you can sense her passion and dedication for her work. However, Ms. Martinez didn't always have the answers; she wasn't always in a position to help others because once upon a time she was in real need of help and guidance herself.

"Initially I was on public assistance and when my youngest daughter was six months old I sort of analyzed my life and thought 'What do I want to teach my children?' I'm telling you it was like a light bulb went off. I was washing dishes in my kitchen; I looked around and said, 'Wow, is this it for me? Is this what I want? To just be on welfare and that's it?' I didn't want my daughters to think that this was the way of life. I had to do something and right away."

Ms. Martinez began taking job readiness courses at Goodwill Industries and eventually completed her education—all while being a mother of four children and working full-time.

Ms. Martinez succeeded at re-inventing herself. "Some people think there is no way out if they don't have education or work experience and they need to understand that there is a way out regardless of whether or not you have a job or a degree." Ms. Martinez certainly found the road to success and self-sufficiency. Every day she taps into the core of strength, determination, compassion and service that helped her "free" herself in order to help residents get their lives on track.

Ms. Martinez can hardly contain her excitement when she talks about her work. "I like helping people out. I am able to understand people. It's not a matter of pay or title or anything like that; I enjoy being able to make a difference in people's lives."

NYCHA Helps

NYCHA's Aftercare Program works in conjunction with the Emergency Transfer Program, which approves emergency transfers for NYCHA residents based on domestic violence status. The social workers in the Aftercare Program make an assessment of the client's needs and provide a number of services from referrals for counseling, GED and job training to advocacy.

But what is domestic violence exactly? According to Ms. Martinez, domestic violence is the unwanted verbal, physical, or emotional attack on an individual. It is one of the most under-reported crimes in the country. It has devastating effects not only on the victim but on the

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CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

NYCHA's Draft Agency Annual Plan for 2009



THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) WILL HOST ITS ANNUAL TOWN HALL-STYLE MEETINGS ON ITS DRAFT AGENCY ANNUAL PLAN FOR FY 2009, AS REQUIRED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD), ONE IN EACH BOROUGH, BEGINNING THE FIRST WEEK OF JUNE.

A draft of the Plan is published and made available to residents and the public well in advance of the meetings. The meetings provide residents with an opportunity to raise their concerns regarding the Plan, and to hear responses to those concerns from key NYCHA staff. The meetings culminate in a single public hearing during which the public addresses NYCHA's Board staff, and in the interest of giving as many people as possible the chance to speak, staff do not respond. After the public hearing, the comments are taken into consideration and incorporated into the final plan, which is then submitted to HUD.

Please turn to page 7 of this *Journal* for a listing of the times and locations of the meetings, as well as the final public hearing, which will be held this year on July 15th, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM at The Manhattan Center, Grand Ballroom, 311 West 34th Street, New York, New York. The Draft Agency Annual Plan for 2009 will be available for review at NYCHA's Central Office, at 250 Broadway, the 12th floor Reception Area from May 15, 2008 through August 15, 2008. It will also be available for review on NYCHA's website at: www.nyc.gov/nycha, at all NYCHA development Management Offices, and at the Community Centers listed in the Notice on page 7.

For those of you who plan on attending any of the meetings, I would like to take a moment to emphasize the importance of focusing on the topics discussed in the Plan when making your comments. In general, the Annual Plan covers the Housing Authority's fiscal issues, our capital program (maintaining the developments), public safety, community programs, social services, and the Housing Authority's contribution to affordable housing. As always, the Housing Authority will have staff on hand to take information from residents with individual concerns.

To the residents who attended the rally in Albany and met with elected officials there in March to ask that the State include New York City's public housing in its budget, thank you! Resident voices are a powerful force when it comes to making our legislators really listen. Your support last year led the Shelter Allowance Bill to be signed into law, giving NYCHA parity with private landlords when it comes to receiving funds for residents on public assistance. Once the new Shelter Allowance is fully phased in, in 2011, NYCHA will receive an additional \$47 million from the State.

Resident input is also invaluable to the Annual Plan process. I therefore urge you to become familiar with the Plan and attend a Town Hall meeting and/or the Public Hearing.

Tino Hernandez

PREPARE TO ADVANCE YOUR CAREER!

FALL EXPO COMING THIS OCTOBER HOSTED BY NYCHA'S RESIDENT EMPLOYMENT SERVICES.

IF INTERESTED PLEASE CONTACT OUR HOTLINE TO REGISTER AT 718-250-5904.

RIBBON-CUTTING FOR SENIOR CENTER AT INDEPENDENCE TOWERS, B'KLYN

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEWLY RENOVATED INDEPENDENCE TOWERS SENIOR CENTER IN THE WILLIAMSBURG SECTION OF BROOKLYN WAS FILLED TO CAPACITY ON APRIL 8TH, AS NYCHA STAFF JOINED RESIDENTS, AND ELECTED OFFICIALS AND THEIR REPRESENTATIVES TO CELEBRATE ITS GRAND OPENING WITH A RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY. The \$2.8 million renovation includes a 3,800-square-foot expansion with a striking aluminum and glass facade, and a kosher kitchen.

NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez thanked Independence Towers' Resident Association President Solomon Lieser, for all of the work he and his board have done to see the renovation through. The Chair called Mr. Lieser a powerful advocate for public housing, "not only here in Brooklyn, but Citywide, and in Albany and Washington."

Mr. Lieser was passionate in his thanks to NYCHA for providing the seniors with "a home of their own." "What a nice home it is," he said. "By opening this Center we are helping our aging population enjoy their golden years."

Special awards were presented to former City Council Member Kenneth Fisher, who was lauded as the moving force behind the renovation, and to Elsie Mayer. At age 97, Ms. Mayer is the oldest senior utilizing the facility. An award was also presented to a representative for Assembly Member Joseph Lentol, for his commitment and dedication to the center.

All of the invited State elected officials were tied up with the budget in Albany, but, like Assembly Member Lentol, many sent representatives to express their pride in the center's completion and their support of public housing. These included Assembly Housing Chair Vito Lopez, and Senator Martin Connor.

Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz arrived after the ceremony, but his representative, Deputy Borough President Yvonne Graham, expressed the Borough President's sentiments when she said, "This community is a role model for all communities in New York City."

In closing, Mr. Lieser made clear what the next steps are. "We cannot rest on our laurels. We need fulfilling programs to meet the needs of all the seniors in this community. It's incumbent on us to move to the next level.

(Continued on page 7)

DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams



Water for Life—Forty youth from NYCHA's Parkside Community Center joined Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, the NYC Department of Environmental Protection, the Mayor's Volunteer Center of New York City, the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, Children for Children, and hip hop mogul Russell Simmons, along with hundreds of others for the NYC Tap Project Water Walk on Saturday, March 15, 2008, at Riverside Park in Manhattan. The

walk was held so that New Yorkers could bring national attention to the global water crisis. You may be surprised to learn that according to UNICEF some 1.1 billion people in developing countries have inadequate access to water or the nearby water isn't safe to drink, and as a result 4,000 children die every day from lack of safe water.

Participants in the walk, which began in Riverside Park at West 83rd Street, went up to West 93rd Street, and back, walked one mile carrying containers of water as an act of solidarity with those in the developing world who must collect and carry water on a daily basis. The Walk kicked off World Water Week, and the Tap Project in New York City. The Tap Project provides clean water to children around the world and encourages New Yorkers to visit participating restaurants and pay \$1 for a glass of tap water.

The walk gave the Bronx's Parkside Community Center after-school Red Cap Organization, which is a girls' discussion group, and Youth Council members in grades 4 – 12 the opportunity to become involved in a cause that aims to help children. Since water in New York City is readily available, it makes it hard for youth to make sense of the fact that children and families are dying just because they don't have access to this basic necessity. According to Parkside Community Center Director Doreen Davis, who is a member of the Mayor's Volunteer Center, "Being involved in the Walk has taught the kids to appreciate what they have and to always be willing to extend a helping hand to those less fortunate than themselves." Ms. Davis said she makes sure the kids of Parkside are involved in a volunteer project every month. "Volunteering helps to build character and compassion and helps one to appreciate the little things in life," Ms. Davis said.

I'd like to congratulate Ms. Davis and Parkside Community Associate Eva Muriel for getting the Red Caps and the Youth Council involved in such a worthwhile cause. To the youth who participated—I am so proud of you! Your involvement with this project shows that you are on your way to becoming fine outstanding citizens who care about and value of human life. More than that by walking that mile, you showed that you are committed to seeing that children in underdeveloped countries get the water they need. You should be proud of yourselves!



WATER FOR LIFE Young members of the Parkside Community Center walked one mile on March 15th to bring attention to the water crisis in developing countries in the NYC Tap Project Water Walk.

If you have good news you would like to share with your neighbors, drop me a few lines care of The NYCHA Journal/ 250 Broadway, 12th Floor/New York, New York 10007 or by fax at (212) 577-1358, or better yet, you can e-mail me at: williamd3@nycha.nyc.gov. 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.

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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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on January 3, 10, 17 and 24. **Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg's Operation Safe Housing Initiative.**

**REMEMBER,
IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON
HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL
YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR NYCHA'S
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Prohibited as of January 3, 2007

Richard Johnson	Case 6781/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 365 Sackman Street, Seth Low Houses, Brooklyn.
Jerome McRae	Case 8906/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1307 Loring Avenue, Pink Houses, Brooklyn.
Wendell Coa	Case 8910/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 303 Vernon Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.
Alice Dickens	Case 8932/06 formerly associated with third floor of 745 East 152nd Street, Adams Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of January 10, 2007

John Ceuncas	Case 8920/06 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 117 West 90th Street, Wise Towers, Manhattan.
Carlos Ortiz	Case 8921/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 130 East 115th Street, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
Jeffrey Brown	Case 8921/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 130 East 115th Street, Johnson Houses, Manhattan.
George Frazier	Case 243/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 3865 Baychester Avenue, Edenwald Houses, the Bronx.
Ronald Laidley	Case 9033/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 724 East 6th Street, Lower East Side II Houses, Manhattan.
Miguel Andino	Case 9034/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 164-01 Foch Boulevard, Baisley Park Houses, Queens.
Etienne Saavedra	Case 7034/04 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 235 Taylor Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.
Morey Champion	

Prohibited as of January 17, 2007

Andrew Wiley	Case 9038/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 443 East 137th Street, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.
Derrick Washington	Case 9093/06 formerly associated with the third floor of 103-12 Glenwood Road, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.
Glenn Greenlee	Case 58/07 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 235 Jefferson Street, Berry Houses, Staten Island.
Rashamell Smith	Case 124/07 formerly associated with the twenty-first floor of 315 Sutter Avenue, Langston Hughes Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of January 24, 2007

Joshua Escobar	Case 8719/06 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 360-362 East 137th Street, Mitchel Houses, the Bronx.
Marlene Brista	Case 13/07 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 1400 East New York Avenue, Prospect Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.
Michael Vanleuvan	Case 82/07 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 427 West 26th Street, Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.
Tashaun Norman	Case 133/07 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1460 Bronx River Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Lanay Perry	Case 134/07 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 2698 8th Avenue, Drew Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Tylique Rollison	Case 266/07 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 85-02 Rockaway Beach Blvd., Hammel Houses, Queens.
Terrell Rolison	

**Need a NYCHA
Parking Permit?**

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FROM BOTH NYCHA RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN OBTAINING A PARKING SPACE IN A NYCHA DEVELOPMENT PARKING LOT DURING THE CURRENT PARKING YEAR CYCLE, FROM MAY 1, 2008 THROUGH APRIL 30, 2009.

NYCHA has implemented a number of changes to make the parking permit process more customer-friendly. For example, you may now obtain a Parking Permit application, a list of parking areas, and a list of regulations and fees online at: www.nyc.gov/residentscorner, under "Resources." (You can still obtain this information at any NYCHA development Management Office.)

In addition, the Housing Authority is now accepting completed applications by mail only, eliminating the need to stand in lines. NYCHA will no longer process applications at Management Offices. Completed applications and all related fees and documentation should be sent to:

**NYCHA Parking
Permit Control
P.O. Box 3422
New York, NY 10008**

Along with the completed application and payment, you must include:

- a copy of the vehicle's current New York State Vehicle Registration;
- a copy of the driver's valid driver's license;
- a copy of either a N.Y. City or N.Y. State Parking Permit for Persons with Disabilities, if applicable.

Except in the case of residents who request reserved parking, all fees for the year are due with the application. Residents requesting reserved parking may pay in two installments. Payments should be made by money order or a bank certified check payable to NYCHA. Cash or personal checks will not be accepted.

If NYCHA cannot issue a Parking Permit because there are no spaces available, you will be placed on a waiting list and your money will be returned. Vehicles parked in NYCHA parking lots without a valid NYCHA Parking Permit will be ticketed and/or towed at the owner's expense.

If you have any questions, please call the Centralized Parking Hotline at (212) 306-4322 during regular business hours.

BROOKLYN SO. COP INSTALLATION



The Brooklyn South District Council of Presidents (COP) held its installation ceremony at the historic Grand Prospect Hall in Park Slope, Brooklyn on the evening of March 28th. **Shown above, left to right, are: Assistant Deputy General Manager for Operations Gloria Finkelman, Brooklyn South COP District Chair Rosia Wyche of Coney Island Houses, Community Operations Assistant Deputy General Manager Deidra Gilliard, COP Vice Chair Bertha Corbett of Marlboro Houses, Judge Robin Shears, COP Secretary Lillian Marshall of Red Hook Houses, Brooklyn Community Operations Director Ernesto Lozano, COP Assistant Secretary Sheila Smalls of O'Dwyer Houses, Assistant Treasurer Shirley Aikens of Carey Gardens, and Sergeant at Arms Wanda Feliciano of Unity Tower Houses.** The Treasurer, who was not present, is Deborah Carter of Gravesend Houses. The evening included dinner, dancing, and the traditional COP candle-lighting ceremony and taking of the oath. Dignitaries present include Brooklyn District Attorney Charles Hynes and Assembly Member Alec Brook Krasny who represents Coney Island. Ms. Wyche talked about the importance of the COP Board working in partnership with the Housing Authority and said she looked forward to working with everyone. Assembly Member Krasny said he was a friend of the Housing Authority's and reaffirmed his commitment to affordable housing.

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120 FEATHERBED LN
396 EAST 167TH STREET
664 EAST TREMONT AVE
697 EAST GUNHILL RD
931 EAST 174TH STREET
977 PROSPECT AVE
1030 MORRIS AVE
1204 ELDER AVE
1784 WESTCHESTER AVE
2441 JEROME AVE
3212 THIRD AVE
4551 THIRD AVE
3725 E TREMONT AVE
3429 E TREMONT AVE
164 EAST 174TH STREET
269 EAST TREMONT AVE

890 EAST TREMONT AVE
1202 MORRISON AVE
2193 GRAND CONCOURSE
4215 THIRD AVE
MANHATTAN
94 EIGHTH AVE*
590 EIGHTH AVE*
763 NINTH AVE*
926 COLUMBUS AVE*
3352 BROADWAY*
514 WEST 207TH ST*
50 SPRING STREET
551 COLUMBUS AVE
4984 BROADWAY
2351 SECOND AVE
3433 BROADWAY

3657 BROADWAY
200 WEST 14TH STREET
224 EIGHTH AVE
295 CHURCH STREET
2168 SECOND AVE
QUEENS
56-54 MYRTLE AVE*
37-74 90TH STREET*
102-10 ROOSEVELT AVE*
46-18 QUEENS BLVD*
30-14 31ST ST
39-28 QUEENS BLVD
30-08 BROADWAY
40-35 21ST ST
58-14 ROOSEVELT AVE
*OPEN 24 HOURS

INDEPENDENCE TOWERS

(Continued from page 3)

We cannot, and it's not fair, to expect the Housing Authority to provide all the programs this community needs," he said.

Everyone gathered at the center's entrance for the traditional ribbon cutting. A quick snip, and the process that was started more

than a decade earlier had finally come full circle.

There are 381 adults registered at the Center. Hot meals are served once a week, and activities include aerobics and nutrition workshops.



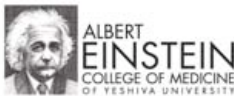
AGING WELL Elsie Mayer, who was born in 1910, receives an award from NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez for being the oldest participant at the Independent Towers Senior Center. Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. is standing between them.

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NOTICE New York City Housing Authority Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2009

In accordance with Section 5A of the Housing Act of 1937 as amended, the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") has developed a Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2009.

Availability of the Draft Agency Annual Plan for Public Inspection

The public is advised that the Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2009 will be available for public inspection at NYCHA's principal office, located at 250 Broadway, 12th Floor, Reception Area, New York, NY, from May 15, 2008 through August 15, 2008, between the hours of 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2009 will also be available at the following locations:

- On NYCHA's webpage, which is located on <http://www.nyc.gov/nycha>
- At the Management Office of each NYCHA public housing development during regular business hours.
- At the Community Centers/site listed below during the hours of 9:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.:

Campos Plaza Community Center 611 East 13 th Street New York, New York	Fort Independence Community Center 3350 Bailey Avenue Bronx, New York	Atlantic Terminal Community Center 501 Carlton Avenue Brooklyn, New York
King Towers Community Center 2 West 115 th Street New York, New York	Lafiter Gardens Community Center 34-30 137 th Street Flushing, New York	Brookelen Community Center 715 East 105 th Street Brooklyn, New York
St. Mary's Park Community Center 595 Trinity Ave Bronx, New York	Ocean Bay/Bayside Community Center 57-10 Beach Channel Drive Far Rockaway, New York	Staten Island Community Operations Borough Office 140 Richmond Terrace Staten Island, New York

Public Comment

The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled Town Hall meetings at which the public may raise questions regarding the Draft Annual Plan for FY 2009. These meetings will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the dates and locations shown below:

Tuesday, June 3, 2008 Manhattan Fashion Institute of Technology Haft Auditorium 7 th Avenue & 27 th Street New York, New York	Thursday, June 5, 2008 Brooklyn New York College of Technology Klitgord Auditorium 285 Jay Street at Tillary Street Brooklyn, New York
Wednesday, June 11, 2008 Staten Island IS 40 Dreyfus Intermediate School 101 Warren Street at Gordon Street Staten Island, New York	Monday, June 16, 2008 Queens Elcheater Industrial Center 67-35 Parsons Blvd at Jewel Ave Flushing, New York
Thursday, June 19, 2008 Bronx Classic Center at Melrose 286 E. 156 at Morris Avenue Bronx, New York	

The public is also invited to comment on the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2009 at a public hearing to be held on Tuesday, July 15, 2008 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at:

The Manhattan Center
Grand Ballroom
311 West 34th Street
New York, New York

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2009 are encouraged. To be considered, **submissions must be received via United States Postal mail no later than August 15, 2008.** Faxed submissions will not be accepted. Comments may be sent to the following address:

New York City Housing Authority
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

Tino Hernandez, Chairman

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Harlem Business Alliance provides free seminars and one-on-one assistance. Join HBA at upcoming seminars and small business networking events:

Information Sessions:	Networking Events:	Tuesday, June 10
Tuesday, May 6 9:00 - 11:00 am Sylvia's Restaurant 328 Lenox Ave (b/t 126th & 127th Sts)	Tuesday, May 20 6:00 - 8:00 pm Londel's 2620 Frederick Douglass Blvd (b/t 139th & 140th Sts)	8:00 - 8:00 pm N Harlem 114 W 116th St (b/t Lenox & Adam Clayton Powell Blvd)



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**8 THE HOUSING AUTHORITY JOURNAL
MAY 2008**

IT'S SPRING! MAKE SURE YOUR WINDOW GUARDS ARE PROPERLY INSTALLED IN ALL WINDOWS!

SPRING IS HERE AGAIN, AND IT'S TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERY WINDOW IN YOUR APARTMENT HAS A WINDOW GUARD. NYCHA will install the window guards free of charge, at the request of a resident. The reasons are simple: window guards save lives, and it's the law. New York City law requires landlords to install window guards in every apartment where a child aged 10 or under resides, or when a resident requests them, including ground floor apartments.

NYCHA requires that every window have a window guard, with the following exceptions:

- windows that open to fire escapes
- one window in each first floor apartment when there is a fire escape on the outside of the building (NYCHA will install Fire Department-approved gates on these windows.)
- windows with permanently installed air conditioners



Window guards must be installed so there is no space greater than 4 1/2 inches above or below the guard, or between the bars.

To schedule an appointment for the installation of window guards in your apartment Call the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771.

NYCHA will make every effort to install the window guards quickly and at your convenience. And, don't forget to fill out the annual window guard survey included in your annual review packet.

Please note: It is a violation of law to interfere with or to refuse the installation of window guards if there are children 10 years of age or younger living in or visiting the apartment, or to remove window guards already installed.

CFL KICK-OFF

(Continued from page 1)

light bulbs with CFLs. Citi's Community Relations Director Eileen Auld noted that Citi was proud to donate \$20,000 to RelightNY for the bulbs, and has its own ten-year, \$50 billion commitment to reverse climate change.

"Ameresco is very excited about this collaboration, not only to preserve the environment but to preserve public housing and create jobs," said Ameresco Executive Vice-President David Anderson. Ameresco, one of the nation's leading energy-saving companies, is donating the labor and also hired six Queensbridge residents for the "green collar" jobs.

"The most important partner of all is each of you and your families, who will lead by example," said Clinton Climate Initiative (CCI) New York Representative Kathy Baczo. The CCI is providing the Housing Authority with technical support for green initiatives and is now working in over 40 cities around the world to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

That message was amplified by the final speaker of the morning, Board Member

Margarita López, who was appointed by Chairman Tino Hernandez and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg last year to be NYCHA's Green Coordinator. "Residents are critical to helping the Mayor fulfill his dream of installing CFLs in every NYCHA development. The CFLs will contribute to energy savings but you must 'switch it off,'" she said, flicking the switch on a portable panel of light bulbs, to emphasize the

importance of turning off lights when not in use. "It's that easy."

"This is an excellent opportunity, an excellent idea," said Patricia Goodson, a 23-year resident of Queensbridge, who was hired to install the bulbs. "People are really excited about this," Ms. Goodson added, while checking her cell phone. "They keep calling and asking, 'When are you coming to my building?'"

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NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY Board Meeting Schedule

Notice is hereby given that the New York City Housing Authority's Board Meetings take place every other Wednesday at 10AM (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The remaining meetings for Calendar Year 2008 are as follows:

May 14, 2008
May 28, 2008
June 11, 2008
June 25, 2008
July 9, 2008
July 23, 2008
August 6, 2008
August 20, 2008
September 3, 2008
September 17, 2008
October 2, 2008 (Thursday)
October 16, 2008 (Thursday)
October 29, 2008
November 12, 2008
November 26, 2008
December 10, 2008
December 24, 2008



Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at nyc.gov/nycha and in the *NYCHA Journal* to the extent practicable at a reasonable time before the meeting.

These meetings are open to the public. Pre-registration of speakers is required. Those who wish to register must do so at least forty-five (45) minutes before the scheduled Board Meeting. Comments are limited to the items on the agenda. Speakers will be heard in the order of registration. Speaking time will be limited to three (3) minutes. The public comment period will conclude upon all speakers being heard or at the expiration of thirty (30) minutes allotted by law for public comment, whichever occurs first.

For Board Meeting dates and times, and/or additional information, please visit our Website at nyc.gov/nycha or contact us at (212) 306-6088. Copies of the agenda can be picked up at the Office of the Secretary at 250 Broadway, 12th floor, New York, New York, no earlier than 3PM on the Friday before the upcoming Wednesday Board Meeting.

Any person requiring a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in the Board Meeting, should contact the Office of the Secretary at (212) 306-6088 no later than five (5) business days before the Board Meeting.

NYCHA's 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program

NYCHA is seeking youth between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2008 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD), and the 2008 program will run from July 1, 2008 through August 16, 2008. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is not required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA's SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training (16 and 17 year olds only), or on NYCHA development grounds. Interested youth can apply on-line or download an application from the City's Web Site: www.nyc.gov/dycd. SYEP applications are also available at NYCHA Development Management Offices, Community Centers and at the Department of Resident Employment Services, located at 350 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA Development Management Office. **The deadline for returning applications is May 16th.**

For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's website or contact NYCHA's SYEP Program Director, Katrina Porter at 212-306-3969.

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For additional information, please call
(212) 306-3511



www.nycha.org

TALENT SHOW

(Continued from page 1)

Department of Community Operations Performing Arts Unit.

The show opened with a neighborhood scene involving the entire cast, all engaged in various activities, with young girls playing hop scotch, older people chatting on a bench, young men talking in a group. Suddenly Martin Luther King's historic "I Have A Dream" speech sounds over the stage gradually drawing everyone in before the first big song and dance number.

More than 85 acts auditioned for the chance to compete and win first, second- or third-place prizes in four different age categories.

Video footage taken during the three months of rehearsals, as well as short clips of each performer talking about his or her dream shown before that particular act went on, added a special poignancy.

Mina Majors of Lincoln Houses in Manhattan won first-place in the "Senior" category for her dramatic rendering of a poem she wrote about her daughter's struggle with lupus.

"I don't see this as a competition," a very relaxed and composed Ms. Majors said before the start of the show. "I see it more as sharing, a chance to become involved."

That sentiment was echoed by Marcelo Torres, 19, of East River Houses, also in Manhattan, who appeared with his sister, Miriam Rivera, 17, as the hip-hop dancing duo "Unstoppable."

"It was amazing, a good experience. Everyone got together and helped each other out," Mr. Torres said. The crowd went crazy for Unstoppable, with their jaunty moves, black baseball uniforms and silver sequined gloves. Unstoppable took home the second-place prize in the "Adult" category.

NYCHA's Department of Community Operations City-wide Programs Deputy Director Ukah Busgith thanked the residents for all of their hard work, as well as thanking the NYCHA employees, judges, directors, crew and NYCHA's Board for its continued support of the Performing Arts program.

See below for a list of the winners.

NYCHA TALENT SHOW COMPETITION 2008

WINNERS

CHILDREN

1st Place	Dancing Angels	O'Dwyer	Dancers
2nd Place	RW Divas	Ravenswood,	Dancers
3rd Place	Hector Reinoso	Gowanus	Singer

TEEN

1st Place (TIE)	Ashley Everett	Johnson	Singer
1st Place (TIE)	Exclusive Entertainment	Castle Hill	Dancers
2nd Place	Isis McIntosh	Van Dyke	Poetry
3rd Place	Universal Dancing	Ravenswood	Dancers
		Divas	

ADULT

1st Place	Melinda Gonzales and Dr. Drum	Dance/Drums
2nd Place	Unstoppable	East River
3rd Place	Kimberly Comes	Redfern
		Singer

SENIOR

1st Place	Mina Majors	Lincoln Poetry
2nd Place	Juanita Morgan	Polo Grounds
3rd Place	Sheila Small	O'Dwyer
		Singer

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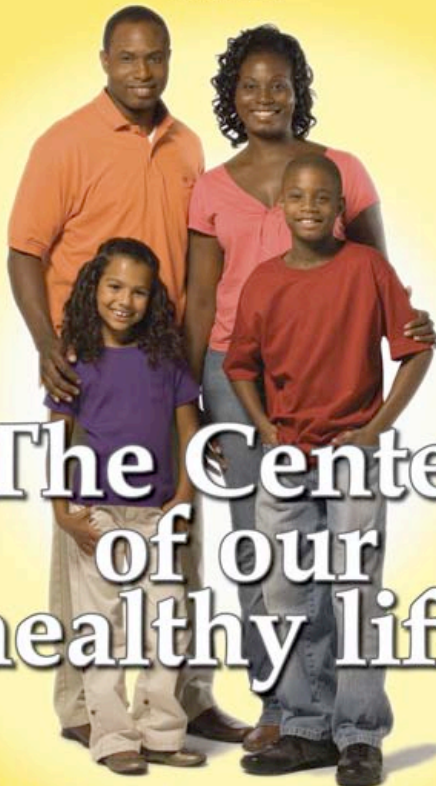
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Bronx Co-Op City Campus 718-320-0300
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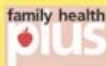
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Celebrate "Age in Action" May 8th



The New York City Department for the Aging will hold its annual free event honoring Older Americans on May 8, 2008 in Flushing Meadows' Corona Park. The event will be held from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm. Come out for a day of health information, music, dancing and fun. Call (212) 227-6221 for more information.

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Never Too Late...

(Continued from page 2)

entire family. In fact, children who witness domestic violence are at a higher risk of becoming batterers or victims themselves. Domestic violence passes from one generation to the next and children are its silent victims.

It's important to note that domestic violence is not limited to intimate relationships between men and women, it can also affect same sex relationships and even includes unwanted behavior committed by a child against their parent. It's just as important to recognize that although domestic violence disproportionately affects women, many men are subjected to domestic abuse too.

Aftercare services at NYCHA are confidential and not mandatory—meaning that if a resident refuses services it does not affect his/her transfer.

Get Help....

If you are a NYCHA resident and you are a victim of domestic

violence, get help. Ms. Martinez said residents should "go to the Management Office and say you want to put in for a transfer." You can also call the Domestic Violence Hotline, listed at the end of this article. But most importantly she added, "Don't feel like you are going to be judged. Abuse happens and you're not to blame for it. Don't feel that what's happening to you is because you did something wrong; because you deserve it. No one deserves to be treated badly."

Ms. Martinez encourages all residents to remember these key things: "Believe in yourself; People will help you if you ask for help. Asking for help is not a weakness. And most importantly, your past does not determine who you are. You determine what you can be."

Ms. Martinez has been working with NYCHA's Aftercare program since 2004. She is married, has four children and two grandchildren.