



## From a High-Rise to the Highest Court *Sonia Sotomayor, President Obama's Nominee for Supreme Court Justice*

By Heidi Morales

IF YOU'RE A NATIVE NEW YORKER OR PERHAPS A FAN OF THE NEW YORK YANKEES, THE NAME SONIA SOTOMAYOR MAY HAVE SOUNDED FAMILIAR TO YOU EVEN BEFORE SHE BECAME PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA'S NOMINEE FOR U.S. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE. In 1995 Judge Sotomayor became as legendary as baseball hall-of-famers for ending a long baseball strike by ruling against owners in favor of players. According to Ms. Sotomayor, the owners were trying to destroy the labor

form part of the highest court. For the past 11 years, she has been a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit, based in New York City.

Ms. Sotomayor, who is of Puerto Rican descent, was born in 1954 and grew up in the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Bronxdale Houses. Bronxdale Houses, located in the Bruckner section of the Bronx, has 28 seven-story buildings with 1,496 apartments. Bronxdale is home to approximately 3,500 residents. A modern, high-tech Community Center opened its doors on the grounds of this development back in 2007, and offers educational and recreational activities for children and adults of the development and the surrounding community.

Ms. Sotomayor was raised in public housing by her mother, who worked as a nurse at a methadone clinic to support Ms. Sotomayor and her brother, Juan. At the tender age of eight, Ms. Sotomayor was diagnosed with diabetes and just one year later her father, a factory worker, died of a heart condition. She is no stranger to adversity, but she did not let these challenges deter her from reaching her goals.

Judge Sotomayor attended Cardinal Spellman High School, a private Catholic school in the Bronx, and was later accepted into Princeton University, where she graduated with honors at a time when the school had just begun to accept female students. She then went on to study law at Yale Law School, where she was editor of the school's law journal. Her inspiration to pursue a career in law came from reading Nancy Drew detective novels and watching episodes of Perry Mason, a defense attorney, on TV.

(Continued on page 5)



Judge Sonia Sotomayor speaks at Pace University Graduation Ceremony

Photo Credit: Pace University

system and the concept of collective bargaining. A die-hard fan of the Bronx Bombers herself, Judge Sotomayor took only 15 minutes to issue the directive that led to the settlement in the 1994-95 strike and make baseball history.

Now Judge Sotomayor is making headlines again as the President's nominee to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice David H. Souter. If confirmed by the U.S. Senate, Ms. Sotomayor, who has more than 16 years of court experience, will become the first Latina ever to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court and the third woman in U.S. history to



**DAY ONE** (from left) NYCHA Board Member Margarita López, Deputy General Manager for Finance Felix Lam, Citywide Council of Presidents Chair Reggie Bowman, NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea and City Council Member Alan Gerson at the Rutgers Houses in Manhattan on Chair Rhea's first day on the job.

## NEW CHAIR VISITS FIVE BOROUGHS ON WHIRLWIND, FIRST-DAY MEET-AND-GREET

By Howard Silver

JOHN B. RHEA BEGAN DAY ONE AS CHAIR OF THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY WITH WELCOME REMARKS TO EXECUTIVE AND SENIOR MANAGERS IN A STAFF MEETING FOLLOWED BY A FULL DAY OF FIELD VISITS IN ALL FIVE BOROUGHS TO BEGIN MEETING AND TALKING TO RESIDENTS, EMPLOYEES, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHER PARTNERS.

Chair Rhea had an easy rapport with the many stakeholders that he met on Monday, June 1st, who also included members of the NYPD and staff from community based organizations, and clearly showed his interest in hearing what they had to say.

"My job here today is to hear your concerns so that when I go back I can take them into consideration," said Chair Rhea. "This is a great time for public housing, with new support from Washington, stimulus funds, and the need for affordable housing more pressing than ever."

Crowds gathered in front of Management Offices as the Chair arrived, and accompanied him on walks throughout development grounds. Conversations went beyond pleasantries to include comments the Chair solicited about how NYCHA can improve services for residents and provide employees with the support they need. The day's activities allowed the Chair to gain insight into the Authority's programs serving

public housing families, as well as its physical assets.

At Rutgers Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side, the Chair met with Council Members Rosie Mendez and Alan J. Gerson, Citywide Council of President (COP) Chair Reginald Bowman, Manhattan South COP Chair Rose Bergin, and Resident Association President Michael Steele before inspecting an energy-efficient boiler room there. "Sometimes the best way to see how things work is to go where the 'guts' of the operations are housed," said Rhea.

At the next stop, Bushwick Houses in Brooklyn, the Chair was greeted by Assembly Member Vito Lopez, City Council Member Erik Martin Dilan and Borough President Marty Markowitz, as well as Resident Association President Gloria Bonilla. He then visited an elevator motor room on the rooftop of one of the buildings, after which, he viewed CCTV footage with NYPD Housing Bureau Brooklyn Borough Commander Gerald Dieckman.

At the Queens Community House, Pomonok Center in Flushing, the new Chair was greeted by Department for the Aging Commissioner Lilliam Barrios-Paoli for a discussion of senior services at NYCHA developments. He also met with Queens COP Chair Ann Cotton Morris.

In the Melrose section of the Bronx, at Adams Houses, Chair Rhea met with Human Resources Administration (HRA) Commissioner Robert Doar and engaged Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo in a spirited discussion about job training and placement opportunities at NYCHA's Resident Employment Services satellite office located there. Bronx South COP Chair John Johnson and Bronx North COP Chair Herma Williams joined Resident Association President Sylvia Sierra at Adams to meet the new Chair.

(Continued on page 10)

PAGE 2  
20TH ANNUAL  
RESIDENT ART SHOW



PAGE 3  
THE BEST YEARS FOR PUBLIC  
HOUSING IN NYC ARE STILL AHEAD

PAGE 8  
SUMMER FEEDING  
PROGRAM SITES



**MAYOR'S MESSAGE**

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In order to be appointed as a Fire Protection Inspector, you must be 18 years of age; hold a valid New York State motor vehicle driver's license; complete the pre-employment process consisting of a comprehensive background investigation; have a high school diploma or equivalent; and have three years of satisfactory full-time experience in one or a combination of the following:

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- The formulation, enforcement or implementation of safety standards and programs in the manufacture and/or storage of materials which are potential fire hazards; or
- The inspection of facilities for compliance with fire and building codes and other safety inspection standards and the enforcement of these codes and standards;
- Service as a Certified Fire Safety Director; or
- Thirty semester credits from an accredited college or university in fire science technology; fire protection engineering; chemical, mechanical, environmental, electrical or marine engineering, or chemistry; or
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**How to Become a FDNY Fire Protection Inspector**

Interested New York City Housing Authority residents should call NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services at (718) 250-5904. For more information, visit the FDNY website, [www.nyc.gov/fdny](http://www.nyc.gov/fdny).

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

**OVER 200 RESIDENTS RECEIVE AWARDS AT 20TH ANNUAL RESIDENT ARTS SHOW**



**NURTURING TALENT** NYCHA Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr. (left) and Chair John B. Rhea with a young artist awardee.

By Eileen Elliott

ONCE AGAIN, THE RUTGERS HOUSES COMMUNITY CENTER ON MANHATTAN'S LOWER EAST SIDE WAS OVERFLOWING WITH THE DRAWINGS, PAINTINGS, PHOTOGRAPHS, COLLAGES, MURALS AND SCULPTURES OF THE HUNDREDS OF NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) RESIDENTS WHOSE WORK WAS SELECTED FOR THE 20TH ANNUAL RESIDENT ART SHOW EXHIBIT.

"To all of the young artists who are here today, your friends and families, you should be very proud," said NYCHA Chair John B. Rhea at the Youth Awards Ceremony which was held at the Center on June 4th. "Please don't lose that sense of wonder and excitement." The Chair prefaced his comments by saying he was "blown away," by the creativity of the work.

Three professional artists served as judges, making their selection of the 375 artworks for the exhibit from an incredible 800 submissions. These submissions reflected the work of many of the 6,000 NYCHA residents who participated in the Harborview Visual Arts program at 60 Community Centers throughout the City, under the guidance of 28 Harborview artist-consultants.

NYCHA Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr. also spoke, commenting that he was privileged to attend the awards ceremony for senior artists held earlier in the week. Mr. Andrews encouraged the youth to continue to express themselves throughout their lives as they have with their art.

NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence thanked his staff, including Harborview Visual Arts Program Community Coordinator William

Lucero, who has been running the program from the beginning, as well as all of the Center Directors and artist-consultants. "We hope to do more programs like this," Mr. Spence said, as he thanked NYCHA's Board—the Chair, Vice-Chair and Member Margarita López, for supporting the program. Before the actual awards were handed out the NYCHA Youth Chorus performed an uplifting musical selection, under the direction of Larry Matthew and Carrie Jones.

NYCHA Creative Arts Manager Juan Santiago called each artist up to the front of the room to receive a medal from Chairman Rhea.

One of those artists, eight-year-old Juan Rodriguez of Ft.

Independence Houses in the Bronx, who won an award for a group mixed media project, said his favorite thing about creating the piece was, "We could do it all together and help each other."

Consultant Carlton Murrell taught at Pomonok Houses in Queens and at Breukelen and Sheepshead Bay in Brooklyn over the past year, his ninth year with program. "I like the fact that people have something to say, to express, to create from the heart," Mr. Murrell said of his experience teaching.

The art was on display from June 2nd through the 19th.

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**CHAIR'S MESSAGE**

**The Best Years for Public Housing in New York City Are Still Ahead**



GREETINGS! I AM TAKING THE OPPORTUNITY OF USING MY FIRST COLUMN AS CHAIRMAN TO TELL YOU A LITTLE BIT ABOUT MYSELF, AND HIGHLIGHT MY PRIORITIES FOR THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA).

First, let me say that I am grateful to the leadership that has held NYCHA together for so many years and particularly over the last few months. I would like to personally thank Ricardo Elías Morales for his stewardship as

interim Chairman. I also want to thank my fellow Board Members, Earl Andrews, Jr. and Margarita López, for their professionalism and unwavering commitment to NYCHA.

It is an honor and privilege to be entrusted by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg with the mammoth job of running this agency. I believe my experiences have trained me well to take on the challenges—and equally important the opportunities—that NYCHA faces at this critical juncture.

I've spent 20 years in the private sector competing in high performance environments where customer service was the key to success. I intend to bring that same energy, drive and customer focus to serving NYCHA residents each and every day.

Both residents and staff can count on me to ask for your opinion often and to act on what you tell me. In fact, during my first few weeks as Chair, I asked NYCHA's employees to fill out an anonymous, confidential questionnaire to help me get a better sense of what the real underlying issues are at the Housing Authority. I also had a chance to meet with residents, staff, elected officials and police officers at NYCHA developments in each borough my first day on the job and found the many conversations we had to be very helpful and informative.

Having grown up in a large city where access to education, jobs, and quality, affordable housing in safe neighborhoods were of concern to many residents, I understand the challenges many NYCHA residents confront every day.

Though I grew up in Detroit, Michigan, I've lived in New York City for most of my adult life—in both Brooklyn and Manhattan—and understand the unique make-up of our city and the tremendous vibrancy that exists as a result of ethnic and cultural diversity. NYCHA adds to that richness in so many communities in all five boroughs.

NYCHA has been and will continue to be an important part of the affordable housing equation as it is a critical means for lower income, immigrant and minority communities to have an opportunity to gain stability and begin building better lives for themselves.

NYCHA is also an economic engine and our community programs are critical to the neighborhoods in which we operate. I intend to nurture them to ensure we are doing all we can to support the communities NYCHA residents are committed to building. We will also use NYCHA's economic clout to help residents secure jobs and build businesses wherever possible.

This is a great time to be taking over the leadership of NYCHA. As we celebrate our 75th year—our diamond anniversary—it is energizing to know that the Administration in Washington is committed to moving toward full funding of public housing once again and has showed its commitment by providing NYCHA with \$423 million in federal stimulus funding to make critical capital improvements. It is exciting to pick up the newspaper and to read stories celebrating famous NYCHA alumnae, like Supreme Court Justice nominee, Sonia Sotomayor. It reminds all of us at NYCHA that the people we serve every day share the same aspirations as all Americans—to provide their children with a safe and secure place to grow and pursue their dreams.

NYCHA has a tremendous legacy to reclaim. We will work diligently to ensure that every single unit of public housing is preserved for future generations. I say this with the deepest sense of commitment because I believe there is no nobler cause than to serve the community. The best years for public housing are still ahead.

*John B. Rhea*

**DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS**

EACH YEAR THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD) PROVIDES PUBLIC HOUSING AUTHORITIES AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH MONIES FOR EACH FEDERALLY FUNDED DWELLING UNIT TO BE USED FOR RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS. To utilize this funding, recognized Resident Association Presidents must submit proposals to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) through their District Council of Presidents (COP), outlining the program(s) they would like to implement, in accordance with HUD specifications.

The Tenant Participation Activity program, or TPA, is a great way to encourage residents to get involved and become active participants in the lives of their communities. HUD implemented the TPA program in 2001, and strictly regulates its funding. Eligible activities include programs that help residents improve their quality of life, such as leadership training and programs which teach business and job-related skills. Resident Association Presidents submit proposals to NYCHA and to their COP District Chair, and receive a determination within 30 days.

NYCHA is currently working with all nine COP Districts on their program submissions. Many District Councils are holding retreats and seminars to facilitate the TPA program. The Bronx South District held a three-day retreat in March 2009 covering topics such as: Understanding Principles of Leadership; Recruitment and Retention (of residents into the Resident Association); and Conducting Successful Meetings and Project Planning. The Bronx North has scheduled a similar retreat. The Manhattan North District has also utilized TPA funding successfully by implementing three computer training programs, and using TPA funds to buy new computers.

It is important to remember that the TPA program is resident-driven. It is up to Resident Associations and their COP Districts to initiate the process. NYCHA is, however, very happy to provide technical

*(Continued on page 10)*

**DEBORAH'S DIARY** By Deborah Williams



*Inspired*—When Joanne Smitherman was just a young girl her mother used to get frustrated with her because she didn't take much interest in their community. But with age and motherhood Joanne's carefree attitude soon changed. "I was walking past Kingsbridge and 161st Street and someone handed me a leaflet," Ms. Smitherman said. "There was information about a community meeting that evening. I decided to attend. That was my very first community meeting."

That was just the beginning of what would turn into years of community involvement. "The very first organization I joined was back in 1960 — The National Welfare Group. I would attend rallies and sit-ins and sure I got arrested but I never went to jail. I remember being inspired by listening to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., the Reverend and Congressman Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. and Reverend Jesse Jackson. Listening to them taught me the importance of information sharing and communication," said Ms. Smitherman.

**Community Involvement**

She moved into Highbridge Gardens in the Bronx 50 years ago, raised five children there and has served three terms, each consisting of three years, as the Bronx South Council of President (COP) District Chair. You could hear the seriousness in her voice as she told me, "I was always a boisterous person when it came to getting my point across. I would attend all the Tenant Association meetings and spoke regularly about the changes needed in Highbridge Gardens and other developments in the South Bronx. I guess that's probably why, back then, I was approached by three members who sat on the Council of Presidents and asked to run in the upcoming election as Bronx South Council of Presidents District Chair."

She was a little hesitant at first because she didn't really know much about the position, but nonetheless decided to run. Ms. Smitherman had previously held the position of Highbridge Gardens Resident Association Secretary and Resident Association President and now with certainty in her voice she said, "I figured that I could help change things because in my eyes something more needed to be done."

**Change Comes**

Ms. Smitherman has led the way in the use of Tenant Participation Activity (TPA) Funds. (See article to the left of this column.) TPA funds are allocated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) specifically for public housing residents to finance a variety of initiatives that promote community involvement and improvement, self-sufficiency and leadership. Ms. Smitherman submitted 84 proposals for programs that she believed would benefit the youth, young parents, students and

*(Continued on page 5)*



Bronx South Council Of Presidents Chair and Mott Haven Resident Association President John Johnson, City Council Member Maria del Carmen Arroyo, Assistant Police Chief Edward Delatorre of PSA #7, Bronx District Attorney Robert Johnson and former Bronx South Council of Presidents Chair Joanne Smitherman, now Bronx South Vice-Chair, at the COP Installation Ceremony held at the Mott Haven Community Center on May 26th.



## THE NYCHA NOT WANTED LIST

In this issue we continue publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. The purpose of this list is to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing efforts 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. What follows is a partial list of the people excluded after hearings were held on March 25, and April 1 and 8, 2009. For a full list of the "Not Wanted" visit NYCHA's Website at [nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner). 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  
SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS UNIT AT (212) 306-8595.**

**Prohibited as of March 25, 2009**

Joseph Kennedy Case 312/09 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 111 Bridge Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn.

**Prohibited as of April 1, 2009**

Messiah Sosa Case 1963/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 224 York Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn.

Elijah Bussey Case 3/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 445 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hill Houses, Brooklyn.  
Ishiyah Bussey  
John Pope

Makai Jackson Case 2014/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 12-50 Redfern Avenue, Redfern Houses, Far Rockaway.  
Floyd Johnson

Angel Chapman Case 1977/09 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 131 Belmont Avenue, Seth Low/Glenmore Houses, Brooklyn.

Kevin Stokes Case 2279/09 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 60 West 104th Street, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.

Corey Watson Case 2290/09 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 1191 Park Place, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.

Kimberly Smith Case 904/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 94 Centre Mall, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

Jose Hernandez Case 1490/09 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 3150 Broadway, Grant Houses, Manhattan.

Jonathan / Jonathon Case 0156/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 225 Hoyt Street, Gowanus Houses, Brooklyn.  
Fernandez

Reno Smith Case 2321/09 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 93 Lewis Avenue, Roosevelt Houses, Brooklyn.

Tara Almon Case 2310/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 56 Roxbury Street, Mariner's Harbor Houses, Staten Island.

**Prohibited as of April 8, 2009**

Jon Smith Jr. Case 2091/09 formerly associated with the second floor of 155-11 71st Avenue, Pomonok Houses, Queens.

Darnell Case 2115/09 formerly associated with the third floor of 11 Bridge Street, Farragut Houses, Brooklyn.  
Thompson

Victor Corporan Case 2116/09 formerly associated with the first floor of 75 LaSalle Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.  
Christopher Brown

Anita Jenkins Case 1393/09 formerly associated with the first floor of 717 East 108th Street, Breukelen Houses, Brooklyn.  
Jonee Williams

**For a full list of the "Not Wanted"  
visit NYCHA's website at  
[nyc.gov/residentscorner](http://nyc.gov/residentscorner).**

## 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 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise noted) in the Board Room on the 12th Floor of 250 Broadway, New York, New York. The meetings for the remainder of the Calendar Year 2009 are as follows:

- July 8, 2009
- July 22, 2009
- August 5, 2009
- August 19, 2009
- September 2, 2009
- September 16, 2009
- September 30, 2009
- October 14, 2009
- October 28, 2009
- November 10, 2009 (Tuesday)
- November 25, 2009
- December 9, 2009
- December 23, 2009

Please note that these dates are subject to change. Any changes to the schedule above will be posted on NYCHA's Website at [nyc.gov/nycha](http://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](http://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 3 P.M. 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.

## In Memoriam Police Officer Omar J. Edwards February 4, 1984 — May 28, 2009



The New York City Housing Authority would like to extend its condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Police Officer Omar J. Edwards. On May 28th, the 25-year-old Officer, who had served with the Housing Bureau's Manhattan Impact Response Team for two years, was shot and killed in a case of mistaken identity while attempting to arrest a man who he caught breaking into his car.

A service was held for Officer Edwards on June 4th at Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Bedford-Stuyvesant, Brooklyn.

Officer Edwards is survived by his wife, Danielle, two sons, Xavier and Keanu, his mother Natalia Harding, his father Ricardo Edwards, a brother, Alfonso Williams, grandmothers Maria Burkett and Maria Edwards, grandfather George Harding, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends and colleagues.

## West Nile Virus Mosquito Treatment

The New York City Housing Authority will be treating all of the catch basins located on Housing Authority developments to reduce the mosquito population in an effort to minimize the transmission of the West Nile Virus. These applications will take place between May and October of 2009. One or more of the following pesticides will be used:

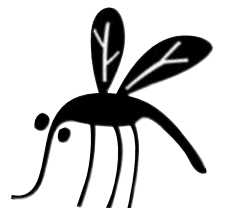
- Vectolex CG, EPA Reg. No. 73049-20, Toxicity Category – "Caution"
- Summit B.t.i. Briquets, EPA Reg. No. 6218-47, Toxicity Category – "Caution"
- Altosid XR, EPA Reg. No. 2724-421, Toxicity Category – "Caution"

Contact names and numbers for this application are:

NYC Housing Authority:

- Cal Bruno, Deputy Director, 718-707-5281 available from 9:00AM - 5:00PM
- Jamal Rashid, Technical Resource Advisor, 718-707-5808 available from 8:00AM - 4:00PM
- NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Region 2, Bureau of Pesticide Management – 718-482-4994
- National Pesticide Telecommunications Network – 1-800-858-PEST

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## Highest Court

(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Sotomayor worked as an Assistant District Attorney for New York District Attorney Robert Morgenthau and for several years litigated cases for a private law firm until that big day when she was nominated to sit on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. At age 40, Ms. Sotomayor became the youngest judge in the Southern District of New York and the first American of Puerto Rican descent to hold this position. In 1992 she was confirmed to serve as a U.S. Circuit Court Judge becoming the first Puerto Rican woman to serve as a federal Judge in New York. Then in 1998, President Bill Clinton nominated her for a seat on the second highest court in America, the U.S. Court of Appeals in the Second Circuit, a seat she currently holds.

During a lecture in 2002, Judge Sotomayor said, "My family showed me by their example how wonderful and vibrant life is and how wonderful it is to have a Latina soul. They taught me to love America, to value its lesson that great things could be achieved if one works for them."

President Obama said he was looking for "a qualified nominee with legal and real world experience, as well as an appreciation for the impact of court decisions on everyday life." The U.S. Senate now has to hold confirmation hearings and decide whether Sonia Sotomayor's court experience and humble backgrounds make her the best choice for U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

## DEBORAH'S DIARY

By Deborah Williams

(Continued from page 3)

seniors in Highbridge Gardens and several other South Bronx developments. She was successful in bringing 67 of the 84 proposed programs to fruition.

"I was able to accomplish this because I got my Resident Association Presidents to come to the monthly meetings and their attendance made their development eligible for TPA funds." In return, together, "My Resident Association Presidents and I were able to get telephone equipment installed at [Resident Association Offices in] a few developments; at Adams Houses karate classes were held; Mitchell Houses was host to an Adult Leadership and Entrepreneurship program; Mott Haven Houses offered Entrepreneurship and Young Parent Leadership programs; Highbridge Gardens held its first Intergenerational program where seniors and youth attended Broadway shows that included "The Color Purple"; Patterson, Mill Brook and Butler held College Tours to several Historical Black University/Colleges; Claremont Village and Teller Avenue offered exercise and arts-and-crafts programs. There were mentoring and housekeeping programs offered as well," Ms. Smitherman said proudly. In addition, Ms. Smitherman, said she is responsible for getting more of NYCHA's Executive Staff to attend the monthly COP meeting where she distributed informational packets. "I always kept my Vice-Presidents informed about everything thing I was doing," said Ms. Smitherman.

### Time to Step Down

It's been nine years since the day Ms. Joanne Smitherman was voted in as Bronx South Council of Presidents District Chair. Nine years of being the voice of residents and advocating for her neighborhoods and now its time "to step back and give someone else a chance" said Ms. Smitherman. "That's why I decided not to run for District Chair again. It's only fair. The new Bronx South COP District Chair is Mr. John Johnson and he is a very capable person. He was my Vice-Chair for several years so I know firsthand that he will do a good job." Ms. Smitherman is now 76 years young and has a few health concerns that must take priority. Yet, she is still the President of Police Service Area #7 Community Board and will actively participate in their National Night Out Against Crime. While she might not hold the demanding job of Bronx South COP Chair she will hold the position of Vice-Chair, "I will still be there to see that NYCHA does what it's suppose to do in terms of communicating with its residents."

*On behalf of NYCHA, I would like to thank you for all your service and dedication to your community. It's people like you who make NYCHA a better and more enjoyable place to live. Thanks!*

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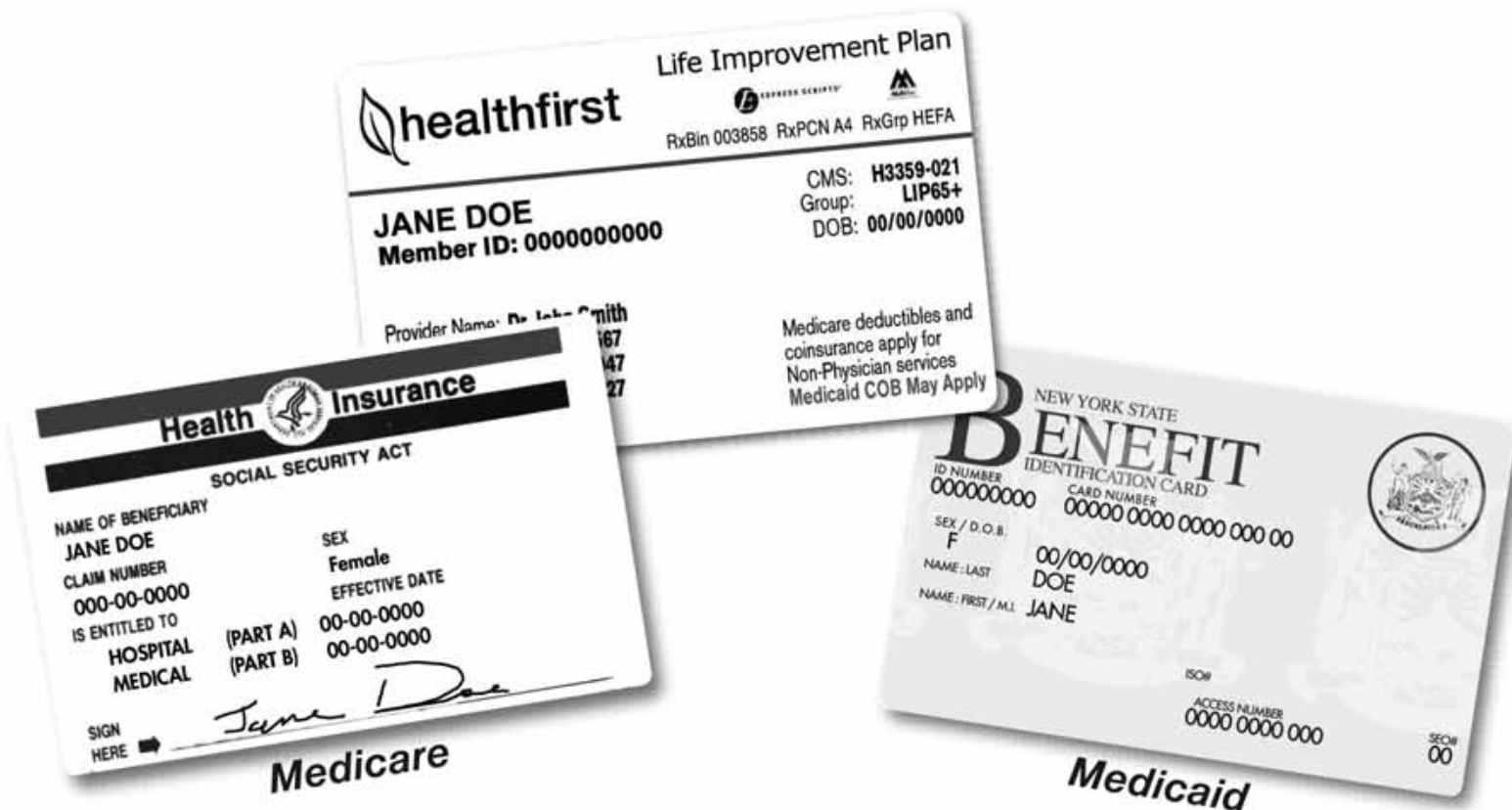
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COMMUNITY OPERATIONS  
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

# 2009

## EDUCATION THROUGH SPORTS PROGRAM SUMMER SCHEDULE



FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL (212) 306-3338, 3490

	CITYWIDE CARNIVAL	TRACK & FIELD	EDUCATION THROUGH SPORTS CHALLENGE
<b>BRONX</b>	THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 22 AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK	TUESDAY, JULY 28 AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK
<b>BROOKLYN EAST</b>	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 AT PROSPECT PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 15 AT RED HOOK PARK	TUESDAY, AUGUST 4 AT RED HOOK PARK
<b>BROOKLYN SOUTH/WEST</b>	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 19 AT PROSPECT PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 16 AT RED HOOK PARK	WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5 AT RED HOOK PARK
<b>MANHATTAN</b>	THURSDAY, AUGUST 13 AT VAN CORTLANDT PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 23 AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK	WEDNESDAY, JULY 29 AT TBD
<b>QUEENS</b>	FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 AT CLOVE LAKES PARK	FRIDAY, JULY 17 AT BAISLEY PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 9 AT BAISLEY PARK
<b>STATEN ISLAND</b>	FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 AT CLOVE LAKES PARK	FRIDAY, JULY 17 AT BAISLEY PARK	THURSDAY, JULY 9 AT BAISLEY PARK
<b>FISHING CONTEST</b>	MONDAY, AUGUST 17 STATEN ISLAND FISHING CONTEST AT SOUTH BEACH PIER		
<b>CITYWIDE OLYMPICS</b>	THURSDAY, AUGUST 6 AT RIVERBANK STATE PARK		
		<b>NY LIBERTY CAMP DAY</b> TUESDAY, JULY 14 AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN	<b>STATEN ISLAND YANKEE DAY</b> WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 AT RICHMOND COUNTY BANK BALLPARK

**KIDS WALK**  
TUESDAY, AUGUST 11  
AT CLOVE LAKES PARK

**DATES FOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE**  
JULY: 20, 27,  
AUGUST: 3, 10, 17, 24, 25,  
26, 27, 28

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Andrew Jackson 285 Courtlant Ave. Bronx, NY 10451	Mitchell 360 East 137 <sup>th</sup> St. Bronx, NY 10454	300 Vernon/Summer 300 Vernon Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11211	Hylan 131 Moore Street Brooklyn, NY 11206	Red Hook West 428 Columbia St. Brooklyn, NY 11213	Dyckman 3782 10th Ave. New York, NY 10034	Baisley 116-30 Guy R. Brewer Bld. Jamaica, NY 11434		
Bronx River 1585 East 174th St. Bronx, NY 10472	Mourne 1790 Story Ave. #1D Bronx, NY 10473	303 Vernon/Summer 303 Vernon Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11211	Ingersoll 16 Fleet Walk Brooklyn, NY 11207	Roosevelt 109 Lewis Ave. #1L Brooklyn, NY 11206	Frederick Douglass 830 Columbus Ave. New York, NY 10025	Carlton Manor 75-15 Beach Channel Dr. Rockaway, NY 11692		
Castle Hill 625 Castle Hill Ave. Bronx, NY 10423	Moore 535 Jackson Ave. Bronx, NY 10455	572 Warren/Wyckoff 572 Warren St. Brooklyn, NY 11217	Kingsboro 135 Kings 1 <sup>st</sup> Walk Brooklyn, NY 11233	Tilden 340 Dumont Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11212	Fred Samuels 2401 Adam Clayton Powell Jr. Blvd. New York, NY 10030	Hammel 85-10 Rockaway Beach Blvd. Rockaway, NY 11691		
Claremont (Clay Ave.) 1195 Clay Ave. Bronx, NY 10456	Morris 1481 Washington Ave. Bronx, NY 10456	Berry 71 South 10 <sup>th</sup> Street Brooklyn, NY 11211	Linden 195 Cozine Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11208	Tompkins 65 Tompkins Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206	Ft. Washington Consol. 500 W. 164 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10032	Ocean Bay Apartments 339 Beach 54 <sup>th</sup> St. Averne, NY 11692		
Claremont Franklin 3820 3 <sup>rd</sup> Ave. Bronx, NY 10455	Morrisania Air Rights 3131 Park Ave. Bronx, NY 10451	Breukelen 254 Stanley Ave. #1D Brooklyn, NY 11236	Long Island Baptist 428 Sheffield Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11207	Unity Plaza 580 Blake Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11207	George Washington 1955 Second Ave. New York, NY 10029	Ravenswood 35-35 21 <sup>st</sup> St. Long Island City, NY 11106		
Davidson (Union Ave.) 819 East 167 <sup>th</sup> St. Bronx, NY 10459	Mott Haven 340 Alexander Ave. Bronx, NY 10455	Brownsville 295 Osborne Street Brooklyn, NY 11212	Louis Armstrong 415 Lexington Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11221	Walt Whitman 132 Carlton Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11205	Harlem River 291 W. 151 <sup>st</sup> St. New York, NY 10039	STATEN ISLAND		
Eastchester 3010 Yates Ave. Bronx, NY 10469	Murphy 1805 Corona Ave. Bronx, NY 10455	Boulevard 807 Schenk Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11207	Louis H. Pink 1258 Loring Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11208	Weeksville 1640 Pacific St. Brooklyn, NY 11213	Seward Park 64-66 Essex St. New York, NY 10002	Richmond Terrace 151 Jersey Street Staten Island, NY 10301		
Edenwald 1154 East 229 St. #7D Bronx, NY 10466	Parkside 2963 White Plains Rd. Bronx, NY 10467	Bushwick 24 Humboldt St. Brooklyn, NY 11206	Marcus Garvey 10 Amboy St. Brooklyn, NY 11212	Wyckoff Gardens 185 Nevins St. #14K Brooklyn, NY 11217	St. Nicholas 225 West 129 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10027	Stapleton 75 Hill Street Staten Island, NY 10304		
Forest 980 Trinity Avenue Bronx, NY	Pelham Parkway 785 Pelham Pkwy. Bronx, NY 10067	Coney Island 3030 Surfside Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11224	Marcy 648 Park Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11206	<b>MANHATTAN</b>	Straus 243-245 East 27 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10016	Todd Hill 204 Schmidt Lane Staten Island, NY 10314		
Gun Hill 3444 White Plains Rd. #1E Bronx, NY 10467	Sedgwick 140 West 174 <sup>th</sup> St. #1H Bronx, NY 10453	Cooper Park 60 Kingsland Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11211	Park Rock Consol. 1636 Park Pl. Brooklyn, NY 11233	A. Phillip Randolph 251 West 114th St. New York, NY 10026	W.S.U.R. 120 West 94 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10025	West Brighton To Be Announced (212) 306-3358		
Highbridge 1065 University Ave. Bronx, NY 10452	Soundview 1704 Seward Ave. #6B Bronx, NY 10453	Fiorentino Plaza 2155 Pitkin Ave. #1A Brooklyn, NY 11207	Prospect Plaza 281 Dumont Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11207	Amsterdam 218 West 64 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10023	Wilson 405 East 105 <sup>th</sup> St. #20E New York, NY 10029			
Marble Hill 210 West 230 <sup>th</sup> St. Bronx, NY 10463	Union Avenue 834 Eagle Ave. #1A Bronx, NY 10459	Gravesend 3146 Bayview Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11234	Ralph Ave. Reid 1196 East N. Y. Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11212	New York, NY 10023	Wise Towers 133 West 90 <sup>th</sup> St. New York, NY 10024			
Millbrook 530 East 137 <sup>th</sup> St. Bronx, NY 10454	University Ave. 1934 Harrison Ave. #1B Bronx, NY 10453	Howard Ave. Rehabs 583 Howard Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11212	Red Hook East 167 Bush St. #1B Brooklyn, NY 11231	Carver 1481 Madison Ave. New York, NY 10029				
	Webster/Morrisania 1285 Webster Ave Bronx, NY 10456							





# NYCHA Celebrates 75 Years of Public Housing

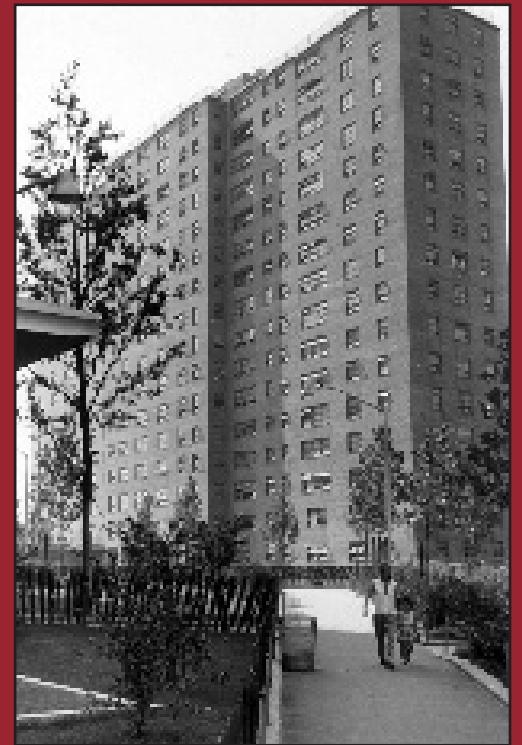
## Mill Brook Houses 50th Anniversary

The New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Mill Brook Houses, located in the Mott Haven section of the Bronx, celebrated its 50th Anniversary on May 26, 2009. Mill Brook Houses consists of 1,252 apartments in nine, 16-story buildings on 12 acres between East 135th and 137th Streets, and Brook and Cypress Avenues. It is home to 2,965 residents.

Mill Brook Houses takes its name from the Mill Brook which was once an important waterway, running through the Morrisania Estate, from East 170th Street to the East River, roughly along the course of what is today Brook Avenue. The Morrisania Estate was originally owned by the Morris family, beginning in 1670. In 1840 Gouverneur Morris, Jr., son of the famous Gouverneur Morris (January 31, 1752 – November 6, 1816), allowed a railroad to be built across the property. The estate was purchased by the neighborhood's namesake, Jordan Mott, for his iron works in 1849.

Mill Brook Houses has a strong resident association whose members have traveled to both Albany and Washington to advocate for increased government subsidy for public housing. Mill Brook has traditionally hosted Father's Day Basketball Tournaments, with teams from nearby NYCHA developments competing. A successful resident-initiated "College Bound" program has introduced high school youth to various colleges. A proclamation issued by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg was presented to NYCHA residents and staff at the development to commemorate the occasion of the development's anniversary.

The historical photos and captions are from the LaGuardia and Wagner Archives.



Mill Brook Houses in 1959.



Old law tenement building at 631 East 135th Street in the South Bronx, February 24, 1953, part of the 12 acre site for Mill Brook Houses.



Mill Brook residents indoctrination, July 1959. Residents apparently learning the "Do's" and "Don'ts" of living in a NYCHA development.



NYCHA staff and residents gathered at Mill Brook Houses to commemorate the development's anniversary. From left, front row, are NYCHA Vice-Chair Earl Andrews, Jr., Melvina R. Smith, Resident Association President P. Jamerson, Bronx South District Council of Presidents Chair John Johnson, Manager Allison Williams, Sylvia Arroyo, and Carem Cintron (holding sign). Also shown here (not in order) are: Ada Robinson, Shirley M. Greene, Lottie Chaney, Joyce Coleman, Clevester Hemphill, Assistant Superintendent Anthony Henry, Salli Harrison, Ivan Vargas, Ana Velasquez, Bronx Borough Director Michael Cornelius, Supervisor of Caretakers Nathaniel Calhoun, Borough Administrator Trevor Baptiste, Superintendent Linden Sinclair, and Bronx Borough Deputy Director Peter Edwards.



## NEW CHAIR VISITS BOROUGHES

(Continued from page 1)

At Polo Grounds in Harlem, the Chair met with Council Member Inez Dickens following a visit to the development's state-of-the-art ATTAIn computer lab. The children there were obviously excited about meeting NYCHA's 21st Chair who clearly enjoyed helping one young boy with his computer-based math exercise.

The Chair ended his day in West Brighton, Staten Island, where he strolled through new housing construction at

Markham Gardens, a mixed-income community being developed by a private management team on the site of a former housing development. At Markham he visited with the first returning former Markham resident Milagros Arroyo, who was ecstatic to be "back at home."

When asked about Day One, Rhea said, "This was a great start but I'm ready for tomorrow." To find out more about NYCHA's new Chair, read the Chair's Message in this paper on page 3.



At the Polo Grounds ATTAIn Lab in Manhattan

## DOLLARS AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENT EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS

(Continued from page 3)

assistance and has already met with all nine COP District Chairs to explain the process and provide guidance. NYCHA will also provide appropriate guidance to residents in establishing Resident Associations for those developments which don't have them.

NYCHA encourages its Resident Associations and COP District Councils to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to help public housing residents in your community enrich their lives. Whether your Resident Association chooses to propose leadership development programs, education, job-training, computer, or household safety programs, there is no time like the present to get the ball rolling. Speak with your Resident Association President today about how you might be able to implement programs in your development or to find out about programs already planned for your community.

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## Douglass Houses Seniors' Tile Art On Permanent Display in India and China

By Eileen Elliott

THE NEXT TIME YOU'RE IN AHMEDABAD, INDIA, STOP BY THE KANORIA CENTRE FOR THE ARTS AT THE UNIVERSITY THERE TO SEE WHAT THE SENIORS FROM THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY'S (NYCHA'S) DOUGLASS HOUSES' SENIOR CENTER IN UPPER MANHATTAN HAVE BEEN DOING. Twenty-two ceramic tiles created by 21 NYCHA seniors have crossed the oceans and are now on permanent exhibit, affixed to a courtyard wall at the Kanoria Centre—along with tiles created by artists from some 40 countries, as part of The Tile Project: Destination, the World.

Sponsored by the TransCultural Exchange Program in Boston, which is funded by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Tile Project has one goal: to unite the world through innovative art. Between 2004 and 2008 over 100 artists each created 22 tiles that are currently being installed at 22 sites around the globe. Not headed to India in the near future? Then maybe you can stop by the Ku Art Center in Beijing, China where the seniors also have tiles on display.

Douglass Senior Center Director Floyd Cohen spoke enthusiastically about the exhibits, and the effect participating in the program has had on the Douglass seniors. "The seniors are so happy," he said. "One of our best artists is legally blind; others are stroke victims who are partially paralyzed, one has had polio since childhood. They feel so important now that the tiles are posted on the Internet (*see last paragraph*) and relatives who don't live in this country can see them. It gives them such a feeling of accomplishment."

The seniors became involved when one of the artists Barbara "Babs" White, came to the Center with a piece of paper describing the Tile Project. Arts Coordinator Jennifer Wade, an art-therapist and consultant with NYCHA's Harborview Visual Arts Program, got on the case, contacted the TransCultural Exchange in Boston and received the go-ahead for the NYCHA seniors to participate.

Ms. White, who decorated one of her tiles with an image from her synchronized swimming team, commented that "the camaraderie that developed between the seniors trying to get everything done in time was really great."



**FIRED UP** (left to right) Douglass seniors Barbara "Babs" White, Mary Givens, Doris Walton, Artist-Consultant Jennifer Wade, Gretchen Marshall, Delores Bedford, and Aurelina Fernandez with tiles for a work-in-progress to be installed at the New York Aquarium.

"It was three weeks from the time we learned about the program until the tiles were shipped by overnight mail to China, first, then India. The seniors worked day and night," Mr. Cohen said. "Usually they come in from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM, but some seniors started coming in at 9:00 AM and we kept the kiln fired up pretty late."

Seniors first drew their designs on the tiles, then painted them with special glaze made to withstand the 1800 degree temperature of the Center's kiln, which is used by the ceramics group that meets there twice weekly.

"We got the tiles to India with one hour to spare; bubble wrapped, hand-delivered and everything," Mr. Cohen continued.

The tiles were installed in Beijing in August 2008 and in India in October 2008 but the photos only recently became available on the Internet for the India site.

"A lot of light; a lot of strength was brought out in the seniors. It was great to see their creative potential come through and to see

their work on an international site. I'm just amazed by it all," said Ms. Wade.

"It's beautiful," said Aurelina Fernandez, who is 76 years old, and has been coming to the Center for seven or eight years. "It makes me happy. You feel like you're doing something and it's pretty when you're finished."

The seniors are currently working on tiles with a marine theme for the New York Aquarium and there are hopes of tiling the Center's exterior with a garden theme.

Four elected officials have contributed funding for the senior arts program at Douglass: Senator Bill Perkins, Assembly Member Daniel O'Donnell, City Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito and Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer.

The tiles can be viewed at [www.transculturalexchange.org](http://www.transculturalexchange.org) by clicking on "Senior Center Project" under "Education." Better yet, as Ms. White said, "We really must go and visit."

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- Apoyo de Servicios Sociales

### El PCAP le ofrece a usted y a su bebé:

- Chequeos médicos rutinarios, trabajo de laboratorio y acceso a especialistas
- Atención Hospitalaria durante el embarazo y el parto
- Información sobre el embarazo
- Orientación de VIH y resultados de VIH en veinte minutos
- Ayuda para solicitud de seguro medico a bajo costo o gratuitos para su familia
- Asistencia médica completa para usted aproximadamente dos meses después del parto
- Asistencia médica para su bebé hasta un año después del nacimiento

Para más información o para hacer una cita, favor de mirar la parte de abajo para un centro médico cerca de usted.

## Renaissance Health Care Network

### In Your Community

- Sydenham Health Center ~ 215 West 125<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10027
- Dyckman Clinica De las Americas ~ 175 Nagle Ave. New York, NY 10034
- Drew Health Center ~ 2698 Frederick Douglas Blvd. New York, NY 10039
- Grant Health Center ~ 3170 Broadway, New York, NY 10027
- Lenox Health Center ~ 115 West 116<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10026

### En Su Comunidad

- 212- 932-6500
- 212- 544-2001
- 212- 939-8950
- 212- 678-8420
- 212- 961-5740