

**The
New York City
Department of
Juvenile Justice
Newsletter**

AROUND



DJJ

RUDOLPH W. GIULIANI, MAYOR

SPRING 2000

TINO HERNANDEZ, COMMISSIONER

Former Resident “Beats the Odds”

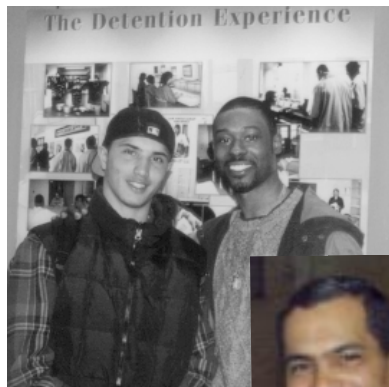
*By Sarina Roffé,
Director of Public Affairs*

Juvenile Counselors (JCs) in secure detention are vital personnel in the Department of Juvenile Justice. They are the direct child care staff who provide custody for residents and see to their daily needs. Because of this role, JCs spend more direct time and have more influence on juveniles in secure detention than other employees.

DJJ views a youth’s time in secure detention as an opportunity for positive intervention. The following article is an example of the impact a few JCs had on a former resident. The name has been changed to protect the privacy of the youth.

When Miguel recently visited Spofford, the detention center now known as Bridges Juvenile Center, he realized how much his life had changed. Greeted by Gilbert Gomez, one of the Juvenile Counselors assigned to his former hall, Miguel was happy to report that his life was on a positive and productive track.

“I see hundreds of residents. If I could make a difference with one, then it’s worth it. I am glad to hear you are doing well,” said an emotional Mr. Gomez, now an Associate Juvenile Counselor I.



Miguel with Court Services Juvenile Counselor William Barraka. At right: Gilberto Gomez, Bridges AJC I.



On the verge of graduating from a Bronx high school, Miguel is already taking classes at a local college, where he will pursue a degree in criminal justice with a \$5,000 scholarship from the Children’s Defense Fund called “Beating the Odds.” His success was recently the subject of a feature story in the New York Daily News, New York 1 and other media.

A former resident of Spofford, Miguel, 17, has beaten the odds against him. By the age of three, he was in foster care and at age 13, the foster mother he loved died suddenly.

With his family in turmoil, Miguel got into trouble with the law and was sent to detention until his case was resolved. He was released after seven months and placed on probation. When Miguel returned to school, he

Continued on page 3

Census 2000: New York City is Counting on You

By Rudolph W. Giuliani

A few weeks ago, 21,000 enumerators from the U.S. Census Bureau started visiting the homes and apartments of New York City residents who did not respond to the mailed census forms.



The U.S. Census determines how much money New York City receives from the federal governments and how many representatives we send to Congress. Since every year the City sends roughly \$9 billion more to Washington, D.C. than it gets in return, an accurate Census count could begin to correct this striking imbalance. I urge all the New Yorkers who did not fill out their forms to cooperate with the enumerators.

The enumerators will only visit households from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m. and will announce themselves as Census counters and display their Census identification cards.

New Yorkers should participate in the Census without putting themselves at risk. City-issued photo identification cards will allow people, especially senior citizens, to verify that the per-

Continued on page 2

Youth Center

Officials Break Ground for Hunts Point Youth Center

*By Nikita Banks,
Public Affairs Intern*

Commissioner Tino Hernandez, Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani, then-Deputy Mayor Ninfa Segarra and representatives of the Department of Juvenile Justice attended the December groundbreaking ceremony for a new youth center to be built in Hunts Point, adjacent to the Manida ball fields and the newly renovated Bridges Juvenile Center.

“This center will provide area youth with a place to play volleyball and basketball, run track, perform in dance recitals or theatrical productions, and engage in positive activities in their own communities,” said Mayor Giuliani at the center’s ground breaking ceremony.

Located at 765 Manida Street, between Spofford and Lafayette Av-

enues, the new 15,000-square-foot facility is expected to cost the city approximately \$5 million. The youth center will include a mezzanine level track, a multi-purpose recreation room for volleyball and gymnastics, and a stage on the main level for dance performances and theater.

In addition, there will be a sitting area, an outdoor basketball court and outdoor landscaping. The center is expected to be completed this fall.

“This center represents the fulfillment of the City’s commitment to build a new Hunts Point for all its residents,” said then-Deputy Mayor Segarra.

With her departure, Deputy Mayor Rudy Washington is now overseeing the completion of the new youth center along with the City’s Department of Design and Construction.

The new youth center will give Hunts Point youth a creative outlet intended to lead them away from detention behavior and toward success.

“This new youth recreation center will serve to create more opportunities and build better lives for the youth of the Hunts Point community,” said Commissioner Hernandez, who sought funding for the project.

Joining the Mayor at the groundbreaking were Department of Design and Construction Acting Commissioner Kenneth R. Holden, De-



L to R: City Council Members Kenneth Fisher and Pedro Espada, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, then-Deputy Mayor Ninfa Segarra, DDC Commissioner Ken Holden, Parks Commissioner Henry Stern and DJJ Commissioner Tino Hernandez.

partment of Parks and Recreation Commissioner Henry J. Stern, Council Members Kenneth Fisher and Pedro Espada and representatives from the local community board.

Mayor's Message cont'd

Continued from page 1

son for whom they are opening their door is a legitimate enumerator and not an imposter attempting to commit a crime.

Many Census counters wear thin red or white mesh vests with the words “United States Census” in white lettering and carry a black tote bag, containing questionnaire kits.

For general information call 1-888-722-8995. Social Security numbers are not required for the Census questionnaire. Please remember that your answers are protected. The Census is strictly confidential

No one wants to see the City continue to thrive make even more progress more than I do. We can help make that a reality by providing an accurate count for New York City to get our fair and equitable share of our overall contribution to the federal government. I urge all New Yorkers to stand up and be counted.

AROUND

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Beating the Odds

Continued from page 1

had to work hard to catch up to the other 10th graders in his class. The next year his foster father died.

Despite these challenges, Miguel was made stronger and encouraged by the guidance he received from the JCs, who were positive role models for him in secure detention. Now as a high school senior, Miguel is receiving A's and B's. He is vice president of a school volunteer organization and plays on the varsity basketball team.

"Today, I live in a group home and feel I've come a long way. I hope to continue to do better. I will be the first in my family to finish high school and go to college," said Miguel, who views his time in detention as a turning point for his life.

He attributes this change to the caring teachers at his high school and to the support and dedication he felt from the JCs responsible for his well being.

Residents Respect JCs

Residents at Horizon were interviewed recently about their feelings toward JCs. Here are some of their comments, as per the April resident newsletter, *Horizon Skies*.

About Mr. C. Jones, a resident said, "He has given me positive advice during my time at Horizon. I'll never forget him."

A resident describing Mr. R. Flete said, "He shows us respect and its appreciated on both sides."

A resident said that Mr. B. Payne "knows how to handle things on the Hall. He has a strong influence on us."

Willa Taylor Passes On

DJJ staff are saddened at the loss of Willa Taylor, Senior Cook at Horizon Juvenile Center. Ms. Taylor passed away on April 18, 2000.

Commissioner's Message

DJJ's 20th Anniversary is drawing to a close. Our final activity, an exhibit depicting 200 years of juvenile detention history in New York City, was unveiled last month at John Jay College. The exhibit gave us an important historical perspective on DJJ's role and importance in the juvenile justice system as we know it today.

A century ago, the City relied on Houses of Refuge for wayward and delinquent children. The passage of various federal and state laws changed the identity of who would be placed in these homes. The passage of the Family Court Act in New York State provided for the Family Court system. A 1967 Supreme Court decision allowed juveniles the right to due process.

In the 70s, the federal government decided that PINS (persons in need of supervision) should not be placed with juvenile delinquents. This policy change essentially changed the face of Spofford Juve-



nile Center. The passage of the Juvenile Offender Act during the same period, required Spofford to be retrofitted as a secure detention facility.

The creation of DJJ in 1979 changed how the City provided services in detention.

Since 1979, DJJ has developed model services in detention and effective community-based interventions for juvenile justice-involved youth. DJJ is now embarking on its next 20 years, and given our record over time, I know we will continue to improve.

In Memoriam: Jerome Ginsberg

Jerome M. Ginsberg, Chair of the DJJ Advisory Board, passed away on Sunday, March 26, just short of his 61st birthday. Mr. Ginsberg, a father, husband, lawyer, author, Fulbright Scholar, and friend will be missed dearly.

Mr. Ginsberg worked closely with DJJ's executive staff since his appointment as chair in 1995 on a number of different matters. "Jerry was an effective leader at DJJ. We will miss him here," said Commissioner Tino Hernandez.

Mr. Ginsberg was also the former President of the Queens County Bar

Association, and the Network of Bar Leaders. He was the recipient of many honors including the Queens Lawyers Club Award, the Queens County Bar Association Award of Merit and the Man of Honor Award.

Linda Fedrizzi, Mr. Ginsberg's law partner describes him as, "a selfless individual who worked tirelessly to promote the interests of members of the bar and members of the community in which he served in various capacities." Mr. Ginsberg will be remembered as a dedicated attorney who contributed in many ways to DJJ and the City of New York.

Bridges Juvenile Center

DJJ Returns to Renovated Spofford

*By Michael Sachse,
Urban Fellow*

On December 27, 1999, DJJ returned to the Spofford Avenue detention facility now known as Bridges Juvenile Center.

The move marked the completion of an \$8 million renovation to part of the building and the end to DJJ's use of the Vernon C. Bain Center.

Opened as Youth House in 1957, and later renamed Spofford Juvenile Center, Spofford has stood at the center of juvenile justice in New York for over four decades. During that time, it has undergone many transformations – both physically and in ad-

ministration.

Spofford was originally designed to house Persons in Need of Supervision (PINS) and juvenile delinquents. In 1978, as the needs of detention changed with the passage of the Juvenile Offender Act, Spofford was retrofitted as a secure detention facility for alleged delinquents and Juvenile Offenders.

A year later, the Department of Juvenile Justice was created, in part so that it could oversee the construction of new facilities and the closing of Spofford. As planned, the combined capacity of Horizon and Crossroads was 248 beds (124 per facility) how-

ever, a surge in the juvenile detention population that began in late 90s left the agency searching for room for its residents.

Renovating three wings of the Spofford facility allowed DJJ to meet the need for space while addressing many of the problems that garnered criticism in the past.

The newly occupied sections of the building have improved lighting, a substantially upgraded fire safety system, an improved security system, improved living areas, new furniture and floors, along with new coats of paint and a fully refurbished gymnasium.

Bridges Juvenile Center is being used as an intake and admissions facility for new admissions and as a transfer point for youth awaiting placement with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services.

NSD Activities Provide Academic and Cultural Enrichment

*By Marianela Virella,
NSD Field Coordinator*

The past few months have been busy for NSD residents, who participated in a wide range of recreational and educational activities.

Residents of 145th Street entered a citywide poster contest on Domestic Violence. The goals of the school-based project were to help alert teens to the dangers of domestic violence and speak out against abusive relationships. Understanding the magnitude of dating violence motivated residents to elaborate on numerous poster themes that included "Abuse is never O.K."

For Black History Month, NSD residents were exposed to the rich culture and traditions of the African Diaspora. 145th Street residents attended a Martin Luther King Jr. ceremony at Brooklyn Academy of Music. Beach Avenue residents attended a civil rights play at Mind Builders in

the Bronx and Camillus residents watched the "Roots" video series to examine the struggles and victories of African American ancestors.

Lenox House hosted a Black History celebration with St. John's and 145th Street which included a soul food buffet, a play on Rosa Parks and a reading of the renowned "I Have a Dream" speech.

Also in February, Boys Town Brooklyn residents primed their lyrical skills at a two-day music workshop at the Platinum House record studio. There, residents got an insider's view on musical engineering and were advised on how to make an effective "demo" tape.

This musical experience allowed residents to exercise their creative talents and explore positive career choices. Further career investigations at NSD have included a Monroe Business College campus tour for Sheltering Arms residents. The informational tour comprised of visiting



NSD residents tie-dye shirts.

Monroe Business College's state of the art library and sitting in on Business Management and Computer Science classes.

NSD residents took a school trip to the Museum of Natural History that featured exhibits on animal migration and rare species. The school also trekked to the Museum of the Moving Image where they viewed classic movies.

With the arrival of spring, many NSD residents have been focusing on horticulture activities including planting vegetable and flower gardens.

Crossroads Juvenile Center

Residents Stride Down Black "History Lane"

By Winifred York,
Recreation Manager

Crossroads residents took a trip down "History Lane" through dance, song, film, art, drama, sports, literary, and even culinary delights as staff worked hard to ensure that each were provided with an understanding of Black History in February.

Each morning, the residents listened to the Black (Negro) National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." A Crossroads film festival consisted of a series of films including historical (*Eyes on the Prize*), classical (*A Raisin in the Sun*), comedy (*Coming to America*), youth (*Sarafina*), family (*The Piano Lesson*), and struggle (*Sounder*). The residents discussed the films, the terms and phases used

and expressed how each film did or did not relate to them.

This year the residents were allowed to express themselves through, "Black Art." The residents created tie-dye and patchwork quilts, posters, jewelry and masks, which were displayed in the gymnasium.

Crossroads was fortunate enough to have outside groups participate in the space celebration.

"The Jackie Robinson Band" presented a well-received performance of music, dance, and stepping. The Fountain Church of Christ entertained residents with gospel music and words of inspiration. Diane Hodges and the Hallelujah Production performed drama, praise dancing, and song.

Dishes from every culture within



Maurice Gadson, Director of Support Services, talks to residents about Black History.

the African Diaspora made the soul food luncheon a huge success. There was more than enough food to feed residents as well as the staff on all three tours.

The culmination of the Black History Month festivities, our soul food luncheon, is indicative of the fact that the Crossroads staff work together.

Note: The Crossroads staff basketball team recently won challenges with the Department of Correction and DJJ's Court Services Unit.

CBO's Enhance Programs for Residents in Secure Detention

By Liz Russo,
Director of Program Services

Community-based organizations (CBOs) provide an array of programs in detention such as yoga, meditation, music, art and workshops that focus on substance abuse prevention, conflict resolution, violence prevention and peer leadership training through role playing.

The year 2000 began with a focus on outcome-oriented services that can be monitored for both efficacy and quality. A new process was developed to screen CBO programs so that they are tailored to the services and needs of juveniles in detention.

When a community partner wants to provide services or program in detention, a Service Providers Workgroup reviews the proposal.

The Workgroup and the partners then work to tailor the services to the needs of the juveniles in detention.

To ensure the user-friendliness of the services, DJJ includes input from the Residents' Council, the voice of the "consumers." Thus, services are developed and implemented via a threefold approach that includes DJJ administrators, service providers, and residents. To date, five partnerships have been established through this process.

The Lineage Project, under the leadership of Soren Gordhamer, provides yoga and meditation.

Hassan Yassin and Liza Perez from Giant Thinking, assist the residents with conflict resolution and healthy decision-making.

Narconon, Inc. is a substance use prevention project sponsored by Naim

Rashid and Daniel Lir.

Hospital Audiences Inc., under the coordination of Benjamin Rosado, provides interactive role-play workshops focusing on violence prevention and peer leadership.

War Child USA through Heather Harding La Garde and Paul Thompson will be providing music and arts workshops.

Quarterly meetings with the community based organizations allow for discussion on monitoring services, quality assurance, obstacles and solutions, and moving toward a streamlined service delivery system.

DJJ has a history of establishing collaborative efforts with community based organizations. The linkages allow the Department to provide additional services to DJJ's residents.

Accolades

Standford Named Detention Worker of the Year by JDA of NY

Spencer Stanford, an Associate Juvenile Counselor II, was recently honored as Detention Worker of the Year by the Juvenile Detention Association of New York.

Commissioner Tino Hernandez presented Mr. Stanford with the award at a special session of the Management Staff and Court Services staff at Horizon Juvenile Center.

Mr. Stanford's presence in the Court Services/Transportation Unit has been critical. His steady hand has helped guide the division through 20 years of change, as the agency's operations have expanded and become more diverse. Since he has been involved in the transport of juveniles to the state Office of Children and Family Services, there has never been an escape, attempted escape, incident or accident.

Mr. Stanford has worked in juvenile justice since 1969, when he joined the NYC Department of Probation (which ran Spofford at the time) as a Juvenile Counselor. He was acknowledged from the start as a talented worker. As Deputy Commissioner Cleophus Glass observes, "it was recognized very early that Mr. Stanford had effective counseling skills and was excellent at maintaining control of challenging juveniles."

Within three years, Mr. Stanford transferred to the Court Services Unit, which was responsible for transportation of juveniles. Mr. Stanford demonstrated skill and grace in his handling of difficult residents. For his efforts, Mr. Stanford was promoted to Assistant Director of Court Services in 1975. He served diligently and reliably in that capacity for 19 years.



L to R: Horizon Executive Director Stephanie Prussack, Honoree Spencer Stanford, Commissioner Hernandez and Deputy Commissioner Glass.

In 1994, Mr. Stanford was promoted to Associate Juvenile Counselor I, and named Fleet Coordinator for Court Services. As his job grew in

importance, Mr. Stanford navigated his expanded duties without a hitch.

He coordinated a fleet that has grown from 20 to 48 vehicles, and helped DJJ expand its transportation services to the new secure and non-secure facilities.

Now Mr. Stanford is an Associate Juvenile Counselor II and supervises the transportation of youth to and from courts in all five boroughs, as well as the agency fleet.

"I think he represents the multitude of Juvenile Justice employees that quietly go about their work in an unassuming manner and make the wheels of the system move efficiently," said Deputy Commissioner Glass.

Osorio Named Employee for 3rd Quarter

*By Sarina Roffé,
Director of Public Affairs*

Wanda Osorio was honored as the Employee of the Third Quarter for the Quality of Work Life program during a special recognition ceremony in March at Central Office.

Ms Osorio joined DJJ three years ago as a volunteer in the Volunteers for Youth Program. She was assigned to the Reduce Children's Violence (RCV) Program, where she demonstrated her sincere dedication to the adolescents in the program.

After her volunteer experience, Ms. Osorio was hired by DJJ as a case manager. She now works in the CBI Prevention program (formerly RCV), in the Bronx and Manhattan.

From the beginning, it was clear that Ms. Osorio always had the best



Wanda Osorio

interests of the youth as her primary concern. She was like a big sister and mentor for the youth, giving

unselfishly to the clients and their families.

The employee who nominated Ms. Osorio described her as having "empathy and respect for the families and clients with whom she works."

They also noted that she develops "highly creative responses to problems" often going outside of the usual 'box' to resolve problems."

The ceremony presenters agreed that Ms. Osorio exemplifies the best standards of conduct, professionalism and dedication to work.

Accolades

Former NY Met Ed Charles Bids DJJ Farewell

By Lauren Brown,
Public Affairs Assistant

Ed “the Glider” Charles, third baseman for the 1969 New York Mets Championship team, retired Friday, April 28 from the Department of Juvenile Justice. Charles worked as DJJ’s School Liaison to the Board of Education’s Youth Option’s Unlimited (Y.O.U) School for 13 years. A luncheon was held in his honor May 5. Commissioner Tino Hernandez, members of the 1969 Mets, NSD residents and Mr. Charles’ DJJ colleagues attended the luncheon.

For over 16 years Ed Charles made his living at third base. After years in the minor leagues, he broke into the majors with the Kansas City Royals in 1962. In 1967, he was traded to the New York Mets. Mr. Charles retired from baseball after the euphoria of the ’69 season. He finished his career as what Sports Illustrated called, “one of the steadier performers in New York’s long and ignominious line of third basemen.”

Charles spent a few years in the record business, and worked for nine years as a baseball scout, before he agreed to coach the Mets rookie-league team in Kingsport, Tennessee. It was there that Charles discovered how much help he could offer young people. “The rookies were generally 17 or 18,” Mr. Charles said, “So you might be teaching them baseball, but you were also a father figure. You had to help them deal with their problems and protect them from the pitfalls, like drinking and drugs.”

Mr. Charles brought that same caring wisdom to the Department of Juvenile Justice when he joined the agency as a house parent at the Beach

Avenue non-secure detention facility in 1987. Later, Charles was assigned as DJJ Liaison at the Y.O.U. School, where he worked directly with Board of Education teachers and other school personnel. Throughout his career with the agency, Mr. Charles has offered at-risk youth much needed guidance. “People call me a father figure. I don’t mind,” Charles said, “Some of these kids never had a father figure, and if that’s what they need, it’s fine with me.”

Mr. Charles worked to combine the gifts baseball had given him with his desire to give back. He used his Championship ring to draw reluctant youth into meaningful conversations. During the summers he organized sports clinics and competitions among the agency’s group homes and secure detention facilities that have been a point of both enjoyment and engagement for residents.

Throughout his career with DJJ, Mr. Charles has demonstrated the same sort of confidence and direction that earned him the nickname “the Glider” as a ballplayer. Commissioner Tino Hernandez called Charles “a remarkable employee and a true role model. Ed Charles brought the same winning attitude he had with the Mets to young people in need of hope and guidance. We will miss him here at DJJ.”



Top: Mr. Charles receives an award from Commissioner Hernandez. Middle: Ed Charles laughs as he relaxes in his new recliner, a gift from Mets co-team members. Bottom: NSD Executive Director Alex Figueroa presents Ed Charles with a watch as a gift from all the people who worked with him.



Horizon Juvenile Center

New Statue Depicts Themes From *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*

By Tim Rollins, artist

A new bronze statue depicting two boys sitting on a bench, was installed in the courtyard of Horizon Juvenile Center in January. The statue, along with three paintings in the lobby, were developed by residents of the former Spofford facility.

In 1992, I, Tim Rollins, and K.O.S. (Kids of Survival), an internationally-recognized South Bronx-based art team, were commissioned to create several major works of art for the new juvenile detention center being built in the Bronx.

The themes for the artwork were developed and created in collaboration with Spofford residents, as well as staff of the Department of Juvenile Justice.

After months and months of meetings with administrative, planning, programming, and teaching staff, and after reviewing several proposals, both the clients and I finally agreed to draw inspiration from the two great pillars of classical world literature, Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

Working in close cooperation with staff from the Carter G. Woodson Academy, the school then located at Spofford, I began a series of workshops with six residents, who showed an interest in art.

The rigorous and intense workshops concentrated on creating designs for three huge paintings based on *The Odyssey* and planned for permanent exhibition in the lobby of the Horizon Juvenile Center. The largest painting measures 8 x 12 feet. As part of this process, students read and memorized passages from the ancient poem, which documents Odysseus' return home after years of war and reckless adventure.



The students created the wings that would have the power to return each resident home. The students studied the history of the image of the wing throughout world art and culture. They began with the wings of black angels during the period of Ethiopia Zion, and moved on to wings depicted by Giotto, Fra Angelico and other Renaissance artists. Finally, they studied wings found on the super heroes of contemporary popular comic books. Each student created several variations on their unique and personal wings, producing finished watercolors on paper.

The students, in collaboration with K.O.S., also created an abstract painting representing the Shield of Achilles. The huge 8 x 8 foot painting depicts a circular form in gold and light blue which refers to the mythological shield that protects Achilles from his own rage and hints to a large eye, the form of eternity and the ancient map of the cosmos.

K.O.S. and I then composed, enlarged and painted the designs of the Spofford residents onto a ground of book pages torn from copies of *The Odyssey* and glued on stretched linen.

These paintings were installed in the lobby of the Horizon Juvenile Center in early 1998.

In addition to the lobby paintings, a major sculpture in bronze and stone was designed for the inner courtyard at Horizon. Also based directly on Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, the sculpture depicts two extremely life-like youths, both in contemporary urban street dress, sitting beside one another reading a large book that rests on their laps. Upon closer inspection, the viewer soon discovers that one figure is literally the mirror image of the other, as if identical twins were studying the text together.

On the lap of one student, a page from the over-sized book holds a quote from the Goddess Athena who, in the *Iliad* tells Achilles "Down from the skies I come to check your rage if only you will yield." The child depicted in bronze represents Achilles. The other figure represents Odysseus and reads the quote drawn from his words in the *Odyssey*, "All I have longed for this is to see my day of homecoming."

The sculpture suggests, like Homer, that the self-destructive, uncontrolled, rage of Achilles and the capacity for self-redemption possessed by Odysseus are the two parts of every human personality, constantly in conflict and in need of concern, compassion and love.

The art was a project of DJJ, the Department of Citywide Administrative Services and the Department of Cultural Affairs Percent for Art Program.

K.O.S. and I received an Award for Excellence in Design in 1996 from the Art Commission of New York, for the art design during a ceremony at City Hall.

Holocaust Survivors Speak to Students in Passages Academy

By Lauren Brown,
Public Affairs Assistant

Culminating their study of the Holocaust, youth in Rebecca Weinstein's social studies class and Andrea Dorsey's English class at Passages Academy in Horizon Juvenile Center listened to presentations from two Holocaust survivors: Bernard Gotfryd and Dr. Eric Nash. "Facing History and Ourselves," a non-profit organization that introduces schools to the Holocaust, arranged the visits.



Bernard Gotfryd

Bernard Gotfryd, writer, photographer, Holocaust survivor and author of *Anton the Dove Fancier*, a book that discusses the capacity of the human spirit, explained his book to the young people and discussed his past.

"We have something in common," he began as he spoke to his audience of Horizon residents. "We all have been in prison. I was in prison for six years."

Mr. Gotfryd recalled what he endured as an inmate in the Nazi concentration camps during World War II, his horrifying experiences, and his survival methods. "The one thing they could not take away from me though was the ability to dream and have an ounce of hope."

The boys and girls listened to his story with great attention, interest, and sincerity. "I was probably the age of many of you when I was taken to the camps, I was 15 years old," he said.

He lost both of his parents and was

separated from his siblings during the Holocaust. Fortunately, he landed decent jobs working in factories run by the Nazis during the six years that he was in the camps. These jobs kept him alive, while most Jews were killed.

Dr. Nash also addressed the youngsters and discussed how he was fortunate to have survived the concentration camps. As a skilled doctor, Dr. Nash performed medical procedures during the war at the Nazis' request. Dr. Nash said that he kept going because he didn't believe the war

would last as long as it did. Dr. Nash lost his entire family, including his young wife and son.

The youth had prepared to meet the survivors and had questions ready at the end of the presentations. They asked how the survivors feel about Germans today and whether they have ever gone back to Europe to visit the camps.

The young people approached the survivors after the presentation for autographs and presented them with gifts.

Residents Launch Horizon Skies Newsletter

by Susan Lukin,
Case Manager

During the winter, residents of Horizon Juvenile Center joined with staff to form a Resident's Council. At the first Council meeting members suggested that residents create a newsletter. The newsletter, *Horizon Skies*, was designed to offer residents a creative outlet and a forum for their opinions.

The residents took their ideas to Gloria Anderson, the Network Administrator at Horizon. Inspired by the resident's initiative, Ms. Anderson volunteered to organize and run computer workshops in the evenings for the residents.

Supported by her technical expertise, the newsletter staff assembled their first issue, which was distributed in February 2000.

"The kids are actually doing the work and are accepting poems and



Gloria Anderson



Residents use the computer lab.

other contributions from other children on all Halls to be included in the next issue," said Ms. Anderson.

"I'm amazed at their remarkable talent. Some collaborate and some work independently...they know their own strengths and weaknesses. The residents are very motivated about what they wanted to do. Many of the residents have very limited experience with computers and they have just blossomed," said Ms. Anderson.

Administration

Staff Promotions and New Hires

Since December 1999, numerous new staff members have joined DJJ.

Juvenile Counselor I: Peter Bayley, Israel Enwereuzor, Janice Ferguson, Stephen Hill, Herbert Johnson, David Johnson, Angel Martinez, Sunday Ehiorobo, Olugbenga Ajala, Kelley Brown, Frederick Holmes, Osvaldo Roper, Damon Patterson, Esther Okafor, Araceli Melendez and Samuel Kayode.

Maintenance Workers: Jan Moskowitz, Salvatore Speciale and Nelson Flores.

Stock Worker: Mohammed Bility.

Senior Cooks: Willem Blyheid and Hilton Riddick.

Food Service Manager: Warren George.

Cook: Duane Lewis, Dennis Isaac, Lester Smith and Sheldon Wallace.

Ombudsman: Sharon Moore-Purvis
Custodian I: Hessard Bailey, Arnold Brooks and Michael Vasquez.

Institutional Aides: Leonard Steward, Jesus Carmona, Lexie Anderson, Dayne Banks, Richard Hudson and Anthony Lewis.

Sr. Houseparent: Tamar Johnson.

Senior Activities Coordinator for Community-Based Intervention: Jamel Nedderman.

Case Manager: Marie Pierre Louis, Lynn Moise, Rachael Nazon and Precious Stepney.

Community Associate: Savitree Balram, Zonela Welch, Ricardo Velez, Alexa Troche and George Adames.

Special Officers: Francisco Santos, Peter Onwu, Wendell Carnavon and Federico Sanchez.

Linda McKay began as Director of Financial Management.

PROMOTIONS

Donna Locke was promoted to Superintendent, the title of the Executive Director of Crossroads JC.

Efrain Figueroa was promoted to Deputy Director of Operations at Bridges Juvenile Center.

William Graham was promoted to Supervisor I.

Maurice Gadson was promoted to Director of Support Services and Sandra Bryce was promoted to Director of Operations, both at Crossroads Juvenile Center.

Sinclair Duncan and Diane Windon were promoted to Sr. Cook.

Chukwuma Uwechia was promoted to Community Coordinator.

Paula Padilla, William Pratt, Clara Melendez and Shanequa Del Valle were promoted to Community Asso-

ciate.

Maudria Caldwell-Hudson and Tammy Jones were promoted to Principal Administrative Associate I. Evelyn Johnson was promoted to Principal Administrative Associate II.

Bernardo Contorno was promoted to Supervisor of Mechanic Installation and Maintenance. Tanisha Calderon was promoted to Ombudsman.

The following individuals were promoted to Associate Juvenile Counselor I: Gilberto Gomez, Michael Henderson, Anteika Reid, George Williams, Tyrone Washington, Michael Bedward, Eleanor Jackson, Peter Eromosele, Vilma Batista and Wale Jones.

The following individuals were promoted to Associate Juvenile Counselor II: Kevin Patterson, Philip Clarke and Alexander Toney.

Ruby Mitchell was promoted to Sr. Special Officer.

Profile Kim Johnson

By Lauren Brown

Working with youngsters for over nine years at DJJ, Kim Johnson lends critical support to DJJ's line staff. Ms. Johnson is a Juvenile Counselor in the Court Services/Transportation Unit. Her responsibilities include supervising the young people she transports from Family Court to the facilities.

"I grew up in the inner city. I believe that it is important to help the kids that are from my neighborhood," she says, affirming why she is so dedicated to these young people.

Although she finds reward in her daily efforts on the job, Johnson explains her greatest joy. She says, "I love working with children but best of all is walking down the street in my neighborhood and having an individual say, 'Remember me Ms. Johnson?'"



Thanks for helping me and listening to me when no one else did.'"

Ms. Johnson grew up in the Bronx and graduated from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Before accepting a position at Spofford Juvenile Center in 1990, Johnson worked for both the New York City Department of Correction and the Federal Department of Correction as a correctional officer.

Warner West, Executive Director of Court Services describes Ms. Johnson as "a very calm, diligent, even-tempered person. "Ms. Johnson is the type of person who is extremely attentive to residents and possesses great potential," said Mr. West.

Outside of work, Johnson enjoys spending time with her daughter Brittany, watching sports and playing handball and basketball.

Juvenile Detention History

Juvenile Detention in New York: Then and Now - A DJJ Exhibit

*By Lauren Brown,
Public Affairs Assistant*

Nearly a year of intensive research on the evolution of today's detention system culminated in the launching of "Detention in New York – Then and Now," an exhibit at John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

The exhibit included eight panels spanning two centuries of juvenile detention history. The exhibit was on display in the lobby of John Jay College from April 10th through May 5th. Commissioner Tino Hernandez and President Gerald W. Lynch of John Jay College hosted the opening reception held on Monday, April 10th.

"The exhibit is a great way of teaching people about juvenile delinquency and detention in New York City," says Commissioner Tino Hernandez.

President Lynch applauded this one-of-a-kind exhibit, which was seen by over 20,000 people who visited John Jay each week. DJJ has many employees and student interns who are graduates of John Jay College.

The exhibit was in production for six months and involved archival research, writing, and organization. Sheila Greene, Chief of Staff, and Sarina Roffé, Director of Public Affairs, directed the work of committee members Lauren Brown, Public Affairs Assistant, and Michael Sachse, Urban Fellow. City Graphics Acting Director John Yue and Graphic Artist Nick Bellitteri completed the layouts and graphic design work for the exhibit. City Graphics is a unit in the NYC Department of Citywide Administrative Services.

The content in the panels begins in the year 1800 when the detention of juveniles began shortly after the opening of the New York State peniten-

tiary system. The exhibit ends with photos and a model of the new detention facilities run by DJJ.

"I think this exhibit gives a broad overview of the history of juvenile detention in New York City," said Sarina Roffé, Director of Public Affairs.

The early panels explained what policies and procedures and laws that were put in place to deal with delinquency. The exhibit covered the troubled Spofford Era, prior to the creation of DJJ, and laws – such as the Family Court Act and the Juvenile Offender Act - that changed the face of juvenile detention as we know it today.

The exhibit discussed the creation of DJJ and subsequent programmatic initiatives that turned Spofford Juvenile Center into a national juvenile detention model. Also covered were the challenging capacity issues DJJ faced in both secure and non-secure detention, including the expansion of NSD, the opening of the two new facilities and the re-opening of Spofford as Bridges Juvenile Center.



Commissioner Tino Hernandez poses with John Jay College President Gerald Lynch (center). To their left are DJJ employees and John Jay alumni Jamel Nedderman, Chris Love-Fox and on the far right, Alexander Figueroa. Sonia Galarza coached the John Jay Volleyball team. Below: The Panel that shows the creation DJJ.

