

# QUEENS TIMES

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## Congressman Crowley Marks First Anniversary of James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Law



Rep. Crowley (D-Queens, the Bronx), issued the following statement marking the one year anniversary of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act signed into law. The law provides assistance to the thousands of people who are now suffering from health issues as a result of their heroic actions on September 11th. Rep. Crowley is the only member of Congress who lost a family member on September 11th, Battalion Chief John Moran.

“One year ago this week,

(Continued on page 2)

## The Wildlife Conservation Society's Queens Zoo Welcomes The Arrival of Texas Longhorn Cattle



A piece of the American southwest comes north as the Wildlife Conservation Society's Queens Zoo welcomes a pair of majestic Texas longhorn cattle. Photo by Julie Larsen Maher © WCS

The Queens Zoo recently added an 8-month-old, 150-pound male calf and his mother, a 7-year old, 800-pound cow. These animals were brought to the zoo, which is dedicated to wildlife of North and South America, because they are signature of the American southwest region.

“As a zoo of the Americas, it is particularly nice for us to exhibit a breed of cattle that have been developed and made famous within the United States,” said Scott Silver, Director and Curator of the Queens Zoo. “Texas long-

(Continued On Page 2)

## Mayor Bloomberg Signs Four Bills Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by Councilman James Gennaro



Making Strides in Environmentally Sound Construction and Transparency in Toxin Cleanup: Councilman James Gennaro watches as Mayor Michael Bloomberg signs into law one of the bills he worked on. Behind him are (l. to r.) Councilwoman Gale Brewer, city Director of Long-Term Planning and Stability David Bragdon, Councilwoman Margaret Chin and Councilman Stephen Levin.

## Council Member Van Bramer Partners With Sanitation To Bring More Services To The Area

On December 29th, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer joined officials from the Department of Sanitation (DSNY) to announce the placement of 24 new trash baskets and additional street sweeping in Sunnyside, Woodside, and Long Island City. The baskets and additional cleaning arrive after Council Member Van Bramer fought for the DSNY to increase collections throughout District 26.

The trash baskets and additional sweeping will help keep the corridors of 39th Avenue between 48th and 55th Streets, 43rd Avenue between 43rd and 51st Streets and 51st Avenue between 2nd and 5th Streets in Long Island City. The DSNY will collect & monitor the refuse to prevent overflowing. Council Member Van Bramer is continuing efforts to deliver additional garbage cans on Greenpoint



Pictured in the photo above from left to right: DSNY Chief Thomas Albano, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, and DSNY Superintendent Michael Gonzalez.

Avenue. Furthermore, the DSNY will be at the United Forties Civic Association meeting in January to respond to community concerns.

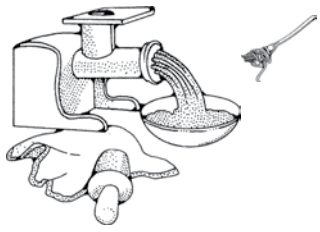
“These trash baskets and additional street sweeping routes

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## Texas Longhorn Cattle ...

(Continued From Page 1)

horns add diversity to our farm area where we showcase domestic breeds of animals that live in the Americas."

The Texas longhorns will share space with Scottish highlanders, another breed of cattle.

Texas longhorns are a domestic breed of cattle known for their characteristic horns that can extend up to five feet, tip to tip. The breed developed originally as a result of cross breeding between feral and domestic cattle. The Texas longhorn is an animal that has long been known for its beauty, stature, and intelligence.

The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth.

## Council Member Van Bramer Partners With Sanitation ...

(Continued from page 1)

will continue the quality of life improvements that I have fought for since being elected," said Council Member Van Bramer. "These additions will help keep our neighborhoods clean. And I want to thank DSNY for agreeing to these service enhancements..

## The Ridgewood Democratic Club Annual Meeting

Come To Our Annual Membership Brunch on Saturday, January 21, 2012 at 11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Our Guest Speaker will be Congressman Joseph Crowley 6070 Putnam Avenue, Ridgewood, NY 11385 (1 block off Fresh Pond Road)

Dues Renewal: \$20.00 (includes brunch)

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## Congressman Crowley Marks First Anniversary of James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Law

(Continued from page 1)

President Obama signed into law the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act, bringing much-needed help to the thousands of people who are now suffering from health issues as a result of their service to the nation on September 11th and the days following. I was proud to fight for this law's enactment and I have been heartened to see the progress that has been made this year in getting these health and compensation programs off the ground. We've seen the fulfillment of a longstanding promise, as survivors have been able to begin receiving treatment at centers throughout New York City

and applying for compensation through the Victims Compensation Fund.

"But there is more we must do, and that includes making sure that all survivors receive assistance with treatment for cancers that were caused as a result of the September 11th attacks. I urge the World Trade Center Health Program to continuously review the medical evidence on these cancers as quickly as it becomes available, and to make the right decision and cover cancer care. This is part of what must be an ongoing mission to strengthen, protect and improve these programs for all who need this assistance because they so honorably served our nation at a time of need."

## Mayor Bloomberg Signs Four Bills Sponsored or Co-Sponsored by Councilman Gennaro

Councilman James Gennaro stood by Monday as Mayor Michael Bloomberg signed into law four important bills that will make the city's construction industry greener and make the cleanup of toxins in public schools a transparent process.

Gennaro was the chief sponsor of two bills regulating the construction industry. The first, Intro 576, prohibits toxic concrete waste water, which has the same pH balance as drain cleaner, from being dumped into sewers, catch basins or bodies of water. Instead, the substance must be either transported elsewhere for safe disposal or properly contained on site until it completely evaporates.

The second bill, Intro 578, requires all non-heavy-duty asphalt laid down in New York City to contain at least 30 percent recycled material. Since 1 million tons of asphalt is replaced in the city each year and much of that is taken to landfills, the new mandate is an effective way to reduce waste.

"New York City pours a lot of concrete and lays a lot of asphalt," Gennaro said. "These bills make these ubiquitous activities much more environmentally friendly – and in doing so, will yield significant environmental benefits to the people of this city for generations to come."

Gennaro also partnered with primary sponsor Vincent Ignizio (R-Staten Island) on Intro 563, and with primary sponsor Stephen Levin (D-Brooklyn) on Intro 566. Both bills govern how information is released regarding the cleanup of toxic polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) found in older fluorescent lighting fixtures in city schools, an issue Gennaro raised in the Council starting in 2008.

Intro 563 requires the city Department of Education to notify parents of students and employees in any public school of the results

of any testing or inspection for PCB contamination in light fixtures — regardless of the results — within five business days of receiving the results. The notification would also include what steps the city is taking to remediate any contamination at the site.

Intro 566 requires the DOE to submit reports to the Council every six months regarding the progress of removal and remediation plans for light fixtures. The report would include, an updated list of public schools, including charter schools, the steps that will be taken, and the schedule for addressing the PCB contamination.

As chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, Gennaro first held hearings on the issue of PCBs in public schools in April 2008. He was the first in the Council to identify and draw attention to the issue.

In May 2008, Gennaro introduced a resolution "calling upon the NYCDOE to test all schools constructed or renovated before 1978 to ascertain the levels of PCBs."

In April 2011, Gennaro co-chaired a joint hearing with the Education Committee, entitled "DOE's Comprehensive Plan to Increase Energy Efficiency and Environmental Quality at Schools, Including Through the Removal of PCBs."

"As chair of the Environmental Protection Committee, I have been working for four years to help build a strategy to remove these toxins from the city's schools — a plan has been put in place and funded," Gennaro said. "I am happy Mayor Bloomberg signed these important pieces of legislation providing transparency and accountability in the process, which is critical to the success of this landmark first-in-the-nation comprehensive school PCB remediation program."

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## Food Stamp Use At Greenmarkets Increase By Almost 25 Percent In 2011

**Over \$620,000 in federal food stamp dollars spent on fresh fruits and vegetables at greenmarkets in 5 boroughs.**

City Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn, Chair of the Council's General Welfare Committee Anabel Palma, and GreenMarket Director GrowNYC, Michael Hurwitz today announced a significant increase in the use of food stamps at Greenmarkets across New York City.

Food stamp purchases at Greenmarkets increased from \$505,166 to over \$620,000 in 2011, a 23 percent increase from 2010. Some markets reported nearly \$6,000 in food stamp sales in a single day. In 2011, approximately 75% of food stamp dollars at Greenmarkets were spent on fresh fruits and vegetables, while EBT spent on baked goods dropped by nearly 5 percent. This is important to note because families that qualify for federal food stamp aid often live in neighborhoods with limited access to nutritious, healthy food.

"The increase of food stamp usage at Greenmarkets is proof that we are making significant progress in our efforts to get more fruits and vegetables into low-income neighborhoods," said Speaker Christine C. Quinn. "This means we are improving public health by increasing access to fresh, locally-produced foods in underserved communities. We

are simultaneously boosting small businesses by keeping federal food stamp dollars in the hands of local farmers. Let's all start 2012 with a resolution to eat healthier and support our Greenmarkets in all five boroughs."

The Union Square Greenmarket had the highest food stamp sales at \$151,813 in 2011. That is approximately \$105,000 more than sales at Union Square in 2010, and \$86,394 more than the highest grossing market in 2010.

"I am pleased to see the continued success of the Greenmarket EBT Initiative, which has been an invaluable tool in expanding access to fresh produce in our City," said Council Member Annabel Palma, Chair of the Council's Committee on General Welfare. "The expansion of the initiative to new locations is a testament to the hard work that the Speaker, the City Council and GrowNYC have put into making this initiative a success. More importantly, the dramatic increase in the use of food stamps at the markets this year is further evidence that, when given the opportunity, New Yorkers will choose to eat healthy."

"Food stamp sales at Greenmarkets across the city continue to flourish, thanks in large part to the support of Speaker Quinn and the NY City Council," said GreenMarket Director, Michael Hurwitz. "GrowNYC is thrilled that, despite the devastating effects of Tropical Storms Irene and

Lee which impacted many of our farmers, EBT sales grew by 23% over the last year. In 2011 more than \$620,000 in EBT dollars were spent at 43 markets -- and \$151,813 of that was spent at Union Square, our flagship market, proving that all New Yorkers want access to fresh, affordable, nutritious food, as well as the chance to reinvest in their regional economy. We are deeply grateful for the Speaker's leadership and continued commitment to providing access to healthy food to all New Yorkers and for all her efforts to build a sustainable food system."

In 2006, the City Council began partnering with GrowNYC to provide funding for EBT scanners, signage, community outreach, merchant account fees and dedicated staff members to operate the machines at the Greenmarkets. The initiative has been highly successful and this year EBT machines were available at 43 markets.

A multi-prong outreach effort by GrowNYC including a multi-borough marketing initiative in six different languages (Spanish, Polish, Arabic, Chinese, Russian, Yiddish) urging New Yorkers to use food stamps at Greenmarkets, with advertisements on subways and buses, and in several city-wide newspapers, has also helped increase usage considerably. Last year, the Council allocated \$270,000 toward the program and related advertising costs.

## Touro College's Graduate School of Education to Host Conference to Help Unemployed Teachers Find Teaching Opportunities

Touro College's Graduate School of Education will host a conference to help unemployed New York State-licensed teachers find work. The one-day meeting, which will be held on January 13, will focus on teaching opportunities outside of the public school system for teachers who have been negatively impacted by the recent budget crisis in New York.

A variety of presenters from parochial and charter schools with openings for teachers will discuss issues such as qualifications for teachers at their schools as well as how—and to whom—they should submit applications. The presenters will also discuss the nature of students at their schools (for example, whether they are gifted or special education students), traditional standard classrooms, salary expectations and positions that teachers with specific specialties should consider.

In June, a last-minute compromise between the teacher's union and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg averted mass layoffs this school year. However, public school budgets are still \$178 million lower than last year and a

hiring freeze is in place, leaving many qualified teachers without jobs.

"According to the Department of Labor, there are approximately 6,000 teachers out of work in New York, even though they are well trained in education and special education," according to Dr. Anthony J. Polemeni, vice president of the Division of Graduate Studies. "We want to give them an opportunity to see what else is out there beyond the public school system and I think they'll find that there are a number of avenues worth exploring."

The conference is the brainchild of Dr. Lamar Miller, dean of the Graduate School of Education, who wanted to tackle the growing problem of teacher unemployment.

Representatives of Jewish, Catholic, Muslim, charter and secular private schools will participate and give presentations to inform unemployed teachers about job openings and talk about their schools. One speaker will make a presentation about opportunities in the areas of children's therapy.

The meeting will take place at

the Graduate School of Education in Manhattan, located at 43 West 23rd Street (between 5th and 6th Avenues) on the third floor. Reservations are necessary to attend. To reserve a spot, please call 212-463-0400, Ext. 5785 or email [ingbere@touro.edu](mailto:ingbere@touro.edu).

Touro is a system of Jewish-sponsored non-profit institutions of higher and professional education. Touro College was established in 1971 primarily to enrich the Jewish heritage, and to serve the larger American community. More than 18,000 students are currently enrolled in its various schools and divisions. Touro College has branch campuses, locations and instructional sites in the New York area, as well as branch campuses and programs in Berlin, Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, and Florida. Touro University California and its Nevada branch campus, as well as Touro College Los Angeles, are separately accredited institutions governed in common by the same Board of Trustees as Touro College. For further information on Touro College, please go to: <http://www.touro.edu/media/>.

### Tech News

Holiday App Downloads Hit 1.2 Billion

More Android and iOS apps were downloaded between this past Christmas and New Years than any other week in history. The total number of combined apps downloaded reached 1.2 billion. With over 60% of 18-24 year olds owning smartphones, the rate of apps being downloaded in 2012 will certainly be greater. Read the full article at [Wired.com](http://Wired.com) Yard police headquarters is investigating newspapers for potentially hiring private detectives to access peoples' computers. Read the full article at [Reuters.com](http://Reuters.com)

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## Woodhaven Residents' Block Association Brings Successful Year to Close

The Woodhaven Residents' Block Association concluded an extremely successful year by providing information that led to the arrests of two Franklin K. Lane High School students who had vandalized the freshly painted elevated subway over Jamaica Avenue.

The announcement, which was made at the Block Association's December town hall, was just the latest in a long series of accomplishments this year. Another high point was the addition of two new members to the organization's Board of Directors: Martin Colberg and Steve Forte, both longtime Woodhaven residents.

"I'm very pleased to be part of an organization that is accomplishing so much for our neighborhood," said Colberg. "The Block Association has done a great deal to make it a better place to live. I encourage all Woodhaven residents to join and get involved with the WRBA."

Forte expressed a similar sentiment, saying, "This has been a busy year for the organization, but there's still a lot to be done. We might be just volunteers, but we're working hard to tackle the challenges facing the neighborhood. I'm confident that 2012 will be an even busier and more exciting year for us."

The WRBA's first town hall of the new year will occur Jan. 21 at 1 p.m., at the Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps., located at 78-15 Jamaica Ave.

Here is a chronology of some of the organization's other highlights from a very active 2011:

\* In January, in the wake of a blizzard that left much of New York City crippled, the WRBA restarted its Block Captain program, to provide a network of contacts throughout Woodhaven to help centralize information about which blocks need attention from city services. The Block Captain now covers nearly half of the neighborhood and has proven very effective in getting the help

that residents need -- including a diabetic girl in Woodhaven who needed dialysis but couldn't get to her appointment until her family's street was plowed. The WRBA worked with Assemblyman Mike Miller to ensure the street was clear and the girl could receive her treatment.

\* In March, the Block Association rallied for the CCNS Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Senior Center, which was on the chopping block because New York State budget cuts would have eliminated its funding. Dozens of residents turned out to express their support for the senior center and to object to the cuts. The senior center was ultimately saved.

\* Also in March, the Block Association hosted a free art show at Emanuel Church of Christ. About a dozen artists displayed their work. The show was an outgrowth of the Block Association's Writers & Pints nights, which brought Queens Poet Laureate Javier Paolo to Woodhaven in 2010.

\* In April, the WRBA was joined by Assemblyman Miller and well over a dozen volunteers for a successful graffiti clean-up in the neighborhood

\* In June, the WRBA worked with the Richmond Hill Block Association to organize a rally to save Engine Company 294, which was threatened with closure by a plan proposed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Over 200 people showed up at the rally, and the fire company was spared -- a huge victory for a community that have seen more than their fair share of dangerous fires in recent years.

\* Also in June, the WRBA submitted written testimony to a New York City Council committee, supporting proposed legislation to increase fines for residential noise while also urging the City Council to consider other options for tackling this problem. The testimony drew upon dozens of residents' responses to a Block Association questionnaire. Overwhelmingly, Woodhaven residents said that

noise conditions have adversely affected their quality of life, that not enough is done to handle noise complaints, and that noise conditions have worsened in recent years. Numerous excerpts from these responses were included in the testimony, which was over 10 pages long.

\* In September, the WRBA gathered at Joe Abbracciamento Restaurant with residents, elected officials, and civic leaders for a fundraiser to celebrate the Block Association's 40th anniversary. The evening was a great success, as everyone had a good time and some attendees walked away with terrific prizes. It was a terrific opportunity to recognize our honorees: the Man of the Year, Assemblyman Mike Miller; the Woman of the Year, Eleanor Errante; the Business of the Year, the Leader-Observer; and the Hall of Fame inductee, the Woodhaven-Richmond Hill Volunteer Ambulance Corps. The fundraiser also brought in over \$4,000 for the WRBA, which struggled with very limited funding this year.

\* In its ongoing fight against illegally posted signs, the WRBA asked two of its elected officials in November to support changes to the law. The changes would allow private citizens' testimony to be used in prosecuting those who visually pollute our neighborhoods by posting unsightly advertisements on telephone poles, lampposts, and other public property.

\* Also in November, the Block Association announced the launch of a committee to advocate landmarking the Forest Park Carousel, which has been closed and behind locked gates for far too long. The carousel is a true historical specimen that has brought joy to generations of Woodhavenites, and the Block Association is determined to see it reopened.

\* In December, the WRBA hosted a well-attended Christmas Parade Watching Party, which cheered on the marchers on Jamaica Avenue.

### Addabbo Sets Free Events For January & February

NYS Senator Joseph P. Addabbo, Jr. (D-Queens), announced a schedule of events set for January and February around his 15th Senate District. Among the topics to be covered by the Social Security Informational lectures are: Medicare, e-services, retirement, disability and benefits. All are welcome to attend and admission is free: Senator Addabbo's FREE Upcoming Events

For more information call

Howard Beach District Office (718) 738-1111  
Middle Village District Office (718) 497-1630

Monday, January 9 - Social Security Informational Meeting

Woodhaven Richmond Hill Senior Center - 78-15 Jamaica Avenue, Woodhaven @ 1 PM

Thursday, January 12 - Social Security Informational Meeting

Peter Cardella Senior Center - 68-52 Fresh Pond Road, Ridge-

wood @ 11 AM

Tuesday, January 24 - Social Security Informational Meeting @ Howard Beach Senior Center - 156-45 84th Street, Howard Beach @ 10:30 AM

Thursday, February 9 - Social Security Informational Meeting @ Middle Village Senior Center - 69-10 75th Street, Middle Village @ 11 AM

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## Tech News

Google Creates Site to Follow 2012 Elections

Google launched a website dedicated to providing information for the 2012 U.S. elections. If you visit [google.com/elections](http://google.com/elections) you can find articles sorted by candidates, issues and trends. The site also provides links to the 2012 political calendar and YouTube's politics channel which curates election coverage. Read the full article at [Mashable.com](http://Mashable.com)

### iOS Dominates Mobile Web Browsing

Despite more people activating Android phones, over 52% of mobile Web browsing is done on an iOS device. Even if you take iPads out of the equation, Apple has nearly 10% more people using iOS to browse the web. However, Apple's success in mobile browsing has yet to translate to the PC. Read the full article at [AppleInsider.com](http://AppleInsider.com)

*Queens Times Weekly ...*  
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 For the Week of ... 1/5/12 - 1/11/12

*For Entertainment Purposes Only*

**ARIES**  
 (Mar. 21 - April 20)  
 Get involved with groups of interest it will bring you in touch with important individuals. Your need to get away could lead you into greater debt. Your lucky numbers are 5,2,1.

**TAURUS**  
 (Apr. 21 - May 21)  
 Real Estate investments will payoff. Your fun loving approach will be admired and appreciated by others. Travel this week looks promising. Your lucky numbers are 4,9,2.

**GEMINI**  
 (May 22 - June 21)  
 You may be misunderstood if you're not careful. Secret affairs will only lead to heartache. Be careful not to overexert yourself. Your lucky numbers are 1,3,2.

**CANCER**  
 (June 22 - July 22)  
 Concentrate on getting ahead financially and let your personal life settle down for a while. This may not be the time to lend or borrow. Your lucky numbers are 7,3,6.

**LEO**  
 (July 23 - Aug. 22)  
 Opportunities to improve your living standards will come to you this week. Problems with co-workers at work will try your patience. Your lucky numbers are 9,3,2.

**VIRGO**  
 (Aug. 23 - Sept. 23)  
 Be careful disclosing information about yourself. Your outgoing personality will capture hearts. Join social activities this week. Your lucky numbers are 1,4,8.

**LIBRA**  
 (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)  
 Keep your cool at work this week. You may be a stressed out by all the rushing around. You can make extra cash, if you put your knowledge and head to it. Your lucky numbers are 2,9,1.

**SCORPIO**  
 (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)  
 Travel will be of interest this week. Some of your new friends may not be that trustworthy. You may need to make a choice. Your lucky numbers are 5,2,8.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 (Nov. 23 - Dec. 21)  
 Opportunities for new friendships are apparent. You might get behind if you spend too much time debating senseless issues. Your lucky numbers are 6,9,2.

**CAPRICORN**  
 (Dec. 22 - Jan. 20)  
 Don't try to deal with issues or make changes that will upset the apple cart. Resist secret affairs that could be detrimental to your reputation. Your lucky numbers are 8,4,3.

**AQUARIUS**  
 (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)  
 Spend more time with children and relatives. You can make major accomplishments while on short trips. Focus your efforts on details. Your lucky numbers are 2,1,9.

**PISCES**  
 (Feb. 20 - Mar. 20)  
 You are best not to discuss your personal life with others. You will be able to contribute a great deal to organizations that you join. Your lucky numbers are 5,9,3.

**Teach Your Kids About Traffic Safety**

(StatePoint) It's never too early to start teaching your children about traffic safety.

Traffic accidents continue to be the leading cause of death for children ages 1 through 12 in the United States, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

To help keep families safe, NHTSA has teamed up with the animated, preschool television show "Chuggington" to launch the national "Think Safe, Ride Safe, Be Safe!" campaign. The program offers free resources to help parents and kids learn important safety lessons from engaging characters and take a safety pledge online to earn a traffic safety badge.

Here are some traffic safety tips for you and your children to remember.

**Car Safety**  
 Everyone should use seat belts, and children should always be in a properly fitted car seat. Select a car seat based on your child's age and size that fits in your vehicle. Keep your child in the car seat as long as they are within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements and in the back seat until age 12.

When reversing out of parking spaces, drivers should be on alert for small children and parents should always hold their child's hand and watch for speeding. And while it may be convenient to leave a trunk open when loading or unloading items, children are naturally curious and may get trapped inside if left unattended. So be sure to teach your child that trunks are for cargo, not hide-and-seek.

**School Bus Safety**  
 Children should always wait with an adult at the school bus stop and at least five giant steps away from the curb. Parents should instruct children to always sit facing front and obey the school bus driver.

When disembarking, instruct children to take five giant steps away from the school bus. Then look left, right, and left again and wait for the signal from the driver before crossing the street.


**Bike Safety**  
 Make sure your and your child's bike helmets sit low across the forehead with no more than two finger-widths above the eyebrow. And make sure the chin strap is

(Continued on page 11)

**Answer to Last Weeks "Sudoku"**

6	2	1	3	4	7	5	9	8
3	8	4	2	5	9	7	6	1
9	7	5	8	1	6	4	2	3
4	6	7	1	2	8	9	3	5
1	9	3	4	6	5	8	7	2
2	5	8	7	9	3	1	4	6
5	3	9	6	8	4	2	1	7
7	4	2	5	3	1	6	8	9
8	1	6	9	7	2	3	5	4

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					8			
						2	5	7
			5	4	9	3		
				8		9		6
	7	9	6		5	1	8	
1		6		2				
		1	3	5	2			
3	5	2						
			4					

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

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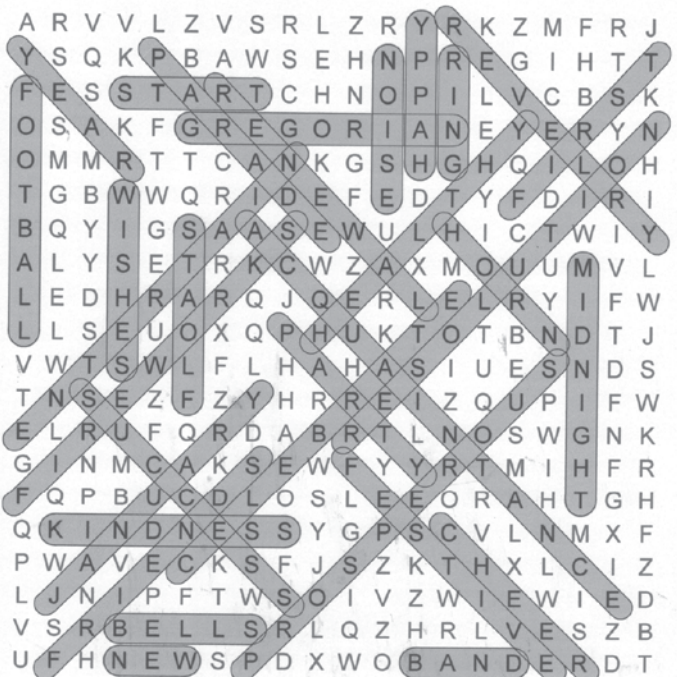
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**Did you know ...?**

The greatest recorded number of children that have been born by one mother is 69! The poor lass gave birth to 16 pairs of twins, seven sets of triplets and a measly 4 sets of quadruplets. Even in the days before IVF!

**Answer to Last Weeks "Try and Find It!"**



**TRY AND FIND**

**AT THE PROM**

IUCNLUUOIRYUBXBPTKX  
 MUQHPYTZUPHVSETDZYEB  
 KINGQTCOMMITTEETANRO  
 LDFIRSTDANCEEQKHHTPU  
 QVKHPMXACHJYUWMJTEEZ  
 OUQFELHFDGHCETKAYEMK  
 SWEVPOPERFUMELSOKEEE  
 AVVEDUND SHKAJVOWVEKT  
 TMLBNBNAUBVNKUNDBUB  
 ARXPQCACHCHAPERONESP  
 AUCPFORNHDBTQKDWIXHQ  
 TOUGOROFDBESENIORSPP  
 FEPLPSMBKKGOSHGWKSGJ  
 RIESOAGNDJRWCIXRRROT  
 LPEOLGWUSAQJLAIDORWX  
 IBCHCEBRIEIPQEULZHNM  
 MXAQOZADECORATIONSNJ  
 OHSZGQEJBHXHQEPFXTEY  
 HUZKKFLOWERSBKLSOJDD  
 PFLATENIGHTUWSZWDFKM

- |            |             |            |            |
|------------|-------------|------------|------------|
| Band       | Date        | King       | Punch Bowl |
| Budget     | Decorations | Late Night | Queen      |
| Chaperones | First Dance | Limo       | Seniors    |
| Committee  | Flowers     | Makeup     | Theme      |
| Corsage    | Gown        | Perfume    | Tuxedo     |



## Whirl With Merle

### HOTEL IGNACIO, ST. LOUIS' BEST KEPT SECRET

John Dalton had done a great deal of traveling, staying in numerous hotels, motels, and just about any type of accommodations. Having been told about the nasty sides of rooms, he really wasn't up to bringing his own set of disinfectants. Another major annoyance was forgetting important items, such as toiletries and then with time being an issue having to walk a few blocks to get them, if the hotel didn't have an overpriced "gift shop".

Then, of course there is the service. The hotel is too busy or not enough staff to truly tend to your needs like that shirt that you want to use again but requiring a bit of laundering. The hotel can send it out, but time is of the essence, again. Oh, sure, you can bring it all on the airplane and have to pay the extra costs of checking your luggage.

Then John got the perfect job as the General Manager of Hotel Ignacio in St. Louis; a boutique hotel with 49 guest rooms and two suites. Here he could create the smoke-free, and pretty much germ-free hotel of his dreams while sharing it with the public.

Hotel Ignacio resides at 3411 Olive in the midst of St. Louis' Grand Center Arts & Entertainment District and across the street from Saint Louis University. This would determine the décor of the rooms and hallways with a gallery of sorts for contemporary works of art from Saint Louis University's vast collection as well as themes of the guest rooms: Fine Art, Performing Arts, Architecture, and Music.

I checked in at a desk of young smiling faces more than eager to be of assistance: Emily Sieb, Shannon Thomas and Assistant Manager Nick Palank were just some of the staff of mostly Saint Louis University students or graduate students. My room "card" was handed to me while asked if I needed help with my luggage. There is no bell stand here, so someone from behind the desk will be of aid. I didn't have as much to tote as I did when I left. A box of various fruit was for the taking with a sign that asked if you would sample and comment on this local area produce.

Off the elevator to find that there was no "slot" on my door. It was a circular sensor just above the doorknob. Touch it with the key card or wave it a few inches away and the door unlocks. Not only does this help if you're imbibed, it's knowing that the bathroom is so near and yet so far, if you get the drift.

After placing my luggage in the room, I looked around to see what appeared to be a framed mirror on the wall. It was a plasma tv. Having chosen the décor of Performing Arts, there were paintings depicting ballerinas. Having traveled myself numerous



times I hear about certain things to check for, as in the bathroom which appeared to be quite clean. I noticed that glasses on the shelf wondering if they really clean them. No spots, or smudges. Well, that's good. Hey, wait! The day of the week is etched into it. Coincidence? Day of the week was correct the next day, too.

A very large digital clock turned out to be an iPad type of instrument called an Avaya media hub used by one of only six hotels in the country. Touch the screen and get the weather, stock quotes, local attractions as well as "frequently requested items". My curiosity got to me as I expected the minimum "freebies". The first to take me back was, Socks (regular and knee high). Socks? They'll give you socks? The long list went on to include: undies (men's), pantyhose, cough drops, tweezers, bug spray, lint remover, chapstick and mints. Perhaps you want a refrigerator in your room and a sleep machine. I certainly needed both.

I needed to call a local restaurant, not having the phone number. This system becomes a speakerphone, so you just have to touch the "make a phone call" app and dial out. I called the front desk to get the phone number. Not only did the person retrieve it, but dialed the number.

I sat on the bed viewing some other amenities. You can borrow a bicycle or "3-wheel taxi", exercise in a fitness room. Oops! I needed to check my email. Back to the lobby to a business center at no charge. Just off the eleva-

tor was a table with coffee and espresso as well as a rack with various newspapers.

The lobby leads into the "living room" complete with a fireplace and couches. I noticed a ledge that had two musical instruments with an opening above it. Behind the opening were three adjoining bathrooms. The ledge was the back of the sinks.

I woke up the next morning having had a much needed rest, giving credit to the sleep machine. I was sleeping on a Tempur-Pedic mattress! Hotel Ignacio is the only hotel in Missouri to feature this. Comfy pillows. Were they filled with down, foam? How about recycled plastic bottles! Bamboo sheets and towels, too. Could it get any better? I wanted to get some clothes laundered, not sent to the cleaners. I called the front desk to inquire. "Just bring it to us and we'll have it back for you in about 3 hours". There is no charge for the service. I later returned to my room to find a shirt and pants hung up in the closet, the rest folded in the laundry bag.

Now, picture this. Your airline lost your luggage. More than likely it will be delivered to you within 48 hours. However, here you are with just the clothes on your back! Not only will they provide the toiletries, whatever you are wearing can be laundered for the next day! Slippers, loaned robe and underwear in a pinch! Knowing about all of the above, you can spend a week bringing only a carry-on.

by Merle Exit

Check out: [www.youtube.com/user/whirlwithmerle](http://www.youtube.com/user/whirlwithmerle)  
my blog on [www.merleswhirls.blogspot.com](http://www.merleswhirls.blogspot.com)

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## Crumbling Infrastructure ~ Homeowners Wait Decades For Curbs To Be Repaired By City

Senator Tony Avella joined with frustrated Queens homeowners who have dealt with broken curbs in front of their homes for years, to call on the Department of Transportation (DOT) to accelerate their curb repair program.

Currently, DOT informs all residents who successfully report a broken curb that their request has been entered into their curb database for repairs. However, due to "a multi-year backlog," DOT states that they may not be able to perform curb repairs at the reported location during the calendar year. With a reported 23 year backlog, that calendar year for curb repairs turns into years and in many cases, decades.

"DOT is failing in their responsibility to fix and install these curbs," stated Avella. "Unfortunately it's the homeowner who suffers in the form of sidewalks and streets that quickly wear away, and flooding from the street into their homes. DOT needs to stop ignoring its infrastructure and start doing simple things like curb repair rather than taking on pet projects like adding bike lanes. A 23 year backlog is horrendous and unacceptable. The timetable for these projects need to be accelerated immediately."

Catherine Andreucci, a Flushing homeowner who has been on the curb list for over seven



years, stated, "We pay some of the highest property taxes in the country to live in this City and it's a shame that I have had this broken curb for what seems like forever. What makes it worse is the City broke it years ago when they were repairing the street. Ever since then, DOT periodically inspects the curb, but it seems they have no intentions of fixing it anytime soon. We have to park our cars carefully to keep from damaging our tires on the broken pieces."

In addition to the long wait, residents reporting curb complaints to DOT risk receiving a defective sidewalk violation in retaliation. Homeowners under the belief that they are "doing the right thing" by reporting the damaged curbs

in their neighborhood to 311, are often greeted by DOT inspectors who issue violations for sidewalks throughout the neighborhood, including those with very minimal damage.

Avella continued, "DOT has created the perfect catch 22 where homeowners are required to repair their sidewalks before a curb replacement can be completed. However, with the extended and uncertain timetable for curb repairs a homeowner may have to repair their sidewalk several times before the curb is ever marked for repair. The City is forcing homeowners to repair their sidewalks on an immediate timetable while leaving them with no idea of when DOT will repair the curb."

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## Endoscopy Division of New York Hospital Queens Gives Gifts to Patients in Need

Instead of exchanging presents this year, nurses from the Endoscopy Division at New York Hospital Queens (NYHQ) pooled the money they would have spent on a gift, to purchase clothing and toys for young patients in need of Christmas cheer. Nurses, technicians, translators and physicians in Endoscopy collected a total of \$1,000.

As a result of their generosity, young patients received gifts for the holidays. One recipient was an 8 year-old girl who lives in a homeless shelter. She received a winter coat, suitcase, backpack, gift card to purchase her medications, boots and gloves. The child also received a doctor-themed Barbie doll, as she aspires to become a physician.

"I believe her life will be forever influenced by this kind gesture. For a moment, she saw a glimpse of how life could be better. I think this will motivate her to fulfill her dreams," said Peri Millman, M.D., director, Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, NYHQ.



A 22 year-old female patient, with severe Crohn's colitis, received a new wardrobe after nurses noticed her clothing was stained. She cried as she unwrapped an entire new wardrobe for herself and her young daughter.

"Being able to provide gifts to our patients who are in need of a little extra attention during the holidays has deeply touched me and my colleagues. This experience was amazing and rewarding,"

said Ruth Hopkins, B.S.N., R.N., N.E.-B.C., nurse manager, Endoscopy, NYHQ.

These presents were given to an 8 year-old child who needed warm clothes and funding to purchase medication to keep her healthy during the cold winter.

New York Hospital Queens is a member of the NewYork-Presbyterian Healthcare System and an affiliate of the Weill Medical College of Cornell University.

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## Sen. Stavisky and South Asians of New York Civic Association Distribute Holiday Toys

Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D-Flushing) joined Dr. Hari Shukla and the South Asians of New York Civic Association for holiday season toy distribution.

Senator Stavisky is pictured here with Dr. Shukla, President of the South Asians of New York Civic Association and a member of Community Board 7, joining in the festivities and helping the children leverage Santa for some high quality holiday presents.



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## Preschool Children With Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Sought For Free Treatment Program At Queens College

**Controlled Research Study Uses Games – Not Medication to Help Change Long-term Behavior**

Queens College is now recruiting families of four- to five-year-old children with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) to take part in a free research study and treatment program to determine whether these preschoolers can learn to change their behavior by playing skill-based games. Funded by a \$669,570 three-year grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) the program, called Non-pharmacological Interventions for Preschoolers with ADHD (NIPA), is designed to enhance brain development and function without the use of medications like Ritalin and Adderall.

NIMH approved the new grant based on the encouraging results of an initial two-year open trial at the college that NIMH had also funded. These positive results included high parent satisfaction and improved behavior by the preschool ADHD participants that lasted for at least three months after treatment ended. The more in-depth “double-blind” study beginning at the end of this month, which will include a control group of parents, should help validate these positive preliminary results. In addition to the control group, the psychologists and graduate students who will be running the parents’ groups are different from those who will evaluate the children before and after treatment – making it a double-blind study.

According to NIPA Project Director Jeffrey Halperin, a distinguished professor of psychology

at Queens College who developed this program, currently available treatments that rely on medication and behavior modification provide short-term, symptomatic relief for ADHD, but limited, if any, long-term benefits.

“With the right kind of activities – those that are fun and don’t rely on adult praise or reward – we believe these youngsters can retrain their brains and regulate their own behavior,” says Prof. Halperin. “By starting this treatment early, we can help to prevent the emergence of such problems as aggression, depression, academic failure, social isolation and substance abuse from occurring later on.”

To be eligible for this program, children must exhibit such ADHD symptoms as inattention, impulsivity and overactivity; and they cannot be on medication or be receiving other

treatment. Small groups of five children will meet at the college and play together once per week for five weeks in 90-minute sessions. The play groups will be exposed to cognitively stimulating, interactive games that promote memory and motor control and increase in task complexity.

While their children are participating in the games, parents will receive ADHD education and support and discuss their children’s activities with psychologists and graduate students working with them. The parent group selected as the control will not be taught how to engage their children in these play activities at home.

Families interested in participating in this free program at

the college should contact NIPA directly at: 718-997-4251 and ask for Dr. Anne-Claude Bedard or Jocelyn Curchack; or via Email: nipa@qc.cuny.edu. Schedules will be as flexible as possible to accommodate parents.

In addition to his position at Queens College, Halperin is also a distinguished professor of psychology at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York (CUNY) and a full-time member of its neuropsychology doctoral faculty. In addition, he is a professional lecturer in the department of psychiatry at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine and a licensed psychologist in the State of New York. For the past three decades Halperin has been conducting cutting-edge neuroscientific research in the area of ADHD and child behavior disorders, earning his reputation as a leader in the field. He and his team have provided high-quality psychological services to hundreds of children throughout Queens and New York at no cost to families.

Based on his scientific accomplishments, quality research and publications, Halperin was appointed last July to the Child Psychopathology and Developmental Disabilities Study Section at the NIH Center for Scientific Review. As part of this group, Halperin will be involved in reviewing and making recommendations on grant applications submitted to the NIH and surveying the status of science research resulting from these grants. The prestigious appointment runs through June 20, 2015 and will give Halperin the opportunity to contribute to the national biomedical research effort.

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## A Healthy New Year's Resolution from Your Pharmacist: Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

As the New Year begins, and healthy resolutions are made, the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) is encouraging Americans to clean out their medicine cabinets. Pharmacists recommend patients clean out their medicine cabinets once a year to dispose of all the unused and expired medications that accumulated over the previous year. This once a year tradition will help keep everyone safe and healthy. Unused medications have the potential to be abused and misused and expired medications can lose their potency thus reducing or providing no value to the condition being treated.

“Over the course of a year, we can accumulate many medications to treat colds, headaches and infections, as well as more serious conditions,” stated Thomas Menighan, CEO and Executive Vice President, APhA. “These medications play an important role in helping patients obtain better health and wellness, but if we do not store and dispose of them properly, they can become a hazard. When they fall into the wrong hands, these medications

have the potential to be abused, and if improperly disposed of, they can harm wildlife, pets and other people. Make sure to talk to your pharmacist about the best storage of medications in your household, the length of time a medication should be kept and the efficacy of that medication past its expiration date.”

Prescription drug abuse is the Nation’s fastest-growing drug problem. While there has been a marked decrease in the use of some illegal drugs like cocaine, data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH), show that nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over, who used drugs for the first time in 2009, began by using a prescription drug non-medically. The National Institute on Drug Abuse tells us that every day in the US, an average of 2,000 teenagers use prescription medication for the first time without a physician’s guidance. The same NSDUH survey found that over 70% of people who abused prescription pain relievers got them from friends or relatives.

Tips for Storing and Cleaning

Out Your Medicine Cabinet or Other Medication Storage Areas:

- Medications should be stored in a secured area – up, away and out of site of children and teenagers - that has low humidity, a stable temperature and adequate lighting.
- Check the date on everything in your medicine cabinet and dispose of anything that has passed the expiration date.
- Dispose of anything you have not used in the past 12 months or that you no longer need. Do not share medications with others.
- Dispose of medicines that are no longer in their original container, have changed color or odor, or that can no longer be identified.
- Do not flush unused or expired medications and do not pour them down a sink or drain. They should be disposed of properly in the household trash or through your community’s medication disposal program, when available. Talk to your pharmacist or visit [www.smarxtdisposal.net](http://www.smarxtdisposal.net) for tips on how to properly dispose of your medications.



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# Queens Sports *by Robert Elkin*

## Review the Year of 2011

Turning the clock back to last January there were so many highlights and one major disappointment during the calendar year of 2011. And there were just a few records that were set.

The major disappointment came with the New York Mets, who finished on a bright side but still didn't make the playoffs or second season. Individually, they had some pluses under Mets General Manager Sandy Alderson and his staff. While most of last season's players will be back come later on this winter heading into spring training, some will be gone.

Included in the latter group is a fan favorite, leadoff batter-shortstopper and National League batting champion Jose Reyes. Most everybody wanted him to remain with the local franchise, for he was a big spark to the club.

The league's hitting crown went right down to the last day of the season. Reyes took his first such title edging Ryan Braun of Milwaukee on the final day of the season .337 to .332.

After the season was over, management sent the free agent to the Florida Marlins. He signed with them a six year contract. There is no one in the Mets farm system who could duplicate what he has done and meant to the team.

Not only Reyes is gone, but so is head groundskeeper Peter Flynn, who has been with the Mets since its inception. Flynn, who witnessed the ups and downs of the Mets, retired. Overall, 2,352,596 fans turned out to Citi Field last season to show the support the fans still gave them.

Across the field from Citi Field on the south side of Roosevelt Avenue tennis took another step in the right direction with the United States Open Tournament in various categories taking place in late summer. More and more fans each year come out to support the growth of the net sport. However, it seems that fan favorite Roger Federer doesn't rule the venue anymore in the men's singles, as he previously did.

Novak Djokovic, 24, upset Federer in the semi-finals and then after a rain postponement on Sunday got by 2010 title holder Rafael Nadal, 6-2, 6-4, 6-7, 6-1, losing the third set by a 3-7 score in the tie-breaker.

"I had an amazing year," said the winner. "It's an incredible feeling winning this tournament."

This venue in Flushing Meadow-Corona Park has also been the home to the New York Junior Tennis League, which stages the Mayor's Cup each spring after action in the public and Catholic schools. St. Francis Prep shined as the top team from Queens in CHSAA competition.

Queens produced some possible future touring tennis players including the likes of Dave Arroyave and Kelly Featherston at St. Francis Prep, Stefan Ilic at Forest Hills, Chris Jimenez at St. Francis Prep, and High Mo at Cardozo.

In the same park, countless soccer games and some road races including one major one stood out. In and around the Park, some organizations put on road races at various but short distances.

The one big race, is the Queens Half Marathon, conducted by the New York Road Runners Club and College Point Road Runners Club, that stayed within the park itself. Over 5,000 entrants turned out bright and early for the event. Christopher Carrier, covered the 13.1 mile course in 1:13.29. Jesus Dominquez of Astoria finished second in 1:14.58. The race attracted runners from all over the tri-state area, but mostly from New York. Race director Peter Chacha and his staff did an excellent job in staging the race, free of traffic. This race formerly was contested in College Point.

In running of another kind, one for horses, Kentucky Derby winner Animal Kingdom and Preakness winner Shackleford were set to go against each other in the Belmont Stakes, but instead Ruler On Ice took the lead from Shackleford in the stretch and won the third leg of the triple crown for three year olds.

However, all eyes were focused on the Repole Stable owned Stay Thirsty, because the owner Mike Repole grew up here in Queens, is well known and popular and came out of the Catholic High Schools Athletic Association system.

Ramon Dominquez, who was aboard seventh place finisher Macho Macho Man, became the leading jockey among the three tracks in New York-Aqueduct and Saratoga as well as Belmont--

included with 1297 mounts and 327 victories. His earnings of \$13,804,597 also lead the money for the jockeys.

On the college scene, St. John's University turned in some winning teams and victorious individuals as well. Its three major teams of basketball, baseball and soccer all posted successful squads. And once again, the Red Storm lacked a football and men's track team that it once fielded.

The Red Storm captured the Big East College Conference Soccer championship and earned a berth in the NCAA tournament, and in basketball, on a sad side, Coach Steve Lavin, who recruited 6-8 Maurice Harkless from Forest Hills High School, sat out some games because of health reasons.

Individually, Connor Ladi earned all Big East Soccer Conference honors as its tournament's defensive player of year. Head Coach Dave Masur and the staff are very proud of his success. In golf, Keegan Bradley, a former standout golfer at St. John's, was named the Professional Golf Association Tour's Rookie of the Year.

On the professional front, Chris Mullin, who played his college ball at St. John's, entered into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

At Queens College, China Jude moved north from Cheney State in Pennsylvania to become the new assistant vice president of athletics. Jude believes that there is a lot of potential in the college's athletic program. She was athletic director at Cheney University; thus she brought her knowledge, experience, and expertise to Queens.

In high school sports, Christ the King's varsity basketball team excelled once again on the court, as expected, McClancy won the CHSAA Class 'A' soccer title, and Archbishop Molloy's Jack Curran at 80 years of age is in his 53rd year as basketball coach.

These were some of the big moments here in Queens. And next year, there will be a new franchise right next door to Queens-it'll be the Brooklyn Nets, formerly the New Jersey Nets, as they come into New York City. The Nets are currently their last season across both rivers.

## Wednesday Night Singles Group

The Wednesday Night Singles Group of the SFY Adult Center invites you to social evenings with special guest speakers on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month from 7:00 - 9:00 PM.

January 11, 2012 - "Creating Excitement in 2012" with Speaker Anne Benroubi, MSW

January 25, 2012 - "Coulda, Woulda, Shoulda" with speaker

Ilene Yair, LMSW

February 8, 2012 - "What's Love Got To Do With It?" (with chocolate hearts for everyone) with Speaker Anne Benroubi, MSW

February 22, 2012 - "Is There Such A Thing As Perfect Love?" With speaker Cara Mayrick, LCSW

March 14, 2012 - New Member

Open House - "Make New Friends & Keep The Old" with Speaker Anne Benroubi, MSW  
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Hot beverages and Bagels/cream cheese are available at each meeting.

For additional information contact: Ilene Yair at 718-225-6750 ext. 236 or e-mail iyair@sfy.org

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## Audition to Sing with the Oratorio Society of Queens

The Oratorio Society of Queens (OSQ), under the artistic direction of Maestro David Close, is holding auditions. Auditions will be the Monday, January 16 and Monday, January 23 at 7:00 pm at the FSG Hall at Temple Beth Shalom.

If you sing and would like to join us onstage, and look out at a packed house and exuberant audience, make plans now!

The OSQ Spring performance this year will feature Beethoven's "Mass in C Major, Op. 86." There will also be special selections from favorite choral works that we all know and love - reflecting a wide range of music that is the American choral experience.

OSQ rehearses every Monday evening from 7:45 to 10:00 pm in Temple Beth Shalom (in the FSG Hall) at 172nd Street and Northern Blvd. in Flushing. Audition-listenings are pre-rehearsal, starting at 7:00 pm on January 16 and 23 only. Reservations are required.

As for the chorus, even with over 120 members, OSQ is eager to add to its roster of altos, sopranos, tenors, and bass singers each year. We are a diverse group of men and women, young and old, of varied backgrounds and differing levels of singing ability—from sight-readers to those who

learn by ear and doing. According to Maestro Close, "Chorus singing, and especially OSQ, gives each individual the chance to get involved and take part in an activity that artistically enhances their skills, brings satisfaction, and results in a product of great beauty... People who love to sing are encouraged to join OSQ," said Mr. Close. "Most of our members began singing in a church or temple choir or in a high school chorus or college glee club." We hope you'll join us.

The Oratorio Society of Queens sponsors a Choral Scholarship Program that offers talented high school and college students the opportunity to sing and perform with OSQ.

The Oratorio Society of Queens is celebrating their 85th Anniversary Season of Singing and is one of the oldest cultural organizations in Queens. The Annual Holiday Concert is performed with a professional orchestra and soloists in the Queensborough Performing Arts Center at Queensborough Community College. Maestro David Close is the Conductor and host of this venerable Queens tradition.

For additional information on rehearsals and concerts, call 718-279-3006 or visit [www.queensoratorio.org](http://www.queensoratorio.org)

## Avella Announces State Has Secured Additional Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (Liheap) Funding

Senator Tony Avella announced that New York State has secured \$46,374,814 in additional program funding from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to help low-income households with their heating and energy costs under LIHEAP.

LIHEAP assists low-income households, including families with children and seniors, with their home energy needs such as heating in the winter, cooling their homes in the summer, and insulating their homes to make them more energy efficient and reduce their energy costs.

"With the cold months bearing in on us, this is fantastic news for many seniors and families in need," stated Avella. "More

and more families are finding it increasingly difficult to keep up with the rising costs of heating their homes. In many cases seniors and low-income families risk the health by facing harsh winter with little or no heat. This program will help many of those seniors living on fixed incomes heat their homes during this cold winter and ensure low-income families stay warm."

Avella continued, "It is important that those in need of assistance should contact their local social services departments as soon as possible at 1-800-692-0557 or 1-877-472-8411, before the program funding is depleted. Anyone needing further assistance can call my office at 718-357-3094."

### New York State Approved Defensive Driving Course Now Available Online

The New York Department of Motor Vehicles has APPROVED the New York Safety Program For more info call 718-224-7385 and/or visit [www.QueensNYSP.com](http://www.QueensNYSP.com)



## Easing Student Loan Repayments

By Jason Alderman

College costs are out of control. Total outstanding student loans hover around \$1 trillion, second only to home mortgages. Student loan repayment takes a hefty toll on starting salaries even during good economic times. But with so many recent graduates unable to find a decent job – or any job – repayment can be a nightmare.

You can't walk away from student loan debt. It's practically impossible to get it discharged through bankruptcy and there's no statute of limitations on how long lenders can pursue you through collections. Indeed, the government can withhold tax refunds and garnish wages indefinitely.

The Obama administration recently accelerated improvements to a readily available, yet underused, student loan repayment plan called Income-Based Repayment (IBR) that had been slated to begin in 2014.

IBR is available for many federally guaranteed student loans and can be particularly beneficial for low-income families, the unemployed and people with lower-paying, "public service" jobs in education, government or non-profit organizations.

Under IBR, monthly payments are capped at an affordable level relative to your adjusted gross income, family size and state of residence. For example, if you

earn less than 150 percent of the government's poverty level for your family size, you would pay zero. You still owe the money, but are not required to begin making payments until your income increases. As your income increases, so will your monthly payment – but up to no more than 15 percent of income that exceeds that same 150 percent of poverty level.

In addition, the government will forgive debt still owed after 25 years of consistent repayment. And those with qualifying public service jobs must only repay for 10 years before the balance is discharged.

Under the recent IBR enhancements, for students who took out their first loan during or after 2008 and open at least one additional loan during or after 2012, the cap will drop from 15 to 10 percent and the forgiveness period drop to 20 years. Those with older loans can still benefit from the original IBR terms.

Other IBR features include:

- All Stafford, PLUS and Consolidation Loans made under either the Direct Loan program or the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) program qualify for IBR, except loans in default, Parent PLUS Loans or Consolidation Loans containing Parent PLUS Loans.

- You must submit updated income documentation each year. If your income rises, so will your payment amount,

although never above what you'd otherwise pay under a standard 10-year repayment schedule.

- Because IBR will likely extend the term of your loan, you'll probably accrue more interest than under a standard 10-year payoff.

- Private student loans don't qualify for IBR.

Borrowers with two different types of federal loans – at least one each issued under the Direct Loan and FFEL programs – may consolidate their loans under a new Special Direct Consolidations Loans program between January 1, 2012, and June 30, 2012. This will lower FFEL loan rates by 0.25 percent, plus an additional 0.25 percent discount if you sign up for automatic payments. Visit [www.studentaid.ed.gov/specialconsolidation](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov/specialconsolidation) for details.

If you expect your financial hardship to be temporary, other loan repayment options, including economic hardship deferment, forbearance and extended repayment, may be better options. For details, visit the Federal Student Aid site, [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov) and search "Postponing Repayment." Other good resources include [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) and the Project on Student Debt ([www.projectonstudentdebt.org](http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org)).

*Jason Alderman directs Visa's financial education programs. To Follow Jason Alderman on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney](http://www.twitter.com/PracticalMoney)*

## Martin Luther King Day In Forest Hills To Feature Discussion Of King's Message For Our Times

Forty four years after his assassination, Dr. King's message continues to be startlingly fresh and relevant today. On Monday, January 16, at 1:30 p.m., Martin Luther King Day will be marked at the Central Queens Y in Forest Hills with a talk on his message for our times. Speaker Joan Adams is a clinical social worker who facilitates training workshops on racial equity through the Jewish Board of Family and Children's Services. Martin Luther King's message extended beyond civil rights to an understanding of the relationship between deeply embedded racism, economic inequality and militarism. His famous

speech, Beyond Vietnam, foresaw many of the problems facing us today. Dr. King's work also continues to be a model for movements around the world that embrace non-violence, from South Africa to South Asia. This program, which takes place at the Central Queens YM & YWHA, at 67-09 108 Street in Forest Hills, is open to the public, with a \$6 donation suggested.

Ms. Adams will facilitate discussion with the audience following her presentation.

Ms Joan Adams is a clinical social worker who has worked in mental health, higher education settings. Throughout her career she has also done training on

issues of social identity, including race, culture, gender, sexual orientation and religion/spirituality, and on the impact of oppression.

This program is one in a series of events presented by the Hevesi Jewish Heritage Library of the Central Queens Y. More information: at (718) 268-5011 ext. 151, or [pkurtz@cqy.org](mailto:pkurtz@cqy.org). Interviews & photograph available. The Central Queens YM&YWHA is a non-profit community center offering recreational, educational, cultural and social events to enhance the quality of life in the Central Queens community. The Y is an agency of UJA-Federation.

## CB5Q Public Hearing and Board Meeting

The next monthly meeting of Community Board 5, Queens will be conducted on Wednesday, January 11th at 7:30pm in the Cafeteria of Christ the King RHS, 68-02 Metropolitan Avenue, Middle Village, NY 11379. The agenda includes a Public Hearing regarding BSA Cal. # 179-11 BZ, for property at 65-45 Otto Road in Glendale, Queens, NY (Block

3667, Lot 625). This is an Application to the NYC Board of Standards and Appeals by Herrick, Feinstein, LLP, on behalf of the owner of record, Ridgedale Realty Company LLC, for a Special Permit, under Sections 73-36 & 42-10 of the Zoning Resolution, to allow a physical culture establishment to locate within part of a one story building, in an M1-1

Zoning District.

The agenda also includes the Public Forum, a review of Current Applications for the sale of Alcoholic Beverages, review of the Demolition Applications and Committee Reports. For additional information, or to register to speak in advance, please call Community Board 5 at (718) 366-1834.

Read Our Paper Online Visit our website: [www.queens-times.com](http://www.queens-times.com)  
Follow the Links To Times Online

## Bayside Historical Society Presents 11th Annual Celebration Of The Arts

Bayside Historical Society (BHS) on January 15th will hold an opening reception for Celebration of the Arts, its 11th annual mixed-media art exhibition and concert.

Works from some 40 Queens artists will be on display through January 29th, with prizes awarded to first-, second- and third-place winners. The event features guest judges Dr. Amy Winter, director of the Godwin-Ternbach Museum at Queens College, and artist Neill Slaughter, a professor at Long Island University - CW Post Campus where he teaches drawing, watercolor, painting and art history. Honorable mentions will also be awarded.

During the opening reception, which will begin at 2 pm, attendees will also be treated to a performance by jazz vocalist Veronica Nunn, pianist Charles Blenzig and bassist Sean Conly.

Light refreshments will be served. There is a suggested donation of \$5. Limited parking is available by reserving in advance: (718) 352-1548. Additional parking can be found at Little Bay Park, just outside the Fort Totten gate.

For more information, visit [baysidehistorical.org](http://baysidehistorical.org).

Programs at BHS are supported, in part, by public funds from the NYC Department of Cultural Affairs, in partnership with

the City Council, NYC Councilmember Daniel J. Halloran and NYC Councilmember Mark S. Weprin.

Bayside Historical Society is located within Fort Totten Park, in Bayside, NY, and is easily accessible by public transportation (Q13 or Q16 bus to Fort Totten) and by car: Cross Island Parkway North to exit 32 (Bell Blvd.).

Housed in A New York City landmark listed on the National Register of Historic Places, Bayside Historical Society is dedicated to the preservation of Bayside and offers a variety of cultural and educational programs, exhibits and events for the community.

## Latin American Cultural Center of Queens Celebrates The Three Kings, in Astoria

The Center is again hosting an event celebrating The Three Kings. With this Latin American traditional celebration, we re-enact the visit of The Three Kings to the Manger in Bethlehem to meet the newborn Jesus. Enjoy holiday songs by the children from our programs

under the direction of pianist Cesar Vuksic.

When: Friday, January 6, 2012 At 6:00 PM

Where: Arrow Park & Community Center located at 35-30 35th Street (Between 35th and 36th Avenues), Astoria, NY 11103.

The Center is kindly ask-

ing attendees to donate an unwrapped gift for children ages 1 to 13.

For more information please call 718.261.7664 or email [laccq@aol.com](mailto:laccq@aol.com).

This event is FREE and open to all regardless of age, race, sexual preference, economic status or religion.

### LOCUST MANOR SENIOR RESIDENCE

We are pleased to announce that applications are now being accepted for Locust Manor Senior Residence, an eight story building with 59 affordable one bedroom rental apartments for seniors. Eligible applicants must be age 62 or older.

These units are located at 170-06 Baisley Blvd. Jamaica, NY 11434.

Rents will range from \$731.00-\$888.00 per month, unit rents are determined by income level. Eligible annual income levels will range from \$29,300 to \$35,160 for single person households and \$33,450 to \$40,140 for two member households. To be eligible for occupancy, all prospective tenant incomes must be verified and certified by onsite housing staff...

For an application, please call  
(516) 437-0900 ext. 32

give your name, address, and telephone number,  
and an application will be mailed to you or  
you may visit [www.rentalapp.us](http://www.rentalapp.us) and print-out an application.

Completed applications must be returned by regular mail only, no later than February 29, 2012 to P.O. Box 3556, New Hyde Park, NY 11040. All applications sent by certified, registered or express mail will be returned to the sender and will not be considered. All applications will be selected on a first come first serve basis.

Only one application per household may be submitted.  
No Brokers Fee



**LEGAL NOTICES**

File No.: 2010-3778/A  
CITATION  
THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
BY THE GRACE OF GOD,  
FREE AND INDEPENDENT  
To: Attorney General of the State of New York

The unknown distributees, legatees, devisees, heirs at law and assignees of JAMES QUEST, deceased, or their estates, if any there be, whose names, places of residence and post office addresses are unknown to the petitioner and cannot with due diligence be ascertained.

Being the persons interested as creditors, legatees, distributees or otherwise in the Estate of JAMES QUEST, deceased, who at the time of death was a resident of 435 27th Avenue, Apt. 3R, Astoria, NY 11102, in the County of Queens, State of New York.  
SEND GREETING:

Upon the petition of LOIS M. ROSENBLATT, Public Administrator of Queens County, who maintains her office at 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, Queens County, New York 11435, as Administrator of the Estate of JAMES QUEST, deceased, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate at the Surrogate's Court of the County of Queens, to be held at the Queens General Courthouse, 6th Floor, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, City and State of New York, on the 2nd day of February, 2012 at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon, why the Account of Proceedings of the Public Administrator of Queens County, as Administrator of the Estate of said deceased, a copy of which is attached, should not be judicially settled, and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow a reasonable amount of compensation to GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., for legal services rendered to petitioner herein in the amount of \$1,846.91 and that the Court fix the fair and reasonable additional fee for any services to be rendered by GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ., hereafter in connection with proceedings on kinship, claims etc., prior to entry of a final Decree on this accounting in the amount of 6% of assets or income collected after the date of the within accounting; and why the Surrogate should not fix and allow an amount equal to one percent on said Schedules of the total assets on Schedules A, A1, and A2 plus any additional monies received subsequent to the date of this account, as the fair and reasonable amount payable to the Office of the Public Administrator for the expenses of said office pursuant to S.C.P.A. §1106(4); and why each of you claiming to be a distributee of the decedent should not establish proof of your kinship; and why the balance of said funds should not be paid to said alleged distributees

upon proof of kinship, or deposited with the Commissioner of Finance of

**LEGAL NOTICES**

the City of New York should said alleged distributees default herein, or fail to establish proof of kinship,  
Dated, Attested and Sealed 8th day of December, 2011  
HON. PETER J. KELLY  
Surrogate, Queens County  
MARGARET M. GRIBBON  
Clerk of the Surrogate's Court  
GERARD J. SWEENEY, ESQ.  
(718) 459-9000  
95-25 Queens Boulevard  
11th Floor  
Rego Park, New York 11374  
This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obliged to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested unless you file formal legal, verified objections. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

Accounting Citation  
12/22,29,1/5/12&1/12/12

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a serial number 125920 for a restaurant wine license has been applied for by Blue Fin Seafood Inc. to sell wine and beer at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 70-11 & 70-13 Austin Street, Forest Hills, N.Y. 11375 for on-premises consumption.  
12/29/11&1/5/2012

SUMMONS  
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK,  
COUNTY OF QUEENS,  
Index No. 27820/2011, date Purchased 12/12/11, GRAYBAR ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC, Plaintiff, vs. 2115 BRIDGE PLAZA NORTH ASSOCIATES, a New York Partnership, Defendant. To the above-named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an answer to the complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The basis of the venue designated is the location of subject property, which is in Queens County. Dated: New York, New York, December 9, 2011, by Jeffrey Schreiber, Esq., Meister Seelig & Fein LLP, 2 Grand Central Tower, 140 East 45th Street, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10017, (212)655-3500, attorneys for plaintiff.

Notice To Defendant 2115 Bridge Plaza North Associates, a New York Partnership: the foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Allan B. Weiss of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated the 14th day of December, 2011 and filed with the complaint in the offices of Queens County Clerk. This is an adverse possession action brought pursuant to Article 15

**LEGAL NOTICES**

of the New York Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law ("RPAPL") through which Plaintiff, which, since 1951, has used in its business, and been in continuous and uninterrupted, open and notorious, adverse and exclusive possession of a certain parcel of real property located in the Borough of Queens (as described in more detail below), and has paid the real estate taxes for the parcel, seeks a judicial determination that it is the record owner of that parcel. Alternatively, Plaintiff seeks, under Article 15 of the RPAPL, to quiet title of the ownership of the property in question arising from the existence of inconsistent property descriptions in the last two deeds in the chain of title. The property subject to this action is a certain parcel of land located in the County of Queens, City and State of New York and designated on the tax map of the City of New York as Block 411, Lot 56, being a triangular-shaped parcel of property of approximately 22.54 feet, by 13.98 feet, by 19.01 feet, or less than 200 square feet.  
12/29/11,1/5,12&19/2012,

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on 12/22/11, bearing Index Number NC-001191-11/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) ELZYATA (Last) THINLAY. My present name is (First) ELZYATA (Last) ERENDZHENOVA. My present address is 48-16 47th Street, Apt #3E, Woodside, NY 11377. My place of birth is Russia. My date of birth is January 01, 1992.  
1/5/12

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on 12/8/11, bearing Index Number NC-001147-11/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) MAGDALENA (Middle) LAUREN MARIE (Last) RAHN. My present name is (First) LAUREN (Middle) MARIE (Last) RAHN AKA MAGDALENA. My present address is 26-20 29TH Street, Astoria, NY 11102. My place of birth is Anaheim, CA. My date of birth is May 23, 1982.  
1/5/12

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**Ackerman Hails Obama's Recess Appointment Of Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Chief**

U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman (D-NY) today praised President Obama's recess appointment of Richard Cordray as head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB). The President announced the appointment today during Congress' holiday recess in order to overcome the unprecedented obstructionism of Senate Republicans who oppose the Bureau.

"The President has taken a giant step towards protecting Americans from unscrupulous lending practices used by banks and financial institutions," said Ackerman. "Today is truly a terrible day for predatory lenders and a great day for consumers. By making this recess appointment, the President has given this critical agency the ability to do the good work that is its mission for the American people."

"I commend the President for making this bold move, and for circumventing Republicans who shamefully held consumers hostage by using the confirmation process as a bargaining chip," added Ackerman. "After many months of delays by the GOP, consumers will finally have a cop on the beat to guard against the deceitful and unfair practices that have gouged consumers for far too long"

Ackerman is a Senior Member of the House Financial Services Committee.

**Tips For Making Your Home Senior Friendly**

(StatePoint) More seniors than ever before are living healthy independent lives well into their golden years. And a vast majority want to remain in their homes as long as possible, according to the National Aging in Place Council.

However, most houses were not built to adapt to our changing needs as we age.

"The good news is there are many simple ways to make a home more functional for your needs as you age," says Shannon Sims, marketing communications manager for Therma-Tru Corp.

By 2030, Americans 65 and older will make up 20 percent of the population. For those wishing to make aging-in-place easier, there are several things to consider.

**De-clutter Rooms**

Eliminate clutter that could get in your way, such as planters and small console tables.

Pay attention to area rugs and other tripping hazards. And if you have wood floors and carpeting, install transition strips where they adjoin.

**Evaluate Your Entryway**

To ideally accommodate a wheelchair, the doorway to your home should be at least 32-inches wide. Even without a wheelchair, a wider opening can be beneficial when entering and exiting.

There are different doors you can install to meet your mobility needs and personal style. For example, Therma-Tru offers 42-inch wide entry doors in its Classic-Craft Rustic Collection and Classic-Craft Oak Collection, to allow for easier access and for dramatic and elegant curb appeal.

Also consider how the door swings. A door that swings in may be easier to

operate than one swinging out. A remodeling contractor can help determine what your home can accommodate structurally, provide recommendations for styles and handle installation.

Tweak Bathrooms and Kitchens

Lowering countertops in your kitchen and bathroom can make using them easier. And consider grab-bars for showers and bathtubs. For their part, curbless showers and bathtubs with entrances that open can reduce the possibility of falling.

**Get a Grip**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 67 million adults will have doctor-diagnosed arthritis by the year 2030. For them, just turning a doorknob can be painfully difficult. Consider installing lever-style handles on exterior and interior doors. And choose ones with a multi-point locking system for ease of opening, such as those from Therma-Tru, which also provide greater security and stability.

"Making life easier can be as simple as choosing low-maintenance entry doors with easy-to-use levers instead of doorknobs. Or, to allow more fresh air and light into the home, a homeowner can request Vented Sidelites on their doors that swing open easily on hinges," says Sims.

**Upgrade Patio Doors**

Patio doors tend to receive more traffic than front doors. If your patio door is due for an upgrade, you can choose the classic elegance of a hinged door or the modern convenience of a sliding door. Both are available in two-, three- or four-panel configurations to ensure a wide opening.

Above all, when adapting your home, keep an eye on making your daily life easier.

**Teach Your Kids About Traffic Safety**

(Continued from page 5)

buckled snugly. Children should also ride on bike paths or sidewalks; never in the streets.

In low-light conditions, make sure that you and your children wear brightly colored clothing and reflective materials. Everyone's bike should be equipped with a white front light (which is required by law in most states) and a red rear light.

For help in teaching your children these lifesaving safety skills, check out NHTSA and Chuggington's Traffic Safety Program at [www.chuggington.com/safety](http://www.chuggington.com/safety), where you can find tips, activities and a safety pledge you and your child can take together.

By engaging your children in safety activities and games, you give them the knowledge and lifelong tools to help them stay safe.

**NY State Approved Defensive Driving Course Available Online**

The New York State Department of Motor Vehicles has APPROVED the New York Safety Program IPIRP course for all users. For further information please call 718-224-7385 or visit: [queensnysp.com](http://queensnysp.com)

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### Assemblymember Lancman Presents Awards To Students Documenting Holocaust Survivors' Stories



Assemblymember Rory Lancman (D-Hillcrest) presented awards today to students who have documented the stories of local Holocaust survivors, keeping their stories alive for future generations. The ceremony was held at the Kupferberg Holocaust Center at Queensborough Community College, where the students presented their work.

Each student participating in the Holocaust awareness program conducted an in-depth interview of a specific survivor. The work of documenting survivors' stories becomes more important every year as the community of Holocaust survivors continues to shrink.

"One of the most important things we can do to prevent another Holocaust is to make sure the stories of those who have survived are not forgotten," Assemblymember Lancman said.

According to its mission, the project goes beyond just preserving the stories of the Holocaust. It also provides students with lessons in dealing with hate crimes and civic responsibility.

"These students have done tremendous and important work," Assemblymember Lancman said.

"We have to ensure that first-hand accounts of the horrors of the Holocaust are documented today so they cannot be forgotten or contradicted in the future."

Dr. Arthur Flug, who has led the project for the past seven years at the Kupferberg Center, said that the work done by the students would become part of their generation's commitment to social justice.

"The interns here today are not simply students completing a program," Dr. Flug said. They are guarantors to the large community of survivors serviced by the Kupferberg Holocaust Center. It is through their efforts and the strong support we have received from Assemblyman Lancman that their stories will not be forgotten."

The following students received awards at the event:

- Richard Flores
- Jasmine Fludd
- Akeem Dixon
- Katherine Avalos
- Danielle Del Priore
- Sylvia Uzcha
- Mauricio Moreno
- David Coba
- Joshua Oladiti
- Yi Qiang Wang
- Antoinette Malcolmn

### Cub Scout Pack #368 Takes The Task Of Cleaning The Grounds Of The St. Paul's Church

This year of 2012, the Boy Scouts of America will be celebrating their 102nd Anniversary.

Pictured are Cub Scout Pack #368 as they prepared a task of cleaning the grounds of the St. Paul's Church and therefore, was informed that they did not have to wear their uniforms.

Remember that Scouting makes better adults!



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