



New York City Housing Authority

Journal

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December 2000/January 2001

NYCHA's Motown Magic!

Youth Chorus Returns To The Apollo Theater



WAS IT JUST MY IMAGINATION or was that Bret Sturgis of Melrose Houses, lead singer for The Temptations at the Apollo Theater on Friday night, December 8? (See page 9 for more pictures.)

By Eileen Elliott

For the second year in a row, Reverend Gregory Anton McCants and the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) Youth Chorus brought down the house — and not just any house — the world famous Apollo Theater in Harlem, with their soulful renditions of the Motown sounds of the 60's and 70's. On Friday, December 8 and Saturday, December 9, songs by old time greats like The Temptations, The Supremes, Smokey Robinson and The Miracles, and Marvin Gaye set the audience in motion with classics like, "Ooh Baby, Baby," "Please Mr. Postman," and "I Heard It Through The Grapevine."

The real Mary Wilson of The Supremes hosted the Friday night show and Stephanie Mills, who got her big break starring as Dorothy in the 1975 Broadway production of "The Wiz," hosted the Saturday night performance. Musical accompaniment was provided by the indomitable Apollo Band Ray Chew & The Crew.

The costumes were spectacular, the moves were magnificent,

and the singing was...sublime.

Reverend McCants called this year's show, "a tremendous success," which he attributed not only to the talent and hard work of the young residents but also to the energy and enthusiasm of the two hostesses.

"We have so many people who are so talented," Reverend McCants said. He explained that in order to give as many as possi-

ble the opportunity to participate, alternate chorus members were sometimes used for the two performances. Altogether, a total of about 80 of the 100 singers participated.

Among its many high-profile engagements, The NYCHA Youth Chorus, established in 1997, has performed at Disney World in Florida and at the 1999 and 2000 World Series Ticker Tape Parades in New York City, honoring the New York Yankees. The Chorus is open, by audition, to Housing Authority residents between the ages of 12 and 21.

Both shows culminated in a joyful grand finale with all of the acts on stage singing, "Someday, We'll Be Together."

"Don't believe what you read in the papers," Reverend McCants told the audience. "Support our young people." To find out how you can join, turn to page 9.



Inside:

- Accessible Housing
 - Recipe Contest Rules
 - Make A Difference Day
 - Resident Art Show
- And More...

ATTENTION ALL RESIDENTS!

NYCHA's NEW RENT PAYMENT POLICY

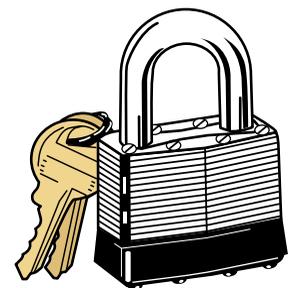
NYCHA is implementing a new procedure to improve the way that rent payments are processed. A single Post Office address, or LOCK-BOX, has been established so that rent payments from all NYCHA residents may be processed centrally.

- NYCHA tenants will receive a "Monthly Billing Statement" providing a listing of all payments they made and any other changes made to their account. It will also detail how much is owed and the amount that is due in the coming month. The Monthly Billing Statement contains a tear-off coupon called the "Remittance Slip" which is to be mailed with payment in the enclosed envelope, very much like credit card or cable TV bills are paid.

- As all payments will be mailed to the new address, the Bookkeeping Offices in each development will be closed. Staff at the Management Office will continue to answer questions you have regarding your account.

- Please mail your check or money order and the Remittance Slip in the enclosed envelope. The mailing address will automatically show in the envelope window. To replace your Remittance Slip or to receive an extra Remittance Slip for a second payment, please contact your Housing Assistant for the new slip.

- If your payments are sent directly to NYCHA by the Human Resources Administration, you need only to review the Monthly Billing Statement to be sure that last month's payment was received and that no other charges are due. If additional monies are due, please mail your payment with the Remittance Slip in the enclosed envelope.



- NYCHA has also established "authorized" payment centers where you may make cash payments "in person" and receive an immediate receipt. These centers are located throughout New York City. See your Housing Assistant for a complete list.

THE LOCKBOX INITIATIVE WILL BEGIN FOR RESIDENTS LIVING IN STATEN ISLAND DEVELOPMENTS IN FEBRUARY 2001, AND AFTER REVIEW, WILL MOVE TO SUCCESSIVE BOROUGHs THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Meetings will be held with residents at each development to explain the process and answer questions.

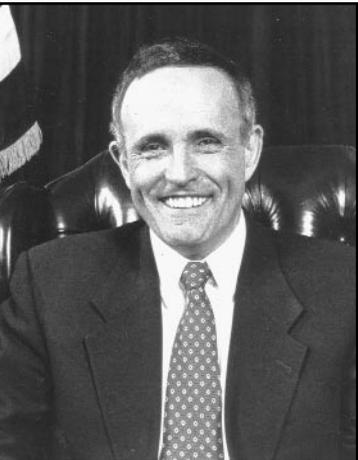
Notices will be placed in the Management Office and in building lobbies with the start date for each development.

Have A Safe and Happy New Year!

Message From The Mayor

**You Supply the Love,
We'll Supply the Health Insurance**

Last June, I announced *HealthStat*, a comprehensive, Citywide Initiative to provide uninsured New Yorkers with access to existing health insurance programs. Now you may be noticing our new *HealthStat* advertising campaign with the slogan, "You Supply the Love, We'll Supply the Health Insurance," which is appearing in subways, on buses and bus shelters, as well as in newspapers and on the radio.



The ads promote a new automated touch-tone phone line — **1-888-NYC-6116** — that you can call to find out if you and your children are eligible for free or low-cost health coverage through Medicaid and Child Health Plus. If you or your

children appear to be eligible for health coverage, the phone line will refer you to an agency in your community that will help you complete the application process.

If you live in one of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) 346 developments, chances are you won't have to go too far. *HealthStat* stations can be found in 155 NYCHA management offices and at over 400 community center facilities throughout the City, including Head Start Centers, day care and senior centers.

You can call the automated phone line 24-hours-a-day, seven days a week, or, if you want to speak directly with an English or Spanish-speaking counselor, you can call Monday through Friday, 8AM to 8PM. Starting this year, the phone line will be available in Russian, Haitian Creole, and Chinese as well.

You may be surprised. Many families are eligible for coverage and don't know it — even working families. Additionally, children are eligible for health insurance regardless of their immigration status. Even undocumented children are eligible. This is a very vulnerable group that it is particularly important to enroll.

A City employee may already have approached you about children's health insurance. Over 5,000 City employees and staff of community organizations have been trained to reach out to families and refer them to places where they can get health coverage. NYCHA alone has recruited and trained approximately 300 employees to work on this initiative, and as of December 2000, NYCHA had enrolled 34 families and referred another 6,000 to *HealthStat* centers.

The \$2 million ad campaign is sponsored by the City and the Healthcare Education Project, a partnership of 1199/SEIU and the Greater New York Hospital Association. The ads appear in English and Spanish.

Expanding access to health insurance is one of the most important ways the City can improve the lives of New Yorkers. Approximately 1.5 million low-income New Yorkers lack health care coverage. Of those, at least 900,000 — of whom one-third are children and two-thirds are working adults — are eligible for free or low-cost health coverage through existing federal and state health care plans. The initial focus of *HealthStat* is to enroll over 325,000 in New York City who are uninsured but qualify for free or low-cost coverage.

It is important for children to see a doctor even when they are not sick. Youngsters who see a doctor regularly are more likely to get their immunizations on time and get the other care they need to grow up healthy, including hearing and eye exams. In contrast, children without access to regular health care are 25% more likely to miss school.

The goal of this awareness campaign is to continue to expand health insurance to all New York families. We believe that *HealthStat* will be critical in helping us make sure that our City's children and their parents receive the insurance and the quality care they deserve.

Rudy Giuliani

**LEADING THE WORLD IN ACCESSIBLE HOUSING
NYCHA and the Voluntary Compliance Agreement**

By Eileen Elliott

The Year 2001 brings more opportunities than ever for New Yorkers with mobility impairments and other physical disabilities to live in decent, safe, and *fully accessible*, affordable housing. *Why?* Because the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) continues to lead the world in converting and making fully accessible conventional housing units, and in some cases, even exceeds Uniform Federal Accessibility Standard requirements.

In 1996, NYCHA signed the Voluntary Compliance Agreement (VCA) with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which mandates that 5% of our total housing stock, or 9,100 apartments, be fully converted and made fully accessible. Of those 9,100 apartments, NYCHA has agreed to convert 4,944 units at the rate of 600 per year.

No easy task.

But now, five years and 5,734 apartments later, the Housing Authority is well ahead of schedule, and if estimates are accurate, an additional 4,000 converted apartments should become available over the course of the next several years.

Of these fully converted apartments, 5,036 are now occupied; 1,150 through transfers within NYCHA. In the year 2000 alone, 557 fully converted apartments were rented, and 237 of these were transfers within NYCHA.

The VCA governs NYCHA's compliance with *Section 504* of the *1973 Rehabilitation Act* (and related federal law) which states that, "no otherwise qualified individual with a disability shall, solely by reason of his or her disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."

To meet the requirements of accessibility, a NYCHA resident with a mobility impairment or other physical disability must be able to reach his or her apartment from the street without any obstruction. Often this requires the renovation of building entrances and elevators. To date, entrances to over 1,450 buildings have been made barrier-free and NYCHA is in the process of rehabilitating, or contracting to rehabilitate another 500. In addition, over 347 elevators at 45 developments have been rehabilitated and made accessible or provided with accessibility features. Elevator rehabilitation activities are currently in progress at 50 developments for 822 cars.

The VCA also requires NYCHA to make "reasonable accommodations" for individuals with mobility impairments or other physical disabilities. Reasonable

accommodations are non-structural or partial modifications to apartments, or changes in policies, procedures, or practices so that all residents, regardless of any physical disabilities, have the same opportunities to participate in and benefit from housing programs.

Partial modifications include widened doorways, lowered kitchen cabinets and counters, the installation of bathroom grab bars, roll-in showers, lever handles for faucets and apartment doors, raised or lowered electrical outlets, raised or lowered toilet seats and enhanced audio/visual alarms. So far, NYCHA has satisfied over 8,200 requests from residents for such modifications, 1,200 of these within the year 2000 alone.

And to ensure that non-housing programs offered in NYCHA community centers, senior centers, training and educational facilities, and day care centers are accessible to persons with physical disabilities, NYCHA's Community Center Program includes the renovation and modification of existing community facilities as well as the construction of entirely new fully accessible facilities. Thirty-seven community centers and senior centers have recently been renovated and

expanded to meet the needs of public housing residents. Another 21 centers are currently under renovation and an additional 30 are slated for renovation over the next several years.

How You Can Benefit

If you have a disability that prevents you from getting full use and enjoyment of your apartment or any other Authority facility or program and you do not wish to move from your apartment, you may request a reasonable accommodation by completing the form in your annual recertification package or by speaking with a housing assistant. On those rare occasions when the modification cannot be accomplished, your management office will work with you to find an alternative solution. If you have a mobility impairment and would like to transfer to a fully converted apartment, call or visit your Management Office and fill out a Tenant Request for Transfer Form.

If you have any questions, please contact your housing assistant or management office, or call the Department of Equal Opportunity at (212) 306-4652 or TDD (212) 306-4445.

**Visit the Housing Authority's
Web site:
nyc.gov/nycha**

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Journal

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in New York City

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Message From The Chairman

"2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY"

HAPPY NEW YEAR!! Back in 1968 when I saw Stanley Kubrick's movie, "2001: A Space Odyssey", I thought that it was a truly fanciful, far-fetched science fiction movie. Today, as I look back on the last 33 years, I recognize that we have advanced so much farther than one would have thought possible, and yet in many respects we have barely begun to make progress. I have had the



good fortune to be associated with NYCHA for a total of four years, and during that time I have attempted to pursue a singular goal: the creation of an atmosphere within which both staff and residents can reach their full potential. That sounds very ambitious, and quite frankly, is probably slightly beyond what will exist when I leave this position. However, what will not change is my absolute belief that just as science fiction can become today's reality, there is always room for improvement. I believe our staff can deliver services more efficiently, more professionally, and with greater compassion than has been achieved to date. Lest someone think I am being critical, let me go on record recognizing the absolute dedication and hard work now provided by our staff. I continue to be amazed at how hard they work to ensure that the buildings and equipment they are responsible for meet your expectations. To be sure, there are occasional lapses and things don't always go perfectly, but at all times dedication to NYCHA and the determination to succeed are evident.

I hope that as changes occur in the way our staff operates, that you, our residents, will increasingly recognize that you too have a significant role in how well this organization operates. I have said in the past that your involvement is critical to our success. We need you to provide feedback as we plan for the future. We need more of you to become active in your resident associations, thereby increasing and strengthening the lines of communication between NYCHA and our residents. We need you to help us maintain your homes. You need to speak out when any of your neighbors do things that have a negative impact on your home. We need you to join with us when we collectively disagree with decisions made by elected officials who seem unwilling or unable to be responsive to your stated wishes. And finally, we need you to support our youth so they will recognize that choices made today will have a lasting effect on their lives.

We have come a long way in the last 66 years, but we cannot become complacent thinking that nothing more can be done. There is much to be proud of and much yet to be done. As we enter this first year of the new millennium, let us embark on our own odyssey, a journey that will lead us to bigger and better opportunities in the years to come. **No this is not another bit of science fiction, this is your life and you can help shape the reality that it can become. Join with us as we embark on our own 2001: A NYCHA Odyssey.**

John G. Martinez

Thirty-two More EDSS Graduates Breaking The Digital Divide

*J*ournal readers may remember the story of Washington Heights Rehab resident Germania Urena. Unable to complete her college education, at the age of 33 this mother of two was working full time as a bus dispatcher when she signed up for NYCHA's Department of Economic Development and Supportive Services' (EDSS) Computer Literacy Course. Classes, taught by the Urban Technology Center (UTC), were held at the conveniently located Drew Hamilton Houses in Upper Manhattan.

By the time Ms. Urena had finished, she had a new job as a lab assistant with the UTC at a salary of \$20,000 a year. She went on to complete the EDSS Computer Repair Program last June, and now, just over a year since graduating from the Literacy Course, she has yet another new job. This time with an Internet company, C.D. Now, with a more prestigious title, and a higher salary.

Though hers may be the most striking, it is by no means the only success story reported by EDSS graduates — not by a long shot. And on a dark and brisk December 4 evening, at the Manhattanville Community Center in Harlem, another 32 NYCHA residents took that first step across the "digital divide" at the fourth EDSS Computer Repair Graduation Ceremony.

"These 32 graduates have learned the language of the 21st Century," said EDSS Program Coordinator Teddi Rosenberg. "We honor them because they were offered an opportunity and were able to embrace it with their whole beings."

UTC Executive Director Patricia Bransford called NYCHA and the NYCHA staff who work on this pilot program, "government at its best." She thanked her own staff for giving of themselves "unconditionally," and made special mention of three other NYCHA residents who were hired by the UTC after their graduations from previous cycles—James Merritts, Classina Osborne, and Robert Hennix—saying they were among her best workers.

Make no mistake; the course is intense. It requires the completion of 400 hours in class, offered in a 14-week daytime or a 20-week evening program. Along with the technical know-how, the course also teaches the life and office

(Continued on Page 4)



From Deborah's Diary

By Deborah Williams

Dazzling The Airwaves Turn your dial to WNYC-AM radio on Sunday nights between 6 and 8 and you will be listening to the New York Kids program, co-hosted by 11-year-old Brittany Walker of Bayview Houses in Brooklyn. Brittany dazzles the airwaves as she speaks with listeners in the tristate area on teen issues and subs as Miss DJ—taking requests for and playing the most popular sounds on the charts today. Brittany is one of two teens chosen to co-host the popular children's radio program along with WNYC-AM regular hosts, Frank Perez and Florence Broe.

The teens' appearance on New York Kids was made possible through the efforts of Gene Curcio, a science teacher at John Wilson Intermediate School 211, District 18's School of Telecommunications and Mass Media, whose students for the past four years have been chosen to host the radio program.

"I find that this is a very popular activity that all of my students enjoy participating in. Moreover, the kids develop their reading, writing, speaking and research skills," said Mr. Curcio.

"Everyone at John Wilson looks forward to hearing them on the program," said a proud Iris Crystal, Interim Acting Principal for the school. Brittany's mom, Donna Walker, was excited and proud when she contacted *The Journal*, saying she wanted to share her good news with all of the residents at NYCHA. **Well Brittany, I am equally excited and wish to extend my congratulations to you! I look forward to tuning into your broadcast and I wish you all the best!**

A Sports Extra You may recall in the November edition of *The Journal* reading an article about Hector Zayas and Leonard Nieves, residents of Betances Houses in the Bronx, who won the Regional Boxing Competition at Lake Placid. Well, on November 2, 2000, the Junior Metro Tournament was held at Gleason's Gym in Brooklyn, and it shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that Hector and Lenny won their title bouts. In addition, Betances has more to be proud of. Michael Martinez, 13 years old, took the 851B Division championship title. **Ouch! You really put the sting on the competition. Anyway, keep up the good work. You guys did great!**

Jobs Jobs Jobs and more Jobs Rain and snow didn't stop NYCHA residents from attending a Job Fair held on December 8, 2000 at the Manhattanville Community Center. Residents came from all five boroughs eager to fill out applications and complete the pre-screening process. According to Gail Nobles, resident of Pelham Parkway Houses in the Bronx, "Coca-Cola was excellent. Their pre-screening was thorough and they seemed to really care about the residents and want to hire us. I give Coca-Cola two thumbs up and an A+ for effort. And they fed us too!"

Lisa Lloyd, a resident of Forest Hill Houses in Queens, saw the ad in *The NYCHA Journal*. "I missed a previous Job Fair and didn't want to miss this one," she said. "I am hopeful that I will find employment."

Through the combined efforts of NYCHA's Department of Economic and Business Initiatives, Coca-Cola and CulinArt, the Job Fair was a big success. Positions at Coca-Cola were available as Account Managers, Merchandisers, and Lead Clerks. CulinArt had openings for cashiers, porters, porter/maintenance, line servers, deli attendants, grill cooks, salad bar attendants, prep cooks, and catering attendants. **I'd like to congratulate the sponsors of the Job Fair and all of the residents who participated. Good luck! I want the residents to know that we here at NYCHA are committed to improving the lives of our residents.**

Do you have news to share with your NYCHA neighbors? If you do, drop me a line at: "Deb's Diary/The NYCHA Journal/250 Broadway, 12th Floor/New York, New York 10007. Or, give me a call at (212) 306-4752. I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

BETTER LIVING AT NYCHA



Remember...
NEVER store flammable or combustible liquids such as gasoline or paint thinners in your apartment.

The NYCHA "Not Wanted" List

In this issue we continue our editorial policy of publishing the names of individuals who have been permanently excluded from our public housing developments. Listing the proscribed persons is part of the effort to keep residents informed of NYCHA's ongoing efforts to improve the quality of life for all New Yorkers in public housing and to allow the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on October 20 and 27, November 10 and 17, and December 1 and 8, 1999. **REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE INDIVIDUALS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LISTING IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of October 20, 1999

- Raheem Mack Case 1957/99 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 1390 Fifth Avenue, King Towers, New York.
- Donald Myrick Case 4255/99 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 888 Park Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of October 27, 1999

- Terrence Latta Case 4346/99 formerly associated with the third floor of 212 Broad Street, Stapleton Houses, Staten Island.
- Antoine Allen Case 4341/99 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 1851 Third Avenue, Washington/Lexington Houses, New York.
- Shannon Harris Case 4345/99 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of 70 East 115th Street, Taft Houses, New York.
- Ramon Ramos Case 4355/99 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 545 East 146th Street, Betances Houses, the Bronx.
- Nayquan Brown Case 4356/99 formerly associated with the first floor of 413 Baltic Street, Gowanous Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of November 10, 1999

- Calvin Hill Case 457/96 formerly associated with the twenty-eighth floor of 3125 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.
- Joseph Rivera Case 4527/99 formerly associated with the fifth floor of the Mckinley Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of November 17, 1999

- Edgar Rivera Case 1948/95 formerly associated with the first floor of 3112 Bayview Avenue, Gravesend Houses, Brooklyn.
- Lekah Tabor Case 4599/99 formerly associated with the third floor of 88 Monument Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.
- Lydia Pilgrim Case 4601/99 formerly associated with the third floor of 300 Sutter Avenue, Brownsville Houses, Brooklyn.
- Harry Pagan Case 4619/99 formerly associated with the nineteenth floor of 3125 Park Avenue, Morrisania Air Rights Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of December 1, 1999

- Patrick Sims Case 4818/99 formerly associated with the first floor of 456 Richmond Terrace, Richmond Terrace Houses, Staten Island.

Prohibited as of December 8, 1999

- Jose Diaz Case 4856/99 formerly associated with the second floor of 2352 West 8th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

FROM THE CHIEF'S CORNER

Join Your Local PSA Community Council

Another year is upon us and I hope your holidays were enjoyable and safe. This year brings new goals and the improvement of existing ones. One of the Housing Bureau's goals will be to continue to concentrate on our involvement with the community. An important component of this involvement will be to reach out to New York City Housing Authority residents and encourage them to become a part of their local Police Service Area Community Councils.

Police Service Area Community Councils are an excellent example of the community and the police working together for the betterment of the community. There is one Council for each Police Service Area and Precinct throughout the city. The Councils are open to all members of the public. The Council provides a direct contact with Police Service Area Commanding Officers and increases police officers' awareness of the community's needs.

Objectives And Purposes Of PSA Community Councils

- To maintain direct contact between the Police Service Area Commanding Officer and the community.
- To encourage community involvement in public safety issues and quality of life conditions.
- To promote awareness of law enforcement efforts.
- To enhance community relations between the local police and the people they serve.
- To initiate programs to deal with the needs and interests of each community.

Each Police Service Area has an existing Council, which meets every month. For information on location and time, please contact your local Police Service Area.

COMMAND

- Police Service Area #1
- Police Service Area #2
- Police Service Area #3
- Police Service Area #4
- Police Service Area #5
- Police Service Area #6
- Police Service Area #7
- Police Service Area #8
- Police Service Area #9

TELEPHONE

- 718-265-7313
- 718-922-8033
- 718-386-4101
- 212-375-9370
- 212-860-3182
- 212-694-7723
- 718-292-2042
- 718-409-1708
- 718-969-9396

MONTHLY MEETING

- Every 3rd Thursday
- Every 3rd Tuesday
- Every 1st Wednesday
- Every 3rd Monday
- Every 4th Tuesday
- Every 2nd Wednesday
- Every 2nd Thursday
- Every 4th Monday
- Every 3rd Wednesday

With the help of concerned residents we can accomplish even more than we did last year. You, the residents, are the key to this in your community. Let's start the New Year with more involvement. Join your local Police Service Area Community Council today.

EDSS Graduation (Continued from Page 3)

skills that are necessary for a successful career.

Class Speaker Michael Watson told the group that the journey through the course was "long and arduous for many of us here," and that he plans to be a "life-learner," with the hope of some day becoming a computer engineer.

NYCHA Chairman John G. Martinez congratulated the group on their accomplishment, calling it a major step in their lives. "You will discover that education is a

lifelong venture," he said. "The journey is made easier by reaching out and helping others and letting them help you."

Also present were NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Kalman Finkel, DEBI Director Francis Sanicola, and EDSS Social Worker Eleanor Lowe, who was, once again, beaming with pride.

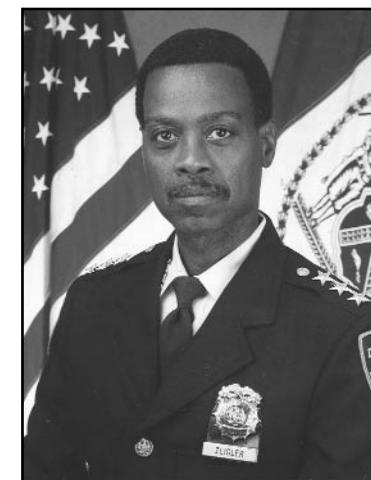
Before the ceremony's conclusion, a special gift certificate was presented to graduate Karen

Baker. While enrolled in the course and working at a telecommunications company, Ms. Baker approached the right person at her job, said the right things, and now has a new job in the computer technology field — a job that came with a new title, and a big raise. The gift certificate was for her first business suit.

If you are a NYCHA resident who lives in Upper Manhattan and are interested in learning more about EDSS programs, please call Eleanor Lowe at (212) 694-4090.



COMPUTER REPAIR GRADUATES The 32 graduates are (not in order) Cycle E: Wilmarie Andino, Selisa Bethea, Hector Bonilla, Nikkya Coffee, Gabriel Corchado, Tomas Jorge Cruz, Guetty Dominique, Darnell Ellis, Erasmo Garcia, Christopher Gill, Ella Harvell, David Hess, Olivia Jeffrey, Sheridan Lilly, Ibrahim Ousman, Carmen Parker, Reginald Roberson, Ramon Santana, Ursilyn Swindell (Cycle F) Karen Baker, Donald Bell, Ernest Bethune, Evelyn Cruz, Mae Lin Flores, John Gadson, Patricia Grissom, Gregory Heyward, Rickie Jaysura, Derek Johnson, Michael Ortiz, Janet Rivera, Michael Watson and Iantha Whitehead. Also shown here are NYCHA Chairman John G. Martinez, Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member Kalman Finkel, DEBI Director Francis Sanicola and UTC Executive Director Patricia Bransford.



Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler

Places to Apply for Jobs!

The Civil Service Chief-Leader provides valuable information on where to apply for and pick up employment/examination applications. Using their material as well as information from the NYC Green Book, here is a list of some important places where examination and/or job applications may be obtained. We also list phone numbers where you can obtain further details about exams, vacancies and the application process. **Please note the new address for mailing requests for City applications, in bold below.**

City: In person 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, Department of Citywide Administrative Services, Application Section, 18 Washington St., (212) 487-JOBS. **Mail requests for applications must be received at DCAS Application Section, 1 Centre Street, 14th Floor, New York, NY 10007,** with self-addressed, stamped, business-size envelope, no later than seven days before the filing deadline. Applications must be returned by mail postmarked on or before the filing deadline. Filing fees range from \$30 to \$80, and are payable by money order only.

CUNY: At the personnel office of any CUNY college, unless otherwise specified in the exam announcement. The filing fees range from \$13 to \$30.

State: In person, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, New York State Civil Service Department Community Outreach Center, 163 West 125th St., Manhattan, (212) 961-4326 as well as at Labor Department Community Service Centers. Mail requests to Examination Information, New York State Civil Service Department, Building 1, State Office Building Campus, Albany, N.Y. 12239, (518) 457-6216. The filing fees range from \$15 to \$35.

Federal: To inquire about vacancies and where to apply, contact the Office of Personnel Management, 600 Arch St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19106, (215) 861-3070. Information also is available at 26 Federal Plaza in Manhattan.

Postal Service: Applications for exams in Manhattan or The Bronx may be obtained, only when tests have been ordered, at the Main Post Office, 380 West 33rd St., (212) 330-2851. For exams in Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island, please contact the Post Office's Triborough District Annex, located at 78-02 Liberty Ave., Queens, (718) 529-7000.

Good luck, keep on persevering and keep on using this paper as an aid to finding a job!

STATE EXAMS OPEN CONTINUOUSLY

**20-531
Dental Hygienist
\$26,968**

**20-349
Emergency Medical Technician
\$25,282**

**20-150
Food Inspector I
\$28,738**

**20-487
Mental Health Therapy Aide Trainee
\$21,482**

**20-470
Nurse I
\$28,738**

**20-336/20-383-384
Recreation Therapist (Art)
\$28,738**



The New York City Housing Authority Department of Community Operations Citywide Program

2001 Citywide Boys and Girls Basketball Leagues

These leagues are open to boys and girls who reside in NYCHA developments

Only 12 players to a team
(3 non-residents allowed within each team)

Girls Ages

Novice - 13 and under
Juniors - 15 and under
Seniors - 18 and under

Boys Ages

Future - 11 and under
Bantams - 13 and under
Juniors - 15 and under
Seniors - 18 and under

Registration forms can be obtained at:
Department of Community Operations
Citywide Programs 90 Church Street - 5th Floor
New York, NY 10007
Or Your Local Community Center

TOURNAMENT WILL START ON FEBRUARY 3, 2001

For Further Information Contact
Cornell Hampton or
Kevin McMikle, Sr.
Citywide Programs
(212) 306-4178 or 4179

Note:
You MUST ATTEND
ONE of the coaches
meetings on
January 18 or 22 at
90 Church Street,
5th Floor
7:00 PM



If you do not attend one of the coaches meetings, your team will not be entered into the tournament.

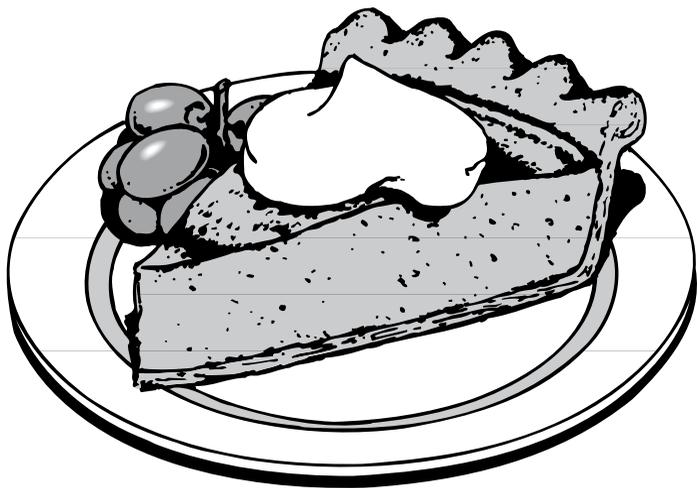
Did You Know...

Did you know that President-elect George W. Bush has named a new Secretary for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)? His name is Mel Martinez and he is a former Chairman of the Orlando, Florida Housing Authority. He holds bachelor's and law degrees from Florida State University and has served as the Chairman of Orange County, Florida, since 1998. Martinez fled Cuba in 1962 at the age of 15 and grew up in a foster home. He replaces Andrew Cuomo.

Did you know that Mary Wilson of the Supremes (See "NYCHA's Motown Magic," page 1) grew up in public housing on Detroit's Lower East Side – the Brewster Project? Under the direction of Motown creator Berry Gordy, and together with Flo Ballard and Diana Ross, Ms. Wilson formed what was to become one of the most famous "girl groups" of all time.

Did you know that Microsoft Corporation Chairman Bill Gates held a press conference at the Manhattanville Community Center on December 4, 2000 to announce that his company is funding a \$100 million project called Club Tech designed to bring technology access and programs to more than 3.3 million underserved children and teens? Technology centers will be set up at every Boys and Girls Club across the country over the next five years.

Recipe Contest Rules



The New York City Housing Authority is sponsoring the first ever NYCHA recipe contest. Send your favorite original recipe in any one of the following categories:

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Appetizer, soup, or salad | 6. Fish main dish |
| 2. Side dish | 7. Vegetarian main dish |
| 3. Pasta main dish | 8. Dessert |
| 4. Poultry main dish | 9. Baked goods |
| 5. Meat main dish | 10. Desserts by young adults |

All NYCHA employees, residents, and retirees are eligible to enter the contest. Young residents and children of employees who are 13 to 18 years of age may enter a dessert recipe.

To enter a recipe, print or type at the top of an 8 1/2 X 11 inch paper your name, complete address (if you are a resident, please include your development) and phone number. Contestants submitting an entry in the "Desserts by young adults" category should indicate their age.

On the same page, print or type your recipe including its name, number of servings, list of ingredients with specific quantities in order of use, and complete directions including baking/cooking time and temperature. Recipes should serve 4 to 6 people. Please indicate if the recipe meets any dietary restrictions. If it is more than one page, make sure you put your name on every page.

Entries must be an original recipe and not previously published. (You may submit your own recipe if it was printed in the NYCHA Employee Bulletin). By submitting any recipe you warrant that, to the best of your knowledge, it is your original work or a variation of an existing recipe that features four or more significant changes.

Entries must be received by March 2, 2001. Mail entries to NYCHA Recipe Contest, c/o Pat Gonzalez, Special Events Coordinator, Department of Public and Community Relations, 250 Broadway, 10th floor, New York, NY 10007. No household may submit more than three entries.

The judges will select up to 15 of the best recipes in each of the categories listed above. Winners will be notified in March 2001. Recipes will be judged on their simplicity in the following categories: number and type of ingredients (40%), ease of preparation (25%), preparation time (20%) and creativity (15%). All decisions of the judges will be final.

Contest winners will be recognized with gifts, honored at a ceremony and will have their recipes published in a NYCHA Cookbook. All entries become the property of NYCHA; no recipes will be returned. NYCHA will have the right to publish or advertise the recipe and the name of the contestant without added compensation unless prohibited by law.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY — OCTOBER 28, 2000

By Deanna Nass
Department of Community Operations

The New York City Housing Authority, through its Department of Community Operations, is pleased to announce its fourth consecutive year of participation in the national, "Make A Difference Day," an exemplary program of volunteerism co-sponsored by USA Weekend and the Points of Light Foundation. Twice recognized as one of ten national winners for its community service in New York City's five boroughs — in 1997 and 1998 — NYCHA staff and residents helped Make A Difference again this year on Saturday, October 28. Over 600 residents and staff participated in 24 volunteer projects in NYCHA developments throughout the city.

At Moore, Eastchester Gardens, Highbridge Gardens, Marble Hill, University Avenue Consolidated and Claremont Consolidated in the Bronx, the attention was focused on seniors living in NYCHA developments and nearby nursing homes. Staff and residents (including children and teens) prepared and served meals, assisted with everyday chores, played games (especially bingo), performed skits, recited poetry, sang, danced and engaged in intergenerational dialogues.

On a more educational note, the children of McKinley Houses in the Bronx participated in cooking and drama classes, while those from Betances Houses were treated to a day of activities that included a brief science class, a field trip to the beach to gather "specimens" and a computer lab, all with lunch and snacks included.

In Brooklyn, residents and staff from Kingsborough Houses donated food and prepared a breakfast for the seniors in the development and surrounding community. Residents and staff from Lafayette Gardens and Atlantic Terminal each organized a



OFFICE FOR THE AGING staff kept the residents of Henry B. Hucles Nursing Home in Brooklyn entertained with a variety show.

canned food drive, and in the case of the latter, a clothing drive as well, on behalf of the seniors and the needy living in the surrounding communities.

Back by popular demand were the "Marvelous Makeovers for Seniors" at Van Dyke Houses. This program was sparked by "Make A Difference Day" three years ago and has been re-implemented every year. This year, each client was treated to a continental breakfast and soft music prior to her makeover session. The makeover itself consisted of hairstyling — shampooing, conditioning, curling, pressing, and blowdrying, as the client requested. Plans for next year's Marvelous Makeovers include manicures.

Brooklyn's volunteers also addressed themselves to the needs of hospital patients with a special emphasis on patients who don't receive many visitors. Members of the NYCHA Y2K Youth Council of Brooklyn South visited patients at Coney Island Hospital and children from Williamsburg Houses prepared paintings that were distributed to the patients of nearby Woodhull Hospital.



MARVELOUS MAKEOVERS The Staff of Van Dyke Houses in Brooklyn gave the seniors who reside there new "do's" on Make A Difference Day, October 28.

Among the variety of good deeds performed by volunteers in Manhattan, Manhattanville Houses residents recited poetry and distributed juice and cookies inside the Manhattan Northern Nursing Home. At Baruch Houses children volunteers were asked to perform a good deed towards a teacher, friend or relative, and then write about it and present it for discussion at a gathering of their peers held at their community center.

Several developments in Queens implemented cleanup campaigns to improve the appearance of their developments' grounds. These included South Jamaica, Bland and Hammel Houses. Many of these developments, along with Redfern, Woodside and Baisley Park, took up food and clothing drives on behalf of the needy living in their communities, with Baisley Park utilizing the services of City Harvest for distribution.

Staten Island made its contribution to "Make A Difference Day" when the Girl Scout Troop of West Brighton sang for the residents of the Lily Pond Nursing Home and volunteered additional time to provide them with various kinds of assistance.

Last, but certainly not least, was the contribution made by staff and volunteers of the Office of Senior Services, a division of the Department of Community Operations that draws upon the talents of seniors citywide. This cadre, in a variety show presented to the elderly residents of the Bishop Henry B. Hucles Nursing Home, sang Gospel selections, recited poetry, and performed a baseball comedy skit. Additionally, hats, bags, and shirts were distributed to the residents, who appeared to be truly overwhelmed by these acts of kindness.

AVOID PUSH-IN ROBBERIES!!

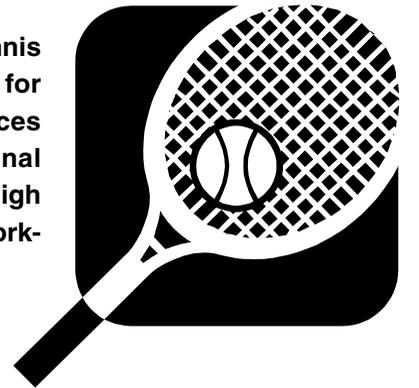
Everyone who works for the Housing Authority has an ID card like the one below. If someone asks to enter your apartment claiming to be on official NYCHA business, ASK TO SEE THEIR ID. If they don't have one:

- DON'T LET THEM IN
- ALERT YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE



Tennis and Education Anyone?

NYCHA has contracted with the New York Junior Tennis League (NYJTL) to provide educational guidance for NYCHA residents through the Educational Services Department of NYJTL. You can receive personal assistance, as well as attend workshops, on both the high school and college selection process. Some of the workshops include:



- Career Workshops
- SAT prep classes
- How to select a high school or college
- How to have a successful educational career
- NCAA regulations

If interested, you will be placed on a mailing list used solely by NYJTL, which will provide you with summer opportunity information, as well as scholarship information, as they become available. All of the services and workshops will be free of charge, we just ask that you become a member of the NYJTL. By becoming a member of NYJTL, you will also have access to free tennis lessons. Moreover, NYJTL membership is free of charge.

For more information, please call any member of Educational Services at (718) 786-7110. The contact information for each respective staff member is listed below:

André Coombs
Administrative Assistant
X62 acoombs@sasfny.org

Chelsea Lavington
Director
x63 clavington@nyjtl.com

John Odom
Director of Recruitment
X28

Marva Phillips
Associate Director
X66

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NYCHA Resident Art Show 2000

By Allan Leicht



THE YOUNGEST ARTIST Jenelle Forrester, five-years-old, of Queensbridge North Houses, was a Citywide winner for her picture of "My Family." Mommy and Daddy were close by to share the joy.



THE OLDEST ARTIST Bertha Halozam, of Project Find Senior Center, Clinton Houses, painted her birth date, 1889, in her painting of the "Statue of Liberty." Whether or not Ms. Halozam's arithmetic is as creative as her art, she is nevertheless the oldest Citywide winner.



WHAT EVERY ARTIST NEEDS Victor Garcia of Woodside Houses was awarded a box of new art supplies along with his medal, as were all the winners. The young Mr. Garcia was cited for his pencil drawing entitled, "Fashion 2000," in the 13-15 year old age group.

Art can change lives. This was the consensus at the Year 2000 Resident Art Show on December 5 as 43 Citywide winners were presented with their awards. The Resident Art Show has outgrown all previous exhibition sites but rather than expand to a larger location, the Department of Community Operations and the Coordinators of the Visual Arts Program chose to spotlight this ceremony at NYCHA headquarters at 90 Church Street in Manhattan, with plans to tour the paintings, drawings and sculpture all around town in the months to come.

Wylie R. Lucero, who is an artist, educator and along with Josephine Gonzalez and Christopher Wade Robinson, a coordinator of the program, described how the art program builds on itself. "There are kids who participate for ten years," said Mr. Lucero. "The eight-year-olds teach the six-year-olds — and now this year the weekly workshops turned out over 55,000 pieces of art."

Quantity says a lot about the power of the program, but quantity alone does not make for an inspiring exhibition. It was the quality of the work that filled teachers, NYCHA executives and staff, participants and spectators with pride. From the youngest artist, five-year-old Jenelle Forrester of Queensbridge North Houses, to the oldest, Bertha Halozam, who is just under or just over 100 years old, the work was world class.

Cheryl Solomon, one of the art consultants who teaches the workshops, seemed to be as fulfilled by the work of her students as by her own work. Javier and Jeziel Martinez, brothers with whom Ms. Solomon worked at Boston Secor Houses, were both awarded prizes in the 9-12 age category. "It was my privilege to work with these young people," said Ms. Solomon.

Ms. Gonzalez also commented on the Martinez brothers, introducing them to the capacity audience as examples of young artists who came into the program because of the persistence of their parents rather than through the workshop process.

"They came to the Harborview Visual Arts Center and were turned away the first time but came back. It was then that they were accepted and joined their workshop at Boston Secor Houses in the Bronx." And there they were, Citywide winners.

Another of the consultants, Sergio Klafke, originally from Brazil, has also bonded with his young artists. "We went to the Museum of Natural History and they based their work on what they saw there," he said, tenderly turning a mobile sculpture. Mr. Klafke combines painting and sculpture with poetry in his

workshops at the South Jamaica, Ravenswood and Wagner Community Centers. Like every one of the art consultants and coordinators, Mr. Klafke is himself an accomplished working artist.

As is Tesfaye Tessema, painter, sculptor and print maker, who now lives in Harlem after emigrating from Ethiopia 20 years ago. Mr. Tessema's work has been on exhibition at the renowned Guggenheim Museum on Fifth Avenue but he is equally fulfilled by his love of working with kids at Rangel and Manhattanville Houses.

"We show them where the world is," Mr. Tessema said. "We see them changing before our eyes. Maybe a child comes in with problems, not easy to handle, but they start to work with their hands and they calm down. And when they see what they did, it's really amazing. It gives them a true sense of identity — someone who can create. And I go home and have a good sleep."

This clear sense of purpose was reinforced by Gladys Incle-Ramos, whose workshop is at West Brighton Houses. Ms. Incle-Ramos mustered her young artists to sculpt a gleaming model of The White House, complete with a figure of President Clinton still in residence.

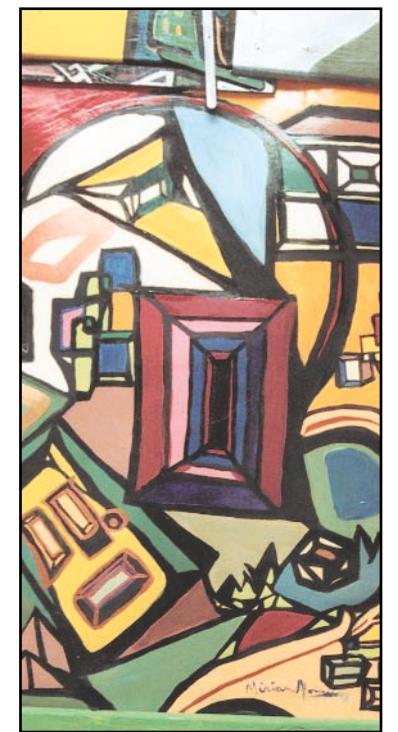
Baruch and Rutgers Houses on Manhattan's Lower East Side have the benefit of artist Mildred Beltre, who herself grew up in NYCHA's Douglass Houses. After college in Minnesota she moved back to New York. Now a resident of Crown Heights in Brooklyn, Ms. Beltre, after five years in the Visual Arts Program, says, "It's funny, when the kids know they are good, they just know it."

But by no means is the Visual Arts Program only for children. In their greetings to the capacity audience at the formal awards ceremony, both NYCHA Board Member Kalman Finkel and General Manager Anthony F. Navarro said that they took particular encouragement from the older artists, especially those who started later in life, saying they gave them hope for their own creative potential.

Hugh Spence, Assistant Deputy General Manager for the Department of Community Operations, told the assembly that the lack of a hall large enough to accommodate all the art was a happy problem, a result of the enormous success of the program. "And," said Mr. Spence, "we get to use the artwork to grace the halls of NYCHA."

The proceedings, presided over by Director of Citywide Programs Deidra Gilliard and organized with the assistance of Community Operations Events Coordinator Xiomara Carcamo, brought NYCHA's artists to the fore to receive medals and an award of art supplies presented by Coordinators Lucero, Gonzalez and Robinson.

Mr. Robinson put the capstone on the evening: "In these times when it may be hard to find a hero, look under "A" for artist and you may be pleasantly surprised."



HOUSE MUSIC The mixed media work above was created by Miriam Alomar of Taft Houses.

FRONT PAGE: Pictured on The Journal's front page next to the "Inside" box is an acrylic painting by Kesner Malette of DeHostos Houses, entitled "Body Parts."

Motown Magic 2000

THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY

THANKS THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF THE NYCHA YOUTH CHORUS MOTOWN MAGIC 2000 CONCERT

on December 8 and 9, 2000:

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(Left to right) NYCHA's Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Friday-night Hostess Mary Wilson, Chairman John G. Martinez and Consultant Charles Ward. Mr. Ward was one of the original Inkspots.



The Supremes (above, left to right) Shanelle St. Cyr of Vandervere Estates, with Carmen R. Roman of Woodside Houses and Catchcha Slater of Drew Hamilton.



Songstress Stephanie Mills was serenaded by Charles Owens as Marvin Gaye, of Linden Houses in Manhattan. Ms. Mills hosted the Saturday night show.



Reverend Gregory Anton McCants led the entire cast singing "Someday We'll Be Together," for a joyful grand finale.

Attention! Attention!

The NYCHA Youth Chorus is looking for a few good young men and women, ages 12 to 17. If you would like to travel, appear on television and meet famous stars, we are auditioning for several openings.

Date: Saturday, February 3, 2001

Time: 9 AM to 1 PM

Place: 1385 Fifth Avenue (Manhattan)

Between 114th and 115th Streets

Directions: Take the No. 2 or No. 6 train to 116th Street.

Please come prepared to sing a song of your choice.

For further information, call: (212) 427-6648