



Journal

ANTI-GRAFFITI MURAL AWARDS CEREMONY



THERE SHOULD BE PEACE ON EARTH This mural, entitled "New York City," was one of the 12 winners of the Anti-Graffiti Mural Contest. It was created by children from the Borinquen Plaza CC.

By Eileen Elliott

The walls inside the gymnasium at the Rutgers Community Center in Lower Manhattan were covered with graffiti on September 19, 2002! But unlike the "tags" that can show up uninvited on NYCHA buildings around the City, these colorful renderings were encouraged by the Housing Authority, and by the Operations Services Anti-Graffiti Unit in particular. *This* graffiti was created over a period of six weeks by seniors and children, ages 8 to 12, at 20 Community Centers that are part of NYCHA's Citywide Anti-Graffiti Program. *This* graffiti did not deface anyone's property, rather residents painted it onto canvases with the help of Harborview Art consultants, as expressions of their visions of a post 9/11 future. The single unifying theme of the murals was "Tomorrow's Vision Through Youthful Eyes."

NYCHA staff, residents and many of the young artists gathered at Rutgers late in the afternoon of the 19th for the Anti-Graffiti Mural Ceremony to view the art and learn which 12 of the murals would be chosen for a 2003 calendar.

Operations Services Citywide Anti-Graffiti Unit Coordinator Jacqueline Gathers gave credit where it was due, first, to the Department of Community Operations

and the Department of Operations Services, which collaborated on the project. She also thanked Joy Suarez from Jerry Joy Music who visited the children at the sites to teach them about the importance of respecting private property and the positive effects of constructive creativity.

"The goal of NYCHA's Anti-Graffiti Program is simple and straight forward," Ms. Gathers

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BIG DRUG BUST AT CYPRESS HILLS HOUSES

Residents of Cypress Hills Houses in Brooklyn can breathe a little easier after Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly and Brooklyn District Attorney Charles J. Hynes announced the arrests of 45 gang members at a press conference at One Police Plaza on September 25. A six month NYPD undercover investigation during which narcotics detectives made more than 100 purchases of illegal drugs led to the arrests.

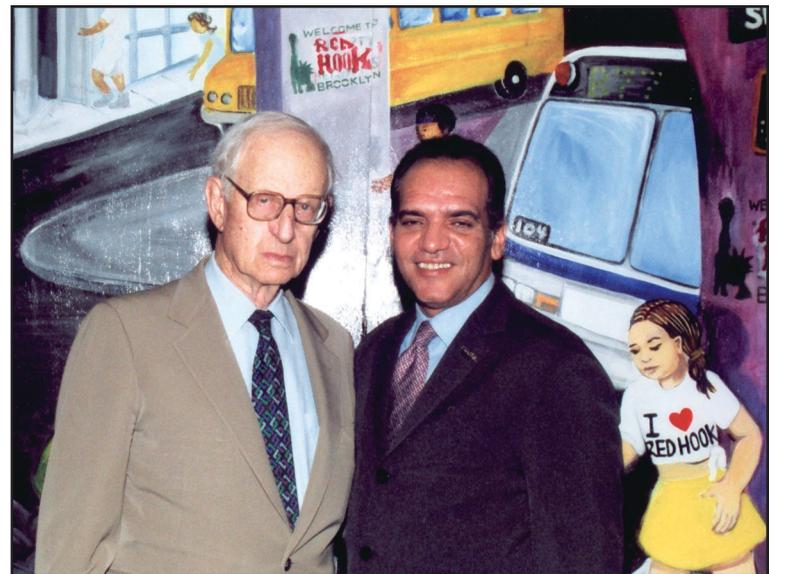
Mr. Kelly said that five separate drug gangs were involved, each operating in an assigned set of buildings, with dealers selling drugs in the lobbies and halls and lookouts watching out for them. He said the 45 suspects sold an estimated \$1.5 million in cocaine, heroin and marijuana this year, and that the gangs, "...had a stranglehold on the Cypress Hills complex." These gangs are now dismantled.

The case was particularly important, Mr. Kelly said, "because we were able to show that the leaders of these gangs colluded to sell narcotics." Eight allegedly high-level leaders face conspiracy charges that could land them life sentences.

"It's the greatest thing that's ever happened at Cypress Hills," said Resident Association President Dwayne Faison a week after the arrests. "I'm so glad the New York City Police Department did what they did. It's like a new day. People aren't afraid to come out anymore. I've seen some of our seniors who I haven't seen since summer," he laughed. "And the kids are out playing. That's the best thing."

Cypress Hills Houses, located in the East New York section of Brooklyn, has 15 seven-story buildings, which house an estimated 3,526 residents. The development was completed in 1955.

PAL-Miccio Center Reopens In Red Hook, Brooklyn



WORKING TOGETHER NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (right) joins PAL Chairman Robert M. Morgenthau at the PAL Miccio Center Grand Opening. The background mural was unveiled at the ceremony.

By Eileen Elliott

The PAL Miccio Center at the corner of Smith and West Ninth Streets in Red Hook, Brooklyn, had its official Grand Opening Ceremony in the "gymnasium" on a rainy September 26, 2002. Visitors streamed through the sparkling lobby of the facility to celebrate the completion of over \$3 million of renovations, paid for by the New York City Housing Authority, and the reimplementation of a full schedule of programs for area residents for the first time since the Center was closed for the renovation in 1995.

"Don't call it a comeback," a banner near the entrance read, "we've been here for years." To be sure, the Police Athletic League (PAL) has been serving Brooklyn's youth at the PAL Miccio Center since 1963. PAL also manages the Miccio Day Care Center across the street and a PAL Head Start Center next door.

Distinguished guests seated on the dais included Manhattan District Attorney and PAL Chairman Robert M. Morgenthau, PAL Executive Director John J. Ryan, NYC Department of Youth and Community Development Commissioner Jeanne B. Mullgrav, and from NYCHA, Chairman Tino Hernandez, General Manager Douglas Apple, Secretary Frank Marin, and Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence. Also seated on the stage were Red Hook Houses East and West

Resident Association Presidents Dorothy Shields and Carmen Cruz, respectively, and Joseph A. Miccio III, the grandson of slain Police Officer Joseph A. Miccio, for whom the Center was named.

Center Director Natasha Campbell welcomed everyone to the event, saying the new facility addressed a serious need in the community.

"It was not easy to convince everyone that the Red Hook community is worthy of such a beautiful building," said Red Hook Houses East Resident Association President Dorothy Shields. "We are all grateful and will strive to work together. This is truly a wonderful gift — a dream come true."

PAL Executive Director John Ryan was beaming as he thanked NYCHA, calling it a fabulous day. "It couldn't have been done without the Housing Authority

(Continued on page 2)

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE — NOV. 5TH

Message From The Mayor

Department of Education's New Office of School Safety and Planning

I am pleased to announce the creation of a new office designed to make our schools safer — the Office of School Safety and Planning. This office will work collaboratively with the New York City Police Department (NYPD) and the Mayor's Criminal Justice Coordinator to implement a comprehensive, new school safety plan. This will provide support to all schools on the effective, coordinated use of disciplinary tools, truancy prevention programs and school safety resources.



First and foremost, students and teachers coming into our schools must have a safe and orderly environment. Children cannot learn and teachers cannot

teach if they are scared or intimidated, and although New York City has made real progress in addressing issues of crime and safety in recent years, there is still more that can be done. This collaboration will ensure that principals, teachers, and school safety personnel in every school are working together effectively. This level of inter-agency collaboration will serve to demonstrate the power of the new school governance structure.

One component of the plan is SchoolSafe, a data driven strategy, whereby the Office of School Safety and Planning will work to identify those schools with the worst criminal incident rates and implement comprehensive action plans. The plans will draw on new and existing resources such as programs for truancy, attendance, and discipline. SchoolSafe will focus on the 10% of schools with the highest incident rates. These schools account for over one-third of reported school-based crime, with criminal incident rates exceeding the average by 150% in the middle and high schools. Students from these schools also score lower in key academic performance areas. Graduation rates are 30% below average and the number of students who meet minimum academic standards is 16% below average.

A joint committee comprising representatives of the Department of Education, the NYPD, and the Criminal Justice Coordinator's office will monitor these schools and measure the effectiveness of new procedures and initiatives by analyzing incident rates, perceptions of safety, and other key indicators.

The new safety plan also includes three other pro-active components aimed at enhancing the teaching and learning environment in schools throughout the City. First, the Office of School Safety and Planning will monitor and immediately respond to schools that show signs of escalating incident rates. Second, the Office will promote safety in all schools by working with community-based organizations and appropriate City agencies to develop truancy prevention programs, after-school activities, and other initiatives that involve students in school governance, such as youth courts. Finally, the Office will develop a continuum of immediate and graduated responses for individual students engaged in misconduct, so that the schools, police and juvenile justice system can send a consistent and unified message to deter future misbehavior and criminal conduct.

Over the past two years criminal incidents in New York City's public schools have dropped by 16%. In the future, the Office of School Safety and Planning will work to make crime in our schools drop even more, so that New York City Housing Authority residents and all New Yorkers who attend public schools receive the education they deserve.

Michael R. Bloomberg

PAL-Miccio

(Cont'd. from page 1)

staff," he said, thanking in particular Chairman Hernandez, Mr. Spence, Department of Design and Capital Improvement Director David Burney and Deputy Director Effie Tsitiridis, and Brooklyn Borough Community Operations Director Mary Starks.

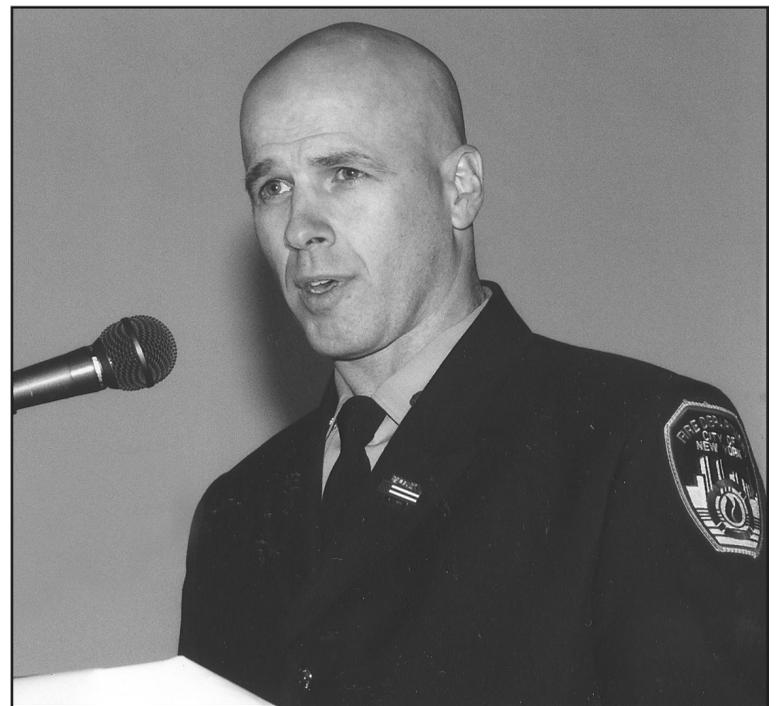
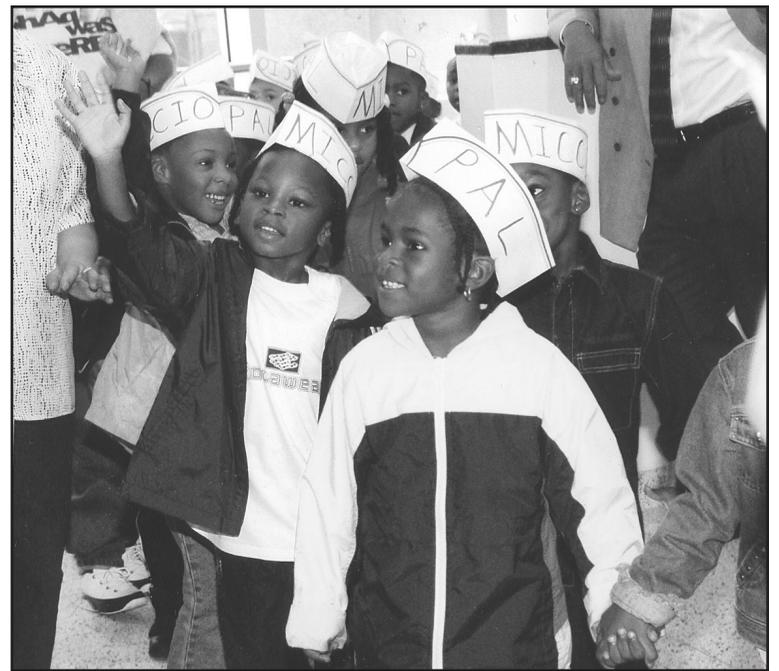
NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez called the PAL Miccio Center "the achievement of a vital and truly productive partnership between NYCHA and PAL, which reaches back 40 years." He also congratulated the many people involved, saying that Detective Miccio, his sons and grandsons, a number of whom became New York City police officers and firefighters, "are truly a family of heroes."

The highlight of the ceremony was when Joseph A. Miccio III, told his grandfather's story. When Joseph A. Miccio returned from World War I in 1941, he was a hero. He had a medal, a Purple Heart, but he was unable to walk. Though the doctors told him he would never walk again, Micco didn't let that get in the way of his dream of becoming a police officer. Not only did he achieve that dream, he also realized his greater dream of becoming a detective. He was shot while on duty in Brooklyn on December 7, 1942, and died the next day.

Mr. Miccio III was himself a Housing Bureau patrolman in the Red Hook developments before he became a firefighter. The message he said he got from his grandfather was, "Never give up. You can achieve your dream."

A quick tour of the gleaming three floor facility revealed game rooms, class rooms (each with a different theme), a library, a computer lab that will hold 20 computers, a performing arts studio complete with mirrors and a barre for dancers, a full service cafeteria that will hold ethnic cooking classes for the community, and the piece de résistance — a huge gate in the gymnasium that opens up to create an amphitheater for indoor/outdoor performances. Other highlights of the Opening Ceremony included a dance performance depicting the events of September 11, and a welcome poem recited by children from the Day Care Center.

Over 300 children and teens are expected to participate in the 25 programs offered at the Center every afternoon and Saturday. Hours are 2:30 PM to 9:30 PM, Monday through Friday and 10 AM to 6 PM on Saturday.



WELCOME BACK (top photo) Young residents, mostly from the Red Hook Houses East and West, sport their PAL Miccio paper hats as they enter the Center for the Grand Opening Ceremony. **(bottom photo)** Joseph A. Miccio III said the message he received from his grandfather, the Center's namesake, was, "Never give up."

The Housing Authority
Journal

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in New York City

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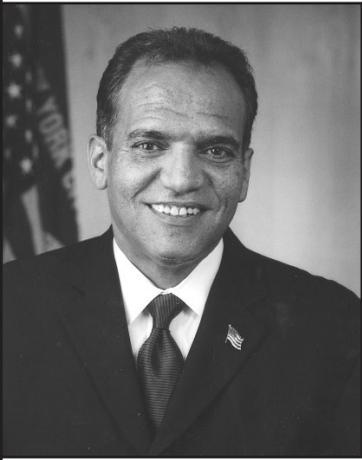
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Message From The Chairman**October Is Domestic Violence Awareness Month**

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month but the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is committed every day to putting an end to domestic violence and helping victims in every way possible. Each year since 1997 NYCHA has held a conference primarily for its Management, Community Operations and Social Services staff to keep them abreast of domestic violence issues and trends. This year, in addition to our annual conference for staff and our day-

to-day programming, NYCHA brought domestic violence conferences out to the boroughs. These conferences, entitled, "Domestic Violence/A Community Response" were created for residents, rather than staff, to help familiarize the community at large with domestic violence and its complexities, and to provide information on available local resources.

The half-day conferences were held during the week of October 7th and most were attended by over 100 participants, including Resident Association Presidents and Council of Presidents (COP) Chairs. All conferences included a panel discussion with participants from a variety of community service providers, Safe Horizon staff, NYCHA staff, and in some cases a representative from the District Attorney's office. In addition, the conferences included a dramatic presentation by a troupe called Plays for Living, entitled "Rules of Thumb," which illustrated the family dynamics within a violent household. The purpose of the dramatic presentation was to show clearly what domestic violence is, how it is experienced by the victims, how it affects all members of a household and how it creates a cycle of violence in future generations.

I was honored to be able to attend the conference held at Jacob Riis Settlement House in Queens on October 10. It was truly an incredible resource and I hope that all residents who are in need of the information provided there were able to attend. As has been mentioned previously in the *NYCHA Journal*, I am a social worker by training, and so this issue is one that is of particular interest to me. As a social worker with a focus in family therapy, I saw first-hand the effects of domestic violence, and am keenly aware of the complications and misunderstandings associated with it.

NYCHA has worked with Safe Horizon/NYPD Housing Bureau since 1987 to serve families who report incidents of domestic violence, through The Domestic Violence Intervention, Education and Prevention Program (DVIEP). By teaming up social service providers and police officers, Safe Horizon and the NYPD reach victims at the moment of crisis to reduce further incidents of domestic violence. The DVIEP trains counselors and Domestic Violence prevention officers who talk to the victims, make referrals for ongoing services, and provide advocacy and outreach. The program also works with NYCHA's Emergency Transfer Program to confidentially relocate victims of domestic violence.

No discussion of domestic violence would be complete without mentioning the Mayor's Office To Combat Domestic Violence, which serves as an invaluable resource to domestic violence victims throughout the city.

Domestic violence afflicts families from all walks of life. NYCHA is working to make a difference by providing you, our residents, with the information you need to meet this difficult challenge. **If you or someone you know is a victim of domestic violence, please call the Domestic Violence Hotline: 1-800-621-HOPE or 1-800-810-7444 TDD or the Crime Victims Hotline at (212) 577-7777.** Callers will receive immediate assistance including crisis counseling, safety planning and referrals.

Keep an eye open for the November *Journal*, which will cover NYCHA's annual domestic violence conference, to be held on October 29. The topic this year will be "Holding Offenders Accountable."

Tino Hernandez

APARTMENTS AVAILABLE IN NYCHA SENIOR BUILDINGS

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who are 62 years old or older and live in mixed generation developments should know that NYCHA currently has apartments available in a number of senior developments. These developments are specifically for seniors and are located in all five boroughs. If you are interested, simply contact your Housing Assistant and say you want to request a transfer to a senior development. Your Housing Assistant will let you know which of NYCHA's 42 senior developments have apartments available.

Senior developments can provide unique benefits to elderly residents. Many of these developments have Senior Centers which serve meals as well as offer recreational activities and programs. In addition, Senior Resident Advisors and Service Coordinators provide a number of services such as counseling, monitoring residents through home visits and running errands. Senior volunteer Floor Captains also assist and monitor their neighbors.

The Congregate Housing Services Program at the Saratoga Square Senior Development in Brooklyn is a one-of-a-kind program that offers a continuum of support services for the eligible frail elderly and non-elderly disabled who need comprehensive assisted services. These include two meals a day, case management, housekeeping, home care, personal care, escort services, shopping services, medical screenings, and transportation, recreational and educational programs.

If you are interested in Saratoga Square or other senior developments, contact your Housing Assistant.

*Deborah's Diary*

By Deborah Williams

Champions — During the summer months NYCHA held its Annual Summer Games sponsored by the Department of Community Operations. Many NYCHA Community Centers throughout the five boroughs competed in sports such as basketball, softball, and track and field. But there was only one that emerged victorious and claimed the Citywide Championship in all the sporting events — and that was the Sedgwick Community Center. In the Basketball Citywide Event 2002 for ages 11 and under, all trial games were held at the Melrose Classic Center in the Bronx. Sedgwick defeated the Classic Center finalists and became the Bronx Champs. Sedgwick went on to defeat Manhattan Borough Champs in the semi-finals and advanced to the finals. They defeated the Brooklyn Borough Champs and became the winners of the Citywide Championship 2002. Congratulations to Shaquille Strokes, Phillippe Dorr, Manny Smith, Jerrelle Joyce, Akil Andrews, Denzelle Sanders, Demitrius Montez, William Davis, Malik Dayvon, Dylan Davis, Marina Melendez, and Antonio Rosa. The Softball Bronx Borough Championship games were held in Brooklyn at Kingston Park. Sedgwick was able to slide into home base and become the Bronx Borough Champions 2002, with a 4-win and 2-loss record. Way to go Ashley Davis, Shanquel Thomas, William Davis, Ignacio Rodriguez, David Camacho, Demitrius Montez, Angel Pagan Jr., Julian Rodriguez, Jasmine Blackman, J-Quan Johnson, Raymond Calleja, Travis Maple, Shaquille Stokes, Jayson Smart, and Christian Pagon. In NYCHA's final event, the Track and Field Citywide 2002 game, which took place at Van Cortlandt Park and the finals were held at Riverbank State Park. Showing their agility, the Sedgwick Center again proclaimed victory as they ran across the finish line and into the title of Citywide Champions 2002. Congratulations to Ashley Davis, Shanquel Thomas, Jose Andino, Shaquille Stokes, Raquel Andu-Num, Daniel Ocasio, Akil Andrews, Michael Williams, William Davis, Quincyu Acheampong, Elizabeth Ross, Anthony Battles, Jayson Smart, Jamal Polk, Nathaniel Robinson, Jakeal Johnson, and Rae Rivera.

Divas — Well, I guess the name says it all. Sharisse Rucker, age 10, Sharkira Maxwell, age 11, Natasha Jenkins, age 10, and Jermanda Thomas, age 9—these young ladies are the "Ingersol Dance Troupe" and are known to everyone as the "Divas with Attitude." They have been dancing for a year now and the rewards have been plentiful. Organized by Teicha Merritt, Community Coordinator and Yolanda Taylor, Housing Assistant, the divas have performed three times at the Apollo on Amateur Night, coming in at first, second and third place. Which, by the way, qualifies them for the Amateur Night finals to be held on December 23, 2002 at 7:00 PM. Now we know why the young ladies are called "Divas with Attitude." Not only are they great dancers but they choreograph their own moves. Well young ladies, I'd like to congratulate you on all of your successes so far and I look forward to hearing more about Divas with Attitude. (I like that name!) Anyway, I want all the readers of "Deborah's Diary" and Ingersol residents to turn their televisions to Channel 4 at 7:00 PM on December 23, 2002, and watch "Divas with Attitude" perform with attitude, live at the Apollo.

Deborah's Diary is a column that is for you, the residents of NYCHA, to share significant events in your lives with your neighbors. As always, I plan to tell you about those individuals who are the "talk of the town," but I need your help in getting that news. So, remember the Diary! If you have news, share it with me and I will share it with my readers. Drop me a few lines c/o The NYCHA Journal/250 Broadway/12th Floor/NY, NY, 10007 or by fax at 212-577-1358. Or, hey, make it personal! Give me a call at 212-306-4752. I can't 100% guarantee it, but I'll do my best to see that your good news makes it into this column.

Visit NYCHA's Web site at:
www.nyc.gov/nycha

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 for the peaceful and safe use of our facilities. Here follows a list of the people excluded after hearings were held on **May 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 and June 6, 2001. REMEMBER, IF YOU SEE ANY OF THESE PERSONS ON HOUSING AUTHORITY PROPERTY, PLEASE CALL YOUR MANAGEMENT OFFICE OR THE POLICE! THIS LIST IS PROVIDED TO ALL POLICE SERVICE AREAS.**

Prohibited as of May 2, 2001

David Peterson	Case 1516/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 340 Alexander Avenue, Mott Haven Houses, the Bronx.
Rasheem Wilkens	Case 1512/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 159-20 Harlem River Drive, Rangel Houses, Manhattan.
Richard Aiken	Case 1541/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 735 East 165th Street, Forest Houses, the Bronx.
Pablo Lopez	Case 1542/01 formerly associated with the first floor of 1757 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.
William Weston	Case 1558/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 2949 West 28th Street, Surfside Gardens, Brooklyn.
Amin Allen	Case 1553/01 formerly associated with the second floor of 872 Rosedale Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of May 9, 2001

Calvin Pulliam	Case 1568/01 formerly associated with the twelfth floor of 849 Flushing Avenue, Bushwick/Hylan Houses, Brooklyn.
Joseph Brevard	Case 1589/01 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 200 West 143rd Street, Drew Hamilton Houses, New York.

Prohibited as of May 16, 2001

Anthony Barnes	Case 1759/01 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 108-41 159th Street, South Jamaica Houses, Jamaica, New York.
Aswan Moreira	Case 1767/01 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 40-10 10th Street, Queensbridge North Houses, Queens.
Elizai Rachumi	Case 4543/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 1925 Harrison Avenue, University Avenue Consolidated Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of May 23, 2001

Jerone Moore	Case 1854/01 formerly associated with the third floor of 240 Broadway, West Brighton Houses, Staten Island.
Jeffrey Blue	Case 1901/01 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 162 Troy Avenue, Albany Houses, Brooklyn.

Prohibited as of May 30, 2001

Alexis Simmons	Case 1922/01 formerly associated with the sixteenth floor of 1505 Park Avenue, Clinton Houses, Manhattan.
Weldon Walker	Case 1923/01 formerly associated with sixth floor of 1455 Harrod Avenue, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Luis Rodriguez	Case 1947/01 formerly associated with the thirteenth floor of 700 Morris Avenue, Melrose Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of June 6, 2001

Hommy Martinez	Case 5010/01 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 84-16 Rockaway Beach, Hammel Houses, Queens.
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New Computers and Training Programs For Farragut and Atlantic Terminal

By Deborah Williams

Thursday, September 5, was the first day of the school year. While young Farragut Houses residents received their first day of instruction at the neighboring schools, the Farragut Houses Resident Association received its first set of instructions in computer technology from the State University of New York's Advanced Technology Training and Information Networking Program (ATTAIN), at the Farragut Community Center.

Assemblyman Roger L. Green has secured \$1 million in educational funding, of which \$500,000 will go to the Farragut Houses Community Center and \$500,000 to the Atlantic Terminal Community Center, both in Brooklyn. Both sites will receive nearly 20 computer stations, high speed Internet lines and certified computers.

"The New York City Housing Authority is pleased to partner with Assemblyman Roger L. Green and SUNY to make these computer resources available to NYCHA residents," said NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez.

ATTAIN works to bring technology to areas in the city where it is not readily available and to increase the academic and employability skills in those underserved areas.

ATTAIN will also provide training for the residents of Farragut Houses and Atlantic Terminal. The training classes at Farragut Houses, which will be available for children, teens and adults, are expected to begin in approximately three months. Hours will be Monday to Friday from 9:00 AM to 9:45 PM. The duration of the program will vary depending on the individual's training needs and training program choice.

Participants will train themselves on one of any number of computer programs in topics ranging from child care, cosmetology, and entrepreneurship, to becoming an emergency medical technician or a nursing assistant. A staff member from ATTAIN will be available at all times to provide assistance. Once participants have completed the training programs, they will receive referrals to the nearest Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) where they can receive assistance in obtaining a General Equivalency Diploma (GED), join Adult Basic Education classes, or receive College SAT coaching and college

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The Chief's Corner

Have A Happy And Safe Halloween

Halloween can be a fun time for children and adults. The safety of all individuals participating in the holiday festivities is paramount. This year the NYPD Housing Bureau encourages all to be alert and careful. Here are some tips to use as guidelines and to share with your children:



Housing Bureau Police Chief Douglas Zeigler

- Parents should escort their children and their children's friends while trick-or-treating.
- Children should never go into buildings, houses, elevators or cars alone while trick-or-treating.
- Children should not eat any treats until they are inspected by a responsible adult.
- Children should only go trick-or-treating in their own neighborhoods to the residences of people they know, and stay close to home.
- Children should wear brightly colored clothing or carry a flashlight at night.
- Masks should not block vision or breathing.
- Children should stay off of the streets, walk only on sidewalks, cross streets at the corner and wait for the light.

**HAVE FUN! STAY SAFE!
AND RESPECT OTHER PEOPLE'S PROPERTY!**



PUBLIC HOUSING DRUG ELIMINATION PROGRAM SURVEY

The New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) is conducting a study for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to learn how residents feel about crime and safety in their neighborhoods. Your participation will help to improve programs that promote safety in your community and improve services for residents.

The Housing Authority is mailing questionnaires to a small number of resident households chosen at random. If your household has received a questionnaire, an adult who has lived at the address for at least one year should complete it. It will take less than five minutes to complete. The answers will give NYCHA and HUD accurate information about what residents think.

Answers will be kept completely confidential and will be summarized in a report of residents' views. **If you have any questions about the survey, please call the Research and Policy Development Department at (212) 306-3701.**

The New York City Housing Authority thanks you in advance for your cooperation in assisting us with this important initiative.

Smith Houses Remembers 9/11



CANDLELIGHT VIGIL Nikki Azure, Smith Houses RA President (center) commemorates 9/11, with residents at the development.

By Allan Leicht

On September 11, 2002, like the City, the nation, and much of the world, the residents of Alfred E. Smith Houses on the Lower East Side of Manhattan, gathered to honor the memory of those who lost their lives, commemorate the heroism of those who fought to save them, and to comfort those who still grieve. For their remembrance the residents and staff of Smith chose a busy, nearby sidewalk on which, one year before, late afternoon shadows of the World Trade Center Towers would fall.

NYCHA communities in all five boroughs observed this day, but there was special meaning for Smith Houses because it was the NYCHA development closest to the disaster. Residents from the development quickly felt the physical effects of the destruction as thousands streamed past them, escaping to safety. Many took refuge at Smith Houses, where they found solace and solidarity — police officers, firefighters, emergency personnel, and New Yorkers who had become refugees in their own town.

Nicoletta Azure, President of the Smith Houses Resident Association and Chair of the Manhattan South Council of Presidents, commented that any one of the people at the gathering could have died in the disaster. “We’re only here day by day,” she said, “so take care of each other.” After her brief greeting Ms. Azure turned the proceedings over to Reverend Edmon Darrisaw, Pastor of the Glorious Temple Church in Brooklyn and longstanding caretaker at Smith Houses, where he has also been a resident since 1964.

Reverend Darrisaw brought with him Rose Barbar and Minister Dolores Huff — Ms. Barbar for song, Ms. Huff to read Psalms. “Walk with Me” and the 37th Psalm framed Reverend Darrisaw’s opening reflection, a call for comfort for the families of those who perished.

Development Manager Margo Madden thanked the residents for working so well together to create the ceremony, as did

Superintendent Charles Alogna. It was a miniature of the central observance taking place at the same moment a few blocks away at Ground Zero. In the words of Luis Soler, Director of Manhattan Community Operations, “Gathering such as this help to make the world a better place.”

Luis E. Reyes represented City Council Member Alan J. Gerson, who was attending a firefighters’ memorial service. Mr. Reyes’ presence was most appropriate, as he had grown up at Smith Houses, where his father, Elias, now 104, still lives. “We moved in in 1952,” recalled Mr. Reyes. “It was brand new, the cabinets were still on the floor.” He said he remembers Smith as “a happy place to grow up, an incubator for success,” and that it was a most fitting place to mark the “sad day and share the sorrow.”

Reverend Darrisaw also remembered a personal reaction on the morning after the attack. “I woke up on September 12 and I wanted to find my way down to that recruiting office and go and fight for my children, your children. But I realized I was not a young man. I was in a different army now and I could fight a different fight, reminding people that earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal.”

It had been a year of healing. Then at 10:29 AM, with candles in the wind, and tears, the residents and staff of Smith Houses, stood for two minutes of silence in the clatter of a vibrant neighborhood in the toughest city in the world.

Anti-Graffiti

(Continued from page 1)

said, “to reduce both the occurrence and resulting costs of graffiti and vandalism within NYCHA developments.”

The event began with a video created by Jerry Joy Music in which the children expressed their hopes for the future. Though they used different words, nearly every child had the same wish — for peace in the world. The theme of peace dominated the murals with depictions of the sun, flowers and trees, birds and other animals, and NYCHA’s towering skyscrapers serving as a backdrop.

The honor of reading off the winning names was reserved for NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez. “This is like the Academy Awards,” he quipped, addressing the rising level of excitement in the room. Each name he read was greeted by cheers from the crowd, as the Harborview consultants for those centers came to the front of the room to accept their awards. (See box at right for the names of the winning murals.)

Brooklyn Anti-Graffiti Unit Supervisor Jerry Burk drove the message home when he told the young artists at the ceremony, sitting cross-legged on a mat in the front of the room, “When you write on the walls of your NYCHA development, it isn’t considered art. It’s considered a crime.”

NYCHA’s Anti-Graffiti Unit has been working since 1994 to improve the quality of life for Housing Authority residents. It is a joint effort on the part of law enforcement, development managers and most importantly residents. The program now includes 300 NYCHA buildings in 67 developments. Seniors from three developments in the program also created murals. Those developments are Pomonok Houses in Queens, Red Hook Houses West in Brooklyn and Soundview Houses in Staten Island.

The contest was judged by Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., Board Member JoAnna Aniello, Secretary Frank Marin and Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh B. Spence.

“It was really a labor of love,” said Harborview consultant Maxine Razor who worked with residents of VanDyke and Tilden Houses.

Community Operations City-wide Programs Director Denise Lara thanked the judges and all others involved, including Operations Services Deputy General Manager Robert Podmore, Operations Services Director Robin Jackson, and Harborview Arts Coordinators Wylie Lucero and Leticia Barboza.



WORKS IN PROGRESS (Top photo) Children from the Clinton Houses Community Center in Manhattan worked with Harborview Consultants Virginia Bitzer (shown here) and Mimi Martinez to create their vision of a perfect world. Clinton Houses Community Center Director Deborah Clark is in the background. (Above) One young artist proudly displays her vision of herself as “Queen of the World.” The Clinton Houses Community Center Mural, entitled, “If I Were King Or Queen of the World” was chosen to be included in a 2003 calendar.

WINNING ANTI-GRAFFITI MURALS

Borinquen Plaza — “New York City”

Redhook West Senior Center — “The Garden”

Pink Houses — “Diversity City”

Marble Hill — “Wings of Hope”

Hammel Houses — “United We Stand”

Castle Hill Houses — “Kids Voice”

St. Mary’s Houses — “Our New Community”

VanDyke Houses — “Unity Mural”

South Jamaica Houses — “Ground in Harmony”

West Brighton Houses — “Our Community — The Bridge to Tomorrow”

Todt Hill Houses — “Eye Love New York”

Clinton Houses — “If I Were King or Queen of the World”

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2002 Garden Competition Awards Ceremony

Citywide First-Place Winners

By Eileen Elliott

FLOWER GARDEN

"RENEW YOUR SPIRIT" SHEEPSHEAD-NOSTRAND HOUSES, SOUTH BROOKLYN



VEGETABLE GARDEN

GARDEN OF VENUS, SOUTH JAMAICA HOUSES, QUEENS



CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN

DAWN'S PLACE (DEDICATED TO THE CHILDREN OF 9/11), LINDEN HOUSES, EAST BROOKLYN



There couldn't have been a more perfect place for the 40th Annual Garden Program Awards Ceremony than The Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Gardens. Beneath a glass domed ceiling, surrounded by potted palms wrapped in tiny twinkling lights, and with background music by the NYCHA Symphony Orchestra Jazz Quintet, gardeners from the five boroughs reaped the appreciation of NYCHA's staff for all of their hard work over the past year.

Community Operations Citywide Programs Director Denise Lara introduced "the longest standing Garden Program employee," Kathleen Thomas, to give a brief history of the program. "The Garden Program was created in the 1960s," she said, "with a vision of how beautiful NYCHA grounds could be." Initially just Flower Gardens were judged, then in 1974 Vegetable Gardens were added as a category, and in 1995, Children's Theme Gardens. Ms. Thomas called the gardens, "evidence of the pride that public housing residents take in their homes."

There were slightly less gardens this year because of the drought. A total of 462 gardens registered in the competition, including 234 Flower Gardens, 185 Children's Theme Gardens, and 185 Vegetable Gardens.

Chairman Tino Hernandez read a proclamation from Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg calling September 25, 2002, "NYCHA Garden Awards Day." He then proceeded to present the awards to the many winners. Clouds started moving in as people lined up for a buffet lunch at the conclusion of the ceremony, but that probably didn't dampen anyone's spirits. It's a good guess that the New Yorkers at this event were more keenly aware than most of how much we need the rain.

The Winners

SOUTH BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Flower's "R" Us, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: Hayes' Garden of Love, Red Hook East Houses
3rd Prize: Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Puerto Rico Garden, Breukelen Houses
2nd Prize: Fajardo Garden, Breukelen Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Marlboro Houses

SOUTH BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: "Flower's of Faith, Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
2nd Prize: "Beauty at the Bay" Sheepshead-Nostrand Houses
3rd Prize: Sugar Plum Garden, Red Hook East

WEST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Peace of Mind Garden (Baker), Gowanus Houses
2nd Prize: Gowanus' Garden, Gowanus Houses
3rd Prize: Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Rosa and Carmen's Garden, Hope Gardens
2nd Prize: 345 Dumont Garden, Brownsville Houses
3rd Prize: Garden of Faith, Brownsville Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: The Garden of Eden, Hope Gardens
2nd Prize: Bountiful Garden, Tilden Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumb Vegetable Garden, Pink Houses
Honorable Mention: Faith, Hope & Charity Garden, Brownsville Houses

EAST BROOKLYN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Making Choices Garden, Brownsville Houses
2nd Prize: Garden of Hope #1, Howard Houses

STATEN ISLAND – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: In Honor Garden, Berry Houses
2nd Prize: WTC 9/11 Memorial Garden, Todt Hill Houses
3rd Prize: Garden of Luv, Mariner's Harbor Houses
Honorable Mention: 145 Cassidy Place Garden, Cassidy-Lafayette Houses

STATEN ISLAND – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: Nature's Wonder Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
2nd Prize: Dina, Berry Houses
3rd Prize: Green Thumb Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses
Honorable Mention: Vegetable Garden, Cassidy-Lafayette Houses

STATEN ISLAND – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

1st Prize: A Little Sunshine Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

Continued on page 8

SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

If you or anyone in your family is aware of any fraud or corruption committed against the New York City Housing Authority ("NYCHA") by any NYCHA employee, contractor, vendor, or resident, we urge you to call the NYCHA Inspector General ("IG") at 212-306-3355 or the Department of Investigation ("DOI") at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.

Computers for Farragut

(Continued from page 4)

preparedness training. With the ATTAIN program residents will be able to track their performance, get detailed results on test scores and have access to their progress reports.

Residents at Farragut Houses are excited about the new program and said they hope it will provide the educational foundation and training that the community needs. "At last you have made my dream come true," said Farragut Community Center Director George Price, as he clasped his hands together with joy. According to Mr. Vijay Macwan, Director of the University Center for Academic and Workforce Development at SUNY, "Everyone in the community can create a dream with training."

Residents of Atlantic Terminal should contact their Community Center at (718) 783-7329 for complete details about the ATTAIN program at their development.

Garden Winners

(Continued from page 7)

QUEENS – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Garden of Zodiac, South Jamaica Houses
 2nd Prize: Garden of Grace, South Jamaica Houses
 3rd Prize: Tabernacle Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Down to Earth Vegetable Garden, South Jamaica Houses
 2nd Prize: Garden of Eat'n, South Jamaica Houses
 3rd Prize: My Kitchen Garden, South Jamaica Houses

QUEENS – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Catherine's "Down By The Bay"
 Children's Flower Garden, Beach 41st Street Houses
 2nd Prize: Heaven On Earth Garden, Woodside Houses

MANHATTAN – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Holliday's Cuisine, Amsterdam Houses
 2nd Prize: Balm's of Gidion Garden, St. Nicholas Houses
 3rd Prize: A Touch of Class Garden, Wagner Houses

MANHATTAN – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Troche's Garden, Wald Houses

MANHATTAN – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: El Coqui Children's Garden, Campos Plaza

BRONX – FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Rain Forest Garden, Patterson Houses
 2nd Prize: Road to Damascus, McKinley Houses
 3rd Prize: Blue Shade Garden, Bronxdale Houses
 Honorable Mention: Rodriguez & McKay's Sunrise Garden, Patterson Houses

BRONX – VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Mamita's Neighborhood Vegetable Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
 2nd Prize: Union Avenue Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
 3rd Prize: Botanical Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation

BRONX – CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS
 1st Prize: Tiny Toon Rainbow Flower Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation
 2nd Prize: The Mickey's Garden, Throggs Neck Houses
 3rd Prize: Herbs & Woodland Garden, Bronxdale Houses
 Honorable Mention: Pennye's Reading Garden, Bronxdale Houses



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