



# Journal

## ATTAIN LAB OPENS AT BERRY HOUSES IN STATEN ISLAND



(From left to right) NYCHA's Assistant Deputy General Manager Michelle Pinnock, SUNY's University Center for Academic and Workforce Development's (UCAWD) William Chalmers, Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence and Assemblyman Michael J. Cusick join UCAWD Director Vijay Macwan for a demonstration at the new ATTAIN Lab at Berry Houses.

By Eileen Elliott

The digital divide is getting smaller — at least at the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) Polo Ground Houses in Manhattan, Farragut Houses in Brooklyn, and most recently at Berry Houses in Staten Island. On September 29th, New York State Assemblyman for the 63rd District Michael J. Cusick hosted a Grand

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## CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS TO BE INSTALLED IN 43,000 NYCHA APARTMENTS

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, tasteless, colorless gas that results from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, such as wood, kerosene, gasoline, natural gas and oil. Dangerous amounts of CO can accumulate when the fuel is not burned properly, or when rooms are poorly ventilated and the CO is unable to escape.

To help prevent CO poisoning, on May 6, 2004 an amendment was made to the Administrative Code for the City of New York that requires the installation of CO detectors in every dwelling unit in a building where a fossil fuel-burning furnace or boiler is located.

For the New York City Housing Authority this means that approximately 43,000 households located in buildings with such furnaces will be receiving the carbon monoxide detectors. In accordance with the law, residents will be charged \$25.00 for each carbon monoxide detector provided and installed by the Authority. NYCHA also has plans to install the detectors in buildings that don't have fossil fuel-burning furnaces or boilers.

Because the devices must be located within 15 feet of any room that is lawfully used as a sleeping area, it may be necessary to install more than one CO detector per apartment.

NYCHA will provide all residents who are receiving the detectors with guidelines concerning usage and maintenance.

*(Continued on page 7)*

## HUD'S Resident Service AND Satisfaction Survey Is Coming

It's that time of year again! Time for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to assess how satisfied public housing residents are with living conditions in their developments across the nation.

A random sampling of New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents who live in NYCHA's 324 federally funded developments will be receiving HUD's Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey from November 23, 2004 through January 31, 2005. The survey includes questions on maintenance and repair, communication, safety, services and neighborhood appearance.

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is part of HUD's increased effort to monitor public housing authorities' performance, through its annual Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). The PHAS also evaluates the public housing authority's physical condition, financial health, management operations, and resident services.

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey accounts for 10 out of the 100 points a public housing authority can receive under the PHAS. The survey was developed with the help of resident leaders, public housing authorities and industry representatives.

A computer program is used to randomly choose the residents who will receive the form. NYCHA will not know who participates in the survey but will only receive the overall score. All responses from residents will be kept confidential and anonymous.

NYCHA urges all residents who receive the survey to complete it.

Housing Authorities which receive scores above 90 on their overall PHAS are considered "High Performers" and qualify for additional capital funding.

## 42nd Garden Awards Ceremony



Resident Gardeners filled the Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden for NYCHA's 42nd Garden Awards Ceremony.

By Deborah Williams

On Friday, October 8, 2004, NYCHA celebrated its 42nd Annual Garden Competition Awards Ceremony in the Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. While the guests enjoyed the aroma of blossoming flowers, Charelle Davis, who was one of NYCHA's 2003 Talent Show winners sang her own beautiful rendition of the National Anthem to open the ceremony.

NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., General Manager Douglas Apple, Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Operations Management Assistant Deputy General Manager Rowland Laedlein, Community Operations' Citywide Programs Director Ernesto Lozano, and Garden Coordinators Howard Hemmings and Robert Bennaton joined residents to celebrate, what is, in the words of the Vice-Chairman, "One of NYCHA's most beautiful traditions." Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz was a special guest.

When the tradition began in 1944, it was known as the Community Colonial Gardens, and was

a development-based program. In 1962 the Garden program was opened to residents Citywide.

This year there were 502 gardens registered in the competition. These included 276 Flower Gardens, 194 Vegetable Gardens and 32 Children's Theme Gardens, reflecting the efforts of 2,735 residents.

In addition, special recognition was given to the Development Manager in each borough who registered the most gardens. This year's winners were Monroe Houses registering eight Gardens for the borough of the Bronx, Wagner Houses registering 12 gardens for the borough of Manhattan, Hope Gardens registering

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*Have a Happy Thanksgiving!*

**Message From The Mayor**

**THE FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER WILL PROVIDE ONE STOP ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS**



It was my pleasure to join Commissioner Yolanda B. Jimenez of the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence and Kings County District Attorney Charles J. Hynes last month to announce that New York City has been awarded a \$1.2 million dollar grant from the United States Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women to create a Family Justice Center in downtown Brooklyn. The Center will allow victims of

domestic violence to access comprehensive services more easily by putting dedicated domestic violence prosecutors and all essential service providers under one roof. With only one appointment, victims will be able to meet with a prosecutor, petition for an order of protection, receive legal advice on housing and custody issues, talk to a counselor, and apply for housing and financial assistance — all while their children play safely in the next room.

For victims of domestic violence, the physical wounds are only part of the trauma they are forced to endure. Victims suffer terrible emotional wounds, and many lose their sense of security, their financial support, even their homes. These pressures often prevent them from leaving their abusers or reporting crimes to the police. The ultimate goal of this collaborative is to reduce the number of family violence incidents, recidivism and homicides.

Our administration took an important step toward easing these pressures by creating the Domestic Violence Response Team (DVRT) pilot program, launched in May of 2002. The DVRT program brought all relevant agencies and service providers to the table. In its first two years, DVRT has served 150 victims in the 67th and 43rd Precincts and a Public Service Area in the Bronx with the highest concentrations of domestic violence. Of those served, 96% have not reported any subsequent physical harm by the batterer.

Now we are taking our campaign against domestic violence to the next level. The new Family Justice Center will take the DVRT model for the coordinated delivery of vital services and place it under one roof so that even more victims can get the help they need. While DVRT teams are able to serve approximately 75 clients each year, the Center anticipates serving 7,000 adults and up to 14,000 children annually.

The key feature of the Center will be the on-site presence of the District Attorney's entire 68-member domestic violence unit, along with staff from five City agencies and 25 community-based programs and organizations. Bilingual receptionists will greet clients, who will be escorted to comfortably furnished consultation rooms. While children are cared for on-site by pre-screened childcare workers and art therapy professionals, an intake specialist will work with the client to determine the range of services required, and schedule the appropriate sequence of appointments within the Center for that day. Supportive services, from counseling to social services to legal assistance on issues such as housing, custody and immigration will be handled by the respective Center partner, eliminating gaps in services, and expediting the process for the victim. The Center will house a Crime Victims Board claims staff who will be able to provide victims with immediate access to financial compensation for their injuries.

The first New York City Family Justice Center will be centrally located in downtown Brooklyn at a site to be determined. Although one-third of all domestic violence related homicides last year occurred in Brooklyn, the most serious domestic violence crimes are down by 5% in Brooklyn, year-to-date. The Center will provide victims with the services they need to put their lives back together.

Our new Family Justice Center is an innovative way of making victims safer, healthier, and more secure, and it's going to be a model for the City and the nation.

*Michael R. Bloomberg*

# Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Samaritan Village Woodside Senior Center in Queens



(Front Row, left to right) Samaritan Village President Richard Pruss, City Council Member Eric Gioia, Mary Bortmer (who has been coming to the Center for 24 years) and State Assembly Member Margaret Markey join (back row, left to right) NYCHA's Community Operations ADGM Michelle Pinnock, DGM Hugh Spence and Chairman Tino Hernandez for the ribbon cutting.

By Eileen Elliott

New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) executives and staff joined elected officials, staff from Samaritan Village and neighborhood seniors for the Grand Opening of Samaritan Village's newly renovated Woodside Senior Center at NYCHA's Woodside Houses in Queens on a breezy September 30th morning. Thanks to \$1.7 million in funding obtained by former City Council Member Walter McCaffrey, additional funding from State Assembly Member Margaret Markey and City Council Member Eric Gioia, and space and assistance from the New York City Housing Authority, seniors from the neighborhoods of Woodside, Sunnyside, Astoria, Long Island City and Ravenswood now have a 7,000-square-foot state-of-the-art facility in which to enjoy meals and educational and recreational activities.

Samaritan Village President Richard Pruss served as Master of Ceremonies for the outdoor event, introducing and thanking the many people who played a role in the seven-year project to expand and renovate what was originally a 1,500-square-foot facility.

Among them was City Council Member Eric Gioia who invoked the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt when he called the completion of the Center, "a rendezvous with destiny." "It's our turn to be builders, to renew the social contract and the fabric that binds us together," he said, which he defined as the ability to "enjoy your old age with dignity."

In introducing Chairman Hernandez, who worked for Samaritan Village for four years, Mr. Pruss called him, "an old friend of Samaritan. He has a special place in my heart."

"What a great day to be at Woodside," the Chairman exclaimed to the crowd that fanned out into the courtyard. "Samaritan Village is one of the premier community organizations not only in Queens but throughout New York City." The Chairman emphasized the importance NYCHA places on senior centers and services to seniors, since a full one-third of the Housing Authority's household are headed by residents aged 62 or above.

He also thanked the NYCHA staff who were present, including Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Assistant Deputy General Manager Michelle Pinnock, and Queens Borough Director Anthony Richburg, along with

Queens Borough Manager Michael Cornelius and Woodside Houses Manager Donna Jones. The Chairman called the Center a "great asset to the community."

Of Center Director Matthew Ancona who also spoke that morning, Mr. Pruss said simply in his introduction, "He's been here for many years. Without his leadership, we wouldn't be standing here today."

After describing a bit of the history of the efforts to renovate the Center, Mr. Ancona told the

seniors, "It's here! Enjoy it! It's for you guys!"

The brief speeches were followed by a ribbon-cutting, a tour of the facility, and a performance in the dining room by a hot young cappella quartet, FootSteps, who sang the National Anthem.

Since November 1999 when Samaritan became the sponsor of the Woodside Senior Center, it has served 144,484 clients. The Center is funded by the New York City Department for the Aging in cooperation with NYCHA.

The Housing Authority

# Journal

**70**  
years  
of Public Housing  
in New York City

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*Message From The Chairman***MAKE A COMMITMENT TO GOOD HEALTH IN THE COMING YEAR**

Summer seems like yesterday and yet we are fast approaching Thanksgiving and the holiday season. That chill in the air is here to stay and another, not so welcome season is here already too — the flu season. This is a good time to check up on your health and the health of your family, remembering that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

At the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) we are designating the coming year, 2005, as a year in which we will promote healthy living among residents. This includes improving diet, participating in exercise appropriate to your age and physical capacity, getting regular medical and dental examinations and taking advantage of the many health related programs and services provided by NYCHA and the City of New York.

One way to stay healthy is to fill out and maintain your own personal "Passport to Health." Developed as part of the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DOHMH) Take Care New York program, the Passport to Health is a form that can be printed out from the DOHMH web site, on which you can track your doctor's visits, test results and other pertinent information. It also contains Action Steps you can take to improve your health, and additional resources to help you follow through. These Action Steps include having a regular doctor or other health care provider, quitting smoking, getting checked for cancer and making your home safe and healthy. NYCHA will be distributing a limited number of passports through the Resident Associations this month. To find out more, call 311, or visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health).

If you don't have health insurance, or feel you can't afford it, don't despair. Through the City's HealthStat program you can obtain free or low-cost health insurance. NYCHA has facilitated the enrollment of over 12,000 residents into health insurance plans so far this year through HealthStat. In fact, last year NYCHA enrolled more New Yorkers in health plans than any other City agency. While we are very proud of that accomplishment, we are even more pleased that more and more NYCHA residents have health insurance. If you are uninsured, call the NYCHA HealthStat hotline at 212-306-8443. (See the ad on page 10 of this *Journal*.)

I'd also like to take this opportunity to remind NYCHA residents who are younger than two or older than 64, or in other high-risk groups, to get their flu shots. Flu vaccine will be in short supply this year, so it is especially important for seniors and others in high-risk groups to get their shots early. NYCHA is working with the DOHMH to facilitate vaccinations for our senior population. We will be bringing the flu vaccine to select senior centers throughout the City and making it possible for seniors to get to those locations. Find out where the location nearest you will be by calling 311 and make it a point to be there.

Another important health threat that NYCHA is addressing is diabetes. You may be surprised to learn that nearly one in every twelve adults in New York City has been diagnosed with diabetes. East Harlem in particular has the highest rate of reported diabetes in the City (15%), almost twice the rate of the City overall.

Together with the DOHMH's East and Central Harlem District Offices, NYCHA is addressing this high incidence of diabetes with the Diabetes Prevention and Control Initiative. The initiative will include the participation of Resident Associations and NYCHA-based service providers within targeted developments in East and Central Harlem. It will address the diabetes epidemic by promoting regular physical activities and healthy eating not only in NYCHA developments, but also in schools, day care centers and other community sites. Its goal is to prevent the onset of and improve the management of diabetes by improving patient/medical provider communication, increasing physical activity and improving nutrition.

These are just some of the ways NYCHA is working to promote good health among residents. Please join me in making a commitment to your good health in the coming year. It's never too late.

*Tino Hernandez*

**MEET NYCHA'S NEW INSPECTOR GENERAL**

New York City's Department of Investigation (DOI) works to root out municipal corruption wherever it is found. You've probably heard about the NYCHA residents who were arrested because they lied to keep their mothers' or fathers' apartments after they died, or the NYCHA employees who were arrested for charging residents extra money to do maintenance work.

The woman behind many of the recent arrests is NYCHA's newly appointed Inspector General, Judy Abruzzo. She replaces Steven Pasichow, who left the agency in August to join the Inspector General's Office for the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey.

"He left big shoes to fill. I learned a lot from him," Ms. Abruzzo said of her mentor, who led NYCHA's Inspector General's (IG's) office for nearly ten years.

NYCHA's IG investigates NYCHA employees, residents, contractors, and vendors who lie about their income, steal, or take bribes. The IG's office also helps NYCHA develop new programs to find and eliminate potential corruption, such as the Rental Amnesty Program, which ran from November 2001 to January 2002, and allowed residents who had misrepresented their incomes to NYCHA to come forward, admit what they had done, and repay back rent, without facing criminal charges. That program has helped NYCHA recover more than \$1 million so far.

The IG's Office also conducts ongoing "match" programs that detect fraud by matching NYCHA's records with records from the IRS or other agencies. For example, the "Death Match" program matches NYCHA's records with the City's Department of Health records to detect when residents have illegally taken over the apartment of a deceased relative. The program recently resulted in a number of arrests, allowing NYCHA to reclaim units for people who really need them.

The IG is sometimes looked at in a bad light, Ms. Abruzzo conceded, "because we investigate tenants, employees and contractors, and sometimes have to make arrests." However, she emphasized, "We always see that justice is served. We're just trying to do the right thing. It's to everyone's benefit. By catching the few bad apples, everyone is helped. It's rewarding to help NYCHA recover money because that means more money for NYCHA to repaint apartments, buy new appliances, and open up apartments to others."

*(Continued on page 4)*

*Deborah's Diary*

*By Deborah Williams*

**Inspiration** — It's truly remarkable and inspiring as well as gratifying to know that when you write about the success of another, the story you write can change or influence someone else's life. I am delighted to say that one of my articles did just that. I recently received a letter from Julia Policano, a resident of Rutgers Houses in Manhattan, who had this to say: "Dear Deborah's Diary, I am 35 years old and I have four beautiful children who mean the world to me. I have read articles printed by you Ms. Deborah Williams, and I must say that each one I have read lifted my spirit and inspired me. I also would like to share with you that I recently lost my mother, who was also my friend and my protector, in February 2004. Since my mother has gone home with the angels her spirit has brought me to realize that my life had to change. I read one of your articles about NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services, and after reading the article my self-esteem began to build up. I then called the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC) to register for the 20-week program to become a Direct Care Counselor. I began my class in May 2004. Getting up in the morning to go to school was a blessing. My life now means so much to me since I have started the program to become a Direct Care Counselor. I have completed courses such as Human Growth and Development, Developmental Disabilities, Sign Language, Legal Rights, C.P.R., First Aid, and the history of Mental Retardation Development Disabilities. On September 28, 2004, I graduated and was assigned a seven-week internship. I successfully completed the 104-hour requirement in just twelve days! I received compliments on my enthusiasm and my thirst for knowledge. I hope to be working soon and helping developmentally disabled adults live normal independent lives. To my fellow classmates — it has been a pleasure and I hope that you accomplish whatever you endeavor. I would also like to thank all my teachers and staff, the job developer, case manager and not to mention myself. I am very proud of myself and I will continue to be strong and open-minded." *And indeed you should be proud of yourself! Believe me when I say I truly understand what it means to lose someone that you love. You have weathered the storm and the decisions and choices you have made will not only improve your life but the lives of your children as well. I am touched that my article inspired and lifted your spirits but you deserve all the credit for your success. It was you who picked up the phone and called BMCC. Nonetheless, thanks! Your story has made my day a better day. Congratulations on your graduation and good luck with your job search.*

**Scholarship Winner**—When Natasha Lee, or Nikkie as she is affectionately known, graduated from Morris High School in the Bronx, everyone was excited and proud, but when she entered the New York Lottery Scholarship Essay Competition and won, the excitement grew immensely. It was Nikkie's essay entitled "My Experience as a Mentor" that won her a four-year college scholarship. Nikkie gained her mentor experience through her work with the Team Outreach Prevention Program (TOPP) at Public School 158. Nikkie's essay was chosen over those of three other students who attended Morris High School. She is using the scholarship to pay for her tuition at Buffalo State College where she is right now diligently working towards a bachelor's degree in business administration. *Nikkie, everyone at Morrisania Air Rights extends their congratulations to you on your achievements and for continuing your education. "Good Luck" and "Best Wishes" are the sentiments everyone is shouting out to you. Nikkie, remember, being the best requires a lot of hard work and I am sure you know that. More importantly, what I want to convey to you is, always strive to be the best at whatever you choose and you are sure to succeed in life. Congratulations and keep up the good work!*

**DID YOU GET YOUR FLU SHOT?**

Because of a vaccine shortage, healthy people between the ages of 2 and 64 are asked to postpone or forgo their flu shots this year.

**For more information, call 311.**

## 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 July 23 and 30, and August 6, 13 and 20, 2003.

**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 July 23, 2003

Terrence Jordan Case 4635/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 772 Henry Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of July 30, 2003

Giovanna Rodriguez Case 4793/03 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 40 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.

Timothy Cullen Case 4778/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 418 West 17th Street, Fulton Houses, Manhattan.

Shaniqua Brown Case 4808/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 2069/03 Union Street, Sutter Avenue/Union Houses, Brooklyn.

Damian Whittaker Case 4864/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.

Yose Perdomo Case 4852/03 formerly associated with the ninth floor of 40 Avenue D, Wald Houses, Manhattan.

### Prohibited as of August 6, 2003

Luther Bryant Case 5115/03 formerly associated with the second floor of 5711 Avenue H, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.

Rafael Roman Case 3255/03 formerly associated with the fifteenth floor of 189 Allen Street, Gompers Consolidated Houses, Manhattan.

### Prohibited as of August 13, 2003

Tireal Davis Case 5292/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 40-03 Vernon Boulevard, Queensbridge North Houses, Long Island City, New York.

Pedro Rodriguez Case 953/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 2295 West 111th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

Steven Santana Case 5178/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 925 Waring Avenue, Pelham Pkwy., Pelham Parkway Houses, the Bronx.

Timothy Betance  
the Timothy McLane Case 3227/03 formerly associated with twelfth floor of 735 Magenta Street, Gun Hill Houses, the Bronx.

### Prohibited as of August 20, 2003

Elizabeth Sanchez Case 5519/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 5240 Broadway, Marble Hill Houses, Manhattan.

Carlos Real Case 5451/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 230 East 115th Street, Jefferson Houses, Manhattan.

Jason Morgan Case 4169/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 2219 Pitkin Avenue, Fiorentino Plaza Houses, Brooklyn.

Clarence Emerly Case 5487/03 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 927 DeKalb Avenue, Roosevelt Houses, Brooklyn.

Timothy McMeans Case 5545/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 40 Centre Mall, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.

Nain Njam Case 4102/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 438 Beach 40th Street, Far Rockaway, New York.

## INSPECTOR GENERAL

(Continued from page 3)

Originally from upstate New York, Ms. Abruzzo says criminal justice has been in her blood since day one. With a family tradition of law enforcement service, she said she always wanted to be a prosecutor.

Ms. Abruzzo attended Marist College in Poughkeepsie, where she majored in criminal justice, then went to St. John University's School of Law. After earning her law degree, she became an Assistant District Attorney with the Brooklyn District Attorney's office. She's been with the Housing Authority since 1996.

Ms. Abruzzo would like to continue to reach out to residents and NYCHA employees alike and encourage them to report corruption or wrongdoing. For example, if a NYCHA employee asks for money to make a repair in a resident's apartment, "That's something we'd like to know about," she said. Likewise, "We'd like to hear from NYCHA employees who know of unreported income or unauthorized tenants in Housing Authority apartments."

The IG's office continues to help NYCHA by putting up posters around the developments to encourage reports of fraud and waste. And, the IG's office conducts lectures to NYCHA employees about their duty to report corruption and their rights when they do.

She also stressed how important it is for residents to fill out their affidavits of income accurately and report their incomes honestly. Not reporting your income or household make-up accurately is a crime. And, if the 75 arrests the IG has made so far this year are any indication, the IG's office will find the cheaters sooner rather than later.

### SPEAK OUT AGAINST FRAUD AND CORRUPTION!

**If you are 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.**

# NYCHA's 2004

## Citywide Winners

**FLOWER:** Renew Your Spirit Garden, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, South Brooklyn

**VEGETABLE:** Garden of Joy, South Jamaica Houses, Queens

**CHILDREN'S THEME:** Mrs. Pott's Garden, Stanley M. Isaacs Houses, Manhattan

## SOUTH BROOKLYN — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Beach Front Garden #1, Coney Island Houses

**2nd Prize:** The Wishing Well Garden, Glenwood Houses

## SOUTH BROOKLYN — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Fajardo Garden, Breukelen Houses

**2nd Prize:** Mya Jessica Garden, Breukelen Houses

**3rd Prize:** Puerto Rico's Garden, Breukelen Houses

**Honorable Mention:** Bayview Vegetable Garden, Bayview Houses

## SOUTH BROOKLYN — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Beauty at the Bay, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses

**2nd Prize:** Gardens Of Peace, Glenwood Houses

**3rd Prize:** Olivia, CJ's & Zaniah's Garden, Marlboro Houses

## WEST BROOKLYN — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Ebony Garden, Marcy Houses

**2nd Prize:** Eden on Bond, Gowanus Houses

**3rd Prize:** Sweet Success Gardeners, Louis Armstrong Houses

**Honorable Mention:** Garden of Dreams, Cooper Park Houses

## WEST BROOKLYN — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Cabbage Patch Garden, Walt Whitman Houses

**2nd Prize:** Garlic Garden, Surfside Gardens

**3rd Prize:** Garden Of Venus, Stuyvesant Gardens II

**Honorable Mention:** Bengie's Vegetable Garden, Sumner Houses

**Special Achievement:** Willie & The Little Hunter's Plantation, Roosevelt Houses

## WEST BROOKLYN — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Sunrise Morning Glory Garden, Louis Armstrong Houses

**2nd Prize:** The Earth Laughs Garden, Independence Towers

**3rd Prize:** Shady Corner Garden, Stuyvesant Gardens

Community Center

## EAST BROOKLYN — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Sunflower's Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

**2nd Prize:** Lea's Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

**3rd Prize:** Carmen Senaida's Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

**Special Achievement:** Butterfly Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

## EAST BROOKLYN — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Green Thumb Garden, Louis H. Pink Houses

**2nd Prize:** Bountiful Garden, Tilden Houses

**3rd Prize:** Flaboyan Garden, Hope Gardens

## EAST BROOKLYN — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

**1st Prize:** Colorful Angeles Garden, Hope Gardens Houses

**2nd Prize:** Mayda's Children's Garden Of Peace, Boulevard Houses

**3rd Prize:** Garden Of Eden, Cypress Hills Houses

# GARDEN COMPETITION AWARD WINNERS

## STATEN ISLAND — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** A Purple Heart – A Tribute To Our American Service People, Berry Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Garden of Luv, Mariner's Harbor Houses  
**3rd Prize:** Children's Community Garden, Berry Houses

## STATEN ISLAND — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Compy's Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Dina's Garden, Berry Houses

## STATEN ISLAND — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** A Little Sunshine Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Miller's Beauty Garden, Mariner's Harbor Houses

## QUEENS — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Allen's Flower Garden, South Jamaica Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Rain Drop Garden, Redfern Houses  
**3rd Prize:** D.J.'s Corner Garden, South Jamaica Houses  
**Honorable Mention:** Catherine's On A Hill Far Away, "Flower Garden", Beach 41st Street Houses

## QUEENS — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Allen's Friendly Vegetable Garden, South Jamaica Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Garden Of Venus, South Jamaica Houses  
**3rd Prize:** Garden Of Eat'n, South Jamaica Houses

## QUEENS — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Eye Of The Tiger Garden, South Jamaica Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Catherine & Tiffany's "Live Peaceful & Joyfully," Beach 41st Street Houses  
**3rd Prize:** Highest Praise Garden, Beach 41st Street Houses

## MANHATTAN — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Heavenly Scent Serenity Garden, Stanley M. Isaacs Houses  
**2nd Prize:** A Touch of Class, Wagner Houses  
**3rd Prize:** Garden of Love, Douglass, West Of Broadway Houses  
**Honorable Mention:** 55 J Jackson Garden, Vladeck Houses

## MANHATTAN — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Troche's Garden, Wald Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Jade Garden, Campos Plaza  
**3rd Prize:** Wilson Vegetable Garden, Wilson Houses

## MANHATTAN — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Lilly's Butterfly Garden, Lexington Houses

## BRONX — FLOWER GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Harrod Garden, Bronx River Houses  
**2nd Prize:** The Liberty Garden, Throggs Neck Houses  
**3rd Prize:** God's Paradise Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation  
**Honorable Mention:** Garden Gate Perennial, Bronxdale Community Center

## BRONX — VEGETABLE GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Family Garden, Throggs Neck Houses  
**2nd Prize:** Tiny Tot's Family Garden, Morris Houses  
**3rd Prize:** El Bahio Garden, Union Avenue Consolidation  
**Honorable Mention:** Davidson Community Center Vegetable Garden, Davidson Houses

## BRONX — CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN WINNERS

- 1st Prize:** Webster Community Center Garden, Webster Houses



**CITYWIDE WINNER—FLOWER GARDEN:** Renew Your Spirit Garden, Sheepshead/Nostrand Houses, South Brooklyn



**CITYWIDE WINNER—VEGETABLE GARDEN:** Garden of Joy, South Jamaica Houses, Queens



**CITYWIDE WINNER—CHILDREN'S THEME GARDEN:** Mrs. Pott's Garden, Stanley M. Isaacs Houses, Manhattan

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## PSS GrandParent Family Apartments In the Bronx Is Looking For Tenants



**NYCHA** is pleased to announce that it is working with two not-for-profit organizations, Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS) and the West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing (WSFSSH) to introduce a new housing development, the PSS GrandParent Family Apartments, located at 951 Prospect Avenue in the Bronx. The development will be available for occupancy in December 2004.

The 50 apartments in this new building will be exclusively for grandparents, or elderly caregivers, 62 or older, who care for minor grandchildren (under the age of 18) or other relatives. A family relationship such as grandparent-grandchild and a legal care relationship such as adoptive parent or guardian will be required. You may apply even if you do not currently have a legal care relationship with the minor child or children for whom you are caring.

PSS and WSFSSH will assist you regarding the legal care relationship during the period prior to occupancy. A comprehensive program of supportive services will be available on-site. If you are interested in this unique opportunity or know someone who is, just ask your Development's Management Office for a "Tenant Request to Move PSS/GFA" — NYCHA form 040.050G. Complete the form and return it to your Housing Assistant for further processing.

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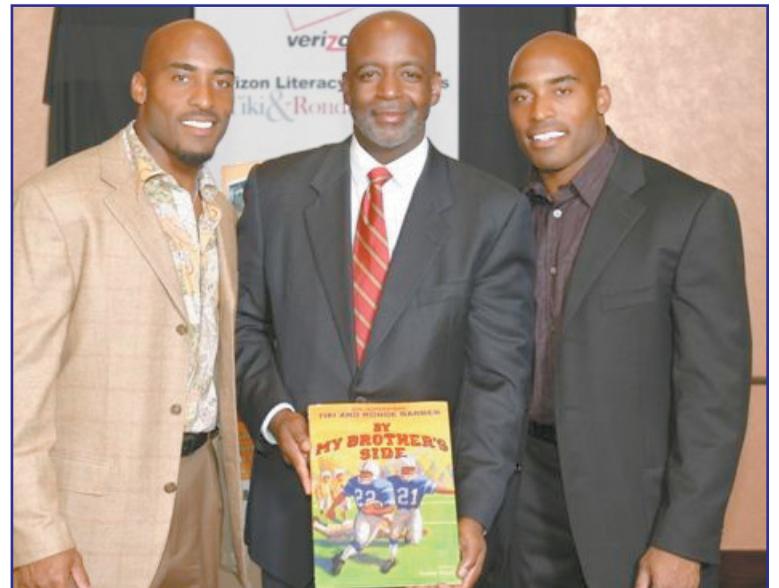
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**Athletes Donate Books To NYCHA**



NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence (above, center) joined NFL twin superstars Tiki and Ronde Barber at Shula's Steakhouse in Times Square on September 13th to accept 200 copies of the Ronde brothers' new book, "By My Brother's Side," on behalf of the after-school Partners In Reading Program. The brothers made their donation with the help of NY Reads, a partnership between Verizon Communications and the national non-profit Literacy Assistance Center.

Tiki Barber is a running back for the NY Giants and Ronde is cornerback for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. "By My Brother's Side" is a children's book about their childhood experiences, emphasizing the family support that helped them both to become successful. The brothers thanked NYCHA for its work promoting literacy with the after-school Partners In Reading program.

Partners In Reading is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office, the Department of Education and NYCHA to improve literacy skills in children in the 1, 2, and 3rd grades. It currently operates at 121 public housing sites, serving approximately 6,000 children.

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*(Continued from page 1)*

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**\*\* Women \*\***

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**ATTAIN LAB IN STATEN ISLAND**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Opening for the new Advanced Technology Training And Information Networking (ATTAIN) lab at the development, which will provide area residents with access to state-of-the-art computer technology.

Through its University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD), the State University of New York's (SUNY's) ATTAIN program places computer labs in underserved communities to help residents enhance employability and academic skills. All ATTAIN labs are equipped with 16 IBM computer stations, each loaded up with over 30 different software programs. There is also a facilitator to assist in the use of the programs.

Funding for the lab at Berry Houses was obtained by Assemblyman Cusick. "This is a great event," the Assemblyman announced to the crowd of supporters gathered for the occasion. "This will benefit all of Staten Island. Staten Islanders can use this lab to make themselves more marketable, and for those who aren't computer literate they can learn."

In introducing NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence, Mr. Cusick said, "We couldn't have done it without NYCHA." Mr. Spence expressed his excitement about the initiative, saying that it was a prime example of residents, elected officials and the City coming together, and that he was glad NYCHA was able to provide the space.

"With this technology, you can leave Berry Houses and go anywhere in the world," Mr. Spence told the residents in the audience. "It's for the whole community—children, adults and seniors."

Mr. Macwan who is Director of the UCAWD emphasized the importance of technology in today's economy, and of closing "the digital divide."

"Eighty percent of the jobs in today's marketplace require technology," Mr. Macwan remarked. "The technology revolution is also about learning how to utilize technology to make money. Some people refer to this as creating digital wealth — it is going to be one of the most important commodities in the 21st Century." In referring to the variety of resources available through ATTAIN, Mr. Macwan dubbed the lab, a "One Stop Technology Superstore." "I wish you all a fantastic shopping trip!" he said in closing.

Before the actual ribbon-cutting, UCAWD's Educational Opportunity Centers Director William Chalmers and the software developer, Instructional Systems Inc.'s, Senior Trainer and Program Developer Sonya Maxwell used the overhead projector to make a presentation.

"We tell our students, 'You can make it happen,'" Ms. Maxwell stressed. "We say, 'Let's chart out a course to where you want to go, and how you're going to get there. We can help, but the responsibility is yours.'"

"It's fabulous," said a long-time Berry Houses resident, who chose to remain anonymous, during the luncheon afterwards. "I never thought a program like this would reach here."



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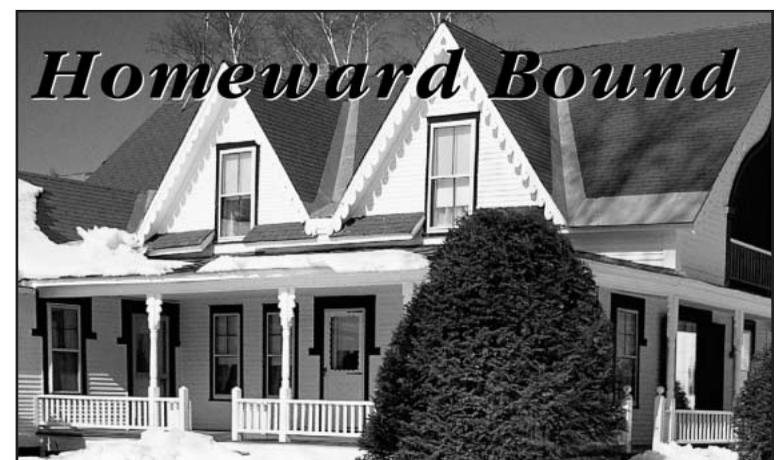
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## SENIOR FESTIVAL BRINGS SEASON TO A MUSICAL CLIMAX



Frances Braxton of the Pink Houses Senior Center giving it her all in Wedding Bell Blues.

By Allan Leicht

NYCHA seniors filled the theater of the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan on the afternoon of September 10th for the 2004 Senior Festival. "Wedding Bell Blues, A Senior's Romance," an original musical, was the centerpiece of the afternoon. But even before the main production got underway, NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Community Coordinator Keir Nelson, served as master of the revelry for a pre-show of selections by the Rangel Senior Chorus, the Bronx Senior Chorus and the Citywide Senior Chorus that included Gospel, Motown and clap-along Ecuadorian folk songs.

NYCHA Vice Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr., and Board Member JoAnna Aniello brought greetings from Chairman Tino Hernandez, and Community Operations' Director of Citywide Programs Ernesto Lozano greeted the seniors. Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence threatened to "sing a little song," but immediately withdrew the offer in favor of the extravaganza about to begin. DGM Spence did take a moment to acknowledge the contributions of over 20 community center staff members who helped to make the production a reality. Mr. Spence made special mention of Mr. Nelson and his fellow Community Coordinators Brian Denman and Andre LeClech.

"Wedding Bell Blues" told the story of Cara, played by Yvonne Lee of Bushwick/Hylan Houses, who embarks on a trip around the world after the expected wedding ring from her fiancé fails to materialize. Fiancé Bill, as portrayed by Leon White of Douglass Houses, takes off in pursuit of his errant girlfriend as she and her wealthy Parisian Aunt Emerald, Soundview Houses' Filomena Orpilla, lead him on a French,

Italian, Spanish, Chinese and finally African musical adventure. Crucial to their romantic escapades are Cassandra, a Venetian fortune-telling gypsy queen who does a little matchmaking on the side, played with suitable mystery by Elizabeth Correa, also of Soundview, a Sage of Hong Kong brought to life by Charles Tang of La Guardia Houses, and the Nigerian Babalawo (high priest) in the person of William Sellow of La Guardia. Cara's daughter Lola, played by Kenya Leak of Highbridge Houses, keeps the home fires burning all the while until it is revealed that Cara never left home at all – it has all be a vivid fantasy as she waits for her wedding ceremony.

Cara poignantly wonders what of life's excitement she might be giving up in married life. But as written by playwrights Jessie Saunders Petrus, and Andre LeClech and Keir Nelson, a stable constancy prevails and the sweet reality of marriage vanquishes the foolishness of daydreams.

"Wedding Bell Blues" was more than a very entertaining ride for a summer's afternoon, it was a meaningful story, well told.

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### Garden Awards *(Continued from page 1)*

23 gardens for the borough of Brooklyn, Beach 41st Street Houses registering 30 gardens for the borough of Queens, and Mariner's Harbor registering five gardens for the borough of Staten Island.

After the distribution of awards, plaques and trophies to resident gardeners, caretakers and management staff by Howard Hemmings, who was also the Master of Ceremonies, a bountiful lunch was served.

Vice-Chairman Andrews summed up the day best when he said, "While we are giving awards today to the best gardens and gardeners, everyone who participated this season has made our developments and our city a more beautiful place to live."

**Please contact your Housing Assistant if you have questions regarding the Community Service Requirement.**

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