



# Journal

The New York City Housing Authority  
Announces  
the 2005  
**Summer Youth  
Employment Program**  
Summer Jobs Available  
For Residents Ages 14 – 21

- Participants needed for grounds work at NYCHA developments  
Monday — Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
- Counselor-in-Training positions at NYCHA Community Centers  
Age requirement: 16-17  
Monday — Friday, 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.  
Both Programs are 25 Hours per week  
(1 hour unpaid lunch)

Applications Available at NYCHA Management Offices, Community Centers, and at the Department of Resident Employment Services  
350 Livingston Street, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Brooklyn

Completed applications must be returned to NYCHA Management Offices by  
**Monday, May 16, 2005**

## MAINTENANCE REPAIRS BY APPOINTMENT!

NYCHA is in the process of rolling out a new program that promises to revolutionize the way maintenance services are provided to residents. With a new Centralized Call Center, beginning in Staten Island this month, residents will be able to schedule repairs *by appointment*.

How often have you requested a maintenance repair and been told that a repair person will come, but were not told *when*? With the new Centralized Call Center, that will be a thing of the past.

The main objective of the Centralized Call Center program is to improve service and response time to NYCHA residents. At the same time, it will standardize the entry of work requests, and reduce their duplication.

Once the program is implemented, Staten Island residents will no longer call their individual Management Office to request routine repairs or report emergencies.

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## Mayor Bloomberg Visits New Intergenerational Apartment Complex In The Bronx



THE WELCOME MAT is out for Dorothy Jenkins (right) and seniors like her who find themselves raising their grandchildren. Ms. Jenkins is shown here with NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez (left) and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg during a tour of the PSS/GrandParent Family Apartments.

By Eileen Elliott

Dorothy Jenkins, a resident of the New York City Housing Authority's (NYCHA's) St. Mary's Houses for 30 years, spoke softly, her face framed by the fuzzy beige hat she wore to help protect her eyes. "Have you seen the apartments yet?" I asked. "Beautiful. They're just beautiful," Ms. Jenkins replied. "I'm so excited about moving in. My grandchildren are too."

It was the morning of February 16th and we were standing in the sparkling lobby of the brand new, nearly opened Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS)/GrandParent Family Apartments on the corner of 163rd Street and Prospect Avenue in the Morrisania section of the Bronx. Together with staff from NYCHA, PSS and the West Side Federation For Senior and Supportive Housing, or WSFSSH,

along with a group of seniors from the nearby Davidson Senior Center, and a smattering of media, we awaited the arrival of Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg at the second stop of his three-site tour to highlight affordable housing initiatives in the city.

Unlike most 75-year-olds, who hopefully have reached a time in their lives when they can relax,

(Continued on page 2)



HARAMBEE DANCERS kept more than 1,000 NYCHA residents entertained at the Bronx Zoo's Dancing Crane Cafe on February 23, 2005, for the New York City Housing Authority's Bronx Borough Black History Month Celebration. Children and seniors from 28 Community Centers and six Senior Centers in the Bronx attended. In addition to entertainment, the day included a tour of the Congo Gorilla Forest, Jungle World, the World of Birds and Somba Village, where a field researcher talked about her experiences working with endangered wildlife in Africa. At the Congo Village, artists from NYCHA's Citywide Programs helped the children make masks. Harambee is the Swahili word for "togetherness."

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Message From The Mayor

NEW COMMISSION TO CREATE CONSTRUCTION OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEW YORKERS



Last month I was joined by U.S. Congressman Charles B. Rangel to announce the establishment of the Mayor's Commission on Construction Opportunity. The Commission will explore strategies and set goals for ensuring that all New Yorkers, particularly minorities, women, returning veterans and new high school graduates, are well-prepared and can gain access to good, permanent jobs

in construction, in both the private and public sectors, during the expected construction boom over the next ten years. The 34 members of the Commission include private developers and contractors, including minority and women-owned businesses, union representatives, advocates, and government officials.

As I said in the State of the City address, New York City is at the dawn of an exciting period and we are perfectly positioned to take advantage of what we expect will be the biggest construction boom in our city's history. We want to ensure that these solid, permanent jobs go to New Yorkers, especially minorities, women, returning veterans and new high school graduates, who have been well-prepared to succeed. We have found 34 exceptional individuals to serve on the Commission and I am sure they will move forward aggressively to address these goals as we continue to find new ways to create opportunity for all. I have thanked Congressman Rangel for his commitment and hard work on behalf of New York City, and each of the Commission members for dedicating their time and expertise to this historic endeavor.

As the Congressman pointed out at the press conference, construction is a major part of the city's economic future and development, with almost every neighborhood and community experiencing its growth. It is important to make sure these new construction jobs stay with New Yorkers, as well as working hard to expand opportunities. This effort presents a significant step toward making sure that all New Yorkers benefit from the new development across the city.

The Commission on Construction Opportunity will be co-chaired by Deputy Mayor for Policy Dennis Walcott and Deputy Mayor for Economic Development Daniel Doctoroff, and will include seven City agency heads, including New York City Housing Authority Chairman Tino Hernandez. At the Commission's first meeting, which took place last month, members worked together to identify the needs of the industry and various approaches to combine opportunities with education and support, as well as to explore opportunities in both public and private construction.

The major development projects throughout the City include the Hudson Yards, West Chelsea, Downtown Brooklyn, Greenpoint/Williamsburg, Lower Manhattan redevelopment, and Upper Manhattan. The City estimates that from these projects alone, 260,000 construction jobs will be created over the next 30 years. And, if New York is selected as the Host City for the 2012 Olympics, thousands more construction jobs will be created.

Michael R. Bloomberg

Mayor Visits New Intergenerational Apartment Complex



GRANDS STANDING If all goes well, the new residents of the GrandParent Family Apartments will include (above, left to right) Ann Ford, Sarah Saddler and Laura Horne. "I don't know who thought of it but I think it was the most precious, marvelous idea," said Ms. Horne, who has lived in Forest Houses since 1976, and will be raising three grandchildren in her new apartment. At right Chairman Hernandez addresses seniors and the media at Wien House, where Mayor Bloomberg (seated, to the Chair's right) held a press conference on affordable housing initiatives.



(Continued from page 1)

Ms. Jenkins has no such luxury. After raising three children of her own, she took on the responsibility of raising two of her grandchildren after their mother became ill.

Like Ms. Jenkins, there are an estimated 100,000 seniors (aged 62 or older) in New York City who have the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Since seniors make up 33% of all NYCHA heads of household, and are NYCHA's fastest growing population, it isn't surprising that the Housing Authority became an enthusiastic collaborator with the two not-for-profit organizations, PSS and WSFSSH, to establish the first-ever apartment building in the United States newly constructed to meet the special needs of grandparents or elderly caregivers raising their grandchildren or other relatives.

Ms. Jenkins joined Mayor Bloomberg, NYCHA Chairman Tino Hernandez, and Department for the Aging Commissioner Edwin Mendez-Santiago for a tour of the facility. The tour was led by PSS Executive Director David Taylor and WSFSSH Executive Director Laura Jervis.

At the press conference Mayor Bloomberg held later that morning at his final stop of the day, Wien House, in the Inwood section of Manhattan, the Mayor congratulated NYCHA, PSS and WSFSSH on the GrandParent Family Apartments.

"This will be a great thing for

families like Dorothy Jenkins and her grandchildren Brittany and Warren. It really has the potential for becoming a model for meeting the needs of tens of thousands of families like the Jenkins in our city," he said.

The \$12 million, six-story building consists of 50, two- and three-bedroom apartments. There is space for community and supportive services programs for both

seniors and young people, and a landscaped courtyard with a playground. In addition, there will be 24-hour front-door security, a live-in superintendent, a porter, and laundry facilities on each floor.

Construction on the GrandParent Family Apartments began in September 2003 and NYCHA expects the first 25 families to move in over the next few months.

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The Housing Authority Journal

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*Message From The Chairman***Employment Opportunities  
For NYCHA Residents**

Whatever your age or work experience, spring is a great time of year to find work with the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA). NYCHA has a number of programs to help residents find seasonal jobs, as well as programs to help residents obtain the education and training needed to build more permanent careers.

You may have seen the advertisement on page 1 for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). Sponsored by the City's Department

of Youth and Community Development, these jobs are only available to New Yorkers who are between the ages of 14 and 21. NYCHA has 1,900 SYEP slots to fill this summer, and any New Yorker, not just NYCHA residents, between the required ages can apply. The jobs are 25 hours a week, working on the grounds of NYCHA developments, or as counselors-in-training at NYCHA Community Centers. Check with your Management Office or Community Center for an application, or call NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services (RES) at the number below. Remember, completed SYEP applications must be returned to the Management Office by May 16th.

In addition, each summer NYCHA hires residents who are 18 years old or older to work full- or part-time at Community and Senior Centers in July and August. Candidates for these positions are recruited through the Community Center Advisory Boards and resident leaders. Talk to your Resident Association President if you are interested in these jobs.

From April to November each year, NYCHA employs an additional 300 to 400 residents to maintain development grounds across the City. The limited applications for these positions became available in NYCHA Management Offices in March.

NYCHA also provides residents with training and employment opportunities that lead to longer-term careers. Much of this effort rests with the Housing Authority's Department of Resident Employment Services (RES), which I am happy to say, helped 755 residents find jobs last year. RES focuses on helping residents who receive public assistance, or are unemployed, or underemployed, so that they may become economically self-sufficient. RES does this by offering a variety of services including recruitment and outreach, intake and assessment, referrals to education and job training, job development and job placement and support services.

RES has created partnerships with City agencies and nonprofits to maximize resident opportunity. One partnership is with the City's Small Business Services' One Stop Workforce Centers, which provide workshops and conduct job placements for NYCHA residents. RES also collaborates with a variety of training providers to prepare residents for positions such as bank tellers, security guards, home health aides and maintenance workers. In a program with the Borough of Manhattan Community College, residents are trained and placed in positions as Direct Care Counselors, working with people who have developmental disabilities. And with Computer and Educational Consultants, RES provides NYCHA residents with training and job placement in computerized bookkeeping, customer service, general office skills, data entry and financial services.

Sound interesting? To find out more, contact NYCHA's Department of Resident Employment Services at (718) 250-5904.

So, if you are looking for a job, I encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities presented here. These programs, and programs like them, have started many residents on the path to success over the years.

*Tino Hernandez*

**REPAIRS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

Instead, residents will call a dedicated telephone number at the Emergency Services Department, (718) 707-7771, where a Customer Service Representative will take the information, enter the request into the Work Ticket System, and give the resident the Work Ticket number. A copy of the Work Ticket will then be printed at the development Management Office.

In the case of an emergency, the Customer Service Representatives at ESD will also contact the Management Office by telephone to inform them of the condition and notify them that a Work Ticket is being printed at their location.

The Centralized Call Center service will be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

**For Routine  
Maintenance Repairs:**

Appointments will be scheduled within a two-week timeframe. Residents will be offered the next available appointment to have the repair completed. If the next available time slot is not convenient, the resident will be asked to select another time slot (date, plus AM or PM). A Customer Service Representative will call to confirm the appointment the day before the scheduled visit.

**For Emergency  
or Urgent Repairs:**

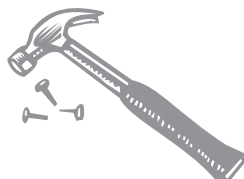
During normal business hours (8:00AM – 4:30PM) development staff will be dispatched to address the emergency. For after-hours requests (after 4:30PM), the method of reporting the request will remain the same, but staff will be dispatched by ESD.

Within a few days of completion of the work, a Customer Service Representative will contact randomly selected residents to ensure that the work was done on time and completed to the resident's satisfaction.

**When Will The New  
Program Get Started?**

The new pilot program will begin on April 25th in Staten Island. Development managers will supply residents with the new Centralized Call Center telephone number before the start of the program.

As NYCHA moves forward with this system, all residents will be able to schedule repairs by appointment. NYCHA encourages residents to work with staff to maximize the benefit of this new program.

*Deborah's Diary*

*By Deborah Williams*

**Life Choices**—Sometimes the journey of life leads us to a fork in the road, and we have to decide which path to take. It isn't always easy to choose, but nonetheless, many of us may have to. Just remember, if you choose a path that doesn't work out, you can always change course. NYCHA Human Resources Department Secretary Belinda Rogers is proud to say that her son Keith McDowell of Breukelen Houses, in Brooklyn, chose the right path. On January 8, 2005, Keith graduated from the Police Academy's six-month training program. In a recent telephone interview, Officer McDowell told me, "Growing up in public housing I saw the need for better policing in our developments. People need to know the officers that police their neighborhood on a one-to-one basis. I figured the best way to change it is to work it from the inside. I have always felt the need to, and wanted to help others, to show them the right path and to instill values. That's why I wanted to be assigned to the Housing Bureau of the New York City Police Department. It's my opportunity to change and better the NYCHA community." Officer McDowell also holds an Associate Degree in Automotive Technology from the Columbia Greene Community College, in Hudson, New York. His plans for the future include advancing in rank in the Housing Bureau. "I only hope to one day hear the words, 'Thank you,' from a person that I have helped. That will be my gratification," said Officer McDowell. On January 10, 2004, Officer McDowell was assigned to Police Service Area (PSA) #2 in Brooklyn. Developments he polices include Brownsville, Seth Low, Van Dyke and Tilden Houses. ***Well Officer McDowell, I have the distinct pleasure of working with your mom and she is truly proud of your success. When I spoke to her I could hear her joy. You have turned out to be a fine, upstanding young man. I congratulate you on your success and wish you well in your career. Stay safe. The NYCHA community looks forward to seeing you!***

**Generosity Lives**—"I've been hearing everyday everywhere how every little penny counts and so I decided to start a collection." When John (Jack) W. Laurson of Cassidy Houses in Staten Island made this statement he was referring to the tsunami victims and the effort to help the survivors of this tragic and horrific event. With compassion in his heart and the desire to help he began collecting funds for tsunami victims. During lunchtime at the Cassidy-Cole Senior Center, Mr. Laurson presented his cause to the seniors and they without hesitation gladly donated a total of \$600. The money was sent to the survivors via the Staten Island Commerce Bank, which provided matching funds for a grand total of \$1200 donated in the center's name. ***This is truly a grand gesture and proof that generosity lives! It's folks like you and gestures like this that make this country great. Your concern for others is commendable. Thanks go out to you and the seniors at the Cassidy-Cole Senior Center!***

**A New Outlook**—A very special congratulations to Tyrone Coleman (Little Ty) of the Farragut Houses in Brooklyn, who on January 7, 2005, was selected to participate in the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) Training Program. The course provides an introduction to property management, building systems, maintenance goals, and the roles of maintenance staff as well as how to safely use and maintain construction tools. "I like being in the program. I'm learning a lot about the proper usage of tools and other things as well. I plan to put my new skills to good use once I complete the training," said Little Ty enthusiastically. The program is geared to provide NYCHA residents with the skills and experience needed to obtain a job through NYCHA's Section 3 program. The training is conducted during two cycles. The first began in January and ended in March. The advanced class will begin again in September and run through June. ***Since you are my neighbor, I know firsthand how committed you are to completing this program. I just want you to know that I am proud of you for staying with it, getting good grades and for seeing it through thus far. I extend special congratulations to you because you are more than just a neighbor, you are like family. Keep up the good work!***



## 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. This list is part of NYCHA's effort to keep residents informed of the Housing Authority's ongoing effort 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 November 5, 12, 19, and 26, 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 November 5, 2003

Charles Lorenzo Case 4802/03 formerly associated with the eleventh floor of Elliott-Chelsea Houses, Manhattan.

### Prohibited as of November 12, 2003

Johnny Coella Case 7768/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2326 West 8th Street, Marlboro Houses, Brooklyn.

Uasia Davis Case 1959/03 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 433 Lafayette Avenue, Lafayette Gardens Houses, Brooklyn.

Jermaine Nelson Case 7572/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 564 Park Avenue, Marcy Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Sumpter Case 7573/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 185 Scholes Street, Williamsburg Houses, Brooklyn.

Rene Ramirez Case 7576/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 761 Manor Road, Todt Hill Houses, Staten Island.

Jose Millan Case 1124/00 formerly associated with the second floor of 1762 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Raul Martinez Case 7732/03 formerly associated with the third floor of 937 East 56th Street, Glenwood Houses, Brooklyn.

Leon Codrington Case 4271/03 formerly associated with the eighth floor of 95 Old Broadway, Manhattanville Houses, Manhattan.

Daken Hannon Case 7784/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 875 Columbus Avenue, Douglass Houses, Manhattan.

Keyon Richardson Case 7803/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 234 Ralph Avenue, Brevoort Houses, Brooklyn.

Steven Wilson Case 7768/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 451 Columbia Street, Red Hook East Houses, Brooklyn.

Lameck Blocker Case 7802/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 1043 Myrtle Avenue, Sumner Houses, Brooklyn.

### Prohibited as of November 19, 2003

Derrick Selby Case 7842/03 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 507 Columbia Street, Red Hook West Houses, Brooklyn.

Jose Vasquez Case 7997/03 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 2275 Randall Avenue, Castle Hill Houses, the Bronx.

Jahoba Thompson Case 8020/03 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1458-1460 Webster Avenue, Butler Houses, the Bronx.

Jose Rold Case 8022/03 formerly associated with the first floor of 553 Kings 5th Walk, Kingsborough Houses, Brooklyn.

Anthony Jaessny Case 8186/03 formerly associated with the fourteenth floor of 301 East 156th Street, Jackson Houses, the Bronx.

Shaskera Smith Case 6182/03 formerly associated with second floor of 90 Wayne Court, West Brighton/Markham Gardens, Staten Island.

## Mayor Visits Apartments

(Continued from page 2)

NYCHA provided the land and will contribute public housing subsidies to keep the rents affordable. Because the GrandParent Family Apartments are considered public housing, seniors will pay the standard 30% of their income in rent. WSFSSH will own and manage the apartments in accordance with a 99-year ground lease with NYCHA for a nominal fee. Additional funding for the apartments was provided by New York State and private sources.

Through the Kinship Caregivers Program, PSS will provide on-site supportive services, including a full-time social worker for the seniors, and a part-time youth coordinator to work with the children.

### The Other Stops of the Day

Mayor Bloomberg began his press conference by commenting on the complexities associated with the housing needs of New York City residents. "New York is the nation's biggest and most diverse city and meeting the housing needs of everyone is not a 'one-size-fits-all' proposition," the Mayor said. "It is a complex undertaking that requires a wide variety of specialized solutions. Today, we've travelled to three separate communities to look at three distinct examples of what I mean."

The Mayor's first stop of the day, the Mt. Morris Townhouses in Harlem, highlighted affordable homeownership opportunities. At his last stop, Wien House, the Mayor commended the City's Housing Development Corporation (HDC) for developing a financing program which will fund much needed repairs to the 100 unit senior building.

Mayor Bloomberg commented that his plan to preserve and develop affordable housing in New York, "draws on the skills of the best housing agencies in the United States." He was joined by representatives of those agencies at Wien House, including Chairman Hernandez, HDC President Emily Youssouf and the City's Department of Housing Preservation and Development Commissioner Shaun Donovan.

Chairman Hernandez thanked the Mayor for making affordable housing a priority of his administration. Of the GrandParent Family Apartments, he noted, "This is a really exciting step for the Housing Authority. It not only meets the special needs of our seniors, it also demonstrates how we can make better use of our land, our relationship with other government agencies, and our ability to form partnerships with the private sector."

## 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 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.

If you know of someone who is not a NYCHA resident who may be interested, he/she should call Cliff Flanders (West Side Federation For Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc.) to request an application at (212) 721-6032, ext. 248.



### DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO...

- Pretends they were hurt on Housing property?
- Doesn't report their income or pretends to be unemployed?
- Doesn't report everyone in the household?
- Rents out their apartment?

*If you do, money is being wasted!*

### LET'S KEEP THE \$\$\$ WHERE IT BELONGS AT WORK IN YOUR DEVELOPMENT

- ... after school programs... play areas...
- senior activities...
- landscaping... a fresh coat of paint

If You Know of any Fraud or Corruption Committed Against NYCHA by any NYCHA Resident, Employee, Contractor or Vendor

CALL NYCHA'S INSPECTOR GENERAL at (212) 306-3355

or the DEPARTMENT OF INVESTIGATION at (212)-3-NYC-DOI / (212) 825-5050

(all calls kept confidential)



## NYC Early Literacy Learning Program Culmination Ceremonies *Mayoral Program Seeks To Develop Literacy Skills In Pre-Schoolers*



CUPCAKE DECORATING involves lots of skills that prove to be challenging for pre-schoolers. The children above all just completed the new eight-week NYCELL program at the Classic Center at Melrose Houses in the Bronx. This was one of the final activities of the day.

— By Eileen Elliott —

The New York City Early Literacy Learning (NYCELL) program held its first round of Culmination Ceremonies simultaneously at five NYCHA Community Centers on a bright and sunny March 10, 2005. Unlike many literacy programs, the eight-week NYCELL targets children who are only between the ages of one and three-and-a-half, with the goal of strengthening their language and pre-reading skills to get them ready for school. By having the parents or caregivers attend the program's Early Literacy Workshops with the children, and providing them with books to take home, as well as assisting with their own parenting and literacy skills, NYCELL does its best to ensure that the benefits of the program will continue once the eight weeks are over. As an added support, the nonprofit organization, Literacy Inc. or LINK, meets with the parents and children twice a month to follow-up.

The NYCELL pilot program is a collaboration between the Mayor's Office and the New York City Housing Authority. It is currently operating at five NYCHA Community Centers: The Classic Center at Melrose Houses in the Bronx, the PAL-Miccio Center at Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn,

the Rutgers Community Center in Manhattan, the Hammel Community Center in Queens and the South Beach Community Center in Staten Island.

Each site holds Early Literacy Workshops on Mondays and Wednesdays, and Tuesdays and Thursdays. Classes are small, with

only about ten sets of parents and children at each.

"We wanted to keep it small, intimate, like a book club" said Deborah Taylor at the Culmination Ceremony at the Classic Center. Ms. Taylor is the Director of Citywide Education and Youth Services from the Office of Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, whom she credited for the program's creation, as well as Department of Education Deputy Chancellor Carmen Farina.

Family Literacy Associate Moyje Aaron, who runs the program at the Classic Center, welcomed everyone. "This is a special day," she said to the parents and children. "We want to celebrate your success."

Melrose resident Tracey Spivey, who attended the program with her two-year-old daughter Breanna, said the program helped her daughter learn more quickly, and learn how to get along with other children. These observations were echoed by a number of parents during a brief session dedicated to sharing the benefits of the program.

Ms. Aaron then conducted the cycle's final workshop. It began with the "Hello Song," during which everyone sang, "Hello \_\_\_\_\_" naming the child whose nametag, complete with the spelling and a picture, Ms. Aaron put up on the board. This was followed by a host of nursery rhymes and songs, and finally, a cupcake

(Continued on page 6)

## Health Matters

### Colon Cancer

Colon cancer kills 1,500 New Yorkers each year and kills more non-smokers than any other cancer. Colon cancers usually develop slowly over a period of several years. Before a true cancer develops, there are often earlier changes in the lining of the colon. One type of change is a growth of tissue called a polyp. Removing the polyp early may prevent it from becoming cancer. Almost half of all people 50 and older have colon polyps, which may develop into cancer.

The colon is part of the digestive — or gastrointestinal (GI) — tract. This is where food is processed to create energy and rid the body of waste matter. Each of the four sections of the colon has several layers of tissues. Cancer starts in the innermost layer and can grow through some or all of the other layers. The stage (extent of spread) of colon cancer depends to a great degree on which of these layers it affects.

#### Risk Factors

These are the primary risk factors associated with colon cancer. If you fall into any of these groups, you should talk to your doctor about getting screened.

- Being age 50 or older
- A parent or sibling had colon polyps, colon cancer, or (possibly) other cancers
- Smoking. Smokers are 30-40% more likely than non-smokers to die of colon cancer; quitting smoking reduces the risk.
- Typical "Western" diet (refined sugar and flour, high-fat from red meat, low-fiber)
- Inflammatory bowel disease (ulcerative colitis or Crohn's disease)
- African-American or Eastern European Jewish (Ashkenazi) ancestry
- Excessive alcohol intake
- Sedentary lifestyle
- Being overweight

#### Steps You Can Take to Reduce Colon Cancer Risk

- Maintain a healthy weight
- Exercise regularly
- Eat at least 5 servings of fruits and vegetables per day
- Eat a diet rich in fiber from high fiber cereals and dark breads like wheat, rye and pumpernickel
- Eat foods containing vitamin-D. Vitamin-D is found in fortified milk, fish oils and egg yolk. One cup of vitamin-D fortified milk supplies one-quarter of the daily need for this vitamin in adults.

#### Additionally, the following may reduce the risk of colon cancer:

- Take a daily multivitamin with folate
- Watch alcohol intake. While moderate amounts (about one drink a day) can provide some health benefits, too much can raise the risk of colon cancer and other diseases.
- Ask a doctor about benefits and risks of daily 81-mg ("adult low dose") aspirin tablets.

#### Screening for Colon Cancer

Medicare, Medicaid and more than 90% of private health insurance companies cover screening colonoscopy.

#### Why should you get screened for colon cancer?

Colon cancer can almost always be prevented if polyps are detected and removed early before they become cancerous.

- Colon cancer can usually be cured if cancerous polyps are removed at an early stage of the disease.
- Colon cancer is usually without symptoms.

#### The NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH) recommends that everyone age 50 or older should see a doctor and get a colonoscopy.

For information on cancers not covered here, please visit the American Cancer Society at [www.cancer.org](http://www.cancer.org) and the National Cancer Institutes at [www.cancer.gov](http://www.cancer.gov).

Call the NYC DOHMH at: 3-1-1

(The above article is reprinted from the DOHMH web site.)

The Juilliard School In collaboration with the  
New York City Housing Authority announces auditions for



**Music Advancement Program**

Office of Educational Outreach  
The Juilliard School  
60 Lincoln Center Plaza  
New York, NY 10023

[Map@juilliard.edu](mailto:Map@juilliard.edu)  
[www.juilliard.edu](http://www.juilliard.edu)



The Music Advancement Program (MAP) is a Saturday instrumental music program for students ages eight to fourteen who reside in one of the five New York City boroughs. MAP targets children from ethnicities underrepresented in American performing arts institutions, who also demonstrate financial need. Qualified applicants must have at least six months playing experience on any instrument of an orchestra or piano, and also demonstrate high musical potential. The curriculum includes private lessons, theory and music history classes, ensembles, workshops, and recitals.

MAP students are provided:

- An instrument for the duration of the child's enrollment in MAP.
- Basic supplies such as a music stand and metronome.
- Free tickets to concerts and events.
- Need-based scholarships.



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brochure at 212-799-5000,  
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### Manhattan South COP Installation



**TAKING THE OATH** The Manhattan South Council Of Presidents (COP) held its installation ceremony at the Stanley M. Isaacs Neighborhood Center on March 7, 2005. Pictured above are: (left to right) COP Chair Nicoletta Azure, Vice-Chair Rose Bergin, Treasurer Charlotte Miles, Sergeant-At-Arms St. Clair Clement and Secretary Mercedes Ruiz. NYCHA's Department of Community Operations Deputy General Manager Hugh Spence read the oath to the Council, and Community Operations Manhattan Borough Director Luis Soler charged the officers with their duties. Also in attendance were Deputy General Manager for Operations Robert Podmore, Assistant Deputy General Manager for Management Rowland Laedlein, and Manhattan Borough Director Carolyn Jasper. Manhattan South is one of nine COP districts in the City. It is made up of the Resident Association Presidents of the district's 44 developments. The Chairperson from each COP District sits on the Citywide Council Of Presidents, which meets with NYCHA executive staff to convey residents' concerns.

### NYC Early Literacy Program Culmination Ceremonies

*(Continued from page 5)*

decorating exercise. An ebullient Ms. Taylor presented certificates to the 20 or so sets of parents and children, for their "enthusiastic participation." "This feels really, really good," Ms. Taylor said. "It's almost overwhelming. When we all sat at the table with Deputy Mayor Walcott and Deputy Chancellor Carmine Farina, with the goal of getting children reading and communicating as early as possible, we had no idea the program would look like this."

In addition to Early Literacy Workshops, there are on-site reading rooms, books for home reading, and referrals to supportive services, such as English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, GED and adult literacy classes. NYCELL participants at the Classic Center also visited the Melrose Public Library, where adults and children received library cards.

The program expects to serve 200 families during the three eight-week cycles. "It's really met with an enthusiastic response," said Deputy Director of Citywide Programs Ukah Busgith. "There's already a waiting list for the last cycle." For more information, residents can call NYCHA's Educational Services Unit: (212) 306-3527.

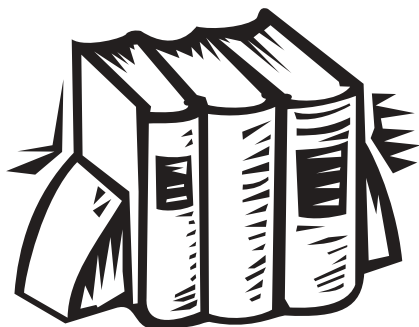
### Manhattan Chess Tournament Champs



**SMART MOVE** The Jackie Robinson Community Center Chess Team won the borough-wide Manhattan Winter Chess Tournament on February 17th, and will go on to play in the Citywide Tournament on June 10th. Shown here are: (back row, left to right) Jackie Robinson Community Center Director Alfredo Miranda, Community Operations' Community Coordinator Eric Espinal, and Consultant Carlos Stevens, who teaches the game, joining the winners (not in order): Brian Ross, Shafeeq Cole, Oliver Martinez, Claudio Miranda, Nashay Taylor, and Cade Rogers. Jackie Robinson beat out four other community centers in the borough: DeHostos, King Towers, Jacob Riis and Seward Park. Playoffs for the other boroughs ran throughout the end of February and March. The Chess Program is offered at 44 NYCHA sites, primarily for children ages 9-12, but there are also some senior and teen chess programs. If you are interested in finding out how you can join, call (212) 306-3311 and ask for Eric Espinal, or (212) 306-3232 and ask for Baffour Adjei. NYCHA is in the process of putting together a team of the best players to compete with other chess organizations.

### Harvard's New Initiative To Attract Talented Students From Low and Moderate-Income Families — Parents Not Expected To Pay

In February 2004, Harvard University announced a major new initiative designed to encourage talented students from families with low and moderate incomes to attend Harvard College. The new initiative includes a summer academic program designed to prepare talented students from financially disadvantaged backgrounds for college, and a financial aid component, which increases aid for students from low and moderate income families. **Beginning with the 2004-05 year, parents in families with incomes of less than \$40,000 are no longer expected to contribute to the cost of attending Harvard for their children.** In addition, Harvard has reduced contributions expected of families with incomes between \$40,000 and \$60,000.



To find out more, visit Harvard's web site at: [www.admissions.college.harvard.edu](http://www.admissions.college.harvard.edu) and click on "Financial Aid," or call the school's Financial Aid Office at (617)495-1581.



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In January, when you receive your W-2 forms, call the NYC general helpline at 3-1-1 to learn more about the EITC or check online to [www.nyc.gov/eitc](http://www.nyc.gov/eitc).

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<p><b>Bronx</b> March 29, 9:00 AM Joe's Place (Bi-Lingual) 1841 Westchester Ave. Cross St./Theriot Ave.</p>	<p><b>Bronx</b> March 31, 9:00 AM Pelham Bay Diner 1920 E. Gunhill Rd. Cross St./Ely Ave.</p>	<p><b>Bronx</b> April 8, 9:00 AM Charlie's Inn 2711 Harding Ave. Cross St./Balcomb St.</p>	<p><b>Bronx</b> April 15, 9:00 AM Paradise Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 243 East 149th St. Cross St./Morris Ave.</p>	<p><b>Bronx</b> April 20, 9:00 AM Antigua Caridad (Bi-Lingual) 1093 South Blvd. Cross St./Westchester Ave.</p>
<p><b>Brooklyn</b> March 25, 9:00 AM Del Rio Diner 166 Kings Hwy. Cross St./W. 12th St.</p>	<p><b>Brooklyn</b> March 30, 10:00 AM Vegas Diner 1619 86th St. Cross St./16th Ave.</p>	<p><b>Brooklyn</b> April 8, 9:30 AM Junior's Restaurant 386 Flatbush Ave. Corner of DeKalb Ave.</p>	<p><b>Brooklyn</b> April 12, 9:00 AM Socrates Restaurant 651 Manhattan Ave. Btwn. Norman &amp; Nassau</p>	<p><b>Brooklyn-Sunset Park</b> April 13, 9:00 AM George's Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 5701 5th Ave. Cross St./57th St.</p>
<p><b>Brooklyn</b> April 20, 10:30 AM Castillo Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 54-55 Myrtle Ave. Corner of St. Nicholas Ave.</p>	<p><b>Manhattan</b> March 30, 10:00 AM Silver Star Restaurant 1236 Second Ave. Cross St./65th St.</p>	<p><b>Manhattan</b> April 12, 9:00 AM La Rosita Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 2809 Broadway Cross St./109th St.</p>	<p><b>Manhattan</b> April 14, 10:00 AM Gemini Diner 641 Second Ave. Cross St./E. 35th St.</p>	<p><b>Manhattan</b> April 21, 9:00 AM Caridad Rest. (Bi-Lingual) 4311 Broadway Cross St./184th St.</p>
<p><b>Queens-Flushing</b> March 31, 9:00 AM Palace Diner 60-15 Main St. Cross St./60th Ave.</p>	<p><b>Queens-Ridgewood</b> April 14, 9:00 AM Glendale Diner 71-08 Myrtle Ave. Cross St./Cooper Ave.</p>	<p><b>Queens-Jackson Hts.</b> April 15, 10:30 AM Casa Colombia (Bi-Lingual) 86-23 Roosevelt Ave. Corner of 87th St.</p>	<p><b>Westchester-Peekskill</b> April 7, 9:00 AM Westchester Diner 300 Albany Post Rd. Cross St./Route 9A</p>	<p><b>Westchester-New Rochelle</b> April 20, 9:00 AM Thru-Way Diner 810 Main St. Cross St./Kings Hwy.</p>

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