FINANCIAL LITERACY CLASSES FOR BRONX RESIDENTS BEGIN

ROKE HOUSES FOR the first of four financial literacy workshops in the Bronx.

By Eileen Elliott

Residents from three NYCHA developments in the South Bronx have a new tool to help keep their financial houses in order—financial literacy workshops. The four workshops were the result of a collaboration between the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), the Coalition for Debtor Education and North Fork Bank as part of an ongoing effort to bring greater access to banking and financial education to NYCHA residents. The keynote speaker chosen to address 30 or so seniors gathered for the initial workshop at the Classic Community Center in the South Bronx on March 12th, was, appropriately, New York City Comptroller William C. Thompson, Jr.

“NYCHA looks forward to working with the Coalition to expand these workshops throughout the Bronx and around the City,” said Chairman Tino Hernandez. Addressing the content of the workshops, the chairman added, “There are a lot of people out there who specialize in separating us from our money. Some are honest and some are not. We must learn to protect our money and guard ourselves from identity theft, over-borrowing and the schemes and scams that prey on identity theft, over-borrowing and the schemes and scams that prey on identity theft,” the Comptroller said.

“Information is a powerful tool to help meet the financial challenges that come with every stage of life,” Mr. Thompson told the seniors. He also spoke about the collaboration between the Comptroller’s office and NYCHA to bring banks to underserved communities such as those at Ravenswood and Queensbridge Houses. “We would like to bring capital, credit and banking services to every individual and provide financial literacy tools to help battle fraud and identity theft,” the Comptroller said.

Coalition for Debtor Education President Barbara Kent, who was the moving force behind the partnership, also spoke. “Our mission is to increase financial education for all New Yorkers,” said Ms. Kent of the nonprofit organization she heads. “People at all income levels are experiencing higher stress in managing debt.”

All workshops were conducted at the Classic Center at Melrose.

NYCHA's 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program

NYCHA is seeking youths between the ages of 14 and 21 for the 2007 Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). SYEP is sponsored by the Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). The 2007 program will run from July 2nd through August 18th. Participants will work 25 hours a week, Monday through Friday. NYCHA residency is not required to qualify for the program.

NYCHA'S SYEP participants gain valuable employment experience working in Community Centers as Counselors-in-Training (16 and 17 year olds only), or on NYCHA development grounds. Interested youth can apply online or download an application from the City's Website: www.nyc.gov/isyep

SYEP applications are also available at NYCHA Development Management Offices, Community Centers and at the Department of Resident Employment Services, located at 350 Livingston Street in Brooklyn. Completed applications may be returned to any NYCHA development Management Office, and must be returned by May 18th.

For more information about SYEP, please visit DYCD's Website or contact NYCHA'S SYEP Program Coordinator, Frances Rodriguez at 212-306-3985.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES

New York State Senator Hillary Clinton speaking with (left to right) NYCHA Vice-Chairman Earl Andrews, Jr. and General Manager Douglas Apple at the GrandParent Family Apartments in the Bronx.

Senator Clinton Visits The PSS GrandParent Apartments

By Peter Moses

GRANDPARENT FAMILY APARTMENTS, THE FIRST EVER PUBLIC HOUSING DEVELOPMENT DESIGNED FOR GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN, SERVED AS THE BACKDROP FOR NEW YORK SENATOR HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON TO ANNOUNCE THAT SHE IS RE-INTRODUCING A BILL IN THE SENATE THAT WOULD PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES CARING FOR YOUNG RELATIVES, WHO MIGHT OTHERWISE END UP IN FOSTER CARE.

The Bronx site, in the Morrisania section of the borough, where Senator Clinton and others spoke about the need to provide assistance for kinship caregivers, is home to 50 grandparents.

(Continued on page 3)

Are Your Window Guards Installed?

EALIER THIS YEAR, THE NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY (NYCHA) BEGAN A CAMPAIGN TO INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS IN EACH AND EVERY WINDOW IN A NYCHA APARTMENT THAT DOES NOT ALREADY HAVE A PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AIR CONDITIONER SECURITY GATE. WHY? WINDOW GUARDS SAVE LIVES.

New York City law requires landlords to install window guards in every apartment where a child aged 10 or under resides, or when a resident requests them. NYCHA is going above and beyond the law to enhance the safety of residents.

The initiative to get window guards in every single window is being spearheaded by NYCHA’s Deputy General Manager for Operations Robert Podmore.

“For the last five or so years I’ve had to respond to calls in the warmer months when a child has fallen out of the window. The reasons are usually the same: an air conditioner was just removed or children were visiting an apartment that usually doesn’t have children. I

(Continued on page 5)
A ‘Beacon of Hope’ in Brownsville

By Heidi Morales

ON THE SECOND FLOOR OF THE HISTORIC STONE AVENUE BRANCH OF THE BROOKLYN PUBLIC LIBRARY IN BROWNSVILLE ONE CAN FIND A HIDDEN TREASURE — THE BROWNSVILLE HERITAGE HOUSE. It was the budding dream of Rosetta “Mother” Gaston (1885-1981), a community activist who devoted her life to teaching African-American children about their culture and who, despite the tragic loss of her own two children, opened her arms and heart to the children of the Brownsville community. Now that dream is being kept alive by Patricia Dean.

The Heritage House was founded in 1981 and has for years opened its doors with the goal of educating both young and old about Black culture. The Heritage House functions as a library/museum and is home to a variety of books by, and historical photographs of, prominent African-Americans. Art includes sculptures, graffiti by local artists, and photo collages depicting the history of Brownsville, among other things. All exhibits are set up with full descriptions of their historical significance in easy-to-understand language for the benefit of the children they serve.

Mrs. Dean, a New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) resident for over 40 years, and resident and former Resident Association President of Glenmore Houses, has been running the Heritage House since 1981. This knowledgeable and resourceful woman has taken on the responsibility of Chairperson of the Board, Director, Curator, Grant Writer, Teacher, and Researcher of the Brownsville Heritage House.

She explained how challenging it has been to keep this “beacon of hope” alive and serving the community. Despite having not-for-profit status and being an institution that focuses on educating the community, the Heritage House does not count on private funding or grants to cover the costs of exhibits and lectures or the day-to-day upkeep of the space. “I operate [the Heritage House] the same way I’ve gone through my life; I’ve always had faith, grace and mercy,” Mrs. Dean said. “Most of this is hands-on for me. I do this myself. See, I see not the condition but the completion. It is like taking a photograph and you see it as it should be, not as is.”

Mrs. Dean has been known to stay up all night finishing projects and training photographs, or preparing for lectures, which she began working at the Heritage House as a volunteer because she realized that there was a great need in her community, which has always been overshadowed by notoriety and negativity. “A new kind of character education is necessary and that’s been my study — how to reach the population.”

(Continued on page 9)
CHAIRMAN’S MESSAGE

The Town Halls Are Starting Up Again Next Month

IT’S NEARLY TIME FOR THE TOWN HALL MEETINGS TO START AGAIN.
As many of you know, each year the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) creates an Agency Annual Plan for submission to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) outlining our major objectives for the coming year. The Plan is drafted in consultation with the 54-member Resident Advisory Boards, or RAB. The RAB consists of 45 elected members of conventional public housing and nine members from the Section 8 Leased Housing Program. The RAB provides crucial input as NYCHA works to formulate a Plan that addresses the needs and concerns of residents while addressing issues of public safety, capital improvements, resident employment opportunities, etc.

Once NYCHA publishes a draft Agency Annual Plan it is sent to all Resident Association presidents and made available online at NYCHA’s Website: nyc.gov/nycha, and in NYCHA Management Offices and Community Centers for residents and the general public to review. The draft Fiscal Year 2008 Agency Annual Plan will be available from May 21st through August 1st. Starting in June, NYCHA will host a town hall-style meeting in each borough to hear and respond to comments from the public about the Plan. Key NYCHA executive staff attend these meetings and are available to address concerns.

NYCHA will then hold a Public Hearing for residents as well as the general public. To ensure that as many people as possible get a chance to speak, all speakers at the public hearing — residents, members of the general public, housing advocates, elected officials and their representatives — register beforehand and are given the floor for three minutes. The Public Hearing takes place on August 1st this year, and will be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Manhattan Center at 311 West 34th Street.

After the Public Hearing, NYCHA meets with the RAB again to obtain its final comments. The Plan is then finalized by NYCHA based on the RAB comments and comments made at the Public Hearing. The final Plan is sent to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for review and if NYCHA does not receive a response in 75 days, the Plan is considered approved.

I urge all residents who feel they have something to contribute to attend the Town Halls and the Public Hearing. You can view a list of the dates and times on page 11 of this Journal. NYCHA is here to serve you: to make sure that the first public housing in the country continues to be the best, not only for the New Yorkers who live here now, but also for generations to come.

Come out to one of the Town Hall meetings and the Public Hearing, and make your voices heard! I’ll see you there!

Tino Hernandez

GRANDPARENT APARTMENTS

(Continued from page 1)

and 97 grandchildren. Grandparent Family Apartments is a unique development that provides housing and social services to grandparents who care for grandchildren or other relatives.

To establish this unique form of housing the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) collaborated with two not-for-profit organizations, Presbyterian Senior Services (PSS), which provides on-site support services to the residents, and West Side Federation for Senior and Supportive Housing, Inc. (WSFSSH), which owns and manages the building. NYCHA leased the Prospect Avenue site to the developer for $1 a year in a 99-year ground lease, and will contribute a public housing subsidy which will keep the rents affordable. Additional funding was provided by New York State and private sources.

“People will think that leaving families together is important. Instead of putting children in the system, give them to their grandparents.”

Among the supporters of the Kinship Caregiver legislation is Janice Flood, a 65-year-old widow who is raising four of her grandchildren, ranging in age from 4 to 17 years old in the Grandparent Family Apartments.

“I crossed my fingers and prayed that I could move here when this place opened,” said Ms. Flood. “I lived a block away from here but that was like another world. There are so many grandparents who have their grandkids and they deserve a way to raise them right. For me it was a dream come true, it was like winning the lottery.”

Nationally, about six million children are living in households headed by grandparents or other relatives, according to U.S. Census figures. In New York City 245,000 grandchildren live in households that are headed by grandparents.

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Direct Deposit: A Safer, Easier Way to Get Your Benefits
Direct deposit is the best way to get your Social Security or SSI payment. It’s safer and easier than a check because your money goes straight to your account on your payment day. Now, signing up is easier than ever. Call Go Direct at (800) 353-1795, or visit www.GoDirect.org.

GRANDPARENT APARTMENTS

Riding the Waves — Seguon Bush, of the Red Hook Houses in Brooklyn, walks around with a broad smile these days and it’s all because he’s secured a job that makes him happy. Not many of us can say we love our job but it seems that Mr. Bush has found one that he enjoys. “I came from not knowing anything about boating and getting seasick to knowing people who own yachts,” said Mr. Bush in an interview with the Daily News.

When Mr. Bush started his employment with the New York Water Taxi he told the Daily News, “The first time, I felt like someone was rocking the boat with their hands. My head was spinning; my stomach was turning and I’m thinking, ‘What’s going on?’ But since then the queasiness has passed and Mr. Bush has been promoted to Water Taxi Captain. Each morning, five days a week, 10 hours a day, he leaves the Red Hook docks and rides the waves to landmarks like the Statue of Liberty and Flushing Bay, near Shea Stadium. He rose from cleaning the water taxi and answering passengers’ questions to becoming one of the top New York Water Taxi Service, Inc. employees.

“Kinship Caregiver legislation is Honorary Royal Titles Hit Home — Among the supporters of the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade has long been popular in New York City. In addition to the National Puerto Rican Day Parade, smaller parades are held locally throughout the five boroughs.

For years, the Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade has turned ordinary New Yorkers into royalty by naming them Kings, Queens, Princesses and Princes of the parade. Over the past three years, at least one of those titles has been given to a NYCHA resident. In 2005, the title of Queen Miss Teen Puerto Rico was bestowed upon Angelica Cartagena of Pelham Bay Houses. In 2006, Jazzmen Rodriguez of Murphy Consolidated was crowned Princess. In addition, Marcela Menchaca was crowned Princess of the parade in 2007. Watch for the float that will carry the Kings, Queens, Princesses and Princes, as it rides down the Grand Concourse in New York City.

She has inspired me and others to go on to college. My sisters are following in my steps and will be auditioning for the parade as well,” said Angelica. Contestants are judged on their ability to dance to Bomba y Plena, sing Puerto Rican songs, and model, and were tested on their knowledge of Puerto Rico. Winners are selected from five age categories: 5-11, 12-13, 14-18, 18 and over, and 65+.

The Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade will be held on May 20, 2007. Watch for the float that will carry the Kings, Queens, Princesses and Princes, as it rides down the Grand Concourse in the Bronx. Maybe this year’s Queens and Princes will be NYCHA residents too. If you are interested in auditioning for King, Queen, Princess, or Prince for the Puerto Rican Day Parade, you can call 718-542-3212, 718-679-3072, or 718-825-4060 for additional information.

Congratulations to you all on your crowns and glory! I’m sure being crowned Queen and Princess of the parade was an exciting event and that the day of the parade will be a day you always remember. I bow my head to you in honor of your accomplishment and I wish you well in all of your future endeavors.

DEBORAH’S DIARY

By Deborah Williams

CALL 311 FOR ALL NON-EMERGENCY CITY SERVICES

Senior News

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Direct deposit is the best way to get your Social Security or SSI payment. It’s safer and easier than a check because your money goes straight to your account on your payment day. Now, signing up is easier than ever. Call Go Direct at (800) 353-1795, or visit www.GoDirect.org.

Visit NYCHA’s Website at: 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. 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 February 1, 8 and 15, 2006. Please note: These exclusions are based on NYCHA's Administrative Hearing Process and should not be confused with the Trespass Notice Program under Mayor Bloomberg’s Operation Safe Housing Initiative.

Remember, if you see any of these individuals on housing authority property, please call your management office or NYCHA's special investigations unit at (212) 306-8595.

Prohibited as of February 1, 2006
Jermaine Baker Case 318/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 48 Fleet Walk, Bronx.
Jamie Baker Case 102/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 3430 West 125th Street, Grant Houses, Manhattan.
Kareem Baker Case 217/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 132 Kramer Avenue, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
Larry Bryther Case 217/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 132 Kramer Avenue, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
Khasim Barrow Case 318/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 48 Fleet Walk, Bronx.
Maurice Strother Case 419/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 132 Kramer Avenue, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
Prichard Thompson Case 419/05 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 132 Kramer Avenue, South Beach Houses, Staten Island.
Harvey Zimmerman Case 193/06 formerly associated with the 11th floor of 205-207 Alexander Avenue, Mitchell Houses, the Bronx.
Eric Murray Case 203/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 85 Navy Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.
Shirelle Murray Case 203/06 formerly associated with the fifth floor of 85 Navy Walk, Ingersoll Houses, Brooklyn.
Lamar Simpson Case 211/05 formerly associated with the third floor of 2777 Sampson Avenue, Throgs Neck Houses, the Bronx.
Jerome Greene Case 191/06 formerly associated with the tenth floor of 2660 8th Avenue, Drew Hamilton Houses, Manhattan.
Larry Moton Case 284/06 formerly associated with the 10th floor of 2405 First Avenue, Wagner Houses, Manhattan.
Byron Nevels Case 291/06 formerly associated with the fourth floor of 1826 Richmond Road, Berry Houses, Manhattan.
Alejandra Rodriguez Case 392/05 formerly associated with the 12th floor of 195 Nagle Avenue, Dyckman Houses, Manhattan.

Prohibited as of February 8, 2006
Damian Case 317/06 formerly associated with the seventh floor of 1595 East 174th Street, Bronx River Houses, the Bronx.
Issac Taylor Case 352/06 formerly associated with the first floor of 41-15 10th Street, Queensbridge South Houses, Long Island City.
Chimba Carlos Case 102/05 formerly associated with the second floor of 620 East 137th Street, Mill Creek Houses, the Bronx.
Paul Jenkins Case 360/05 formerly associated with the sixth floor, 365 Ford Street, Twin Parks West, the Bronx.
George McCall Case 371/05 formerly associated with the seventh floor, 1762 Story Avenue, Monroe Houses, the Bronx.

Prohibited as of February 15, 2006
Mitchell Dudley Case 434/06 formerly associated with the second floor of 1824 Watson Avenue, Bronxdale Houses, the Bronx.
Charles Webster Case 8/06 formerly associated with the sixth floor of 335 Fountain Avenue, Cypress Hills Houses, Brooklyn.
Bobby Lane Case 473/06 formerly associated with the 11th floor of 1980 Park Avenue, Lincoln Houses, Manhattan.

THE CHIEF'S CORNER

NYPD Youth Outreach Programs

The New York City Police Department is firmly committed to positive interaction with young people. The NYPD is increasing its focus on outreach by offering a number of programs, which are listed below. For more information on these and other youth programs, contact your local Police Service Area and ask for the Community Affairs Officers or the Auxiliary/Explorer Coordinators.

The Law Enforcement Explorers Program

This is a career-oriented program designed to educate young men and women, aged 14-20, about law enforcement. The Junior Investigators Program is available to children aged 10-13. The Law Enforcement Exploring Academy is a three-week course, offering classroom instruction and workshops on police issues and tactics such as: car stops, domestic violence, and crime investigations. Activities include field trips and site visits to law enforcement units and agencies. The third week involves a high adventure outdoor experience, such as canoeing, rock climbing, or swimming.

The Summer Youth Police Academy

This is a program for young adults between the ages of 12 and 17. Students will attend classroom sessions with lectures, role-plays and topical demonstrations in the areas of law, behavioral science, drug prevention and gang resistance. Field trips are also part of the curriculum. The Academy operates four days a week for six weeks during the summer in all five New York City boroughs.

The Gang Resistance Education and Training (GREAT) Program

This is a 13-week classroom program for middle school students. Specially trained police officers teach a curriculum educating young people about the consequences of gang involvement and strategies to resist gangs.

Police-Youth Dialogue Workshops

These are workshops conducted by Housing Bureau Community Affairs officers in NYCHA community centers and local city high schools that offer students an opportunity for interaction and dialogue with police officers. The workshop aims to build trust and understanding between police officers and young people living in public housing.

The Police Athletic League

The Police Athletic League (PAL) provides young people with needed summer and after-school recreational and educational activities.

The Summer Youth Employment Program

This program offers young city residents paid summer work placements throughout the Police Department.

The Auxiliary Police Officer Program

This is a community service volunteer program for citizens aged 17 through 60. Volunteers are trained to patrol their communities to observe and report conditions requiring police attention, also to assist in non-enforcement, non-hazardous duties. Auxiliary Police are the “Eyes and Ears” of the Police Department.

The Cadet Corps Program

The Cadet Corps Program places qualified college students in apprenticeships throughout the Police Department. Working full time in the summer and part time during the school year, cadets who complete the program can receive up to $64,000 in compensation to put toward a college education. The program is open to New York (Continued on page 9)

Your Smoke Alarm/Detector

Your smoke alarm is a life-saving device and should be treated as such. Every apartment must have at least one working smoke alarm. NYCHA provides two types of these devices. There are battery-operated smoke alarms, which sound a loud warning sound within the apartment to alert you when there is a dangerous level of smoke. And there are hard-wired alarms, connected to your building's electrical system. This hard-wired type sets off an alarm inside your apartment like the battery-operated alarms.

Install a new battery in your battery-operated smoke alarm once a year. Schedule a regular time for you and your family change the battery in the alarm. This should be part of your family’s fire safety plan. At the same time, you can familiarize yourself with the sound of the smoke alarm by pressing the test button located on the device. If the alarm does not sound, or you believe your smoke alarm is defective in any way, promptly contact the Management Office, or, if you live in Staten Island, Queens, or Manhattan, contact the Centralized Call Center at (718) 707-7771, for repair or replacement of your smoke alarm and/or detector.

For your continued safety, NYCHA staff is required to check your smoke alarm as a routine part of any visit to your apartment.

Do not disable your smoke alarm or detector for any reason. There may be times when the alarm goes off because of cooking. In that case, open windows to air out your apartment until the alarm stops sounding, but never risk your family’s safety by removing or disabling the smoke alarm.
Residents Lobby for State Funding

By Eileen Elliott

The message was simple but packed a punch: “United We Stand, Divided We’re Homeless!” It was emblazoned onto the orange caps of 1400 New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) residents and members of a variety of community based organizations, as well as City Council Member Rosie Mendez, who traveled to Albany to demand that the State restore operating funds for public housing.

In a noon rally on the steps of the State Capitol, chants included, “Show me the Money!” “Keep Your Promises!” and “Save Our Homes!” The voices were loud and clear, not only on the steps of the Capitol, but in meetings with Lieutenant Governor David A. Paterson, the Governor’s Director of Intergovernmental Relations Marty J. Mack, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Housing Chair Vito Lopez, and local assembly members and senators.

At issue is funding for 15 NYCHA developments that were built by the State between 1958 and 1974, but have received no operating subsidy since 1988. Now, as NYCHA faces a budget deficit that is nearly double last year’s, it is more important than ever that the State restore funding.

“Our mission was to get the Governor’s attention,” said resident leader Gerri Lamb of Castle Hill Houses in the Bronx. Referring to NYCHA’s surplus at the time that Governor George Pataki cut funding in 1998, Ms. Lamb continued, “That was then, this is now. Right now the Housing Authority is in a budget crunch, like all housing authorities in the country. The current governor needs to undo what Pataki did.”

“Neighbors Empowering Neighbors,” is the name of the coalition of community based organizations and NYCHA residents that joined together to show their support: along with NYCHA’s Council of Presidents (COP) and Resident Advisory Board (RAB), this group includes the New York City Public Housing Alliance, Public Housing Residents of the Lower East Side (PHROLES), the Community Service Society, the Legal Aid Society, Housing Here and Now, Community Voices Heard, and ACORN.

Lisa Burriss, who is in charge of community organizing for PHROLES, and is a former longtime resident of Viadock Houses on the Lower East Side, said it was unusual for many of the groups to join together on NYCHA’s behalf. “Usually we never work together, but this is a critical time, so we came together. All the other issues seemed like small fish compared to this larger issue.”

PHROLES worked with Ms. Lamb and NYCHA residents to educate people about the Housing Authority’s budget situation.

(Continued on page 9)
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TEEN EXPLOSION MUSICAL PRODUCTION IS A HIT!

By Deborah Williams

THE LONG AWAITED PRODUCTION OF THE NYCHA MUSICAL “TEEN EXPLOSION” PREMIERED ON THE EVENING OF MARCH 29th AT THE FASHION INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (FIT). The medley of musical productions from movies, Broadway shows and other theater featured flawless delivery of singing and acting, break dancing, hip hop, kump dancing and stepping that left the audience craving more.

As Chairman Tino Hernandez excitedly said, “Let’s get the show on the road.” The teens of NYCHA’s popular Performing Arts Program came onto the stage dancing to the melody, “Teen Explosion,” and the cast members boogied down the aisles.

Act 1 exploded with Debra Rodriguez of Douglass Houses, Margaret Atkins of Glenwood Houses, TeaQue Thomas of Straus Houses, and Tammy Benjamin of Two Bridges, singing “Seasons of Love” from the hit “Rent” by Jonathan Larson.

Act II opened with a skit based on the groundbreaking musical version of Ossie Davis’ play, “Purlie Victorious.” “Purlie Victorious” tells the story of Purlie, a preacher who returns home to the plantation where he grew up, hoping to buy a church from Ker nel Ol’ Cap’n, the plantation owner. Purlie wins up presiding over Ol’ Cap’n’s funeral. As the funeral procession marched in with casket in tow, Purlie, played by Christopher S. Williams of Boulevard Houses, delivered the eulogy. The church lady, played by TeaQue and a teen ensemble of ladies of the congregation sang, “Walk Him Up the Stairs,” a riveting, uplifting gospel song and dance number.

Next came Sandy McCartney of Throggs Neck Houses as Evillene, the wicked witch in the hit Broadway show “The Wiz.” Sandy’s performance was indeed “wicked” as she sang Charlie Smalls’ “Don’t Nobody Bring Me No Bad News.” With her deep, soulful voice she lambasted the chorus of messengers and the Winkies for not capturing Dorothy, the Tin Man, Scarecrow and Cowardly Lion.

Just as Effie and the Dreamgirls in the hit movie “Dreamgirls” dream of stardom, so do the teens of the NYCHA Performing Arts Program. Dressed in powder blue, sequined costumes bordered with white lace, and wearing elbow-length gloves, TeaQue Thomas and Chakeyna Merritt, of Baruch Houses, and Margaret Atkins of Glenwood Houses, were the Dreamgirls, singing Henry Krieger and Tom Eyen’s, song “One Night Only.” Contrary to the song title, with the talent these girls exhibited they will be around a lot longer than one night.

In a dance scene from Kenny Loggins’ Broadway musical, “Footloose,” Noel Bajandas and Dana E. Bland of Straus Houses accompanied by the Teen Ensemble, together put on an electrifying performance that charged the audience and had almost everyone bouncing in their seats.

(Continued on page 9)
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Residents Lobby

(Continued from page 5)

Among other actions, notices were sent out to all 179,000 NYCHA apartments to notify residents of a meeting held by Neighbors Empowering Neighbors at Baruch College in Manhattan. “If we get the money, it will be a drop in the bucket,” said Ms. Lamb. “But once the Governor signs off on it he can do a search for additional money. If the money increases each year, we’ll get back to a place where the State is pulling its weight.”

Was the rally a success? “It went very, very well,” said Ms. Lamb. “Our orange hats were the talk of the day... All over Albany folks were asking. ‘Who were the people in the orange hats?’”

A ‘Beacon of Hope’ in Brownsville

(Continued from page 2)

Brownsville was predominantly a Jewish neighborhood from the 1880s to the 1950s, but today the majority of the residents are Caribbean, Puerto Rican and African-American. Unfortunately, this neighborhood has been known through the years for crime and a disproportionate concentration of poverty. And although community development efforts are slowly becoming evident, according to Mrs. Dean there is still a lot of work to be done. “Brownsville is a city within a city without resources. Up until recently we didn’t even have a high school,” she added.

A proud grandmother of 14 and great-grandmother to one, Mrs. Dean expressed she has a “vested interest in the future” and that’s why her mission is to empower the young people in her community by educating them culturally. Her motto is, “Each one teach one; each one teach one.” “I just don’t see people having to live like they live when education can make a difference,” she added.

The exhibits and lectures at the Brownsville Heritage House are free and open to the public. For more information, please call (718) 385-1111.

TEEN EXPLOSION

(Continued from page 7)

It was that same energy that stretched across the stage as Deborah Rodriguez, Margaret Atkins, and Tammy Benjamin sang the late Fats Waller tune, “This Joint Is Jumpin’” from the musical “Ain’t Misbehavin.’”

But the highlight of the evening can be attributed to choreographers Bruce Heath and Kevin Bradford. It was the high-energy dance performance that dazzled the audience and had the children and teens dancing in the aisles. The teen ensemble performed dance sequences from the movies, “Stomp the Yard” and “You Got Served,” including the new dance phenomenon known as “Krump” dancing. “Krump-ing” is a dance style that involves elaborate and complex free-style moves. They are usually performed in competition with other dance crews and can be a combination of break dancing, hip hop jump, stepping and other styles. The production team saved the best dance for last.

An encore performance was held on March 30, 2007 at FIT.
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GARDEN AND GREENING PROGRAM
Community Operations
Department of Administration and Citywide Programs
Open to all NYCHA Residents
Entry Dates: March 26, 2007 - July 6, 2007
For additional information, please call (212) 306-3511

NEW YORK CITY HOUSING AUTHORITY
JOURNAL OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE
MAY 2007
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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.

The IG is supervised by the New York City Department of Investigation (DOI). Although the DOI and IG initiate and develop their own investigations, they encourage and rely upon NYCHA employees, residents, who do business with NYCHA, and the public at large, to report fraudulent and corrupt activity they see or hear.

To report fraud and corruption, call the IG at 212-306-3355, or the DOI at 212-3-NYC-DOI or 212-825-5959.

NYCHA held its annual Garden and Greening Program Workshop kick-off on April 13th at the King Towers Community Center in Harlem. The large crowd of both experienced and novice gardeners met with experts who provided useful tips on things such as improving soil quality, planning a garden, starting plants from seeds and how to plant a garden specifically to attract butterflies.

Begun in 1962, the Garden Program is the largest public housing program of its kind in the nation. Each year, NYCHA hosts a workshop for those community gardeners who want to learn more about growing things and also get some tips on how to grow an award-winning garden. NYCHA sponsors a Citywide yearly garden competition. This year’s theme is “NYCHA Grows With Its Gardens.”

“Public Comment The public is invited to attend any of the five scheduled Town Hall meetings at which the public may raise questions regarding the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2008. These meetings will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the dates and locations shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manhattan</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 12, 2007</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Classic Center at Melrose, 286 E. 156 at Morris Avenue, Bronx, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queens</td>
<td>Monday, June 11, 2007</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Fashion Institute of Technology, 285 Jay Street at Tillary Street, Brooklyn, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 6, 2007</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Atlantic Terminal Community Center, 501 Carlton Avenue, Brooklyn, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
<td>Wednesday, June 6, 2007</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>New York College of Technology, 285 Jay Street at Tillary Street, Brooklyn, New York</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Bronx</td>
<td>Thursday, June 7, 2007</td>
<td>6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Klingdon Auditorium, 715 East 105th Street, Brooklyn, New York</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The public is also invited to comment on the Draft Annual Agency Plan for FY 2008 at a public hearing to be held on Wednesday, August 1, 2007 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at

The Manhattan Center
Grand Ballroom
311 West 35th Street
New York, New York

Each location listed above is both handicapped accessible and can be reached using public transportation.

Written comments regarding the Draft Agency Annual Plan for FY 2008 are encouraged. To be considered, submissions must be received via United States Postal mail no later than August 1, 2007. Faxed submissions will not be accepted. Comments may be sent to the following address:

New York City Housing Authority
Public Housing Agency Plan Comments
Church Street Station
P.O. Box 3422
New York, New York 10008-3422

Michael R. Bloomberg, Mayor

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