

CSI in the News

October 2010

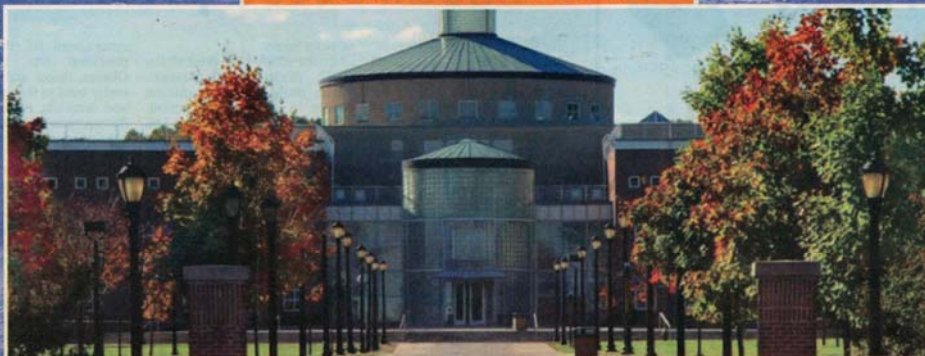


Table of Contents

<i>Arts</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>Arts</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Faculty & Staff</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Sports</i>	<i>54</i>
<i>Stories</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Students & Alumni</i>	<i>115</i>

ADS

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- Liberal Studies (MA)
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U.S. Small Business Administration



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Arts

CSI Art show, open to public, has Native American theme

Published: Thursday, October 14, 2010, 11:58 AM



Mark D. Stein



Artwork, highlighting Native American culture, is currently on display in the gallery at the Center for the Arts on the campus of the **College of Staten Island**, Willowbrook. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)
STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - A collection of 25 works that blend words and images reflecting Native American culture and a strong historical message is currently hanging in Building 1P, in the Art Gallery of the **College of Staten Island (CSI)**.

The four female contemporary artists' work included, collectively called "Wording the Imagine/Imaging the Word," has been on display since Sept. 27, and will be open for viewing, free of charge, until Nov. 7.

The printmaking techniques on display include woodcut, etching, soft-ground etching, aquatint, spit-bite, dry point, lithography, photolithography, digital printing, letterpress and chine colle, according to a short essay about the art collection that is distributed, also for free, at the gallery.

The artists, born between 1940 and 1950, are Pat Steir, Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, Lynne Allen and Lesley Dill.

Guest curator for the exhibition is Kit Smyth Basquin, whose doctoral dissertation deals with the subject of this exhibition. She works in the Drawings and Prints Department at The Metropolitan Museum of Art,

according to CSI.

Professor of art history and curator of the Art Gallery of the College of Staten Island/CUNY is Nanette Salomon.

Together, both wrote the short essay.

"These four remarkable artists enlist the power and eloquence of their creative imaginations to contest given truths, raise questions and awareness, and add beauty to our world through their words and images," read a portion of the essay.

Jessica Boehman, an adjunct professor of art history, said she was impressed by the exhibition. She emphasized the juxtaposition between word and image.

"It's not often that we see people addressing problems we had in our country 200 years ago," she said, adding that it is a good learning experience for CSI students.

Ms. Boehman enjoyed one of the works in particular - a 2003 piece titled "What Shall We Do With Our Indians?"

The item created by Ms. Allen, who used an 1875 British pamphlet to craft her work, a lithograph with chine colle. The work shows red ink, seemingly illegible, as it surrounds a gray silhouette, likely a person, who has a large red spot - perhaps a wound - in its chest.

She admired how it was old, but full of modern features, she said.

"It's a nice gallery. They've got a great collection," Ms. Boehman remarked. She said it provided a great opportunity for the school to show school-related art and see others' work.

Craig Manister, director of the art gallery and adjunct professor of painting and art history at the Willowbrook campus, said the gallery hosts four shows a year.

He described it as a "mini museum," and called the works in the gallery "a distinguished collection with an interesting idea."

Manister likes to use art shows that reflect academic offerings at the school.

"I love it," he said. "It's always easier when you have good work to hang."

Manister said that CSI students are picking up on it, too, and that attendance remained higher than usual in the show's second week.

"There's a number of ways students can relate to it," he said. "We're always trying to give insight into creative culture."

The gallery is open to the public from noon to 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday, and noon to 3 p.m., every Saturday. It is closed Fridays and Sundays. For more information, call Manister at 718-982-2553. CSI is located at 2800 Victory Blvd.

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Pictures write stories of feminism and Native American exploitation

Published: Sunday, October 17, 2010, 4:10 AM



Michael J. Fressola



"Wind Woman" by Lynne Allen is featured at the **CSI** Gallery show.

STATEN ISLAND, NY — Most art outlets will give you an easier assignment this fall than the **College of Staten Island** Gallery, where "Wording the Image/Imaging the Word" opened recently.

But easy art is cheating. The school is doing exactly what it should: At a college, no area of inquiry should surrender easily, art included.

It's not that it's a big show — just four unusually dexterous printmakers with intricate agendas. Guest curated by Kit Smyth Basquin, "Wording the Image/Imaging the Word" has just 25 pieces, made over a 35-year span.

The earliest comes from Pat Steir, the well-established painter whose ongoing "Waterfall" paintings are ubiquitous and welcome today in museum and corporate

The most recent works were made in the past few years by Lynne Allen. Allen and another participant, Jaune Quick-to-see Smith, have Native American blood, which informs their work.

All four participants are art-world veterans — 60-to-70 years of age — and all find an illuminated path in the vintage feminist dictum, "the personal is political."

In the catalogue essay, gallery director Nanette Salomon and the curator collaboratively assert that the slogan is as relevant today "as when it was introduced in 1969 and popularized through the 1970s."

They understate it. The idea is so pervasive today, it's an automatic assumption.

WORD MADE FLESH

Allen establishes one of the overriding themes, at the entrance to the gallery with "Invasion," a grommetted hanging made of out of thick quilted pads that moving men use to protect furniture.

A flotilla of small beaded warships (stenciled onto the surface, it turns out), float across the fabric, which is sprinkled with talismans— fishing weights, oxidized bottle caps — and printed with text in English and a Native language.

The text is personal, political, historical, an eyewitness account: "The advance was like the seasons. It came on so gradually that we were not aware of it until it was upon us."

The piece suggests how the colonization might have entered the Native record in a commemorative artifact.

Two print methods, digital and woodcut, are used in the smaller (17x17 inch) piece "Wind Woman (Ita ta Win)." It's a dim portrait of Allen's great grandmother, underscored with faint handwriting and overlaid with bright red markings, like lesions, scattershot or pox.

"Wind Woman," we're encouraged to think, endured privations.

Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, probably the best-known female Native American artist at work today, grew up on a reservation in Montana. Her work combines 20th century American styles of art-making with issues that concern her as an Indian. On top of it all, there's the printmaking agenda.

One large piece, "What is an American" (2001), has a central, sketchy headless figure. A little red, white and blue blood gusher fountains from one of its hands.

References are distributed throughout like little icons. There's a bison, a pineapple, the profile on an Indian head nickel, Mickey Mouse ears and a slogan, "Americans have big ideas."

Elsewhere, Quick-to-See Smith ruminates about heritage, as in "pure-bloods" and "mestizos," and about appropriation when Indian imagery is co-opted for advertising.

Empty dresses were such pervasive metaphor years ago in feminist art, the idea became threadbare. Still, Lesley Dill combines them with letterpress-printed lines from Emily Dickinson to suggest how poetry can function like armor, like a defense system.

Dill stains her often three-dimensional prints with tea so they look aged or she sews on them, adding lines of poems on thin strips (like the "Hosannas" that stream out of angel's mouths in some manuscript paintings). They're austere, not hopechest artsy-craftsy.

Thirty-five years ago Pat Steir, the senior figure in the show, produced a series of small black and white etchings prints ("Burial Mound Series") as a memorial to a deceased friend. They're gridded puzzles and word-games inscribed with repeated phrases.

Her big piece in the show — a wide, colorful, three-panel 42-inch piece called "Abstraction, Belief, Desire" — required such successive printing processes ("color aquatint with soft-ground and hard-ground etching, spit-bite aquatint and drypoint"), it's practically the creation of the world.

There's a lexicon of shapes in white on red, labeled "Form," at the far left. In the middle ("Illusion") the flat shapes are now rounded and dimensional. At the far right ("Myth"), the shapes have become recognizable entities: a young woman, an angel at prayer, etc.

Other ideas are inlaid in this non-schematic illustration/manifesto, accessible to any viewer willing to drum them out.

'Wording the Image: Imaging the Word'

Four printmakers present 25 pieces made over a 35-year span.

Where

College of Staten Island Gallery, in the Center for the Arts on the campus at 2800 Victory Blvd., Willowbrook.

When

Monday-Thursday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.; Saturday, noon-3 p.m.; up through Nov. 6.

How much

Admission is free.

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NYMETROPARENTS

Today's Family & Kids Activities in Brooklyn-Oct 17

by Directories Editor



Parents, don't let your children miss out on the fun! Here are some of today's kids and family activities in Brooklyn, from concerts and museums to decorating cupcakes and gardening! Want to see what's going on next weekend or when you have those few days off? Check out the NY Metro Parents' [calendar](#)!

[Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great - Center for the Arts, College of Staten Island Island](#)
October 17, 2010 - Staten Island

See the production of "Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great," based on the novel by Judy Blume. Sheila Tubman, sometimes known as Sheila the Great, comes of age in this lively musical about discovering the person within. Along with music and comedy, Sheila is about learn that her trials are, unfortunately, essential to growing up.

[William Shakespeare's "A Midsummer Night's Dream" - Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts](#)
October 17, 2010 - Brooklyn

See Aquila Theatre Company's interpretation of Shakespeare's timeless comedy that weaves a web of theatrical magic that takes audiences to an enchanted forest, where two sets of lovers and a bumbling troupe of amateur actors cross paths with members of the fairy kingdom, creating an endless supply of mirth, mistaken identity, and ridiculous passions.

[Work of Art: Abdi Farah - Brooklyn Museum](#)
Through October 17, 2010 -

The winner of Bravo's "Work of Art: The Next Great Artist" television series, Abdi Farah will have a solo exhibition that highlights ten artworks recently created in a variety of media.

Today's Family & Kids Activities in Brooklyn-Oct 17

Brooklyn has many things for families and kids to do, and during the spring and summer New York City has thousands of kid- and family-friendly activities that include arts and crafts, museum exhibitions, concerts, sports, nature walks in local parks, and many other outdoor activities. Here are some of today's activities in Brooklyn, from gardening to sports meets!

[Otherwise Known as Sheila the Great - Center for the Arts, College of Staten Island](#)

October 17, 2010 - Staten Island

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[Pumpkin Picking - Decker Farm](#)

October 17, 2010 - Staten Island

Search for and select your pumpkins for the fall season and enjoy a hayride and corn maze. Pumpkins are available for purchase by the pound. Parking is available at Historic Richmond Town; a free shuttle service to the farm will be provided.

[Old Home Day - Historic Richmond Town](#)

October 17, 2010 - Staten Island

Watch as numerous hand crafts that defined American life in previous centuries come to life. Learn how these skills helped build thousands of small villages and towns into a prosperous nation. Savor fresh hot bread baked from the 200-year-old village oven and then head to the farm for pumpkin picking and a hay ride. It's all part of the delicious fun strolling through America's past and present.

[Art Works - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

October 17, 2010 -

Visit the Totally Tots Art Studio and see what activity is in store for your young Picasso (ages 5 and under).

NYMETROPARENTS

This Weekend's Kids & Family Activities in Brooklyn

by Directories Editor - Weekly



There's so much to do with your family in Brooklyn on the weekends! Interested in theater and museums? How about a festival or concert? Find it in our list of this weekend's best kids and family activities in Brooklyn. Or, check out NY Metro Parents' [calendar](#) for upcoming weekend family and children events.

[Little Scientists - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

October 20, 2010 -

Investigate the world of natural science with hand-on activities. Recommended for ages 5 and under.

[Clay Play - Staten Island Children's Museum](#)

October 20, 2010 - Staten Island

An opportunity for you and yours to squeeze, mold, and temper some clay, and perhaps create something beautiful.

[Children's Hour - Brooklyn Public Library: Crown Heights Branch](#)

October 20, 2010 - Brooklyn

After-school activities that include read alouds, games, arts and crafts, and special programs.

[Electronic Gaming - Brooklyn Public Library: Gravesend Branch](#)

October 20, 2010 - Brooklyn

A chance to meet friends while playing Wii, Playstation, and Rock Band

[Black Violin - Center for the Arts, College of Staten Island](#)

October 23, 2010 - Staten Island

Kev Marcus and Wil B, the artists behind Black Violin are classically trained musicians who, along with their DJ TK, have created the ultimate synergy between classical and hip-hop music. Performing and touring with Alicia Keys, Diddy, and Akon, Black Violin is committed to give back and educate children that classical music is cool.

[It's My Park Day - Prospect Park](#)

October 23, 2010 - Brooklyn

Join thousands of New Yorkers at Prospect Park and more than 150 sites in all five boroughs to help clean up the parks.

[Pumpkin Picking - Decker Farm](#)

October 23, 2010 - Staten Island

Search for and select your pumpkins for the fall season. Parking is available at Historic Richmond Town; a free shuttle service to the farm will be provided.

[Be Green Kids Consignments Fall 2010 Sale - Textile Arts Center](#)

October 23, 2010 - Brooklyn

Sell unwanted children's items or purchase them at a discount.

[Art Works - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

October 23, 2010 -

Visit the Totally Tots Art Studio and see what activity is in store for your young Picasso (ages 5 and under). Additional class at 2:30pm.

[Bark Painting - Brooklyn Children's Museum](#)

October 23, 2010 - Brooklyn

Painting on natural materials such as tree bark is a practice that has spanned centuries and continents. Bark painting is a tradition in Australia and participants will create their own Australian bark painting to take home. Recommended for ages 3 and older.

[Beauty and the Beast - Puppetworks](#)

October 23, 2010 - Brooklyn

This season's production of Beauty and the Beast features the same artfully crafted marionettes and lively character voicings as everything Puppetworks has done for decades.

[Saturday's Tots - Staten Island Children's Museum](#)

October 23, 2010 - Staten Island

A time for parents and toddlers to spend some quality time singing, creating and sharing adventures.

NYMETROPARENTS

Today's Family & Kids Activities in Manhattan-Oct 23

by Directories Editor



The options for finding fun family activities in New York City are limitless. Below we've compiled the best of today's events. Whether your family prefers music and museums or theater and libraries, check out today's family activities in Manhattan. Making plans for next weekend? Take a glance at the NY Metro Parents' calendar! Want to see what's going on next weekend or when you have those few days off? Check out the NY Metro Parents' [calendar](#)!

[Watson Adventures' Wizard School Scavenger Hunt for Harry Potter Fans - Metropolitan Museum of Art](#)
October 23, 2010 -

Kids (10 and up) and adults can follow in the footsteps of young wizards on an adventure in the museum, where they'll search for art that echoes characters, places, and enchanted objects featured in the Harry Potter books and movies. Advance purchase required at www.watsonadventures.com.

[Brownstone School's Halloween Fun Fair - PS 87 School Yard](#)
October 23, 2010 - Manhattan

This fair is also the school's largest annual fundraiser. Attractions include bouncy rides, a life-sized Candyland course, pumpkin and cupcake decorating, games, music, and food.

[Black Violin - Center for the Arts, College of Staten Island](#)
October 23, 2010 - Staten Island

Kev Marcus and Wil B, the artists behind Black Violin are classically trained musicians who, along with their DJ TK, have created the ultimate synergy between classical and hip-hop music. Performing and touring with Alicia Keys, Diddy, and Akon, Black Violin is committed to give back and educate children that classical music is cool.



Music made to be seen at CSI

Published: Thursday, October 28, 2010, 1:54 PM



Mark D. Stein

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - WILLOWBROOK - The Department of Performing and Creative Arts at the College of Staten Island (CSI) has always risen to the occasion, and once again, it delivered.



David Wechsler, left, a professor at the **College of Staten Island**, plays the flute as James Johnston performs on the piano during the OMNI Ensemble, held inside the Recital Hall in the Willowbrook school's Center for the Performing Arts. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

Last Thursday, the OMNI Ensemble played up close and person for more than 2 dozen students and school staff members inside the Willowbrook campus' Recital Hall, inside the Center of the Arts Building.

"We do music hours once a month for students; it gives them a chance to see live music and a chance to see their professors perform," said Jennifer Straniere, manager of the department. "It's free art, and in this case, free music."

Musicians, clad in black, were led by David Wechsler, a jazz teacher and flutist at **CSI** for many years who is beginning his 28th year with the Ensemble. Joining him were John Johnston, a pianist new to the group who joined Wechsler and others on stage for most of their hour-long show.

They performed "Amiable Beast," a flute and piano piece which is comprised of three different portions,

composed by Jay Vilnai.

The group's new cellist, Brian Snow, helped switch up the pace when he joined in mid-way through the performance. Guest vocalist Renee Manning topped off the show with her mesmerizing voice, singing in harmony with the musicians' instrumentals.

Wechsler said his performance includes a lot of improvisation and relies on great chemistry with the other musicians.

Wechsler said hearing music performed can help students better relate to the subject, as opposed to listening to a lecture.

And it's even better to hear it in person.

"When you hear it on a record, it's removed from the reality, from what it really is to hear it live," he said. "If you're going to cultivate to a music department, it's great to see it live."

Professor David Keberle, program coordinator for music, said enjoying music live is a great opportunity for students who haven't been exposed to hearing music in person.

"For many of the students, it's one of the first concerts of this nature," he said.

Mauricio Fajardo, a 17-year-old freshman from Brooklyn, was impressed.

"I thought it was pretty good," he said, putting emphasis on the cellist's role.

He said his interest level in the genre increased.

"It's a different variety of music. You can't just listen to one," he mentioned.

Following the show, Andrew Conti, a sophomore from Rosebank, said the performance was cool.

He attended it on his own time, and said it was worth it, adding that the genre deserves its due.

"It all boils down to taste. It's nice to give classical music that recognition," said Conti, noting that other styles have bumped it from the mainstream spotlight.

Information on upcoming events, which are either free or at most \$10 per person, are open to everyone, including the public, and can be obtained at the Center of the Arts, Building 1P. The college is at 2800 Victory Blvd.

Faculty & Staff



Monday, October 04, 2010

Massive pro-Israel demonstration in Rome on Thursday



FOR THE TRUTH FOR ISRAEL

I had the honor of meeting Fiamma Nirenstein at the World Jewish Congress conference five weeks ago. At the time, she told me about **this demonstration** in Rome coming up on Thursday.
Dear friends,

as you know, we are preparing a demonstration at European level for this Thursday, the 7th of October, under the title "For the truth, for Israel". I'm sending you now some information about our work in case you are around and you want to participate, and also to let you know that working for the truth about Israel is possible.

A very small wonderful group of politicians, intellectuals, journalists, youngsters, have helped day after day to mobilize forces, fund-raising, printing and spreading leaflets and materials, calling to MPs and VIPs in Europe and of course mostly in Italy. Beyond the continuous presence of Sharon in my office and mine in the Parliament, we have an entire little group of press officers and Pr volunteering. The people that have worked with me have done it for free, out of love for Israel, and now we are anxiously fixing the last details, recall, translations etc.

A wonderful daily newspaper, Il Foglio, has collected with our help a series of article about the delegitimization of Israel and is printing them day after day with the logo and the date of our demonstration. We are surprised of the sympathy and the attention we collected in these days by MPs, Ministers, writers, journalists, citizens. The collection of names of people that want speak at what we called a "Rhetorical Marathon" - which means a series of 5 minutes speeches - is so long that we worry about the real possibility of giving the floor to everybody.

You will find hereby the invitation and the first article that has been printed on "Il Foglio" on the issue.

Hoping and working for the best, we promise to keep you updated. And if by chance you are in Rome on Thursday, come with us to say "enough of the double standard, enough of the delegitimization of Israel!".

Fiamma
DEMONSTRATION

Thursday, October 7 at 18:00 at the Temple of Hadrian (Tempio di Adriano), Piazza di Pietra, Rome

WHY YOU MUST BE THERE

Because it is necessary to put an end to the barrage of lies that are thrown on

Israel every day;

Because Israel is the only country that is being attacked for whatever it does: whether its athletes are participating in a tournament, whether its films competing in an international film festival, or whether it is defending its people from missile and terrorist attacks;

Because at this event, politicians, intellectuals, and young people who want the truth about Israel will participate from all over Europe.

ENOUGH OF THE DOUBLE STANDARD!

80% OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS OF CONDEMNATION ARE AGAINST ISRAEL

Why doesn't the UN care when Iran hangs homosexuals and stones women, in Darfur a massacre is takes place in silence, and in China justice is to be shot in the head?

Promoters of the initiative: Fiamma Nirenstein, journalist and MP, Vice-president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies; Giuliano Ferrara, editor in chief of "Il Foglio" daily; French philosopher Shmuel Trigano; Dutch MEP Bastiaan Belder (Epp); German MP Gert Weisskirchen (Spd); president of the Jewish Community of Rome Riccardo Pacifici; professor and writer Giorgio Israel; journalists Giuseppe Caldarola, Angelo Pezzana, Daniele Scalise, Carlo Panella; producer of musical events David Zard; Anita Friedman, president, "Appuntamento a Gerusalemme".

Among the people who have joined the initiative: José Maria Aznar, President of "Friends of Israel Initiative"; Nobel Prize and Senator for life Rita Levi Montalcini; professor and Senator Umberto Veronesi; writer Roberto Saviano, author of "Gomorrah"; Israeli historian Benny Morris; Dore Gold, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN; Israeli Brigadier General (Res) Yosef Kuperwasser; Israeli Vice PM Silvan Shalom; Yuli Edelstein, Israeli Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs; Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Bruce Bawer, author of "While Europe slept"; Melanie Phillips, journalist; Phyllis Chesler, professor emerita of psychology and women' studies at the **College of Staten Island**; Amir Fakhraei, Iranian dissident in exile; Farid Ghadry, President of Syrian Reform Party; Russian Senator Vladimir Sloutsker; Members of the European Parliament: Hannu Takkula (Finland), Marco Scurria (Italy), Bastiaan Belder (NL), Corina Cretu (Romania), Pablo Arias (Spain), Magdi Cristiano Allam (Italy), Antonio Lopez Istúriz (Spain); Tomas Sandell, Director of the European Coalition for Israel (Finland); Mara Carfagna, Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities; Renato Brunetta, Italian Minister of Public Administration; Gideon Meir, Israeli Ambassador to Italy; writers Nicolai Lilin, Rosa Matteucci; singers Lucio Dalla, Massimo Ranieri, Chiara Iezzi, Raiz (ex "Almamegretta"); film director Cristina Comencini; Giorgio Albertazzi; film producer Riccardo Tozzi (Cattleya); Davood Karimi, President of Association of Iranian Political Refugees in Italy; Dounia Ettaib, President of Arab Women in Italy; editors in chief of the newspapers, "Libero" (Maurizio Belpietro), "Il Tempo" (Mario Sechi), "L'Occidentale" (Giancarlo Loquenzi), "Il Riformista" (Antonio Polito), "Libertiamo.it" (Carmelo Palma); journalists Paolo Mieli, Massimo Bordin, Toni Capuozzo, Alain Elkann, Ernesto Galli Della Loggia, Maria Latella, Pierluigi Battista, Barbara Palombelli; many MPs from all the political parties, among them: Walter Veltroni, Furio Colombo, Enrico Pianetta, Francesco Rutelli, Italo Bocchino, Gianni Verneti, Benedetto Della Vedova, Giovanna Melandri, Fabrizio Cicchitto, Ferdinando Adornato, Gaetano Quagliariello, Margherita Boniver and many others.

The de-legitimization of Israel comes from all latitudes and without any restraints. Israel, the most openly threatened country in the world, is condemned by the international institutions and media for whatever it does, whether it is seeking to defend itself from terrorist attacks, trying to stop the supply of weapons to Gaza, or simply doing the normal activities that any democratic country does.

Its scientific, cultural, social, economic, and sport achievements are constantly boycotted, even with violence. The double standard is the normal standard applied to Israel: the UN, dedicating to it 80% of its resolutions, condemn Israel at every step, while countries that systematically violate human rights and commit massacres, are never punished.

But a large part of the public opinion is tired of this lie: the de-legitimization of Israel undermines democracy, corrupts international institutions that should protect peace and fight against terrorism. It legitimates oppressive and violent cultures against women, homosexuals and freedom of thought. In fact, it justifies anti-democratic cultures. For this reason we want to say "enough" to all the lies about Israel and to claim that Europe loves Israel and wants it living in peace.

Is home schooling for freaks? Or the best option for NYC parents?

By SARA STEWART

Last Updated: 12:04 PM, October 5, 2010

Posted: 11:14 PM, October 4, 2010

"You're not going the Dalton route. You're going the Ted Kaczynski route, as far as they're concerned."

Park Slope dad Roger Bagley recalls the general reaction from friends and neighbors when he and his wife, both Manhattan lawyers, first decided to yank their three kids out of expensive private schools — and teach them at home instead.

HOME SCHOOLING: DO YOUR HOMEWORK

"Home schooling" is a term that, for many, still conjures up images of cult leaders, or fundamentalists like the Duggar family in Arkansas: 19 kids and counting, clad in identical sackcloths and Stepford smiles.

But the New York home-school movement is surprisingly diverse. The Bagleys are part of an increasingly visible network of local parents who've given up on regular school, for wide-ranging reasons — some religious. But many others think institutional learning turns kids into robots, worry their child is being bullied, or feel the curriculum isn't challenging enough. "It isn't a scene out of 'Deliverance,'" Bagley says with a laugh, referring to the image that many have of home-schooled kids.

Given the dire state of the city's — and nation's — educational system, it's not hard to understand why families are taking matters into their own hands. Charter schools are overflowing, private schools are unaffordable for many families — the Chapin School on the Upper East Side, for example, costs \$33,400 a year — and even if they're not, most have lengthy wait lists. Public schools vary in quality from one district to the next, and it can be next to impossible to transfer a child to a better district.

According to statistics released by the NBC-sponsored Education Nation summit at Rockefeller Center last week, American students rank 25th in math and 21st in science compared to 30 other industrialized countries. And 68 percent of eighth-graders can't read at their grade level.

As documentarian Davis Guggenheim says in his new film "Waiting for Superman," when parents send their kids off to the bus in the morning, they "take a leap of faith."

And some families are becoming educational atheists.

"There's definitely a movement going on," says Jessica DeLeon, a Medford, LI, mom who home-schools her five kids and has seen an increase in acceptance of the practice since she started several years ago. DeLeon, who previously worked in a bank, says she's not the average home-schooling mom. She actually requires her kids to wear school uniforms, in addition to getting up at a certain time and following a set school day. "We want them to have some structure," she says. (In fact, DeLeon's uniforms are color coded to match days of the week and the folders containing their daily lesson plans.)

But DeLeon isn't an actual atheist; she's a Christian, and a member of the Christian-based NYS Loving Education at Home, the largest home-education group in New York.

"There are about 3,500 home-school families in New York state," says Rudy Hugo, the group's president and a parent of five. Hugo is still home-schooling his youngest son, 13.

For the past school year, 2,350 of those families were in New York City. Far from being a choice where anything goes, parents who choose to home-school their children must meet certain standards.

"New York is the most regulated state," Hugo says. "We have to do the most paperwork. You have to do basically what every teacher does. You have to give a letter of intent, an instruction plan, and quarterly reports for each child. We have to do testing according to regulation." This means an annual assessment test given by the state (but not, at any point, a Regents test). Parents can legally home-school all the way through high school, if they choose.

State law does not, however, require any specific teaching credentials. And one of Hugo's reasons for home schooling is his opposition to some of what kids are taught in public school — like the theory of evolution. "I don't believe that's a valid theory," he says.

This is the kind of statement that gives people like David Bloomfield, chairman of the Department of Education at the **College of Staten Island**, a big headache.

"One of the greatest concerns about home schooling is that the student will simply be inculcated with the knowledge and beliefs of the parents," he says.

"I don't necessarily agree with everything my kid is taught in school, and some subject matter may make me

uncomfortable, but that discomfort isn't a reason not to send my kid. In some respects it is the reason to send my kid."

But parents like Fort Greene resident Andrew O'Hehir are keeping their kids out of school not because they're afraid of what they might learn — but how bored they'll be while learning. O'Hehir, who home-schools his 6-year-old twins — and recently boasted of their "pop culture illiteracy" in an essay on Salon.com (where he works as a movie critic) — says he doesn't want his kids to have to spend every day reciting times tables and every night buried in homework. He and his wife draw from various methods, including a controversial philosophy called "unschooling," which entails scrapping the entire idea of structured schooling.

"We want them to be excited about education," says the 47-year-old writer.

"We were concerned that public school was simultaneously too demanding, too young, with too much homework, and all this focus on the three R's and rote learning — and that it might turn out to just not be very interesting."

The public school system seems none too excited about winning these defectors back. "As long as they follow protocol, they can enroll their kids in home schooling," says Margie Feinberg, spokeswoman for the NYC Department of Education. "It's just an option for parents. They know what's required."

But when it comes to unschoolers, rules are out the window. The parents who subscribe to this movement haven't just eschewed public schools, they're doing away with the idea of traditional education altogether, professing that kids learn better when they set their own curriculum and focus on what they just feel like learning about from day to day.

One recent ABC news segment profiled a leader of the radical unschooling movement, New Hampshire mom Dayna Martin, who explained to an incredulous interviewer that her household doesn't include textbooks, rules, bedtimes or even the word "no." She also works as an "un-nanny" consultant for other aspiring unschooling families, sometimes dispensing highly dubious advice.

One mom who expressed concern that she couldn't explain algebra to her kid got this response: "Algebra is not something that everybody needs to know. This life is about honoring the fact that we are not all put on the Earth to do the same thing."

New York mom Joanne Rendell wrote about unschooling her 5-year-old son on the parenting site Babble.com — describing, at one point, how she took him to happy hour at a bar, and let him sleep till noon — kicking off a vicious commenting war: "Wow! Do we still have truant officers out there? Someone should call one on this amazingly selfish woman. News flash: You aren't home-schooling him — you're providing him with no education at all!" wrote one.

And even if they're using textbooks and a set curriculum, there are reasons to doubt that every parent is really qualified for the job, as evidenced by one home-schooler's response to The Post's interview request: "I command [sic] you for writing about homeschooling [sic] but unfotunately [sic] i do not want to take part in any article."

But this is where people like Justine Henning come in handy. A Harvard grad who lives in Lefferts Manor, Brooklyn, she has worked for 13 years as a private full-time teacher for several families, including the Bagleys, who want a first-rate home-school education for their kids and don't have the time or the training to do it themselves.

Interestingly, Henning chooses to send her own kids, 11 and 14, to public school.

"My husband and I had a largely good experience in [public] school ourselves," she says.

"Both our kids are social, and they get a lot out of school socially." But, she admits, "not academically. If I had home-schooled them, they would have learned more math. And much more science."



October 4, 2010

by Myron Kaplan, Eric Rozenman

***Color Purple* Author Smears Israel with False Colors**

Well-known author/poet Alice Walker (1983 Pulitzer Prize winner for fiction for *The Color Purple*), also something of a fringe activist, vilified Israel and Jews in interviews during an April 2010 promotional tour for her new book, *Overcoming Speechlessness: A Poet Encounters the Horror in Rwanda, Eastern Congo and Palestine/Israel*. The book deals with Walker's 2008-09 travels to Africa and "Palestine/Israel" (mainly the Gaza Strip). In interviews (from San Francisco and New York), listeners hear about Walker's personal experiences and knowledge of white Southerners' treatment of African-Americans, the brutality of which she describes. Subsequently in the interviews, Walker mistakenly equates this treatment with Israeli behavior toward Palestinian Arabs.

Walker's San Francisco events were KQED's April 19 [Forum](#) radio program (available on-line) and *City Arts & Lectures* April 20 theater presentation (not available on-line, [heard July 11](#) on over 170 public radio stations around the country). Both the radio broadcast and the theater presentation were funded by Jewish philanthropic foundations (see below). [KQED](#) is an affiliate of National Public Radio (NPR) and the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS).

Walker's characterizations of Israel are described by author Phyllis Chesler (psychotherapist and professor emerita of psychology and women's studies at the [College of Staten Island-CUNY](#)) in a June 2010 article, [Alice Walker: Stop Telling Lies About Israel](#).

Walker Equates Israeli Settlers to Germans (the *City Arts* presentation of April 20)

The two San Francisco interviews were conducted by Forum host Michael Krasny (lecturer on Jewish themes, professor of English at San Francisco State University). Expressing anti-Israel sentiments or worse, Walker, whose Pulitzer Prize winning fictional work depicted the story of a young black woman fighting her way through Southern racist white culture, maliciously and falsely condemned Israeli settlers ("settlers in Israel ... are just as German as they are Jewish") while ignoring the intolerance of Palestinian Arabs who refuse to live with Jewish communities in territory they claim as theirs although Arabs enjoying full civil rights live in Arab communities within Israel.

Walker's Germany/Israel comparison is disturbing on at least two grounds: 1) It reveals Walker's ignorance of the ideologies and behaviors of both parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict, in which the Arab side in particular long has been influenced by Nazi themes (see, for example, *Nazi Propaganda for the Arab World*, by Jeffrey Herf, Yale University Press), and 2) Walker's more general identification of Israel with colonialism. The

Zionist movement eventually drove the colonial British out of Mandatory Palestine and established the most economically successful, politically democratic and socially diverse state of all post-colonial countries. It represented an indigenous people, the Jews, rebuilding a sovereign state on a minority of its ancient homeland. Walker appears oblivious to the fact that Arab emigration from what became Israel – a smaller phenomenon than the expulsion of Jews from Arab states, of which she also seems unaware – resulted from the Arabs' violent rejection of the U.N.'s 1947 partition plan calling for one Jewish state and another Arab state. (Jordan, an Arab state created unilaterally by Great Britain and from which Jews were banned, in violation of the League of Nations' Palestine Mandate, occupies 77 percent of the territory originally allocated to Mandatory Palestine.)

Following remarks about the black civil rights struggle in America and the horrors in Rwanda and eastern Congo, Krasny asks Walker, "Is there a sense in your mind of a connection between the colonialism and the horrors in Africa and the bombings and the victims that you witnessed from those bombings in Gaza?":

Yes. I see it as the same colonialism. I see it as the same. In fact, I think that one of the things we forget about the settlers in Israel, is that they are just as German as they are Jewish. And so that the German influence that caused so much damage in Rwanda is in some of the behavior of the German Jews in Israel. And that's the part which we need to look at more.

Krasny, himself a member of the San Francisco area Jewish community, had no compunction in reinforcing Walker's erroneous and slanderous anti-Jewish, anti-Israel thesis: "Yes...German Jews – the echoes – there used to be a lot of feeling that German Jews were perhaps most balefully influenced as a result of the Holocaust – the Shoah – and so forth."

Walker Equates Israel to Former Germany

Walker further says:

I feel that the Israel that many Jews dreamed of having – that one is gone. That's demolished. I think it's time for people to accept that. Because what you have now is something that is so frightening. Israel is as frightening to many of us as Germany used to be.

Walker is apparently unaware that Israel, a thriving modern state, is a Western-style democracy in sharp contrast with most Middle East societies including that of the Palestinian Arabs. That Israel must remain militarily strong in order to survive the repeated attacks and violence ignited by its neighbors' often expressed obsession to destroy the Jewish state makes it no more "frightening" than American military strength during the Cold War against Soviet communism nor currently in the face of international Islamic extremist movements makes this country "frightening." In essence, consciously or subconsciously, Walker pursues an anti-Zionist, ultimately anti-Semitic goal: to deprive the Jewish state and people of the universal right to self-defense recognized in the U.N. Charter.

Krasny asks for a clarification of Walker's comparison of Israel to Germany: "Because it's such a military state, you mean?":

Oh, because it's a military state, it's an arrogant state. It's a state that does really atrocious things to people. And, you know, the world sees this. It's not as if it's hidden. It's hidden to so many Americans because we are Americans and they can just hide this from us. But most of the planet really is not kept in our kind of unawareness about the realities of what is happening.

Here, Walker insists on an absurdity: the Israeli/Palestinian conflict is "hidden" to Americans but "the world sees" it. In fact, this conflict is intensively covered by the media. There is "greatly disproportionate attention given to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in comparison with other, more deadly, wars around the globe" according to a [Miami Herald](#) review (Jan. 20, 2009) of Professor Virgil Hawkins' book, *Stealth Conflicts: How the World's Worst Violence is Ignored*. [Amazon's](#) review of the book states: "*Stealth Conflicts* opens a nasty can of political worms, revealing that 90 percent of the world's conflict-related deaths occur not in the media-focused Middle East, but in war-torn Africa." Much of the way "the world" "sees" Israel is distorted by the lenses of Arab-Islamic propaganda and media and anti-Zionist if not antisemitic coverage in both far left and neo-Nazi European sources. Apparently, Walker would rather falsely smear Israel than call attention to actual, widespread atrocities in Africa. Such obsessive, misplaced focus suggests bias.

Walker's *Forum* Broadcast

In a confused reaction to a caller's question, "What of the hundreds of thousands of Jews who've been forced to leave Arab countries?," Walker said:

Well, I'm not versed on that at the moment. My attention has been really on Israel and Palestine. That's where I've actually stood. In the future I would like to go and witness some of this. But I would like to stay with this until we actually see our way clear to some thoughtfulness on the issue.

The poet/author, insisting that "[T]he people (Palestinian Arabs) who have been forced out of there also belong there – it was their home and it was not the right thing to do to take away their villages ..." evidently does not know that

in the wake of Israel's War of Independence in 1948, caused by Arab rejection of the U.N.'s partition compromise, widespread attacks on Palestinian Jews by Palestinian Arab "irregulars" and the outright invasion by five Arab states, the overwhelming majority of Palestinian refugees were not expelled by the Israelis. But a much larger number of refugees, Jewish refugees who had resided in Arab countries for many generations, were forced to flee their native lands. (From a [CAMERA report](#)).

Host Krasny went on to read a *Forum* listener's e-mail message: "One can have all the sympathy in the world for the people of Israel and Palestine and the hardships on both sides, but to say the people (Gazans) are starving, however, is a gross exaggeration. Basic humanitarian supplies cross the Gaza border every day ..."

(Walker interrupted, laughing hysterically as if in total disbelief.)

Krasny continued reading: "The West Bank has a rapidly growing economy (Walker again laughs). Starvation is not a problem. Neither side will ever willingly agree to a one-state solution. A one-state solution is equivalent to the destruction of Israel. I read the PA has a draft constitution and Hamas has a charter to exterminate Israel and the Jews

believe they mean them. They mean it."

Walker, evading the listener's points, replied:

[T]he people are actually starving. It's the kind of slow starvation. When I was in Gaza a year ago I talked to psychiatrists who were treating children who can't really think properly because with the bombs falling even when there's a supposed cease-fire and the lack of food because the Israelis will let in one – like one week they will let in a whole lot of melons ...

But while some conditions are difficult for Gazans resulting from the behavior of Gaza's Hamas rulers, Gazans are not starving. In fact, "[G]rocery stores are stocked wall-to-wall with everything from fresh Israeli yogurts and hummus to Cocoa Puffs smuggled in from Egypt. Pharmacies look as well-supplied as a typical Rite Aid in the United States." ([Washington Post](#), June 3, 2010). More recent news reports indicate smuggling through the Gaza-Egypt frontier tunnels has reversed direction, with plentiful goods in demand moving from the Strip into Egypt. Moreover, while Walker claims to have spoken with Gaza psychiatrists, she evidently failed to speak to Israeli psychiatrists who treat Israeli children suffering mentally from rockets shot from Gaza. Literally thousands of rockets and mortar shells have been launched at non-combatant targets in Israeli villages and towns from Gaza since Israel withdrew from the Strip in 2005. Symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder reportedly are common among Israeli adults and children. Walker's selective sympathy suggests hypocrisy.

Walker's Warped Perceptions of the Arab/Israeli Conflict

Walker's warped perceptions of the Arab/Israeli conflict are exemplified when (in the Forum broadcast) in reply to her point that "women on both sides" can take the lead in ending the conflict, host Krasny points out "the difficulty, though, in Palestine with respect to male hegemony and patriarchy and those kinds of problems." Walker, playing the part of an apologist for the Palestinian Arabs, immediately reacts to Krasny's point by launching into a defamation of Israel: "The misogyny and the woman-hating and the abuse of woman and children was so much more in Israel than I ever dreamed." Walker's mendacity notwithstanding, mistreatment of women in Israeli society is on a par with that of other Western nations, which is to say, it is at a significantly lower level than that of the Arab/Islamic world including Palestinian society. The appalling treatment of women in many Arab and Islamic societies, including Palestinian communities, has been much discussed. For example, Gaza women are generally denied inheritance rights ([Jerusalem Post article](#) by Rachelle Kliger, March 7, 2010). Abuse of [women in Palestinian society](#) and [elsewhere in Islamic societies](#) is rife. Walker, known as an advocate for oppressed women everywhere, is silent here regarding common patriarchal practices across the Arab/Islamic world such as the taking of several wives, and beating them at will and so-called "[honor killings](#)" of thousands of women by male family members in the name of family honor for "capital crimes" such as alleged pre-marital sexual relations.

Walker demonized Israel in reply to Krasny's point (in the *City Arts* presentation) that a one-state solution (favored by Walker) could mean the end of Israel as a Jewish state:

We don't have a Christian state and we're fine. I mean, I think that it's more important, really, to have a country that accepts and loves all of its people and at some point you have to grow up and understand that just because you have this

idea that all of it should be yours – that in some ways that is like a child's vision – when you have to, you know, kill other people, abuse other people, drive them from their homes, bomb their hospitals, kill their children – what kind of country are you even trying to have?

Here, the problem is not only Walker's demonization of Israel – it is not guilty of the atrocity generalization she makes – but also ignorance: Israel is a state, unlikely virtually any other in the Middle East, in which all citizens enjoy civil equality regardless of gender, religion or race. Israel hardly has a policy that "all of it [the land] should be yours." The Zionist movement generations ago dropped its claims to that large portion of Mandatory Palestine east of the Jordan River. Israeli governments for two decades have been trying to negotiate "land-for-peace" compromises based on a "two-state solution" with Palestinian Arab leadership, only to be met with either duplicity or outright rejection and violence in 1993, 2000, 2001 and 2008. In effect, Walker's position is that the legitimate self-defense of a democratic, Western state virtually under siege is not legitimate if it's a Jewish state surrounded by hostile movements and countries, many of whom claim either that their official state religion is Islam or that their national laws originate in Islam.

Further, her social analysis is superficial: She doesn't feel the need to live in "a Christian state" perhaps because, even if she does not recognize it, she lives in a majority Christian nation whose laws and mores were shaped largely by the Anglo-Protestant world view of its first settlers and founders. Further, while Christians and Christianity have not been in danger of widespread or total destruction since the mid-Roman empire or early Islamic invasions of Europe, Jews and Judaism have been and, in no small degree, remain so; hence the danger of statelessness and powerlessness for the Jewish people and the necessity of the Jewish state of Israel.

Useful Idiots or Willful Collaborators?

Why would Jewish philanthropic foundations – like those who funded Alice Walker's presentations in San Francisco – support communications media events unfairly denigrating Israel and Jews without at least requiring offsetting, factual presentations? Are these philanthropies merely "useful idiots" or do they knowingly participate?

Funding Walker's April 19/20 Condemnations of Israel

The San Francisco area Jewish family foundation, Louise And Claude Rosenberg Jr Family Foundation, is the major funder of KQED's *Forum* broadcasts. These foundations of Jewish origin are the main funders of *City Arts* presentations: Wallace Alexander Gerbode Foundation, Richard and Rhoda Goldman Fund, Mimi and Peter Hass Fund, Bernard Osher Jewish Philanthropies Foundation. There's no indication in either the *Forum* or *City Arts* on-line archives of any presentation, before or after the Walker appearances, that would present a more nuanced or balanced view of the conflict.

Jewish Organizations and Anti-Israel Propaganda

It is not unusual for organizations founded by Jews to fund or otherwise promote unfair condemnation of Israeli policies. For example, [Sojourners](#), a quasi-Christian group, which regularly condemns legitimate Israeli self-defense policies, has received generous funds from George Soros's Open Society Institute (OSI). In an [article](#) in the *New York Review of Books*, Mr. Soros, a Holocaust survivor who has distanced himself from the idea of a Jewish state, wrote that the U.S. should pressure Israel to "negotiate" with Hamas, which is a recognized terrorist organization that vows to destroy Israel.

Columnist Carolyn Glick wrote (July 31, 2009) about the Jewish organization, J Street, in a *Jerusalem Post* article, *The Lonely Israeli Left: J Street*. The organization, she argued, was a "creation of ... anti-Israel activist George Soros - [which] was established ahead of the 2008 elections to lobby the White House and Congress to foment breaches in the US-Israel strategic relationship."

One CAMERA analysis characterizes the organization [Jewish Voice for Peace](#) as "A Voice for Defamation." It is essentially dedicated to voicing condemnation of Israeli policies. The [New Israel Fund](#) funds several organizations hostile to Israel's existence as a Jewish state (Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Michael J. Jordan, August 14, 2008).

"But I don't want to go among mad people," Alice remarked.

"Oh, you can't help that," said the Cat: "we're all mad here. I'm mad. You're mad."

"How do you know I'm mad?" said Alice.

"You must be," said the Cat, "or you wouldn't have come here."

(From an Alice Walker favorite book, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*)

Mass European Rally for Israel

October 05, 2010



Rome

By Hillel Fendel A mass rally-demonstration entitled “For the truth, for Israel” will be held in Rome this Thursday. It is being organized by Fiamma Nirenstein – journalist, MP, and vice president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies – and other leading European personalities.

The rally will be held at the Temple of Hadrian (Tempio di Adriano), Piazza di Pietra, on Thursday, October 7 at 6:00 PM. Ironically, it was the Roman Emperor Hadrian who, late in his reign, suppressed the Bar Kokhba revolt in Judea in 145 C.E., and renamed the province Syria Palestina.

The rally is billed as “the first European, bipartisan event aimed at restoring the truth regarding Israel, putting an end to the barrage of lies that are hurled at Israel every day and to the double standard used by the media and international organizations.” More than 80 personalities, politicians, intellectuals, artists and journalists from all over Europe are registered to take the floor for a maximum of five minutes each. Opening the event will be former Spanish Prime Minister José Maria Aznar, president of “Friends of Israel.”

In addition to MP Nirenstein, other promoters of the initiative are Giuliano Ferrara, editor in chief of “Il Foglio” daily; French philosopher Shmuel Trigano; Dutch MEP Bastiaan Belder (Epp); former German MP Gert Weisskirchen (Spd); president of the Jewish Community of Rome Riccardo Pacifici; professor and writer Giorgio Israel; journalists Giuseppe Caldarola, Angelo Pezzana, Daniele Scalise, Carlo Panella; producer of musical events David Zard; and Anita Friedman, president of “Appuntamento a Gerusalemme.”

Among those who have joined the initiative are the following Members of the European Parliament: Hannu Takkula (Finland), Marco Scuria (Italy), Bastiaan Belder (NL), Corina Cretu (Romania), Pablo Arias (Spain), Magdi Cristiano Allam (Italy), and Antonio Lopez Isturiz (Spain).

Still others who have joined include Nobel Prize and Senator for life Rita Levi Montalcini; professor and Senator Umberto Veronesi; Israeli Brig.-Gen. (ret.) Yosef Kuperwasser; Israel’s Vice PM Silvan Shalom; Yuli Edelstein, Israel’s Minister of Public Diplomacy and Diaspora Affairs; Franco Frattini, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs; Bruce Bawer, author of “While Europe Slept”; Melanie Phillips, journalist; Phyllis Chesler, professor emerita of psychology and women’s studies at the College of Staten Island; writer Roberto Saviano, author of “Gomorrah”; Dore Gold, former Israeli Ambassador to the UN; Amir Fakhravar, Iranian dissident in exile; Farid Ghadry, President of Syrian Reform Party; Russian Senator Vladimir Sloutsker; Tomas Sandell, Director of the European Coalition for Israel (Finland); Mara Carfagna, Italian Minister for Equal Opportunities; Renato Brunetta, Italian Minister of Public Administration; Gideon Meir, Israeli Ambassador to Italy; writers Nicolai Lilin and Rosa Matteucci; singers Lucio Dalla, Massimo Ranieri, Chiara Iezzi, Raiz (ex “Almamegretta”); Israeli historian Benny Morris; film director Cristina Comencini; Giorgio Albertazzi; film producer Riccardo Tozzi (Cattleya); Davood

Karimi, President of Association of Iranian Political Refugees in Italy; Dounia Ettaib, President of Arab Women in Italy; editors in chief of the newspapers, “Libero” (Maurizio Belpietro), “Il Tempo” (Mario Sechi), “L’Occidentale” (Giancarlo Loquenzi), “Il Riformista” (Antonio Polito), “Libertiamo.it” (Carmelo Palma); journalists Paolo Mieli, Massimo Bordin, Giulio Meotti, Toni Capuozzo, Alain Elkann, Ernesto Galli Della Loggia, Maria Latella, Pierluigi Battista, Barbara Palombelli; many MPs from all the political parties, among them: Walter Veltroni, Furio Colombo, Enrico Pianetta, Francesco Rutelli, Italo Bocchino, Gianni Vernetti, Benedetto Della Vedova, Giovanna Melandri, Fabrizio Cicchitto, Ferdinando Adornato, Gaetano Quagliariello, Margherita Boniver, and many others.

The organizers say that the “de-legitimization of Israel comes from all latitudes and without any restraints. Israel, the most openly threatened country in the world, is condemned by the international institutions and media for whatever it does, whether it is seeking to defend itself from terrorist attacks, trying to stop the supply of weapons to Gaza, or simply doing the normal activities that any democratic country does.”

They add that Israel’s “scientific, cultural, social, economic, and sport achievements are constantly boycotted, even with violence. The double standard is the normal standard applied to Israel: the UN, dedicating to it 80% of its resolutions, condemns Israel at every step, while countries that systematically violate human rights and commit massacres, are never punished.”

“But a large part of the public opinion is tired of this lie,” the organizers state. “The de-legitimization of Israel undermines democracy, and corrupts international institutions that should protect peace and fight against terrorism. It legitimates oppressive and violent cultures against women, homosexuals and freedom of thought. In fact, it justifies anti-democratic cultures. For this reason we want to say ‘enough’ to all the lies about Israel and to claim that Europe loves Israel and wants it living in peace.”

For more info, click here: www.truthforisrael.eu, www.fiammanirenstein.com



European Rally In Support Of Israel



By Jon_i_Cohen
October 6, 2010

A mass rally-demonstration entitled "For the truth, for Israel" will be held in Rome this Thursday. It is being organized by Fiamma Nirenstein – journalist, MP, and vice president of the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the Italian Chamber of Deputies – and other leading European personalities. MK Nirenstein forwarded the information about the rally to IsraelNationalNews.

Opening the event will be former Spanish Prime Minister José Maria Aznar, president of "Friends of Israel."

In addition to MP Nirenstein, other promoters of the initiative are Giuliano Ferrara, editor in chief of "Il Foglio" daily; French philosopher Shmuel Trigano; Dutch MEP Bastiaan Belder (Epp); former German MP Gert Weisskirchen (Spd); president of the Jewish Community of Rome Riccardo Pacifici; professor and writer Giorgio Israel; journalists Giuseppe Caldarola, Angelo Pezzana, Daniele Scalise, Carlo Panella; producer of musical events David Zard; and Anita Friedman, president of "Appuntamento a Gerusalemme."

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A who's who of Israel's European supporters - for more information read the article here:-

<http://www.israelnationalnews.com/News/News.aspx/139880>



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/IRVING SILVERSTEIN

Enjoying themselves at the Festa Italiana to launch the new Italian Studies major at CSI are Prof. Jane Marcus Delgado, chair Dept. of Modern Languages; William J. Fritz, provost; and Prof. Paola Ureni.

CSI now offering students a major in Italian Studies

Interdisciplinary approach combines history, art, literature, philosophy, politics and language

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

The College of Staten Island is offering its first new undergraduate major in nearly two decades, and it's a bachelor of arts degree in Italian Studies.

The new major is a hit with students, as there are already almost 20 people who have declared Italian Studies in the first semester of its inception.

The major takes an interdisciplinary approach that incorporates history, art, literature, philosophy, politics, culture and language into the curriculum. The major also is a collaboration between the

Modern Languages Department and the Education Department, since students have the chance to concentrate in either one of two tracks: Italian Studies or preparation to become teachers of Italian in middle and high schools.

To launch the major, a party, Festa Italiana, was held yesterday at the Campus Center.

"We established this major because we recognize the importance of the Italian-American Community on Staten Island," said Dr. Jane Marcus-Delgado, chair of the Modern Languages department.

"We recognize the significance of Italian in global society, not only in language but in history, business, art and literature. We think it's a very important contribution to the intellectual life of our college."

She noted that Italians are "one of the most important immigrant groups in the United States and we can't overestimate what they have done for this country."

Driving forces behind the 10-year effort to establish the major are Italian professors Dr. Giancarlo Lombardi and Dr. Gerry Milligan, with the assistance of new faculty member Dr. Paola Ureni, and the support of CSI President Dr. Tomas D. Morales.

"You can't be on Staten Island and not celebrate Italian. That's really what we are doing," said Dr. Marcus-Delgado.

The celebration will continue with a gala/wine tasting from 4 to 7 p.m. on Oct. 16 at the Tuscan Garden at Snug Harbor Cultural Center and Botanical Garden, Livingston. Call 718-982-2310 for more information.

THE NEW YORKER

BOOKS

LATER

What does procrastination tell us about ourselves?

by James Surowiecki

OCTOBER 11, 2010



Procrastination interests philosophers because of its underlying irrationality.

Some years ago, the economist George Akerlof found himself faced with a simple task: mailing a box of clothes from India, where he was living, to the United States. The clothes belonged to his friend and colleague Joseph Stiglitz, who had left them behind when visiting, so Akerlof was eager to send the box off. But there was a problem. The combination of Indian bureaucracy and what Akerlof called “my own ineptitude in such matters” meant that doing so was going to be a hassle—indeed, he estimated that it would take an entire workday. So he put off dealing with it, week after week. This went on for more than eight months, and it was only shortly before Akerlof himself returned home that he managed to solve his problem: another friend happened to be sending some things back to the U.S., and Akerlof was able to add Stiglitz’s clothes to the shipment. Given the vagaries of intercontinental mail, it’s possible that Akerlof made it back to the States before Stiglitz’s shirts did.

There’s something comforting about this story: even Nobel-winning economists procrastinate! Many of us go through life with an array of undone tasks, large and small, nibbling at our conscience. But Akerlof saw the experience, for all its familiarity, as mysterious. He genuinely intended to send the box to his friend, yet, as he wrote, in a paper called “Procrastination and Obedience” (1991), “each morning for over eight months I woke up and decided that the *next* morning would be the day to send the Stiglitz box.” He was always *about* to send the box, but the moment to act never arrived. Akerlof, who became one of the central figures in behavioral economics, came

to the realization that procrastination might be more than just a bad habit. He argued that it revealed something important about the limits of rational thinking and that it could teach useful lessons about phenomena as diverse as substance abuse and savings habits. Since his essay was published, the study of procrastination has become a significant field in academia, with philosophers, psychologists, and economists all weighing in.

Academics, who work for long periods in a self-directed fashion, may be especially prone to putting things off: surveys suggest that the vast majority of college students procrastinate, and articles in the literature of procrastination often allude to the author's own problems with finishing the piece. (This article will be no exception.) But the academic buzz around the subject isn't just a case of eggheads rationalizing their slothfulness. As various scholars argue in "The Thief of Time," edited by Chrisoula Andreou and Mark D. White (Oxford; \$65)—a collection of essays on procrastination, ranging from the resolutely theoretical to the surprisingly practical—the tendency raises fundamental philosophical and psychological issues. You may have thought, the last time you blew off work on a presentation to watch "How I Met Your Mother," that you were just slacking. But from another angle you were actually engaging in a practice that illuminates the fluidity of human identity and the complicated relationship human beings have to time. Indeed, one essay, by the economist George Ainslie, a central figure in the study of procrastination, argues that dragging our heels is "as fundamental as the shape of time and could well be called the basic impulse."

Ainslie is probably right that procrastination is a basic human impulse, but anxiety about it as a serious problem seems to have emerged in the early modern era. The term itself (derived from a Latin word meaning "to put off for tomorrow") entered the English language in the sixteenth century, and, by the eighteenth, Samuel Johnson was describing it as "one of the general weaknesses" that "prevail to a greater or less degree in every mind," and lamenting the tendency in himself: "I could not forbear to reproach myself for having so long neglected what was unavoidably to be done, and of which every moment's idleness increased the difficulty." And the problem seems to be getting worse all the time. According to Piers Steel, a business professor at the University of Calgary, the percentage of people who admitted to difficulties with procrastination quadrupled between 1978 and 2002. In that light, it's possible to see procrastination as the quintessential modern problem.

It's also a surprisingly costly one. Each year, Americans waste hundreds of millions of dollars because they don't file their taxes on time. The Harvard economist David Laibson has shown that American workers have forgone huge amounts of money in matching 401(k) contributions because they never got around to signing up for a retirement plan. Seventy per cent of patients suffering from glaucoma risk blindness because they don't use their eyedrops regularly. Procrastination also inflicts major costs on businesses and governments. The recent crisis of the euro was exacerbated by the German government's dithering, and the decline of the American auto industry, exemplified by the bankruptcy of G.M., was due in part to executives' penchant for delaying tough decisions. (In Alex Taylor's recent history of G.M., "Sixty to Zero," one of the key conclusions is "Procrastination doesn't pay.")

Philosophers are interested in procrastination for another reason. It's a powerful example of what the Greeks called *akrasia*—doing something against one's own better judgment. Piers Steel defines procrastination as willingly deferring something even though you expect the delay to make you worse off. In other words, if you're simply saying "Eat, drink, and be merry, for tomorrow we die," you're not really procrastinating. Knowingly delaying because you think that's the most efficient use of your time doesn't count, either. The essence of procrastination lies in not doing what you think you should be doing, a mental contortion that surely accounts for the great psychic toll the habit takes on people. This is the perplexing thing about procrastination: although it seems to involve avoiding unpleasant tasks, indulging in it generally doesn't make people happy. In one study, sixty-five per cent of students surveyed before they started working on a term paper said they would like to avoid procrastinating: they knew both that they wouldn't do the work on time and that the delay would make them unhappy.

Most of the contributors to the new book agree that this peculiar irrationality stems from our relationship to time—in particular, from a tendency that economists call "hyperbolic discounting." A two-stage experiment provides a classic illustration: In the first stage, people are offered the choice between a hundred dollars today or a hundred and ten dollars tomorrow; in the second stage, they choose between a hundred dollars a month from now or a hundred and ten dollars a month and a day from now. In substance, the two choices are identical: wait an extra day, get an extra ten bucks. Yet, in the first stage many people choose to take the smaller sum immediately, whereas in

the second they prefer to wait one more day and get the extra ten bucks. In other words, hyperbolic discounters are able to make the rational choice when they're thinking about the future, but, as the present gets closer, short-term considerations overwhelm their long-term goals. A similar phenomenon is at work in an experiment run by a group including the economist George Loewenstein, in which people were asked to pick one movie to watch that night and one to watch at a later date. Not surprisingly, for the movie they wanted to watch immediately, people tended to pick lowbrow comedies and blockbusters, but when asked what movie they wanted to watch later they were more likely to pick serious, important films. The problem, of course, is that when the time comes to watch the serious movie, another frothy one will often seem more appealing. This is why Netflix queues are filled with movies that never get watched: our responsible selves put "Hotel Rwanda" and "The Seventh Seal" in our queue, but when the time comes we end up in front of a rerun of "The Hangover."

The lesson of these experiments is not that people are shortsighted or shallow but that their preferences aren't consistent over time. We want to watch the Bergman masterpiece, to give ourselves enough time to write the report properly, to set aside money for retirement. But our desires shift as the long run becomes the short run.

Why does this happen? One common answer is ignorance. Socrates believed that *akrasia* was, strictly speaking, impossible, since we could not want what is bad for us; if we act against our own interests, it must be because we don't know what's right. Loewenstein, similarly, is inclined to see the procrastinator as led astray by the "visceral" rewards of the present. As the nineteenth-century Scottish economist John Rae put it, "The prospects of future good, which future years may hold on us, seem at such a moment dull and dubious, and are apt to be slighted, for objects on which the daylight is falling strongly, and showing us in all their freshness just within our grasp." Loewenstein also suggests that our memory for the intensity of visceral rewards is deficient: when we put off preparing for that meeting by telling ourselves that we'll do it tomorrow, we fail to take into account that tomorrow the temptation to put off work will be just as strong.

Ignorance might also affect procrastination through what the social scientist Jon Elster calls "the planning fallacy." Elster thinks that people underestimate the time "it will take them to complete a given task, partly because they fail to take account of how long it has taken them to complete similar projects in the past and partly because they rely on smooth scenarios in which accidents or unforeseen problems never occur." When I was writing this piece, for instance, I had to take my car into the shop, I had to take two unanticipated trips, a family member fell ill, and so on. Each of these events was, strictly speaking, unexpected, and each took time away from my work. But they were really just the kinds of problems you predictably have to deal with in everyday life. Pretending I wouldn't have any interruptions to my work was a typical illustration of the planning fallacy.

Still, ignorance can't be the whole story. In the first place, we often procrastinate not by doing fun tasks but by doing jobs whose only allure is that they aren't what we should be doing. My apartment, for instance, has rarely looked tidier than it does at the moment. And people do learn from experience: procrastinators know all too well the allures of the salient present, and they want to resist them. They just don't. A magazine editor I know, for instance, once had a writer tell her at noon on a Wednesday that the time-sensitive piece he was working on would be in her in-box by the time she got back from lunch. She did eventually get the piece—the following Tuesday. So a fuller explanation of procrastination really needs to take account of our attitudes to the tasks being avoided. A useful example can be found in the career of General George McClellan, who led the Army of the Potomac during the early years of the Civil War and was one of the greatest procrastinators of all time. When he took charge of the Union army, McClellan was considered a military genius, but he soon became famous for his chronic hesitancy. In 1862, despite an excellent opportunity to take Richmond from Robert E. Lee's men, with another Union army attacking in a pincer move, he dillydallied, convinced that he was blocked by hordes of Confederate soldiers, and missed his chance. Later that year, both before and after Antietam, he delayed again, squandering a two-to-one advantage over Lee's troops. Afterward, Union General-in-Chief Henry Halleck wrote, "There is an immobility here that exceeds all that any man can conceive of. It requires the lever of Archimedes to move this inert mass."

McClellan's "immobility" highlights several classic reasons we procrastinate. Although when he took over the Union army he told Lincoln "I can do it all," he seems to have been unsure that he could do anything. He was perpetually imploring Lincoln for new weapons, and, in the words of one observer, "he felt he never had enough troops, well enough trained or equipped." Lack of confidence, sometimes alternating with unrealistic dreams of

heroic success, often leads to procrastination, and many studies suggest that procrastinators are self-handicappers: rather than risk failure, they prefer to create conditions that make success impossible, a reflex that of course creates a vicious cycle. McClellan was also given to excessive planning, as if only the ideal battle plan were worth acting on. Procrastinators often succumb to this sort of perfectionism.

Viewed this way, procrastination starts to look less like a question of mere ignorance than like a complex mixture of weakness, ambition, and inner conflict. But some of the philosophers in “The Thief of Time” have a more radical explanation for the gap between what we want to do and what we end up doing: the person who makes plans and the person who fails to carry them out are not really the same person: they’re different parts of what the game theorist Thomas Schelling called “the divided self.” Schelling proposes that we think of ourselves not as unified selves but as different beings, jostling, contending, and bargaining for control. Ian McEwan evokes this state in his recent novel “Solar”: “At moments of important decision-making, the mind could be considered as a parliament, a debating chamber. Different factions contended, short- and long-term interests were entrenched in mutual loathing. Not only were motions tabled and opposed, certain proposals were aired in order to mask others. Sessions could be devious as well as stormy.” Similarly, Otto von Bismarck said, “Faust complained about having two souls in his breast, but I harbor a whole crowd of them and they quarrel. It is like being in a republic.” In that sense, the first step to dealing with procrastination isn’t admitting that you have a problem. It’s admitting that your “you”s have a problem.

If identity is a collection of competing selves, what does each of them represent? The easy answer is that one represents your short-term interests (having fun, putting off work, and so on), while another represents your long-term goals. But, if that’s the case, it’s not obvious how you’d ever get anything done: the short-term self, it seems, would always win out. The philosopher Don Ross offers a persuasive solution to the problem. For Ross, the various parts of the self are all present at once, constantly competing and bargaining with one another—one that wants to work, one that wants to watch television, and so on. The key, for Ross, is that although the television-watching self is interested only in watching TV, it’s interested in watching TV not just now but also in the future. This means that it can be bargained with: working now will let you watch more television down the road. Procrastination, in this reading, is the result of a bargaining process gone wrong.

The idea of the divided self, though discomfiting to some, can be liberating in practical terms, because it encourages you to stop thinking about procrastination as something you can beat by just trying harder. Instead, we should rely on what Joseph Heath and Joel Anderson, in their essay in “The Thief of Time,” call “the extended will”—external tools and techniques to help the parts of our selves that want to work. A classic illustration of the extended will at work is Ulysses’ decision to have his men bind him to the mast of his ship. Ulysses knows that when he hears the Sirens he will be too weak to resist steering the ship onto the rocks in pursuit of them, so he has his men bind him, thereby forcing him to adhere to his long-term aims. Similarly, Thomas Schelling once said that he would be willing to pay extra in advance for a hotel room without a television in it. Today, problem gamblers write contracts with casinos banning them from the premises. And people who are trying to lose weight or finish a project will sometimes make bets with their friends so that if they don’t deliver on their promise it’ll cost them money. In 2008, a Ph.D. candidate at Chapel Hill wrote software that enables people to shut off their access to the Internet for up to eight hours; the program, called Freedom, now has an estimated seventy-five thousand users.

Not everyone in “The Thief of Time” approves of the reliance on the extended will. Mark D. White advances an idealist argument rooted in Kantian ethics: recognizing procrastination as a failure of will, we should seek to strengthen the will rather than relying on external controls that will allow it to atrophy further. This isn’t a completely fruitless task: much recent research suggests that will power is, in some ways, like a muscle and can be made stronger. The same research, though, also suggests that most of us have a limited amount of will power and that it’s easily exhausted. In one famous study, people who had been asked to restrain themselves from readily available temptation—in this case, a pile of chocolate-chip cookies that they weren’t allowed to touch—had a harder time persisting in a difficult task than people who were allowed to eat the cookies.

Given this tendency, it makes sense that we often rely intuitively on external rules to help ourselves out. A few years ago, Dan Ariely, a psychologist at M.I.T., did a fascinating experiment examining one of the most basic external tools for dealing with procrastination: deadlines. Students in a class were assigned three papers for the

semester, and they were given a choice: they could set separate deadlines for when they had to hand in each of the papers or they could hand them all in together at the end of the semester. There was no benefit to handing the papers in early, since they were all going to be graded at semester's end, and there was a potential cost to setting the deadlines, since if you missed a deadline your grade would be docked. So the rational thing to do was to hand in all the papers at the end of the semester; that way you'd be free to write the papers sooner but not at risk of a penalty if you didn't get around to it. Yet most of the students chose to set separate deadlines for each paper, precisely because they knew that they were otherwise unlikely to get around to working on the papers early, which meant they ran the risk of not finishing all three by the end of the semester. This is the essence of the extended will: instead of trusting themselves, the students relied on an outside tool to make themselves do what they actually wanted to do.

Beyond self-binding, there are other ways to avoid dragging your feet, most of which depend on what psychologists might call reframing the task in front of you. Procrastination is driven, in part, by the gap between effort (which is required now) and reward (which you reap only in the future, if ever). So narrowing that gap, by whatever means necessary, helps. Since open-ended tasks with distant deadlines are much easier to postpone than focussed, short-term projects, dividing projects into smaller, more defined sections helps. That's why David Allen, the author of the best-selling time-management book "Getting Things Done," lays great emphasis on classification and definition: the vaguer the task, or the more abstract the thinking it requires, the less likely you are to finish it. One German study suggests that just getting people to think about concrete problems (like how to open a bank account) makes them better at finishing their work—even when it deals with a completely different subject. Another way of making procrastination less likely is to reduce the amount of choice we have: often when people are afraid of making the wrong choice they end up doing nothing. So companies might be better off offering their employees fewer investment choices in their 401(k) plans, and making signing up for the plan the default option.

It's hard to ignore the fact that all these tools are at root about imposing limits and narrowing options—in other words, about a voluntary abnegation of freedom. (Victor Hugo would write naked and tell his valet to hide his clothes so that he'd be unable to go outside when he was supposed to be writing.) But before we rush to overcome procrastination we should consider whether it is sometimes an impulse we should heed. The philosopher Mark Kingwell puts it in existential terms: "Procrastination most often arises from a sense that there is too much to do, and hence no single aspect of the to-do worth doing. . . . Underneath this rather antic form of action-as-inaction is the much more unsettling question whether anything is worth doing at all." In that sense, it might be useful to think about two kinds of procrastination: the kind that is genuinely akratic and the kind that's telling you that what you're supposed to be doing has, deep down, no real point. The procrastinator's challenge, and perhaps the philosopher's, too, is to figure out which is which. ♦

ILLUSTRATION: BARRY BLITT

Rose endorses McMahon for re-election enthusiastically

Councilwoman calls fellow Dem a 'valuable advocate' in Washington

By TOM WROBLESKI
ADVANCE POLITICAL EDITOR

In a coming-together of old political foes, City Councilwoman Debi Rose yesterday "wholeheartedly" and "without reservation" endorsed Rep. Michael McMahon for re-election.

"With Michael McMahon in Washington, we have a valuable advocate," Ms. Rose (D-North Shore) said at Tappan Park, Stapleton, where she was joined by a crowd of about two dozen sign-holding McMahon supporters.

McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) is battling Republican Michael Grimm in the campaign.

McMahon and Ms. Rose have had a long and often contentious political history. McMahon narrowly bested Ms. Rose in a 2001 primary for the vacant North Shore Council seat, a race that left hard feelings in its wake for years.

Ms. Rose lost a special election for McMahon's Council seat to McMahon protégée Ken Mitchell in February 2009 but came back seven months later to oust Mitchell in a party primary. Now sharing the bond of public office, McMahon and Ms. Rose have let bygones be bygones.

Ms. Rose yesterday praised McMahon for securing \$228 million in federal money for improvements to the St. George Ferry Terminal and the Staten Island Expressway.

She said he had also fought to preserve the resident discount on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge.

"We need Congressman Michael McMahon to go back to Washington to represent us, to make sure that our voices are heard," said Ms. Rose, adding, "he delivers for all of Staten Island and Brooklyn."



Putting past differences behind them, City Councilwoman Debi Rose endorsed Michael McMahon for re-election yesterday.

But Ms. Rose, the first African-American to be elected to office in borough history, acknowledged that McMahon's vote against health care reform rankied.

"We fought bitterly about that," said Ms. Rose. "Being in an elected position now, I know that ... you have to sometimes vote outside of what a special group of people might feel is important. Mike voted his conscience."

Said McMahon, "We certainly agree that we need health care reform and better access to health care on Staten Island."

McMahon said the endorsement was "for me, personally, an incredible announcement."

He said that he and Ms. Rose had gone from being "friendly rivals" to "very sincere, trusted allies."

McMahon said the 2001 primary, which was decided

by less than 200 votes, had made him a better public servant.

"I realized that I had to work a lot harder to reach all the communities of the North Shore of Staten Island," he said.

As for their political odyssey together, Ms. Rose said with a laugh, "We don't always agree. But we are working on that. We have that under control."

Said McMahon to Ms. Rose, "I promise to make sure that we never disagree again, and I'm going to do so by listening to you."

Tom Wroblewski may be reached at wroblewski@siadvance.com. Read his polit.bureau blog at <http://www.silive.com/newslogs/politics/>.

Professors go back to school at CSI

Published: Thursday, October 14, 2010, 11:49 AM



Mark D. Stein

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - Last Saturday afternoon, as parents, children and students gathered at the Great Lawn on the **College of Staten Island** campus for the annual Fall Festival, school professors met for class.



Mike Fisher, standing at left, speaks to **College of Staten Island** professors at a conference that focuses on the science of learning. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

A conference and workshop was held by the **Science Education for New Civic Engagements and Responsibilities (SENCER)** and 75 participants were shown a presentation by Matthew Fisher that was designed to teach them how to develop an understanding of important characteristics of the scholarship of teaching and learning, as well as a collection of information, tools, and resources for engaging in such work for their own professional development.

Said David Burns, founder of SENCER, the seminar aimed to get faculty members to tackle teaching outcomes more scientifically.

SENCER, a national organization with which 380 colleges are associated, is dedicated to establishing and supporting an ever-growing community of faculty, students, and academic leaders to improve undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education by connecting learning to critical civic

questions.

The conference lasted from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. and included breakfast and lunch.

"On Staten Island, we have a lot of serious problems where science is important," said Alfred Levine, dean of science and technology at the college.

"People have to be able to make intelligent decisions about nontrivial problems."

The professor said the conference also addressed the issue of what courses students are taking and what they are actually learning.

The combination of professors teaching well and allowing students to demonstrate what they have learned helps pupils learn better, he explained.

Charles Liu, an astronomy professor who researches distant galaxies and the birth of stars, said it's a great challenge to communicate information and concepts about those two subjects so that it will stick in a student's mind.

"This school is doing a lot of different things to make sure we teach science well," Liu said, noting that he was proud to be part of the effort.

CSI's Verrazano School, an honors program that is also an extension of the learning communities model that the college debuted in 2003, and the STEAM program (Science, Technology, Engineering through Applied Math) are part of the effort that the Willowbrook city school has developed to comply with SENCER's theories.

"It gives bright students a chance to interact with world-class faculty members. It allows them to understand the importance of science literacy in modern life," Liu said.

For example, Louise Levine, an English professor, and Alan Lyons, a chemistry professor, are working together in one learning community to mix and match both subjects with one topic: The Hudson River.

Instead of one semester, the course runs the entire academic year, and combines literary works and scientific characteristics of the Hudson.

"It's science through their own discovery," said Ms. Levine.

ULTURA

La Academia Norteamericana rinde homenaje a Miguel Hernández en Nueva York

La Academia Norteamericana de la Lengua Española (ANLE) rindió homenaje en Nueva York a la obra de Miguel Hernández para conmemorar el centenario del nacimiento de uno de los poetas españoles más importantes del siglo pasado.



Poeta Miguel Hernández

"Aunque trunca por su temprana y trágica muerte, la obra poética de Miguel Hernández es uno de los ejemplos más vehementes y perentorios de la altura a la que puede llegar la expresión poética", explicó el académico español Gerardo Piña Rosales, director desde hace dos años de la entidad con sede en Nueva York.

En un acto que acogió el Centro Español La Nacional de Manhattan, varios expertos en literatura española ofrecieron su visión sobre el impacto de la obra de este autor, que nació en 1910 y murió 32 años después en la prisión de la ciudad de Alicante tras ser condenado por

las fuerzas franquistas.

El próximo 30 de octubre, el autor nacido en Orihuela (Alicante), conocido como el poeta del pueblo, hubiera cumplido cien años, pero desde que comenzó 2010 no han cesado los actos en homenaje de un autor recordado como símbolo de la segunda República española y víctima de la Guerra Civil, a los que ahora se suma la Gran Manzana.

En su intervención, llamada "Los rostros de Miguel Hernández", Piña Rosales repasó los momentos más importantes de la vida del autor y cómo estos marcaron su obra, y lo hizo "a través de motivos icónicos, desde las primeras fotografías del poeta adolescente en su casa de Orihuela (Alicante) hasta los dibujos que se hicieron cuando murió en la cárcel", según explicó.

"En la poesía de Hernández, el corazón y la palabra, mutuamente conjurados, conmueven profundamente al lector, revelándole, como la ciega embestida del toro o la furia fulgurante del rayo, lo implacable de la muerte y el misterio ineluctable de nuestro destino", indicó el académico en declaraciones a Efe.

Además del director de la ANLE, también participaron en el homenaje el peruano Christian Rubio, profesor de la Universidad de Luisiana, y la española Nuria Morgado, profesora de literatura española en el **College of Staten Island** y The Graduate Center, de la Universidad de la Ciudad de Nueva York (CUNY).

Rubio presentó "El pensamiento sociopolítico y religioso de Miguel Hernández en su poesía y prosa", un estudio de la evolución del pensamiento de Hernández a través de un análisis de su verso y prosa.

Para Rubio, la obra hernandiana refleja "no sólo la vida del autor, sino también la época en que fue escrita, teniendo como fondo su ideología sociopolítica y sus creencias religiosas".

Morgado presentó por su parte "La mujer en la poesía de Miguel Hernández", donde destacó "la visión de igualdad social que el poeta oriolano confería a la mujer, a la que cantó desde un nivel erótico, amoroso y social", y que es "una fuente frecuente de inspiración".

El programa del homenaje también incluyó la lectura de varias de las creaciones de Hernández, así como de poemas creados por el poeta bilingüe gallego residente en Nueva York Francisco Ivarez Koki, cuyos títulos más recientes incluyen "Ratas en Manhattan" (2007), "Para abril e amantes" (2003) y "Alen da frontera" (1999).

EFE

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A New CUNY Community College Is Opening in 2012

It will offer extra support to students—but with a catch

By Brenda Iasevoli

published: October 27, 2010

For Jaime Alvarado, the decision to enroll in college at age 39 was daunting. The problem wasn't just his insecurity about whether, after more than 20 years away from a classroom, he'd be able to solve for y in his pre-algebra class. It was the maze of college life and its unfamiliar language that left the former union organizer, now a cab driver, in a daze. What the heck was a bursar, anyway?

"There was just so much information flowing around," Alvarado recalls. "It was hard for me to absorb."

Fortunately, Alvarado was enrolled in Accelerated Study in Associate Programs, or ASAP, at LaGuardia Community College. The program's main goal is to fast-track its students to a cap and gown. Nationally, the urban community college's three-year graduation rate is only 16 percent. Last June, three years after ASAP's inception, 55 percent of its initial 2007 cohort of 1,132 students had received associate's degrees.

ASAP, which is offered at all six City University of New York community colleges, provides students with an adviser who guides them through the intricacies of college life. "My adviser helped me break it down piece by piece," says Alvarado. "She helped me with everything from choosing courses to finding the cafeteria."

Many students need the help that Alvarado gets, but they simply don't qualify for the program. ASAP students must agree to attend full-time in the first year and they must be college-ready, meaning that they don't need more than two remedial courses. Alvarado needed only one—in math—so the program scooped him up. But what happens to the more typical community college student, who often arrives unprepared for college-level work?

CUNY's answer is to open a new community college in the summer of 2012, modeled on ASAP and built with the goal of increasing college graduation rates for a wider range of students. Initially situated across from Bryant Park, in a building that formerly housed the secretarial school Katharine Gibbs, the new school will eventually enroll up to 5,000 students in a new building at John Jay College of Criminal Justice at 59th Street and Tenth Avenue. Students will need only a high school diploma or a GED to apply. Once enrolled, they will benefit from some of the same services that ASAP students enjoy, such as one-on-one advising and free tutoring.

CUNY is betting that the closer an eye it keeps on students, the quicker it will hand them diplomas. Right now, 11 countries have a higher percentage of college graduates than the United States (which a decade ago was first). President Barack Obama's call for the U.S. to retake the lead by 2020 has stirred a debate around the purpose of community colleges. Should they train students for jobs, or prepare students to pursue a four-year degree?

The new CUNY community college planners think that they can, with a lot of student hand-holding, do both. However, some CUNY faculty remain skeptical of a curriculum whose main goal, they say, is to produce quick diplomas.

The new CUNY community college doesn't offer much choice, but that is part of the plan. The college will offer only eight majors—business administration, information technology, energy services management, environmental science, health information technology, human services, liberal arts and sciences, and urban studies—most chosen for their potential to land students a job after graduating. Faculty members will be expected to link students to jobs and internships in the students' career fields. The curriculum is also streamlined, with remedial work integrated into regular courses.

Sandi Cooper, a history professor at the College of Staten Island and chair of CUNY's Faculty Senate, worries that the new school's curriculum is not as rigorous as those of other colleges, noting that most community colleges require two years of a language, two years of lab science, one year of math, as well as courses covering history and literature.

"The core curriculum for the new college barely reflects any of those standards," she says. "We don't want to mislead students into thinking that when they finish a two-year degree, they are qualified to move on to a senior college, unless they are. I call that fraud. We worry that what's going to be offered these students, while it may be wonderful in terms of support services, is pretty thin in terms of content."

Particularly controversial is the requirement that applicants submit to an interview. The purpose, according to John Mogulescu, the CUNY dean in charge of developing the new college, is to inform students about the intricacies of the college—not weed them out. Cooper is skeptical, saying it violates CUNY's tradition of open admissions: "The business of an interview is obviously an effort to ensure an enrollment of students who are likely to finish."

Students at the new college will also be required to attend full-time, at least for the first year, and spend at least 22 hours per week on campus. Nationally, about 60 percent of community college students are part-timers; about 87 percent of CUNY students initially enroll full-time, though the percentage drops dramatically in students' second and third years.

"It's better to encourage students to go full-time if they can," says Thomas Bailey, director of an independent research consortium called the Community College Research Center, who served on the new college's planning committee. "If you're going to take years to finish, there's just that much more time for life to get in the way. A million things could happen. You could lose your job or you could get a new job. You might get married or have a baby. If you could just get kids to bite the bullet and go full-time and get it over with, chances are they'll finish."

The problem is that community college students may have full-time jobs and families to care for. Part-time enrollment might work best for these students, but that means they can't partake of the needed services that the new college will offer.

"If a student has not had the advantages of the middle class and grew up not going to museums, not going abroad, working, coming sometimes from busted-up families, the idea that they might need more time to finish strikes me as reasonable," says Cooper. "But I can't get that across to the efficiency experts."

The planning committee hopes that one-on-one personal advisement every step of the way will help compensate for this, ensuring that if students get off track, their advisers will swiftly set them straight. Advisers will also work together with faculty on everything from evaluating learning disabilities to determining if students need financial aid.

For now, the new community college has the funds to support its efforts to increase graduation rates. In addition to CUNY funds, Mayor Michael Bloomberg has allocated \$8.9 million toward the new community college in this year's city budget; the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has given \$1.1 million, and other donors smaller amounts. Mayor Bloomberg's Center for Economic Opportunity, which funds ASAP, will provide money for advisement services, while CUNY will seek private funds for tuition assistance, free textbooks, and MetroCards.

These services are too costly to provide at most community colleges, says George Boggs, president and CEO of the American Association of Community Colleges. (He cites a College Board report that found many community college students are eligible for federal financial aid, but never apply for it, because support staff aren't available to advise them.)

Those who participated in the planning stressed that the new college design and curriculum are based on sound research. They say they listened to input from faculty, community-based organizations, students, experts in curriculum-planning, among many others.

Not so, says Lenore Beaky, an English professor at LaGuardia Community College, who says that faculty were only asked to participate in cursory ways. "The new college is an insult to our students," says Beaky. "It treats them as if they are children who need to be protected from choice and chance."

"This is very unusual and ambitious," says Bailey of the Community College Research Center. "They're saying, 'Let's try something new and different, rather than just tinker around the edges.' When you're working with an established institution, it has its culture and its people in place. That makes it much more difficult to bring about radical change. So if you're trying to create a new type of school, it's better to build it from the ground up with people who have been hired for that specific purpose."

For their part, the planners see the new community college as a work in progress. "Let's look at what works," says Lisa Hale Rose, an assistant professor of human services at the Borough of Manhattan Community College who was involved in the development of the new college. "Let's assess and measure it. And if it doesn't work, let's change it."



'Time Traveler' May Just Be Hard of Hearing

By Jeremy Hsu

Published October 29, 2010 | LiveScience

Speculation about a supposed time traveller talking on her cell phone at a 1928 Hollywood film premiere has sped across the [Internet](#) faster than a DeLorean time machine. But a less mind-bending possibility is that she was just hard of hearing, experts say.

The story first surfaced in a YouTube video that includes film footage showing the 1928 premiere of the Charlie Chaplin film "The Circus" at Manns Chinese Theatre in Hollywood, Cali. Irish filmmaker George Clarke points out a woman in the old footage holding what he describes as a cell phone against her ear. The shape implies the woman is a time traveler using a modern mobile device rather than an ear trumpet, Clarke said.

What Clarke didn't consider was that a simple ear trumpet could still explain it all, said hearing device historians, who provided LiveScience with images of sample ear trumpets for comparison. [See the ear trumpets]

"As you can tell from these, old-fashioned mechanical or resonating hearing aids were not necessarily long and rounded," said Philip Skroska, an archivist at the Bernard Becker Medical Library of Washington University in St. Louis. "Short, compact rectangular forms were not unusual."

In other words, they could look something like a cell phone to imaginative YouTube viewers in the 21st century. [Time Travel Machine Outlined]

Listen to this

19th-century resonator hearing aids such as ear trumpets were still made in large numbers well into the first decades of the 20th century, Skroska explained, and the basic designs didn't change much aside from incorporating newer, plastic-like materials.

"Besides, I would expect this woman to be over 50 years old, so using a late 19th century [design](#) in 1928 would not be a stretch I think," Skroska said.

Electronic hearing aids also existed before World War II, but in fewer numbers.

"Now, I can't really explain why the woman appears to be talking (other than yelling at the man who quickened his pace ahead of her)," Skroska said in an e-mail. "But I think it's fair to say it would be a hasty judgment to dismiss the possibility that it was a hearing aid she was holding up to her ear."

This explanation might be less exciting than the time travel theory, but it avoids a huge number of theoretical and practical problems associated with sending someone into the past.

Time travel issues

Theorists have kicked around a few scenarios for how people might travel to the past, said Brian Greene, author of the bestseller, "The Elegant Universe" (Vintage Books, 2000) and a physicist at Columbia University, during a past LiveScience interview. "And almost all of them, if you look at them closely, brush up right at the edge of physics as we understand it. Most of us think that almost all of them can be ruled out."

One theory focuses on wormholes – hypothetical tunnels that connect two regions of space-time that could represent two parts of the same universe, or even completely different universes.

But creating a wormhole that punches through space-time looks far beyond anything humans can accomplish with today's technology, said Michio Kaku, author of "Hyperspace" (Anchor, 1995) and "Parallel Worlds" (Anchor, 2006), and a physicist at the City University of New York, in a past interview.

Humans would need to somehow harness the energy of a star or possibly matter with negative energy density – an exotic and hypothetical form of matter with the energy of less than nothing. Even if such matter exists, there would likely not be enough of it for a time machine to harness.

Another time travel theory relies upon cosmic strings – narrow tubes of energy that span the entire length of the expanding universe. Predictions suggest that such regions could contain huge amounts of mass and warp space-time in a way that allows for time travel.

The cosmic strings either run on infinitely or form loops "like spaghetti or SpaghettiO's," said Richard Gott, author of "Time Travel in Einstein's Universe" (Mariner Books, 2002) and an astrophysicist at Princeton University. Two such strings parallel to one another could perhaps bend space-time enough to make time travel possible – but it's a challenge that only a "super civilization" might try, Gott explained in a past interview.

Not what it seems

Any pathways that could theoretically allow for time travel between points in space-time have never been seen, according to Charles Liu, an astrophysicist at the City University of New York, **College of Staten Island**, and co-author on the book "One Universe: At Home in the Cosmos" (Joseph Henry Press, 1999).

Besides being "very unlikely to exist at all," such pathways are "even less likely to be able to transport anything larger than a subatomic particle intact," Liu said.

People of the present also have a track record of trying to fit what they see to known patterns, Liu pointed out. He added that it was no surprise for 21st-century people to see what they think is a cell phone in 1928, just as people claimed to see faces on Mars or the Virgin Mary in toast.

"So I'm going to bed tonight confident that the person was not a time traveler from the future," Liu said in an e-mail yesterday.

OCTOBER 30, 2010, 12:34 PM

Urban Forager | Tomato-Pumpkin Mash-Up on a Tree

By [AVA CHIN](#)

Ava Chin for The New York Times The persimmon, described as a cross between a summer tomato and a date, taste better when wrinkly.

This time of year, persimmon trees across the five boroughs are abundant with fruit. The day that I visited the [Brooklyn Botanic Garden](#) to take a look at their very healthy-looking *Diospyros virginiana*, which the recent hailstorm had stripped of many of its leaves, the tree was filled with tiny, intact, mango-colored clusters of persimmons.

Sweet, ripened persimmons not only resemble pumpkin-colored tomatoes, but also taste like a cross between a summer tomato and a date. They come in various sizes — from as small as a cherry tomato to as large as an apple, with bottoms that range from elongated and pointy to ones that are flattened like Chinese mooncakes.

At times slightly fibrous in texture, persimmons are good sources of vitamins A and C, dietary fiber and manganese. Most Asian persimmon-eaters I know wait until the hard shiny fruit has softened to the touch, even to the point of becoming wrinkly, and the leaves have grown dark and withered, before trying to open one, or else the taste is mouth-puckeringly astringent. Some dark-fleshed varieties of persimmon, however, have been cultivated to reduce tannins. If you don't have neighbors who can give you a handful from their trees, you can find persimmons proliferating in groceries and fruit carts throughout Chinatown.

The *Diospyros virginiana* at the botanic garden notwithstanding, our most commonly cultivated persimmon trees are *Diospyros kaki*, a.k.a. Japanese persimmon, Asian/Oriental persimmon, kaki, caqui (in Spanish), shizi (in Chinese), Chinese plum, sharon fruit or Korean mango. Native to China, *Diospyros kaki* is cultivated throughout East Asia, Brazil and also California for its sweet fruit (some varieties, like our native *Diospyros virginiana*, a.k.a. Eastern persimmon or possumwood, produce mouth-numbingly astringent fruit). Persimmon trees have broad, stiff leaves that grow alternately along the stem, and the trees can grow as tall as 60 feet.

Even though I sampled persimmons from friends' backyards in Los Angeles, I often found the look and flavor too puzzlingly dissonant to be pleasurable. (Looks like a tomato, but tastes sweet and fibrous like a date?) It was only until I transformed a bagful, given to me by a friend from Staten Island, into jars of luscious, spreadable persimmon

butter that I truly understood the masterful buoyancy of this flavorful fruit. Cooked, it is the color of cinnamon, and never fails to remind me of pumpkin and sweet potato pie.

Ava Chin, a professor of creative nonfiction and journalism at the College of Staten Island, lives in Park Slope, Brooklyn. The [Urban Forager](#) runs every other Saturday.

Sports



College of Staten Island netters fall to Rutgers-Newark

Published: Sunday, October 03, 2010, 11:04 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

NEWARK — The **College of Staten Island** women's volleyball dropped to 1-9 after a 14-25, 11-25, 25-22, 9-25 non-conference loss to Rutgers-Newark.

Joanna Tepedino registered 15 kills and eight digs and Danielle Ponsiglione had 14 assists and 10 digs. Samantha Fink dug eight and Diana Stout and Nila Nogueira split 14 digs.

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College of Staten Island harriers compete in invitational

Published: Monday, October 04, 2010, 2:39 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Ten Dolphins competed in the **Lehman College Invitational** in the Bronx.

Women (5k): Shantel Peters 21:44; Kubra Shirazi 36:14; Sandra Battle 39:26.

Men (8k): Nick Italiano 34:48; Dean Kunjra via 36:50; Matthew Greger 38:29; Shawn Cybulska 45:18; Dennis Vlasikov 48:24; Adebola Olasoju 54:06; Agron Shabani 55:36.

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College of Staten Island sports roundup for October 5, 2010: Tennis and soccer

Published: Wednesday, October 06, 2010, 9:27 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island women's tennis team dropped its first conference match of the season, falling to Hunter 8-1 at the National Tennis Center in Queens.

CSI's Yelena Rasporskaya defeated Ericka Jaramillo (6-3, 4-6, 10-6) to prevent the shutout.

CSI (8-4 overall, 5-1 CUNY) hosts Medgar Evers tomorrow. The CUNY Tournament begins on Oct. 19.

WOMEN'S SOCCER

Drew 4, CSI 0

The host Dolphins (5-2 overall) were outshot 22-0 in the non-conference loss. The visiting Rangers (7-4) scored four times in a seven-minute spurt late in the first half.

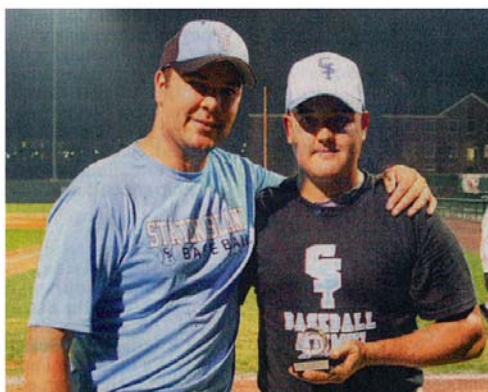
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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2010

CSI WELCOMES BACK BASEBALL ALUMNI



PHOTOS COURTESY OF COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND



The calendar may have read September 24, but it felt like a mid-summer night as the College of Staten Island held its second annual baseball alumni game. Former players ranging from the 1985 to 2006 teams, photo left, put on their gloves and got out their bats again as the alumni from odd-numbered years defeated the even-numbered years 3-2. Above, Dolphins' head coach Michael Mauro, left, stands with winning team MVP Mark Gonzalez, who knocked in the winning run and earned the save on the pitcher's mound.



College of Staten Island sports for October 7, 2010: Tennis wins, volleyball loses

Published: Friday, October 08, 2010, 9:09 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

COLLEGE TENNIS

CSI breezes

The College of Staten Island women's tennis got back on the winning track, overturning a modest two-game losing streak with a 9-0 win over visiting Medgar Evers College yesterday at the winner's Willowbrook courts.

The win lifted the Dolphins to 9-4 overall and a 6-1 in CUNYAC play.

SINGLES: Gaby Villarruel def. Roneke Browne, 6-1, 6-1; Ilona Stoyko def. Lennox Thompson, 6-3, 6-1; Yelena Rasporskaya def. Olubamike Ogunrinu, 6-0, 6-0; Quin Li def. Ja' Net Goodwin, 6-0, 6-0; Tara Colao def. Shade Swaby, 6-0, 6-1; Demi-Jean Martorano def. Sherine Elliott, 6-0, 6-0.

DOUBLES: Villarruel and Nancy Almazo def. Browne and Thompson, 8-2; Stoyko and Justine Kuna def. Giselle Strachan and Swaby, 8-0; Li and Martorano def. Ashley Brown and Latoya Duncan, 8-0.

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

CSI falls to St. Joe's

The (1-11) Dolphins got solid play from Joanna Tepedino (10 digs), Diana Stout (16 digs), and Danielle Ponsiglione (13 assists) in their 25-19, 25-23, and 25-22 loss.

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College of Staten Island men's and women's soccer roundup for October 9, 2010

Published: Sunday, October 10, 2010, 3:41 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Medgar Evers scored three second-half goals to stun the College of Staten Island 4-2 in CUNY women's soccer yesterday in Willowbrook.

Natalie Tombasco put CSI ahead in the eighth minute, but the Cougars (4-0, 7-4-1) knotted it about 17 minutes later.

Tombasco tallied just before halftime to give CSI (2-1 CUNY, 5-3 overall) a 2-1 advantage, but Medgar Evers scored in the 51st, 66nd and 72 minutes.

MEN'S SOCCER

Medgar Evers 6, CSI 1

The Cougars (2-3-2 CUNY, 6-6-2) scored four times in the first 18 minutes. Dong Luu ended the run with a goal for the Dolphins (2-4-1, 2-9-2) in the 22nd minute, but Medgar connected twice after halftime.

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College of Staten Island women's soccer team rolls

Published: Monday, October 11, 2010, 12:21 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island women's soccer team snapped a two-game slide, belting visiting Yeshiva University 11-0 yesterday at the Willowbrook campus.



Demi-Jean Martorano, CSI

The Dolphins' leading scorer, Demi-Jean Martorano, punched in four of CSI's six first-half goals.

In the second half, five different players found the net as the Dolphins out-shot the Maccabees 38-5.

CSI returns to action on Wednesday, hosting the City College of New York at 3:30 p.m.

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Italiano paces **College of Staten Island** cross-country runners

Published: Monday, October 11, 2010, 12:29 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Nicholas Italiano's 34 minutes, 14 seconds timing in the 8K Brooklyn Invitational Run led the **College of Staten Island**.

Men 8K

Nicholas Italiano, 34:14; Dean Kunjra via, 34:36; Matthew Greger, 37:55; Shawn Cybulska, 39:25; Jonathan Bailey, 43:40; Dennis Vlasikov, 45:41; Adebola Olasoju, 50:54.

Women 6K

Kubra Shirazi, 46:36.

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College of Staten Island women's soccer beats CCNY 5-1

Published: Thursday, October 14, 2010, 9:18 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



Demi-Jean Martorano

The College of Staten Island's women's soccer team topped CCNY 5-1 Wednesday.

Christina Sgarlato scored twice for the Dolphins (7-3 overall, 3-1) in the CUNYAC win at home. Natalie Tombasco, Demi-Jean Martorano and Christina Jacob also tallied and Lauren Neglia registered two assists. Danielle McLaughlin made six saves.

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College of Staten Island women's soccer squad tops John Jay

Published: Saturday, October 16, 2010, 10:57 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island women's soccer team (8-3 overall, 4-1 CUNY) guaranteed themselves no less than the No. 2 seed in the CUNY tournament with a 1-0 shutout of host John Jay College (2-6, 1-4).



Demi-Jean Martorano

In the 61st minute, Demi-Jean Martorano took a lead pass from Paige Buono and tallied her team-leading 13th goal of the season. It would prove to be the game-winner.

Defenders Amanda Percaccio, Nicole Quattrocchi, Jessica Levy and Stephanie McNichol keyed the Dolphins' defense.

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College of Staten Island men's soccer nips Hunter College

Published: Sunday, October 17, 2010, 9:34 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island men's soccer team downed Hunter 1-0 in its CUNY season finale yesterday in Willowbrook.

The Dolphins (3-4-1 CUNY, 3-9-2 overall) scored 14:47 into the first half as Dong Luu headed a long pass from Lirim Begai into the net.

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College of Staten Island's Peters places seventh in women's 6K

Published: Monday, October 18, 2010, 5:38 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island's Shantel Peters finished the **York Invitational 6-K** in a CUNY meet at Van Cortlandt Park yesterday with a time of 27 minutes, 28 seconds.

Kubra Shirazi (45:13) and Sandra Battle (45:24) also competed.

In the men's **8-K** race, Matthew Greger crossed in 38:13. Dean Kunjravia (38:13) and Shawn Cybulska (39:10) also ran for **CSI**.

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COLLEGE CROSS COUNTRY

Bostic and Morales excel

Tuesday, October 19, 2010

at the NJCU Invitational

New Jersey City University men's cross country freshmen Mike Bostic and Erik Morales placed first and second, respectively, finishing within a second of each other on the 5K course, as NJCU defeated the **College of Staten Island**, 20-35, in the NJCU Invitational at Liberty State Park.

NJCU claimed three of the top four spots and six of the first eight in the 13-man meet. Bostic took the individual title with a 15:51 mark and 7:45 split, while posting NJCU's best time in a meet for the second straight outing.

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College of Staten Island women's sports roundup for October 19, 2010: Volleyball and soccer

Published: Wednesday, October 20, 2010, 9:49 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

WOMEN'S SOCCER

CSI 3, St. Elizabeth 0

MORRISTOWN, N.J. — Lauren Neglia scored twice and Demi-Jean Martorano had a goal for the Dolphins (9-3 overall) in a non-conference win.

Christina Sgarlato had two assists and Valerie Incontrera had one. Danielle McLaughlin (six saves) and Victoria Donegan (seven saves) combined for the shutout.

WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL

Hunter 3, CSI 0

The Dolphins (2-15 overall, 1-7 CUNY) dropped their final home game of the season, 25-2, 25-20, 25-4 in CUNYAC play on Senior Night.

Senior Joanna Tepedino finished with five kills, six digs and a block. Kaitlyn Flynn added four digs and three kills and Danielle Ponsiglione chipped in six assists and five digs.

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College of Staten Island women's soccer falls to New Jersey City

Published: Thursday, October 21, 2010, 9:19 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Natalie Tombasco was the lone goal scorer for the **College of Staten Island** in a 6-1 non-conference loss to NJCU.

The Dolphins fell to 9-4 overall.

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COLLEGE SOCCER

Cunha's hat trick key for NJCU

Friday, October 22, 2010

Sophomore forward Ashley Cunha generated her third career hat trick and junior forward Julia Caseres had a goal and two assists as New Jersey City University outshot the **College of Staten Island**, 34-3, en route to a 6-1 non-conference road victory.

NJCU improved to 12-5, while Staten Island fell to 9-4.

Junior sweeper/forward Jennifer Albuja bagged the 66th goal of her career to move into a tie for third place in total goals in New Jersey Athletic Conference history. Sophomore midfielder Kelsey Plaskon added her third goal of the season.

Stevens 4, Ramapo 1

Senior Mary Chew netted the Ducks' first hat trick since the 2006 season as the Stevens Institute of Technology women's soccer team cruised over visiting Ramapo College. The Ducks improved to 13-2-1 overall on the year, while the Roadrunners fell to 5-11-0.

Stevens freshman Jessie Wos scored her first collegiate goal.

Men

NJCU 5, Brooklyn 0

New Jersey City University (7-9) scored on each of its first two shots of the game and four different Gothic Knights netted a goal, led by a pair of markers from junior forward Walter Avans as NJCU outshot Brooklyn College, 37-6.

NJCU also got goals from Gabriel Avans, Nana Kofi Kusi and Kevin Scrivanich.

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Staten Island sports bulletin board for October 22, 2010

Published: Saturday, October 23, 2010, 3:48 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

Jay Price at **CSI**

Former Advance columnist Jay Price will be the featured speaker at the Friends of the College of Staten Island Literary Brunch tomorrow from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the **CSI** Campus Center. Price is the author of "Thanksgiving 1959," a story about a legendary high school football game and a bygone era in the borough. For tickets, call 718-982-2365.

Sports Hall tribute to Thomson

The Staten Island Sports Hall of Fame's retrospective on Bobby Thomson, featuring the largest collection of Thomson memorabilia in the country, is today from 11 a.m.-2 p.m., at the CYO/MIV Center at Mount Loretto, Pleasant Plains. Admission is free and each person attending will receive a memento of the event.

CYO hoop clinic

The CYO Beyond the Arc program will conduct a free basketball clinic for boys and girls in grades 3-8 on Nov. 3 from 7-8:30 p.m. at the CYO-MIV Center in Pleasant Plains. Contact clinic director Artie Conroy at 718-987-2603 or via e-mail at arthurconroy@verizon.net.

Salem Church hoops

Registration is taking place for Salem Church's Upward Basketball Program. Registration forms are available at the church at 634 Clove Road (between Martling and Forest avenues) Monday-Friday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. There are separate leagues for girls and boys in grades 1-8. Final registration and player evaluations will take place on Nov. 15-16 between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. in the Maddox Center Gymnasium at the church. Call 718-442-7740.

Verrazano BRL registration

The Verrazano Babe Ruth League will hold registration for its 2011 season tomorrow from 9 a.m.-noon at its Sea View complex. The loop's wood bat divisions are for 13-year-olds and 14-15s. New registrants must bring a birth certificate.

Basketball clinic

The JCC Intramural basketball clinic and registration for boys and girls will be held tomorrow at the Avis South Shore building (1496 Arthur Kill Rd.). Pre-K and Kindergarten, first and second graders register at 11 a.m.; third and fourth graders at noon; fifth and sixth graders at 1 and seventh to eighth graders at 2. Call Mike Reape at 718-475-5212.

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College of Staten Island women's soccer takes CUNY regular-season crown

Published: Monday, October 25, 2010, 3:14 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The **CSI** women (5-1 CUNY, 10-4 overall) used an early scoring surge to capture the win and the CUNY regular-season championship with a 4-1 win over Medgar Evers on Saturday at the Aviator Sports Complex in Brooklyn.



Demi-Jean Martorano

Demi-Jean Martorano scored in the third minute and Natalie Tombasco followed about 10 minutes later for a 2-0 lead.

After the Cougars (4-1, 8-7-1) tallied in the 23rd minute, Tombasco netted two straight about five minutes apart as **CSI** built a 4-1 halftime lead and never looked back.

The CUNY semifinals will be Sunday at **CSI** as No. 2 Medgar Evers plays either John Jay or CCNY at noon and **CSI** challenges John Jay or CCNY at 2 p.m. The CUNY championship will be Nov. 6 at the Metropolitan Oval in Queens at 2 p.m.

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College of Staten Island cross-country squads solid in Dolphin-hosted invitational

Published: Monday, October 25, 2010, 3:01 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

The College of Staten Island cross-country program hosted its 3rd Annual Invitational at Van Cortlandt Park yesterday morning with nine teams and more than 100 runners.



Nick Italiano

The women did not place, but the men finished seventh. John Jay edged York to win on the men's side while Hunter captured the women's portion.

In the women's 6k meet, CSI's Shantel Peters medaled after finishing 10th with a time of 27:32.84. Kubra Shirazi (43:26) and Sandra Battle (46:34) were 50th and 51st, respectively.

The top Dolphin in the men's 8k was Nick Italiano, who was 11th with a time of 32:15. Other CSI runners were Dean Kunjra via (35:51.85, 28th), Matt Greger (38:05.60, 37th), Shawn Cybulska (39:35.40, 40th), Dennis Vlasikos (50:33.74, 45th), and Adebola Olasoju (56:37.65, 46th).

College of Staten Island men's soccer to host Lehman in CUNY quarterfinals tomorrow

Published: Tuesday, October 26, 2010, 12:52 PM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk



The **CSI** men's soccer team will play Lehman in the CUNY playoffs tomorrow.

The **College of Staten Island** men's soccer team will host Lehman College in CUNYAC quarterfinal action tomorrow afternoon at 3:30 p.m. in Willowbrook.

The Dolphins (4-4-1 league, 4-10-2 overall) bounced back from missing the playoffs last year to earning the fourth seed this season. Lehman (4-4-1, 5-11-1), which reached the quarters last year, is the fifth seed.

CSI is led by junior attacker Kenneth Zaw, who tallied a team-high six goals — including an overtime winner to beat Lehman during the regular season. Freshman midfielder Dong Luu added three goals and a club-best four assists for the 2010 Dolphins.

Leading the defense for **CSI** will be senior keeper Ahmed El-Ghareib, who made 123 saves in 16 matches.

A win would advance the Dolphins to Saturday's semifinal round against the winner of tomorrow's contest between No. 1 Baruch and eighth-seeded Medgar Evers. That game would be played at the Met Oval in Queens.

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College of Staten Island men's soccer ousted in CUNY Tournament

Published: Thursday, October 28, 2010, 10:41 AM



Staten Island Advance Sports Desk

For the second time in three seasons, the College of Staten Island men's soccer team was bounced in the opening round of the CUNY Conference tournament on its home turf.

The No. 4 Dolphins (4-11-2 overall, 4-4-1 CUNY) were blanked 4-0 by No. 5 Lehman.

The Lightning (6-11-1, 4-4-1) scored on a penalty kick with no time left in the first half and added three late second-half tallies to seal the first soccer playoff victory in school history.

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Top Seeds CSI & MEC Make Next Saturday's Final With Wins in the Semifinals



The **College of Staten Island** took a 1-0 double overtime win over CCNY Sunday afternoon in the Applebee's/CUNYAC Tournament Semifinals. The victory advanced **CSI** to the CUNYAC Championship game on Saturday against Medgar Evers, who had defeated John Jay, 2-1, in the previous game today. CCNY finished their season 1-18-1 while **CSI** extended to an 11-4 overall record.

The well-competed game saw play cover the entire field, however, **CSI** took a majority of the shots with 13 after regular game time ran out and CCNY with just three, all in the second half. **CSI** had 10 shots on-goal; CCNY totaled two on-goal bringing the game into golden goal overtime.

The Dolphins took five shots in the first overtime while CCNY didn't have a chance, however, no shots were scored and the game went into double overtime.

It was just 1:13 into the second overtime when a foul was called on CCNY inside the box. Lauren Neglia took the penalty kick for **CSI** that went past the right side of Rebecca Arce in goal to finish the game with a win.

Neglia totaled 8 shots with four on-goal while Natalie Tombasco had three shots. For CCNY, Francis Tabia, Lindsay De LaRosa and Heather Ruger each marked a shot.

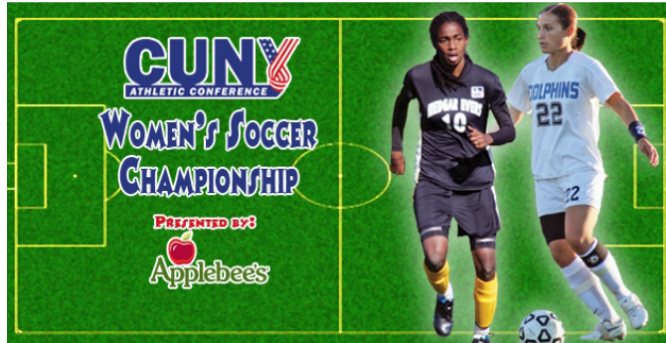
CSI's winning goalie Victoria Donegan had two saves while Arce tallied eight saves.

Medgar Evers College topped John Jay 2-1, on Sunday in the semifinals of the 2010 Applebee's / City University of New York Athletic Conference Women's Soccer Championship at the **College of Staten Island** Soccer Complex.

In the loss to Medgar Evers on Sunday, the Cougars, the No. 2 seed in the tournament, scored a pair of goals in the first half to lead by a pair. Medgar Evers took a 1-0 lead just 3:56 into the



2010 CUNYAC/Applebee's Women's Soccer Semifinals To Kick Off Sunday at **CSI** at Noon



FLUSHING, N.Y. - The four-team field for the **2010 CUNY Athletic Conference / Applebee's Women's Soccer Championship** is ready for action to get underway on Sunday, October 31st at 12:00 noon with back-to-back semifinal matches at the **College of Staten Island**. This is the first official CUNYAC Tournament since, 2005, the only previous year that four Conference teams were involved. The two winners will face off at the **Metropolitan Oval** (Maspeth, N.Y.), for the conference championship on Saturday, November 6 at 2 p.m.. The contest precedes the Men's Soccer Championship at 4 p.m.

For **CSI's** preview: http://csidolphins.com/news/2010/10/29/WSOC_1029105911.aspx

For John Jay's preview: http://johnjayathletics.com/news/2010/10/29/WSOC_1029100655.aspx

-- CUNYAthletics.com --

The first semifinal will pit #2 seed **Medgar Evers College** (10-7-1, 5-1-0 CUNYAC) and their high-powered offense, versus #3 **John Jay College** (2-9-1, 1-4-1 CUNYAC), who had a noteworthy first-year on the field at 12:00 pm. That game will be followed by a battle between the Regular Season Champions, the **College of Staten Island** (10-4, 5-1) and the defending champions, **City College of New York** (1-17-1, 0-5-1), who have struggled this year, but may draw on their experience to get them through to the final game.

contest on a strike by *Laura Morales* off a corner kick taken by *Renel Dennis*.

Medgar Evers scored again early in the thirty-fourth minute when Dennis and Morales reconnected. This time it was Dennis scoring off an assist by Morales as the Cougars took a two goal lead.

The first forty-four minutes of the season half were scoreless, before John Jay got on the board on a goal by Alexis Ochoa in the final minute. But it was too little too late as the Cougars held on to advance to the conference championship to face top seeded **College of Staten Island** next Saturday.

Medgar Evers outshot John Jay 14-9 in the contest, and took five corner kicks to one for the Bloodhounds.

-- CUNYAthletics.com --

Stories

CSI 'Celestial Ball' Dec. 4

The College of Staten Island will host its second annual scholarship gala, the "CSI Celestial Ball: Reaching for the Stars," on Saturday, Dec. 4, at the Richmond County Country Club. This year's honorees are Salvatore J. Casano, fire commissioner of the City of New York; Dolores N. Morris, retired vice president of HBO Family Channel; and Dr. Fred Naider, CUNY distinguished professor of chemistry and biochemistry at CSI.

CSI recently welcomed its largest incoming class of more than 14,000 undergraduate and graduate students. Three-fourths of all students are from Staten Island.

Last year's Celestial Ball raised more than \$500,000, creating ten new permanent endowments, which will generate scholarships in perpetuity. More than \$75,000 in scholarship support was awarded this academic year.

Sponsorship at the \$25,000 and \$50,000 levels will include the option to sponsor a "named endowed scholarship" opportunity at CSI. Support of \$10,000 includes a limited named scholarship for three years. The scholarship can be given criteria, such as minimum GPA, based on academic excellence or by major (i.e., engineering, nursing). There are many more benefits to these sponsorship levels, as well as additional sponsorship categories. Journal ads are another way to provide support.

For information, call (718) 982-2365 or visit the Web site www.csi.cuny.edu/foundation.

Thousands attend Community Fall Festival at College of Staten Island

Published: Saturday, October 02, 2010, 3:59 PM



Virginia N. Sherry

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- With cloudless blue skies and perfect temperatures, today was the perfect day for the Community Fall Festival, an outdoor event that drew parents and kids by the thousands to the brilliant green Great Lawn on the College of Staten Island campus in Willowbrook.



Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores

Mickey and Minnie Mouse pose with members of the CSI softball team: Danielle Brandow, Ashley Mullarkey, coach Stella Porto, Vanessa Porto and Amanda Winant. They all attended the 3rd annual Community Fall Festival at the College of Staten Island today.

Mona and Jorge Castro of New Springville, who came with their three kids, gave the festival a rave review.

Their son Jordan, 11, said that he loved the basketball games and the magic show, while daughter Jelissa, 13, went wild for the softball activities and the Chinese lion dancing. Isabella, 2, enjoyed the face-painting, and sported a pretty heart tattoo on the top of her tiny right hand.

Aaron and Diala Epstein of Westerleigh spent two hours at the festival with their daughter, Zara, 2, and newborn Chloe, 2 months old. Highlights for Zara included the pumpkin painting and seeing Mickey and Minnie Mouse in life size.

"She was in complete disbelief," said her dad.

There was a lot else for kids to enjoy, including free clinics in dance, gymnastics, sports, and karate; live music; costume parades and contests; and inflatable rides.

The festival -- held between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. -- was free, although a donation of \$10 per family was suggested. All proceeds benefit CSI's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative.

The festival was sponsored by Con Edison along with Friends of CSI, CSI Alumni Association, CSI Campus Activities Board and the Free Lighting Corporation of S.I.

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Young artists join fight against breast cancer

Published: Sunday, October 03, 2010, 6:46 AM



Virginia N. Sherry



Gabriella Palencia, 9, shows off the Kids Against Breast Cancer calendar.

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. - Gabriella Palencia, 9, who lives in Richmond and attends PS 50, was on hand yesterday at the Greener Community Fall Festival at the [College of Staten Island](#) to watch the sale of the pretty pink 2011 wall calendars -- titled Kids Against Breast Cancer -- that are available from SIBCRI.

Gabriella proudly pointed out her own pink-and-yellow drawing that is featured on a full page for the month of February, and then explained why the calendar project is important.

"I hope that people will buy them, and will start thinking that they can be sponsors and do walks to raise money to fight breast cancer," she said.

The calendars may be purchased by calling the SIBCRI at 718-982-3922.

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INSIDE

HEALTH HAPPENINGS C 2-4
FIT TO BE TRIED C 2
EMERGENCY C 5
YOGA C 7
DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE C 8

STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

HEALTH

C

MONDAY
OCTOBER 4, 2010

*Wii Fit balance games are being used
in a College of Staten Island study on vision and balance*



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/JAN SOMMA-HAMMILL

JoAnn Gaal of Westerleigh is doing a training exercise with Ski Slalom, one of three Nintendo Wii Fit games being used in a small-scale study of vision and balance in healthy adults conducted by The College of Staten Island's physical therapy doctoral program.

BALANCING ACT

By DIANE O'DONNELL / STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE

Clutching the Wii remote in her right hand, JoAnn Gaal steps on the balance board. She leans a little to the left and then right to break through the ski slope gates.

Her gaze is intent. As the 53-year-old Westerleigh woman sways, her onscreen avatar picks up speed going downhill and deftly maneuvers between the ski slope flags.

Mrs. Gaal is doing a training exercise with Ski Slalom, one of three Nintendo Wii Fit games being used in a small-scale study of vision and balance in healthy adults. The College of Staten Island's physical therapy doctoral program is conducting the research.

"The first time, I was moving my body everywhere. I was all over the place," says Mrs. Gaal. "Now, not so much."

The object of the study is to see if subjects learn to rely more on vision to maintain balance while standing as they play Wii Fit balance games.

Normally, the body uses a combination of three systems to stay balanced: vision, vestibular (inner ear) and somatosensory (sensory input from the skin, muscles and joints of the feet and legs).

Knowing if and how the body adapts to training with the Wii may lead medical experts to use such games to help bolster the deficits in neurological patients or those undergoing rehabilitation after joint replacements by using visual biofeedback training.

"We're hypothesizing that the Wii trains your visual system more," explains Dr. Maureen Becker,



Sensors are placed on the leg joints and spine to track for postural sway.



A camera captures slight movements while subjects maintain standing balance.

SEE BALANCING, PAGE C 6

BALANCING FROM PAGE C 1

CSI study is a balancing act

director of clinical education for the college's physical therapy doctoral program.

"If you're standing and I say to you 'stand on one leg' and you have your eyes opened, you can look at something on the wall and that is kind of staying [stabilizing] you," she explains.

If Wii study subjects have a heightened sense of vision for balance, they would sway more if they closed their eyes while trying to stay upright.

To test out the hypothesis, Dr. Becker and two of her students, Stefanie Sgarlato and Robert Barberesi, have been using the Movement and Gait Analysis Laboratory at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities adjacent to the college's Willowbrook campus.

There, study participants are asked to stand on a platform in the middle of the lab for two 30-second intervals — first with their eyes open, then with them shut. The platform measures force exerted by participants and changes in their body weight distribution as they maintain their balance.

Specialized probes called EMGs are stuck on the front and back of participants' legs and sensors are placed on the leg joints and the back of the spine.

"The EMGs will pick up the muscle activity from when you're just standing still," explains Ms. Sgarlato.

Nine infrared cameras installed around the lab track the joint movements of participants, creating images of dots on a nearby computer screen. The dots are used to gauge the postural sway of participants while standing.



Robert Barberesi, a student in the College of Staten Island's physical therapy doctoral program, gives JoAnn Gaal some pointers for using the Wii remote

On average, a person moves between .25 and .49 centimeters from front to back and .20 to .46 centimeters side to side, during 30 seconds of standing, said Dr. Becker.

After the test, participants engage in half-hour Wii training sessions using balance games, such as Ski Slalom, three times a week for four weeks.

At the end of training, the standing test is repeated to check for a change in responses.

When the study wraps up at the end of the month, 15 subjects, ages 20 to 53, will have undergone balance training with the Wii. Results of the study will not be available until January at the earliest.

ANOTHER WII STUDY

This is not the first time Dr. Becker and her students have used the Wii for research. Last year, it was used in a small pilot study on adolescent girls and exercise.



This is the second time that Dr. Maureen Becker has used the Wii in a study done by the college.

In that study, 22 girls, ages 8 to 13, used aerobic-based games involving running, dancing and hula hooping to measure calories burned. A larger joint study with Hunter College is awaiting grant approval.

Since the Wii was first launched in 2006, an increas-



Stefanie Sgarlato stands on a platform that measures the force exerted by study subjects as they maintain their balance.

ing number of physical therapists and other health-care providers have begun using it to help treat people with neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, stroke patients, as well as to aid patients with weight loss.

But use of virtual reality game technology is a relatively new field and studies providing evidence of its benefits are lacking, she noted.

"It's knowing when to use it and what games — some are more balance, some are more aerobic," said Dr. Becker. "So really, there are a lot of uses, but everyone doesn't know them yet. They haven't explored them enough."

Diane O'Donnell is the Health editor at the Advance. She may be reached at odonnell@siadvance.com.



Ski Slalom is one of three Nintendo Wii Fit games being used in a small-scale study of vision and balance in healthy adults. The research is being conducted at the Movement and Gait Analysis Laboratory at the Institute for Basic Research in Developmental Disabilities, Willowbrook.

In Willowbrook, Antique Automobile Club of America held its 34th annual show

Published: Thursday, October 07, 2010, 11:43 AM



Mark D. Stein



The event, hosted by the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, featured Chevrolets, Cadillacs, Lamborghinis and more eye-poppers, some dating back to the late 1920s. The high-end vehicles drew scores of spectators awed by the designs and many nostalgic features. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - Chevrolets, Cadillacs, Lamborghinis and more eye-poppers graced the spacious **College of Staten Island** parking lots on Sept. 21. The high-end vehicles drew scores of spectators awed by the designs and many nostalgic features.

Some of the autos dated back to the late 1920s.

The occasion was the 34th annual car show hosted by the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America (AACA).

Over 2,000 people attended the event, which lasted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Among the 500 featured cars were models that ranged from the pre-World War II era, to those designed just 15 years ago.

"The car, in general, is an integral part of everyone's life. Cars go beyond just transportation. Everyone has a relationship with a car that they owned or once owned," said club president Paul Arena, an Annadale resident.

"Seeing so many cars from so many different eras triggers so many memories across so many different ages. There are so many personal stories attached to the family vehicle. This is an opportunity to see so many different types in one venue. It appeals to everyone, because everyone ultimately has a direct relationship with a car," he added.

BENEFITS CHARITY

A portion of the proceeds from the event, which included admission, food and item sales, was donated to Staten Island Project Homefront.

Jay Simontacchi of Grasmere is an admirer of old cars. He referred to them as antiques.

"You see cars you remember from your youth," he said.

Showing off his 1971 Triumph TR6, a British model, Joseph Zagami, of Silver Lake, described the event as a nice affair. "It's interesting to see the number of cars in peoples' garages," he said.

John Garigliano of Dongan Hills described the vehicles as "beauties" and said he often attends car shows.

"Some of these cars, I had at some time," he said. "They're very nostalgic. It brings back a lot of memories."

Jokingly, Garigliano said, "Next thing you know, I'll look in the mirror and have hair on my head."

He's a fan of cars from the 1930s, especially the Duesenberg, which was manufactured from 1913 to 1937 in Indiana.

"The further back you go, the better they are," he said.

FIVE STANDOUTS

The show's organizers gave out approximately 300 trophies, said Arena, including five key awards.

Each participant is graded on a 100-point system, mostly regarding each vehicle's condition and style. First-, second- and third-place trophies went to folks with scores over 90, 80 and 70, respectively. Seventeen car classes were graded.

"I think it's one of the reasons why we're a very popular show. Most people feel it's a very fair show," Arena said.

The Pre-War (before 1945) award went to John Notaro's 1929 Ford Model A, a green and black pick-up truck.

The Post-War (after 1945) award, also known as the Augie Oberti Memorial Trophy, was given to Ralph Notaro's silver 1970 Mercury Cougar XR7.

The best custom vehicle honor was presented to Dave Similo's lime green 1937 Ford Coupe.

The best modified vehicle award was given to Karl Schuster's silver 1970 Chevrolet Chevelle.

The highest honor, the President's Cup, went to Ed Memi's Cadillac Phaeton, which was deep blue, with red wheels and red interior.

To contact the Staten Island Region of the Antique Automobile Club of America, e-mail siraaca@yahoo.com, or visit www.aaca.org/siraaca.

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Community festival at CSI packs 'em in

Published: Thursday, October 07, 2010, 11:46 AM



Mark D. Stein



From left, Danielle Dimitrov, Maey Segarra, Robin T. Johson, Melissa Holland, Donna Gerstle, Lisa Holland, Sarah Clark and Ann Torino support the Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative of CSI at the campus Great Lawn for the 3rd annual Greener Community Fall Festival. (Staten Island Advance/Hilton Flores)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - The Great Lawn of the College of Staten Island (CSI) was bursting with potential, excitement and fun under the sun last Saturday, as 10,000 people flocked to the West Shore campus for the school's 3rd annual Fall Festival.

The event ran from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., and admission was free, although a donation of \$10 per family was suggested.

Proceeds from the event go to CSI's Staten Island Breast Cancer Research Initiative (SIBCRI), which is trying to determine why Staten Island has had the highest rate of breast cancer deaths among the five New York City boroughs in the last 20 years.

The festival, held indoors last year due to the possibility of inclement weather, had it all - from free clinics in dance, gymnastics and karate, to live music, a magician, and facepainting.



Hilton Flores/Staten Island Advance

Characters dressed as Mickey and Minnie Mouse pose with members of the CSI softball team. From left are Danielle Brandow, Ashley Mullarkey, Coach Stella Porto, Vanessa Porto and Amanda Winant. The essence of the season was also on display, as a pile of small pumpkins, Halloween decorations and other fall-themed items were available for purchase.

"It's so nice to see the community come out for a good cause," said Donna Gerstle, director of CSI's Center for Environmental Science and principal investigator for the breast cancer initiative.

"It's a very special time for Staten Islanders to come out and show support," Ms. Gerstle added, expressing her pride. "This is my home."

Ms. Gerstle has been with CSI for 34 years, and said the organization is looking for a connection between the local environment and breast cancer. She said the group will be visiting high schools on the Island to raise awareness.

Erika Hellstrom, director of development at the school, said, "We're looking at this as a great way to bring the community together. All in all, it's a great day for everybody."

Among the crowd was Erin Boyle, a Great Kills mother who brought her 16-month-old son Jack to the event.

"We figured we'd come and see the pumpkins," she said, as her son ran around awestruck by the seasonal display. "It's his first time pumpkin picking."

She stayed near the fall area so he was able to wander around, and said she was glad the event had a large turnout.

Other items available to attendees included jewelry, baked goods, hot-dogs and beverages.

Bonnie Tortora, of Port Richmond, said it was a good day to get her son out.

"You need things like this," she said. "It's a nice family event."

At the Fall Festival with her son, daughter-in-law, grandson and husband, Marilyn Jaffe, of Arden Heights, celebrated her birthday.

Mrs. Jaffe, who holds degrees in sociology, psychology and education administration, said the event was wonderful, especially the weather.

"This day is fantastic. Just the fact that the community is out. The kids are having fun, and so are adults," she said.

In addition, Mrs. Jaffe was hopeful the event would raise awareness.

"There's no one I know who hasn't been touched by breast cancer," she added.

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"DOES JUDAISM NEED SAVING?"

By:

Date: Monday, October 11 2010

On Thursday, October 21, 2010, the Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM) on the College of Staten Island, encouraged by the Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival through Education Inc, will be hosting Rabbi Benzion Klatzko, whom the US House of Representatives recognized as "a man making a difference to the community." Rabbi Klatzko will be speaking on the topic "Does Judaism Need Saving?" The program will be starting at 1:30 p.m. in building 2N, room 104. Free kosher lunch will be served to all who attend. This event offers Personal Growth Clue Credit to CSI students. Jews of all affiliations from the Staten Island community, as well as all CSI students are welcome and are asked to RSVP by calling (718) 801-1923, or via the JAM at CSI Facebook group.

JAM, short for Jewish Awareness Movement, is an on-campus club on numerous college campuses across the USA, whose goal is to provide a framework for young Jews to meet each other, be inspired about their Judaism, and explore their heritage. For additional information, see the club website, www.csijam.org.

Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival through Education Inc. cooperate on a wide range of programs to promote a healthy sense of Jewish pride and identity through exposure to Jewish heritage, history and culture. Other programs include Hebrew school programming, Adult education, Educational retreats and Jewish lifecycle support. Additional information can be obtained at 718-983-9272.

Questions about this release can be directed to Survival through Education,
Dovid Winiarz, Director 718-801-1923

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"SHWARMA - THE HARD WAY"

By:

Date: Monday, October 11 2010

On Thursday, October 14, 2010, the Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM) on the College of Staten Island, encouraged by the Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival through Education Inc, will be hosting Rabbi Tzvi Gluckin, noted speaker, author, and Jewish educator. Rabbi Gluckin will be speaking on the topic "Shwarma - The Hard Way." From 2001 - 2009, Tzvi directed Aish Campus in Boston and recruited college students to travel and study in Israel, South America, and Europe. Over 700 students participated on these programs. He is currently the director of [Vechulai](#), an innovative Jewish think tank in Boston.

The program will be starting at 1:30 p.m. in building 2N, room 104 at the College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Boulevard. Free kosher lunch will be served to all who attend. This event offers Personal Growth Clue Credit to CSI students. Jews of all affiliations from the Staten Island community, as well as all CSI students are welcome and are asked to RSVP by calling (718) 801-1923, or via the JAM at CSI Facebook group.

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Questions about this release can be directed to Survival through Education,
Dovid Winiarz, Director 718-801-1923

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West Shore mom knows what little girls like

Published: Thursday, October 14, 2010, 11:52 AM



Mark D. Stein



Stacey Lependorf recently displayed and sold her work at the **College of Staten Island** Fall Festival, held two Saturdays ago. The exposure helped boost awareness of her business, Bella Bows. (Staten Island Advance/Virginia N. Sherry)

STATEN ISLAND, NY - NEW SPRINGVILLE - Stacey Lependorf's self-described obsession of dressing up her two little girls has led her down a new path, and folks are beginning to follow.

The wife and mother of two, Mrs. Lependorf lives in the Heartland Village area of New Springville. She has always loved buying clothing and hair accessories for her two young daughters.

But two years ago, Mrs. Lependorf refused to pay top dollar and decided to go it on her own, creating a small, part-time business, Bella Bows.

Since then, every time she's seen with her daughters Jocelyn, 7, and 4-year-old Cassidy, people have stopped to ask where she got the accessories.

"My kids are like walking advertisements," laughed Mrs. Lependorf. "They love it. Teachers at school know them as the girls with the flowers in their hair."

Mrs. Lependorf, who works out of her home and uses Facebook to get her name out to the public, crafts headbands, hats, hairbows, ribbons and pettiskirt dresses (only upon request), and she sells most of what she makes for a lot less than the popular stores do.

She is often asked to match her accessories to young girls' outfits, which is why her business card reads: "Bows designed with your little girl's outfits in mind."

She may add more items to her stock-in-trade in the future, but is focusing on headbands, bows and hats for now.

She said that girls wearing pettiskirt dresses with flowers in their hair is a growing trend.

Mrs. Lependorf said she often receives comments about how original and beautiful her work is.

"I really enjoy it," said the mother, adding that she does it in her spare time and is hoping to become very busy with it in the future.

"I want it to be my full-time job," she said. "It's nice to have extra money on the side, to do something fun on the side that I enjoy. I never had a hobby until now."

She recently displayed and sold her work at the **College of Staten Island** (Willowbrook) Fall Festival, held two Saturdays ago. The exposure helped boost awareness of her business.

Mrs. Lependorf, who settled in Staten Island 15 years ago but has lived in New Springville only since January, compared her passion for crocheting and crafting to that of professional baseball players.

"They must love their job," she said.

She said her daughters were what inspired her and that her older daughter is ready to pitch in. "She wants to be my helper and give out my business cards," Mrs. Lependorf said.

Her Facebook page, which has close to 500 fans, can be seen at **facebook.com/bellabowsboutique**, and she can be reached at 718-698-6178.

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Liu: FDNY Lab Failed to Monitor HazMat Storage

by Press Release (), published online 10-15-2010

Several B'klyn Locations Visited

NEW YORK — Serious deficiencies at the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) unit charged with inspecting hazardous materials could result in potentially dangerous consequences for the public, as well as firefighters, according to an audit by NYC Comptroller John C. Liu.

The audit uncovered problems in the Lab Inspection Unit, a part of the FDNY's Bureau of Fire Prevention. The Lab Inspection Unit is responsible for inspecting locations that store hazardous materials including flammable liquids and solids, corrosive acids, and compressed gases.

These locations include high schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, manufacturing facilities, and factories. Among the Brooklyn locations that the auditors inspected were Long Island University, Coney Island Hospital and Architectural Grille (a design manufacturing firm).

"There are no shortcuts to safety," Comptroller Liu said. "Audits are not just about rooting out financial waste and inefficiencies, but are also intended to improve city agencies' operations and service to New Yorkers. The FDNY is taking the right steps in strengthening the Lab's oversight and inspection of hazardous materials."

In a response to the audit report, the Fire Department said, "We understand — and your report makes clear — that improved controls must be implemented now to ensure that the Lab Unit carries out its important mission and documents its performance in a timely and reliable manner. We look forward to implementing the recommendations included in the audit report as quickly as possible."

The audit looked at the FDNY's controls over the Lab Inspection Unit's inspections from July 2006 through May 2010.

Chief among the findings were:

- Twenty-seven of the 30 (90 percent) locations in the sample were operating with expired permits during at least one of the three fiscal years during the review — including one college science laboratory (College of Staten Island) that operated with an expired permit during the full three years of the audit period;
- Lab supervisors conducted zero of the 20 required supervisory inspections during fiscal year 2009, and the FDNY did not inquire as to why these inspections were not performed;
- Inspectors used their own discretion when issuing notices of violation, violation orders, or summonses leaving the safety of the public based solely on the discretion of the inspector;
- None of the mandated post inspections were performed within the 72 hours of a field inspection as required by FDNY procedures. In fact, the number of days between the dates of the post inspections and the dates of the previous inspection varied between 7 and 49; FDNY agreed with all 15 recommendations and has already begun taking steps to implement all of the audit's recommendations to improve the operations at the Lab Inspection Unit.

Also Featured on: Presszoom
EmpireNewsState.Net



Published: October 18, 2010

Ap-Ny--Nyc Daybook,

By Associated Press Writer

>----- NOT FOR PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST ----

Metro New York Day Schedule

Tuesday, Oct. 19, 2010

----- NEW YORK CITY -----

9:30 a.m.

New York Hospital Queens hosts symposium on multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, stroke and low back pain; auditorium, Theresa and Eugene M. Lang Center for Research and Education, 56-45 Main St., Queens.

Contact: Debra Pagano Cohen, dec9067(at)nyp.org or 718-670-1586, or Cynthia Bacon, crm9002(at)nyp.org or 718-670-2515.

10 a.m.

Preview of the New York Public Library exhibition on "Three Faiths: Judaism, Christianity, Islam"; Gottesman Exhibition Hall & The Sue and Edgar Wachenheim III Gallery, Stephen A. Schwarzman Building, 476 Fifth Ave.

--Note: Must RSVP.

Contact: Gayle Snible, gsnible(at)nypl.org or 212-592-7008.

10:15 a.m. McMahon and Molinaro discuss efforts to increase federal "Basic Allowance for Housing" for area veterans; 9/11 memorial, near parking lot 1, College of Staten Island, 2800 Victory Blvd., Staten Island.

2 p.m. Molinaro endorses McMahon's re-election campaign; New Dorp Beach Friendship Club, 128 Cedar Grove Ave., Staten Island.

Contact: Patrick Hyland, 718-351-1062, 917-620-5906 or 202-225-3371, or Lauren Amendolara, 718-698-0649 or 917-842-9823.

10:45 a.m.

Officials with the Hong Kong Dragon Boat Festival in New York announce dates of 2011 event and award \$7,500 to three charities; Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, 115 E. 54th St.

Contact: David Archer, DAassociates(at)aol.com or 914-299-0837.

Noon.

During the "Courage in Journalism Awards," the International Women's Media Foundation honors freelance writers and broadcasters from Colombia, Mexico, Tanzania and Tibet; The Waldorf-Astoria, 301 Park Ave.

--Note: Must RSVP; similar event scheduled Thursday in Los Angeles.

Contact: Beverly Visty-Doman, bdoman(at)dharmata.com, 310-216-7895, 213-706-9321 or 800-549-3199.

Noon to 2 p.m.

Former women's professional basketball player Nancy Lieberman promotes release of her book "Playbook for Success"; The NBA Store, 666 Fifth Ave.

--Note: Must RSVP.

Contact: Kimberly Kanouse, kkanouse(at)nba.com or 212-407-8478, or Jared Shapre, sharpej(at)plannedtvarts.com or 413-325-8296.

1 p.m.

Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Committee discusses World Trade Center construction during hearing attended by City Council members; hearing room, 14th floor, 250 Broadway.

Contact: Jake Itzkowitz, JItzkowitz(at)council.nyc.gov or 646-300-1092.



10/20/2010 12:54 PM

S.I. Veterans Demand Fair Share Of Benefits

By: NY1 News



NY1 VIDEO: Staten Island veterans and local elected officials gathered on Tuesday to call on the Department of Defense and Veteran Affairs Administration to revise the housing allowance for the borough's veterans attending college on the Post 9/11 GI Bill.



From the office of

Congressman Michael E. McMahon (NY-13)

323 Cannon House Office Building, Washington DC 20515 | (202) 225-3371

Member: House Transportation & Infrastructure, Foreign Affairs Committees

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Wednesday, October 20, 2010

CONTACT:

Chris McCannell 202-225-3371

McMahon, College of Staten Island Call For Equality For Staten Island Vets

The College of Staten Island (CSI) participated in a joint press conference with Rep. Michael E. McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) this week at the College's 9/11 Memorial to publicly call for an end to the Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) discrepancy between Staten Island and the other four boroughs of New York City.

The BAH is an integral component of the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits designed to support returning war veterans pursuing a college education. The current basic housing allowance for veterans attending college on Staten Island is \$2034 monthly, whereas veterans attending college in the other boroughs of New York City receive \$2751 monthly.

"It is unacceptable for a young soldier returning home to Eltingville, Stapleton or Tottenville to receive an allowance that is 25% less than a veteran, just over the bridge, in Bay Ridge or Bensonhurst," McMahon began. "Let me be clear, the veterans on the other end of my district have earned their allowance, and I would never advocate for reducing Brooklyn's BAH. However, Staten Island's vets have the same living expenses and deserve the same amount from the VA. The resolution of this issue is a great priority and a part of my Three Point Plan for veterans in Congress."

"This difference in monthly benefits can be a deciding factor for veterans when enrolling in college," commented Urszula Echols, Veterans Coordinator at CSI. She further explained that "the level of benefits is determined by a school's zip code, which means that New York City veterans who do not live on Staten Island but attend college here receive the lower benefit. Regardless of a veteran's residence, veterans should not be penalized for attending college on Staten Island."

CSI currently has more than 200 veterans enrolled, nearly half of which receive the Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits and are directly affected by the basic housing allowance.

"I chose CSI to pursue my education because of the reputation CSI has for helping Veterans transition from military to civilian life," said Christopher Longo, vice president of the Armed Forces Club at CSI and member of the NY National Guard. Longo, who works part-time in the college's registrar's office is also a member of the Veterans Education Transitional Service or "VETS" team, where he has assisted 98 student veterans successfully receive Chapter 33 post 9/11 GI Bill funds.

CSI, twice recognized by GI Jobs magazine as being a Top Military-Friendly School in the United States, has a robust [Student Veteran Center](#) that ensures a smooth transition from military life to the college experience by providing veterans a strong support system and centralized "vet-friendly" services that are available to all student veterans, veteran dependents, as well as their family members. According to Echols, "The Vet Center offers confidential, personal and academic support services that are sensitive to veterans' issues. We work closely with the Armed

Forces Club and Certifying Official to ensure that student veterans are receiving earned benefits and are informed about veterans' issues."

"CSI shows a high level of appreciation and concern for their veterans. I do not just feel like a student here, but a member of a family as well," commented CSI student and Armed Forces Club member Ian Dahlberg, who is also a member of the United States Coast Guard. "Our Basic Housing Allowance is our means for living and surviving in our local economy. I do not want to have to quit school because the GI Bill fails to realize the true cost of living in Staten Island."

"The Department of Defense's formula for calculating the BAH is imprecise and simply does not reflect the higher cost of living in Staten Island and must be readjusted immediately," stated McMahon. "Returning veterans already face a wide range of issues as they readjust to their day-to-day lives. I have successfully devoted my first term to increasing the resources available to our returning heroes and I am ready to devote my second to meet the needs of Staten Island's returning vets pursuing higher education through the post 9/11 GI bill."

The College of Staten Island is deeply committed to our students and to our community," commented Dr. Tomás D. Morales, president of CSI. "I applaud the efforts of CSI's Student Veteran Center. I also want to thank and commend Congressman McMahon, and all our elected officials, for their tireless dedication to the people and students of Staten Island."



CSI celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month with recognition ceremony

Published: Thursday, October 21, 2010, 10:36 AM



Mark D. Stein

STATEN ISLAND, NY - WILLOWBROOK - The College of Staten Island's celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month may have ended last Thursday with a ceremony to honor the students that contributed most to spreading the word about a proud culture, but it's certain to remain in the minds of the educational campus' students.



A band plays Latin music during the Hispanic Heritage Recognition Ceremony at the College of Staten Island, Willowbrook. (Staten Island Advance/Mark Stein)

The Hispanic Heritage Recognition Ceremony was hosted by the ALPHA Club, a student organization at the school, and was attended by over 40 students and staff members.

Marybeth Melendez, president of the ALPHA Club, an acronym that stands for academics, leadership, public service, humility and acceptance, said the event was the finale of a month-long celebration of cultural diversity that included lectures, workshops and other events that combined academia with Latin influence.

The ceremony's Hispanic nature was most distinguished by the traditional foods available for sale and a hard Latin band called Orquesta Son 9, which belted out fine tunes with a set of bongos, guitar, trumpet and saxophone.

"We wanted to bring Hispanic culture to the students of CSI," said Ms. Melendez. "Everything was Latin American culture . . . with class and passion, the spirit of sharing and inclusivity."

The woman, a junior who double majors in psychology and sociology, said it's best to package the beauty of traditions with education.

Christopher Cruz Cullari, director of disability services at the campus, said there have been similar events at the school since it moved from Sunnyside to Willowbrook.

However, he said, there are more this year and they're widely publicized and well attended.

In addition, Cruz Cullari said that over the years, more Latino students and staff members have enrolled in the school.

"That naturally created more interest on the campus," he said, praising the students who coordinated event.

He admitted that he felt hopeful that students were fully recognizing the worth of this month.

John Paredes, a 22-year-old junior at the campus from Queens, described the event as an amazing thing.

"When I first started school here, there was nothing like this," Paredes told the Advance. "The Spanish heritage is proud and we're being noticed."

He, along with Francesca Navarro, are members of the SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge) Program.

Ms. Navarro, a 20-year-old Clifton resident and junior at CSI, spoke to the crowd at the ceremony about unity and her passion for being Hispanic.

"Being Latina means that I am a part of a community that is proud and passionate about their country's culture," she said.

"A community that is hard-working, humble and fully believes that with selfless determination, anything can be achieved."

October 21, 2010

Spare Times for Oct. 22-28

By ANNE MANCUSO

Around Town

Museums and Sites

Merchant's House Museum For the next two Fridays and Saturdays and this Thursday, from 6 to 10 p.m., candlelight tours of the house; \$25, \$13 for members. This Sunday, 3 to 5 p.m., "From Parlor to Grave: 1865 Funeral Re-enactment," a staging of the funeral of Seabury Tredwell, the owner of the house in the mid-1800s, with a procession to nearby New York City Marble Cemetery; \$20, \$10 for members; reservations suggested for both events; (212) 777-1089. 29 East Fourth Street, East Village , merchantshouse.org.

Museum of the City of New York Saturday and Sunday at 3 p.m., "Notorious & Notable — The Revue: A Broadway Musical Cabaret," with songs that celebrate the women of Broadway, sung by Karine Plantadit, Dan Bogart, Victoria Mallory and David Turner; in conjunction with the exhibition "Notorious & Notable: 20th-Century Women of Style," on view through Jan. 3; \$20 cabaret tickets, \$15 for members; reservations required: (917) 492-3395. Fifth Avenue, at 103rd Street , mcny.org.

Events

Ear to the Earth 2010 Wednesday through Nov. 1, an ecological arts festival that features performances of music and spoken word, as well as art installations and films and videos, that incorporate the sounds of nature — water in particular. Sponsored by the Electronic Music Foundation, the festival takes place at several downtown locations; admission prices vary; for a schedule, emfproductions.org. (888) 749-9998.

52nd Street Americana Jazz Festival The 36th annual edition of this event, on Saturday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., between Fifth and Seventh Avenues.

In Depth Walking Tours Saturday and Sunday at 11 a.m., “Newspaper Row,” a downtown walk meeting on the northeast corner of Broadway and Fulton Street. (917) 607-9019, indepthwalkingtours.com; \$20, \$15 for 65+.

NYC Discovery Tours Sunday at 1 p.m., “The Williamsburg You Never Knew,” a Brooklyn tour; reservations and meeting place, (212) 465-3331. \$18.

Trinity Church Cemetery and Mausoleum Sunday at noon, a tour of a cemetery that was opened in 1842, when the church’s Lower Manhattan cemetery became filled; meeting in front of the Church of the Intercession, Broadway and 155th Street, Washington Heights. Led by James Renner, a historian. (917) 533-3252; \$15, \$10 for students.

Recreation

Diabetes Walks All on Sunday at 10 a.m. The American Diabetes Association is sponsoring a 4.8-mile walk in Lower Manhattan and Brooklyn, meeting at the South Street Seaport, Pier 17, Fulton and South Streets; check-in begins at 8 a.m.; registration: main.diabetes.org/stepoutnyc or (888) 342-2383. Two five-kilometer walks, sponsored by the New York Chapter of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, will meet at the **College of Staten Island**, 2800 Victory Boulevard, Willowbrook; and Flushing Meadows-Corona Park, Queens; check in for each is 8:30 a.m.; registration, (212) 689-2860 or jdrf.org.

Double Up 4 Vision A day of activities on Saturday to benefit programs to fight vision loss, sponsored by Lighthouse International. A five-kilometer bicycle ride or walk (tandem bicycles welcome) begins at 10 a.m. at West 135th Street and heads south to the Hudson River and Pier 1, Riverside Park South and 70th Street, where a family festival with entertainment and other activities will go on from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Registration is required: doubleup4vision.org. (212) 821-9200; \$20 registration fee, \$5 for children 13 and younger.

LUNgevity’s NYC Walk to Beat Lung Cancer Sunday, a five-kilometer run or walk in Battery Park, meeting in front of the Battery Gardens Restaurant, 17 State Street, Lower Manhattan. The walk begins at 10:30 a.m.; check-in begins at 9 a.m., with refreshments and entertainment, followed by speakers and an awards ceremony at 10 a.m. lungevity.org/nycwalk; registration fee, \$25; \$20 for a lung cancer survivor; \$15 for students; and \$10 for children 12 and younger.



"LOVE AND DATING THE JEWISH WAY"

Date: Friday, October 22 2010

On Thursday, October 28, 2010, the Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM) on the **College of Staten Island**, encouraged by Survival through Education Inc and the Staten Island Jewish Alliance, will be hosting I.C. Fingerer. Rabbi Fingerer, a bioethicist and author, most recently of "Search Judaism: Judaism's Answers to a Changing World", is the president of the Think and Care Tank, a non-partisan, public policy think tank dedicated to sharing Jewish values.

Rabbi Fingerer will be speaking on the topic "Rated R-Adults Only-Love and Dating the Jewish Way." Other topics Rabbi Fingerer has addressed on campus and other venues include: "Is there any scientific evidence for the existence of G-d?", "God knows everything, including every move I make; yet I have free will. How can the two co-exist?" and "If God is good and we are His chosen nation, how can we understand the Holocaust?", and much more.

Free kosher lunch will be served to all who attend. This event offers Personal Growth Clue Credit to **CSI** students. Jews of all affiliations from the Staten Island community, as well as all **CSI** students are welcome and are asked to RSVP by calling/texting (718) 801-1923, or via the 'JAM at **CSI**' Facebook group.

JAM, short for Jewish Awareness Movement, is an on-campus club on numerous college campuses across the USA, whose goal is to provide a framework for young Jews to meet each other, be inspired about their Judaism, and explore their heritage. For additional information, see www.csijam.org.

Staten Island Jewish Alliance and Survival through Education Inc. cooperate on a wide range of programs to promote a healthy sense of Jewish pride and identity through exposure to Jewish heritage, history, and culture. Other programs include Hebrew school programming, Adult education, Educational retreats and Jewish lifecycle support. Additional information can be obtained from Dovid Winiarz, Director of Survival through Education at 718-983-9272.

The program will be starting at 1:30 p.m. in building 2N, room 104 at the **College of Staten Island**, 2800 Victory Boulevard Staten Island NY 10314

Questions about this release can be directed to Survival through Education, Dovid Winiarz, Director 718-801-1923.

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AUDIT: FDNY LAB UNIT FAILED TO MONITOR STORAGE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

Submitted by editor on October 23, 2010 - 10:33

The audit uncovered problems in the Lab Inspection Unit, a part of the FDNY's Bureau of Fire Prevention. The Lab Inspection Unit is responsible for inspecting locations that store hazardous materials including flammable liquids and solids, corrosive acids, and compressed gases. These locations include high schools, colleges, hospitals, nursing homes, manufacturing facilities, and factories.

"There are no shortcuts to safety," Comptroller Liu said. "Audits are not just about rooting out financial waste and inefficiencies, but are also intended to improve city agencies operations and service to New Yorkers. The FDNY is taking the right steps in strengthening the Labs oversight and inspection of hazardous materials."

In a response to the audit report, the Fire Department said, "We understand -- and your report makes clear -- that improved controls must be implemented now to ensure that the Lab Unit carries out its important mission and documents its performance in a timely and reliable manner. We look forward to implementing the recommendations included in the audit report as quickly as possible."

The audit looked at the FDNY's controls over the Lab Inspection Unit's inspections from July 2006 through May 2010.

Chief among the findings:

27 of the 30 (90%) locations in the sample were operating with expired permits during at least one of the three fiscal years during the review -- including one college science laboratory (College of Staten Island) that operated with an expired permit during the full three years of the audit period;

Lab supervisors conducted zero of the 20 required supervisory inspections during fiscal year 2009, and the FDNY did not inquire as to why these inspections were not performed;

Inspectors used their own discretion when issuing notices of violation, violation orders, or summonses leaving the safety of the public based solely on the discretion of the inspector;

None of the mandated post inspections were performed within the 72 hours of a field inspection as required by FDNY procedures. In fact, the number of days between the dates of the post inspections and the dates of the previous inspection varied between 7 and 49;

The FDNY did not implement an annual rotation plan -- allowing supervisors and inspectors to serve the same communities for extended periods of time. This can increase the risk of corruption due to the forming of relationships

between the inspectors and representatives of the establishments; and

Due to inconsistencies in reporting, the FDNY's internal performance numbers do not match the publicly available numbers in the Mayor's Management Report – questioning the validity of the FDNY's ability to accurately relay its information to the public.

FDNY agreed with all 15 recommendations and has already begun taking steps to implement all of the audit's recommendations to improve the operations at the Lab Inspection Unit.

Comptroller Liu credited Deputy Comptroller for Audit H. Tina Kim and her team for presenting the findings. The full report is available at comptroller.nyc.gov.



Salute those who nurture self-confidence

Published: Sunday, October 24, 2010, 5:44 AM



Staten Island Advance

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- World of Women (W.O.W.) will present the first Dance Oscars of Staten Island. The Red Carpet event will take place on Nov. 7, at 2 p.m. at the **College of Staten Island** Center for the Arts in Springer Hall, Willowbrook. Tickets are \$20. For reservations, call 718-948-8175; also available through participating dance schools.

Proceeds from the event will help with W.O.W.'s domestic violence prevention program which emphasizes prevention through workshops and seminars with schools and community organizations.

Dance Oscars is a tribute to dance instructors for their commitment to instilling self esteem in young people through the art of dance.

In gratitude for their talent and dedication, WOW will be honoring the following teachers and mentors: Dina Canepa, Dance Sensations, Great Kills; Christine Leonardi, Great Expectations, Castleton Corners; Jennifer Trought, Inspirations in Dance, Bulls Head; Melissa Ledwin, Melissa's Dance Workshop, Travis; Theresa Piccone, Miss Theresa's Danceland, Travis; Angela Thompson, L A Dance, Tottenville; Kari Williams, Liv To Dance, Grant City; Donna Brandefine, Brandy's Dance Unique, Dongan Hills; Lydia Ruocco, Lydia's School of Dance, West Brighton; Diane Sclafani, The Studio Dancers, Richmond; Carol Gigante, Gigante Dance Studio, Tottenville; Nicole D'Agostino, Dance Factory, Charleston; and Kathy Gambardella, Dance Electra, Grasmere.

W.O.W. member Donna Maxon, aka Bette Midler, will be working the Red Carpet. Vito Picone of The Elegants will be presenting the Oscars along with other surprise celebrity presenters.

Joan Jeanne Lamberti of VizzaV Events is director of the show.

Chairing the event is Pat Caltabiano, founder and executive director of W.O.W.



JAM AT THE COLLEGE OF STATEN ISLAND AND TEMPLE B'NAI ISRAEL TO HOST RABBI MOTTY BERGER FROM JERUSALEM

By:

Date: Thursday, October 28 2010

JAM at the [College of Staten Island](#) and Temple B'nai Israel to Host Rabbi Motty Berger from Jerusalem

On Thursday, November 4, 2010, the Jewish Awareness Movement (JAM) on the [College of Staten Island](#), encouraged by the [Staten Island Jewish Alliance](#) and [Survival Through Education, Inc.](#), will be hosting Rabbi Motty Berger, a senior lecturer on Jewish philosophy and contemporary Jewish issues for Aish HaTorah College of Jewish Studies in Jerusalem for the past two decades. Rabbi Berger will be speaking on the topic **"Is There A G-d and Why I Should Care?"**

The program will be starting at 1:30 p.m. in building 2N, room 104. Free kosher lunch will be served to all who attend. This event offers Personal Growth Clue Credit to [CSI](#) students. Jews of all affiliations from the Staten Island community, as well as all [CSI](#) students, are welcome and are asked to RSVP by calling 718-801-1923, or via the JAM at [CSI](#) Facebook group.

Later that evening, at 8 p.m. [Survival Through Education, Inc.](#) will be bringing Rabbi Berger to Temple B'nai Israel to discuss **"Self Esteem and the Problem of Modernity: Why Newer Isn't Always Better."** B'nai Israel is located at 45 Twombly Ave, Staten Island, NY 10306. The entire Jewish community is invited.

Rabbi Berger speaks on a broad range of topics, from theoretical Jewish philosophy to the practical, present-day concerns of contemporary Jewish life. He is much admired for his ability to make Jewish ideas and philosophy both understandable and relevant to modern Jews of all backgrounds.

JAM, short for Jewish Awareness Movement, is an on-campus club on numerous college campuses across the USA whose goal is to provide a framework for young Jews to meet each other, be inspired about their Judaism, and explore their heritage. For additional information, see the club website, www.csijam.org.

[Staten Island Jewish Alliance](#) and [Survival Through Education, Inc.](#) cooperate on a wide range of programs to promote a healthy sense of Jewish pride and identity through exposure to Jewish heritage, history and culture. Other programs include Hebrew school programming, Adult Education retreats and Jewish Lifecycle support. Additional information can be obtained from Dovid Winiarz at 718-983-9272 x11.

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STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2010

JACK PICKS A JACK-O-LANTERN, IN WILLOWBROOK



TATEN ISLAND ADVANCE/MARK STEIF

Erin Boyle, left, prepares to receive a pumpkin from her 16-month-old son, Jack, earlier this month during the College of Staten Island Community Fall Festival. Did you take photos at this event? If so, you can share them at <http://www.silive.com/yourphotos>. Don't forget to tag them "West Shore."

Academic / Faculty

Location

College of Staten Island - CUNY, Staten Island, NY

Position Type

Full Time

Practice Setting

School / Educational Facility

Job Summary

Dean of Science and Technology - Academic Affairs

College of Staten Island - City University of New York

The College of Staten Island (CSI) is one of 11 senior colleges of The City University of New York and the only public college on Staten Island. CSI offers 36 academic programs and 15 master's level graduate degree programs. In addition, CSI faculty participates in 31 of the 34 CUNY doctoral programs offered through the Graduate Center in Manhattan by mentoring more than 180 students. Over 130 of these doctoral students are full time on the CSI campus, primarily in Biology, Biochemistry, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth & Environmental Science, Psychology, Physical Therapy, and Physics. Located on a 204-acre park-like campus that is minutes away from the cultural riches of Manhattan, the CSI campus is the largest collegiate site in NYC. CSI contains state of the art laboratories and equipment for scientific research, an advanced, networked infrastructure, and is developing a high performance computational center that will support technology-based research, teaching, and learning throughout CUNY. The College is planning for enrollment growth and for the construction of new residential facilities during the coming five-year period.

The Dean of Science and Technology reports directly to the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs/Provost, and has responsibility for the supervision of faculty recruitment, tenure, and promotion in seven academic departments (Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Engineering Science and Physics, Mathematics, Nursing, and Physical Therapy). Duties include maintenance of the range, depth, and quality of the division's academic programs; budget allocation of among departments; and, together with the faculty, the Dean develops the divisional long-range plan and implements short-range goals. The Dean of Science sits on the Provost's Council and, in concert with the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, is responsible for promoting academic excellence in the sciences and for assuring that students have access to intellectual and practical experiences that will enrich their lives and prepare them for their post-collegiate careers. The Dean is viewed as the academic leader of the Division and should be a scholar of repute with a strong background in college teaching and academic administration.

This is an existing position within the CUNY Executive Compensation Plan, subject to applicable University Policies for job performance, salary, and benefits.

The College is interested in candidates who will be committed to inclusion and excellence and who can contribute, through their research, teaching and/or service, to the diversity of the academic community. Women and applicants from traditionally underrepresented populations are strongly encouraged to apply.

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS

- An earned doctorate and a demonstrated record of distinction in scholarship and teaching.
- Significant and successful administrative experience in an academic unit.
- Commitment to higher education in a multicultural setting and to an open administrative system with shared governance.
- An understanding of the issues that confront public colleges and universities and the ability to ensure high standards of excellence in academic programs and in faculty recruitment and development.
- The ability to work effectively with both internal and external constituencies to ensure continued vitality and enhancement of academic programs and research.
- The successful candidate will have a scholarly record appropriate for appointment as a tenured full professor in a discipline represented in the division. Effective communication skills, problem solving skills, and exceptional writing skills are essential.

BENEFITS

CUNY offers a comprehensive benefits package to employees and eligible dependents based on job title and classification. Employees are also offered pension and Tax-Deferred Savings Plans. Part-time employees must meet a weekly or semester work hour criteria to be eligible for health benefits. Health benefits are also extended to retirees who meet the eligibility criteria.

HOW TO APPLY

To apply, please go to www.cuny.edu; select "Employment" then "Job postings on line." Nominations and applications should include a statement that describes the candidate's interests and qualifications, a current vita, and the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of five professional references. All materials will be held in strict confidence; references will be solicited only with the candidate's explicit permission.

CLOSING DATE

Open until filled with the review of applications to begin on November 1, 2010.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The City University of New York is an Equal Opportunity Employer which complies with all applicable laws and regulations, and encourages inclusive excellence in its employment practices.

Students & Alumni



NY1.COM

YOUR CITY, YOUR NEWS. NYC'S 24-HOUR NEWSCHANNEL ON THE WEB.

TOP STORIES

10/08/2010 08:15 PM

College Of Staten Island Students March Against Hate Crimes

By: Mari Fagel

NY1 VIDEO: NY1's Mari Fagel reports on students at the **College of Staten Island** who marched across campus and spoke out against hate crimes, bullying and violence Thursday night.

College Student Seeks to Unseat Albany Insider

by Amanda Kersey
Oct 22, 2010

Photo by Photo by [Anthony Catalano](#)

An Italian street fair in the Bensonhurst. Both Assembly candidates have deep ties to the Italian community in the district, but the area is changing rapidly.

In the [49th state Assembly district](#) in southwest Brooklyn, the incumbent has held the seat longer than his opponent has been alive. The Democratic legislator, [Peter Abbate](#), 61, has served as the district's Assembly member since 1986. He faces a challenge from [Peter Cipriano](#), a 20-year-old conservative Republican.

While both candidates grew up in the district and have deep ties to the Italian community, far more than their age divides them. Unlike many this election year, Abbate leaves little doubt he is an Albany insider. Cipriano, who took time off from the [College of Staten Island](#) to campaign full time, presents himself as a reformer who would freeze property taxes, eliminate member items or "pork" and demand that future state budgets be balanced and delivered on time. He already has one election victory under his belt, having [defeated](#) businesswoman [Lucretia Regina-Potter](#) in the Republican primary.

Abbate has received contributions from state labor unions and has [\\$599,924.91](#) to spend on the campaign, according to the state elections board. Cipriano has received most of his contributions from individuals and has [\\$2,174.21](#) in campaign funds available.

Insider vs. Outsider

Experience and the situation in Albany took center stage at an Oct. 12 debate between Abbate and Cipriano hosted by the [Dyker Heights Civic Association](#). Throughout the spirited discussion, attended by some 100 people, Abbate assailed Cipriano's political inexperience, while Cipriano denounced Abbate's allegiance to Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver.

Abbate has said that his seniority in the Assembly had given him great influence and even allowed him to join the proverbial "three men in a room," who control much of state politics. In an interview, he said that one of those three men -- Silver -- had been a "great leader" who has become an easy target for the media and some of the public.

As to his many years in the capital, "I've got to be doing something right if the people vote for me," Abbate said in an interview.

For his part, Cipriano attributed the "dysfunction" of the legislature to lawmakers' numerous terms and acquisition of hundreds of thousands of dollars in campaign funds.

Abbate stressed his work in the neighborhood, saying that he restored money for schools and seniors and attended numerous committee and community board meetings in the district. He criticized Cipriano for not showing up at these meetings. Cipriano said he had focused on talking to people in the district about their concerns.

School Savings

As chair of the Assembly [Committee on Governmental Employees](#), Abbate has long allied himself with unions. In 2008, he received more than half of campaign donations from the labor sector, which has been the largest contributor to his campaigns since at least 2000.

He sponsored a [that would expand the rights of employees to seek legal remedy if their employers fail to follow labor law and supports lowering the retirement age for teachers to 55. He said early retirement would avoid layoffs and save the state money it now pays in salaries to high-earning senior teachers, although the state would have to pay pensions. As experienced, high-earning teachers leave, Abbate said, the school systems could hire young teachers at an entry-level salary.](#)

Photo by Amanda Kersey
[Peter Cipriano](#)

[Cipriano has addressed education by calling for the state to provide vouchers to families who send their children to private schools, a proposal that would benefit many Catholic and Orthodox Jewish residents of the district. Cipriano, who likened public schools to penitentiaries, believes a voucher program would draw public school students to private schools and alleviate overcrowding in public schools. He estimated that vouchers for elementary school students would cost the state \\$5,000 per elementary school student, while vouchers for high school students would cost \\$10,000 per pupil.](#)

[According to the New York State School Report Card](#), the New York City Department of Education spent \$19,075 in total expenditures per pupil during the 2007-2008 school year.

On the state's other major expenditure -- health care -- Cipriano opposes taxes on sugar and soda. He said it is not the state's job to regulate consumption. "It comes to a point where people feel it's a little ridiculous," he said. "When you're looking at the economic situation, the last thing you should be thinking to do is put an additional tax on people."

While money generated from sugar and soda taxes could help fund public health services, Cipriano said he doubted that the money would actually go to those programs.

Jobs and Businesses

The district the two men seek to represent has changed. Italians once dominated the business district, but a growing Chinese population has set up bakeries, tailor shops and markets. The competition is vying for a dwindling market, though, according to small business owners. George Vellios, who has owned Dyker Heights Floral Events for 20 years, said operating a small business in the district is "really tough." "We're one of the sole survivors," he said. "A lot of businesses come and go."

Cipriano advocates creation of a small business council, made up of representatives from business sectors in the district, which would meet with him to discuss business-related issues.

Photo by Amanda Kersey Peter Abbate

Abbate's economic proposals focus on trying to create jobs in the state. He wants the state to build and improve infrastructure to create well-paying jobs. He believes workers then would buy appliances and other goods, which would benefit the manufacturing industry.

Unlike most of Democratic Assembly members, Abate voted against same-sex marriage and a [bill](#) that extends anti-discrimination laws to include transgender people. He did, though vote for a [bill](#) that would allow any two unmarried adults to adopt a child and [another](#) to amend New York divorce laws.

Have and Have Not

Defeating any incumbent legislator in New York is a difficult task, let alone beating an experienced candidate with roots in the district and deep pockets. The debate dramatized the huge gaps in the candidates' resource.

Abbate castigated Cipriano for not listing in his campaign contributions popcorn and cotton candy machines that someone had loaned Cipriano to use during his campaign kick-off party. "Shame on me," Cipriano said wryly in an interview after the debate.

Abbate also criticized Cipriano for ordering campaign materials, such as leaflets and buttons, from outside the state. Cipriano said that because of a lack of money, he had to look for cheap alternatives to more expensive local materials. He looked forward, he said, to some day being able to spend more money in the community

District 13 rep. candidates sound off on gambling

October 19, 2010 2:00 AM

EXETER — In the editions leading up to the Nov. 2 election, the Exeter News-Letter will pose questions to the 16 candidates running for eight seats to represent District 13 (Exeter, North Hampton and Stratham) in the House. Democrat candidates Adam Kelly and Ann Schieber did not respond to the News-Letter's questionnaire.

This week we start with the question:

What is your opinion on gambling in New Hampshire?

Patrick Abrami

Party: Republican

Age: 61

Occupation: Health care operations consultant; Partner and owner of Applied Management Systems, Inc.

Education: Bachelor's and master's degrees, Industrial Engineering/Operations Research, University of Buffalo.

Public service experience: Coach of recreational sports; supporter of the Boy Scouts, Salvation Army, and Stratham Fair; Great Bay Little League board member; organized girls basketball annual tournament.

Revenue from gambling will only mask our spending problem. If we get spending under control, there is no need to look at a government-sponsored vice to bail out the state. Beside that, the empirical data is in. Gambling is found in so many other states that the gambling dollar is now being stretched thin. Many states have casinos that are in receivership. Gambling does prey on those of modest means who think they will hit it big. In that light, it does become a very regressive tax. My instinct is not to interfere with an adult's choices in life, but I have not heard a compelling argument why we need to go down this road.

Timothy Copeland

Party: Republican

Age: 54

Occupation: Retired law enforcement detective/supervising commanding officer.

Education: Criminal justice major, Nassau Community & SUNY New Paltz NY.

Public service experience: Presently in second term as a town of Stratham selectman.

First, gambling is not the answer to our spending/revenue problem. We don't have a revenue problem, we have an out of control spending problem. If we did move forward with gambling then we need to proceed in a way that N.H. would profit the most, not a third party type entity or gambling operation firm. Why not make it so we establish three or four gambling casinos, including the

North Country that would have restaurants, Broadway show type venues, and general convention venues, so that the state would be collecting rent from those venues. This way the state is collecting 100 percent of the operational profit margin.

Ron DuPuis

Party: Republican

Age: 65

Occupation: Medically retired police officer

Education: Some college

Public service experience: Former state representative; political activist in several taxpayer groups; and former local board member of the North Hampton Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Done right, gambling in N.H., such as casinos, could be a revenue enhancer for the state.

Frank Ferraro

Party: Republican

Age: 62

Occupation: Retired

Education: Associate degree, Norwalk State Technical College; bachelor's degree in chemical engineering, University of Oklahoma; and MBA, Kent State University.

Public service experience: Board member, NH Community/Technical College Foundation; Conservation Commission, Canton, Mass.; Chairman, U.S. EPA Technical Review Advisory Committee; Member, U.S. EPA Combustion Rulemaking Federal Advisory Committee

We should not look to gambling as a solution to our budget problems; after all, we don't have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem. Until we get control of the reckless spending by the Legislature and the looming \$800 million deficit, I would not support expanded gambling in N.H.

Michele Peckham

Party: Republican

Age: 47

Occupation: Attorney

Education: Juris doctorate, 1991 and bachelor's degree in economics, 1986

Public service experience: North Hampton Zoning Board of Adjustment (currently vice chairwoman); Vice President of the North Hampton Youth Association; Youth Baseball Commissioner; Board of Directors for the Portsmouth Family YMCA; Social Chairman for the North Hampton School PAL Organization.

Expanding gambling should not be considered as a means of increasing revenues until the state has achieved a true balanced budget. Gambling revenues should not be used as a means to fill the deficit gap in place of fiscal responsibility and discipline.

"Lee" Quandt

Party: Independent Republican

Age: 63

Occupation: Retired state probation/parole officer.

Education: 16 years, associate and bachelor's degrees in law enforcement.

Public service experience: Previously served eight years in the Legislature.

I do not support the expansion of gambling.

Matt Quandt

Party: Independent Republican

Age: 31

Occupation: Student

Education: Finishing up my bachelor's degree in law enforcement

Public service: 10 years in the Legislature and two years as an Exeter selectman.

I do not think we need to expand gambling in N.H.

Joanne Ward

Party: Republican

Age: 60

Occupation: Registered dietitian

Education: Bachelor's degree in nutrition and bachelor's degree in psychology; Dietetic Internship at a Brown University affiliated hospital.

Public service experience: Chairwoman of the legislative committee of the Dietetic Association, treasurer for two terms; served on Board of Licensing for Dietitians; served as an educational surrogate and as a foster mother; food bank volunteer and member of the advisory board; UNH Cooperative Extension Master Gardener; and volunteer for a homeless shelter.

I don't believe that expanded gambling will fill the state coffers as some would like to believe. I think that limited gambling at places in the state such as the dog track in Seabrook would be worth exploring. It is my opinion that gambling will not bring the revenues to justify the changes in the communities (and the increased financial burdens) that would offer it. Nor do I believe that slot machines would significantly improve the unemployment rate in N.H.

Brian "Jumbo" Jervis

Party: Democrat

Age: 70

Occupation: Retired

Education: British "O" Level 6 Subjects.

Public Service: Odyssey House Foundation; OSA Ventures, LTD; University New Hampshire Marine Docent; Founder & President of Exeter Area Helping Hands; volunteer Hospice worker Rockingham County VNA; volunteer with the Boston Aquarium; member of the South East Land Trust; Exeter New Outlook Center, Leadership Circle member; Khanti Outreach Program supporter, (Assistance for Concord prison inmates and the newly released); and The Lobster Conservancy, (volunteer surveyor).

I think that it is a great pity that N.H. relies on those with addictions to contribute a large amount to our budget. However, by the same token, the gamblers do have a choice, and I would rather if they choose to gamble, let it be here in N.H. sooner than elsewhere.

Denise Landis

Party: Democrat

Age: 56

Occupation: Recipe tester/food writer

Education: Bachelor's degree in anthropology, State University of NY at Buffalo, 1976.

Public service experience: Seacoast School of Technology Culinary Arts Advisory Board; and president, Exeter Area Garden Club. Also active member or volunteer in: Citizens for Smart Growth (Exeter); United Way Community Council on Education; and New Generation (Stratham). Nominated for New Hampshire Partners in Education Volunteer of the Year, 2009; and recipient of SAU 16 Champion for Children Award, 2010.

I believe the issue of whether we should bring casinos and slots to New Hampshire is more a discussion about jobs than whether we would like casinos conveniently located for our gambling pleasure. I feel strongly that we need to have a vision for the future of our state, and encourage businesses that will provide careers, not just jobs. For example, the creation of a research science facility in our area would bring jobs in construction, maintenance, food service, etc., provide jobs for our highly-educated youth, and provide internships, apprenticeships, and diverse career paths for those without college educations.

Patty Lovejoy

Party: Democrat

Age: 56

Occupation: School Board member; a homemaker; former bank executive for 10 years; and CPA with the international CPA firm KPMG Peat Marwick for six years

Education: Bachelor's degree in business/accounting, University of Southern Maine

Public service experience: Stratham School Board; Exeter Region Cooperative School Board; Seacoast School of Technology Board of Governors; Trustee Great Bay E-Learning Charter School; town of Stratham Financial Advisory Committee; Stratham PTO; Stratham Fair Committee member; volunteer for numerous organizations including past president of Stratham PTO and a Cub Scout Den Leader.

New Hampshire is in the gambling business. We have the first in the nation lottery that began selling tickets in 1964. As of fiscal year 2009 the Lottery has provided \$1.3 billion to fund education, \$68.3 million in 2009. On average it has returned 30 cents of each dollar to the state. The current issue is whether to extend gambling on a limited basis. Given the current economic climate I would be reluctant to outright dismiss this potential source of revenue.

Michael Perfit

Party: Democrat

Age: 55

Occupation: Retired. Formerly senior vice president of technology for Lightbridge, Inc., a high-tech start-up company I co-founded.

Education: Bachelor's degree in mathematics from MIT

Public service experience: Stratham Public Works Commission; Stratham rep. in the Southeast Watershed Alliance (past co-chairman, current secretary). In the past, I have volunteered to tutor high school students in calculus and physics and served as a board member for the Science Center of Pinellas County (Florida).

Thus far, I remain unconvinced that expanded gambling is a good idea in New Hampshire. I suspect that the benefits will be lower and the costs will be higher than advertised. Particularly concerning to me is that once approved, it will prove impossible to repeal. I believe that once established, the lobbyists of the gambling industry will be back at Concord every year looking for approval of even more profitable, or in other words addictive, games.

"Trinka" Russell

Party: Democrat

Age: 53

Occupation: no response

Education: R.N. - College of Staten Island C.U.N.Y. 1978; Interior Design - New England School of Art & Design, Suffolk University, Boston, 1995

Public service experience: State rep. since 2006 (Currently serving on Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee); Chairperson of the Health Improvement Services Council; Developmental Disability Waitlist Oversight Committee; Board of Directors for the Regional Community Developmental Services; Consumer Policy Advisory Board for Health and Human Services for NH; Health Care Planning District Council for the Development of the New Hampshire Health Care System.

There was talk about the fact that gambling is already here and the state is not reaping the benefits of collecting taxes. The money we receive will enable us to provide help with gambling and alcohol treatment.

I believe we already have limited gaming. With expansive gaming the social repercussions will be tremendous. I do not believe we will make enough in taxes to overcome the negatives. The hiring of more police and firemen will not be just restricted to the local towns. What about the possible increased violence in families? What about the increase in gambling, drug and alcohol addiction? I have heard it said, "Let those people lose their money, we will just get it back in taxes. Their loss is our gain." Well is it really? Do we really want to not care about our neighbors? The increase in services will affect us all. I truly worry that the demand for services will far outweigh the funds we will receive.

We all live in N.H. for good reason: the quality of life New Hampshire offers us all. If we allow gambling to come to our state we will forever change the fabric of New Hampshire. No, I do not support gambling.

Donna Schlachman

Party: Democrat

Age: 61

Occupation: Retired pediatric occupational therapist

Education: Bachelor's degree in occupational therapy, Columbia University; master's degree in Developmental Disabilities Administration, University of New Hampshire

Public service experience: State rep. (2008 to present); served as the vice chairwoman of the Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee; prime sponsor of New Hampshire's new "anti-bullying" bill, (signed into law June 15); co-sponsored a number of bills addressing issues of health care access and affordability, water resources, and state contracting.

First it is important to acknowledge that there is a lot of gambling in N.H., both from our charity gambling and our lottery, and that we have gambling addicts in N.H. While statistically a small number, it is not small to the families and communities impacted by the social and economic fallout of addiction. I have voted against each pro-gambling bill that came before the House this term in spite of the considerable pressure to include expanded gambling and slot machines as a way of increasing our revenues. I have yet to be convinced that the benefits of expanded gambling in N.H. outweigh the consequences to our communities or that opening the door to a few establishments will not lead to the many.

Growing up, Sparaco was known by another name

Growing up in Valley Cottage, Rockland County Legislator Frank Sparaco was known for a time by another name.

In his 1991 Nyack High School yearbook, he is identified as Frank Cota — the last name of his stepfather, who he said was a New York City police detective.

The 1992 yearbook identifies him as Frank Cota, but lists him with students whose last names begin with "S."

He does not appear with his fellow juniors in the 1993 yearbook, the year his mob-connected biological father, Frank Sparaco Jr., pleaded guilty to murder.

In his senior yearbook photo, he is shown in alphabetical order as Frank Sparaco with other members of the Nyack High School class of 1994.

Sparaco told The Journal News he never legally changed his name, but would not be surprised if someone called him "Cota." Sparaco said his stepfather raised him and is the person he thinks of as his father.

Sparaco said he did not know why he was listed as "Cota" in the yearbook.

"Probably some kid did it," Sparaco said.

Sparaco, 34, is married with a daughter and is the owner of Pop's Vending.

He served as president of the Rockland County Young Republicans from 2001-2007, when he was elected to the Rockland County Legislature.

Sparaco attended Arizona State University, the College of Staten Island and Rockland Community College, according to his biography on the Legislature's website.

He was in the U.S. Navy from 1994-97 and served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt during the United States' involvement in Bosnia.

Pakistani born Virginia man accused in subway bomb plot led quiet suburban family life

BEN NUCKOLS Associated Press

October 28, 2010 - 4:10 pm

BALTIMORE — Farooque Ahmed, the Pakistani-born Virginia man accused of plotting to bomb Washington-area subway stations, lived in middle-class suburban comfort with his wife and their infant son. They held steady jobs in northern Virginia's technology industry and mostly kept to themselves.

They got along with neighbors, sometimes even cooking saffron rice and chicken for them. Ahmed enjoyed fishing, and his English-born wife, Sahar Mirza-Ahmed, was part of a group of "Hip Muslim Moms." Both were on social-networking sites.

Yet Ahmed had a burning desire to join the global jihad, according to federal authorities. Beyond his alleged terror plot, which involved scouting Metro stations that he believed al-Qaida would bomb, authorities said he wanted to travel to Afghanistan to kill American soldiers.

Ahmed, 34, emigrated around 1993 to the United States and later became a citizen, according to an FBI affidavit. He lived in Staten Island, N.Y., and earned a bachelor's degree in computer science in 2003 from the College of Staten Island before he moved to Virginia.

His LinkedIn page refers to a "political issue" between the computer science and engineering departments at the City College of New York that prevented him from receiving a master's degree, but officials there said there were no records of Ahmed ever being a student.

He also wrote on the site that he was studying risk management and data security at Aspen University, an online school based in Denver. The school's president said he had been accepted as a student but has not taken any courses.

In Virginia, he drove a green 2005 Honda Accord, accruing a handful of traffic tickets. His most recent job was doing network engineering on a

contract basis for Ericsson Services Inc. He previously worked on contracts with Verizon and Sprint, according to his LinkedIn profile.

He worshipped at the All Dulles Area Muslim Society Center, a mosque with several branches in northern Virginia, coming to prayers occasionally by himself, said Robert Marro, a member of the board of trustees. The ADAMS Center, as it's known, issued a statement Wednesday expressing outrage at Ahmed's alleged plot. It also urged people to alert authorities if they know about Ahmed's activities or see any suspicious behavior.

"He comes in just for prayer services and then leaves right after," Marro said.

Imam Mohamed Magid said cases like this make Muslims worry about how they are perceived by the larger community.

"In northern Virginia, people are very understanding," Magid said. "They know that the act of one person like this does not represent Islam and Muslims."

Ahmed bought a Virginia freshwater fishing license three consecutive years, starting in 2008. His most recent expired in July.

He had money in the bank, according to the affidavit, which said he spoke about sending \$10,000 to foreign terrorists — in \$1,000 increments to avoid arousing suspicion. But when he made an initial appearance in federal court, he said he could not afford a lawyer.

Ahmed and his wife lived in a rented three-story brick townhouse in Ashburn, a bedroom community near Washington Dulles International Airport. Neighbors said they were polite, but reserved.

Marc Otterback, who lives next door, described the family as "pretty reclusive." He remembered commenting that a dinner they were cooking smelled good, and family members brought saffron rice and chicken to his home that evening.

Otterback said he asked Ahmed for help shoveling snow last winter, and Ahmed pitched in.

"I wouldn't say I knew him, though," Otterback said. "He never discussed politics with me; he never offered much of anything."

Lee Nicholson, who lives across the street, said the family never attended neighborhood gatherings.

"We saw them get in and out of their cars. We said, 'Hi,' and so did they," Nicholson said. "There was nothing too abnormal. They just really kept to themselves."

Mirza-Ahmed was born in Birmingham, England, and was still working in the United Kingdom in the mid-2000s, according to her LinkedIn profile. Mirza-Ahmed's profile on meetup.com included photos of her wearing a hijab and holding her son. Both profiles have been deleted.

Mirza-Ahmed had been listed as a co-organizer of Hip Muslim Moms, a social and support group for women with children under 5 years old. She joined shortly after moving to Virginia, and brought her son to playdates, group organizer Esraa Bani said.

The group, Bani said, is very liberal, and members tend to be young professionals. Mirza-Ahmed wasn't the most outgoing, but she was well-liked, said Bani, who was "shocked and shaken" by the allegations.

"They're a regular, everyday family," Bani said. "That's why it's very shocking to hear this."

Associated Press writers Sarah Brumfield in Washington, Steve Szkotak in Richmond, Va., and Deepti Hajela in New York, and AP freelance writer Kathleen Miller in Ashburn, Va., contributed to this report.

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Staten Island Racks Up Another Terrorism Suspect



Patriotic Staten Islanders protesting a mosque.

The man accused of plotting to bomb the Washington D.C. Metro is the second terrorist suspect to emerge from the fertile loins of Staten Island this week. Farooque Ahmed, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Pakistan, currently claims residence in Northern Virginia, but he lived on Staten Island for many years, and studied for two years at the College of Staten Island (ultimately graduating from the City University of New York). He also took his oath of allegiance (HA!) in New York.

One of Ahmed's former neighbors, Joseph Compagno, tells PIX 11 News, "What better place than a quiet family community to just blend in, unfortunately." Right, because Staten Island residents are famous for warmly embracing the Muslim community. Earlier this week the feds arrested another Staten Island man and accused him of trying to join the Taliban.

Ahmed is accused of conducting a surveillance operation on the Metro under the belief that he would be handing over the footage to al-Qaeda operatives. In fact, the undercover agents had commissioned Farooque Ahmed to provide the information as part of a sting operation. The news has unsettled Metro commuters in DC, and even Metro officials say there's only so much they can do to stop a terrorist attack. "Metro, like any other transit system in the world, has a high level of vulnerability," Jim Graham, a board member, tells the Post. "There is no getting around that. You do your best with dogs, police and cameras."

At one time, Metro police experimented with searching all bags, but Graham says that in itself became a security risk, because "the entire system was jammed. People just could not move, because of the necessary slow pace of checking everybody,"

Accused D.C. bomb plotter Farooque Ahmed's goal was 'killing as many Metro riders as possible'

BY [Kerry Wills](#), [James Gordon Meek](#) AND [Helen Kennedy](#)
DAILY NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Thursday, October 28th 2010, 4:00 AM



Britton/APPhoto taken by Virginia neighbor of ex-New Yorker Farooque Ahmed shows federal agents poised to raid the terror suspect's home.

A former [Staten Island](#) man was busted in [Washington](#) on Wednesday for helping what

he thought were [Al Qaeda](#) terrorists plotting to bomb the capital's subways.

It was really the [FBI](#) stringing him along, the feds say.

[Farooque Ahmed](#), 34, a computer engineer who lives with his wife and baby in suburban [Virginia](#), was accused of making sketches and surveillance videos of busy subway stops near [the Pentagon](#) and tourist-packed [Arlington Cemetery](#).

The stations Ahmed helped case are popular with [Defense Department](#) workers. He thought the stations would be blown up sometime next year, the indictment says.

His goal was "killing as many Metro riders as possible through simultaneous bomb attacks," U.S. Attorney Neil MacBride said. "It's chilling."

The feds said straphangers were never in any danger.

Much like the four men convicted this month of plotting to attack a [Bronx](#) synagogue, Ahmed was stung by an undercover FBI operation and never met any real terrorists.

His face hidden by a long beard, mustache and glasses, Ahmed appeared briefly in federal court and will be held until a detention hearing tomorrow. He said he could not afford a lawyer.

A Pakistani who became a naturalized citizen in [New York](#) 17 years ago, Ahmed worked for [Ericsson](#) telecommunications in Virginia setting up routers for the [Sprint](#) network, his [LinkedIn](#) profile says.

He received a bachelor's degree in computer science from the [College of Staten Island](#) in 2003 and studied mechanical engineering at City College, but did not receive the graduate degree, college officials said.

Ahmed's online profile blamed that on "a political issue between computer science and (engineering) departments." Officials said the dispute was over academic credits, not geopolitics.

He registered as a Republican in the borough in 2002.

Neighbors in [Ashburn, Va.](#), said he moved there a year ago with his British wife, [Sahar Mirza](#), and toddler son.

Sahar Mirza is co-organizer of a [Meetup.com](#) group for mothers of new babies called Hip Muslim Moms.

He wore casual clothes - he appeared in court in jeans - but she wore more traditional garb and covered her hair.



Transit police officer watches Metro trains arrive in D.C. on Wednesday.
Wong/Getty

"He was out back mowing the lawn over the weekend. He just seemed like a normal guy. He never talked about politics," said neighbor [Barbi Shires](#), 43. "I'm just glad it was the FBI he did it for, not al Qaeda."

Next door neighbor, [Tanya Minor](#), 32, who

works in a doctor's office, said Ahmed
"came to look at the house with a man who
spoke his language, who said he helped
people from New York find apartments
here. They were very quiet. They always
had the blinds closed."

Subway bomb plot suspect with Staten Island ties to be jailed until trial

Published: Friday, October 29, 2010, 3:17 PM

AP Associated Press



Farooque Ahmed

ALEXANDRIA, Va. -- A Virginia man with Staten Island ties charged with plotting to attack Washington's Metro system with people he thought were al-Qaida terrorists will remain in jail pending trial.

Thirty-four-year-old Farooque Ahmed of Ashburn, Va., was arrested Wednesday after allegedly attempting to join up with al-Qaida terrorists.

He thought the men he was plotting with were al-Qaida, but they were in fact law enforcement agents.

At a hearing today that lasted less than two minutes, Ahmed's lawyer said he would not contest pretrial detention. Ahmed, who wore a green prison jumpsuit and a full beard, said nothing during the hearing.

Ahmed immigrated around 1993 to the United States and later became a citizen, according to an FBI affidavit. He lived on Staten Island, and earned a bachelor's degree in computer science in 2003 from the **College of Staten Island** before he moved to Virginia.

His LinkedIn page refers to a "political issue" between the computer science and engineering departments at the City College of New York that prevented him from receiving a master's degree, but officials there said there were no records of Ahmed ever being a student.

-- Advance material was used in this report.

THE RACE FOR NEW YORK'S 16TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Incumbent Michelle Schimel and Scott Diamond discuss the issues.

By [Adina Genn](#) | [Email the author](#) | October 30, 2010

Patch is providing election coverage with candidate profiles and Q&A's. Check in with Patch through Nov. 2 to read up on the candidates and the issues that affect our community.

The Race

The 16th Assembly District includes parts of Great Neck, Port Washington, Manhasset, Albertson, Roslyn, Garden City Park, North New Hyde Park, Mineola, Old Westbury and Williston Park. **Michelle Schimel** and **Scott D. Diamond** are vying for New York 16th Assembly District on Tuesday, Nov. 2.

Fast Facts

- **Schimel** is the (incumbent) Democrat candidate who will also appear on the Independence and Working Families party line. She is serving her second term in the New York State Assembly. She is running on a platform of finance and ethics reform in the state legislature, environmental protection, anti-crime, government efficiency and transparency and healthcare reform to reduce costs and improve care. She is an advocate for public education and the health and well-being of veterans. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania, Schimel has served as town clerk for North Hempstead, a physical therapist and certified wound care specialist at North Shore-LIJ and was a small business owner of a fashion accessories firm. She lives in Great Neck with her husband, and has two sons.
- **Diamond** is the Republican and Conservative candidate. He currently serves as a paralegal for a private contracting company with the Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. He believes that the legislature is out of touch with the needs of its constituents, and wants to bring new leadership to Albany. He does not support the idea of career politics, and sees his role as an advocate for the community he represents. He is a graduate of the **College of Staten Island** with a BA in Political Science. Married since 2003, he resides in Mineola. He has no children but plans to adopt.

The Exchange

Patch posed the following questions to each candidate.

How would you reduce wasteful spending in government?

Schimel: New York State has to shore up its balance sheet. The costs of government programs need to be realistic and show measurable outcomes. Fiscal and programmatic audits of each budget-funded agency including public authorities must be undertaken. Why add new programs if we do not know if existing programs work?

Agencies must actively manage and reduce overtime costs and justify annual overtime budgets. Also, a plan must be implemented across the board to establish caps on the amount of overtime compensation considered for pension calculations.

In addition, there are more than 700 public authorities that exist in New York State [that] still function in an autonomous fashion and accumulate billions in state debt. Ongoing investigations into several authorities have highlighted the need for improvements in transparency and responsiveness. The Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 was a huge victory for reform. The legislation created an Independent Authorities Budget Office, equipping it with the statutory tools necessary to require and enforce reporting mandates. Additional provisions include: vesting power in the State Comptroller to review contracts over one million dollars, improving board governance and member qualification and clarification of lobbying activities.

We should also consider changing state budgets to a two year cycle.

Diamond: First, the state government is spending my money – and others – as if they are on a shopping spree and cannot account for what they got. When I go to Albany, I will ask for a cap on government spending, which I feel is necessary in order to control what is spent.

What if any reforms would you bring to the MTA?

Schimel: I strongly believe that a safe and efficient mass transit system is critical to the region's economic health, and a major factor in our ability to attract and retain jobs. Many of my constituents depend on the LIRR to commute to New York City for work. That being said, it is quite evident that the MTA is wrought with waste and inefficiencies.

At a recent visit to the Great Neck Station I witnessed firsthand LIRR employees struggling to wash the descending steps onto the platform at the height of morning rush hour. Frustrated, they waited for a more appropriate time to work. Why would anyone send a work crew to clean a station during rush hour?

At a recent hearing in Garden City I implored the MTA board to seriously consider Comptroller Tom DiNapoli's report summarizing the 12 audits and 11 financial reports done by his office. He discovered many ways to save the Authority millions of dollars. One such measure is to assess how real estate transactions are conducted. It is my

understanding that many land sales have been undertaken where the price of the property sold by the MTA was well under appraised value.

Diamond: The MTA is out of control. Raising fares after they already raised fares a year ago and they have the nerve to cut our service. When I go to Albany I will repeal the MTA Payroll Tax. I will ask that the MTA freeze all fare increases, and service cuts until an independent and thorough audit is complete. People need to get to work in the city, and the MTA is the source.

How would you get illegal handguns off the street?

Schimmel: Long before I ever considered public service, my hallmark policy priority has been gun crime prevention. The key is to trace illegal handguns back to their primary source of purchasing. Nine out of ten illegal guns used in crime downstate come from outside of NY State. That means *our* state laws are working. The illegal guns come from states with weak gun laws. In upstate New York, it appears the majority of illegal guns come from within NY State.

My signature legislation, microstamping firearms, is supported by over 100 law enforcement agencies and elected officials of both parties from around the state. Shell casings from semi-automatic firearms will be micro engraved with an alphanumeric code, allowing police at a crime scene to quickly start the gun trace, giving law enforcement the tools it needs to catch criminals.

The bill requires no state spending, and will save taxpayers money as it reduces law enforcement's time and increases efficiency in investigating gun crimes. Microstamping allows police to be able to follow early leads before the trail of a murderer goes cold. It will also cut down on *straw purchasing*, a leading cause of illegal guns, whereby a person purchases a firearm for another individual who could not pass a background check.

Diamond: I would work with law enforcement agencies and continue with gun buy-back programs that are already in place. I will work with local communities as well as the PAL in preventing kids from getting involved in gangs, which would prevent kids from getting injured and will bring awareness.

How would you create jobs on Long Island?

Schimmel: My first priority is keeping businesses and jobs rooted on Long Island. Long Island has many untapped resources to offer the business community, including a highly educated workforce. I am spearheading a new program that will bring together a comprehensive array of partners in government at the state and local levels, including the department of labor, and professional business organizations. The goal is to offer hands-on service, a business concierge, so to speak, to ensure retention of Long Island business and work to attract new industry, enabling Long Island to compete with other states like never before.

In addition, I helped negotiate extending the "Power for Jobs" program, which the Governor considered letting lapse when no permanent agreement could be reached with the legislature. The program provides low-cost power to businesses and not-for-profits, and is essential to the survival of a number of manufacturing companies and health care providers here on Long Island. I will continue to fight for a permanent program.

Diamond: First, I would like to see whoever is out of work get back to work and I would do that by holding job fairs. I will bring jobs to my district by repealing the MTA tax which hurts local business's and offering incentives such as tax breaks to new businesses.