



**CENTER FOR THE WOMEN  
OF NEW YORK**

**THE NEWS**

Volume 21, Issue 5 April - May 2009

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**Our Borough President Helen Marshall and NYS Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza really made history during Women's History Month by providing the necessary funds to take our Fort Totten landmark Conference Center to the next step of restoration.**



L-r: Warren Schreiber, CWNY Board Member; Ann Juliano Jawin, Chair, CWNY; Helen Marshall, Borough President; Maria Santalesa, Board Member; Ann Margaret Carrozza, NYS Assemblywoman; Andrea Adams, Board Member; Rhoda Plotkin, Board Member; and Sondra Peedun, representing Councilman David Weprin.

**CWNY at Fort Totten**

Conference, Cultural & Career  
Exploration Center



**See Inside:**

**Our Celebration of Spring!  
CWNY Luncheon**  
Saturday, May 2, 2009  
12 - 4 pm



## Message from the Chair:

This has been a very dynamic month in regards to the state of our country, especially in the economic crisis we are all facing. With the change in the administration, President Obama's different ideas for legislation have dominated our media.

With our special interest, as advocates for women, we have been heartened and encouraged with the new direction and his progressive ideas concerning women's rights. With his ability to change policies through presidential directives, he has already reversed some of the more restrictive policies toward women's rights of the previous administration. The damaging directive that had forbidden our taxpayer funds to go to groups outside the country for women's health projects that included information on contraception has been reversed!

In addition, he has established a Council of Women's Issues at the national level that will study some of the most important issues concerning women and family. The new Congress has also passed the Lily Ledbetter Act. This Act corrects the Supreme Court Decision that refused to allow compensation for proven wage discrimination because they claimed she didn't file her complaint shortly after she was hired!

The new Democratic majority in the NYS Senate also promises to help correct long-standing abuses in wage payments for women. The Equal Pay Act, passed in the Assembly, has been stalled for years in the State Senate. State Senator George Onorato is now the new Chair of the Labor Committee and we are making a great effort to make him understand the importance of this bill. Letters are being solicited to help him understand the issue and its importance in changing the ratio of \$.75 earnings for women to every \$1.00 that men earn.

On our home base, we have been working very hard to put our fundraising campaign in place to help us continue to operate at our Borough Hall headquarters and build our fund for restoration of our building at Ft. Totten.

We have developed a series of activities that, in addition to satisfying our primary mission of helping women and the goal of necessary fundraising, will be very enjoyable. Remember that any funds expended to CWNY are tax-exempt.

- Ann Jawin

## Looking Ahead:

### **CWNY GENERAL MEETING:**

**TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009**

**QUEENSBOROUGH HALL, ROOM 213**

**7:15 - 9:30 pm**

**Program:** Roundtable of Views on the Economy and How to Meet the Challenge

Participants include:

Sandra Delson, Public Relations

Rich Rapp, Newsletter Editor

### **Funding for Fort Totten**

"MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH" evolved into a real celebratory month for the Center for the Women of New York.

A dramatic assist in the form of a \$200,000 grant from Borough President Helen Marshall helped CWNY over a financial hurdle that threatened to stall the implementing of the start of the restoration project of our building at Fort Totten.

Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza brought the welcome news that she had secured an additional \$125,000 for the restoration project.

The remaining gap in funds was resolved by the dramatic announcement that Borough President Marshall would award \$200,000 from her funds to allow the restoration to begin!

A spontaneous cheer went up from the CWNY members and supporters as Helen Marshall proclaimed, "March is Women's History Month and we have to help this historic building project to go forward."

The members of CWNY are grateful to the Borough President, Helen Marshall, Assemblywomen Ann Margaret Carrozza, Councilman David Weprin, Assemblyman William Scarborough who have been the main sponsors of the project. CWNY is also grateful to the many other friends in government and the community who have been continually supportive of the work that the Center has been doing without interruption all throughout these past 21 years.

**CWNY BOOK  
& CULTURE  
CLUB NEWS**



The Book Club selection is  
**SARAH'S KEY**  
By Tatiana De Rosnay

Date: Wednesday, April 15, at 8pm  
Barnes & Noble Bookstore  
23-80 Bell Blvd., Bayside, NY

Tatiana De Rosnay offers us a brilliantly subtle, compelling portrait of France under occupation and reveals the taboos and silence that surround this painful episode in history.

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month.

**CWNY THEATER NIGHT**  
**"9 TO 5" A BROADWAY MUSICAL**

Our choice of this hilarious revival of feminist treatment of male chauvinistic business world with rampant institutionalized sex discrimination comes at a price that requires you to be "good to yourself"—a treat for you and other feminists you know.

After April 30, 2009, for a group of 15 people, we can get a special group rate as follows:



Sat/Sun Matinee:  
Orchestra (front mezzanine)  
\$95.00 (regular price \$125)  
Rear Mezzanine (last two rows  
in the rear, limited number)  
\$80.00 (Regular prize \$90)

If you would like to join the CWNY Theatre Night, email us at [centerwny@yahoo.com](mailto:centerwny@yahoo.com) and pay at [www.cwny.org](http://www.cwny.org) online. Or fill out the form below and mail to us with check or credit card number.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_



**OUR CELEBRATION OF SPRING!**

**CWNY Luncheon**  
Saturday, May 2, 2009  
12 - 4 pm

Clearview Golf Club  
202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Flushing, NY

*Look for Invitation in this mailing!*

**SUPPORT LEGISLATION THAT WILL,  
ONCE AND FOR ALL, SAY  
"VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A  
HATE CRIME"**

CWNY stands in solidarity with NYS Assembly-woman Patricia Eddington and NYS Senator Espada in support of legislation (A6160/S2788) that will, once and for all, state clearly that violence against women must be regarded as a "hate crime." It is time to move forward instituting laws that reflect the real lives of real women—women who are being robbed, stalked, maimed and killed every day.

Contact Governor Paterson, your elected officials and your local media outlet. Let them know you expect them to support this legislation.



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# The Center for the Women of New York CWNY SPRING RAFFLE

Fundraiser for our building at Fort Totten

The raffle drawing will take place at our Spring Luncheon on Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd. Queens, NY 11360. You do not have to be present to win.

Prizes include:

*Restaurant Gift Certificates      Zebra Tear Drop Golf Putter      Walnut Cue Stick  
Silk Flower Arrangement*

Raffles are 3 for \$5 , 6 for \$10, 9 for \$15. Tear and mail form back to us with your payment to CWNY, 120-55 Queens. Blvd, Rm 325, Kew Gardens, NY 11360. Make checks payable to CWNY or pay by credit card.

**Please print:** Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ 3 digit Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Please fill out the form above and write your name & phone number on each raffle ticket.**  
Use return envelope provided, or fax (with credit card information) to: (718) 793-0020.

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CWNY Raffle</b> To benefit our Ft Totten Bldg</p> <p>Saturday May 2, 2009 Clearview Park Golf Course</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone # _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CWNY Raffle</b> To benefit our Ft Totten Bldg</p> <p>Saturday May 2, 2009 Clearview Park Golf Course</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone # _____</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CWNY Raffle</b> To benefit our Ft Totten Bldg</p> <p>Saturday May 2, 2009 Clearview Park Golf Course</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Phone # _____</p>
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Speaker Christine Quinn of the New York City Council honored Councilwoman Helen Sears for her work on the Women's Issues Committee at its March Is Women's History Day. Queens Botanical Gardens Executive Director Susan Lacerte was also honored.

## JOB CLUB NEWS

We congratulate our Career Coach, Anne Marie Ditta, for the success of her weekly meetings with women seeking job opportunities. They have developed a powerful support group discussing the many issues that impact on their job-hunting activities.

They have become a dynamic force, giving each other support and excellent suggestions for their campaigns to find the next step on their career ladder.

Admittedly, the economic crisis presents a daunting challenge. However, a number of the women are using their time to do volunteer work for CWNY, practicing their skills and learning new ones while they continue the job search.

The group meets from 10:30 to 12:30 on Thursday mornings at the Center. Call 718-793-0672 to get details and join the group.

We are using a link with the Workforce I Career Center of the NYS Dept of Labor. We will post those job openings on our Website where they will be available to our members.

## FAMILY DAY CARE TRAINING PROGRAM

This popular class will continue on Tuesday mornings in April at our Queensborough Hall office. The two-day session is offered throughout the year at scheduled times.

The program is designed to train and certify providers to care for children in their own homes. It is given under the supervision of the NYS Office of Child Services and provides professional early childhood development training. The 15-hour Health & Safety Training Competency Program is for new and existing family childcare providers. There is a severe need for affordable family daycare in this city.

Registration fee will be \$25 and the cost of the training program will be \$200. Opportunities are provided for reimbursement for applicants who complete the program. CWNY is also offering the 30-hour course required for professional development for current family daycare providers to maintain their license.

**For detailed information about this program:  
Please call 718-793-0672**



Fort Totten rally to protest cut in security guards. Phil Konigsberg, right front, and Warren Schreiber, center rear, of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance, are joined by Anita Blank, Ann Jawin, Paulina Gonzalez, Annie Lee, and members of the community.

## PROGRESS ON THE WOMEN'S AGENDA

We have had a large surge of interest in advocating for women's issues. The difficult economy is hurting everyone. However, women have been feeling the impact even more. With so many women occupying part-time and low-wage jobs, the high loss of jobs by all workers has caused the lowest wage workers to be displaced by more qualified and skilled newly unemployed.

Disparities of income between women and similarly qualified men have become even worse for minority women.

The advocacy movement for the important issues affecting pay equity has been strengthened by the determination of a number of organizations working in coalition to improve working conditions for women.



L-r: Marcia Pappas, President, NOW, New York; Senator Kirsten Gillibrand; Ann Juliano Jawin, Chair, CWNY; Dr. Karen Siegel, Board Member, CWNY and Zonta UN NGO delegate



Dr. Karen Siegel; Ann Jawin; Karen Karpowich; Marcia F. Stone, President, New York Women's Agenda; Linda Hartley, NYWA

to support passage of the Equal Pay Act. The Center for the Women of New York was represented by Ann Jawin; Karen Karpowich of the New York Women's Agenda; Marcia Pappas, President of NYS NOW; Barbara Rochman, Women's City Club; Karen Siegel of Zonta; and many other active leaders in this important area.

The new Democratic majority in the New York State Senate has given new momentum and hope for the passage of the Equal Pay Act. This Act has passed the Assembly but has been stalled in the State Senate. The new Chair of the Labor Committee, State Senator George Onorato of Queens, will be presiding over this Bill and needs to understand the importance of this bill. We are urged to write individual letters to him and the committee to push for passage of the Equal Pay Act.

We are encouraged that our new U.S. Senator, Kirsten Gillibrand, called a press conference on Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, calling for Paycheck Fairness. She was joined by many of the major women's organizations

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## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

CWNY is being asked to share its expertise on matters involving women and the economy with a number of coalition and community organizations.

We are pleased to be able to cooperate and reach out to the huge community that needs help, especially during these challenging economic times.

The Poppenhusen Institute of College Point, NY and CWNY are offering the following programs as a service to the community:

### **“NOW THAT I HAVE LOST MY JOB, WHAT DO I DO?”**

Saturday, April 18, 2009 2-4 PM

**Presenter:** Anne-Marie Ditta, Career Coach & Professional Resume Writer

\*\*\*\*\*

### **“WHAT MEASURES DO I TAKE DURING THESE TOUGH FINANCIAL TIMES?”**

Saturday, May 9, 2009 1-3 PM

**Presenter:** Gwendolyn Williams, Financial Advisor

\*\*\*\*\*

For information and registration, please contact:  
The Poppenhusen Institute  
114-04 14th Road, College Point, NY 11356  
(718) 358-0067

## SOL KODSI

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General Practice



The Women's Bureau Flex-Options program helps businesses create workplace flexibility programs for their workforces.

[www.flexoptions.org](http://www.flexoptions.org)



Women's Bureau

The Women's Bureau works to improve the status of wage-earning women.

For more information, call (646) 264-3789 or visit

[www.dol.gov/wb](http://www.dol.gov/wb)



Wi\$eUp is a financial education program for women offered by the Women's Bureau both online and in a classroom setting.

[www.wiseupwomen.org](http://www.wiseupwomen.org)

## Save the Date!

**TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2009**

CWNY GENERAL MEETING

Queens Borough Hall, Room 213, 7:15 - 9:30 PM

**FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 2009**

NEW YORK LIBERTY HOME GAME

at Madison Square Garden. Support our women basketball players and cheer them on.

**SEPTEMBER (Date to be announced)**

LATE MORNING PROGRAM

RACE/WALK TO BENEFIT OUR

FT. TOTTEN BUILDING

Help your fitness routine and exercise with friends at scenic Fort Totten area.

*Details to be announced.*

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2009**

22<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL DINNER

Douglaston Manor Golf Course

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2009**

WORLD OF WORKING WOMEN

CONFERENCE & JOB FAIR

*Details to be announced*

## Support CWNY

Pay your membership and stay on our newsletter mailing list.

CWNY Wish List

Extra memory (RAM) for our computer