

WOODSIDE HERALD

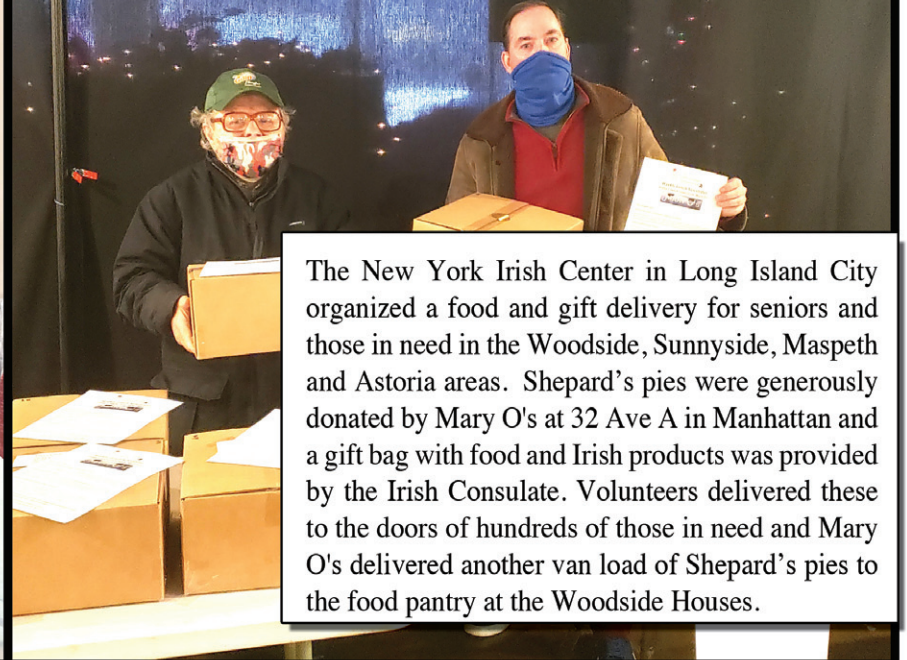
SERVING SUNNYSIDE-WOODSIDE AND LONG ISLAND CITY

VOL. 88 NO. 3

WOODSIDE, L.I.C., N.Y. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 2021

FREE

NEEDED DELIVERIES



The New York Irish Center in Long Island City organized a food and gift delivery for seniors and those in need in the Woodside, Sunnyside, Maspeth and Astoria areas. Shepard's pies were generously donated by Mary O's at 32 Ave A in Manhattan and a gift bag with food and Irish products was provided by the Irish Consulate. Volunteers delivered these to the doors of hundreds of those in need and Mary O's delivered another van load of Shepard's pies to the food pantry at the Woodside Houses.



Eligible for the COVID-19 vaccine? Here's how to get vaccinated:

Eligible New Yorkers can now search for COVID-19 vaccination sites near them and schedule an appointment through our new COVID-19 Vaccine Finder.

To find out where eligible New Yorkers can go to get vaccinated and to schedule an appointment, visit nyc.gov/vaccinefinder. To make an appointment at an NYC Health Department or NYC Health + Hospitals site, eligible New Yorkers can call 877-VAX4NYC.

Vaccines will be important tools in preventing the spread of COVID-19. If you are eligible for a vaccine, you should make an appointment to get vaccinated as soon as you can.

All of the vaccination sites require you to make an appointment first. If you are currently not eligible for vaccination, do not sign up for an appointment at this time.



VACCINATION

Two vaccines have been authorized by the FDA and approved by New York State's independent COVID-19 Clinical Advisory Task Force: One that was developed by Pfizer and BioNTech and another that was developed by Moderna. Both vaccines require two doses.

As of January 11, 2021, New Yorkers in Phase 1a and segments of Phase 1b are eligible for the vaccines. ALL VACCINATIONS ARE BY APPOINTMENT ONLY. Eligible groups include doctors, nurses and health care workers, people age 65 and over, first responders, teachers, public transit workers, grocery store workers and public safety workers. Residents and staff at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities will continue to be vaccinated through a federal program, which the state is providing resources to accelerate.

***Health care workers who are part of Phase 1a will continue to be vaccinated at hospitals and other clinical settings.**

***People age 65 and over will primarily be vaccinated at pharmacies and other sites that are part of the "retail network." Use our online tool to find a location. The COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline is open 7AM - 10PM, 7 days a week, for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).**

Public employees (for example, police departments, public school teachers and MTA employees) will primarily be vaccinated through their groups' relevant health programs or as organized by their unions.

Second dose appointments will be booked AT the site where you receive your first shot. Remember: Both vaccines require two doses for effectiveness.

Attorneys – at – Law
MARC CRAWFORD LEAVITT
PAUL E. KERSON
TALI B. SEHATI
APRIL DE DELY, PARALEGAL

NEW OFFICES:
 68-61 Yellowstone Blvd., Suite 116 Forest Hills, NY 11375
 718-729-0986

**We remain available to meet with clients
 in Sunnyside/Woodside by appointment**

MIDTOWN OFFICE: 1700 BROADWAY, 41ST FLOOR, NYC, NY 11109
Serving the Community Since 1947
We speak Spanish & Hebrew

EXTENSION PROGRAM COVID RENT RELIEF

The COVID Rent Relief Extension Program new application period will be open from Friday, December 18th through Monday, Feb. 1, 2021. The program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. Applications will be accepted throughout the application period. HCR will prioritize eligible households with "greatest economic and social need."
 To apply, please visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/rrp>.

NYS HOMES AND COMMUNITY RENEWAL

**APPLICATIONS FOR COVID RENT RELIEF PROGRAM
 ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT [HTTPS://HCR.NY.GOV/RRP](https://hcr.ny.gov/rrp)**

Previous applications do not have to reapply to receive consideration. NYS Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) announced the COVID Rent Relief Program will be reopened for application with expanded eligibility criteria in an effort to serve New Yorkers who may have not had the opportunity to initially apply and those who may have been previously ineligible. Applications will be accepted through Monday, February 1, 2021. Residents who need help or have questions about their application can contact HCR's COVID Rent Relief Program Call center for assistance at 1-833-499-0318 or email covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov.



TRAVELING AROUND THE WORLD

**INCOME TAX PREPARED
 ALL YEAR
 ACCOUNTING SERVICES
 TRADUCCIONES
 NOTARY PUBLIC**

cuzcotravelagent@aol.com
 Phone: (718) 361-0662
 Fax: (718) 361-0908
**43-11 GREENPOINT AVE.
 SUNNYSIDE, N.Y. 11104**



718-706-0957 46-15 Skillman Ave Sunnyside Gardens NY 11104
 Amy FitzGerald, Lic. Real Estate Broker WelcomeHomeRealEstate.biz

*Considering selling, renting or buying?
 Open 7 days. Call, stop by or visit online.*

Clients write: "Amazing support..flawless transaction
 ...consummate professionals...honest and dedicated..."

WOODSIDE HERALD

43-11 GREENPOINT AVE., SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104
718-729-3772
 email: ssabba@woodsideherald.com



**writers
 wanted**

VOLUNTEER POSITION



Sunnyside Community Services Food Drive

We are accepting the following items:

- Vegetables - canned
- Pasta
- Flour
- Baking powder
- Cornbread mix / corn meal
- Rice
- Peanut butter
- Soup - cartons or cans
- Tomato sauce
- Cereal
- Oatmeal
- Lentils - dry or canned
- Beans - dry or canned
- Vegetable oil
- Shelf-stable milk
- Granola bars

DROP OFF: 8 AM to 5 PM Mondays or Wednesdays
LOCATION: Sunnyside Community Services 43-31 39th Street
QUESTIONS? Need a different drop-off time? Email mbova@scsny.org or call 929-335-7800
Prefer to make a cash donation? Donate online: scsny.org/donate
Prefer to have something shipped? tinyurl.com/2020holidayscs



WOODSIDE HERALD

43-11 Greenpoint Ave., Sunnyside, NY 11104
 Telephone (718) 729-3772

Marlene Sabba Publisher
 Sherilyn Jo Sabba Editor

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
 Dr. Sharon Cadiz, Rob MacKay, Peter Ross
CONTRIBUTING ARTISTS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS
 Joe Gurrado, Robert Flanagan, Peter Ross

JANUARY 6TH 2021: A DAY OF ILLUMINATION

by Dr. Sharon M. Cadiz

Just as the story of the Magi reveals that the three kings or astronomers, depending on your version, set out on a journey prompted by a light in the sky, January 6th 2021 illuminated some truths that have been obscured. Even as the drama of this fateful day unfolded, there were those who sought to “spin” the actions taken. They referred to it as “the darkest day in our history.” On the contrary, it was the clearest example of light being shone on the deeds that grow out of lies, hatred, bigotry, avarice and fear. Step back and take a real look at the events of that day and the overt preparation that was announced by those who stormed the Capitol. In sharp contrast, those in a position to neutralize such an effort operated under the cloak of darkness that seemed to intentionally leave key people in the *dark* in ways that are complicit with the actions of those who committed treasonous acts of insurrection. The leaders never hid their actions, but they cleverly wrapped and concealed them in the American flag and a Confederate flag. A Supreme Court judge was confirmed overnight in the darkness. Plans were made to close ranks and prevent the impeachment of the president in a shrouded series of political ploys worthy of a Dark Lord, either Voldemort or Darth Vader. Unlike these two archetypical deceivers who disguised truth in darkness, seekers of truth and light; like the Magi, found it on January 6th. In the light of day with cell phones poised to capture every scene, the viewing audience came in for a close-up and saw the illuminated truth of what we have become. Leaders who were charged to defend the truth, values and institutions of the government feigned closed eyes keeping themselves and us in the darkness of despair that finally erupted in an insurrection.

Yes, like an army of ants devouring a piece of food on the ground, in the light of day, they charged through the barricades filled with rage, righteous indignation and weapons of mass destruction to settle the score. They were emboldened by cheerleaders and champions who had been grooming them for just this spectacle. The president promised to march with them and quickly retreated to the safety of his chambers where he and his son and others watched the “wild” scene with excitement that is palpable from the shared footage that has been aired. It seemed that these folks acted as though they did nothing more than what amounted to issuing an invitation to a “rave.” Seekers of truth saw all of this with the lights on.

After all that we witnessed with our own eyes, there are still so many who want to turn out the lights and consider it a game of winners and losers. They want to give the benefit of the doubt to prevent “dividing the country further.” Never mind that these “players” were armed, organized and ready to commit acts of violence and destruction to have their point of view heard. There is nothing that divides more than having a Molotov cocktail or a pipe bomb blowing up in your face; or a fire extinguisher crushing your head. Their master ring leader acts like a magician attempting to trick our senses

into believing that we didn’t see what we saw or hear what we heard. The conspirators helped to fabricate facts to fit the agenda. They are continuing to rescript January 6th as though we are shooting a retake on a reality show, but just as when the world viewed the murder of George Floyd on camera leaving some of us with that picture still lit up in our minds, seeing and hearing an officer crushed on camera alerts us to the lethal nature of the “protest” that became a riot and ultimately a revolt. Has anyone asked about the Dow Jones today? How are we doing? Do you think that the officer’s family, friends or neighbors; like those of George Floyd or Breonna Taylor; or the parent of a six year old who died in custody at the southern border; or the children of two elderly parents who died within days of each other from COVID 19 want to know how their 401K is doing or which stocks were traded?

It is 5:20am and I have not slept because we literally need to *stay woke* to get to the other side of the events of January 6th; the transfer of power to install a new leadership and a decisive plan to bring people to justice for their crimes. If we fall silent and retreat into darkness even after the lights have been turned on, we will live in fear and distrust of our fellow Americans because justice; the rule of law; safety and security will be hostage to troubled minds and violent acts. It is not fear that keeps me awake; it is the intention to take action to stay focused on what matters. This is not the first time that our differences have split us down the middle. We have the lessons of the Civil War when the Nation turned against itself; questions of beliefs that created notions of superiority and inferiority and debated the truth of evolution and creationism. Turning a new page without holding folks accountable will be like cleaning your floor with a dirty mop.

There is a new sheriff in town named, **“We, the people...”** By deferring to the will of the people to ensure that all voices are heard and all people are equally served, we must also re-establish the understanding that all who violate the law will equally be brought to justice because actions have consequences, and the law should not discriminate or recognize privilege as a defense. Hold on, it might be a rocky road full of pitfalls, starts and stops, but I believe that Americans are strong, resilient and brave and we can establish a new order founded on *real* equality, not rhetoric; *real* justice, not Black, White, red or blue justice; and predicated on the principles of a free society of equals. Some will be afraid of losing their advantage or frightened by the unknown, but if we continue to lash out against each other as though we are rivals at a sporting event with those in the darkened back rooms placing bets on who will *win*, we will be no better than the corner hustler trading in human lives for power, profit and gain. **You** decide, but know that the stakes are *high*.

If we continue on this current path without shining a light on the assaults on freedom and justice that have been longstanding and cumulative since the inception of this great experiment known as America, we will “inherit the wind.”

JOY: MAKE MINE WITH “PICKLES”

by Sharon Cadiz, Ed.D

It is difficult to recall today if it was five, six or seven years ago that a small white dog with a light brown spot named “Pickles” came into our lives. Even before we met, she had a difficult life; but when she found my husband, she got a new lease on life. From the moment that she came to live with us, I experienced the exquisite joy of loving this wonderful creature that showed me the depths of trust and caring. She would sometimes revert to her patterns of self-protection that others did not always understand, but I knew, and I would comfort her and always let her know how much I loved her. I found myself saying on a daily basis: “Thank God for “Pickles” because I fully understood that the love I had for her originated from a divine source.

In the beginning, my husband, “Pickles” and I would take long morning walks through the neighborhood until that had to be altered to suit her in moments when her early memories triggered a “fight or flight” response. We adapted and she still enjoyed walks with the two of us. Neighbors all knew her and small children would say: “Hi, puppy” even though the truth was that she was an older dog.

Reminiscent of her early days in the home of a man who rescued her and gave her a home and a backyard with him and his wife, she would chase squirrels and cats and had an odd aversion to motorcycles, loud noises and certain people. When the man died, his homebound wife could no longer care for her. That is where our story began. My husband came to know “Pickles” because our son rented an apartment in the building owned by the man and his wife. Whenever my husband would visit to help my son or drop something off, he would take “Pickles” out for a walk because he appreciated how confined she was within the house and fenced in yard. Reluctantly, I began to see this budding relationship as a threat to my heart that had been broken when my dear “Skipper” of fourteen died some years earlier.

A sudden turn of events following some challenging moments for “Pickles” made it clear that she needed a new home. My husband and I talked it over after he exhausted efforts to “place” her with someone, and we took her home on what we told ourselves was a trial basis. With the help of our grandchildren, we got her oriented that first weekend, and thereafter, she was our new family member.

“Pickles” was a regular at our local groomer and was a welcomed boarder when my daughter was unable to stay with her during our trips out of town. She helped to get the vote out in primaries and major elections graciously allowing me to put a sign on her back that read: “VOTE.” She welcomed all visitors to our home with eager excitement. She always met us at the door and invited us to join her in her special spot on the couch. She loved my “Paris Room” with the comfy yellow arm chair and the child-size purple chaise lounge. She enjoyed the cool sanctuary of the bathroom during storms and noisy July Fourth fireworks. She was an avid traveler in our family car and relished opportunities to take the trip to pick up or drop off our grandkids or other family members. When I would stroke her ears and put my head close to hers, I could hear her almost purr with a stunning vibration of what I felt as pure love.

On January 6th, a day that will live in infamy for many reasons, our precious “Pickles” was put to rest after a series of seizures that we were advised would only get worse for our beloved friend. I am sitting on the couch in the early morning hours of the following day after this fateful event and through my tears I know that I will carry joyful memories, smiles and lessons taught through her loving kindness that guided me to new depths of compassion and understanding. She knew how to give her paw when she wanted something and how to “go on the paper” when walks were not an option. She never judged us, even when we accidentally stepped on her toe, and she was always there for us at the end of the day. I remember often saying: “I wish I could put her on a charm bracelet and take her everywhere with me.” This is my lasting tribute to our dear friend who gave me joy and unlike the losses of the past, “Pickles” leaves me with the realization that my heart is not broken; it is open. Thank you, “Pickles.”

VOLUNTEER WRITERS WANTED TO COVER LOCAL STORIES

**Looking for coverage of community events
and community outreach stories**

Ssabba@woodsideherald.com



PODCAST

The Divine Spark

Available at

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apple • Spotify • Stitcher • Buzzsprout • Podcast Addict • Podchaser 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deezer • Listen Notes <li style="background-color: white; color: #4a4a8a; border-radius: 10px; padding: 2px 10px; display: inline-block; margin-bottom: 5px;">COMING SOON • Google Podcast • iHeart Radio • Pandora
---	--

IN-CHURCH SERVICES AT 11AM SUNDAYS



ALL COVID RULES APPLY.
MASKS AVAILABLE AT DOOR.

SUNNYSIDE REFORMED CHURCH
48-03 SKILLMAN AVENUE
SUNNYSIDE, N.Y. 11104








Grid for Good a virtual career exploration program exposing youth (16-24) to career paths in the energy industries.

APPLY NOW

WORKSHOPS START IN FEBRUARY

16 > 24 YEARS OLD

Connect and Network
Connect & Network with MENTORS & RECRUITERS from National Grid, Avon Grid and CleanHarbors and major energy companies.

Get exposed
to career paths in the energy industry

Learn strategies
in conflict management, team building, work readiness; workplace expectations

Acquire skills
in resume writing, applying and interviewing for jobs.

Explore
JOB SHADOWING OPPORTUNITIES



CONTACT INFO
Carmen Rodriguez, Beacon Center Director
Woodside Community School, P.S. 361
39-07 57th Street, Woodside, NY 11377
crodriguez@woodsideonthemove.org
347.791.1100



MASK DISTRIBUTION

Whether you forgot your mask today, need an extra, or just want to be sure you're never caught without, Sunnyside Community Services COVID-Free Queens Team is here for you. They distribute masks all around different high risk neighborhoods of Queens on a weekly basis.



QUEENS COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION '21


Queens Borough President Donovan Richards is accepting applications from qualified, civic-minded individuals interested in serving on one of the borough's 14 Community Boards, which play an important advisory role in considering land use and zoning matters in their respective districts.

The 2021 Community Board Application has been digitized to ensure the process can be completed much quicker and easier for all prospective applicants — especially Queens residents living in transportation deserts — allowing for a more diverse applicant pool and a safer application process in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This year's electronic application can be completed and submitted online, requiring neither notarization nor in-person delivery to the Queens Borough President's Office.

The deadline to apply to serve on a community board is Friday, February 19. For the upcoming round of appointments, the two-year unsalaried term of service begins Thursday, April 1.

nyc.cb.wufoo.com/forms/queens-community-board-membership-application-2021/


Individuals who had already submitted a paper application prior to the launch of the electronic application must reapply online.



"My specialty is Podiatry. That is Podiatric Medicine, Surgery and Orthopedics."

We are open for business. A doctor's visit is one-on-one and very safe. There are never more than 5 people in the whole office at any one time. We will be here for the duration if and when the public needs a foot doctor.

Dr. Richard Belli
Podiatrist



Hours
Tues. 10-7
Thurs. 12-7
Wed. / Fri. / Sat. 10-5

50-10 Skillman Ave., Woodside, NY
718-672-3421
www.drbelli.com

QUEENS UNDERGROUND

.ORG



REPRESENTING QUEENS TO THE FULLEST




 **New York** Blood Center

BLOOD DRIVE

To remain in compliance with the federal guidelines for social distancing
APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED Walk-ins welcome if drive capacity permits.



SUNNYSIDE COMMUNITY SERVICES

January 28, 2021
9am – 3pm

43-31 39th Street
Sunnyside, NY 11104
Queens

DO YOUR PART, NYC!
learn about our SWEEPSTAKES

 **#GIVEBLOODNYC** 



DONORS PRESENTING:

- Must wear a mask or face covering
- Will have their temperature taken
- Must be 14 days symptom free if recovered from COVID-19
- May **NOT** donate if they have a positive diagnostic test or experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 14 days
- May **NOT** donate if they are currently on self-quarantine restrictions per NYS guidelines

Please be aware that we **do NOT test for COVID-19**. You should contact your health care provider if you want to be tested.

www.nybc.org/coronavirus

1.800.933.2566

NYS RENEWS CONTRACTS FOR SETTLEMENT HOUSES

GIANARIS AND COLLEAGUES CALLED ON STATE TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR ORGANIZATIONS THAT PROVIDE ESSENTIAL LOCAL SERVICES

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris announced the State of New York is renewing contracts with neighborhood settlement houses, local organizations that provide essential social services in their neighborhoods. Contracts will be renewed for one year, retroactive to September.

“Neighborhood Settlement Houses provide critical services for communities, which is why even in difficult financial times the legislature funds these programs,” said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. “I am pleased the state has agreed to keep these programs up and running and I will continue to fight for the services New York’s neighborhoods need and deserve.”

The state legislature allocated \$2.45 million during the FY 20-21 budget, which is administered by the Office of Children

and Family Services (OCFS). The funding was slated for 48 different settlement houses across the State. Funding for the Settlement House Program ceased in August 2020, despite the fact it was funded for the full year in the budget. Senator Gianaris wrote to the Governor urging a restoration to these programs.

Programs available at each settlement house may vary with the needs of their neighborhoods, but often include job training, early childhood education, after school programming, arts and cultural events, English language training and citizenship test instruction, and senior services.

Western Queens is home to several such programs, including the Jacob Riis Neighborhood Settlement House and Sunnyside Community Services.

BILL FOR VOTERS

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris announced the State Senate passed his Constitutional amendment (S.517) allowing for same-day voter registration in New York State. The amendment, having passed the Senate for the second time, will now go before New Yorkers for ballot approval this November if the Assembly also provides second passage.

“Our Senate Democratic supermajority is fighting to move New York’s voter turnout from worst to first, giving all New Yorkers a stronger voice in elections and building more trust in our democracy,” said Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris. “I am thrilled the Senate passed this measure again and I look forward to its approval this fall.”

This amendment will let New York join 21 states and the District of Columbia in allowing same-day registration. This vote builds on the historic reforms passed by Senator Gianaris earlier this week and during the 2019 and 2020 Legislative Session.

Gianaris passed two bills as part of the Senate Democratic Majority’s efforts to improve New York State’s electoral system and empower voters, part of their tradition of kicking off the legislative session by passing major pro-voter, anti-disenfranchisement, pro-democracy legislation. The bills passed provided greater access to using absentee ballots and ensuring they are counted, no-excuse absentee voting, and an absentee ballot tracking system.

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris said, “As our Democratic supermajority continues to reform the way elections are run, fixing our latest-in-the-nation vote counting status will go a long way towards restoring faith in election results. I am proud to have authored this important legislation so we are never again still counting votes into the new year.”

The bills authored by Senator Gianaris passed are:

*Earlier Counting of Absentee Ballots: S.1027, which would require absentee ballots to be canvassed prior to Election Day with results to be announced after polls close on election night.

*Earlier Processing of Absentee Ballot Applications: S.516, which would require absentee ballot applications to be processed and approved faster pursuant to a specific rolling calendar.

The bills that will be passed by the Senate Majority build on the historic reforms passed during the 2019 and 2020 Legislative Session.

EXPEDITE COVID ACCESS FOR 9/11 RESPONDERS AND SURVIVORS

Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-NY), author of the James Zadroga 9/11 Health and Compensation Act and its subsequent reauthorizations, today called on the City of New York to expedite COVID-19 vaccine access for World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) participants.

“9/11 responders and survivors who, because of their 9/11 injuries, have medical conditions that increase the risk for severe COVID-19 both need and deserve expedited access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The pre-existing conditions they live with because their exposure to the toxins in the air at and around Ground Zero have led to the types of health conditions that experts have warned put them at higher risk for severe outcomes should they contract COVID-19.”

“The World Trade Center Health Program is a promise to our 9/11 heroes that we will support them just as they supported our city and our nation. In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, that promise extends to preventative care as well. New York City should make provisions to honor that promise by ensuring that our heroes have immediate access to the COVID-19 vaccine, and that their vaccination registration process is simple, user-friendly, and swift.”

MLK DAY OF SERVICE
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Division of School Climate and Wellness
DAY OF SERVICE
TO SUPPORT STUDENTS & FAMILIES

We are collecting **NEW** essential supplies such as coats, hats, scarves, gloves, toiletries, masks, and hand sanitizer.

Once collected, the donations will be distributed to those communities most impacted by COVID-19.

PLEASE MAIL OR DELIVER IN-PERSON TO
New York City Department of Education
Division of School Climate and Wellness
Attn: OSYD - Room 218
52 Chambers Street
New York, NY 10007

Please donate by:
Friday, January 15, 2021, at 3 pm

Thank you for joining in this day of service and act of love.

PARTNERS
S.M.B.A. ACADEMY
LIBERATION THRU EDUCATION
A.S.E.T. All Sisters Evolving Together
YOLO
WOODSIDE STATE COLLEGE

NYC Department of Education

EAT LOCAL THIS YEAR AND SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY

MAKE THE PLEDGE

25FORSUNNYSIDEANDWOODSIDE.COM

25forthesides

Giddy-up!

de Blasio

NYC VACCINATION PROGRAM

G. Meadows

www.jimfoun.com

11TH STATE OF THE STATE ADDRESS

Cuomo: “Do you remember last spring? Do you remember what New Yorkers did in their darkest hour? I will never forget it. When COVID ambushed New York and we went from one case to hundreds of cases in a matter of days. When sirens filled the night, stillness and mass graves were dug on Hart Island. When fear gripped New Yorkers like a vise. When global experts told us there was no way we could slow the spread. But New Yorkers said yes we could and yes we would. New Yorkers united and rose to the occasion. That is New York at her best - that is the New York miracle.

“Time and again we have heard the voices of doubt and defeat. The state can’t do a budget on time. We can’t enact common sense gun safety, we can’t pass marriage equality, we can’t raise the minimum wage, we can’t fix subway tunnels, we can’t build a new Tappan Zee Bridge, we can’t turn around the Buffalo economy, we can’t end the AIDS epidemic, we can’t provide free college tuition for the middle class, we can’t construct a new Penn train hall. But they were wrong. We did.

“We can’t - only if we believe we can’t.”

“That is what we mean when we say New York tough.”

Passing the Medical Supplies Act: To promote domestic manufacturing of critical medical equipment and to reduce dependency on overseas products, Governor Cuomo is proposing that New York pass the Medical Supplies Act to prioritize buying American-made PPE and medical supplies. As the Buy American Act, made permanent last year, did for American-made structural iron and steel, this new policy will help create and retain local jobs while ensuring the health and dependability of a crucial sector for years to come.

Comprehensive Telehealth Legislation: In partnership with the Reimagine New York Commission, the Governor will enact comprehensive telehealth reform to help New Yorkers take advantage of telehealth tools and address existing roadblocks. These reforms will address key issues like adjusting reimbursement incentives to encourage telehealth, eliminating outdated regulatory prohibitions on the delivery of telehealth, removing outdated location requirements, addressing technical unease among both patients and providers through training programs, and establishing other programs to incentivize innovative uses of telehealth.

Ensuring Social and Racial Justice for the Vaccination Effort: In order to ensure the vaccine is distributed equitably, especially in communities of color, Governor Cuomo created the New York Vaccine Equity Task Force. Chaired by Secretary of State Rossana Rosado, Attorney General Letitia James, National Urban League President & CEO Marc Morial, and Healthfirst President & CEO Pat Wang, the Governor’s Equity Task Force will assist in overcoming existing barriers to vaccination and increase access to vaccines in Black, Hispanic, Asian, Native American, rural, poor, and public housing communities, as well as other health care deserts.

New York State Public Health Corps: To support New York’s massive effort to vaccinate nearly 20 million New Yorkers and support other public health emergency responses, Governor Cuomo is proposing the launch of the nation’s first public health corps. As part of the effort, up to 1,000 fellows will be recruited to assist with vaccination operations. These fellows will include students in undergraduate and graduate public health programs, nursing schools and medical schools, recent graduates, retired medical professionals, and laypeople who will receive an intensive public health training curriculum developed by Cornell University, Bloomberg Philanthropies, Northwell, and our Department of Health will manage and coordinate the Corps. After the vaccination program is completed, New York will build on this Public Health Corps model by continuing to recruit and train public health professionals to staff State and county health agencies and this Corps will be available and prepared to serve the state in any future crisis.

Free Citizen Public Health Training: To empower and educate New Yorkers to be prepared for the next public health crises, the State will develop a free citizen public health training program with Cornell, offered online, to educate and certify thousands of New Yorkers to be prepared to volunteer to help their communities the next time there is a health emergency.

Fight for Overdue Federal Support to States Fighting COVID-19: New York was blindsided by the virus in early spring. Despite vast agencies tasked with monitoring health threats, and months of warning, the federal government failed to respond to — or even notice — the growing global pandemic. When they finally took notice, the federal government was solely focused on China such that they allowed 3 million travelers from Europe — where the virus was rapidly spreading — to enter New York City-area airports and others. This was an act of gross negligence by the federal government. New York State led the nation in its response. Left to fend for itself by the federal government, New Yorkers bent the curve and, with a science-based approach, re-opened much of the economy while maintaining some of the lowest infection rates in the nation.

However, even as portions of the economy have bounced back, many sectors have seen significant job losses and remain severely impacted, all contributing to New York’s significant fiscal challenges. The State is contending with a \$15 billion budget gap created entirely by the pandemic. For too long, New York has been asked to unfairly subsidize the federal government. As the federal government’s number one donor, New York already leads the nation in sending more money to Washington than it gets back in return. On top of that, Washington has relentlessly abused this state, providing the lowest Medicaid reimbursement rate in the nation, starving infrastructure funding, and curtailing the State and Local Tax (SALT) deduction, which raised New Yorkers’ taxes and starved New York of \$30 billion over three years. After all of this, New York cannot also afford to pay the bill for the federal government’s incompetence. Governor Cuomo will fight to ensure that the federal government takes responsibility and delivers the fair funding New York and other states are owed.

Pass a Comprehensive Adult-Use Cannabis Program: The Governor is proposing the creation of a new Office of Cannabis Management to oversee a new adult-use cannabis program, as well as the State’s existing medical and cannabinoid hemp programs. Additionally, an equitable structure for the adult-use market will be created by offering licensing opportunities and assistance to entrepreneurs in communities of color who have been disproportionately impacted by the war on drugs. Cannabis legalization will create more than 60,000 new jobs, spurring \$3.5 billion in economic activity and generating more than \$300 million in tax revenue when fully implemented.

Enabling Online Sports Betting: The sports gambling market is evolving rapidly. In 2018, the U.S. Supreme Court in *Murphy v. NCAA* overturned a federal law prohibiting most states from authorizing sports wagering. Sports wagering is now legal online in 14 states, including the bordering states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, while it is only legal in New York at four Upstate commercial gaming facilities and Native American gaming facilities. An industry study found that nearly 20 percent of New Jersey’s sports wagering

revenue comes from New York residents, costing the State millions of dollars in lost tax revenue. Under Governor Cuomo’s proposal, the New York State Gaming Commission will issue a request for proposals to select one or more providers to offer mobile sports wagering in New York. This platform must have a partnership with at least one of the existing licensed commercial casinos. The Commission will also require any entity operating mobile wagering apps include safeguards against abuses and addiction.

Create a Rapid Testing Network as a Tool to Help Businesses Reopen: Over the past several months, Governor Cuomo’s New York Forward reopening plan has paved the way for many businesses to resume operations safely through a phased approach and in accordance with public health protocols. While this has unleashed the ingenuity and creativity of New York businesses — such as new outdoor dining spaces and delivery options — it has also created significant financial struggles for these industries.

Facilitating Policing Reforms: The Governor signed the “Say Their Name” reform agenda which repealed 50-a, banned chokeholds, prohibited race-based 911 calls, and codified his 2015 Executive Order that appointed the Attorney General as an independent prosecutor for police involved deaths of unarmed civilians. He also signed legislation creating the Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office within the Attorney General’s Office to investigate complaints of misconduct filed against law enforcement agencies. Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order 203 creating the New York State Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative. This collaborative process requires all local governments and police forces to develop a plan to modernize their policing strategies and strengthen relationships with the communities they serve. Localities are required to engage their community and ratify a plan by April 1, 2021. Failure to complete this process will result in loss of State funding.

Facilitating the Creation of Statewide Childcare Options: To make child care more affordable and equitable for our most vulnerable children and their parents, Governor Cuomo will invest \$40 million to reduce the burden of parent subsidy copays to help approximately 32,000 working families. This will ensure that no New York family pays more than 20 percent of their income above the federal poverty level for a child care subsidy co-pay, with the rest of the cost of care being covered by the subsidy.

Streamlining and Enhancing Work to Address Gender-Based Violence: Ending domestic violence and sexual assault has been at the top of New York’s agenda since Governor Cuomo first took office. Throughout his time as Governor, Governor Cuomo has signed extensive legislation relating to ensuring safety for girls, women, and all survivors of domestic trauma and abuse, including legislation in the FY 2021 budget authorizing law enforcement to remove guns from the scene of a domestic violence incident, and requiring judges to consider the effects of domestic violence while determining distribution of marital property. The Governor also signed the Enough is Enough law in July, 2015 to address sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, and stalking on college campuses.

Providing Rent and Mortgage Relief for Tenants and Small Business Owners: The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented economic dislocation across the United States, and New York is no exception. The financial hardships arising from business closures and resulting unemployment touch on every aspect of life but are perhaps most acutely felt by New Yorkers in danger of losing their homes or businesses because they can no longer afford to pay their mortgage or rent.

The Governor has already signed legislation placing a moratorium on residential evictions until May 1, 2021 for tenants who have endured COVID-related hardship. Taking this effort a step further, Governor Cuomo will codify his Executive Order banning fees for late and missed rent payments during the pandemic and allowing tenants to use their security deposit as immediate payment and repay the deposit over time, keeping those protections in place through May 1. The Governor will also codify his Executive Order to establish a statewide moratorium on commercial evictions until May 1 for commercial tenants who have endured COVID-related hardship.

Eliminating Health Care Premiums for Low-Income New Yorkers: Through New York’s successful health insurance exchange, the New York State of Health, low-income families qualify for the state’s Essential Plan for free or with a maximum premium of \$20 a month per person. However, families and individuals still struggle with the expense. To make coverage more affordable for low-income New Yorkers, Governor Cuomo will eliminate these monthly premiums for over 400,000 New Yorkers, saving families nearly \$100 million per year in premiums and enrolling 100,000 New Yorkers who are currently uninsured.

Continuing New York’s Liberty Defense Project: This year, Governor Cuomo will continue to support the Liberty Defense Project to keep fighting for immigrants seeking a better life for themselves and their families. New York’s strength, character, and pride are found in the diversity and rich culture that makes us the Empire State. We will continue to support and defend all who call New York home. Strengthening and Expanding Access to Elections: Building from New York’s previous landmark election reforms, Governor Cuomo has put forth a transformational proposal that continues to expand access to voting and improves procedures to speed up vote counting, and add additional time for early voting.

Creatively Repurposing Underutilized Commercial Space for Additional Housing: As the COVID-19 pandemic has unfolded, New York, like states across the country, has seen an increase in telework and a reduction in travel. New York City must, and will, remain a global commercial hub, by ensuring that its central business district remains the paramount location for the world’s most innovative and successful businesses and their employees. Reduced demand for office and hotel space has created an opportunity to repurpose formerly commercial space that has far greater potential for use as housing, including affordable and supportive housing, to create dynamic, 24/7 walk-to-work neighborhoods. Governor Cuomo will propose legislation to create a five-year period during which property owners may convert office buildings and hotels in New York City to residential use. Stimulating housing conversion will create thousands of good-paying jobs, increase housing affordability, and support long-term economic growth by helping New York’s employers attract and retain talent.

Ensuring Safe Shelters and Providing Sustained Care for Homeless on the Street: Governor Cuomo has been a leader in protecting and serving homeless New Yorkers throughout his entire career, and he took action during the COVID-19 crisis to ensure they received the support and care they need. In September, Governor Cuomo directed the Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance to issue guidance to all social services districts across the state clearly laying out the requirements for providing safe shelter conditions amidst the global COVID-19 public health emergency. OTDA will ensure strict compliance with the guidance and directive through a combination of announced and unannounced visits to the shelters. Localities that do not maintain safe and secure facilities will be held accountable.

The demand at local food pantries will grow as 2021 begins. Already, supplies run out before the end of the lines. So, instead of collecting for winter street lights & festival this year, we decided to donate to four local food pantries. Join us! Any amount is welcome! We are glad to still be here and for our own daily bread. Donate today! ❤️



Food Fund

- ❤️ St. Teresa's Food Pantry, led by Norberto Saldana
- ❤️ St. Raphael's Food Pantry, led by Richard O'Connor
- ❤️ Mosaic Covenant Church Pantry led by Sofia Moncayo
- ❤️ Sunnyside Community Services' two pop-up pantries, on 39th St. and Woodside Houses.
SCS receives no \$ for food pantries. Support so far is from their own staffers and board.

Donate on line at: tinyurl.com/yaf2yg93 This link will be posted on Sunnyside-Chamber.org homepage. Or, checks should be drafted to "Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce" with a notation for "Food Fund," and mailed to Sunnyside Chamber, P.O. Box 4129, Sunnyside, NY 11104.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP: Join the Food Fund committee. Contact Howard Brickman, team leader, at HLBrick@aol.com, Manny Gomez at 718-909-4806, Melissa Orlando at info@accessqueens.com, Oumaya Saab at SunnysideArtists@gmail.com, Mike Vaz at mikejvaz@hotmail.com, Pat Dorfman at pdpictures@earthlink.net. To be a major sponsor on this poster, contact any of the above.

