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## MURAL PROJECT ANNOUNCES SARAH HUGHES AS HONORARY CHAIR

Mayor Jean Celender is pleased to announce that 2002 Olympic champion Sarah Hughes, a Great Neck resident, will serve as Honorary Chairperson of the Great Neck Plaza Public Art Program. Great Neck Plaza's project to transform plain walls into museum quality Trompe L'oeil paintings is in the final fund-raising drive to complete its first mural, entitled *A Handful of Keys*, which will be installed on the façade of the corner building at Middle Neck Road and Maple Drive near Daruma Restaurant. "This mural design features six life-size, full figure portraits of Great Neck children, and one of them will be none other than our figure skating champion, Sarah Hughes, as a young child, around age four." According to Mayor Celender, "Since learning of this program, Sarah Hughes was enthusiastic to support it and when we looked to include local Great Neck children to tell the story of Great Neck, what better way than to include Sarah as a young child." Sarah Hughes truly supports and loves the community of Great Neck and always proudly announces her hometown in interviews. Now a local icon as an Olympic figure skating Gold Medalist in 2002, Sarah Hughes attended Great Neck public schools and first learned to ice skate at Great Neck Park District's Parkwood Rink.

The mural artist, William Cochran, has collected a hundred antique keys from around the world and chose a handful for one of the children in the mural to hold as a symbol of opportunity and discovery. A hundred antique keys will be mounted on ceremonial certificates and given to major donors, each key signifying a \$1,000 gift, to commemorate their vision and generosity. Funds raised over the amount needed to complete this first mural will be allocated to the public art program to continue the series. Major donors will also be listed on a bronze plaque to be installed at the mural site. Once this first mural is funded, the plaque for it will be closed, and it will be a permanent record to highlight the early visionaries of this important community project. All donations to *A Handful of Keys* will be accepted by the Village of Great Neck Plaza, held in a segregated capital fund, and are 100% tax deductible. The Village urges residents and businesses to join our growing list of donors, including: Frank Lalazarian, Tower Ford, Lynda and Patrick Silberstein, Jean Celender and Jeffrey

Schwartz, Jeffrey, Cheryl and Steve Feiner, Steve Wimpfheimer, Myron Vogel, The Tilles Family, The Andrew Hotel, North Shore Sephardic Synagogue, Hy Carlinsky, Poultry Mart, David and Marilyn Kohn, Kestenbaum & Marks, Jeffrey & Diana Phillips, United Capital Corp., Westerman, Ball, Ederer, Miller & Sharfstein, Golden First Mortgage Corp., J.Z. Cutter Management Corp., Gould Investors/Majestic Property Affiliates, Judi & Jay Bosworth, Mojo Stumer Associates Architects, Daruma Restaurant, Belfer Management, Neil & Sandra Feldstein, Great Neck Properties, Sterling National Bank, HSBC Bank, Lee Seaman, Neil and Louise Slater, FedEx Store, Gail Grove, Precise/Ceres Abstract, Gibgot, Willenbacher & Co., North Shore Community Arts Council and Raine & Stanley Silverstein.

The longevity and quality of this artwork makes it an incredible opportunity for the community to invest in public art and reap the benefits of the project's cultural, social and economic benefits. Mayor Celender sees this artwork for Great Neck as an unprecedented work of public art. "This mural is Trompe L'oeil painting at a stunning level of quality and detail. I believe no other community in America has anything like it, and will add significantly to the attractiveness and appeal of our downtown." Anyone interested in helping to support *A Handful of Keys*, should contact Mayor Celender at 516-482-4500.



Do you know whom is the young girl with the white ribbon in her hair? *A Handful of Keys*, the first Trompe L'oeil mural in the downtown Great Neck Plaza Public Art Program, will include Sarah Hughes as a young child.

Residents with small children under the age of 7 and under 4 feet 9 inches tall are required to be in a booster seat. A new state law went into effect March 27 requiring booster seats for these passengers up to age 7. Assemblyman Tom DiNapoli announced this new law to Mayor Celender and the Village wants to advise residents of the new regulations. Many parents assume that their children are safe with just a seat belt once they are no longer required to be in child safety seats. However, the National Highway Safety Administration statistics show that these seat belts can be dangerous to the young children since they are designed for adults.

State legislators felt the law needed to be expanded based upon these alarming statistics from the National Highway Safety Administration and that automobile accidents are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 6 and 14. Assemblyman DiNapoli noted that "over 47 percent of fatally injured children ages 4 to 7 are completely unrestrained. Booster seats are a simple and effective measure to keep children safe. The law will also require a notice in all rental car agencies reflecting the changes." For additional information a booster seat brochure is available on our web site at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net).



## Memo from the Mayor

Spring has finally arrived and we hope you are seeing the results of our winter clean up and spring planting program. Our Department of Public Works personnel are beautifying the village by planting seasonal flowers, new shrubs and trees and filling in with vegetation where we have lost greenery due to the long, harsh winter. Soon we will be embarking on our seasonal repainting program of yellow curbs, crosswalks and street light poles that we do typically during the summer months.

It's been a busy spring on our activity schedule as well. We hosted the annual Fun Run/Walk for Winthrop's Cancer Care children's program and the Fourth Bicycle Challenge in the memory of our late Mayor Allan Gussack. We were fortunate to have good weather, enthusiastic participants and both were successful events that showcased the village and highlighted our compact, livable, walkable community. This year's sponsors of the Bicycle Challenge, Sustainable Long Island and Community Housing Innovations are two LI-wide non-profit organizations that promote Smart Growth and building affordable, sustainable communities. We are proud of Great Neck Plaza's designation as a Smart Growth community, long before the term was coined by city planners, as a well-designed mixed-use community where shopping, services and transit are readily available in close proximity to our suburban multi-apartment buildings and tree-lined residential homes. At approximately one-third of a square mile, we are the downtown village that contains an upscale commercial CBD, transportation, and the bulk of multiple residential dwellings that serve the peninsula.

As such, this small village is subject to numerous traffic and safety problems usually associated with busy city centers. The Village's many residents are constantly in contact and exposed to vehicles, and a large number of our pedestrians are senior citizens and women with small children in carriages.

Therefore, a large number of pedestrians are comprised of slower moving and reacting seniors and adults with children in strollers where they need additional time to cross streets. We also note the nature of aggressive driving as we receive complaints from residents who observe excessive speeding, illegal u-turns, vehicles negotiating generally in an unsafe manner and other moving violations.

We are pleased that Great Neck Plaza was recently awarded a \$40,000 Traffic Calming Grant from NYSDOT for the construction of pedestrian safety and traffic improvements on Bond St. between No. Station Plaza and Grace Ave. The program in this location, proximate to a great deal of daily pedestrian movements to the Great Neck train station will help to increase awareness of motorists driving through this segment of roadway, will reduce vehicle speeds and will improve the aesthetics and image of the Bond Street Historic District and ultimately "Restaurant Row" that the village is anxious to brand for this location. So over the summer we will be conducting additional studies and developing design concepts. In the Fall we will schedule a Public Information Meeting to announce proposed solutions and to solicit your comments and inquiries regarding the proposed construction work and traffic calming initiatives.

We welcome your participation and want to build on our success of completing the modern roundabout at Barstow Road and South Station Plaza, the speed awareness devices and APSS signals at mid-block crossings. We are confident that we will design bulb-outs to reduce pedestrian crossing widths, better label such crossings and improve public safety. Look for our upcoming meeting announcements and stay tuned. Enjoy the summer and I hope to see you under the stars at Jon's Park in our Tuesday Summer Concert Series. Come dance with me!

Mayor Jean Celender



Golden First National Bank

If you would like to have a ribbon cutting to celebrate your grand opening, please call the village and ask for Carol Teplin. She will help you to coordinate the event and will announce the news to various service clubs in the Great Neck area. "We're anxious to welcome new businesses to the Plaza and continue to make our downtown a wonderful place to shop, play, walk, live and enrich our lives," says Mayor Jean Celender.



Cutter Mill Mail Room

## Welcome New Businesses To Great Neck Plaza

Mayor Celender and the Board of Trustees are happy to welcome the following businesses who have opened recently in the Plaza. Stop in and greet these newcomers and say "hello." They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community and we wish them great success!

- Tulip, an authentic Turkish Mediterranean restaurant located at 4 Welwyn Road is the newest Mediterranean eatery in the Plaza. Their fish is superb!
- The Amazon Café, located at 5 Bond Street, specializing in heart-healthy wraps and juices as well as soft serve ice cream and desserts.
- The Great Neck Steak House at 33 Middle Neck Road features succulent, juicy, prime cuts of steak, cooked just the way you want it
- Entre Café at 10 Grace Avenue offers a lounge with a wireless internet laptop connection as you relax with your favorite beverage, sandwich or dessert.
- Wearhouse at 99 Middle Neck Road presents all of the most exclusive designers at remarkable prices.
- Mario's Pizza located at 43 Great Neck Road boasts the greatest pizza and pasta in the world! Come and taste test their pies and see for yourself!

## Great Neck Novelist Tova Sadka

Ms. Tova Sadka, an Iraqi Jew, a novelist and former Israeli journalist, has just published her second historical novel, "The Star and Baghdad Scimitar." The book delves into the plight of the Jews of Iraq during the 1940's to the 1970's, their relationship to Arabs and Israel before their final mass exodus to Israel and other parts of the world. Though the story is fictional, it is based on actual historical events, and is inspired by the life of a famous Iraqi Jewish singer whose contribution to the local music has yet to be matched. The story traces the persecution of Jews in Iraq and the virtual end of the most ancient Jewish diaspora dating as far back as 586 B.C.

Ms. Sadka was born and raised in Iraq. She experienced many of the events that form the background of her book. Later she immigrated to Israel where she worked as a newspaper correspondent while her short stories appeared in various magazines. She is a graduate of The School of Journalism in Israel and of Queens College in the USA, and she often lectures about Iraqi Jews in universities, book clubs and synagogues throughout the country. Anyone interested in buying her book can contact her daughter, Madeleine Zember at (516) 933-8882. She is donating a portion of the book's proceeds to a local charity.



Mayor Celender (Right) with author, Tova Sadka (center) and luncheon hostess Suad Khazam at book signing in Great Neck.

## Have you Hugged Your Code Enforcement Officer Today? TRAFFIC TALK WITH SHELLY GOODMAN, PH.D.

You must be saying to yourself hmm, that's a strange title for a traffic article. Furthermore, you might be thinking gee, is it true all psychologists are at least a little crazy? Before you jump to any conclusions let me explain my motivation for writing this piece. First, I would like to state that I am not an employee of the VGNP and I am not remunerated in any tangible or intangible form by the Village or the Great Neck Record for which I also do a column. I will attempt to be as objective as I can. Periodically comments are made about the indiscriminate manner in which the Code Enforcement Officers (CEO's) discharge their duties. I thought one way to try and place this emotionally laden issue in perspective would be to write such an article. To do this column I relied on the following pieces of information: a two-hour discussion with Mr. Joseph Diaz who leads our little group of troopers. He and I spent time with two of our code officers. I then toured the central area of our village ( it is divided into north, central, and south) with one of the officers to try and get a more immediate experience of their duties and I spoke with trustee Mr. Jay Ferkin whose is the administrative link with the code officers.

We live in a community that has in a sense a split personality. How so? VGNP is a relatively small community with big city headaches. Forty-five hundred people live here but many more enter each day to use our fine services that includes restaurants and businesses, an active LIRR station, bus stops, taxi stands, large apartment complexes, assisted living residences, hotels, daily deliveries by trucks large and small, and the list could easily go on. How can a community so steeped in paradox be adequately managed to insure the safety of its citizens and to improve the overall quality of life? On the frontline are our CEO'S. A group of six officers ( one female, five male) who are picked after a vigorous screening process to select those that display the requisite skills that would include a high degree of tact and the ability to communicate and act responsibly.

These unarmed officers are responsible for locating and identifying violations of our village's code. I came to learn that by no means are their duties restricted to the nearly one thousand meters we have; attending to infractions such as double parking, being too close to a hydrant, expired vehicle registrations, etc. but they also serve as coordinators to emergency services (police, ambulance); help make sure storekeepers keep their sidewalks passable during snow storms, see that debris does not build-up on awnings, which bring with it the potential to fall upon a pedestrian; and insure that dogs are kept on leashes and are toileted

properly. I learned that they go out of their way for people and contact "Base" (Village Hall) if they don't know the answer that a puzzled traveler posed, and they may have to testify in court. All of this is done on their eight hour shifts in every type of weather that us rugged New Yorkers have learned to take in stride (some like myself a little less well!).

I guess it is inevitable that some people are going to be distressed at times. What I found was a dedicated cadre of officers who care deeply about our safety and try and discharge their duties in an even-handed manner as is possible. The officer I patrolled with dispatched his activities in a model manner. Certainly, one could argue that I was privy to a top-notch performance. While I cannot refute this conclusively, I can say that I am not completely naive to the ways of human behavior. This officer went out of his way to talk with drivers who easily could have been issued a citation. Instead he "educated" them to the code they were violating and other possibilities for parking that were available to them. He patiently listened to their pleas. What I learned on that day, and in my travels around the village, is that only together can we enhance the quality of life and build a stronger sense of community. The power of even a few dedicated individuals working together can reduce the problems OUR community faces. In a fundamental way the CEO'S are the eyes and ears for Mayor Celender and the trustees.



Tom Accetta, Art Lantieri,, Max Fleming & Chris Backmon (left-right)

### Village of Great Neck Plaza

#### **Village Board of Trustee Meetings**

**Convenes Wednesdays at 8 p.m.**

July 6 & 20

August 3 & 17

September 7 & 21

#### **Village Court Dates**

**Convenes Tuesdays at 7 p.m.**

July 5, 12 & 26

July 19th Trials

August 2, 9 & 23

August 16th Trials

September 6, 12 & 27

September 18th Trials



# Summer nights of music that won't even cost you a song!

ENJOY DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT UNDER THE STARS, IN  
JON'S PARK  
TUESDAY EVENINGS AT 8 PM; THURSDAY IS OUR RAINDATE.  
BRING A CHAIR AND ENJOY THE COOL BREEZE!

## 2005 Concert in the Park Series

DATE	PERFORMANCE	SPONSORED BY:
June 21	Contemporary Music by "Jhade"	United Capital
June 28	Wendy May Reno "Country Music"	Tower Ford
July 5	"Time Was" With Tony Ventiera	Tulip Rest./Independence Bank
July 12	Latin Night with "Afro Dysia"	Community Nat'l. Bank
July 19	Irish Night with "Atlantic Wave"	Richland Management
July 26	Italian Night with "Sound on Sound"	Sterling Glen/DeFranco Spagnolo
Aug. 2	Plaza Theatrical "Show Tunes"	Astoria Fed. Savings/Inn at G.N.
Aug. 9	"Something Special" with Phil Costa	Einsidler Management
Aug. 16	"Caribbean Night" with Denzil Botus	The Atria at Great Neck
Aug. 23	SUNY Purchase Opera Ensemble	Great Neck Taxi & GN Arts Center
Aug. 30	Klezmer Music with JAZKlezmer	Colbeh & Daruma Restaurants
Sept. 6	"Piece of the Rock" With Frankie Falco	Turn Key Realty

### Presented by The Village of Great Neck Plaza

Honorable Jean A. Celender, Mayor  
Regina Gil, Commissioner of Cultural Affairs  
Carol Teplin, Program Coordinator  
Tony Ventiera, Sound Engineer

### IN COOPERATION WITH:

The Great Neck Park District  
The Great Neck Arts Center \*(GNAC)



# RESIDENT TRAFFIC & SAFETY COMMITTEE

A meeting was held by the VGNP Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety Committee that was attended by Mayor Jean Celender, Deputy Mayor Rosen, Trustee Schneiderman and officers from the Nassau County Police Department's Sixth Precinct. Among the topics discussed was the need for the greater enforcement of moving violations in the Plaza especially speeding, illegal U-turn's, and the use of cell phones while driving (our VGNP code enforcement agents cannot write tickets for moving violations - only NCPD personnel can). The committee agreed to ask the Village Board to consider purchasing a new laser radar gun for the Sixth Precinct to help in enforcing speeding regulations in the Plaza (note: this was later adopted by the Board of Trustees at their next meeting). Mayor

Celender announced that the Village has successfully received its 3<sup>rd</sup> Traffic Calming grant from the NYSDOT to follow through on a previous committee suggestion to build "bulb-outs" at the four corners of Bond Street between North Station Plaza and Grace Avenue. When installed, these "bulb-outs" will not only increase pedestrian safety and eliminate some illegal parking, but will also help to beautify our village. The installation of bulb-outs on both sides and ends of Bond Street would serve to slow vehicles entering the roadway from both directions of travel as well as to provide a shorter, more conspicuous and safer crossing distance for pedestrians. The committee also pro-

posed the relocation of the commercial loading zone on Barstow Road at South Station Plaza in order to reduce illegal and dangerous truck double parking on Barstow Road while also increasing resident parking by 2 to 3 spaces. A report was given regarding the village's Resident Handicapped Parking Enforcement program and volunteers for assisting on this enforcement program are asked to please contact Joe Diaz at 482-4500.

The committee is also looking for individuals interested in becoming certified in child safety seat installation. The course is given by Nassau County and is free. If you are interested, please contact Carol Teplin and leave a message for Dan Matzner who is organizing participants for the course.

## Storm Drain Marking Program

Storm drain curb inlet markers have proven to be an effective means of providing a pollution prevention message. Mayor Celender observed these markers on her visit last July to Fort Worth, Texas and inquired how they implemented this program. These markers inform citizens that anything dumped into a curb inlet will pollute a local waterway. The City of Fort Worth began its curb-marking program in 1989 using spray painted stencils. In 1994, their staff designed colorful aluminum plaques to replace the stencils. These plaques are more attractive and eye catching, quicker to install, and more durable than the stenciled messages. More recently, they have added plastic markers produced by das Manufacturing Inc. to their arsenal. Mayor Celender ordered a kit of 250 decals from das Manufacturing and soon will be installing them on the village's storm drains.

The Village DPW will apply the markers but we also have sufficient supply to provide them to interested citizen groups in Great Neck, such as neighborhood associations and scout troops. By increasing public awareness of the consequences of disposing of materials into a storm drain, curb inlet markers are helping us maintain or improve water quality in Great Neck Plaza's storm drain system, which leads to Little Neck Bay.

*The Village of Great Neck Plaza will use these curb markers to get the message out on storm drain management and pollution prevention:*



## Logo Contest for Children

Nassau County Executive, Thomas Suozzi, has also announced that Nassau County is looking for a logo - including a slogan - that will be used on educational materials for its Storm Water Management Program. The 2005 Logo Contest is geared to children ages 5 to 13. The rules, an application form and how to submit an entry are posted on the village's web site at: [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net). Entries must be postmarked by July 30, 2005.



Nassau County has also established a countywide Storm Water Hotline, 571-6863, for residents to report illicit discharges and illegal dumping into drains. Residents that suspect such a discharge can call this County hotline, the Village general number at 482-4500, or fill out an Environmental Complaint Form on our web site at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net), under "Miscellaneous Forms." Finding and correcting any illicit discharge is an important part of the Storm Water Management Program. Please help the Village on this critical environmental program.

On Monday, May 9, 2005 the Great Neck Co-op & Condominium Council ("GNCCC") met to hear Pat Connolly and Patricia Jaquay, talk about Reverse Mortgages and their availability to Co-op and Condominium Unit Owners. The purpose of the meeting was to educate the Board Members on this unique type of lending as Reverse Mortgages are not for everyone and may or may not be advantageous to some Co-op & Condominiums. Some of the main requirements and benefits of a reverse mortgage for the borrower are:

- Designed for borrowers age 62 years or older
- No income qualification
- Virtually no maximum home value or loan limit
- Special six-month introductory rate
- Lifetime interest rate cap is 6% over the initial annual percentage rate
- Proceeds/advances are not taxable
- No prepayment penalty

- Loan is non-recourse

No repayment until borrower permanently moves out of the home or passes away.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2005 at 7:00 PM in Jon's Park (formerly known as Grace Avenue Park). There will be no guest speaker. Instead we will be holding our 4<sup>th</sup> annual picnic. This will serve as a great opportunity for all of the Co-op and Condominium Board members who attend our meetings to get to know each other better and to mingle with board members from other buildings. Should the weather not cooperate (it rained last year) the picnic will be held at the Great Neck Plaza Village Hall located at: 2 Gussack Plaza (one block west of Middle Neck Road). There is a municipal parking lot above and in front of Gussack Plaza for those wishing to avoid getting wet by driving to the picnic.

2005 Membership cards will be checked prior to admission. If you have not yet renewed your membership, please send your check for \$150 made out to "GNCCC", to the

attention of Fern Rogers at 75 South Middle Neck Road-Apt. 4C, Great Neck, NY 11021. Additionally, if you would like to join, please call Fern Rogers for an application. We look forward to seeing you at the picnic. For more information, please contact Stu Hochron, Co-Chair (516) 466-6443/stu@hochron.net (e-mail), Fern Rogers, Co-Chair (516) 487-4113, Marc Schneider, Esq., Legal Advisor (516) 393-5555/marc@mhsplaw.com .



Photo caption: From left to right; Marc Schneider, GNCCC Legal Advisor; Marion Green, GNCCC Executive Board; Enid Howard, GNCCC Executive Board; Gerry Kahn, GNCCC Executive Board; Bob Waring, GNCCC Executive Board; Patricia Clements Jaquay, Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corp; Pat Connolly, Financial Freedom Senior Funding Corp; Stu Hochron, Co-Chair, GNCCC and Fern Rogers, Co-Chair GNCCC.

## Historic Preservation News

During the past 2 months the Village's Historic Preservation Commission has been working with the Village Board to designate the Long Island Rail Road station as a historic landmark.

The station was built in 1924, replacing an earlier station constructed in the late 1800s when the train line was extended to Great Neck, then called Brookdale, and Port Washington.

The new station was built in the popular Dutch Colonial Revival style with an overhanging roof and double sash windows. In 1935 the train tracks were lowered from the street level to their present level in order to avoid accidents. Two wings were added to include a newsstand and a coffee shop in c. 1947 that remain in use today.

The commission has recommended the site for designation. The Village Board will vote on the recommendation at the meeting scheduled for July 20, 2005.



**VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK  
PLAZA**

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**We're on the Web!**  
[www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net)

**Dates to Remember:**

September 11th, "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale"  
September 25th, 20th Annual Street Fair and AutoFest  
October 26, Plaza/Chamber of Commerce/Rotary Blood Drive

## "Why I Like Living in the Plaza" Contest Winners!

After considerable deliberation, the judges have selected three winners in the "Why I Like Living in the Plaza" contest. Some excerpts from the batch of letters follow:

"I really enjoy being able to walk to everything I need to sustain my physical needs, as well as entertaining all my senses." "I love to sit in Jon's Park and partake of the wonderful musical presentations, watch children and families play and seniors relax, all in a safe and nurturing environment." "Great Neck has a history which our town can be very proud of, with enjoyable walking tours to locate and define the design and architecture of the many historical buildings in the Plaza." "My fondest memories of the Plaza are of when I was 8 and my sister Jenny was 5. We would swing on the swings so high we swore we could almost touch the tops of the big trees. Sadly my sister was taken from us at a young age, but now my daughter Jenny swings on the same swing set in front of the same big trees." "We love strolling and biking around the lush, scenic village, my children participate in classes at the Arts Center, we have easy access to a phenomenal library, amazingly delicious restaurants, and gorgeous trendy stores!" "Moving to Great Neck Plaza was the best decision my family ever made. Our chil-

dren could walk to the park, the library, the train and bus station without ever having to be chauffeured. There is a wonderful small town feeling here; store owners, banks and service businesses go out of their way to be helpful. The parks in the Plaza meet the needs of all ages, and after 34 years here, the Senior Center plays an important role in our lives." "From my birth to my teen years I've lived in the same apartment and I've witnessed seasons changing, buildings altered, stores moving; in the Plaza the possibilities are endless. Our excellent schools provide an education that guarantees success if determination is present, and faculty that encourages our dreams to become reality."

After an arduous selection process, the winners are:

1. Ellen Hochberg, 2. Natalie Karp 3. Jennifer Minkowitz.

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who submitted their lovely stories. We enjoyed reading your experiences and we felt the pride you showed in writing them.