

# Plaza Voice

Village of Great Neck Plaza  
March 2009



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen, Trustees  
Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid and Rafe Lieber

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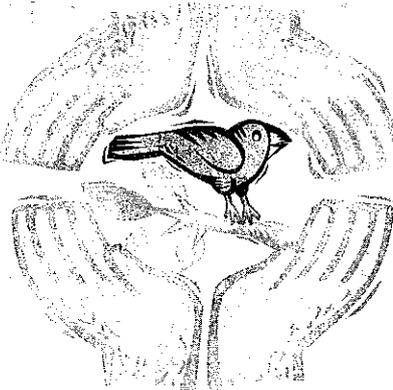
## Great Neck Plaza Hosts Second Annual Holocaust Remembrance Exhibit

You are invited to visit the Second Annual Holocaust Remembrance Exhibit at the Village of Great Neck Plaza Village Hall beginning on Tuesday, March 31. The program will be run in conjunction with the Queensborough Community College Holocaust Resource Center and the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. The exhibits will be on display from March 31 until April 23, 2009 during regular Village business hours from 9 AM to 4:30 PM.

The exhibits will include "Defying the Devil: Christian Clergy Who Saved Jews From the Holocaust," and "Displaced Person's Camps" presented by the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County.

The Village believes that these exhibits are significant, especially in a time when there have been continued instances of hate crimes in our nation. The Village is pleased that organizations have joined

with the Village and are serving as honorary co-sponsors of these exhibits. These organizations have come together with the Village to remember the Holocaust and to demonstrate that all people of good will must speak out together against hatred and bigotry in our modern day society.



## "Poetry in the Plaza", Sponsored by the Village of Great Neck Plaza, Presents A Reading for Poetry Month

Join us to hear celebrated poet and artist Kent Ozarow in a poetry reading of her own work. Since 1981, Kent has been teaching a popular poetry writing workshop in the Adult Program of Great Neck. Her work has been published in journals, including *Paris Review*, *Yankee Magazine*, *Poetry Now*, *Confrontation Magazine* (C.W.

*Post*), and *Shenandoah*. She has served as poetry consultant to the Great Neck library, Poet-in-the-Schools, and as judge for the Walt Whitman Annual Poetry Contest.

Kent's paintings and graphics have been exhibited nationally. Don't miss this special event.

Sunday, April 19th,  
2009, 2 PM

Great Neck Plaza  
Village Hall

Gussack Plaza, Great  
Neck, New York

(516) 482-4500

Free Admission

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### VILLAGE ELECTION NOTICE

Mark your calendar to come out to vote in the Village Elections on Wednesday, March 18 from 9AM to 9PM. Two Trustee positions will be on the ballot for this election. The polling location: Plaza Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza. Parking spaces will be reserved in the surface lot across from Village Hall in designated spots for voters.

## Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

As your local village government, the Village of Great Neck Plaza provides many of the services that maintain the quality of life for our residents. Whether for programs that promote the well being of our elderly adults in our Senior Span Program, cleaning the streets and sidewalks, beautifying the downtown with potted plants and hanging flower baskets, implementing traffic calming initiatives, we are the "little engine" that leads the way.

The good news is that the Village's financial outlook is strong and we are on stable economic footing. While other levels of governments are constrained and looking to cut services in order to bridge budget gaps, we are on target to meet a balanced budget. I, along with our skillful Village Clerk-Treasurer, Patricia O'Byrne, and Board of Trustees, have been conservative fiscal managers, ensuring we project realistic revenues in our budget. These are some of the most difficult economic times we have been faced with in decades. It requires more critical eyes and careful planning to

ensure we do not run into a deficit position. Currently, we are not planning on reducing services. Instead, we are finding ways to utilize our staff more productively, implementing cost-saving measures, partnering with other entities to save expenses, and making technological advances to deliver services more efficiently.

Because we have successfully completed several traffic calming initiatives utilizing federal Local Safe Streets and Traffic Calming grant monies, we were one of a select few Long Island municipalities requested to submit "shovel ready" projects to the New York State Department of Transportation for inclusion in the Obama administration's economic stimulus program. While we have not received notification on which submitted projects will be awarded, we are optimistic that some additional federal funds may be coming our way to help the local economy, create jobs and continue our commitment to improving pedestrian safety and calming our streets. As I learn more, I will provide you with future updates on the stimulus funding for the Plaza.

As our daylight hours are getting longer, so too, your Village future is looking on the upside. We are doing everything in our power to keep Village taxes down (0% increase in the past budgets). We know our residents and merchants are feeling the effects of this downturn in the economy and we are hopeful that through our efforts we can soften the effects and be in a position to rebound even stronger. Tip O'Neill, the late and former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, famously said "All politics are local." We are working block by block, neighborhood by neighborhood, to make sure we are getting it right and that our actions, reflect your needs, are what you expect from your local village government, and maintain and enhance the quality of life we all enjoy in the Plaza.

We look forward to the long awaited spring and the beautiful blossoms that adorn our Village. Happy spring time!

Mayor Jean A. Celender



This regular reporting in our newsletter quarterly on stormwater management is important. So much of what you can't see in our pipes may be an example of discharges that are NOT good for the environment. Because the quality of our surface waters is related to the stormwater and its quality, we want to remind our residents to do their part in preventing pollution from entering our storm drains. We want to encourage practices in and around your homes/apartment buildings that will prevent pollution.

A resident reading a prior article in our newsletter requested that technical terms used in stormwater management should be explained, for example what is an "MS4?" That is an excellent question. The term "MS4" is

an acronym referring to a municipal separate storm water system under federal rules (Title 40 of the Federal Regulations in Part 122.2) and the jurisdiction of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). First, "separate storm sewer system" includes ditches, curbs, gutters, storm sewers, and similar means of collecting or conveying runoff that do not connect with a wastewater collection system or treatment plant. And to be a "municipal separate storm sewer system" (MS4), the system must be owned or operated by a public agency, in this case, the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Under Clean Water Act amendments, EPA developed a program called the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). Under Phase II of this program, small MS4s are required to get a permit for their stormwater management system. In New York State, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) reviews our practices and issues a SPDES permit to the Plaza to operate our small MS4, as required by the federal government.

For suggestions on ways in which our residents can help us improve the quality of our surface waters, and to report any activity suspected of being an illicit discharge into our storm drain system, visit our web site at [www.greatneckplaza.net](http://www.greatneckplaza.net) and the box on the right entitled "Stormwater Management."

# Jeanne Kippel



It is with deep sadness that the Village of Great Neck Plaza reports that our former Housing Commissioner of the Village, Jeanne Kippel, died on February 9, 2009. Jeanne worked for the Village for over twenty-five years and retired in December of 1999. In her capacity as Housing Commissioner she earned the reputation as a compassionate and fierce advocate for rent control, spending untold hours in Mineola and in Albany fighting for tenants' rights. She, along with former mayor Andrew Wurman and late mayor Alan Gussack, helped organize tenant associations in the Plaza to improve housing conditions which became the cornerstone initiatives of these administrations. Ms. Kippel assisted greatly in developing and administering provisions of the Village's Housing Code. Many of these code provisions she helped craft still serve as a model housing code for other LI communities with multiple-family apartment buildings.

In 1984, she was appointed to serve on a tenant committee of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR), to advise on rental housing policies. DHCR is the agency responsible for administering laws regulating rent in New York State. At that time, DHCR had just assumed jurisdiction over rent-control and rent-stabilization laws in NY. She served in a volunteer advisory role to the DHCR throughout her service as the Plaza's Housing Commissioner.

As Nassau Tenant Coalition representative and Housing Commissioner, Ms. Kippel organized tenants and attended protests in Albany to protect rent-stabilized apartment dwellers in the Plaza and Nassau County. Many times rent stabilization was threatened to come to an end, and Jeanne spent many a sleepless night worrying about the Plaza's rent-stabilized residents. A story in *The New York Times* in 1997 after a long battle in Albany, is very telling of our beloved Jeanne Kippel:

"I tossed and turned all night," Kippel said. "I fell asleep for a brief moment only to dream that rent stabilization had gone down the drain. Then at six in the morning, I heard on the radio the agreement had been reached and I felt comfortable enough to sleep for two hours. People were terrified that with no law, they would be forced to leave Nassau County. As for state legislators, we are grateful cooler heads prevailed."

Through Commissioner Kippel's efforts, Great Neck Plaza was the first village in Nassau County to implement Nassau County rent guidelines, to raise the income level for senior citizen rent reductions, along with reductions for all ETPA (Emergency Tenant Protection Act) tenants. Stated Mayor Celender, "Jeanne was so vivacious and a trailblazer in so many ways--always advocating to implement measures in the village that would help 'working people' and seniors stay in their apartments. It is most appropriate at this time that we acknowledge the significant contributions Jeanne made to our Village and the many lives she touched. We were fortunate to have Jeanne's compassion, dedication and her unwavering concern for the Plaza's rent-stabilized tenants. Our community is a better place for the protections she fought hard to ensure would be put in place to assist our apartment dwellers."

Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen, who supervises the Village's Housing Department stated, "As the Plaza's Housing Commissioner for so many years, she was a tireless and determined advocate for tenants in our Village. She was widely respected by tenant's groups and landlords as a knowledgeable authority on landlord/tenant regulations and tenant rights. She was always committed to zealously enforcing, and advocating for, laws and regulations protecting tenants." He went on to further reflect, "At this time, while we mourn with much sadness Jeanne's passing, we celebrate her life, and are thankful for her counsel, advice and friendship. We wish to acknowledge with deep gratitude and appreciation her outstanding service and the very real difference she made in the lives of so many. She came to know a great many of the tenants of our village — many of whom were then, as is true now, senior citizens. Jeanne became the face of the Village government to many of our seniors who needed help in some way, or perhaps just needed a friendly hello. Jeanne was always there for them. To say that she helped many of our residents would be an understatement."

After her retirement, Jeanne moved to New Jersey with her husband Bob. They were married sixty four years and have two grown children. Jeanne was a beloved, highly valued and greatly respected member of the Village staff. She will be sorely missed by the Village and all those who knew her and for whom she advocated. Her funeral arrangements were private. Condolence messages may be sent to her husband at the following address: Bob Kippel, 269 Kathleen Drive, Jackson, NJ 08527.

## E-Newsletter *Receive News and Information via E-mail—Join Mayor Jean's E-Newsletter!*

If you would like to receive news and information from our office pertaining to our Village, including this newsletter by e-mail, fill out the form below and return it to us at Village Hall. Coming soon, you will also be able to go on-line and register on the Village's web site. The submitted information will be used solely by the Mayor's office to keep you current on important matters.

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE \*** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

\* Indicates Optional Information

## Great Neck Record Quiz

By Pamela Marksheid, Village Trustee

The Village of Great Neck Plaza was incorporated in 1930. Since 1976, the Village has designated historic landmarks and districts. The Historic Preservation Commission was later established in 1998 and has already identified 53 historic landmarks in the Village. In 2002, after great effort, the Village was selected as a "Preserve America" community.

The Historic Preservation Commission of the Village of Great Neck Plaza along with the Mayor and the Board of Trustees are beginning a year-long quiz in the Great Neck Record newspaper. We are challenging you to see how well you know Great Neck Plaza. Each month, the newspaper will post either a picture or question for you to identify. All of the sites and answers can be found on our Village's website. See how many you can identify! The correct answers will be printed in the Record within the following month with the new submission. Have fun and learn a little more about your village.

## APARTMENT AND PRIVATE HOME SAFETY CHECK LIST

We'd like you to take a few moments to check your home to see if it is safe. This convenient list will help you spot potential hazards and take steps to see that your home is safe in all emergencies.

1. Are electrical cords frayed or in good condition?
2. Are your outlets overloaded?
3. Do you know how to turn off gas/electricity/water in case of an emergency?
4. Do you have smoke/carbon monoxide detectors on each floor and do you check the batteries regularly?
5. Is an approved fire extinguisher kept on each floor of your home?
6. Do you keep emergency phone numbers near each phone?
7. Are all firearms unloaded and locked safely away?
8. Are floor coverings secure and nonskid?
9. Do you have night lights in the kitchen, bathroom and hallway?
10. Do your windows open easily in an emergency?
11. Do you have flashlights, do you check the batteries?
12. Do you use programmable timers to turn lamps on and off when you are away?
13. Do you keep safety plugs on unused outlets?
14. Do you have an emergency plan in place & a sturdy ladder to enable you to climb out the window in an emergency?
15. Do you have an up-to-date first aid kit available?
16. Is your house number large enough and illuminated so that emergency vehicles can find your home late at night?



## "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," Set for Sun. May 24th

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is unique to Long Island as it has a plethora of apartment buildings with "cliff dwellers" as residents. People who live in these buildings do not have a garage or a driveway that they could use for the "All-American" garage sale. That is the reason for the institution of the "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale" by the village years ago. This service to our

residents allows you to empty your closets and shelves of items in good, usable condition that you don't want or need anymore, and sell them at a community garage sale. It is a way for you to clear out your "stuff" and make some money, and for others to capture your cast-off "treasures". The village contributes the space, the staff and all the newspaper advertising to attract buyers. We have over

50 families who put out their wares in Parking Lot #1 opposite Fredrick's and a steady stream of customers. The cost to register is \$5 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. This low charge will help defray the rising advertising costs. Call the village at 482-4500 to reserve a spot. May 24th from 9 AM-4 PM is the date and time for our Garage Sale; May 25th is our rain date.



# Star Performer Awarded to Eight on February 5th

## "STAR PERFORMER" NOMINATION FORM

If you wish to nominate a "Star Performer" please complete this form and mail it to Carol Teplin, Village of Great Neck Plaza, 2 Gussack Plaza, P.O. Box 440, Great Neck NY 11022. We will invite you and your "Star" to attend the next award presentation.

Name of your nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_

Their employer

\_\_\_\_\_

Four words that best describe the nominee:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

My name & phone number:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

To nominate someone for the Star Performer Award you select someone who works in the Plaza who goes out of their way to make you feel special, and who makes Great Neck Plaza a better place for you to work, shop and live. Just fill out the Nomination Form below. Potential "Star Performers" greet you with a smile, are eager to help, treat you with dignity, respect and patience so that it's a genuine pleasure to do business in the Plaza. Call 482-4500 for more information or to nominate a Star Performer and join us on Thursday, May 7th for a really "feel good" ceremony at 9:30 A.M. at the Village Hall.

Here are the March "Star Performer" recipients and their nominators:  
Fidel Mejia, Superintendent at 30 Barstow Road, nominated by Laura Sard, Barbara and Julio Sirlin.

Edwin Ramirez, Superintendent at Town House Circle, nominated by Ruth Weiss

Aldo Paolantonio of Francesca Pizza, nominated by Nadine Feingold and Christine Wilson.

Suzanne Beltrami of Middle Neck Pharmacy, nominated by Sheila Penn.

Anthony Marchetti of Great Neck Collision, nominated by Jan Liebowitz.

Neal Garfinkel and Steve Alpian, of Alpian Cleaners were nominated by Miriam Mohr.

Ann Tarcher and the Staff of the Great Neck Senior Center, Johanna Essex, Lorraine Kantor and Phoebe Lazarus.



# RESIDENTS ARE REMINDED TO "SHOP IN GREAT NECK"



In this current downturn in the economy, consumer confidence reaching near all-time lows, and our local merchants seeing their businesses "off" in terms

of customers and sales, the previous "Shop in Great Neck" campaign is being revamped by the Village's Business Improvement District. Mayor Celender reports that the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce is also looking to initiate a public relations and public awareness campaign, which similarly will focus on reminding residents about the importance of shopping locally and supporting the merchants in our downtown.

## Why shop in Great Neck at a locally owned business first?

Because far more of the money spent at local businesses is reinvested in the community. This helps other local businesses, which creates greater diversity and helps the community maintain its unique appeal. Shopping local is environmentally friendly, too: it creates less traffic and pollution. Not only does shopping locally aid reinvestment in the community, it helps maintain low office vacancy rates and strong housing values in Great Neck's residential neighborhoods. The benefits to our residential property stability and values are immeasurable! A vibrant downtown is the backbone of our community, and conversely a downtown filled with empty stores will only continue to take customers out of the area furthering its demise. Stated Mayor Celender, "These PR initiatives will

promote greater public awareness of the importance of our residents' shopping locally to support their own community and help businesses in these tough economic times."

Another important factor to maintain a healthy downtown is to keep it attractive and clean. The Village's DPW staff does a tremendous job in maintaining cleanliness and promoting beautification. The DPW sweeps the streets and vacuums our sidewalks regularly, but we also need shoppers using trash receptacles and business owners cleaning up sidewalks in front of their premises. The Village is planning to have an Earth Day Clean Up day in the spring with the Great Neck South High School's Key Club to educate the public, and believes it is important to make a connection that this is the change we want to see. A beautiful and clean downtown provides a proper environment to promote business.

# PLAZA CO-SPONSORS "GREAT NECK READS - 2009"

The Village of Great Neck Plaza is pleased to be a co-sponsor, joining other local organizations, of a new spring reading program called "Great Neck Reads" which is being launched by the Great Neck Library.

Since 1998, community-wide reading events have been held all over the country. The idea is to inspire as many people as possible to read and discuss the same book, in order to foster community spirit and bring people in the community together to talk to others with whom they might not otherwise ever have contact. Community-wide events like these, along with similar corporate efforts by Oprah Winfrey and Starbucks, have been credited with sustaining and even increasing adult recreational reading.

The Great Neck Library program is inviting teens in grades 9 to 12 and adults to participate in a community-wide "big read" of *The Double Bind*, by Chris Bohjalian. The book was selected because it includes Great

Neck and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* in its subject matter. It is both well written and a real page-turner, with writing accessible to readers.

Chris Bohjalian, the book's best-selling author, who also wrote the Oprah Book Midwives, will make an appearance at the Great Neck Library in May, as the program's main event. Other activities and events of *Great Neck Reads 2009* will take place from April 19 to May 31.

The Library has resource materials on the *The Double Bind* and multiple copies of the book to be taken out for those that want to read it and participate in this event. The Village also wants to encourage book reading events and discussions amongst our residents. If there's a resident group in your co-op, condo or rental building that wants to organize and have a program for others to join, please contact Mayor Celender at 482-4500. Mayor Jean states that, "this stands to be a fun recreational reading effort and

a great way to make friends and socialize together. After all, isn't that what a great community is all about. We hope you will join us in this Big Read event."

**Sunday, April 19 - 5 to 7 PM** is the Kick-off Event for *Great Neck Reads* with Shirley Romaine reading from *The Double Bind* at the Main Library at 159 Bayview Ave. For information, visit <http://www.greatnecklibrary.org/greatneckreads.php>



VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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**Dates to Remember:**

Wednesday, March 18th, Election Day in Great Neck Plaza. Voting in Village Hall, 9 AM to 9 PM

Second Annual Holocaust Remembrance Exhibit, Village of Great Neck Plaza Village Hall, Tuesday, March 31– April 23

Sunday, April 19, "Poetry in the Plaza" at 2 PM, with readings by celebrated poet and artist Kent Ozarow

Sunday, April 19 – 5 to 7 PM Kick-off Event for *Great Neck Reads 2009* at the Main Library at 159 Bayview Avenue

Thursday, May 7th at 9:30 AM, Star Performer Award Ceremony at Great Neck Plaza—Village Hall

**Every Vote Counts...  
Don't Forget to  
Vote!**

Are you ready to cast your ballot on Wednesday, not Tuesday, March 18th? Remember, every vote is a vote of confidence for the candidate you elect. On Wednesday March 18, from 9 AM - 9 PM at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, the following elected offices will be decided in our Village election:

- Two Trustees for two-year terms

Residents that will be away, are homebound or ill, may request an absentee ballot for the March 18th election. Contact Patricia O'Byrne, Clerk-Treasurer at 482-4500. Although it is too late to register for the upcoming election, you can always register now for the next election. Voter Registration Forms are available on-line at our website ([www.greatneckplaza.org](http://www.greatneckplaza.org)) and copies are available at Village Hall.

**Plaza Welcomes New Stores To Community**

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses in the Plaza. They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are new storeowner in town, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your opening. Just call Carol Teplin at the Village, 482-4500.

- Topoli Mediterranean Cuisine, 68 Middle Neck Road, 482-5555
- Sunny Nail Spa, 16 Great Neck Road, 829-8898
- Marel Fine Giftware will be moving from their present location to 5 Bond Street



The ribbon cutting for Sunny Nail was held on a very sunny day in February! Sunny, the owner, said that his goal is not only to provide the finest services, but to make certain that the clients needs are taken care of during their visits. They offer a Wedding Party Special, Birthday Party celebrations and also 20% off during the next two weeks. Come visit their state of the art shop, featuring a No Waiting policy and a 10 minute foot massage with every pedicure! They are open 6 days a week from 9:30 AM-9:30 PM and also Sundays from 10 AM to 7:30 PM!