

Plaza Voice

Village of Great Neck Plaza
March 2008



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

Clerk Treasurer Patricia O'Byrne, Editors Carol Teplin & Bev Safian

Senior Span Advisory Committee Meeting

The Village of Great Neck Plaza, in association with the Town of North Hempstead "Project Independence" Program, recently hosted its first Advisory Committee meeting for the community in Village Hall, to form the nucleus of a working group providing services to the Plaza's senior citizens. Project Independence is a model program that has been designed to assist the town's senior citizens age in place. It assists seniors in providing needed services, such as healthcare monitoring and screening, providing social workers, connections to benefits and services, home maintenance assistance like lawn mowing and minor repairs, handymen, snow shoveling, transportation services, counseling, meal preparation and nutrition assistance, as well as social and recreational opportunities. Volunteers from within the community and from the rolls of program participants themselves are a key component of the program.

seniors to continue to remain in their homes, apartments and familiar neighborhoods with a sense of security," said Mayor Celender. "It will improve access to social, health and recreational services while making the transition for our residents into their golden years an enjoyable one." The benefits of this cost effective program will be plentiful; reducing return visits to the hospital and maintaining seniors in their own homes where they feel most comfortable.



Seated are Betty Polack and Ruth Miller, standing, Carol Teplin, Collette Thaw, Rebecca Miller, & Caisy Goldschmidt May Soll and Mayor Jean Celender.

The lessons learned in Project Independence are being utilized to assist the town's incorporated villages in developing similar programs. Great Neck Plaza asked for the town's help in providing these benefits to its seniors, which number close to 2,000 persons aged 65 years or older. Such a unique program will help

We want to inform residents of a Hotline available, called Senior Navigator. The toll-free Hotline is available by calling 1-888-AGEMAP2 (1-888-243-6272). Senior Navigator, operated out of North Shore LIJ, provides support services to seniors on medical and social services issues. For a free brochure and refrigerator magnet to post the Hotline number in a handy spot, please contact Carol Teplin at 482-4500. Senior Navigator is an information, referral and assistance center designed to help seniors and their families with finding and accessing services, whether through north Shore LIJ Health system or outside agencies. A team of professional social workers and trained volunteers are available Mondays through Fridays, from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. to personally answer calls. Callers get assistance with such issues as caregiving, memory loss, home services, insurance, benefits, referrals, support and guidance.

Residents seeking more information or interested in volunteering and assisting the VGNP Senior Span program, such as having a professional skill or giving a lecture on a topic of interest, etc., please contact Carol Teplin, at 516-482-4500.

Inside this issue:

Mayor's Message	2
Stormwater Update	
Ask the Mayor	3
Poetry Sundays	
Diplomats of Mercy	4
Beautification Committee Update	
Resident Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee Update	5
Upcoming Star Performer Award	6
More Garbage Receptacles	
Artist Reception March 5th	7
Trustee Goodman-Traffic Talk	
Dates to Remember	8
Plaza Welcomes New Stores	

The Plaza Historic Preservation Commission

The Commission meets regularly on the first Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. Meetings are open to the public and we would be delighted to welcome you to our next meeting. Would you like to lead historic tours of our village? Do you have an interest in historic preservation? Have you thought about a building in our village to consider for Historic Designation? Come join us and

share your thoughts. Look for our new and improved website for the Historic Preservation Committee coming in the spring. Please contact Beverly Safian, Secretary to the Commission, at 482-4500 for more information.

Pictured from left to right are Marion Green, Vice Chairman John Chinkel, Chairman Frank Gencorelli, Historic

Consultant Nancy Solomon, Long Island Traditions. (Missing is Father John Mulryan).



VILLAGE ELECTION NOTICE

Mark your calendar to come out to vote in the Village Elections on Tuesday March 18 from 9AM to 9PM. The Mayor, three Trustees and Judge will be on the ballot for re-election. The polling location: Plaza Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza. Parking will be reserved in the surface lot across from Village Hall in designated spots for voters.

Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

This winter we have been very fortunate to have had milder weather and less snowfall than is typical for this time of year. Our village staff is actively getting ready to do our annual spring cleaning and planting. We look forward to some new beautification projects that have been in design and production for our terra cotta planters and hanging baskets that will soon be out with beautiful annual flowers during the spring and summer.

We will soon be starting construction of our second traffic calming grant to rehabilitate Great Neck Road. A date for the ground breaking ceremony will be scheduled when we have the contractor on board. We especially want to thank the residents of The Atria at Great Neck for their support and comments during the design process. We are anxious to see this roadway enhancement to assist in improving the quality of life in this area of the Village and to have the residents cross the road more safely to access the Gardens at Great Neck Shopping Center. As I have mentioned to residents and other stakeholders throughout this process, the traffic signal at

the Center will be changed to three-phases, thereby allowing for a separate, pedestrian-only phase where pedestrians will be able to cross without other traffic moving and reduce the potential for vehicle conflicts. The Village has embarked on a series of five transportation grants, which we have worked hard to successfully secure and administer as proactive measures to improve motorist and pedestrian safety, beautification, as well as a catalyst for cultural tourism of the Village.

We are also moving forward in our design of crosswalk bulb-outs for the intersections of Bond Street at North Station Plaza and Grace Avenue, our third traffic calming grant. This Village has been a leader in implementing traffic calming grants and making the Plaza a more walkable, pedestrian-friendly village. These traffic calming grants are implemented to increase public safety and are downtown "smart growth" revitalization initiatives too.

The Board of Trustees and I look for ways to improve the quality of life here in the Village. We ask our residents to get involved with

Village government and if you have time, please volunteer for one of our many resident committees; Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety, Beautification, Historic Preservation, Senior Span, Fitness & Wellness and Environmental Committees. We welcome the opportunity for fresh, new ideas and to work with you on improving village services, beautifying our residential and commercial areas and promoting economic initiatives to help our downtown remain vital, sustainable and thriving. We are always open and accessible to your comments and suggestions. Please drop me a note, e-mail me at: mayorjean@greatneckplaza.net, or call me at Village Hall at 482-4500, if you have concerns or issues that we can assist you with. We are here to help if it is a village matter, or if not, we will refer you and assist in resolving a matter, even if it involves another level of government. We always try to get you the right answer, direction and a resolution to your problem or concern.



Jean Celender, Mayor

Storm Water Management Program Update



Stormwater management is important, because the quality of our surface waters is related to the stormwater and its quality. Therefore, residents are reminded to help us prevent pollution from entering our storm drains, and to encourage practices in and around your homes that will prevent pollution. Here are some suggestions for ways in which our residents can help us improve the quality of our surface waters in the discharge of stormwater under the Village's Stormwater Management Program:

Clean up after your pet. Pet wastes that reach our harbors and bays can cause beach closings and shell fishing bans.

Don't feed the geese and other waterfowl as it encourages them to depart from their natural annual migration and creates a mess on our lawns, athletic fields and golf courses and contributes pollution to our ponds and bays.

Keep litter, leaves, sand and debris out of street gutters and storm drains-- these outlets drain directly to ponds, streams, rivers, and wetlands.

Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and according to directions.

Purchase low-phosphorous household detergents and cleaners to reduce the amount of nutrients discharged into our bays, streams and coastal waters.

Participate in the town's S.T.O.P. Program and dispose of used oil, antifreeze, paints, and other household chemicals properly at one of the Town of North Hempstead's S.T.O.P. facilities, not in storm sewers or drains. Call the Town's Stop Hotline (516) 767- 4600, or "311" for the next Town S.T.O.P. programs.

Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease, and antifreeze. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and bays.

Control soil erosion on your property by planting ground cover and stabilizing erosion-prone areas.

Report illegal discharges to a drain or waterway to our staff at Village Hall at 482-4500 also, see our form on-line at www.greatneckplaza.net or call Nassau County Illicit Discharge Hotline (516) 571-6863.

Residents Ask the Mayor...

This column will include responses to questions frequently asked of the mayor by our residents. **Residents ask, "Does our water supply have fluoridation like other communities, and if not, why not?"** Bob Graziano, Superintendent of the Water Authority of Great Neck North, which provides drinking water for residents living north of the LIRR tracks (and likewise, the same applies to Manhasset-Lakeville Water District for those living south of the tracks), responded as follows:

FLUORIDATION OF COMMUNITY WATER IS NO LONGER NECESSARY

Hailed by the Centers for Disease Control in 1999 as one of the top 10 achievements in public health, the fluoridation of community water is no longer considered a priority or even desirable.

Fluoride was added to water to prevent

tooth decay. However, the 2006 National Academy of Sciences report "Fluoride in Drinking Water: A Scientific Review of EPA Standard" indicated that the predominant advantage from fluoride is from topical application (e.g. toothpaste, fluoride treatments) rather than ingestion.

Other recent studies indicate that health effects associated with low-to-moderate doses of fluoride include dental fluorosis (tooth decay), bone fracture, joint pain, eczema, reduced thyroid activity, bone cancer, IQ deficits, premature puberty and dementia-like effects in animals.

Fluoride has not been added to drinking water on Long Island for the past ten years. Fluoride occurs naturally in water in very small amounts that are usually much lower than the level artificially added in water fluoridation programs. One way to avoid fluoride from the tap is to purchase a

"reverse-osmosis" or "activated alumina" water filter.

The Water Authority continues to monitor all developments regarding water safety and purity to ensure that its customers receive the safest water possible. For further information about the Water Authority of Great Neck North, call Superintendent Bob Graziano at (516) 487-7973, visit their web site at:

www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com, or e-mail at RosenWAGNN@optonline.net.

If you have a question that is on your mind and may be of interest to other residents, e-mail me for a response in a future newsletter at mayorjean@greatneckplaza.net.

Poetry Sundays in Great Neck Plaza

Finishing out the fall "Poetry Sundays" series on December 16th was acclaimed poet, Kate Light, who read poems from several of her published books. Poetry Sundays is presented by the Great Neck Arts Center (GNAC) and hosted by the Village of Great Neck Plaza in Village Hall.

Kate Light is not only a poet but also a violinist with the New York City Opera Orchestra. She had written three volumes of poetry: *Gravity's Dream* (2006 Donald Justice Award), *Open Slowly* (2003 Zoo Press), and *The Laws of Falling Bodies* (1997 Nicholas Roerich Prize). She has also written two concert pieces for narrator and chamber ensemble: *Einstein's Mozart: Two Geniuses* (2006) with music by Mozart, and *Oceanography* (2003) with music by Bruce Adolphe. Kate Light's poetry has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *The Dark Horse*, *Hudson Review*, *Rattapallax*, and many other publications. From her book entitled, *The Laws of Falling Bodies*, the following poem is reprinted with the

author's permission.

Care II

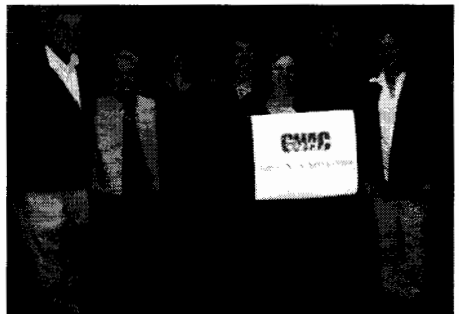
I've sent you a poem; your first glimpse of how, in that other world, I speak. It is a lifeline thrown to you, since things have changed between us.

Though I feel weak wondering how you will be struck by this, I'm strong with the sense of this new thing, this freak version of me; because the poem, "Care," is one that came in a kind of trance - which means I don't know where it came from, or how it moved itself from thought to thought, sequenced without help of logic. All I did was allow it.

Yet it says what I want to say to you: love's a specter which haunts the living back to life. You see, the peak of it is not in the couplet ending, the rhyme, the period; but in the sending.

Carolyn Raphael, Chair of the Poetry Advisory Board and founder of this poetry series, invites you to the next reading date, which will be **Sunday, March 9, 2008 at 2 PM** at Great Neck Plaza

Village Hall. Reading that day will be Poet Jacqueline Jones LaMon. Tickets are \$5, including refreshments. "Poetry Sundays" is a wonderful treat - for poems come alive when you hear them read by the writer of their work. It is a memorable experience that you won't forget. So come escape from the hustle and bustle of today's life and enjoy a truly enlightening experience. Please call the Great Neck Arts Center at (516) 829-2570 for further information.



Deputy Mayor Ted Rosen, GNAC Board member Shirley Romaine, participant, Carolyn Raphael, Chair of the Poetry Advisory Board, Poet Kate Light standing behind the podium, participant and Mayor Jean Celender at the December 16th "Poetry Sundays" reading.

Don't Forget to Vote: Tuesday, March 18
Village of Great Neck Plaza-Village Hall 9Am-9PM

"Diplomats of Mercy" Holocaust Exhibit at the Plaza

The Village of Great Neck Plaza hosted a Holocaust memorial exhibit entitled, "Diplomats of Mercy" by the Harriet and Kenneth Kupfenberg Holocaust Resource Center of Queensborough Community College at the Great Neck Plaza Village Hall. In announcing this exhibit, Ted Rosen, Deputy Mayor of the Plaza stated, "We are most pleased to sponsor this exhibit. In a time when our nation has seen increased instances of hate crimes and a resurgence of racism, it is all the more important that we remember and learn from the lessons of the past."

Rosen added that the exhibit will mark the first time the Queensborough Holocaust Resource Center will exhibit in Great Neck. "This Center is increasingly becoming an important research and educational resource. Since it is located in Bayside, very close to Great Neck, we believe that it is a tremendous resource for the Great Neck community and one about which the Great Neck community has, to date, apparently had little information. We hope with this exhibit that will change."

The exhibit focuses on the actions of several diplomats who saved Jews during the holocaust. In its exhibit brochure the Center describes the exhibit's goal: "... to make known and to acknowledge with gratitude the extraordinary deeds of diplomats representing nations from around the world, such as China, El Salvador, the Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey... the actions of those diplomats stand out as beacons of light in an otherwise dark and grim time... the "Diplomats of Mercy," because of diplomatic immunity and in most cases without the approval of their governments, were able to save thousands of Jews, often against their own best interests."

Great Neck residents and survivors Ivar Segalowitz, Masha Leon and Yala Korwin spoke eloquently about their experiences in the Holocaust. This gave personal meaning to the exhibit and allowed the audience to feel a greater depth of awareness of it's history.

The Beautification Committee Gets Ready For Spring

by Gail Grove, Committee Chairperson



The Beautification Committee has been meeting and working diligently to help ensure that when you walk or drive through the Village of Great Neck Plaza, you will be delighted with the flowering baskets, the newly planted pots and a host of other aesthetically pleasing sites. But we still need your help. If you see any debris in one of our flowering pots, won't you toss it into one of our newly decorated receptacles?

As always, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in becoming a member of our committee, please call Gail Grove at 482-4500; we'd be happy to have you join us.

We look forward to seeing those first blooms of color.

"I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale," Set for Sun. May 18th

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 several 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 often have over 50 families

who put our 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 18th from 9AM-4PM is the date for our Garage Sale; June 1st is our rain-date.

Resident Parking & Pedestrian Safety Committee by Dan Wotman, Chairman

Are you aware of a particular intersection that is dangerous to pedestrians? Do you have difficulty finding a parking spot near your home? Do you have suggestions to fix these problems? We want to hear from you about your suggestions. The Resident Parking and Pedestrian Safety Committee, a volunteer group comprised of Village residents, is actively working on vehicular and pedestrian safety concerns and parking issues.

Our Enforcement Subcommittee has recently identified specific top problem pedestrian safety spots around the Village and prepared and submitted a report through the Mayor to the Nassau County Police Department, 6th Precinct, for targeted enforcement. We have seen an increase in police presence and enforcement at these "hot spot" areas. We will continue to identify other pedestrian safety areas so that additional enforcement can be initiated. The Sixth Precinct has agreed to expand enforcement activities via the use of random assignment of patrol vehicles under a new "Flex Program," which allows the 6th Precinct's Commanding Officer, Inspector Williams, to bring in officers from other precincts to address problem areas. We greatly appreciate the efforts of our local police in stepping up enforcement. It has already had, in a short period of time, a noticeable effect.

The Education Subcommittee and the Mayor has begun an outreach project to our local synagogues and churches to raise awareness of pedestrian safety, within the community; especially while walking to and from houses of worship. The Subcommittee is looking to develop a targeted brochure to assist in educating the public about safety tips regarding crosswalks, pedestrian signals, the Barstow Road roundabout and parking lots.

The Parking Subcommittee is commencing a study of the Village's alternate side of the street parking rules for street cleaning. Difficulties do exist on certain streets around the Village in having to move cars at certain times of day when other parking spots are not available. A comprehensive schedule was devised approximately 10 years ago; however, recent trends in certain cooperatives and increased number of automobiles per dwelling unit have

contributed to some areas experiencing great difficulty adhering to the schedule. The Parking Subcommittee will review areas where there might be improvements to the sweeping schedule, and will make recommendations to the Board of Trustees, whereby a modification may ease the burden on apartment dwellers.

The Committee conducted a "Town Hall" public meeting on January 31, 2008, which was open to the general public for their input and suggestions. Residents from the community that participated at the meeting provided comments regarding problem parking and pedestrian safety areas. The final portion of the meeting was dedicated to a presentation by Mayor Celender on the new traffic calming initiative underway for bulb-outs on Bond Street to address traffic and pedestrian safety. The Bond Street grant is for the design and construction of four crosswalk bulb-outs at the intersections with North Station Plaza and Grace Avenue.

The Mayor presented an aerial view of Bond Street and explained the proposed changes. Bulb-outs narrow the roadway width at an intersection by modifying the curb return providing a physical constraint at an intersection which forces motorists to "slow down" in order to pass through the narrower roadway section, and shortens the distance for pedestrians to cross at the intersection, thereby providing a safety feature for enhanced crossing. The proposed plan would not result in the loss of any on-street metered parking. An alternative solution considered a modified striping plan to provide back-in angled parking, an innovative measure being utilized in downtown parking plans, which results in additional parking spaces. However, it was felt that such an innovative measure would be more time consuming,

requiring additional safety analysis, additional expense to resurface the road, and could be saved for implementation in a future phase when additional outreach could be performed to better inform residents, the business community and other stakeholders in order to gain acceptance of that proposal. Bulb-outs constructed on Bond Street offer several benefits to a neighborhood, including: Visual traffic calming effect and possible point speed reduction; Highlights intersections for motorists; Reduce crossings length for pedestrians; Provide opportunities for landscaping and branding of the street, such as a historic district or "Restaurant Row." There will be no adverse effect on emergency vehicle access.

The Village has been considering the possibility of using Bond Street as a "Restaurant Row" because of the many restaurants located there. It could be closed off to vehicular traffic and made open for "pedestrians only" on one or several nights a week in the summer, with outdoor music and outdoor seating for its restaurants. The Committee will review the proposed design plans and get comments to the Board of Trustees by the end of March so that the village's engineering consultant can begin design plans for construction in the fall.

Members of the public are invited to attend the **Committee's next Public Meeting**, which is scheduled for **Thursday, May 8th at Village Hall at 7:30 PM**. Please come and give us your input and suggestions, and bring your neighbors too.



Star Performer Award Set for March 13, 2008 at 9:30 A.M.

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 and 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, March 13th for a really "feel good" ceremony at 9:30 A.M.

Here is a list of the March "Star Performer" recipients and their nominators:

Susan Crofton of Astoria Federal Savings has been nominated by both Judith Golodner and Sheila Kirschner.

Devon Shuriah of Richland Management was nominated by Ruth Weiss who also nominated Pat Hirsch of the GN Library.

Diana Clark of Waldbaum's was nominated by Goldie Greenberg.

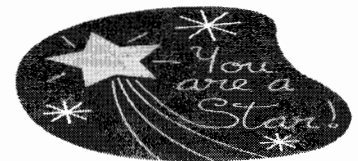
Lynn Kamecky of Starbucks was nominated by Marcia Waldbaum

David Gillespie of Richland Management nominated by Larry DeSimone.

Dr. Eliot Heisler of Elite Dental Spa was nominated by Diane Rein, who also nominated Andrew Allen of Drew Design.

Babak Nabavian of Max Bridges R.E. was nominated by Dr Mary Andrea.

Steven Penn and Pat Shanahan, who both work in the Village Dept. of Public Works for a combined total of 50 years, was nominated by Lorraine Kantor.



"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 _____

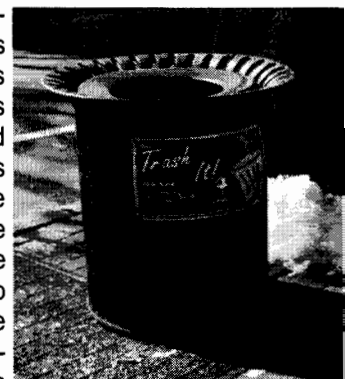
Four words that best describe the nominee:

My name & phone number:

Plaza Has More Garbage Receptacles

In a continuing effort to encourage cleanliness in the downtown, the Village of Great Neck Plaza has partnered with its Business Improvement District (Great Neck Plaza Management Council, Inc.) and the Great Neck Chamber of Commerce to provide additional trash receptacles. Mayor Jean Celender reported that this past fall more than a dozen additional green village-standard trash receptacles were purchased and installed on the downtown sidewalks; with half of the purchase price borne by these two non-profit organizations devoted to promoting business in the downtown. The Village also installed colorful signage designed by the BID on the receptacles with the slogan "Just Trash It," a campaign developed to promote cleanliness in the downtown.

Stated Mayor Celender, "This initiative not only promotes greater public awareness but partners with our business organizations to help us improve the cleanliness of the downtown." The Village DPW staff sweeps the streets and vacuums our sidewalks regularly, but we also need shoppers using the trash receptacles and business owners cleaning up sidewalks in front of their businesses. The Village has organized Clean Up days with the local high school clubs to educate the public, and believes it is important to make a connection that this is the change we want to see. "A more beautiful and clean downtown provides a proper environment to promote business," continued Mayor Celender.



Artist Reception features Artwork of Daniel Weinstein

The Village is proud to display, for the first time in Great Neck, the artwork of Daniel Weinstein. Daniel teaches English at G.N. South High School and finds that English and Art are highly compatible. "My life as an artist and my life as a teacher are interwoven. Both are works of art, one done with a brush and one with a pen, and both are expressions of the artist's innermost feelings."

Daniel has always been fascinated by the work of Jackson Pollock and says he learned the technology of art by reading books, seeing documentaries and studying the artwork of Pollock. "I thought it was fascinating that you

didn't have to be great at drawing to make art," he says. "My work combines color, motion and energy on a technicolor palette."

Some of Daniel's most recent paintings were inspired during his Artist Residency in Barcelona last summer where he studied the art of Joan Miro, the famous Spanish artist who is known worldwide for his black and white art.

The artist reception will be Wednesday evening, **March 5th from 7 P.M. to 8 P.M.** in the Courtroom Gallery of Village Hall. Please join us and welcome this incredible artist in his first showing in Great Neck. Contact Daniel on his website: www.danielweinstein.com.



Mayor Jean Celender admiring Daniel Weinstein's artwork .

The Evolution of Traffic Talk Continues: Kindness Begets Kindness

By Trustee Sheldon M. Goodman, Ph.D.

"Three things in life are crucial. The first is to be kind, The second is to be kind. The third is to be kind" Henry James

" The time is always right to do what is right" Martin Luther King Jr .

My readers may notice the continuing shift from a more technical approach to Traffic and Pedestrian Safety to concerns as to how we can be more civil and kind to one another. I feel even more comfortable in pursuing this path as the Villages's Traffic and Pedestrian Safety Committee has been revived with great skill and ardor by Daniel Wotman and his band of dedicated residents, which I might add has the active support of Mayor Jean Celender and the Trustees.

To gain a foothold into the world of kindness and with it a greater humanization of our community, one has to be industrious. "Work hard at your relationships," say the wise men, "because you will win love, affection, and respect." A delightful gesture, a kind word always goes a long way.

You might be asking yourself "Why is he going on about kindness"? Far from being a luxury item, kindness is essential to our effectiveness as a community. Our society is built on a foundation of relationships, which connect families, individuals, work environments, communities, countries and our global community. In 2008 these sentiments take on an importance that has seldom been matched in recent years. From our encounters with our fellow drivers, village officials code enforcement officers and the shopkeeper around the corner, relationship lies at the heart of our challenges as well as our solutions.



A few years back a nonprofit research group called Public Agenda released the results of a survey of 2,013 people from across the nation about rudeness in America.

The short take? "It's an insulting jungle out there." Americans surveyed said their treatment by customer service employees is frequently "exasperating" and sometimes even

"insulting." If you agree with the findings of these studies (and you may not), Americans are rapidly forgetting a few key phrases of our language such as: "Thank you. You're welcome. Excuse me. I apologize. Sorry. You first. How can I help?" Some have suggested that Americans are just too busy to remember to be polite because they are overloaded at home and work. The flip side reveals that consumers are not angels either. The survey revealed 74% say they often see customers being rude or disrespectful to salespeople or those in the public service domain.

Some ideas to put kindness back in our lives might include: donate to a cause as a holiday gift for a best friend. Offer the gift of affection: be generous with hugs, kisses and pats on the back. The gift of laughter: clip cartoons, share funny stories. Send a 'thank you note, write a letter to an old friend. Give a compliment: a simple 'you look great today', a sincere 'thank you for a wonderful meal'. Try listening, don't interrupt, no daydreaming, no responding, just listen. Finally give the gift of solitude: spend some time in silence, help others spend some time in silence.

Indifference begets indifference. Love begets love. Kindness begets kindness.



VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

2 Gussack Plaza

P.O. Box 440

Great Neck, NY 11022-0440

Phone: (516) 482-4500

FAX: (516) 482-3503

E-mail: info@greatneckplaza.net

PRSR STD

U.S. POSTAGE
PAID

GREAT NECK, NY

PERMIT NO. 286



Dates to Remember:

Sunday, March 9, "Poetry Sunday" at 2 PM, with readings by poet Jacqueline Jones La Mon

Tuesday, March 18th, Election Day. Voting in Village Hall, 9 AM to 9 PM

Sunday, May 18, "I Don't Have A Garage, Garage Sale."

SAVE THE DATE: 24th Annual AutoFest, Clothesline Art Show & Street Fair, Sunday, September 21, Noon—5 P.M.

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

Are you ready to cast your ballot on March 18th? Remember, every vote is a vote of confidence for the candidate you elect. On Tuesday, March 18 from 9 AM- 9 PM at Village Hall, 2 Gussack Plaza, the following elected offices will be decided in our Village election:

- Mayor for two year term
- Two Trustees for two year terms
- One Trustee for a one year term
- Judge for a four year term

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 November Presidential elections. Voter Registration Forms are available on-line at our website (www.greatneckplaza.org) and copies are available at Village Hall.

Plaza Welcomes New Stores To Community

Maddy B's, Great Neck Plaza's newest children's clothing store, opened with a Ribbon Cutting at 25 Cutter Mill Road. Maddy fashionably dresses your boys and girls with style; from newborn through size 8! This store specializes in wonderful made to order styles for the younger set.



Pretty Mommy, maternity clothes with a flair; hi-style @ 29 Middle Neck Road

Cam Body Work, a wonderful spa located at 19 Middle Neck Road

Seasons Grill, 26 Great Neck Road, fresh and exciting new restaurant

FedEx Mail Room, moved from Fredericks to 8 Bond Street, for all your mailing needs

Shop Delight, Glatt Kosher Supermarket, 4 Welwyn Road. This long awaited supermarket features fast and free delivery on phone and internet orders and boasts an extensive line of exotic and local farm fresh produce, gift baskets, party platters and catering, imported domestic cheeses, fresh meat, fish and sushi daily, freshly baked breads, pastries, and deliciously decadent desserts and confections.



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.

