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By SANDRA E. GARCIA  JULY 13, 2015

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An exhibition now on view of letters and other documents from the archives of CUNY's Dominican Studies Institute and the General Archives of the Indies in Seville, Spain, provides a window onto the lives of the often ignored black Africans of La Española, the island of Hispaniola.

In the exhibition, “16th-Century La Española: Glimpses of the First Blacks in the Early Colonial Americas,” 25 panels display photos of an original letter or record, along with an English translation, that explain or question situations involving formerly enslaved Africans on the island.

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In a letter from the Seville archives, an archbishop in Santo Domingo responded to a letter he had received from King Carlos II of Spain. The
archbishop described a hut or shack where a black woman “took in the sick people and attempted to heal them or cure them,” Mr. Stevens-Acevedo said.

The woman was described as pious and poor, and the archbishop wrote that before she opened her hut there were no hospitals in Santo Domingo. Later, where her hut had stood, the San Nicolas of Bari Hospital was erected. The hospital, a two-story structure, was impressive at the time, Mr. Stevens-Acevedo said.

Another artifact, a page from a judiciary record filed by a prosecutor in 1694, documents colonists who were selling commodities smuggled into what is now the Dominican Republic.

One of those “commodities” was a black man, Sebastian, described as “Ladino,” which meant he was “knowledgeable of the Spanish culture,” Mr. Stevens-Acevedo said. He had been working as a sailor on a Portuguese ship that was seized by pirates, and he was considered property.

Sebastian testified that he should not be enslaved, that he was a free man in Africa. He claimed to be the son of a king in Guinea.

Other accounts are requests from people who described themselves as having black skin for licenses to travel from Spain to the Dominican Republic “to attend to their parents and their hacienda,” said Lissette Acosta Corniel, a postdoctoral fellow who worked on the exhibition. Some of the requests were approved, and many freed black Africans were allowed to return to Hispaniola.

Ms. Corniel said she hoped the exhibition “nurturesthe consideration that above all Dominicans have a common history of blackness.”

That theme has been underlined recently by the controversy over a 2014 immigration law in the Dominican Republic that has left many Dominicans of Haitian descent in limbo and stateless.
“Both nations share a common history for liberation and struggle for social justice,” Ms. Corniel said. “The realization of this is going to take generations to come.”

A version of this article appears in print on July 14, 2015, on page A18 of the New York edition with the headline: Telling Stories of First Blacks to Live in Dominican Republic.
Staten Islander named to CUNY board of trustees

O'Donnell-Tormey

Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, CEO and director of scientific affairs at the Cancer Research Institute, in her Manhattan office in 2013. She has been appointed to the CUNY Board of Trustees. (Staten Island Advance/Steve Zaffarano)

Rachel Shapiro | rshapiro@siadvance.com By Rachel Shapiro | rshapiro@siadvance.com

Email the author | Follow on Twitter
on July 13, 2015 at 4:37 PM

STATEN ISLAND, N.Y. -- A Staten Island medical administrator has been named to the board of trustees for the City University of New York, filling a seat that has been vacant since 2013.

Jill O'Donnell-Tormey, Ph.D., is CEO and director of scientific affairs at the Cancer Research Institute and a member of the boards of Richmond University Medical Center and the Staten Island Foundation. She has extensive experience in program development and administration and was confirmed to the board at the end of the Senate session in June.

"It is an honor and privilege to be selected to serve on the CUNY board," O'Donnell-Tormey, who lives on Grymes Hill, said. "I look forward to representing Staten Island and contributing to the university's rich history of delivering outstanding educational and research opportunities to its students throughout New York City."

Kathleen Pesile, a financial adviser and finance and business professor at the College of Staten Island, held the position from 1998 through December 2013.

At the end of her term, Gov. Andrew Cuomo appointed former Borough President James Molinaro, but the state Senate didn't confirm him, despite a push from the Island's two state senators after comments about Lady Gaga and teen mothers.

Without Molinaro's confirmation, the seat remained vacant until O'Donnell-Tormey was confirmed.

CUNY Chancellor James B. Milliken said, "Dr. Jill O'Donnell-Tormey is an outstanding addition to the CUNY board of trustees. Her professional, academic and civic accomplishments are well known in New York. We are indeed fortunate that Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo appointed and the New York State Senate confirmed someone of her stature from the great borough of Staten Island for membership on the governing board of the leading public urban university in the nation."
New president appointed to BCC
By Steven Goodstein
Bronx Times

One of the borough’s community colleges has a new president with an impressive resume.

On Monday, June 29, the Board of Trustees of the City University of New York appointed Dr. Thomas Isekenegbe as president of Bronx Community College.

Isekenegbe, who has an outstanding administrative, teaching and leadership record that spans nearly 30 years at both two-year and four-year institutions of higher education, was appointed to the position after serving as the president of Cumberland County College, a community college in Vineland, NJ, for the past six years.

Isekenegbe’s appointment as president filled the empty slot left by former president Carole Berotte Joseph, who resigned in September 2014 after holding the position for three years.

Following a national search by the search committee, which included trustees, a CUNY college president, faculty, students and alumni representatives, CUNY Chancellor James Milliken recommended Isekenegbe’s appointment to the Board of Trustees.

The nomination was approved unanimously.

BCC’s newly appointed president earned a bachelor’s degree in biology with honors from the University of Nigeria, Nsukka, and a masters in science education as well as an Ed.S. and a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction from Indiana State University.

As president of Cumberland County College, Isekenegbe developed and implemented a community-based planning effort that resulted in a strategic plan with three dimensions: student engagement and completion, leadership and service learning and economic and workforce development - a plan that lead to successful reaccreditation of the college by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

In 2014, the college was named to the White House Honor Roll for Service and Civic Engagement.

Under the leadership of Isekenegbe, the college also revised and enhanced its ‘Pathways to Leadership’ program, which focuses on professional and personal development for faculty and staff and strengthened its ‘Leadership Cumberland County’, a citizen leadership program for civic, business and professional leaders in the county.

Isekenegbe now looks forward to taking the next step in his career at BCC.

“President Isekenegbe has an exemplary record of leadership and accomplishments at Cumberland County College,” said Milliken. “Throughout a distinguished career that encompasses administration, teaching, scholarship and community service, he is deeply committed to student success and has implemented effective strategies to enhance student achievement. We are confident that he will provide the same inspired leadership for Bronx Community College.”

“I am extremely honored and humbled by this appointment,” said Isekenegbe. “I am looking forward to working with the Chancellor, faculty, staff, students, alumni and the Bronx community to make Bronx Community College among the best community colleges in the nation.”

Reach Reporter Steven Goodstein at (718) 742-3384. E-mail him at sgoodstein@cnglocal.com.
That Pluto Probe Just Might Save the Earth

It will give us new insights into planet-threatening comets, so humans won’t go the way of the dinosaurs.

By MICHIO KAKU
July 13, 2015 6:36 p.m. ET

Imagine shooting a rifle at a target 130 miles away and scoring a bull’s-eye. That is the remarkable achievement of NASA’s historic New Horizons mission to Pluto, the last major celestial body in the outer reaches of the solar system to be visited by NASA space probes. One chapter in the exploration of space is now ending.

A miracle of modern technology, the New Horizons probe will buzz by Pluto on July 14 at 30,800 miles an hour from a distance of 7,800 miles. Launched in 2006 and costing $723 million, it has traveled a staggering 3 billion miles in nine years. Pluto is so distant that a radio signal takes about nine hours to get there and back. From Pluto the sun appears to
be a minor star, lost in the Milky Way.

The New Horizons spacecraft weighs 1,052 pounds, is about the size of a piano, and is crammed with scientific instruments that will give us the closest look at the surface and atmosphere of this distant object and answer a host of astronomical mysteries. New Horizons will send back historic pictures of Pluto and photograph Charon, the largest moon of Pluto, and four other moons discovered recently.

Pluto is fascinating because it is a space oddity that seems to break all the rules. It is the black sheep of the solar system. When discovered in 1930, Pluto caused a media sensation as the first planet to be discovered in the 20th century. The sensation was so great that Walt Disney apparently decided to name a cartoon dog after it.

But the more astronomers studied the planet, the smaller and stranger it seemed. Pluto is so small that it only has one-sixth the mass of our moon. Its orbit is so elliptical that it travels inside the orbit of Neptune during part of its year.

For decades, Pluto gave astronomers headaches because it didn’t fit the tidy categories of astronomical bodies. This maverick was much too far from the sun to be considered part of the inner Rocky Planet belt (which contains Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars). Farther out, compared with the Gas Giants (Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune) Pluto is a mere speck. It actually has more in common with the outer Kuiper belt of comets, since they are small, beyond Neptune, and mainly made of ice and rock.

The last straw came in 2005, when an object slightly larger than Pluto (subsequently called Eris) was discovered beyond the orbit of Pluto, raising the possibility of scores of distant icy Pluto-size objects. This sparked an identity crisis that split the astronomical community and even sparked public debate. In a vote of the International Astronomical Union, Pluto was unceremoniously demoted from a planet and became a Kuiper-belt object, formally called a “dwarf planet.”

Even today, some rogue astronomers cling to the idea that Pluto is really the ninth planet. Alan Stern, leader of the New Horizons mission, believes that Pluto is really a planet.

But anything so distant and alien may cause many readers to ask: So what? Of what possible use could Pluto have for us? Is this the best way to spend tax dollars?

The answer is that Pluto could give us a wealth of information about the origin of the solar system. It is like a time capsule, a frozen remnant of our early solar system
preserved for more than a billion years. For example, astronomers once believed that Pluto was a moon of Neptune that somehow escaped its gravity. A newer theory proposes that the Gas Giants can migrate in their orbits, once considered a heretical idea, and that the expansion of the orbit of Neptune pushed Kuiper-belt objects like Pluto into their present orbits.

Pluto is also important because the Kuiper belt is still poorly understood but may hold a key to ensuring the safety of Earth. Most of the time, comets in the Kuiper-belt orbit safely around the sun. But occasionally something nudges them from their orbit, and they come tumbling toward the inner solar system. If one of them struck our planet, it would be a catastrophe unequalled in human history. One theory holds that a renegade Kuiper-belt object about 6 miles wide slammed into Mexico 65 million years ago, so altering the planet that dinosaurs became extinct. Unfortunately, the dinosaurs didn't have a space program.

The information gleaned from the New Horizons mission to Pluto is thus essential: It will give us a better understanding of the solar system's origin and the nature of Kuiper-belt objects, and it will give us new insights into comets that might one day hit the Earth.

Mr. Kaku is a professor of theoretical physics at the City College of New York and the author of "The Future of the Mind: The Scientific Quest to Understand, Enhance, and Empower the Mind" (Doubleday, 2014).
Roy C. Bennett Dies at 96; Writer of Popular Songs

By BRUCE WEBER  JULY 13, 2015

Roy C. Bennett, who with his partner, Sid Tepper, wrote songs that were recorded by a wide roster of midcentury pop singers, including the titles "Red Roses for a Blue Lady," "Kiss of Fire" and "The Naughty Lady of Shady Lane," died on July 2 in Queens. He was 96.

His son Neil confirmed the death, saying, when asked for the cause, that his father "just ran out of steam."

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Tepper, who died in April, were friends and neighbors as children in Brooklyn before they became professional collaborators after World War II. They collaborated on both the words and the music for their songs, though Mr. Bennett, a self-taught pianist, was the sole musician of the two.

Working for much of their careers out of the Brill Building, a crowded nest of songwriting talent in Midtown Manhattan, they turned out catchy melodies and lyrics of easygoing cleverness.

"Red Roses for a Blue Lady," which was written in the late 1940s and inspired by a fight Mr. Tepper had with his new wife, was their first hit and probably their biggest one, recorded by Vaughn Monroe and his orchestra
and covered in decades following by a dozen or more well-known singers including Dean Martin, Wayne Newton, Pat Boone and Bobby Darin, as well as by The Count Basie Orchestra.

“Kiss of Fire,” a tune the two men adapted (under the pseudonyms Robert Allen and Lester Hill) from an Argentine tango in 1952 with lyrics about irresistible desire — “Give me your lips, the lips you only let me borrow/Love me tonight and let the devil take tomorrow” — was recorded by Louis Armstrong and Billy Eckstine, among others, including Connie Francis, who sang it in Spanish.

And “Naughty Lady,” a tongue-in-cheek portrait of a misbehaving young lady (who turns out to be a 9-day-old infant) has had an especially extended life, recorded in the 1950s by the Ames Brothers, among others, and in 2007 by the Roches on their album “Moonswept.” It was also recently heard on the television show “Dancing With the Stars.”

Mr. Bennett and Mr. Tepper wrote numerous songs for Elvis Presley’s films, including the title song of “G.I. Blues,” “Stay Away” from “Stay Away, Joe,” “Puppet on a String” from “Girl Happy” and “The Lady Loves Me” from “Viva Las Vegas.” In his 2010 memoir, Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones cited “Travelin’ Light,” a country song by Mr. Bennett and Mr. Tepper that was recorded by Cliff Richard, as a song he listened to as a teenager.

Mr. Bennett changed his name as an adult, picking its parts from the phone book. (The C doesn’t stand for anything, his son said: “He just liked the way it sounded.”) He was born Israel Brodsky, in Brooklyn, on Aug. 12, 1918. His parents, Jewish immigrants — he from Ukraine, she from Lithuania — who were not formally educated, earned money sewing.

Izzy, as he was known as a boy, graduated from Thomas Jefferson High School in Brooklyn and attended City College, though he dropped out before graduating. (He returned much later, earning a bachelor’s degree in his 40s as an example to his children.)
He served in the Army in intelligence services and as an entertainer in special services during World War II.

Mr. Bennett married Ruth Stone in 1948. She survives him, as do his twin sons, Neil and Keith, whose birth inspired the Bennett-Tepper song “Twenty Tiny Fingers,” which became a hit in Britain in 1955 for a group called the Stargazers.

Mr. Bennett’s other survivors include three grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. A daughter, Claire Bennett Morigiello, died in 1994.

Reprinted from Monday’s early editions.

A version of this article appears in print on July 14, 2015, on page B7 of the New York edition with the headline: Roy C. Bennett Dies at 96; Writer of Popular Songs.
Landmark reform of police prosecutions too late in case of mentally ill man's death

BY NOLAN HICKS / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Monday, July 13, 2015, 9:51 PM

Blanca Sierra Reyes longs to know why her son is dead.

Reyes last saw her mentally ill son Denis alive at her Bronx apartment May 14, when she called police because he was getting violent.

The cops came — and by the time paramedics wheeled him out, his face was pale and his lips were purple, she said.

A short time later, he was pronounced dead. The grieving mom said the only investigation she's aware of into why her 40-year-old son died was conducted by the NYPD — the agency that may be responsible for the death.

The family said they still have
Denis Reyes was pronounced dead a short time after cops arrived to subdue him at his Bronx home.

— Denis Reyes is one of the scores of lesser-noticed police-involved fatalities. Until last week, cases like that of Reyes were investigated by local DAs. Now, they are the responsibility of state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office, a reform long sought by criminal justice advocates.

"The families of victims will have an opportunity to at least expect that there will be justice," said Delores Jones-Brown, a professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, who believes the change will help restore confidence in the justice system.

The reform came too late for the Reyes family, although both the Bronx DA's office and the NYPD said the case remains under investigation. A spokeswoman for the DA added that the office will be "talking with the family in due course."
paramedics to take her schizophrenic and bipolar son to the hospital but instead eight cops arrived to subdue him and he died as a result.

According to his mother and brother — who were in the E. 194th St. apartment — Reyes’ meltdown began as the mom fixed dinner.

Reyes, who had a history of bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, threw a pot of beans on the floor, knocked around furniture and attempted to turn the couch over. His mother called 911, and a neighbor flagged down a police car. “She called for them to help her . . . not to kill her son,” said Wilnelia Reyes, 39, who was translating for her mother, 65.

Two officers tried to restrain Denis Reyes, but needed backup. Six more officers came, and the mom was told to leave. The eight cops wrestled Reyes to the couch, said brother Wilfredo Bracero, 45. Pinned, Denis began vomiting and his eyes rolled back, Bracero said.

Police officials have said the officers cuffed Reyes’ wrists and legs because he would not stop kicking. The officials said Reyes went into cardiac arrest as he was taken to the ambulance in a wheelchair.

Officials said determination of the cause of death is pending.

Police sources said Reyes had taken synthetic pot and popped pills before his meltdown, allegations the family — which plans to sue the department — deny. “We just want justice,” his sister Wilnelia said. “We just want the truth.”
State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman’s office will investigate the cop-related deaths instead of the local DA, thanks to a new executive order signed by Gov. Cuomo.

Reyes was one of 16 people who have died in confrontations with on-duty NYPD officers since Garner’s death, the Daily News found. Twelve of the 16 were reportedly armed.

Currently, only one case is being prosecuted — the shooting death of Akai Gurley, 28, in a Brooklyn housing project. Officer Peter Liang, who shot Gurley while patrolling a stairwell, is the only officer involved in the 16 cases on modified duty, said NYPD spokesman Lt. John Grimpel. Grimpel said all 16 cases are still under review.

The officer in the Garner case, Daniel Pantaleo, remains on modified duty.

In total, The News found 188 people have died in confrontations with on-duty NYPD officers since the 1999 shooting death of Amadou Diallo.

Excluding the Gurley case, there have been just three prosecutions and one conviction, which did not lead to time behind bars.

The landmark executive order shifting investigation responsibility to Schneiderman’s office — signed by Gov. Cuomo on Wednesday — is one of the most significant reforms to the state’s justice system since Garner died last July and a Staten Island grand jury declined to indict Pantaleo, the cop who put him in the fatal chokehold.
Schneiderman announced Thursday one of his top lieutenants, Alvin Bragg, a former assistant U.S. attorney, will run the new unit handling these cases.

Local DAs have opposed giving these cases to the AG. Bronx DA Robert Johnson questioned if the AG has the resources to take on a full-fledged homicide probe.

"I'm very fond of (Schneiderman), but I'm not sure how many homicide prosecutors you're going to find on his staff," said Manhattan DA Cyrus Vance Jr.

The Brooklyn and Queens DAs opposed Schneiderman when he requested this power in December. However, Brooklyn DA Kenneth Thompson praised Bragg's selection Thursday.

Nationally, there have been three high-profile deaths that led to indictments of cops: Walter Scott, who was killed by a cop in South Carolina as he fled; Eric Harris, who was shot dead by a reserve deputy in Oklahoma, and Freddie Gray, who was fatally injured while being transported by Baltimore cops.

But those prosecutions are not evidence of widespread change: A Washington Post investigation found that of 385 fatal police shootings examined this year, officers were charged in just three cases.
A Tribute to Linda Nochlin
by Maura Reilly

Linda Nochlin (b. 1931) grew up an only child in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, in a secular, leftist Jewish family where intellectual achievement and artistic appreciation were among the highest goals, along with social justice. Of her youth, Nochlin recalled in a recent email to me:

We lived near Ebbets Field and whenever the Dodgers made a home run all the ornaments on the mantelpiece shook from the wild applause. We little girls did a lot of roller-skating and jump rope. We were a cultured group all right. I took piano lessons from the same person who had taught my mother. Bach was and still is my super favorite. In high school, my friend Paula and I would take the subway up to the Cloisters on Sunday for the medieval music concerts. Ballet lessons in Manhattan on Saturdays and lots of ballet and modern dance recitals—Martha Graham and José Limón—with my mother or friends. My friend Ronny and I went to hear our adored Wanda Landowska play harpsichord from the back row of City Center and then threw roses at her. Also Lewisohn Stadium. Took lots of trips to [the] Brooklyn Museum, both for ethnic dance performances and, of course, for art. Remember especially the exhibition “100 Artists and Walkowitz” in 1944 because my grandfather knew artist Abraham Walkowitz and introduced me. Many, many trips to the new Brooklyn Public Library, often with my grandfather who liked Irish authors like Lord Dunsany, but also James T. Farrell’s “Studs Lonigan” trilogy. Books were central to my life, then as now. During vacations I could rip through one a day. Would go through all of Thomas Mann, Dostoyevsky, or Selma Lagerlöf.

After attending Midwood High School in Brooklyn, Nochlin headed off to Vassar College in Poughkeepsie (1947 – 51), where she received a B.A. in philosophy (with a minor in Greek and art
history). In 1952 she received a Master's in English literature from Columbia, and then, in 1963, a doctorate from the prestigious Institute of Fine Arts (IFA) at New York University, where she studied with Peter Janson, Robert Goldwater, Walter Friedländer, and Richard Krautheimer. Since then she has published dozens of art books and innumerable articles (on subjects including realism, Impressionism, Post-Impressionism, and feminism, among many others). Nochlin has lectured worldwide and has taught art history at Vassar College, CUNY, Yale, and at the IFA. She is now retired, writing a book on the subject of “misery” in 19th-century art, and has just published a large collection of her writings on feminism and women artists, titled *Women Artists: The Linda Nochlin Reader* (Thames & Hudson, 2015), which I edited.

In 1988, Nochlin famously argued that “feminist art history is there to make trouble, to call into question, to ruffle feathers in the patriarchal dovecotes.”¹ She has spent her entire professional career doing just that, making trouble, embodying the position of the maverick. She has continually questioned academic assumptions of gender, race, and class—and, as such, has transformed not only the discipline of art history, but academic investigations in general. She has examined afresh the work of French painter and provocateur Gustave Courbet (*Courbet, 2007*); redefined realism as an artistic style, from the 19th century to the present (*Style and Civilization: Realism, 1998*); revised art history to include women artists, and the analysis of representations of women by male canonical artists (*Women, Art, and Power & Other Essays, 1989*); has produced countless monographic texts on male and female artists; and has contributed enormously influential thematic essays—most spectacularly, “Why Have There Been No Great Women Artists?” (1971)—which rang down like a clarion call, challenging each new generation to assess changes in the conditions under which women artists work. Among these many scholarly contributions, she has also curated several milestone exhibitions, including the landmark *Women Artists, 1550–1950* in 1976 (LACMA), and, more recently, *Global Feminisms* in 2007 (Brooklyn Museum), among others. She has been unceasingly bold, intrepid, inspiring, and influential, her scholarship consistently transgressive, irreverent, and anti-establishment.

She is a living legend.

In what follows, colleagues, friends, students, and admirers pay tribute to Professor Nochlin.
Linda Nochlin

by Marni Kessler

In a toast at my thirtieth birthday party, Linda said something that has stayed with me since: “Marni is the closest thing to my own personal history.” We were both raised in assimilated Jewish families in Brooklyn and we both graduated from Midwood High School and Vassar College, decades apart, our intertwined histories having begun before we ever met. In fact, well before I met Linda, I knew about her, for she was legendary at Vassar, where she had also taught for years. By the time I got to college, Linda had moved to the CUNY Graduate Center, but her presence at Vassar was still palpable. We read her brilliant and finely argued books and articles in my classes—the pull and dazzle of her language and meticulous research a beacon of what students could aspire to do—and she came to Poughkeepsie occasionally, since her beloved husband, Dick Pommer, was still on the faculty there. It was thrilling to see her, a blur of red hair and energy whipping through the stacks of the library, the embodiment of thinking in action.

That the timing would be perfect and that I would get to work with Linda while doing my M.A. at Williams College when she was a visiting professor for a semester, and then a few years later at Yale, where she supervised my dissertation, seemed a pipe dream then. But to my greater surprise and delight, we became friends. What drew us together early on, even beyond the amazing coincidence that we had gone to the same high school and college, and both wear size eleven shoes, is a mutual love not just of art, but also of poetry. A shared sensibility (and outrageous shoe size) is not a small matter in a friendship!

In the almost thirty years I have known Linda, I have come to see that the friend who is generous, wise, funny, and passionate about her family and friends, modern dance, crosswords, Bach, race walking, Paris, marvelous clothes, poetry, fiction, and so much more, is inseparable from the scholar. This, I think, is the essence of her greatness. The words of Elizabeth Bishop come to mind. In “Poem,” Bishop writes in relation to a small family painting: “art ‘copying from life’ and life itself, / life and the memory of it so compressed / they’ve turned into each other. Which is which?” For Linda, as for Bishop, there is no distinction between art and life. That Linda wrote an unpublished novel in her youth titled Art and Life seems both prophetic and perfect.
It is easy to describe a person's concrete professional accomplishments. It is not so easy to convey in words what a professor and mentor to thousands means to those of us who have had the joy of sitting in the audience during one of Linda's mesmerizing lectures, or of talking with her over a meal in NYC, or while walking on the beach in Sagaponack, or under the Eiffel Tower. She has taught us about the pleasures of looking intensely, not just at paintings, but also at the world around us. She has encouraged us to see the foreground, the middle ground, and the background, and to appreciate the gray areas, the contradictions and uncertainties, in between. She has shown us how not to get "shut out of the house of meaning," words from her triumphant essay on Courbet's *Painter's Studio*, which I am so delighted to hear my own students repeat. The clarity and poetry with which she writes—the crackle and elegance of her words, the style with which she delivers lectures, her large and fabulous rings winking in the podium light as she gestures to punctuate a point—have inspired generations of readers and students.

Linda's influence is, of course, far-reaching. For me personally, the value of her example and her friendship is difficult to measure in words. A knot seems an apt image to capture the complexity of my thoughts about this singular woman. A little-known fact about Linda, which I learned while staying with her in Paris over twenty years ago when I was a graduate student, is that she is expert at tying knots. After a rich meal and wine, I dropped down onto my bed, which promptly collapsed, its mattress caving in atop the complicated rope system that formed its foundation. As she fixed knot after knot, Linda told me that her father had taught her how to tie knots when she was a girl. Even then, the metaphorical value of the knot was not lost on me. The interweaving of past and present, teaching and friendship, links us in profound and meaningful ways. She is always close as I write and teach, and I am never surprised when I hear the distant echo of her words in my own and I see the fine thread that leads me back to my mentor, my friend. Linda is an indelible part of my own personal history.
De Blasio Administration Announces a Record-Breaking 20,325 Affordable Apartments and Homes Financed in Last Fiscal Year, Enough for 50,000 New Yorkers

July 14, 2015
by RealEstateRama

Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced that the City financed the creation and preservation of 20,325 affordable apartments and homes during fiscal year 2015, enough housing for more than 50,000 New Yorkers and the most in 25 years. The City broke an all-time record for the most new affordable apartments underway – nearly 8,500 – the highest figure since the City’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development was established in 1978.

More new affordable apartments underway than at any time since City’s housing department was created in 1978.

New programs for seniors, extremely low income New Yorkers and homeless families drive the creation of thousands of new apartments.

Major progress towards City’s goal of 200,000 affordable apartments in 10 years.

NEW YORK – July 14, 2015 – (RealEstateRama) — Mayor Bill de Blasio today announced that the City financed the creation and preservation of 20,325 affordable apartments and homes during fiscal year 2015, enough housing for more than 50,000 New Yorkers and the most in 25 years. The City broke an all-time record for the most new affordable apartments underway – nearly 8,500 – the highest figure since the City’s Department of Housing Preservation and Development was established in 1978. This affordable housing represents a direct investment of $618 million by the City of New York, thanks to significant increases in affordable housing by the de Blasio administration.

This development and preservation represents tangible progress during the first full fiscal year of Mayor de Blasio’s Housing New York plan for 200,000 affordable apartments in 10 years. Roughly 85 percent of the homes financed in the last year were for extremely low, very low, and low income families.

“This is real progress, in real time, for real families. We set out one year ago to change everything about how New York City builds and protects affordable housing. Today, there are more shovels going in the ground to build affordable homes than at any time in almost 40 years. And we are doing more than has ever been done to help New Yorkers feeling the pressure of this housing crisis to stay in their homes, and to protect them from harassment and displacement. Together, with the City Council, community-based non-profits, the private sector and partners across the five boroughs, we are going to ensure this remains a city for everyone,” said Mayor de Blasio.

“As costs of living in New York City rise, it’s imperative that we proactively protect affordability in our communities and ensure that residents can make ends meet in the neighborhoods they helped build,” said Speaker Melissa Mark Viverito. “This announcement that a record-breaking creation and preservation of affordable housing units have been made possible in the last fiscal year is a hopeful sign that we will make this a city that embraces everyone. I’d like to thank Mayor de Blasio and his administration for their leadership and my fellow Council Members for committing ourselves to this critical endeavor for all New Yorkers.”

The developments financed reflect the plan’s vision of expanding the range of New Yorkers reached, from extremely low income families to middle class wage earners who increasingly are struggling to make ends meet. This year’s progress was driven by new programs launched under Housing New York, including:

• 1,247 new apartments for the formerly homeless: To help stem the homelessness crisis and return families to stable housing, the Department of
Real Estate Rama  July 14, 2015  2 of 4

Housing Preservation and Development, the Housing Development Corporation and the Department of Homeless Services launched the “HomeStretch” program that incorporates both shelter units and permanently affordable housing in the same development, making better use of the social services available and using shelter financing as leverage for the financing of the permanent homes.

- **1,544 apartments for seniors**: HPD and HDC made changes to their supportive housing and preservation programs to realize the start of over 1,500 affordable senior units. They introduced the Senior Affordable Rental Apartments program to provide financing for the construction and renovation of affordable housing for very low income senior citizens.
- **1,164 new apartments for the lowest income families**: HPD’s new Extremely Low and Low Income Affordability (ELLA) program was launched last fall, helping boost housing opportunities for families with the lowest incomes – those making less than $23,350 for a family of four. The City tripled the number of these affordable units compared to the previous fiscal year.
- **3,285 new apartments through “Inclusionary Housing”**: HPD overhauled its Inclusionary Housing program to eliminate duplicative requirements and red tape, accelerating affordable housing delivered in market rate developments and doubling the number of any prior year.

To meet the goals of Housing New York, the Mayor doubled the capital funding for HPD, and, most recently, in the ten-year capital plan included nearly $7.5 billion for affordable housing, and more than $1 billion in funding for the parks, libraries, road construction and other infrastructure necessary to support neighborhood growth and new housing opportunities.

“Surpassing the 20,000 unit mark is a testament to the work we are doing across agencies and with our elected officials, community organizations, and other partners to help attack the affordability crisis. For housing for the formerly homeless and people with special needs to those at the lowest and middle incomes, each new and preserved unit represents the safety, stability and opportunity that an affordable home can provide,” said HPD Commissioner Vicki Been. “I am extremely proud of what this administration has accomplished in its first full fiscal year. It is gratifying to know that the changes and investments we have made under Housing New York are starting to take hold, and more importantly it means that we are speeding affordable housing to communities and families in need.”

“The record-breaking 20,000 units demonstrate that this administration is achieving concrete results towards the ambitious vision of Housing New York. Each unit of affordable housing that we created and preserved represents a strategic investment in revitalizing our communities and fostering economic opportunity for the families and neighborhoods we serve,” said HDC President Gary Rodney. “We couldn’t accomplish this without the support of our local stakeholders, and without the partnership of our development partners and the financial institutions who see the importance of investing in our amazing communities.”

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affordability</th>
<th>AMI %</th>
<th>Income Range 3-Person Household</th>
<th>FY 2015 HNY Starts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Extremely Low</td>
<td>0-30%</td>
<td>≤$23,300</td>
<td>1,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>Very Low</td>
<td>31-50%</td>
<td>$23,301-$38,850</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low</td>
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<td>$38,851-$62,150</td>
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<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>81-120%</td>
<td>$62,151-$93,250</td>
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<tr>
<td>Middle</td>
<td>121-165%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other (Superintendent Units)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
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<th>Boro</th>
<th>New Construction</th>
<th>Preservation</th>
<th>FY 2015 HNY Starts</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>3,817</td>
<td>6,010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bronx</td>
<td>2,360</td>
<td>2,621</td>
<td>4,981</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brooklyn</td>
<td>3,069</td>
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<td>Queens</td>
<td>637</td>
<td>553</td>
<td>1,190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Staten Island</td>
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<td>1,229</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>8,483</td>
<td>11,842</td>
<td>20,325</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In the coming year, the City is embarking on new and innovative efforts to further expand affordable housing opportunities for families:

- This month, HPD announced preliminary plans for 1,200 new affordable apartments and homes in East New York over the next two years, where the City is engaged in comprehensive neighborhood planning. And the implementation of Mandatory Affordable Housing, which will begin the official land use process this September, will ensure permanently affordable housing is a significant part of future development.

- Changes to the 421-a tax benefit slated to take effect in January 2016 will double the affordable housing that program produces, and reach families with lower incomes. The new program will require affordable housing in every corner of the city and slash the subsidy per affordable apartment dramatically.

- The Fiscal Year 2016 budget includes $45 million in City capital for the coming year to support the new Green Housing Preservation Program to assist owners of small- to mid-sized multifamily properties across the city in undertaking energy efficiency and water conservation improvements, lowering their operating costs in exchange for long-term affordability preservation.
Following the rollout of the City’s Building Opportunity initiative, launched to promote the participation of M/WBEs in the development and management of City-sponsored affordable housing, the first class in HPD’s inaugural capacity-building workshop series with the Department of Small Business Services is expanding involvement in affordable housing projects.

“Every family deserves access to long-term affordable housing,” said Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman. “I commend Mayor de Blasio for using every tool at his disposal to build and preserve thousands of affordable units across New York City. Today’s announcement is an important milestone, and I look forward to continuing our work to create the type of affordable housing millions of New Yorkers need.”

“We have a long road ahead of us toward reaching the goal of affordable housing for every New Yorker. In Fiscal Year 2015, we took significant strides down that road, thanks to a partnership between the vision of the de Blasio administration and the hard work of our non-profit and private development communities. It is critical that we create affordable housing opportunities in every corner of Brooklyn and at multiple bands of affordability, so all of our neighborhoods can benefit from the economic diversity that is prerequisite for a holistically thriving city. We must continue to push forward with smart and robust contextual development that engages all Brooklynites in the opportunities that new construction will create,” said Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams.

“New housing development of all types is a major key to affordability in our city, and today’s announcement shows that we have made significant progress on this issue. Going forward, my office will continue to work with Mayor de Blasio and his administration, as well as our partners in government, non-profits and the development community, to plan and build new affordable housing units that work for the people of this borough and this city,” said Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr.

“I commend the Mayor for being a real champion for affordable housing and for creating over 20,000 units just this year. The Democratic Conference has been at the forefront of efforts to ensure all New Yorkers are able to have access to affordable housing options in the communities they call home,” said Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “New York has always been a state where people from all walks of life can set down roots and build strong, stable, and diverse communities and that fact has helped make New York the Empire State. My Senate Democratic colleagues and I will continue to stand with the Mayor in the fight to increase affordable housing options for all New Yorkers.”

“The record breaking effort of Mayor Bill de Blasio to build and preserve affordable housing is paying dividends,” said State Senator Adriano Espaillat, the Ranking Member of the Senate’s Housing Committee. “This city is in a housing crisis, and while we still have a long way to go, these numbers are very encouraging. I will continue working with the Mayor to build a city where everyone has a home.”

“Today’s announcement confirms that Mayor de Blasio is keeping his promise to make the creation of affordable housing a key priority of his first term. I congratulate the Mayor and HPD Commissioner Vicki Been on the striking progress the City administration has made in such a short time to ensure new homes are created for low, moderate and middle income New Yorkers in all five boroughs,” said State Senator Brad Hoylman.

“Currently, too many New Yorkers are struggling to remain in their homes because they simply cannot afford the rent,” said State Senator Gustavo Rivera. “Mayor de Blasio’s Housing New York Plan has already taken a significant step in helping preserve and increase the number of affordable housing units in our communities. I commend Mayor de Blasio for working to ensure that all New Yorkers are able to afford and maintain a home.”

State Senator José Serrano, Jr. said, “I applaud Mayor de Blasio on this significant affordable housing victory. Fifty-thousand New Yorkers will now be able to afford to live in the city they call home. This is a monumental announcement and it shows the Mayor’s strong commitment to the residents of New York City with the most affordable units underway since NYCHA’s inception in 1978.”

“The scale of New York City’s housing crisis is unprecedented. I am impressed with Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Vicki Been’s work, and I am eager to work alongside them in meeting and surpassing our future affordable housing goals,” said Assembly Member Robert Rodriguez.

“A home is the realization of a family’s dream. I commend Mayor de Blasio and Commissioner Been for the progress in preserving and creating affordable homes in The Bronx and throughout our beloved city. My family has endured the struggle of keeping a roof over our heads so we genuinely appreciate the dedicated commitment in helping Bronxiotes and New Yorkers have a place to rest their heads at night. There is always more to do so that someone doesn’t decide between rent, groceries and prescription drugs. But, one choice is clear: a vision of Mayor de Blasio to bring tenants and developers together to create an affordable and livable New York City for all of us,” said Assembly Member Michael Blake.

“I commend Mayor de Blasio, the City Council and the various agencies who made this progress possible. The future of New York depends on its ability to provide quality housing to struggling and working families. These numbers reflect a giant step forward in accomplishing a vision of housing affordability for all New Yorkers,” said Assembly Member Marcos Crespo.

“The significant progress demonstrated this year by Mayor de Blasio’s administration to increase access for quality affordable housing is a critical step in the right direction that will make a difference for so many families in my community, the Bronx and New York,” said Assembly Member Latoya Joyner. “For these families, there is help around the corner. Thanks to the historical rent freeze imposed on rent-regulated apartments, families in my district will have some relief – particularly those families that are paying half or more of their total household income to cover their rent and utility costs. I applaud this year’s investment and the Mayor’s plans for housing over the next decade, as it will protect the city’s most vulnerable populations – low income families with extremely high housing costs. I look forward to working closely with the Mayor to ensure that housing is affordable for all.”

“Together with the de Blasio administration, we’re not only preserving affordable housing, but creating new units at a faster rate than ever before. This is critical to ensure that New Yorkers can make their home in every corner of our city, regardless of economic status. I’m proud of what we’ve done and look forward to continuing this important work,” said Assembly Member Dan Quart.

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright said, “We must fight to keep and create new affordable housing units, especially for our senior citizens and long-time residents. It is unacceptable that people cannot afford to live here. Thank you to the Mayor for his efforts and for his support of M/WBEs in the development and management of City-sponsored affordable housing.”

“Mayor de Blasio’s plan for 200,000 affordable apartments in ten years is off to an impressive start, looking back at the first year since being implemented. We now have more units for those who need them most, like seniors and homeless families. Equally important, the City is preserving affordable housing units to keep the New York affordable place to live. I look forward to seeing the Housing New York plan continue so that we can achieve the Mayor’s goal,” said Assembly Member Luis Sepúlveda.
"Investments in affordable housing are investments in the future of New York and the work that has been done in communities like Hightbridge should signify to all that this is an affordability plan in the best interests of New Yorkers in every borough," said Council Member Vanessa Gibson. "Rent burden and eviction have become a reality for too many New Yorkers and I am thankful that under the leadership of Mayor de Blasio the City has made real and meaningful strides in efforts to address our affordability and homelessness crisis. I am thrilled that we are ahead of schedule in our goal of creating and preserving 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next ten years and thank the Mayor for his commitment to working families and to the vision of a New York in which everyone can comfortably live."

"As the Council's Chair of the Housing and Buildings Committee, my goal has been to help address our city's chronic housing shortage to ensure that New York becomes a place for all to thrive. Just one year after Mayor de Blasio announced the Housing New York plan, it's clear that our administration has made substantial progress in alleviating the city's housing crisis with absolute urgency. I would like to thank the Mayor for delivering on his commitment during the first fiscal year, and look forward to working with him to ensure our city reaches the plan's ambitious ten-year goal for our neediest New Yorkers," said Council Member Jumaane D. Williams.

"There are many reasons to support the Mayor's efforts to provide affordable housing. Chief among them is the protection of the public's health. With decent, affordable housing in communities across the city comes better living conditions, better health. The City's efforts here are an important step forward in securing New York City's future," said Jill Purillo, RN and Executive Director of the New York State Nurses Association.

"Mayor de Blasio had the courage to set an ambitious goal for new affordable housing this year. The City not only met the goal, but exceeded it. That is cause for celebration for all New Yorkers, wherever we live. Each new unit of low income housing, each family relieved of homelessness, is a victory for the future of New York as a humane and vibrant city. The 27,000 CUNY faculty and staff whom I represent are keenly aware of the shortage of affordable housing. We salute the Mayor and the hundreds of people who worked to achieve today's result. And to the 30,000 New Yorkers enjoying new housing, we say, 'Welcome home!'" said Barbara Bowen, President of the Professional Staff Congress at CUNY.

Yvonne Stennett, Executive Director of Community League of the Heights (CLOTH) said, "Every sector of our city has the right to a decent, affordable place to live. As a society and city we must be sure that we make available opportunities for all our citizens to gain access to housing that is affordable, and allow each family to have a good quality of life. We must always be purposeful in the provision of affordable housing and ensure that we are fair to each of our communities."

"I applaud the Mayor's new dramatic housing initiative as it meets the dire needs of so many New Yorkers, especially low income seniors who often wait ten years on a waiting list. This comprehensive plan brings inventory to all New Yorkers, especially those who are vulnerable, poor or elderly. This is new day in housing for New York," said Martin G. Englebardt, Executive Vice President and CEO of YM & YWHA of Washington Heights and Inwood.

"Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation applauds the Mayor's efforts to preserve and create affordable housing. Housing is key to preserving the fiber of our communities that make New York City a great place to live. NMIC looks forward to working with the de Blasio administration to make New York City a city that is accessible to all," said Maria Liardo, Executive Director of Northern Manhattan Improvement Corporation.

Grace Bosilla, President and CEO of The Committee for Hispanic Children and Families said, "Stable housing is a critical component for the sustainability of our families. Too many times CHCF's children's education is interrupted because of the crisis created by homelessness. CHCF congratulates the Mayor and his administration for so aggressively changing the lives of our most vulnerable New Yorkers by providing homes they can afford."

"Given the population trajectory and our economic reality, the Mayor's affordable housing plan is essential for the city in general and the Bronx in particular. I applaud the Mayor's plan," said Bishop Earl W. McKay, Pastor of Church of God of Prophecy, and Chairperson of the CB4 Land Use Committee.

"The new program launched under Housing New York are an important leap forward to improve the lives of everyday New Yorkers," said Rob Solano, co-Executive Director of Churches United for Fair Housing. "I am encouraged this administration is committed to real affordable housing."

"We commend the Mayor for making headway towards the goal of 200,000 newly needed affordable apartments in New York City," said Ramon Pequeno, Executive Director of Southside United HDFC. "As our organization continues to advocate for the sustainability of North Brooklyn, we feel energized by this administration's commitment to low income families. We hope that the Mayor continues to champion the needs of the various communities that make this city great while including them in the decision-making process."

Learn more at nyc.gov/housing
SUNY streamlines application process for NYC high school students

By JACKIE DAVIS, Gazette staff writer

July 13, 2015
The State University of New York Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and New York City Department of Education Chancellor Carmen Farina have agreed to streamline the college application process for New York City public high school students.

The memorandum of understanding will eliminate the need for paper transcripts for NYC public high school students seeking acceptance to a SUNY school. Across the state, there are 64 SUNY campuses educating more than 463,000 students.

"Approximately 10 percent of the first-year SUNY students have attended a New York City high school, and today's agreement is an historic step forward that we hope will attract even more of the city's talented young students to our colleges and universities," said Zimpher. "This modernized more effective system will encourage more students to apply to SUNY and make it easier for the parents and high school counselors who help them navigate the process."

The agreement, modeled after the Department of Education and City University of New York, would allow schools to share academic information electronically. In the past, when a student applied to a SUNY campus, the students had to request their transcript to be sent directly to the school or could self-report their records online listing each course along with the grade they received.

Zimpher and Farina agree that the past regulations created a burden for high school students and high school counselors and allowing the DOE to submit transcripts electronically will make the application process easier for all involved.

"Today's announcement supports our effort to give every student options for higher education and meaningful careers, and we're thrilled to collaborate with SUNY to remove barriers between our students and college," Farina said.
Most students at basketball powerhouse flunk Common Core

By Carl Campanile
July 13, 2015 | 9:21am

Sebastian Telfair (from left), Stephon Marbury and Lance Stephenson all went to Brooklyn's Abraham Lincoln High School.
Photo: Getty Images

These kids can score, but not on the Common Core.

Most students at Brooklyn's Abraham Lincoln High School — the basketball-powerhouse
alma mater of hoops legends Stephon Marbury, Lance Stephenson and Sebastian Telfair — flunked the new, more rigorous ninth-grade Common Core Algebra Regents exam administered last month, sources said.

Only 24 percent of the students passed the algebra exam, Lincoln insiders told The Post.

It was the first year that students were required to pass the Common Core-aligned algebra exam.

Lincoln kids did much better on math tests that didn't require passage of Common Core.

By comparison, 56 percent of kids at the Coney Island school passed 10th-grade geometry and 72 percent passed 11th-grade trigonometry.

As part of the Common Core phase-in, 10th-graders had the option of taking both the Common Core geometry exam and the old Regents geometry exam, and recorded the higher score from either test as the official result.

Trigonometry has yet to be aligned to the new Common Core standards.

Still, the algebra results are humble pie for a school that boasts a list of illustrious alumni that also includes singers Neil Diamond and Neil Sedaka, playwright Arthur Miller, actor Louis Gossett Jr., former Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman and Judge Jack Weinstein.

But Lincoln students were not alone. Many students across the city and state struggled with the new Common Core algebra exam that required them for the first time to explain their answers in writing for nearly every question.

"I would definitely say the pass rate is under 50 percent citywide," predicted Kara Hudon, a math coach at a handful of city high schools and head of the NYC Association of Mathematics Teachers.
She said the scores were so low — even for students who passed — that the City University of New York is considering lowering its "college ready" acceptance score for Common Core algebra from 80 to 70.

City and state education officials are currently analyzing the results.
Russia, China Counterbalance US Hegemony Through SCO, BRICS


The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) are allowing China and Russia to take advantage of shifting global economic interests and successfully counterbalance the US hegemony.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and the BRICS have transformed into two influential political organizations with the prospect of becoming an alternative to the US-led global system, according to Stratfor.

"Ultimately, both forums enable Russia and China to promote their individual regional interests and their combined interest in countering US dominance in the international system," Stratfor's analysts pointed out.

The analysts stressed that while Beijing has steered the SCO "toward an economic grouping," Moscow has highlighted the forum's "political role" and "pushed for greater security cooperation."

Furthermore, after including India and Pakistan into the SCO, the expanded organization may create an economic space that could "theoretically" compete with the EU and the US, diminishing their economic leverage, namely sanctions and the dollar-dominated oil market.

On the other hand, the BRICS has been established to use an opportunity of shifting global economic and investment interests with the prospect to become a viable alternative to the US-led global financial architecture. The analysts noted that regardless of certain economic obstacles faced by the emerging powers of BRICS over the recent decade, the group makes up to 20-30
Meanwhile, "With the crisis in the Eurozone, instability in Ukraine and disputes in the South China Sea, Moscow and Beijing see both a need and an opportunity to erode US influence by building on their respective strengths through cooperation," the Stratfor report stated.

The analysts also pointed to the fact that the BRICS members have launched the New Development Bank with an initial capitalization of $100 billion.

"Beijing sees the BRICS bank as yet another tool, along with the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, to pick away at the US-dominated financial system. With its financial system relatively isolated from the West because of sanctions, Moscow sees the development of alternative institutions as imperative at this time," the Stratfor report elaborated.
It should be noted that Western experts admit that the latest summit in Ufa has obviously marked the transformation of the old world order into a new multi-polar reality.

"The BRICS will now be bolstered by their own institutions that are intended to operate parallel to the US-led order created at Bretton Woods in 1944," Cynthia Roberts, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Hunter College, CUNY (City University of New York) pointed out.
WHY GRAY HAIR COULD BOOST YOUR CAREER

BY SEAN BRASWELL (HTTP://WWW.OZY.COM/OZY-TRIBE/SEAN-BRASWELL/1319) · JUL 14 · 2015

WHY YOU SHOULD CARE
Because the gray matter under those gray hairs counts for a lot.

The demographic data tells us that a “silver tsunami” is headed our way. We’re told that these fellow citizens are increasingly litigious (http://www.aarp.org/work/on-the-job/info-2014/workplace-age-discrimination-infographic.html), that retirement bores them (http://www.usatoday.com/story/money/columnist/brooks/2015/02/17/baby-boomer-retire/23168003/), that they haven’t saved enough (http://www.cnbc.com/id/102581574) and that we should get used to tolerating their overextended presence in our workplaces. But don’t be so hasty about putting grandpa out to pasture. According to a new study (http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/releases/apl-a0038991.pdf) in the Journal of Applied Psychology:

Older applicants demonstrated consistently higher “crystallized intelligence.”
Researchers Rachael Klein, Stephan Dilchert, Deniz Ones and Kelly Dages tested more than 3,000 individuals ages 20 to 74 applying to executive-level jobs such as vice president or general manager positions within professional, technical and sales occupations, and found that older employees (http://www.ozy.com/acumen/youre-washed-up-earlier-than-you-think/33546) in executive-level positions may possess several key cognitive skills in greater abundance than their younger counterparts, including verbal ability and experience-based knowledge.

“When it comes to job performance in general, job knowledge determines whether people succeed in their respective roles,” says Dilchert, a professor of management at Baruch College, City University of New York. “So older workers who score high on so-called ‘crystallized abilities’ might have a leg up in more complex jobs such as those in the engineering, legal, and medical professions, where job knowledge changes at a slower pace.”

It wasn’t an all-around cognitive triumph, however, for the older execs tested. The study, the first to focus on higher-level executives and how different cognitive ability tests may impact the hiring of older applicants, also found that, compared to younger employees, the older ones showed steeper declines in “fluid intelligence,” including the ability to reason, particularly after age 59.

Of course, there’s more to job performance (http://www.ozy.com/acumen/youre-washed-up-earlier-than-you-think/33546) than cognitive ability, says Dilchert, including an employee’s personality and relational skills, which are not subject to the same age-related decline (http://www.ozy.com/acumen/avoiding-alzheimers/37854). And “wisdom is not as easily measured as cognitive speed,” cautions Suzanne Degges-White, a professor of education at Northern Illinois University. “There is a great deal more to professional success ... and the value of an older worker than fluid intelligence assessments can measure.”

But as long as we live in a world where many employers insist on measuring such skills — and to hire, retain or retire their employees accordingly — it’s good to know at least that the cognitive knife can cut both ways when it comes to younger and older workers. And for those approaching the tail end of their careers, it’s reassuring that it might not just be your golf game and your grandchildren that you hear beckoning; it might increasingly be your employer as well.
N-Y Historical Society's 'History Makers' Gala to Honor HAMILTON's Lin-Manuel Miranda and Biographer Ron Chernow

by
BWW News Desk
July 13

HAMILTON composer and star Lin-Manuel Miranda and Alexander Hamilton biographer Ron Chernow will be honored on Monday, November 9, 2015, at the New-York Historical Society's 2015 History Makers Gala at Cipriani Wall Street.

"We are very pleased to present Ron Chernow and Lin-Manuel Miranda with our History Makers Award, as their exceptional body of work offers a truly fresh perspective on American history," said New-York Historical Society President and CEO Dr. Louise Mirrer. "Both Mr. Chernow's award-winning biography Alexander Hamilton and Mr. Miranda's sensational Hamilton-soon to open on Broadway-humanize a legendary New Yorker and shed light on the complex history of America's founding era, making it accessible and compelling for today's audiences."

The funds raised will benefit programs of the New-York Historical Society, including its major Museum exhibitions and its historical education programs for more than 200,000 New York
City public school students.

DETAILS:

History Makers Gala

Monday, November 9, 2015

Cipriani Wall Street, 55 Wall Street, New York, NY 10005

6 pm - Cocktails I 7 pm - Dinner

Tickets:

$1,000 Advocate Ticket

$2,500 Visionary Ticket

$5,000 Leadership Ticket

$10,000 Diplomat Table

$25,000 First Lady Table

$50,000 Senator Table

$100,000 Secretary of the Treasury Table

RSVP - For more information or to purchase tickets, contact Barbi Zakin: (212) 744-0799, barbizakinevents@gmail.com.

Honoree Ron Chernow, an honors graduate of Yale and Cambridge, has received wide acclaim for his deeply researched yet vivid bestsellers focusing on the course of individual lives within the structures and institutions of American history. His first book, The House of Morgan, won the National Book Award and was voted one of the 100 best-nonfiction books of the 20th century by the Modern Library Board. Chernow received the prestigious George S. Eccles Prize for Best Business Book for The Warburgs and was nominated for a National Book Critics Circle Award in biography for his books on the lives of both John D. Rockefeller and Alexander Hamilton. Alexander Hamilton was also the first recipient of the influential George Washington Prize for the year's best book on the founding era.

Mr. Chernow won the Pulitzer Prize for Biography and New-York Historical Society’s American History Book Prize for Washington: A Life. Along with Lin-Manuel Miranda, he received a Lucille Lortel Award for Outstanding Musical as a member of the creative team of Hamilton. A
recipient of six honorary doctorates, Chernow is a former president of PEN American Center, the largest and most important book writers' organization in the country.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, a Hunter College High School and Wesleyan University graduate, is the Tony-winning composer-lyricist-star of Broadway's In the Heights. The show received four 2008 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, with Miranda receiving a Tony Award for Best Score. In the Heights also won a 2009 Grammy Award for its Original Broadway Cast Album and was a finalist for the 2009 Pulitzer Prize in Drama.

Mr. Miranda's latest musical, Hamilton, had its world debut in 2015 at the Public Theater, with book, music, and lyrics by Miranda, in addition to him playing the title role. Hamilton has since transferred to Broadway, with previews beginning July 13 at the Richard Rodgers Theatre. Miranda is also the co-composer and co-lyricist of Broadway's Bring it On: The Musical (2013 Tony nomination - Best Musical). He is a Council Member of The Dramatists Guild, serves on the board of Young Playwrights Inc., and was recently appointed by Mayor Bill de Blasio to New York City's Theater Subdistrict Council. His TV and film credits include The Electric Company, Sesame Street, The Sopranos, House, Modern Family, Do No Harm, Smash, How I Met Your Mother, Freestyle Love Supreme, The Odd Life of Timothy Green, and 200 Cartas.

About the New-York Historical Society - Founded in 1804, the New-York Historical Society has a mission to explore the richly layered history of New York City, state, and the country, as well as to serve as a national forum for the discussion of issues surrounding the making and meaning of history.

New York Historical is recognized for engaging the public with deeply researched and far-ranging exhibitions, such as Alexander Hamilton: The Man Who Made Modern America; Slavery in New York; Nature and the American Vision: The Hudson River School at the New-York Historical Society; Grant and Lee in War and Peace; Lincoln and New York; The Grateful Dead: Now Playing at the New-York Historical Society; Nueva York: Revolution! The Atlantic World Reborn; WWII & NYC; The Armory Show at 100: Modern Art and Revolution; and Chinese American: Exclusion/Inclusion. Supporting these exhibitions and related education programs is one of the world's greatest collections of historical artifacts, works of American art, and other materials documenting the history of the United States and New York.

This fall, New-York Historical will present two groundbreaking exhibitions: Superheroes in Gotham (October 8, 2015-February 21, 2016), sharing the fascinating, inspiring, and largely unknown history of superheroes in New York City and beyond; and Silicon City (November 13, 2015-April 10, 2016), exploring New York's pivotal role in launching the digital age.

Photo Credit: Walter McBride
At This Low-Income Brooklyn Public High School, 100 Percent of Black Students Graduate

At Brooklyn College Academy, a support group for male students is yielding success in high school and beyond.

Members of the Sophisticated Well Articulated Gentlemen's Group at Brooklyn College Academy support each other socially and academically.

By The Hechinger Report  July 14, 2015 | 12:01 a.m. EDT

Last fall, a Howard University sophomore was fielding dozens of phone calls between midnight and 3 a.m. from seniors at Brooklyn College Academy.

The young men had a million questions about applying to college, and as a leader of the Sophisticated Well Articulated Gentlemen’s Group (SWAGG) to which they all belong, Jude Bridgewater had pledged to always answer their calls.

Bridgewater, 20, says one of his best days of the year came this spring when a member named Turel Poilte, who had clashed early and often with high school administrators, was accepted into his top-choice college — the Academy of Art University in California. Poilte credits high school staff members who stayed on his case, and the close-knit network of SWAGG.

“"This is a family to me, I can’t look at it any other way,” says Poilte, 18, who graduated in June and will be the first male in

Class of 2015 BCA graduate Turel...
Polite, left, says he depends on older SWAGG members like Jude Bridgewater, Class of 2013, prevented from being here today.

his family to go to college. "These are my brothers, and every day I come to school, whether I'm feeling good or not... they've kept me from doing a lot of things which would have

Brooklyn College Academy has ushered many students like Bridgewater and Polite successfully through high school: 100 percent of the school's black students graduated on time last year, and almost all of them went on to four-year colleges. In contrast, the overall graduation rate for black male students in New York City was 58 percent in 2014.

School officials say their model is replicable - but only in schools where the adults are willing to pay relentless attention and to hold the students to consistently high expectations.

[READ: Fewer Black Students Are Taking Calculus in High School]

The secret to the school's success is not simply which students they pick, administrators say (although they do get to choose - last year 2,800 students applied for 150 seats), but an unrelenting and personalized focus on each individual. The understanding that the students come with challenges and unmet needs enabled SWAGG's creation. It was founded by students who were searching for realistic pathways through the social land mines in their neighborhoods, and for older boys like themselves to learn from and emulate. More than a third of the 56 male students in this year's senior class were members of SWAGG this year, and school administrators credit its alumni network and leaders for helping to guide an important group of students.

Principal Nicholas Mazzarella, a 28-year veteran of city schools, and his assistant principals have set up systems to track the punctuality, dress code standards and grades of every student, but they say the key to their success is in the painstaking building of relationships between adults and students.

"I know all of my children, and I can notice when something's wrong with them, because from September I've been monitoring them," says assistant principal Shernell Thomas-Daley, who came to BCA with Mazzarella when he took over in 2005. "The child who's not modeling the best behavior, those are my specialties."

That level of attention goes beyond individual administrators. Each student has a guidance counselor, assigned starting in ninth grade, who works with them for all four years and becomes their college counselor. Caseloads at the approximately 600-student school generally stay under 150 students, compared with the national average of 478. One of the loudest cheers at this year's graduation was from the outgoing seniors for their class' college counselor.

[READ: 2015 STEM Index Shows Gender, Racial Gaps Widen]

Because he spends more than the average on guidance counselors, Mazzarella, who was principal at Park East High School in Manhattan before taking over at BCA, has to be very careful with his budget. The school just misses the poverty threshold that would give it extra federal money, and the PTA raised only about $4,000 this year. He keeps core English and math classes small, but lets others get up to around 32 pupils. There are basketball teams (the girls won the citywide Division III title this year) but no athletic program beyond that, and no after-school clubs. Still, every child learns an instrument in ninth grade and can participate in the school's World Ensemble, a nationally acclaimed orchestra that plays global music.

One of Mazzarella's most significant changes was the addition of the early college program. Two years of global history are crammed into one, and most of the students pass all their Regents exams except trigonometry by the end of 10th grade. As juniors, they are freed up to take classes at Brooklyn College taught by college professors and adjuncts; on average, BCA students graduate with 26 college credits.

In a city with a widely diverse African-American population, it is impossible to say that the students who
enroll at BCA are typical of black students in the city. The majority are the children or grandchildren of immigrants from West Indian countries such as Guyana, Trinidad and Haiti, and more than half would be the first in their families to earn a bachelor’s degree. They are mostly working class, although some are poor (73 percent of the students at the school qualify for free or reduced-price lunch). Most were B students in middle school, had good attendance records and didn’t run into serious discipline problems.

Thomas-Daley, who looks at every application, acknowledges that the school usually does not accept students who have chronic absences, are years behind in reading or have racked up multiple suspensions – and these are often the students most at risk for dropping out. Still, the staff says most of its students were not at the top of their classes in middle school, and many come in performing below grade level.

“Our kids don’t do well [here] because they were going to do well anyway,” says Thomas-Daley, who was born in Bermuda but grew up in Crown Heights and attended city public schools. “It’s hours and hours of work – it’s 9 o’clock at night with parents, with students.”

Lynelle Rennis, an assistant principal who began as a teacher at the school in 2006, says school staff members use peer pressure to their advantage.

[READ: U.S. News STEM Solutions Keynote Focuses on Improving Diversity]

“We’re that corny school where kids get excited about grades,” Rennis says. “I think even if you don’t have that mentality, when you get here you realize that’s the norm … you conform. You will do well, you will succeed.”

Rennis, 43, has grouped the students by grade and gender on a one-way text app on her phone. She sends out reminders and words of wisdom about three times a week and during school breaks: Make positive choices. Respect yourself. It’s cold, so wear a jacket.

Rennis also runs a group for girls called SmHeart Girls, aimed at building up self-esteem and self-advocacy skills, and that’s where the idea for the Sophisticated Well Articulated Gentlemen’s Group came from.

“We felt there was a need,” says Bridgewater, who graduated from BCA in 2013 and was an early member of SWAGG. “On a Friday, the girls could all sit down with Ms. Rennis and discuss their problems. Why don’t we have a place like that, because we have questions, too?”

The group developed a curriculum, which included grooming tips, such as how to get a nice haircut, what a proper suit looks like and how to tie a tie. Other topics centered on how to meet and treat girls, getting good grades and what it means to be a man in today’s society.

“Some people were struggling with absent parents in general, so it’s like, ‘How do I become a man if there’s no one there to teach me?’” explains Bridgewater, who says he was a “troublemaker” in middle school before becoming an A student in high school and earning a scholarship to Howard University.

Mazin Khalil, the group’s founder and this year’s BCA commencement speaker, still comes back for meetings.

“A lot of the kids I grew up with joined gangs and didn’t even make it past eighth grade,” says Khalil, 22, who attended Public School 308 in Bedford-Stuyvesant before BCA, and graduated from Trinity College in May. “It started as a way to give kids something to do other than be on the street, but it’s become a brotherhood.”
Rennis appreciates the tight-knit group, and says last year she called Bridgewater several times when she saw younger members headed for trouble.

"I'll go to Jude and say, 'Listen, you better talk to your boys,' and he's like, 'OK, Ms. Rennis, I got you,'" Rennis says, shaking her head and smiling. "He'll send a group text and then tell me everything's going to be OK. And it happens."

The students also give credit to the teachers and administrators for supporting them.

[READ: Schools Hope Changes in Policy Will Bridge the 'Discipline Gap']

"If they see you slacking off, they'll tell you, 'What's going on, because this isn't normally who you are?'" says Bridgewater, who grew up in East Flatbush. "It not only makes you feel like 'Wow, they actually care about me, they actually know me in a sense,' it also encourages you to be that way with other people in the school."

Politte says during his first years at the school, he questioned everything and bristled at the strict — and irrational, he thought — enforcement of rules, such as the uniform policy. But he says now he's grateful for the pushback he got.

"How you say things, what you say and who you say it in front of matters, because your message is what shapes how people view you as a person," says Politte, who lives with his mom in East Flatbush.

"Four years ago I never would have said that. I would have said it doesn't matter what anybody thinks of you ... but now, I've gotta be a man," he says, glancing at Bridgewater with a smile. "He wouldn't let me be anything less than that."
Police Diversity or Community Control?

Last month Bill Bratton, champion of Broken Windows, godfather of Stop and Frisk and once-again commissioner of the NYPD, demanded a retraction from the Guardian for quoting him -- out of context, he argued. A Guardian story, quoting from a separate May 20th piece, ruffled feathers. Bratton, whose contributions to mass criminalization are well documented, quipped about race and policing in New York:

> We have a significant population gap among African American males because so many of them have spent time in jail and, as such, we can't hire them.

The usually blunt, slightly racist stuff that comes out of Bratton's mouth drew a backlash in this instance as local papers ran front page stories the following day. Even local politicians, normally bobble-heading to whatever Bratton says, were taken aback.

Beginning with a flattering portrayal of Eric Adams, a former NYPD captain turned Brooklyn borough president, the Guardian story focused on diversity within police departments. The NYPD, which has had an almost 20 percent drop in overall applicants, had a lower black recruit percentage rate in 2015 than it did in 1970 (6.86 percent vs 7.3 percent).

Some of these diversity concerns came up last year when then NYPD Chief Philip Banks, the highest ranking black cop at the time, abruptly resigned from the department, raising concerns about race at the highest levels of leadership in the department. Rafael Fineiro, the NYPD's highest ranking Latino cop, had just been pushed out by Bratton earlier in the year. Banks was replaced by Ben Tucker, a gentlemanly black ex-cop affiliated with the Department of Justice.

With a black face to replace Banks, Bratton also brought in Susan Herman (Collaborative Policing), Zach Tumin (Strategic Initiatives) and old pal Michael Julian (Training). Julian, who's apparently rehearsing for a Police Academy sequel with hairbrained Zumba and breath mint schemes, previously immortalized himself at the NYPD kicking homeless people out during the famous Tompkins Square riots in 1988.

All three are white. If you include the old white cronies Bratton has instructed the NYPD's private fundraising arm (aka the Police Foundation) to steer NYPD consulting money towards, yes, the NYPD's decision-making apparatus looks pretty pale. But is that where a (to say nothing of the) problem lies? Could there be a solution by diversifying not only the rank and file, but also top brass?
Some, like Brooklyn College’s Alex Vitale, have convincingly argued diversity won’t change the practices of aggressive police departments. Recently fired (ex) Baltimore police commissioner Anthony Batts, a Bratton protegé, was a black police leader in charge of a department whose abuse inspired an urban revolt this year. In Ferguson, highway patrol captain Ron Johnson was brought into quell protests there last year largely because Johnson, who’s black, might have calmed down protesters. That didn’t work out for very long as protesters turned on Johnson when they found he was, still, just like any other cop. In New York, look no further than black ex-cop Adams, now an ambitious politician who wholeheartedly embraces the controversial Broken Windows policing theory (the hyper-policing of low-level offenses) for Exhibit A as to why many here roll their eyes at any diversity-as-reform talk.

But while more diversity within the ranks, even at the top, may do little to change the reality of policing for those it affects, the mentality of those in power speaks volumes. Take a few of Bratton’s other controversial comments, which have drawn less scrutiny but offer a glimpse of what police leadership thinks of the people it polices.

Remarking on the hostility between police and communities of color, Bratton suggested a breakdown of American family values has fueled protests against cops:

There is just less respect for authority. I think some of it's coming out of the fact that we have so many home environments in our country that are not home environments in the traditional sense, in that there's no direction at home.

Adding to previous speeches he’s made on his zero-tolerance for resisting arrest (Bratton has lobbied to upgrade it from a misdemeanor to a felony), the commissioner lamented a far too liberal society mucking up the ability of his cops to arrest people:

I think it’s a general sense of the liberalization of our society, and I think my average police officer in the street would tell you that he is encountering more resistance to his or her authority, and that’s inappropriate because it ratchets up what they have to do to get acquiescence to things they are attempting to enforce.

In the past Bratton has made clear his ideological disdain for the social changes that happened in the 60s and 70s (you know, the civil rights era), which he argues led to out of control crime. But by waxing philosophical on family values, he also doubled down on quips he made a month ago, flirting with his famous temper during a conference in Manhattan:

I will control my cops, you control your kids... So don’t be complaining to me if you can’t take care of your kids at home.

The off-the-cuff comments, in contrast to prepared remarks about bridging the police-community divide, suggest a very Daniel Patrick Moynihan-esque view of society and the family. Moynihan, a former New York Senator and Assistant Secretary of Labor, famously pathologized black America as lacking in family values. That sort of thinking, of course, has been widely embraced by those who dismiss structural racism. In the head of someone who leads the country’s largest police force, it doesn’t exactly inspire confidence that policing problems will subside any time soon.
So where might some bonafide changes be found? Bratton recently divulged plans to move to a more 'decentralized' NYPD, with precinct commanders (many who are black and Latino) having more power. The modifications would "unshackle" precinct commanders to go after crime hot spots with "the full force of the department's resources". A pilot program called CENCOM, seemingly named after the US Department of Defense's military command overseas, would be expanded citywide to help make the department more "nimble".

As frightening as those changes sound, moves that could rock the department into a less abusive and militaristic force clearly aren't on the menu with Bratton or precinct commanders steering the ship.

One thing that has been talked about by activists and members of the black community since the 1960s is 'community control', an arguably undefined notion that could mean decision-making power for citizens over their police. While some might point out that elected officials who appoint chiefs and commissioners, exercising very little (if any) actual power, represent a form of nominal community control, others are taking matters into their own hands.

Jazmine Outlaw, 20, recently became New York City's youngest ever precinct community council president, taking the reins of the 101st precinct council in Far Rockaway, Queens. Community councils are NYPD-facilitated bodies who are supposed to work as an official conduit between the police precincts and the communities they serve. Most councils operate as NYPD fan clubs where older and generally more conservative community members show up to be frightened by crime reports and complain about their neighbors. Outlaw, whose surname is perfectly ironic, might change some of that as a young black woman whose activism includes leading protests of the police and the criminal justice system last Winter with her group, the Rockaway Youth Task Force. In fact, not only is Outlaw the youngest precinct council president, she's also the only one (to my knowledge), in 86 councils across the city, to be affiliated with the Black Lives Matter movement.

Could there be the beginnings of some form of community control here? Shannon Jones and her organization, Bronxites for NYPD Accountability, have advocated for increased scrutiny of the NYPD through precinct councils. Since last year the group, made up of mostly women of color from the Bronx, have turned up to precinct council meetings to call out the police and demand information precinct commanders aren't happy to give up, like complaints and lawsuits against police officers in that precinct.
"The communities understand that the NYPD is an inherently corrupt institution. Tangible change can only occur when those members of the community have control over its operations," Jones, who recently took a board position at her local precinct council, tells me over the phone.

Jones and her group, I should note, are part of the Coalition to End Broken Windows, which we're all organizing with. One of the goals of the coalition is to empower those affected most by the NYPD's racist practices, like Broken Windows policing. By encouraging young people and those committed to challenging the status quo of policing to take on the police in new ways (even ones that the police have traditionally controlled), there might be the potential for new fronts in a battle that isn't going away anytime soon.

That alone should inspire more confidence than simply hiring or promoting more black and brown cops.