As the former Fresh Kills landfill continues to be transformed into a park, scientists are finding new species of animals and plant life. For the first time, college students are also taking part in the research. Ny1's Aaron Dickens has the story.
Former Fresh Kills Landfill Breeding New Life

By Aaron Dickens
Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 06:17 PM EDT

As the former Fresh Kills landfill continues to be transformed into a park, scientists are finding new species of animals and plant life. For the first time, college students are also taking part in the research. Ny1's Aaron Dickens has the story.

The black drum fish gets its name from the "drumming like" sound it makes underwater. Scientists say this is the first time it's being found at Freshkills Park. The fish, common to
Delaware and Florida can grow up to 45 pounds.

Parks Officials say Fresh Kills Park attracts scientists from all over the world who are now finding several types of species never seen in the borough.

College students from the City University of New York's Honors program surveyed the animals and plant life in the park Sunday. It was John Varlano's first time to the site. The Dongan Hills native is a student at Hunter College.

"Not only are they converting the dump image of Staten Island. Now they are doing something with it. Now they are making it a community place that people can go to," said the Hunter College student.

Students took pictures and wrote down what they found.

The students will take the information they gathered here and write a scientific paper. Parks Officials say that information will be very useful for future research.

"We want to bring in more research to the site to be able to study the change that is happening here," said Cait Field, manager for Science and Research Development at the park.

Changes officials say are vital to the park's construction. Parts of the site are expected to open in the next decade. Events are held there regularly. Students like Varlano say the park will play an important role in borough's future.
The Summit reaches out for students

Queens College dormitory open since 2009 at commuter school

It's not every day you see a large LED display advertising for dormitory students but at Queens College that's the way it's being done, as a new marketing tool.

The CUNY school built The Summit, a 506-bed facility, in 2009 against the wishes of nearby residents, who said there was no need for a residence hall since it's primarily a commuter college. They also feared noise and trouble from students living on the Flushing campus. That did not happen.

Queens College is not the only CUNY school with residence halls. Others include City College, Hunter and Brooklyn.

But, unlike most colleges with dormitories, there is no waiting list on the Flushing campus and officials say the advertising is being used on its sign alongside the Long Island Expressway.

According to Vice President for Student Affairs Adam Rockman, The Summit is at 96 percent capacity with few available. College officials consider that a respectable number and point out that one apartment is always left unoccupied for prospective tenants. Applications for a space in the building are accepted 365 days a year.

The facility features two- and four-bedroom fully furnished suites with kitchens, bathrooms and joint living rooms provided.

The building has a laundry room, music study room, study areas on each floor, a fitness center, extended basic cable television, Wifi and 24-hour security.

The cost ranges from $5,665 to $7,105 per semester. Dining is extra and available at different locations. There is also a fee for keeping a car there.

The U-shaped structure cost $72 million to build and is located near the FitzGerald Gym. When it was constructed, college officials said it was a way to reach out further to potential students to attract them to the campus.

Mary Fischer, a member of Community Board 8 and president of the nearby Georgetown Mews Owners Corp., was one of the neighborhood residents who had opposed constructing the dorm.

"I have to say there have been no problems whatsoever," Fischer said. "I was fearful of it but the school is on top of the students and could nip any problems in the bud."

She believes there's no waiting list because "it's expensive and not all students are wealthy and not too many are out-of-state kids."

The website Niche.com, which rates dormitories based on comments from students, gave The Summit a B-minus. Some complained
about elevator problems or said the hallways are in disrepair or that it's just too expensive.

Others noted that there's no social life on campus once commuting students leave for the day. There were also positive statements about the facility and its attributes.

On the same website, City College received a B rating, Hunter a B-minus, primarily because of its waiting list, and Brooklyn College a B-plus.
OCTOPUSES HURL SHELLS AS WEAPONS, NEXT THEY’LL BE TAKING OVER THE WORLD

by Rachel Oakley in Web on Friday 4 September 2015

In a recent video shared by New Scientist, two octopuses in an underwater fight appear to be throwing debris at each other in what could be an intentional use of weapons. Octopuses! Weapons! It’s happening!

Gloomy octopuses (Octopus tetricus) in Jervis Bay, Australia, are seen in the above video using the siphons on the side of their body - usually used to propel the octopus forward - as a way to project weapons at their enemies.

No knives yet - only shells - but this is a huge discovery if octopuses are actually doing it, says Peter Godfrey-Smith, a marine biologist at the Graduate Centre, City University of New York, who presented evidence of octopuses hurling debris at one another at the Behaviour2015 conference in Cairns this month.

"Very few animals have been reported to throw things at one another, so it would be significant if the octopuses are doing it," Godfrey-Smith told New Scientist.

"In the ‘throwing’ behaviour, it gathers up a pile of stuff in its arms, and then directs the jet under the web of its arms, and throws out all the stuff under pressure.

"So it’s a throw rather than a spit, though the throw uses water pressure - it uses a sort of inverted jet propulsion."

However, no one is sure whether the behaviour is intentional, with speculation the octopuses are cleaning their dens, resulting in a bit of friendly fire.

"Octopuses often clean out their homes with a jet of water, pushing out sand and rubble," behavioural ecologist Jennifer Mather said. "They also jet at intruders like pesky fishes."

The use of weapons comes after two incidents - one last year, one this year - of octopuses walking on land.

So if they’re not afraid to come on land, fingers crossed they are just cleaning up, rather than getting violent.
Monkey tibia found in underwater cave

September 4 2015 at 09:08am
By Staff Reporter

Cape Town - A team of cave divers exploring an underwater cave in the Dominican Republic has discovered a fossilised tibia of a monkey that scientists said is about a million years old, embedded in the limestone rock of the cave.

Cave divers Cristian Pittaro, Phillip Lehman, Dave Pratt, and Victoria Alexandrova were responsible for this find within Padre Nuestro Cave on the island of Hispaniola.

The island in the Greater Antilles belongs jointly to the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Today these caves are underwater, making them a challenging environment in which to hunt for fossils.

Foremost South African researcher Dr Robyn Pickering, of the University of Cape Town's Department of Geological Sciences, is a prominent member of the team of scientists who tested the specimen to determine its age.

DISCOVERY: An international team of scientists has dated a species of fossil monkey found in an underwater cave in the Dominican Republic in the Caribbean to be just about 1 million years old.
Picture: Laurent Benoit
In an article in the Journal of Human Evolution, the team said they used three-dimensional geometric morphometrics to confirm that the fossil tibia did indeed belong to Antillothrix bernensis, a primate that they now believed existed on Hispaniola "relatively unchanged" for over a million years.

They calculated the age of the fossilised tibia using the uranium-series technique, a dating system based on theories around the rate of decay of uranium and other radioactive isotopes such as thorium from specimens over time in a closed system.

This monkey, roughly the size of a small cat, was believed to have been tree-dwelling and living largely on a diet of fruit and leaves.

Pickering, a lead researcher involved in the dating of the limestone surrounding the fossils, said scientists had long been puzzling over the age of primate fossils from this region – since the days of early evolutionary theorists Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace.

"The presence of endemic New World monkeys on islands in the Caribbean is one of the great questions of bio-geography and now, knowing the age of these fossils, changes our understanding of primate evolution in this region," she said.

"Our analysis of the fossils shows that Antillothrix existed on the island of Hispaniola for over a million years relatively unchanged morphologically."

Researchers Professor Alfred Rosenberger and Dr Siobhán Cooke, of Brooklyn College, part of the City University of New York, and Northeastern Illinois University, have been working in the Dominican Republic since 2009, searching for rare fossil remains of endemic mammals.

Their aim was to investigate how these animals were adapted to their unique, island environments.

"Prior to our discoveries in Alttagracia we knew almost nothing, even though this species was first described by Renato Rimoli back in 1977," said Cooke.

Then, to determine how the monkey adapted to its environment, Dr Melissa Tallman and her student Andrea Morrow, from the Grand Valley State University, used a specialised technique to model the three-dimensional shape of the monkey's leg bone.

This helped them to reconstruct how the small primate might have moved about in its environment and allowed the comparison of relatively young examples of Antillothrix bones to the newly discovered million year old specimens.

At the University of Melbourne, Dr Helen Green and Pickering worked in the state of the art Isotope Chronology Laboratory, where they measured the levels of uranium, thorium and lead present in the limestone rocks today, using the results to calculate the age.

Cape Argus

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CUNY faculty union to increase pressure in push for retroactive raises

The head of the union that represents faculty and staff at the City University of New York says it will put greater pressure on the school's chancellor and board of trustees this fall as it pushes for retroactive raises.

Professional Staff Congress president Barbara Bowen said in an Aug. 27 email to members that she plans "a systematic escalation of pressure" — potentially culminating in a "disruptive mass action" — from October to November.

"The news is not good: after more than a year in office, Chancellor [James] Milliken has failed to offer a single dollar for raises or back-pay. He appears to be content to allow the CUNY faculty and staff to go six years without a raise — while collecting a $670,000 salary himself. We have all been patient long enough. Starting on this first day of the new academic year, the union will accept no more excuses," Bowen wrote.

"We have planned an escalating series of actions," she continued. "On the morning of Thursday, October 1, the day of the first CUNY Board meeting of the year, PSC members and allies will deliver a ‘wake-up call’ to Chancellor Milliken at his Manhattan apartment, where CUNY pays his rent—of $19,500 a month. We take the campaign to the classroom from October 19 to October 30, enriching the curriculum and teaching in public about the relation between our contract and the quality of education at CUNY. If the contract is still not resolved by November, we will engage in a disruptive mass action on Wednesday, November 4. And we will hold a mass meeting on Thursday, November 19 to assess progress and plan next steps, escalating further if needed."
The union asked for retroactive raises that amounted to about 20 percent in May, Bowen said, but has yet to receive an economic offer from the university.

A spokesman for the university, Mike Arena, said that CUNY "is seeking to obtain a fair and equitable contract and is working with state and city officials to obtain that goal."

Bowen also placed blame on the state, saying it has "so far failed to provide funding for retroactive pay or assure support for future increases," she wrote. "The maintenance-of-effort legislation was passed last spring, and we are hopeful that Governor Cuomo will signal a new direction by signing it ... The biggest hurdle to our contract funding remains the State."

That bill would require the state to pay union-negotiated salary and benefit increases for employees, as well as increases in utilities and rent, at CUNY and the State University of New York.

The governor's press office did not respond to emails requesting comment.

"If Chancellor Milliken wants to separate himself from the economic austerity agenda that is behind New York State's failure to fund our contract, then he will have to do what it takes to produce a decent economic offer, whether that means more effective advocacy with the State or a reduction of the management payroll and a reallocation of CUNY's budget reserves," Bowen wrote.

In response, Arena, the university spokesman, sent prepared remarks for a speech Milliken gave to CUNY's academic council Wednesday.

The "dedicated faculty and staff ... have worked far too long without a new contract and across-the-board salary increases," Milliken said, adding that "agreement on a new contract with CUNY's faculty and staff is our highest priority."

Milliken also said he supports the maintenance of effort bill.

"As I'm sure you know, with regard to the financial aspects of our labor contract the authority of the Board of Trustees has limits. As a practical matter, we must have the support of the state and city for our contract and, as important, we cannot responsibly make an offer or enter into an agreement we cannot pay for," he said.

"We are continuing to work with state and city leaders to be in a position to make a fair offer, while at the same time we are making progress at the bargaining table on non-economic elements of a proposed contract."

Read Bowen's full note below:

August 27, 2015

Dear PSC Members,
Today is the first day of the new academic year at most CUNY colleges, and I'm sure you are eager to hear whether there has been progress on the contract. The news is not good: after more than a year in office, Chancellor Milliken has failed to offer a single dollar for raises or back-pay. He appears to be content to allow the CUNY faculty and staff to go six years without a raise—while collecting a $670,000 salary himself. We have all been patient long enough. Starting on this first day of the new academic year, the union will accept no more excuses.

Escalation

The union's executive council has spent the summer building alliances and developing a plan to create enough pressure to force a resolution on our contract. At the same time, the FSC has been pressing the Cuomo Administration to provide the necessary funding. We have planned an escalating series of actions that begins with emergency campus meetings, includes a demonstration at Milliken's apartment, and builds toward a mass public disruption later in the fall. If the contract is still not resolved, we are prepared to escalate further. Members will also have the opportunity to participate in training sessions on disruptive protest tactics and militant picket lines. Sign up here to let us know that you want to be part of the campaign for your contract.

We plan a systematic escalation of pressure so that Milliken, the CUNY Board of Trustees and others will feel the urgency we are feeling after six years without a raise. The campaign starts this week with emergency union meetings on campus; check here for the date at your college. On the morning of Thursday, October 1, the day of the first CUNY Board meeting of the year, FSC members and allies will deliver a "wake-up call" to Chancellor Milliken at his Manhattan apartment, where CUNY pays his rent—of $19,500 a month. We take the campaign to the classroom from October 19 to October 30, enriching the curriculum and teaching in public about the relation between our contract and the quality of education at CUNY. If the contract is still not resolved by November, we will engage in a disruptive mass action on Wednesday, November 4. And we will hold a mass meeting on Thursday, November 19 to assess progress and plan next steps, escalating further if needed.

The plan will work only if all of us are behind it. This is a fight for your own contract—your salary, your teaching load, your job security, your respect on the job. I am writing to ask you to make a commitment today to be part of that fight, even if you have never participated in a union action before. Join the hundreds of your colleagues who have already taken a stand against the erosion of our living conditions and the stealth attack on our students through the failure to resolve our contract. Click here to let us know that your colleagues can count on you.

Resistance

The FSC made a serious salary proposal in May. We have held six full bargaining sessions and a dozen smaller negotiating meetings since then, and have yet to receive anything more than a statement that our reasonable proposal for raises was overly ambitious. Meanwhile, New York State has so far...
failed to provide funding for retroactive pay or assure support for future increases. Contract negotiations continue, as do discussions with the Governor and his staff. After the union's demonstration last spring demanding movement on our demands, CUNY management began to make meaningful progress at the bargaining table on some of the union's non-economic demands. But even on these issues, CUNY needs to reach agreement. In the context of a complete failure to produce decent salaries, there is no excuse for management's unwillingness to accede to reasonable faculty and staff demands that do not involve money. The main issue, however, remains the economics. Six years without a raise is unconscionable. There is simply no excuse.

There is plenty of money in New York State and New York City to fund a good contract for the PSC; the local economy is expanding, and both City and State have budget surpluses. If Chancellor Milliken wants to separate himself from the economic austerity agenda that is behind New York State's failure to fund our contract, then he will have to do what it takes to produce a decent economic offer, whether that means more effective advocacy with the State or a reduction of the management payroll and a reallocation of CUNY's budget reserves. Milliken has repeatedly claimed that a new contract and higher salaries are his priority. If raising salaries is your priority, you find a way to do it.

Faculties and Staff under Attack

At this point, with nearly all other public-employee contracts in the state settled, the failure to make an economic offer on the contracts for CUNY workers (those in the PSC and several other unions) has to be understood as an attack on us as CUNY employees.

The attack is part of an austerity agenda being fiercely pursued around the globe, and evident in New York State's approach under Governor Cuomo to public employee contracts. With the support of scores of legislators the PSC led a vigorous campaign for legislation to stabilize annual State funding for CUNY and SUNY. The maintenance-of-effort legislation was passed last spring, and we are hopeful that Governor Cuomo will signal a new direction by signing it. Meanwhile, the City of New York has indicated that it is prepared to provide funding for its share of our contract at a level commensurate with the funding provided to other City unions. While recent City contracts have provided lower settlements than CUNY faculty and staff need, they are included raises and, in some cases, back-pay. Most of CUNY's public funding, however, comes from the State, as New York State has financial responsibility for the four-year colleges. The biggest hurdle to our contract funding remains the State.

We are under attack through our contract because CUNY students and their communities are under attack. More than half of CUNY undergraduates have family incomes of less than $30,000. Three-quarters are Latino, Black or Asian. For hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers in an economy that offers few other chances or protections, CUNY represents the only viable route out of permanent poverty. It offers a shot at a stable life—a fulfilling life—in a period of relentless downward pressure on working people and people of color in
particular. For all its flaws and contradictions, CUNY remains one of New York’s most powerful mechanisms for redistributing wealth more equitably.

That’s why CUNY faculty and staff have been singled out: austerity politics, planned disinvestment in people of color—and the failure of Chancellor Milliken and the CUNY Board to mount a successful challenge to either.

Students under Attack

Without a new contract and decent salaries, the quality of education at CUNY is put at risk. As a member of the faculty and staff, you do not need to be told how CUNY’s failure to produce a fair economic offer harms the quality of education. All of us working on the ground at CUNY feel it every day. Departments are struggling to recruit and retain the faculty they need; staff workloads interfere with the ability to assist individual students; students receive less attention from their professors when professors have to live hours away in order to afford housing; academic continuity for students is lost when adjuncts have no guarantee of appointment even after twenty years in one department.

The Pathways curriculum has already imposed educational austerity on CUNY students; now educational austerity is being deepened by management’s failure on the contract. Our demand for economic justice for ourselves is inseparable from the demand for educational justice for CUNY students.

We Are Not Alone

That’s why the union’s plan to force a fair resolution of our contract involves expanding our struggle. We aim to involve all those who have an authentic stake in what CUNY means. As the semester develops, you will see—and I hope, be part of—an increasingly public fight, with more media presence, a larger circle of allies, and escalating actions.

We have the power to succeed because we are not alone. Like professors at the University of Wisconsin battling Governor Walker’s austerity agenda, or teachers in Chicago who went on strike to defend their public schools against Mayor Rahm Emanuel’s school closings, we are facing a tough fight. But as we have learned from Chicago and Wisconsin, our best chance for prevailing is to show that the demand for decent conditions and salaries for teachers is a fight for more than ourselves. It’s a fight for the meaning of public education, for the people of the whole city and state.

But it starts with us. Allies will join us if they see us wholly engaged in the fight. It is a fight for our own professional lives. Sign up here to signal your commitment: Everything starts at the emergency union meeting on your campus, where we will begin to organize ourselves, department by department and office by office, for the campaign ahead.

Organize we must if we want anything other than continued stalling by Milliken and the CUNY Board. Six years is appalling, inexcusable. CUNY’s excuses must stop now. And we can make that happen.

In solidarity,

Barbara Bowen
Fantasy Football 2015: Yahoo!, CBS and ESPN Adopt Different Business Strategies To Target Growth

Marc Edelman, CONTRIBUTOR
I write about legal issues in sports, fantasy sports and online gaming

FOLLOW ON FORBES [73]

Opinions expressed by Forbes Contributors are their own.

As the fantasy football marketplace continues to explode, America's three largest fantasy football websites – Yahoo

YHOO +3.13%, CBS CBS -1.86%
and ESPN – once again find themselves competing for full-season fantasy football participants against national fantasy football competitions such as the Fantasy Football Players Championship. In addition, Yahoo! and CBS have now jumped into the “daily fantasy football” marketplace – competing against companies such as FanDuel to offer shorter duration, albeit perhaps legally riskier, versions of fantasy football.

Heading into this football season, Yahoo’s business strategy was traditionally to operate full-season fantasy football contests with high payouts and low margins. Yahoo!’s 2015 full-season fantasy football strategy is no different. Once again, Yahoo! seems to focus on building user volume through offering the best payout rates among large public companies, at 90.0%. Yahoo!’s 2015 fantasy football contests include games at four different price
points: a $20 entry fee, $50 entry fee, $100 entry fee, and $250 entry fee. Each Yahoo! contest consists of 10 teams per league, and each contest pays prize money to the league’s top three finishers. Participants are eligible to play in 44 U.S. states (participants in Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, Vermont and Washington are prohibited).

In addition, for the first time this season Yahoo! is offering “daily fantasy football” contests on its website. As a way of promoting these contests and inducing trial, Yahoo! is advertising a promotion where it purports to provide a “200% deposit bonus” for its daily contests to anyone who joins a full-season fantasy league.

As a primarily web search and web advertising business, Yahoo!’s fantasy football strategy seems to revolve around obtaining site users through high payout contests. (Photo by Daniel Zuchnik/Getty Images)

CBS, meanwhile, is continuing with a full-season fantasy football strategy that focuses on greater company profit from each fantasy football league operated. By contrast to Yahoo!, CBS fantasy football leagues consist of 12 teams and include five different entry price points, a $39.99 entry fee, $99.99 entry fee, $249.99
entry fee, $499.99 entry fee, and $999.99 entry fee. There are deep discounts for CBS fantasy owners purchasing multiple teams. However, absent these discounts, the CBS leagues payout rate begins as low as 42% — far below the industry standard. Entry is eligible to players in 45 states (unlike Yahoo, CBS allows entrants from Vermont). CBS is also offering “daily fantasy football” contests this year under its SportsLine brand.

By contrast, ESPN in 2015 is operating pay-to-enter fantasy football contests that offer cash prizes to the winners — a change from their previous strategy of offering BestBuy gift certificates. Entry into the ESPN prize contests begins at $24.95. Participants may enter these games in 43 states (participants in Arizona, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, North Dakota, Tennessee, and Washington are prohibited).

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Although ESPN does not directly offer “daily fantasy football contests,” the company has a lucrative advertising deal to exclusively market another company’s games — allowing the Walt Disney Co. (ESPN’s parent) the opportunity to profit directly from the growing interest in daily fantasy sports without dealing with any of the market’s related risks.

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Marc Edelman is an Associate Professor of Law at the City University of New York’s Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business, where he published “A Short Treatise on Fantasy Sports and the Law” and has recently released “Navigating the
Legal Risks of Daily Fantasy Sports.” He also is a fantasy sports attorney and legal consultant for a wide range of sports and gaming companies.

Nothing contained in this article should be construed as legal advice. Follow him on twitter @MarcEdelman

(Author’s Disclosure: The author has provided consulting services to the parent company for the Fantasy Football Players Championship, which is mentioned briefly in this article).
Current Stories

Acclaimed writer and Princeton professor Lahiri awarded National Humanities Medal
Posted September 3, 2015; 04:20 p.m.

by Jamie Saxon, Office of Communications

Princeton faculty member and author Jhumpa Lahiri, whose novels and short stories explore the immigrant experience, family, love, language and cultural identity, has been named a recipient of the 2014 National Humanities Medal. The announcement was made today by the White House. The medal will be conferred by President Barack Obama at a ceremony at the White House at 3 p.m. on Sept. 10, which will be webcast live.

The medal honors an individual or organization whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the human experience, broadened citizens' engagement with history and literature, or helped preserve and expand Americans' access to cultural resources. Lahiri was among 10 recipients of the award.

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, a 1977 graduate alumna, novelist and philosopher, was also named a recipient.

Lahiri joined the Princeton faculty July 1 as a professor of creative writing in the Lewis Center for the Arts. She is an esteemed author of essays, short stories and novels. Her 1999 debut collection of short stories, "Interpreter of Maladies," which probes issues of love and identity among immigrants and cultural transplants, won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, the PEN/Hemingway Award and The New Yorker Debut of the Year. Her 2013 novel "The Lowland" was a National Book Award and Man Booker Prize finalist. Her 2003 novel "The Namesake" was released as a film in 2007.

Lahiri's most recent book of short stories, "Unaccustomed Earth," received the 2008 Frank O'Connor International Short Story Award and was a finalist for the Story Prize. Her forthcoming
book, "In Other Words," explores the often emotionally fraught links between identity and language.

This fall semester, she will teach advanced fiction in the creative writing program and will be a guest visitor in the Department of English course "Princeton University Reads," an introduction to contemporary fiction open to both Princeton students and community members.

Prior to coming to Princeton, Lahiri was a writer in residence at John Cabot University in Rome, and she has held the same position at Vassar College and Baruch College.

The official citation for the award honored Lahiri "for enlarging the human story. In her works of fiction, Dr. Lahiri has illuminated the Indian-American experience in beautifully wrought narratives of estrangement and belonging."

Born in London, Lahiri moved to Rhode Island as a young child with her Bengali parents. Lahiri holds a bachelor’s degree from Barnard College at Columbia University; master’s degrees in English literature, creative writing, and comparative studies in literature and the arts from Boston University (BU); and a Ph.D. in Renaissance studies from BU.

Her other prizes include an O. Henry Prize (for the short story "Interpreter of Maladies"), the Addison Metcalf Award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, the Vallombrosa Von Rezzori Prize, and the Asian American Literary Award. Lahiri was granted a Guggenheim Fellowship in 2002 and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in 2006.

Rebecca Newberger Goldstein, a native of White Plains, New York, earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy from Barnard and a Ph.D. in philosophy from Princeton. While at Princeton, she was awarded a National Science Foundation Fellowship and a Whiting Foundation Fellowship.

After Princeton, she was a professor of philosophy at Barnard and wrote her first novel "The Mind-Body Problem" in 1983. Other novels include "The Late-Summer Passion of a Woman of Mind"; "The Dark Sister," which received the Whiting Writer’s Award; "Mazel," which received the 1995 National Jewish Book Award and the 1995 Edward Lewis Wallant Award; and "Properties of Light: A Novel of Love,


The National Humanities Medal citation honored Goldstein "for bringing philosophy into conversation with culture. In scholarship, Dr. Goldstein has elucidated the ideas of Spinoza and Gödel, while in fiction, she deploys wit and drama to help us understand the great human conflict between thought and feeling."

Goldstein received a MacArthur Fellowship — known informally as a "genius grant" — in 1996. She is also the recipient of a Guggenheim Fellowship and is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Cross Country Coach, 88, Alleges Age Discrimination

Submitted by Jake New on September 4, 2015 - 3:00am

A former men’s and women’s cross country coach at Hunter College has filed an age discrimination complaint against the college, alleging that he was “relegated to being an office assistant” because the college thought he was too old to continue as coach. Edwin Zarowin, who is 88, told The New York Times that Hunter officials asked him to step down as coach and to become an “athletic archivist.” Zarowin declined the offer, saying, “If this is the only option open to me, you will -- in essence -- have fired me.” His lawyer filed a grievance with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission on July 10.

“We truly hoped that he would have accepted the position as sports archivist, a role that people would honor and appreciate, and continue to contribute to the Hunter community in a valued way,” the college said in a statement.
Marie Williams surviving and moving forward

By TRUDY TOMLINSON | 9/3/2015, 11:18 a.m.

Marie Williams Contributed
Self-published author and rape survivor Marie Williams, 31, has opened up about her life, sharing and discussing the horrific experience she’s had with rape. In doing so, she is hoping to touch the life of someone else who could benefit from her story.

Williams book, “The Remedy,” chronicles her story of surviving and overcoming rape while attending the University of Virginia. Williams has arranged and conducted a book tour and has given lectures at campuses such as the University of Virginia and Lehman College. Williams’ tour will resume with a speech at Manhattan College.

“The biggest reason I wanted to speak about the rape is to focus more on the recovery part of it than on the actual rape itself, because in the Black community, it is not something that is talked about, but it is something a lot of people are living with,” stated Williams.

“The side effect of rape and sexual assault affects more than just the victim, and that part of it is what I really want to speak on. There are women who need to know that they are not alone.”

Williams believes speaking openly and freely about rape and sexual assault would make bringing up the topic and having a conversation about rape much easier.

Williams was victimized at the age of 18. She reached out to counselors at the university but did not feel a strong connection with them. She was also referred to see someone else. “Once I got that referral, I decided I did not have the strength to tell this story again,” stated Williams. “It got to the point where I was suicidal and abusing alcohol. A friend of mine found me in my apartment drunk and made me go back to counseling, so I was placed under his care for a few months until I could get back on my feet and stop being a suicide risk.”

On returning home to the Bronx, Williams decided to use sports and exercise to treat her stress and frustrations. “I emerged myself into that and made fitness and exercise, almost to an obsession, my real focus.”

According to the Rape Crisis Center, 1 out of every 6 American women has been the victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime. Among all victims, 9 out of 10 are female. One in 4 women are sexually assaulted in her lifetime.

“I took a ride from a guy I’d only known for a couple hours. For a long time, I blamed myself, but ultimately the bigger picture is why do we live in a society where we can’t, or if we do take a ride from someone who we think is a Good Samaritan, that person is now our worst enemy?

“It took a long time to realize whether I took the ride or not, it did not give him the right. Really coming to believe that took a few years, and then after that, it took years to get to the point where I believed that I should love myself and that I should let somebody else love me.”
Seniors can go back to school too

by Mark Lord Chronicle Contributor | Posted: Thursday, September 3, 2015 10:30 am

While many “back to school” advertisements are aimed at those who still thrill to finger paints and cartoon-decorated backpacks, the approach of fall also brings tremendous opportunities for older adults to continue their own education.

Best of all, many of the classes are available at little or no cost.

The Queens Library system, for example, offers a wide variety of free classes for seniors, among which computer training is particularly popular. Those classes, which introduce students to the modern computing technology, covering topics including the internet, email, Google and Facebook, are available at the Cyber Center at the Central Library (89-11 Merrick Blvd. in Jamaica) as well as at most of the library’s other branches.

The library’s Adult Learner Program offers adult classes in learning and practicing English, as well as adult basic education, with a focus on reading and mathematics skills and preparation for obtaining a high school diploma. The programs are available at seven ALP centers around the borough.

Seniors interested in staying fit might look into various stay well exercise programs offered at various branches of the library. Among the classes are relaxation techniques, gentle yoga and principles of good nutrition.

According to Joanne King, its communications director, the library holds book discussions at most branches and such specialty classes as ballroom dancing (Forest Hills branch) and quilting (Richmond Hill branch) are also in heavy demand. Other offerings at various locations include knitting, Scrabble and movie series; and there are even groups seniors can participate in from home over the phone and the internet.

For further information on any of the library’s classes and special programs, call (718) 990-0700 or visit queenslibrary.org.

There are many opportunities for older adults to take classes at the borough’s various City University of New York schools.
Queens College (65-30 Kissena Blvd. in Flushing) offers New York State residents aged 60 and up who have completed high school a wide variety of classes from which to choose.

For $80 per semester, seniors may audit classes at the college, depending on space availability. No credit is given for them.

To apply, call the college’s Welcome Center at (718) 997-5600 and select “undergraduate admissions” at the prompt to request a “Senior Citizens Auditor Application.”

Note that the fall semester is already underway and no more applications are being taken, but those for the spring semester will be accepted sometime in January, according to spokesperson Maria Matteo, who also indicated that the college’s Adult Collegiate Program has made it possible for many older adults to earn college degrees. For details, call (718) 997-5717.

From stagecraft and Introduction to French to Ancient Greek History and Cultures of the Caribbean, a wide variety of classes is also available for seniors who apply as nondegree students to Queensborough Community College (222-05 56 Ave. in Bayside).

The college’s admissions office offers the opportunity for seniors, aged 60 and older, to audit classes for a fee of $65 per course. The fall semester has already begun, however, and applications are no longer being accepted. But, according to a representative in the admissions office, applications for the spring semester will be available beginning in October or November.

They may be obtained online at qcc.cuny.edu or in person at the college’s administration building, second floor, room A210. For further information, call (718) 281-5000.

Additional opportunities for seniors are available through the college’s Continuing Education Department. For further information, call the department at (718) 631-6343.

LaGuardia Community College (31-10 Thomson Ave. in Long Island City) offers to city residents 60 and over a special rate of $65 per session (with two offered in the fall semester and two in the spring), plus a $15 consolidated service fee per semester.

Again, a wide variety of classes is available.

In addition, LaGuardia’s Adult and Continuing Education division offers a broad noncredit education that is free or “reasonably priced,” according to a college spokesperson. For further information on any of the programs at LaGuardia, call (718) 482-7200.

York College (94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd. in Jamaica) also offers a number of courses in its Continuing and Professional Education program, both those geared toward careers and those designed for personal enrichment. Many can be taken online. For more information, visit york.cuny.edu/conted or call (718) 262-2790.
‘N.Y. Corporate U’ is crushing us, critics cry

September 3, 2015 | Filed under: Community | Posted by: The Villager

BY LINCOLN ANDERSON | In June, the state’s highest court ruled against a community lawsuit seeking to block N.Y.U.’s massive South Village development plan, clearing the way for the nearly 2-million-square-foot, 20-year project to finally move forward.

But as disheartening as that loss was for the opponents, it hasn’t lessened their will to rail against New York University’s ongoing institutional sprawl in historic Greenwich Village, as well as the school’s sky-high tuition costs and associations with repressive foreign regimes.

About 200 people turned out for a wide-ranging rally — under the catchall banner of “fight the corporate university” — in Washington Square Park on Tuesday.

Assemblymember Deborah Glick was the only elected official at the rally, since many people are now out of town on summer vacation. In her remarks, speaking from the small stage south of the Garibaldi monument, she fired up the crowd.

“We are here to continue the fight,” said Glick, who was a plaintiff in the lawsuit against the N.Y.U. 2031 project. “The fight is not over.”

She said the four-building development project slated for two of the university’s superblocks first “got legs” under the Bloomberg administration, “who said N.Y.U. has raised Villagers’ property values.”

But Glick said the university is the one benefiting from its association with the Village, not vice versa.

“N.Y.U. used its location in this iconic neighborhood to attract its student body — not the other way around,” she stressed, adding, “And upon graduation, their students learn they have a mortgage on their education and they suffer forever with a yoke of debt around their neck.”

The lawsuit delayed the start of the project for three years.

“We have an opportunity to continue dragging it out — by joining hands when the bulldozers come,” the assemblymember declared, to cheers from the crowd.

Speaking at Tuesday’s rally, a student who only gave her working names — “Alex or Johanna” — said she was driven into prostitution by N.Y.U.’s high tuition.

Photo by Tequila Minsky

At every turn, the community is facing overdevelopment, she said, from Gansevoort St., where developers want to raise the building heights on a historic, landmarked low-scale block, to Hudson River Park, where, she said, “an individual wants to build a new-fangled pier,” referring to Barry Diller and the Pier 55 “arts island” project.

Members of “STOMP” performed in support of the rally. Photo by Tequila Minsky
Similarly, the city is trying to shove boom residential buildings into Brooklyn Bridge Park, she said.

Concluding her remarks, she told the crowd, "We'll see you when they come with the bulldozers!" to cheers.

Representatives of N.Y.U. student and faculty groups blasted the school for having, in their view, overly paid administrators and underpaid faculty, which, they charged, is hurting the students' education. Meanwhile, tuition at the Village school now stands at more than $40,000 a year.

Mark Crenio Miller, the leader of N.Y.U. Faculty Against the Sexton Plan, delivered cutting comments against outgoing president John Sexton. Miller, like many of the school's faculty, lives in N.Y.U. housing right in the middle of the future construction zone.

Meanwhile, he said of Sexton, "He's probably on Fire Island in his beach house — built with a million-dollar loan [from N.Y.U.], built across three lots."

The British-born Andrew Hamilton will be taking over as N.Y.U. president this coming January. Contrasting him with Hamilton, Miller scoffed at Sexton — known for freely giving warm bear hugs and sporting a Yankee cap — for his efficiency and boosterism.

"I'm sure he's got a lot more class than John Sexton," he said of the new university head, "but that should make us worry, because he's hired by the same board as Sexton, with the same program."

Next, came what was the event's highlight — or perhaps, some might say, it's the lowlight.

A young woman walked onstage wearing an elaborate, black-feathered mask. It was modeled after the one worn by Mandy, a prostitute in "Eyes Wide Shut," the 1999 movie starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman about high-end sex parties.

A rating N.Y.U. junior, she said that to afford her tuition she had to turn to working as a dominatrix in an S&M den. After the bruises became too much, she switched to being a body-massage girl in a tantric massage house, where "happy endings" were expected.

She is just one of many young college students, she said, who have had to turn to the likes of Craigslist, backpage.com and Escort.com just to make ends meet.

"Before I became a prostitute, I was a top student," she said, her voice trembling slightly.

As a first-generation college student, she explained, she didn't want to give up on her education. But as she continued to do sex work, her grades slipped and she found she was always handing in her papers late.

Her sole living parent had expected a settlement from an accident, which was going to help fund her daughter's education, but it never passed out, and then the mother died.

"I tried to transfer — but no university I applied to, either public or private, would take N.Y.U.'s credit," she said.
This was because the department she is in at N.Y.U. is a unique, liberal, creative one, a friend later explained.

Most of the other young women she worked with in the dungeon or tantric massage place were, like her, college students.

"Some were Sarah Lawrence girls, some were from CUNY, but the vast majority were from N.Y.U.," she said. "Maine, stripper, escort, prostitute — it is an epidemic. We come to the universities to better our lives. No girl should have to sell herself for a better life."

Right now, she has enough cash to last the next three months.

"I am lucky. I'm out," she said. "But I am afraid if things don't work out, I might have to go back."

Finishing her wrenching story, she turned and walked off the stage to sustained applause.

"That took a lot of guts — even with a mask on," Miller said.

A recent article in the Atlantic reported that N.Y.U. is the first university to "cross the 1,000 sugar babies" threshold on SeekingArrangement, a site that connects young women with wealthy "sugar daddies."

Among those at the rally were three women representing three generations of a family from 505 LaGuardia Place, which is located on one of the upper floors where N.Y.U. would build.

Sarah Seff, who grew up in the building with former Councilmember Alan Gerson and attended Stuyvesant High School with him, said she only wished Gerson had been re-elected to a third term, feeling he would have fought the university's project forcefully, unlike Margaret Chin.

"I feel that Chin has a large district with a varied constituency and didn't realize the damage this would do to the community," she said of N.Y.U. 2031. "I went to all the hearings, and I never heard anyone who wasn't either in construction or from N.Y.U. speak up for the plan."

Other councilmembers automatically deferred to Chin, since the project is in her district, she said, whereas if Gerson had been fighting it, it wouldn't have sailed through. Meanwhile, Community Board 1, in Lower Manhattan, was still exploring the idea of building N.Y.U. to build down there instead, she recalled.

Her daughter, Eve Liberman, 14, sat next to actor Matthew Broderick in the City Council three years ago when they both took turns testifying against the project. Asked if her thoughts about the N.Y.U. plan had changed since then, she said no.

"No, I haven't," she said. "Back then I was in sixth grade. I was 12. I was traveling out of the neighborhood by subway to school. And if I was doing that, why wouldn't the N.Y.U. students? I'm traveling even farther now to get to school," she said.

In that vein, her term added that cramming all of the students into a "cram space" in the Village doesn't serve them well, either:

"The nature of coming to New York City as a student is to embody the city at large," she said. "This is New York — either it's for you or it isn't. I think many students see N.Y.U. as a place to explore New York."

Asked for her view, grandma Shirley Seff — an original tenant of 505 LaGuardia — said, "I don't agree with the destruction of the community. We need to have the open space."

District leader candidate Terri Cole summed it all up succinctly: "Flowers not towers; parks not parking.

"Everyone talks about town-gown conflict," she said. "We are town and gown together against a real estate developer that shares its name with a university."

Although none of the opponents' celebrity supporters were on hand, they did help the cause digitally. Padma Lakshmi, Susan Sarandon, Mark Ruffalo and John Leguizamo all tweeted about the rally, while Matthew Modine — whose number of followers is growing up with the success of his new series, "Pilot" — did a retweet about it.

John Beckman, the university's spokesman, countered the charges made at the rally with some statistics.

He said N.Y.U. has increased its financial aid budget by 48 percent since 2002 and provides nearly $830 million annually in scholarships. Since 2002, he said, N.Y.U. has reduced the average debt upon graduation by more than $3,000 — with the average debt for an N.Y.U. graduate below the national average. Also, he noted, N.Y.U. for the last 10 years has continued to rank in the top five of the Princeton Review's "dream schools." Financially, the university's endowment has tripled since 2000, and both bond and Moody's have rated N.Y.U.'s bonds in the AA range, he noted. Plus, 20 percent of incoming freshmen, he pointed out, are the first in their family ever to attend college.

N.Y.U. is planning to keep Coles gym, on Mercer St., open through at least Nov. 19. The university plans to start the N.Y.U. 2031 project there, by tearing down Coles and replacing it with a far-larger building, currently known only as the "Zipper building," which would have a new gym in its basement level. The current gym serves 2,000 people daily during the school year. N.Y.U. says it will meet the needs of its student athletes and students at its Palladium building at E. 4th St. and "through other arrangements at nearby external venues." N.Y.U. is also rezoning a new fitness facility at 404 Lafayette St. that will contain cardio training and recreation classes.

Miller promised, "Is there another major university without a proper gym for its entire community? Considering how much it costs to go to N.Y.U., there is no good reason to deprive our students of that indispensable resource."
LEHMANN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS ANNOUNCES
SPECTACULAR 35TH ANNIVERSARY 2015-16 SEASON
(Published: September 04, 2015)

LEHMANN CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
ANNOUNCES SPECTACULAR 35TH ANNIVERSARY 2015-16 SEASON

Featuring Latin and Popular Music Concerts
The MACHITO ORCHESTRA and the MAMBO LEGENDS ORCHESTRA, SALSEROS
CHARLIE APONTE, JOSE ALBERTO "EL CANARIO" and DOMINGO QUINONES,
LALO RODRIGUEZ, THE ORCHESTRA NOW, PARRANDA NAVIDEÑA, DOO WOP:
ROCK AND ROLL IS HERE TO STAY, FOREVER FREESTYLE 10

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts proudly announces the lineup for its
35th Anniversary 2015-16 Season, which continues its tradition of bringing
world-class entertainment to the Bronx. To kick off the new season, a tribute to
the big Latin bands the MACHITO ORCHESTRA and the MAMBO LEGENDS
ORCHESTRA will perform hits from the 40's, 50's and 60's; Noche de Salseros
CHARLIE APONTE, JOSE ALBERTO "EL CANARIO" and DOMINGO QUINONES
unite for an evening of world class music; and LALO RODRIGUEZ will perform a
special concert that draws from his four decades of salsa and boleros.
Audiences will celebrate the Holiday Season Jibaro Style with PARRANDA
NAVIDEÑA and be thrilled with the popular Lehman Center favorites FOREVER
FREESTYLE 10 and DOO WOP: ROCK AND ROLL IS HERE TO STAY. Lehman
Center's exciting 35th Anniversary Season promises an exceptional array of
talent to please all audiences. (Complete 2015-2016 Latin and Popular music
schedule included below.)

For thirty-five years Lehman Center for the Performing Arts has presented an
international selection of artists and celebrities at very affordable ticket prices.
Eva Bornstein, who is beginning her eleventh season as Executive Director of
Lehman Center, says, "As I look back and recall enjoying legends like Smokey
Robinson, Patti LaBelle, Johnny Mathis and José Feliciano, we have been a
home for many 'firsts', like the recent appearance of Michael Bolton. Lehman
Center was also the only place in the entire country where Gilberto Santa Rosa
and Rubén Blades performed together on the same stage for the very first
time. Lehman Center's 2015-16 season offers a full and varied line-up of
performances that stay true to bringing the best headliners, dance, music and
cultural attractions to the Bronx. New this season is an inaugural concert by a
new generation of professional musicians who just formed THE ORCHESTRA
NOW and will present an evening of the beautiful music of Prokofiev, Haydn
and Mozart for which tickets are complimentary with the purchase of tickets to
any of the 2015-16 season's events from the box office! We will also be hosting
the Jazz at Lincoln Center Orchestra and its renowned Maestro Wynton
Marsalis. From the Cuban sensation - Formell y Los Van Van, to the legendary
Machito and Mambo Legends Orchestras, to the unprecedented evening of
Salsa vocalists Charlie Aponte, Jose Alberto "El Canario" and Domingo
Quinones, to the extraordinary Now Orchestra, to the classic Doo Wop: Rock
and Roll is Here to Stay Concert, our new season has something for everyone."

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West, Bronx, NY 10468. Tickets for all events can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at 718-960-8833 (Monday through Friday, 10am-5pm, and beginning at 12 noon on the day of the concert), or through online access at www.LehmanCenter.org. Lehman Center is accessible by #4 or D train to Bedford Park Blvd, and is off the Saw Mill River Parkway and the Major Deegan Expressway. Low cost on-site parking available for $5.

Special discounts are built into Lehman's concert series. "Create your own Series" offers a 10% discount on a minimum of three shows, or a 20% discount for six or more shows, or buy five family shows and receive a 15% discount. (All shows must be purchased at the same time at either the box office or by phone at 718-960-8833.) Plus special $10 tickets for any seat are available for selected shows for children 12 and under, made possible by a grant from Con Edison. Group, Student, Alumni, CUNY Staff and Faculty, and Senior discounts also may apply on selected events?call the box office at 718-960-8833 for more details. Becoming a 35th Season Friend of Lehman Center by making a tax-deductible donation will help the Center bring in major artists at affordable ticket prices. Visit www.LehmanCenter.org for more information and complete 35th Season Schedule.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, Inc. is supported, in part, with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the New York City Council. The 2015-2016 season is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature, Con Edison, the New Yankee Stadium Community Benefits Fund, the Rudin Foundation, the Hyde and Watson Foundation, the Friends of Lehman Center and through corporations, foundations and private donations.

Without proof of fraud, a jilted husband can't keep his permanent resident wife from naturalizing

A Social Security Card, and a Permanent Resident — or Green — card. Once a spouse has his or her
Q. My uncle married a lady, 12 years his junior, from the Dominican Republic. It took her four to five years to get her green card, but once she did, she left him. She is now living in the United States with relatives. My uncle feels duped, used and confused. Can he do anything to keep her from getting U.S. citizenship?

Richard Caroselli, North Arlington, N.J.

A. There's nothing your uncle can do to keep his wife from getting U.S. citizenship. Her only penalty for leaving your uncle is that she will need to be a permanent resident for five years before she can naturalize. If she were to stay with him, she could naturalize after three years.

Immigration considers a marriage valid if it is lawful in the state or country where the wedding took place, unless the parties entered the marriage solely for getting an immigration benefit. "Solely" is the key word. From your letter, your uncle thought he was getting a wife and companion — not just helping someone get a green card. As for his wife, unless you have proof that she intended to defraud your uncle from the start, Immigration can't do much about the situation. I find that many marriages based on long-distance romances don't work out. The fact that she left so soon doesn't prove fraud.

Q. My friend's nephew has been here for two months on a tourist visa. How can he get work permission? If he could find a job and work here legally, he would stay. Is that possible?
Separated wedding bands, symbolic of a broken marriage. If spouses stay together, a permanent resident can naturalize after three years instead of five.

José Perez, N.Y.

A. Changing from visitor status to employment-based status is possible, but your nephew would need to qualify based on advanced education or hard-to-find skills or training. I don’t have space to discuss them all here, but you can learn more about them at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at uscis.gov. If your nephew lacks higher education or work experience and he can afford to study here without working, he should consider applying to college. If accepted at an Immigration and Customs Enforcement accredited school, he could change to F-1 international student status.

Allan Wernick is an attorney and director of the City University of New York’s Citizenship NOW! project. Send questions and comments to Allan Wernick, New York Daily News, 4 New York Plaza, 7th fl., New York, N.Y., 10004 or email to questions@allanwernick.com. Follow him on Twitter @awernick.
Women in Queens: A unique historical reflection

by Christine Spagnuolo, qboro contributor | Posted: Thursday, September 3, 2015 10:30 am

How well do you know your local history?

If you want to learn more, check out an exhibit presented by the Queens Historical Society in Flushing: “Leading the Way: Six Outstanding Women of Queens.”

Betty Friedan, Yeou-Cheng Ma, Helen Keller, Ris' Stevens, Lisa Randall and Grace Lee Boggs are the influential ladies you can learn about at the quaint historical home on the Kingsland Homestead. The social reform, arts and science accomplishments of the six women are a celebrated focus.

The exhibit will run until May 2016.

A new exhibit at the Queens Historical Society invites reflection and contemplation of some of the borough’s most influential women.

An article in The Huffington Post declaring 2015 The Year of the Woman is what inspired the society to create this presentation. This year also marks the 20-year celebration of 1995’s United Nations Conference on Women, a blueprint for ensuring that women worldwide have access to education, equal pay, protection from violence and chances to make key decisions.

The exhibit consists of detailed biographies of the six women and their major accomplishments. Photos, artifacts and many documents and letters that can be read through glass coverings accompany exhibit information. Not all of the women were Queens natives, but they all did live in the borough during at least one crucial point of their lives.

Friedan authored the iconic book “The Feminine Mystique” and briefly lived in Queens during the 1940s and '50s when she began writing it. She also taught journalism at Queens College.

Ma, a renowned musician, music educator and developmental pediatrician, lives in Fresh Meadows and has been a Queens resident for more than 20 years. She is the executive director of the Children’s Orchestra Society.

Keller was the multitalented feminist, suffragist, social activist and socialist whose name everyone knows. The exhibit argued that she changed perceptions on what it means to be deaf and blind and beat the odds to make great waves in the world.

Something that might be less-known by many is that Keller also lived in Forest Hills from 1917 to
Stevens, an operatic mezzo-soprano, moved to Jackson Heights when she was 14. Upon graduating Newton High School in Elmhurst, she attended the Juilliard School of Music in Manhattan and spent her life performing opera in both opera companies, such as the Metropolitan, and competitions, and assisting young singers and teaching voice when her performance days were over. She passed away in 2013 at age 99.

Randall, a theoretical physicist and leading mind in the field of cosmology, is a graduate of PS 4 in Fresh Meadows. The PhD graduate in theoretical particle physics from Harvard University is a multitalented thinker, the exhibition notes, who has received many awards.

Boggs, a Chinese-American writer and activist, grew up in Jackson Heights. She began publishing reflections on her life and how the world has changed at the age of 83. She is 100 years old this year.

Acting as an interesting focal point at the exhibit is a scattering of sea glass of all different shapes, sizes and shades covering a small fireplace. “Like Sea Glass: A Hand Full of Light” is a very unique addition and its appearance stands out in the room. The installation, by M.J. Levy Dickson, pairs a beautiful sight with a message of reflecting: “A surprising element can lead visitors to reconsider past perceptions and re-envision future possibility.”

The interesting art piece juxtaposed with the displays on the six Queens women creates a theme throughout the exhibit. What one can learn in this museum about these women is not necessarily common knowledge — it makes you think, connect the past to the present and have a better understanding of what changes and accomplishments had to be made to bring us where we are today.

‘Leading the Way: Six Outstanding Women in Queens’
When: Thru May 2016; 2:30-4:30 p.m., Tuesdays, weekends
Where: Queens Historical Society, 143-45 37 Ave., Flushing
Entry: $5, $3 students, seniors;
(718) 939-0647,
queenshistoricalsociety.org.
The end of an era at the Chronicle

by Peter C. Mastrosimone, Editor-in-Chief | Posted: Thursday, September 3, 2015 10:30 am

When birds started dropping dead en masse at Fort Totten in 1999, she was the first reporter — anywhere — to cover what soon became known as the West Nile virus’ first appearance in North America.

The next year, when two madmen massacred five people and injured two more at a Wendy’s in Flushing, she was on-scene the following day and covered their trial from beginning to end.

And last year, when Queens celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first year of the 1964-65 World’s Fair at Flushing Meadows, she wrote a 10-part sequence of articles that was named Best News or Feature Series of the year by the New York Press Association.

Those may be the three biggest subjects she covered as a reporter and news editor. And now, after 23 years working at the Queens Chronicle, first as a part-time proofreader and eventually as its managing editor, Liz Rhoades is retiring.

Hers is really a career that spanned 30 years, in two segments, as she also worked for seven years in the late 1960s and early ’70s as a reporter for the Grand Rapids Press in Michigan, the state where she had gone to college.

Even before that, she was editor-in-chief at the Baldwin High School newspaper on Long Island, where she grew up, and then managing editor at Michigan State University’s State News. (She still loves the Spartans.)

“I’ve known since I was 10 or maybe younger that I wanted to be a journalist,” Rhoades said this week in reflecting back on her career in the news business. “And I knew that I was going to do it, thanks to my parents. I always felt lucky that way, that I had a goal in mind, and that I could do what I wanted.

“I love journalism so much; it’s so much a part of my life.”

She’s also always known news when she sees it. When a source she knew from the Bayside Historical Society called the day before deadline to report the dead crows at Fort Totten, she knew
something unusual was happening. The head of the Queens Zoo got her in touch with the chief pathologist for the state Department of Environmental Conservation, and he confirmed, “Yeah, there’s something going on here.”

Rhoades convinced the Chronicle’s publisher the story should go on page one in the northeast Queens edition, and the rest is history.

And history itself has always been something Rhoades has kept in mind. Ten years after the Flushing killings, she did a retrospective on the case, one so compelling it drew the mother of one of the victims to the Chronicle office to tearfully thank her for not forgetting her daughter’s death. Another victim’s mother had been one of the sources for the anniversary article.

For her series on the fair, Rhoades didn’t only review the historical record and interview a number of sources, she also brought the community directly in by requesting written memories and photographs from those who were there and publishing those too.

She did a second, smaller series this year on the 50th anniversary of the fair’s second part.

In between these career highlights, Rhoades did thousands of other articles big and small, ones on everything from major Queenswide issues such as the fate of Willets Point to the hyperlocal quality-of-life problems and features on interesting characters that define a community newspaper.

She trained dozens of reporters, edited their work, doled out assignments, made sure freelancers were paid and did all the other things managing a newsroom entails.

“Thank you for being dedicated and doing the right thing, always doing the right thing,” Chronicle Publisher Mark Weidler said at one of two celebrations the paper held for her this week. “You always showed professionalism.”

Referring to the Queens home where she lives with her husband, Joe, a retired Merrill Lynch executive, their Ocean Grove, NJ vacation cottage and the couple’s plans to travel, Weidler added, “Whether it’s Middle Village, the Jersey Shore, Europe or the world, I hope you stop by and stay in touch when you can.”

Liz and Joe Rhoades, whose son, Ben, lives with his wife and child in Philadelphia, and whose daughter, Sarah, lives in Forest Hills, plan not only to keep visiting their Jersey Shore home and the City of Brotherly Love, but to see old friends all across the country and to take another trip to Europe, as they did for the first time in June.

They’ll also be hitting more Broadway shows and seeing some of their favorite pop and rock stars, such as Jimmy Buffet, Darlene Love and Bon Jovi.

In Michigan, where Rhoades got her professional start, she said there were a few notable stories she did that involved the unusual: among them climbing down into a cave on a rope, attending a rural wedding where the groom wore his hunting outfit and posing as a prostitute at the request of the
police department in a john sting.

“They said, ‘Hey, you’re a young chick; you want to go along with a policewoman and do this?’” she recalled. “I said, ‘Sure, I’ll get a good story out of it.’”

She also led a tour of her paper’s office for Michigan’s governor at the time — George Romney, father of another well-known politician named Mitt.

The Rhoadeses moved to Queens in 1973 when Joe was transferred. Liz was a stay-at-home mom for a while, doing things such as leading the Girl Scout troop at Trinity Lutheran Church and the PS 49 PTA during that time. When her daughter was 12, she came back to the profession she loves. Since then, she’s had a direct or indirect hand in dozens of the awards that line the walls here.

Rhoades has seen both journalism and Queens change a great deal over time. Asked what she’d say to new Queens residents, she said, “Get a subway map, a bus map and learn who represents you so you know who to go to about problems. Enjoy what’s here. Queens has a lot to offer: restaurants, cultural things to do, museums, exhibits, professional performances at Queens College and Queensborough Community College. Take advantage of what’s here.”