

Goddard Riverside News

The Bernie Wohl Center Opens



NYC Council Member Gale Brewer (center), flanked by members of the Wohl family, Executive Director Stephan Russo (far right) and Associate Director of Programs Michele Ivory (far left), cut the festive ribbon as guests cheered from the sidewalk.

On September 8th, The Bernie Wohl Center officially opened with a ribbon cutting ceremony and celebration. More than 250 friends, neighbors, donors, staff, board members, elected officials and participants gathered to inaugurate the newly renovated space at 647 Columbus Avenue. The celebration wasn't just about the renovation, it was about the living legacy that the Center represents.

The event was held in honor of the late Bernie Wohl, a long-time executive director of Goddard Riverside, whose vision and inspiration live on in the center that bears his name. "The name reminds us of a loving human being and his remarkable compassion and empathy for the children in this community," said Betsy Newell, President of Goddard Riverside. When Wohl died in 2006, a campaign was launched to renovate the space and turn it into a top-flight arts and education venue to enhance our community programs.

After a year of renovation, the space was transformed into a warm and welcoming environment through the vision of architect, MDA designgroup, and the diligence of the Vanguard Construction and Development Group. The center is on the first floor of a New York City Housing Authority

(NYCHA) facility. John Rhea, Chairman of the NYCHA, commented, "It takes partnership and teamwork to make this ribbon cutting and renovation possible and I am proud to be a part of it."

The interior space is open and full of light and the walls are lined with art created by budding artists in the youth programs, ArtWorks and Club 647. The centerpiece of the renovation is a multi-purpose auditorium that can be transformed into a gym or theatre space.

While guests were enjoying hors d'oeuvre, mingling and touring, two concert pianists and a violinist performed on the auditorium's stage. "There is a good feeling in this room," said Stephan Russo as he began his opening remarks. "Many who knew and worked with Bernie are here tonight, honoring his memory and his contribution to the community."

NYC Council member Gale Brewer reminisced about Bernie's role in advocacy and noted that although the neighborhood has changed, "Bernie's values will never be forgotten." His values are also reflected in a copper sculpture that hangs in the entrance. Guests were encouraged to view the art piece created in 1998 by Amir Bey and some talented after school students.

Entitled, "The Sum of the Hearts is Bigger Than the House," the installation features impressions of staff, participants and Bernie himself. The principles that guided Bernie's work are also etched into the copper bricks.

Throughout the evening, many commented that although Bernie would be exceptionally proud of what was accomplished, he wasn't the kind of man who would have liked drawing attention to himself. However, when Bernie's daughter Carla spoke, she reiterated that her dad certainly would have been thrilled to have this incredible gathering space for discussions, meetings and performances, and that he even would have loved the fact that the Center bore his name!



The Center is currently home to an after school program, summer day camp, and community arts.

INSIDE

Curious George Turns 70

Options: The Golden Key

Homeless Outreach 24/7

Head Start Teacher Wins Education Award



Regina Gallagher is a head teacher at Goddard Riverside's West 95th Street Head Start program. She calls it, "A truly wonderful school for children to discover the joy of learning

and my home away from home." Regina has been a teacher of young children for over 15 years.

She recently won an Excellence in Teaching Recognition Award from the NYC Early Childhood Professional Development Institute, and was one of only two teachers selected from all over New York City in the spring 2011.

"This is an honor for Regina and for us," said Pedro Cordero, Director of Early Childhood Programs. "Her approach and enthusiasm reflect the core philosophy of each of our five early childhood centers on the Upper West Side."

Options: The Golden Key



his financial aid during the four years at Buffalo.

His kind spirit and determination have combined to make Muhammed

While many of our Options college access students have overcome obstacles in their past, few have had as difficult a hand dealt to them as Muhammed. He was born in The Gambia and grew up separated from his parents. In his early teens, an uncle arranged for him to relocate to New York City. He arrived here and bounced around among family members, never really belonging to any one family. While attending high school, he worked full-time at the New York Public Library to support both himself and relatives back in The Gambia.

Muhammed dreamed of a college education and Options staff helped make that happen. He received one-to-one counseling and assistance with the application process. Options was instrumental in weaving together a complex financial aid package so he could pursue his studies in political science at Buffalo State College.

Two years ago, Muhammed left for college, a teenager alone in an adopted country. He worried about making friends and how he would supplement

something of a celebrity. He is the official face of the Buffalo State College advertising campaign (poster above) and appeared in a video to promote the university. Besides his marketing role, he is a mentor for young men, serves the Dean of the University College board, and is the Team Leader for the State University Police Student Assistant Program, a full time job that includes supervision of 70 drivers and workers.

"Options has been the golden key to my future," said Muhammed. "This program helped me audaciously imagine my future and has given me the confidence to believe in my ability to grow even more."

This young man has lived through challenges that would easily deter most people, but he sees nothing special about his success. Muhammed's ambition in life is to be a catalyst in helping those who are disenfranchised. And he is well on his way.

Note: Since 1985 nearly 6,000 teens have gone on to college with help from Options.

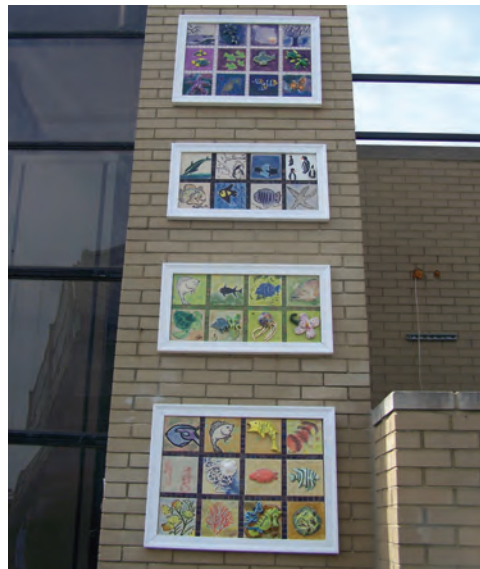
Curious George Turns 70



The Learning Company, a division of Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, partnered with Goddard Riverside to put on a birthday party for Curious George who turned 70 years old this year. The festivities were part of an event to launch the publisher's new interactive math and reading workbook series which encourages learning beyond the classroom and in the home. "The publishing industry has been a long-time and dedicated supporter of Goddard Riverside's mission, and this is a wonderful example of our partnership," said Stephan Russo, Goddard Riverside Executive Director. Tony Bordon, President of The Learning Company, told the teachers and parents in the audience that the educational materials are created to make learning fun and encourage curiosity.

Sea of Life

A new marine life art installation recently went on display at the New York Aquarium and 25 of the 100 tiles were created by residents of Goddard Riverside's Safe Haven,



a transitional residential facility, and Club 647, a weekend program for homeless and formerly homeless adults. Art therapist, Jennifer Wade, has been working with the residents on the tiles for months. The artwork depicts seascapes and sea creatures. The other organizations that participated included the NYC Housing Authority and the Jewish Association for Services to the Aged. To complete the community effort, the tiles were fired at the Frederick Douglass Senior Center.

"The residents looked forward to working on the tiles. It was a learning experience and a group effort, and some discovered hidden talents," said Mario Arias, Director of Safe Haven.

Homeless Outreach 24/7...Rain, Sleet or Snow



During the hurricane weekend, most of us remember being secluded in our homes and glued to the television intently watching Hurricane Irene's path. But that wasn't the scenario for everyone.

With the severe weather and no public transportation, our outreach team continued its work with the homeless individuals who live on the streets in Manhattan and had no shelter. Despite the tremendous logistical difficulties faced by the team, 81 individuals on the street were contacted and 26 placed in temporary shelters. "Once we got out there on the weekend, we were

satisfied to realize that our awareness effort prior to the storm's arrival did send many individuals to shelters before the worst part of the storm descended on Manhattan," said Joe Hallmark, Deputy Director of the Manhattan Outreach Consortium.

Not only were staff busy on the streets, but they also fielded 61 calls from the City's 311, which is a very high volume in such a short period of time.

The outreach teams are used to working in all weather and are trained in responding to severe conditions. Just this past summer, there were 10 Code Red

days, indicating high temperatures that could cause dehydration, heat exhaustion and heat stroke. During the winter, there are designated Code Blue days...79 last year...when the temperature dips below 32 degrees. When these alerts are in effect additional outreach procedures are activated which include more intensive and frequent visits around the clock.

The Manhattan Outreach Consortium has been operating since September 2007. Goddard Riverside, the lead agency in the Consortium, has 3 other partners with the goal of housing chronically homeless individuals. We are responsible for outreach from 59th to 110th and in lower Manhattan during the day, and cover the entire borough of Manhattan on nights and weekends. If you make a 311 call about homeless individuals, we respond to it.

Some recent stats:

Reduction in street homeless people in Manhattan in past year: down -31% to 769

Individual housing **placements** in Manhattan since 2007: 1285

Retention rate in permanent housing: 91%

Goddard Riverside Board Elects New President

At the annual board meeting on May 17th, Betsy Newell was elected President for a six year term. Betsy has served on the Goddard Riverside board of directors for 40 years. Kayalyn Marafioti was elected Secretary, and four new members were also voted in.

Summer Anderson

is a consultant for Books-A-Million, Inc. with her own website www.summersays.com, which consists of a range of whimsical paper goods, gift

items, classic literature, and thought-provoking new book releases, with her personal reflections on select items. Prior to Books-A-Million, Summer spent three years in sales and marketing for CBS Sports in New York. Summer received her BA degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in sociology from the University of Mississippi.



Sender Cohen is a Portfolio Manager and the Director of Research at Soros Fund Management. Among other positions, Sender was previously a Managing Director at Duquesne Capital and a partner at Soros Private Equity Partners. He serves on the boards of trustees of Yeshiva University, the Natan Fund (which Sender co-founded), and Birthright Israel. Sender received his BA in History from Yeshiva University in 1994.



Paola Lozano is a Partner in the Mergers and Acquisitions Group at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Her practice is focused on cross-border corporate transactions with special emphasis on Latin America. Prior to joining Skadden, Paola practiced law in Colombia with the law firm of Gomez, Pinzon & Asociados. She holds a J.D. from Universidad de los Andes,

School of Law, and a Masters Degree in International Commercial Law from the same university. Paola earned her LL.M. in Banking and Corporate Finance at Fordham University School of Law.

Sabina Menschel



is a Managing Director in K2 Global Consulting's New York office. In this capacity she plays an active role in client engagements and business development efforts and is also involved with management and operational issues. Sabina served as a Special Advisor in the Directorate of Intelligence at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) in Washington, D.C. In this capacity she worked with senior management in developing the FBI's Intelligence capabilities. Sabina has a BA from Harvard College and an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

Calendar

Family Council Forum

Congressman Nadler, at Goddard Riverside, open to the public
Wednesday, November 9, 4-5:30pm



Book Fair Gala

Honoring Carolyn Reidy
CEO and President of Simon & Schuster
583 Park Ave,
Monday, November 7, 6pm

Meet-the-Author Dinners

The series begins Thursday, November 10 in private homes

Book Bash

Friday, November 18, 6-9pm,

Book Fair Sale - FREE

Saturday, November 19, 10am-6pm
Sunday, November 20, 11am-5pm

**All events unless noted are held at:
Goddard Riverside
593 Columbus Ave @ 88th St.**

For more information or to purchase tickets: www.goddard.org or call the development office, 212 873 6444.

Goddard Riverside Board of Directors

Betsy Newell
President

Susan Richman
First Vice President

Kayalyn A. Marafioti
Secretary

Howard S. Stein
Treasurer

Stephen J. Adler
Joan Amron
Summer Anderson
Christopher Auguste
Doris V. Brunson
Richard A. Burgheim
Sender Cohen
Betsy Dean
Page D. Edmunds
Michael Friedman

Jesse M. Furman
Chip Gibson
Maureen Golden
Victor A. Gonzalez
Evelyn Grant
Susan Grobman
Norman H. Gross
Jo Butler Grossman
Stanley D. Heckman
Florence Janovic

Jacqueline Jones, M.D.
J.P. Leventhal
Dr. Barry Levine
Paola Lozano
Elizabeth Lubetkin Lipton
Jacqueline Long
Josh Marwell
Ann McGovern
Linn Cary Mehta
Sabina Menschel

Amy S. Mintzer
Alan Mirken
Bradley Muro
Laura N. Page
Laurence J. Pomerance
Kenna Reehil
Eric Rosenfeld
Mary Ellen Rudolph
Linda R. Safran
Daniel E. Siff

Heidi Stamas
Barbara Tarmy
Sheila C. Thimba
Maria Vecchiotti
E. Waide Warner, Jr.
Rhonda White
Peter I. Workman

Stephan Russo
Executive Director

Silver Anniversary

This year we are celebrating a silver anniversary as our Book Fair turns 25. It started out as a small collaboration between the publishing industry and Goddard Riverside to raise money for the organization's programs for homeless people. Over the years, the Fair has grown to become the hugely popular holiday tradition it is today. The Fair is always held the weekend before Thanksgiving at Goddard Riverside's West 88th Street headquarters. More than 3,000 people from all over New York City and the tri-state area come through the doors on the weekend to purchase new and bestselling books for half the price. Shoppers love to get a deal while supporting a good cause. In addition to books, there are calendars, CDs, hand-knitted gloves and scarves, plants and many other items to make this event a holiday shopping destination.

Our Book Fair season also includes a series of Meet-the-Author dinners held in the homes of friends and neighbors, beginning on November 10th. All proceeds go to helping the 17,000 New Yorkers that Goddard Riverside serves each year.

From Empanadas to Svekolny Salat



Representing 24 countries, 15 of them Spanish speaking, residents from our supportive housing residence, Phelps House, cooked up a storm and shared special dishes and desserts with nearly 100 neighbors and staff. A parade with residents holding flags of countries from the Far East, Near East, South America, Europe, Central America, the Caribbean and the U.S. filed into the cafeteria where a buffet style dinner awaited them.

"All the presidents of countries around the world were at the United Nations this week and I thought it would be a good time to celebrate our own United Nations at Phelps

House," said Arthur Sheppard, Environmental Educator/Horticulturalist.