

Assembly Member

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Rebecca Seawright

COMMUNITY OFFICE
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IN ALBANY:

- *Seawright-Sponsored Equal Rights Amendment Bill passes Assembly*
- *Re-election of New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa and Regent Judith Chin*
- *Standing up for Women's Reproductive Rights*
- *Seawright Cosponsors Critical Legislation to Expedite and Streamline NYCHA Repairs*
- *Reform Jewish Voice*

IN OUR COMMUNITY:

- *Seawright Holds Meeting with Westview Task Force and Homes & Community Renewal*
- *Seawright Holds Press Conference with the Girl Scouts of Greater New York*
- *East 86th Street Association Clean Team Hits the Streets!*
- *Community St. Patrick's Day Leadership Breakfast*

NEWS YOU CAN USE

- *As Featured in... Our Town- A Kinder, Gentler, Cleaner Dump*
- *IRS Report: Beware Tax Season Scams*

UPCOMING EVENTS/POSTINGS:

- *Seawright Spring/Summer 2018 Internship*
- *Shred-a-thon*
- *Electronics Recycling*
- *Alzheimers Foundation Brain Health Forum*
- *Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum Internship Program*
- *Lenox Hill Neighborhood*



A MESSAGE FROM

Assembly Member Rebecca A. Seawright

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

This week we took one step closer to achieving full equality for women in New York State as my Equal Rights Amendment legislation was passed by the Assembly. While New York State is one of the most progressive states in the nation on policies relating to paid family leave or minimum wage, equal rights are not yet provided for in the State's constitution. The Assembly passed my legislation with bipartisan support and it will be delivered to the Senate for consideration and action. As budget negotiations continue, I wanted to share some important updates with regards to congestion pricing and other pressing budgetary matters.

I look forward to co-sponsoring the following upcoming events:

- Saturday, April 21- ***Shred-a-thon, Earth Day edition!*** 82nd Street Greenmarket between First and York Avenues, 10am-2pm.

OLDER AMERICANS MONTH SERIES IN MAY 2018:

- **Friday, May 11 - Alzheimer's Foundation of America *Brain Health and Wellness presentation*, 10am-12pm at Seawright's District Community Office.**
- **Wednesday, May 16- *Score Rehab Physical Therapist James Shields Presents Fall***

House Sparking Wellness and Creativity through art

- *LHNH Screening of My Annie Hall*
- *New York Presbyterian Adult Mental Health First Aid*
- *RIRA/CBS Mental Health First Aid for Veterans*
- *NYP- Family Caregiver Symposium*
- *Through the looking glass Church of the Epiphany Talk*
- *Motorgate Gallery Opening*

CONSTRUCTION UPDATES:

- *Second Avenue Subway Updates*

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Prevention strategies, 11am-1pm at Seawright's District Community Office.

- **Thursday, July 26- *Free Mobile Mammography***, Appointments begin at 9am. Call 1-800-564-6868 to make an appointment. Scanvan will be parked at Seawright's District Community Office.

Stay in touch with my office about any issues that are important to you. As always, we are just a visit, call or email away.

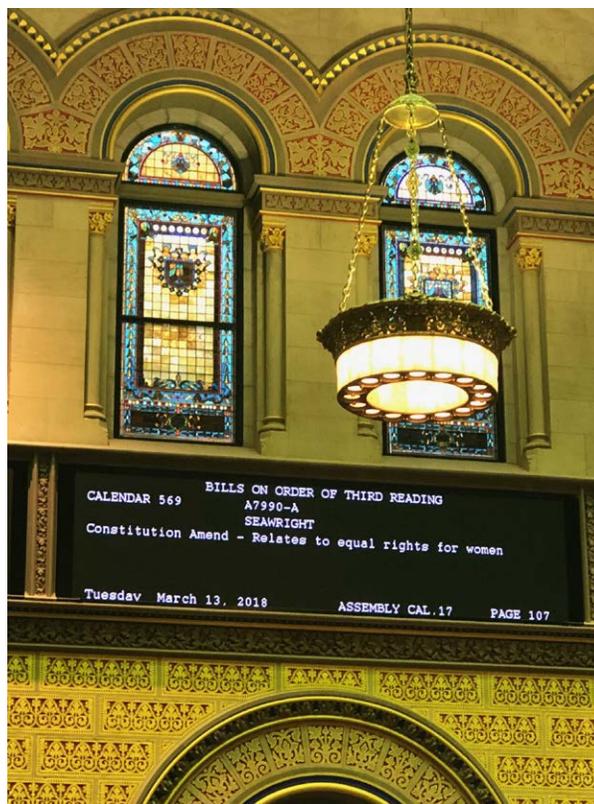
Sincerely,

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT

IN ALBANY

Seawright-Sponsored New York State Equal Rights Amendment Passes Assembly

The Fight for Equal Rights for Women in our State and Nation Gains New Momentum



As Women's History Month neared the mid-point, on Tuesday, March 13, 2018 the New York State Assembly passed the Equal Rights Amendment Bill (A7990/S6708), to guarantee equal rights for women in New York State's Constitution, sponsored by Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright (Upper East Side, Yorkville, and Roosevelt Island).

While New York State is one of the most progressive states in the nation on policies relating to paid family leave or minimum wage, equal rights are not explicitly provided for in the State's constitution.

Assembly Member Seawright stated, "*The women of our*

state deserve the

constitutional protection of equal rights to ensure that progress made thus far in policies to prohibit sex discrimination is not weakened or undermined. The Equal Rights amendment to the State Constitution will ensure that New York State women are permanently protected from sex-based discrimination. I am proud to have introduced and helped to pass this Equal Rights Amendment. The time to act is now!"

Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney stated, "*In the era of the Me Too and Time's Up*



Seawright examining the votes for her ERA Legislation.

movements, we have a unique opportunity to turn activism into lasting change, and the Equal Rights Amendment is an essential part of achieving it. I have introduced a federal ERA 11 times in Congress, but the U.S. Constitution still does not guarantee equal rights for men and women despite its

overwhelming support by the American people. I am incredibly proud of New York State for taking the first step towards guaranteeing gender equality in the State Constitution. By doing so we are declaring that men and women are equals, and are sending a message that the days of discrimination against women are coming to an end. Thank you to Assembly Member Seawright for spearheading this effort."

ERA Coalition President Jessica Neuwirth stated, "The ERA Coalition is proud to endorse Assemblywoman Seawright's legislation, A07990A, amending the New York State Constitution to prohibit discrimination on account of sex. As our society embraces the #MeToo movement, it is past time to see New York's foundational legal document updated for the 21st century. We thank Assemblywoman Seawright for being a champion for constitutional equality."

Assembly Bill 7990 will be delivered to the Senate for its consideration and action.



USA Herald
The People's Voice

New York State Assembly Approves Bills to Protect Women's Reproductive Rights

By Marivic Cabural Summers - March 14, 2018

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Equality is a fundamental human right

Meanwhile, the *Equal Rights Amendment* will update the New York State Constitution to prohibit denying equal rights based on gender. The bill will guarantee that men and women in the state have equal rights in employment, health, education, and domestic violence.

Currently, the state Constitution offers equal rights on the basis of race, color, creed or religion. However, it does not guarantee equal rights on the basis of gender.

Assembly member Seawright is the sponsor of the Equal Rights Amendment. According to her, "Equality is a fundamental human right that should be guaranteed in the Constitution."

Budget Updates

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright announced that she helped pass the Assembly's 2018-19 state budget proposal, which invests in vital programs and services that help hardworking families and move New York forward (E.912). The \$170.2 billion spending plan is \$6.5 billion more than the 2017-18 budget and \$1.3 billion more than the 2018-19 executive budget proposal.

Making higher education more affordable and accessible

In order to address issues of college affordability and accessibility, the Assembly budget proposal continues the Higher Education Road to Success Initiative by making a \$16 billion investment to promote college affordability in New York State.

The Assembly also continues the Excelsior Scholarship, which makes CUNY and SUNY schools tuition-free for New Yorkers who earn less than \$110,000 this year (\$125,000 when fully phased in). Students who attend a private college in New York and earn less than \$110,000 this year (\$125,000 when fully phased in) would also be eligible for a scholarship award of \$6,000. Additionally, the Assembly plan expands eligibility for Enhanced Tuition Awards to students attending proprietary colleges.

The plan restores \$24.6 million in aid to private colleges, known as Bundy Aid, and builds on the successful Foster Youth College Success Initiative started in 2015 by providing \$6 million to support foster students on their path to higher education. Other measures include a new \$25 million Martin Luther King, Jr. non-tuition scholarship to help close the affordability gap for even more families across the state.

Expanding opportunity programs and tuition assistance

The Assembly budget restores all college opportunity programs and increases their funding by \$23.8 million – or 20 percent. The proposal allocates:

- \$41.4 million for the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), a \$5.9 million increase;
- \$37.5 million for the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), a \$5.4 million increase;
- \$32.8 million for Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge (SEEK), a \$4.7 million increase;
- \$21.4 million for Liberty Partnerships, a \$3.1 million increase;
- \$18.4 million for the Science and Technology Entry Program (STEP), a \$2.6 million increase;
- \$13.9 million for the Collegiate Science and Technology Entry Program (C-STEP), a \$2 million increase; and
- \$1.6 million for College Discovery, a \$225,000 increase.

The budget also allows the SUNY Board of Trustees to grant in-state tuition to victims of natural disasters. This will help those affected by a devastating hurricane season in the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico access an affordable, high-quality education as they continue to rebuild their communities, noted Seawright.

Strengthening public and community colleges

The Assembly budget proposal also increases funding for CUNY and SUNY schools, as well as community colleges across the state. The budget would:

- restore \$200 million in critical maintenance funding for SUNY, as well as provide \$100 million each to SUNY and CUNY for expansion projects;
- allocate \$12.1 million to SUNY, and \$6.3 million to CUNY, for community college base aid, bringing the total rate to \$2,847 per full-time equivalent (FTE) student;
- restore \$1.1 million to SUNY, and \$902,000 for CUNY, to Child Care Centers;
- restore \$2.5 million in funding for the CUNY Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP);
- restore \$5 million in funding for Educational Opportunity Centers (EOCs), for a total of \$60.04 million, and provide \$30 million in capital funding;
- restore \$2 million to Advanced Technology Training Information Networking (ATTAIN) labs for a total of \$6.5 million; and
- restore \$78.6 million in operating support for SUNY hospitals.

Keeping the DREAM alive

Included in the Assembly budget proposal is the New York State Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act, which expands access to higher education for the children of immigrants.

Sweeping criminal justice reforms to increase fairness

The Assembly's state budget proposal contains comprehensive reforms to New York's criminal justice system to help ensure all who encounter it are treated fairly and equally. These measures build on last year's Raise the Age law by reforming the cash bail system and solitary confinement policies and ensuring speedy trials, Seawright noted.

Protecting and supporting tenants

The Assembly budget proposal provides \$275 million for public housing capital repairs across the state, allocating \$200 million of this funding to the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA), to be used for heating needs, weatherization and other critical maintenance projects.

Eighty percent of NYCHA residents were without heat at some point between Oct. 1 and Jan. 22, making the need for this funding more urgent than ever. A lack of heat and hot water is not only completely unacceptable, it's extremely dangerous, especially for children and seniors, noted Assemblymember.

This funding builds on an Assembly proposal that would allow NYCHA to use the design-build contracting process, which would expedite the boiler replacement process and other construction and repair projects by consolidating both the design and construction of a project into a single contract.

Helping homeowners and preserving neighborhoods

The Assembly budget provides \$21 million for Neighborhood and Rural

Preservation Programs, \$9 million above the executive proposal, to help community-based, not-for-profit organizations revitalize decaying neighborhoods, improve housing options, particularly for low- and moderate-income tenants, and spur economic development projects.

To help ensure New Yorkers with disabilities have more suitable housing options and aren't forced into institutional care, the Assembly proposal includes \$4 million for the Access to Home Program, a \$3 million increase from the executive proposal. The program provides financial assistance to property owners so they can adapt or retrofit units for low- and moderate-income persons with disabilities.

Ensuring seniors have a place to call home

The Assembly's budget proposes \$2 million for Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs) and \$2 million for Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NNORCs), which help keep seniors in the homes and neighborhoods where they have lived most of their lives. NORCs and NNORCs provide seniors with critical support services that include health monitoring and case management, as well as social activities to foster engagement, decreasing the need for unnecessary hospital and nursing home care.

The Assembly provides \$20 million in capital funding to support the establishment of 1,000 new assisted living program beds in underserved areas. The proposal also allocates \$29.4 million, restoring a \$500,000 cut from the executive budget, in funding for the Community Services for the Elderly program. The spending plan provides more than \$2 million in restorations to aging programs, which ensure that community-based services are available to help seniors remain in the community.

Confronting our homelessness crisis

Every night, thousands of New Yorkers find themselves without a place to call home, exposing them to the harsh and unpredictable New York weather. In January 2018, there were 63,101 homeless people, including 15,553 families and 23,309 children sleeping in the New York City municipal shelter system. Over the course of 2017, the shelter system saw more than 129,803 different homeless men, women and children. There are countless others who don't seek out shelters and instead are sleeping on benches and on the streets.

As part of the Assembly's commitment to ensure that individuals who are homeless or are at risk of homelessness always have a safe place they can go, the budget would create a \$15 million pilot program in New York City and the city of Rochester to support 320 shelter supplements up to 100 percent of HUD Fair Market Rent. Fifty slots would go to the city of Rochester for families or individuals and New York City would receive 180 slots for families and 90 individuals – for three years. A study would be conducted at the program's conclusion to determine its effectiveness.

Additionally, to increase the affordable housing stock, the Assembly plan includes language allowing the separate sale of both state and federal low-income housing tax credits and the certification of state low-income housing tax credits. This will maximize the value of the credits and attract new investors to affordable housing projects.

Strengthening the child care system and helping parents, workers

The Assembly's budget proposal includes a new \$128.7 million federal allocation in support of child care services, including \$31 million to increase child care subsidies.

The Assembly led the way on New York's new paid family leave law, which took effect in January. Building on that success, the Assembly continues its commitment to families by proposing a work exemption for households receiving public assistance with an infant under the age of 1 if the social services district is unable to provide a child care subsidy to all working families under 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Another major victory for New Yorkers is the continuing increases in the minimum wage, which the Assembly successfully fought to raise. The Assembly's proposal adds \$23 million to support the minimum wage increase for health and human services workers contracted with the state, making sure these hardworking employees earn a living wage.

Addressing the opioid crisis

Across the country, prescription drug addiction rates have skyrocketed. Often beginning as an essential part in the recovery process after a medical injury or procedure, a dependence on prescription drugs can lead to a substance use

disorder. In response to this, the Assembly budget proposal creates a 2.5 cents-per-morphine milligram equivalent surcharge to help curb dependence. The funds collected from this surcharge – approximately \$158 million – will help fund treatment, prevention, educational and recovery programs as well as workforce recruitment and alternatives-to-incarceration programs. Additionally, \$4 million from the surcharge revenue will go toward opioid and substance use disorder interventions in local jails.

The Assembly budget proposal also restores \$10 million in funding to support additional residential bed and opioid treatment program development.

Last year, the state budget increased funding by \$43 million over the previous year – for a total of \$213 million – to fight the heroin epidemic and increase access to treatment for New Yorkers struggling with a substance use disorder. This funding supports a variety of treatment and prevention programs, including family support navigators, peer supports, recovery clubhouses and community coalitions.

Strengthening public health programs

To continue New York's commitment to affordable, quality health care for all, the Assembly budget proposal restores \$135 million in Medicaid funding and \$37 million in public health programs cut from the executive proposal.

Additionally, the Assembly budget proposal includes \$29.13 million in funding for pharmacy reductions, including:

- \$17.4 million for prescriber prevails provisions in managed care and fee-for-service programs; and
- \$11.28 million to reject the executive's proposal to limit over-the-counter (OTC) drug coverage and OTC co-payment increases.

The Assembly budget proposal also restores funding for several measures to reduce medical costs and protect access to care, including:

- \$23.75 million for hospital and nursing home support;
- \$23.2 million for long-term care support;
- \$20.42 million for medical transport assistance;
- \$5 million to support patient center medical homes; and
- \$3.77 million to reject proposed changes to Early Intervention programs.

In addition, \$7.81 million is restored to preserve the right of spousal refusal, ensuring couples do not lose their life savings in the event a spouse becomes ill and needs long-term care. The Assembly also protects the amount of resources the at-home spouse is allowed to retain at \$74,820 by restoring \$5.7 million in the budget and rejecting the proposal to reduce the amount of retained resources to \$24,180.

Protecting New Yorkers from federal tax shifts

“The federal tax law has created a lot of uncertainty and its full impact on New Yorkers is far from clear,” Seawright said. “The Assembly budget attempts to mitigate the law’s most harmful aspects to protect hardworking taxpayers’ money.”

The Assembly proposal would allow New York taxpayers to continue to itemize all deductions that were available in 2017 and would preserve the standard deduction for single filers. Additionally, the Assembly supports the creation of charitable contribution funds by local governments that would allow taxpayers to donate to local schools and governments for general purposes and receive a property tax credit worth 95 percent of their donation. Since local property tax deductions are capped by federal law now, but deductions for charitable donations are not, this new payment option would reduce some of the federal tax burden that was shifted to property taxpayers.

Ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share to help fund vital services

To ensure New York's wealthiest continue to pay their fair share, the Assembly makes the state millionaires tax permanent and creates a higher rate for those making over \$5 million per year. The rates would be 9.32 percent for incomes between \$5 million and \$10 million, 9.82 percent for incomes between \$10 million and \$100 million, and 10.32 percent for incomes over \$100 million. Revenue from the tax is crucial to funding important services and programs throughout the state, including public education and infrastructure improvements. Although arguments have been made that the millionaires tax encourages the wealthy to pack up and move out of state, just the opposite has been true. The number of New York millionaires has increased by 63 percent since 2009, when the tax was first implemented.

“The federal tax law is very good to the wealthy and provides them with huge tax savings,” Seawright said. “New York’s millionaires tax is needed to make sure they pay their fair share and do their part to help better fund our schools and vital programs. Everyone benefits from a well-educated workforce and safe and reliable transportation infrastructure. We’re all New Yorkers and we all want to see our state as strong as possible – this revenue booster helps make that happens.”

In another effort to ensure tax fairness, the Assembly revenue proposal imposes a 3 percent corporate surcharge on large corporations that are seeing windfall profits as a result of the federal tax law. It also creates progressive Real Estate Transfer Tax rates for properties valued over \$5 million, with 25 percent of the receipts dedicated to either the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), non-MTA transit or upstate roads and bridges, depending on where the property is sold.

The Assembly plan also includes a proposal to close the carried interest tax loophole, which would tax the carried interest income of hedge fund and private equity investors as ordinary income. This provision would only take effect once the states of Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania enact legislation with a similar effect.

Increasing aid to local governments

The Assembly budget proposal includes \$775 million in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding – \$60 million more than the executive’s proposal.

“Providing increased aid to municipalities is always a big priority for me,” Seawright said. “The Assembly’s budget plan boosts AIM funding so key government services aren’t cut and local officials can keep property taxes down.”

Funding the MTA and investing in infrastructure

The Assembly’s Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Transit Sustainability Proposal provides additional revenue to the MTA through a per ride surcharge on for-hire vehicles and taxis, a progressive real estate transfer tax for multi-million dollar properties and the imposition of a real estate “flipping tax” in New York City. The additional revenues would help improve subway reliability as well as support the MTA’s commuter rail lines, non-MTA transit systems statewide and the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPs).

The Assembly’s budget also restores \$1.75 million to the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge Staten Island Rebate Program and provides \$500,000 to reinstitute the South Fork Commuter Connection East End shuttle services. The funding would also be used to fund programs and improvement and sustainability projects, including the construction of structured parking facilities at Metro-North Railroad stations.

Additionally, the Assembly’s proposal:

- Ensures the new revenue is in a lockbox, keeping the dedicated funds working toward improving transportation in New York State;
- Requires the MTA to prioritize “state of good repair” over aesthetic projects;
- Requires an independent audit be performed to analyze the MTA’s financial needs in relation to maintaining a state of good repair; and
- Requires the MTA to make public all spending related to the Subway Action Plan and new dedicated revenues and the related impact on services and performance measures.

Looking out for consumers

The Assembly budget proposes \$350,000 to create the Office of the Utility Consumer Advocate (UCA). The UCA would represent the interests and advocate for residential utility consumers on matters like rates, charges and terms and conditions of service at the state or federal level. Additionally, the Assembly proposes \$1 million for funding to organizations that advocate on behalf of consumers regarding utility cases before the Public Service Commission (PSC).

Additionally, the Assembly’s proposal establishes the New York State Secure Choice Savings retirement program to help private-sector employees plan for their future.

Protecting the environment

The Assembly budget invests \$300 million in the Environmental Protection Fund

(EPF), affirming the importance of a vibrant, healthy environment. It also fully funds the state's Superfund Program with a \$100 million appropriation, including funding for the Environmental Restoration Program, which provides money to help municipalities remediate brownfields.

The Assembly also proposes to include the New York State Climate and Community Protection Act in the budget to address and mitigate the impacts of climate change in New York. This act would establish a council comprised of state agencies and individuals with expertise in environmental protection and environmental justice. It would also require the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to establish limits for greenhouse gases and provide recommendations for reducing them, among other duties, and would establish a Climate Justice Working Group to identify disadvantaged communities needing additional support in reducing emissions.

Additional environmental protection actions in the Assembly budget include:

- Increased funding for land acquisition, which has been proven to help protect water quality, environmental justice and invasive species eradication;
- \$65 million over multiple years from the EPF and the Clean Water Infrastructure Act of 2017 to combat harmful algal blooms in the state's water bodies; and
- \$50 million in capital funding to complete the Hudson River Park.

Funding early voting

The Assembly proposal includes \$7 million to institute early voting and other voting reforms statewide, which would help to offset some of the costs to counties from conducting elections. Early voting would take place during a seven-day period before any general, primary or special election. During the early voting period, designated polling locations would be required to be open for eight hours on weekdays and five hours on weekends and holidays, and to offer evening hours on at least two days. County boards of elections would have the option of providing additional early voting hours and would be required to publicize to voters the location, dates and hours of all early voting polling places within each county.

Closing the LLC loophole

The Assembly's measure extends the \$5,000 aggregate contribution limit, already applicable to corporations, to include LLCs, and requires LLCs to disclose the names of individuals with membership interests, attributing LLC contributions to them and helping get rid of dark money in our elections.

Tackling the scourge of sexual harassment

The Assembly's budget proposal includes meaningful policies to confront sexual harassment. Seawright noted that the powerful "#MeToo" movement is demanding that we listen and act to confront the scourge of sexual harassment that has gripped society and injured victims personally, financially and professionally.

The proposal provides the state Attorney General the authority to prosecute criminal cases and defend civil cases for all protected classes and preserves a plaintiff's right to confidentiality. It also allows a state or local government that has paid a victim on behalf of a public employee to recover payment from the employee responsible for the harassment. Further, it would require a neutral third-party arbitrator, ban mandatory arbitration agreements, void clauses in employment contracts that waive rights relating to discrimination claims and establish annual reporting requirements for employers related to discrimination.

Honoring our veterans

The Assembly recognizes the sacrifices made by our veterans and restores \$675,000 for veterans programs in this year's budget. These vital programs help veterans train for and find work, connect them to needed resources, provide legal and other services and supply low-income active-duty members, veterans and their families with needed assistance.

The funding includes:

- \$250,000 for the New York State Defenders Association;
- \$200,000 for Helmets to Hardhats;
- \$100,000 for SAGE Veterans Project;
- \$100,000 for Veterans Justice Project; and
- \$25,000 for the Veterans Miracle Center.

To encourage businesses to hire veterans, the Assembly extends the Hire a

Veteran Tax Credit for two years. Employers receive a tax credit of up to \$5,000 for each veteran hired and up to \$15,000 for each veteran with a disability that is hired.

"Courage"



The Legislative Women's Caucus is celebrating Women's History Month by asking all members to display a photo of their mentor with one word that they embody. Assembly Member Seawright chose her mentor, Attorney Sarah Weddington, who successfully argued Supreme Court Case Roe v. Wade and she embodies the word "courage."



Seawright in the Women's History Month Gallery.

Planned Parenthood Advocates



Senator Jose M. Serrano, Upper East Side District Leader Kim Moscaritolo, Assembly Member Seawright and Constituent Carol Mayefsky.



Serrano, East Side Community Activist Vanessa Aronson and Seawright.

Seawright Introduces Educational Alliance Janet Weinberg to the Assembly



Seawright with Educational Alliance Executive Vice President, Programs and Operations Janet Weinberg. She was introduced to the Assembly by Seawright.

Seawright Cosponsors A7628 to Grant Increased STAR Benefit with Age to Keep Seniors in their Homes

Bill A7628 amends the real property tax law in order to grant seniors who are eligible for the STAR Enhanced tax exemption a second benefit that grows as they age. For example, if you are 65-69, you would receive an additional \$500, if you are 70-74, you would receive \$1000, and so on. Consequently, as seniors' savings decrease over time, their property taxes will decrease as well, allowing them to stay in their homes and not be pushed out due to their inability to afford housing.

Women Builders Council



Seawright Votes to Re-elect New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa and Regent Judith Chin



Rosa and Chin

This week, Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie, Education Committee Chair Catherine Nolan and Higher Education Committee Chair Deborah Glick announced the Legislature's re-election of New York State Board of Regents Chancellor Betty Rosa and Regent Judith Chin.

In a joint session of the Legislature, Rosa and Chin were each re-elected to a five year term on the 17 member Board of Regents, which is comprised of individuals elected from each of the state's 13 judicial districts along with four board members who serve at-large.

Dr. Rosa's decade long service as a Regent from the 12th Judicial District, Bronx County, began in April 2008. During her second term, she was elected Chancellor in 2016 by her Board of Regents colleagues. Rosa worked in the New York City Department of Education as a bilingual paraprofessional and teacher reading coordinator; served as an assistant principal and principal in special education; and introduced an integrated linguistic model in the development of multilingual and multicultural schools for general and special education populations.

Regent Chin, who was elected to a three-year term on the board in 2015, is from the 11th Judicial District, Queens County. During her more than three decades of working for the New York City Department of Education, she served as a teacher, principal, executive director of instruction and professional development, a regional superintendent / chief education officer and as a supervising superintendent for more than 230 schools across the five boroughs. Chin, a lifelong educator, currently works at Columbia University, Teachers College Reading and Writing Project.

The Board of Regents was established in 1784 and is the oldest, continuous state education entity in the United States. The Regents, who serve without pay, are responsible for the general oversight of all educational activities within the state, presiding over the University of the State of New York and the State Education Department.

Standing Up for Women's Reproductive Rights as Feds Wage War on Women

Assembly Member Seawright announced she helped pass legislation to protect women's reproductive rights as the fight for full women's equality continues. The measures affirm a woman's right to choose in New York State, require insurers to continue covering contraception at no cost to the consumer and prohibit discrimination against employees based on reproductive health choices (A.1748, A.9957, A.566-A). This legislation is critical now more than ever as the Trump administration continues to threaten a woman's reproductive freedom in the midst of its ongoing war on women, **Assembly Member** noted.

"Let me be clear: Women, and their doctors, are the only ones in a position to decide what is best for themselves, their bodies and their families," **Seawright said**. "Politicians in Washington, or anywhere, are not qualified to make that decision and should not meddle in such private affairs."

A woman's constitutional right to choose was affirmed 45 years ago when the Supreme Court decided *Roe v. Wade*, but the federal government is doing all it can to roll-back this fundamental right, **Seawright said**. The federal administration has been hiring dozens of anti-choice proponents while threatening access to birth control, allowing states to prevent Planned Parenthood from receiving Medicaid funding, blocking aid to groups abroad that provide family planning counseling that includes information about abortions and looking to shield health care workers who selectively refuse to provide health care based on their personal beliefs. Vice President Pence even recently gave a speech in which he gleefully declared that a woman's right to choose could be abolished "in our time." The federal government is ruthlessly and systematically dismantling women's progress, sabotaging their right to be equal Americans, **Assembly Member** noted.

The Assembly legislation codifies the federal protections of *Roe v. Wade* into New York State law by affirming a woman's right to choose. The bill would authorize duly licensed health care practitioners to terminate a pregnancy within 24 weeks, when there is an absence of fetal viability or when the woman's life or health are endangered (A.1748). By passing this legislation yet again, the Assembly is preemptively fighting back against the alarming possibility of *Roe* being overturned. This legislation emphasizes that the goal of public health policy should be access to quality health care, not to place restrictions and undue burdens on patients and providers. Restricting safe abortions is not only unconstitutional, it often forces women to resort to dangerous methods to end a pregnancy.

Another measure passed by the Assembly, the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA), would codify the requirement under the Affordable Care Act that health insurers provide cost-free coverage of all FDA-approved contraceptives when they are prescribed by a health care provider (A.9957). This legislation clarifies that health insurers are prohibited from charging a deductible, coinsurance or co-pays for contraception and are barred from imposing any restrictions or delays with respect to such coverage. **Assembly Member** noted that birth control is not only used to prevent pregnancies but also to treat a wide range of health issues and medical conditions, making it all the more necessary that women have full and equal access to it. Further, access to affordable contraception has been shown to decrease the number of unplanned pregnancies, improve women's health and financial security and lower rates of maternal and infant mortality.

Additionally, legislation was passed prohibiting employers from discriminating against employees based on their reproductive health choices and other health care decisions. It also bars employers from accessing private medical information about their employees without the employee's prior informed, written consent (A.566-A).

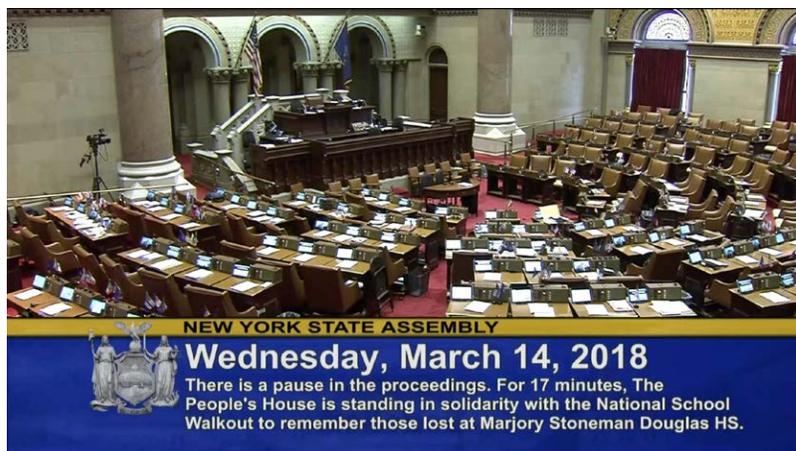
The Assembly has consistently passed the legislation after the chain store Hobby Lobby challenged the federal requirement to cover birth control methods through health insurance plans under the Affordable Care Act, and in the process, some loopholes came to light concerning employees' right to privacy. The Assembly's measure simply protects an employee's freedom to make health decisions without fear of retaliation, **Seawright** noted.

In 2017, 30 states and Washington, D.C., enacted laws protecting reproductive rights, including expanding access to abortion, pregnancy care and contraception, yet New York State was not one of them. Although the Assembly has repeatedly passed legislation to do just this, the measures continually stall in the state Senate.

Currently, the New York State Constitution protects against discrimination based on race, color, creed or religion. To further protect women and help make full women's equality a reality, the Assembly also passed an amendment to the state constitution to guarantee equal protection to persons on the basis of sex (A.7990-A).

"It is 2018, but still, as soon as someone says 'women's rights,' it is a mad dash to see who can hold back women the fastest," **Seawright said**. "The fact that we even need to pass this legislation is proof enough that the fight for full women's equality is far from over, and it is one I will never shy away from."

Assembly Joins the National School Walkout



"I joined with my Assembly colleagues in solidarity with the National School Walkout. For 17 minutes, we solemnly remembered and honored the 17 students and educators who tragically lost their lives during the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, as well as the families, friends and loved ones mourning these unconscionable losses.

Silence holds a power and gravity that words often fail to convey. Yet, while we are making it clear that we stand behind the students, educators, families and allies taking a stand, we must also take meaningful action. The victims deserve more than a few minutes of remembrance – they deserve change.

In the Assembly, we've passed critical commonsense gun measures banning bump stocks (A.9958), keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers and dangerous individuals with clear 'red flags' (A.5025, A.8976-B) and establishing longer waiting periods to ensure thorough background checks (A.2406).

*It's time the state Senate acted to pass these measures and protect New Yorkers, and it's time Congress took our cue and protected all Americans. Parents shouldn't have to send their children to school worried that they won't be safe. We can't allow this to become the norm – we as lawmakers cannot become numb, and our families cannot be left to live in constant fear," said **Assembly Member Seawright**.*

United Automobile Workers Region 9 & 9A





IN OUR COMMUNITY

***Seawright Facilitates Meeting
Between HCR and Westview Task
Force***



***Seawright and Maloney Hold Press
Conference on Renewed Push for
State and Federal Equal Rights
Amendment***



On Saturday, March 10, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney joined together with Girl Scouts of Greater New York CEO Meredith Maskara, and women rights advocates at the Fearless Girl statue to emphasize the need for a State and Federal Equal Rights Amendment (ERA).



Seawright Joins the East 86th Street Association Clean Team



Association President Elaine Walsh and Seawright picking up trash on East 86th Street. [Learn more about the Association's clean team here.](#) Not only does this effort bring awareness to our sanitation plight, it also acts to engage local citizens and businesses to do their part. Care seems to be contagious!

Maloney Hosts St. Patrick's Day Leadership Breakfast for the Community



Council Member Keith Powers, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney at the Annual Leadership Breakfast.

NEWS YOU CAN USE

As Featured in...



[A kinder, gentler, cleaner dump](#)



Other huge issues remain:

** Health impacts. "Residents with asthma or other respiratory ailments must be protected from pollutants that harm their health," said Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright. She said ongoing air-monitoring should be made public to see if air quality is being degraded.*



Beware Suspected Abusive Tax Promotions or Preparers

The Internal Revenue Service warned taxpayers today to be alert to unscrupulous return preparers touting inflated tax refunds. These scam artists frequently prey on older Americans, low-income taxpayers and others with promises of big refunds.

These refund scams remain on the agency's annual "Dirty Dozen" list of most prevalent tax scams.

Scam artists pose as tax preparers during tax time, luring victims by promising large federal tax refunds. They use flyers, advertisements, phony storefronts or word of mouth to attract victims. They may even make presentations through community groups or churches.

Scammers frequently prey on people who do not have a filing requirement, such as those with low incomes or older Americans. They may also prey on non-English speakers who may or may not have a requirement to file a tax return.

Con artists dupe people into making claims for fictitious rebates, benefits or tax credits. They may also file a false return in their client's name, and the client never knows that a refund was paid.

Scam artists may also victimize those with a filing requirement who are due a refund. They do this by promising larger refunds based on fake Social Security benefits and false claims for education credits or the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) among others.

Those perpetrating these scams can see significant penalties and interest and possible criminal prosecution. To protect taxpayers, the IRS Criminal Investigation Division works closely with the Department of Justice to shutdown scams and prosecute the criminals behind them.

Falsely Claiming Zero Wages, Filing Phony Forms W-2, 1099

For years, the IRS has seen a series of contorted and creative efforts by scam artists who try to avoid taxes.

Filing a phony information return, such as a Form 1099 or W-2, is an illegal way to lower the amount of taxes owed. The use of self-prepared, "corrected" or otherwise bogus forms that improperly report taxable income as zero is illegal. So is an attempt to submit a statement rebutting wages and taxes reported by a third-party payer to the IRS.

Some people also attempt fraud using false Form 1099 refund claims. In some

cases, individuals have made refund claims based on the bogus theory that the federal government maintains secret accounts for U.S. citizens and that taxpayers can gain access to the accounts by issuing 1099-OID forms to the IRS.

Taxpayers should resist the temptation to participate in any variations of this scheme. The IRS is aware of this scam, and the courts have consistently rejected attempts to use this tax dodge. Perpetrators receive significant penalties, imprisonment or both. Simply filing this type of return may result in a \$5,000 penalty.

The IRS sometimes hears about scams from victims worried about losing their federal benefits, such as Social Security, veterans or low-income housing benefits. The loss of benefits comes as a result of false claims being filed with the IRS that provided incorrect income amounts.

Choose Tax Preparers Wisely

Honest tax preparers provide their customers a copy of the tax return they've prepared. Scam victims frequently are not given a copy of what was filed. Victims also report that the fraudulent refund is deposited into the scammer's bank account. The scammers deduct a large "fee" before paying victims, a practice not used by legitimate tax preparers.

The IRS reminds taxpayers that they are legally responsible for what's on their return even if it was prepared by someone else. Taxpayers who buy into such schemes can end up being penalized for filing false claims or receiving fraudulent refunds.

Taxpayers can help protect themselves by taking some simple steps before choosing a tax preparer. Start with the [IRS Directory of Federal Tax Return Preparers with Credentials and Select Qualifications](#). This tool can help taxpayers find a tax return professional with the right qualifications. The Directory is a searchable and sortable listing of preparers registered with the IRS. It includes the name, city, state and zip code of:

- Attorneys
- CPAs
- Enrolled Agents
- Enrolled Retirement Plan Agents
- Enrolled Actuaries
- Annual Filing Season Program participants

Also check the preparer's history. Ask the Better Business Bureau about the preparer. Check for disciplinary actions and the license status for credentialed preparers. For CPAs, check with the State Board of Accountancy. For attorneys, check with the State Bar Association. For Enrolled Agents, go to IRS.gov and search for "verify enrolled agent status" or check the [Directory](#).

To find more tips on choosing a tax professional, understanding the differences in credentials and qualifications, researching the IRS preparer directory or learning how to submit a complaint regarding a tax return preparer visit www.irs.gov/chooseataxpro.

UPCOMING EVENTS/POSTINGS



New York State
 Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
SPRING/SUMMER 2018
INTERNSHIP



Our office is seeking students interested in learning about government and public service for an internship in our district office. Interns learn about various constituent issues and the ways we respond to the needs of our neighborhood. This position provides students with an exciting opportunity for personal and professional growth with exposure to a variety of services and resources. Please see the description and requirements below. I look forward to meeting you!

Best wishes,

Description

Selected students will learn the communication and problem solving skills necessary to become a public servant. Interns will be involved in a number of functions including, but not limited to, legislative research, constituent services, event planning, administrative tasks, and community organizing. All intern positions are unpaid.

Requirements

Opportunities available for high school and college level students. To apply, please send your resume and a cover letter of interest to seawrightR@nyassembly.gov. We accept interns on a rolling basis until all positions are filled.

Please don't hesitate to call our office with any questions.

1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075.
 (212) 288- 4607

SeawrightR@nyassembly.gov



Roosevelt Island Constituent Hours

**NEED HELP WITH A STATE AGENCY?
 HOUSING QUESTIONS?
 APPLYING FOR BENEFITS?**

**WE ARE
 HERE TO HELP!**

Assembly Member
 Seawright's staff will be
 on Roosevelt Island every
 other Wednesday, from
 10am-2pm to provide resources
 and answer your questions!

**Wednesday, March 21
 11am-1pm
 Roosevelt Island
 Senior Center
 546 Main Street**

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets) 212-288-4607
SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

SHRED-A-THON!

Earth Day

Edition !

All those yellowing, moldy docs of yours? Tax forms? Checks? Get 'em industrial-grade shredded and for FREE!

Saturday, April 21st, 2018

10am - 2 pm

82nd Street Greenmarket

82nd Street between First & York Avenues!

PLUS Compost Collection!

PLUS Recycle those eye glasses, corks, batteries & cords!

Huge thanks to AM Seawright & CMs Kallos & Powers for their generous grants!

For more: thisweekatthemarket.wordpress.com



<http://uppergreenside.org/>



Electronics Recycling Collection Upper East Side



Friday, April 27

10am-4pm

Carl Schurz Park

East End Ave

(84th/85th Streets)



Responsibly recycle unwanted or broken electronics (no appliances such as microwaves or refrigerators) with the Lower East Side Ecology Center.





Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and the Alzheimer's Foundation of America Present

BRAIN HEALTH & WELLNESS

A presentation, free and open to the community. Staff from the Alzheimer's Foundation of America will provide insight into the difference between normal age related changes in the brain and dementia related illness. Learn how to engage with your doctor about brain health concerns, current treatments for cognitive impairment, and steps to best maintain your overall brain health and wellness.

Friday, May 11, 2018
10am-12pm

Presentation (10am-11am) and Memory Screenings (11am-12pm)
Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)
RSVP at SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov or 212.288.4607



MAY 16
11AM- 1PM



ENGAGE AT EVERY AGE: MAY 2018

ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

FALL PREVENTION

SCORE REHAB
PHYSICAL THERAPIST
JAMES SHIELDS
PROVIDES FALL
PREVENTION
STRATEGIES TO OLDER
ADULTS

COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
78/79 STREET

PLEASE RSVP
CALL 212.288.4607

Assembly Member

REBECCA SEAWRIGHT

**FREE SCREENING
MAMMOGRAMS
FOR ELIGIBLE
WOMEN**

THURSDAY
JULY 26

APPTS. BEGIN
9AM



MAMMOGRAMS PROVIDED BY PROJECT RENEWAL SCANVAN

**DISTRICT OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**

1485 YORK AVENUE
(BETWEEN 78/79 STREETS)

FOR WOMEN 40 AND OLDER WHO HAVE NOT HAD A
MAMMOGRAM IN THE PAST YEAR.

ALL INSURANCE PLANS ARE ACCEPTED AND CO-PAYMENTS AND
DEDUCTIBLES ARE WAIVED.

FREE FOR UNINSURED WOMEN OVER 40.

**APPOINTMENTS ARE NECESSARY.
PLEASE CALL 1-800-564-6868.**



SCANVAN

Manhattan
Cancer Services Program
Your partner for cancer screening, support and information



Mount Vernon Hotel and Museum Internship Opportunity

Summer 2018 High School Internship Program

For Summer 2018, the Museum is offering a 4-week high school internship program from July 10 to August 2. Participants will obtain real-world work experience behind the scenes at a historic house, and a chance to improve their verbal and written communication, public speaking, research, media savvy and presentation skills while investigating and interacting with historical sites, artifacts, and supporting historically themed museum events. For more information and an application, click [here](#). Applications are due March 30. This program is funded in part by a Humanities New York Action Grant and a Manhattan Community Award.





LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

Sparking Wellness and Creativity through Art

A Program for Individuals with Memory Impairments

This five-session course designed for individuals with mild to moderate cognitive impairments, including dementia, will explore the use of art to spark creativity, expressive outlets and cognitive stimulation. The person-centered process will focus on each individual's strengths and the development of their own creative style.

No previous art experience required!

5 Tuesdays from April 3rd to May 1st

3:00pm-4:30pm

331 East 70th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues,
4th Floor Conference Room

Total Fee: \$150

Pre-registration required

<http://www.lenoxhill.org/arttherapy>

For More Information Contact

Leah Gable at 212-218 0481 or <http://www.lenoxhill.org/careprogram/>

331 East 70th Street, New York, NY 10021 | www.lenoxhill.org



LENOX HILL NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSE

SINCE 1914

Screening of *My Annie Hall* and Book Discussion with John Leland from *The New York Times*

Thursday, March 22nd from 6-8 p.m.

Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Auditorium

Space is limited. One admission per invitation. Registration required.
RSVP [HERE](#) by March 20th to attend!
For more information, please contact Lauren Bernstein at 212-218-0413
or lbernstein@lenoxhill.org.

Adult Mental Health First Aid

Adult Mental Health First Aid USA is an 8 hour public education program which introduces participants to the unique risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems in adults. It builds understanding of the importance of early intervention and teaches individuals how to help an adult in crisis or experiencing a mental health challenge. Mental Health First Aid uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis; select interventions and provide initial help; and connect people to professional, peer, social, and self-help care.

WHAT WILL PARTICIPANTS LEARN?

The course teaches participants the risk factors and warning signs of a variety of mental health challenges common among adults, including anxiety, depression, psychosis, eating disorders, AD/HD, disruptive behavior disorders, and substance use disorder. Participants do not learn to diagnose, nor how to provide any therapy or counseling – rather, participants learn to support an adult developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or in an emotional crisis by applying a core five-step action plan:

Assess for risk of suicide or harm | Listen nonjudgmentally | Give reassurance and information
Encourage appropriate professional help | Encourage self-help and other support strategies

WHO SHOULD TAKE THE COURSE?

The course is designed for adults who regularly interact with other adults encouraging peer to peer interaction. In January 2013, President Obama recommended training for teachers in Mental Health First Aid. Since 2008, the core Mental Health First Aid course has been successfully offered to hundreds of thousands of people across the USA, including hospital staff, employers and business leaders, faith communities, law enforcement, and the general public.

WHO CREATED THE COURSE?

Mental Health First Aid USA is coordinated by the National Council for Behavioral Health, the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, and the Missouri Department of Mental Health.

Monday, March 19, 2018
9:00am to 5:30pm

Church of the Epiphany
1393 York Avenue (E. 74th St.)
New York, NY 10021



To register please email Deborah Acevedo, RN at acevedd@nyp.org
Register by March 1st. Seating is limited.

SIGN UP FOR A FREE

Mental Health First Aid for Veterans

You can
change
this
cycle!



design by BlueBeard Creative

HUNTER COLLEGE

695 Park Avenue, Room West 605, NYC 10003

March 18, 2018 - 9AM - 5PM

For Registration: www.veteranscb8.timetap.com



The Caregiver Service of NewYork-
Presbyterian/Weill Cornell

Presents

A Family Caregiver Symposium

An Afternoon of Information and Support

Friday, April 6, 2018
1:00pm – 4:00pm

The Cayuga Room at the Rear of the Garden Café
520 East 70th Street, The Starr Building

If you are a family caregiver of an older adult 60+, we appreciate that you don't have much time to spare. However, this is one event you cannot afford to miss. We will have speakers who know the challenge of being a caregiver, and will share current information to help you care for your loved ones.

Join others to learn about how you are part of a growing population of family caregivers (which includes family, friends, neighbors) and what the government and others are doing now to address your needs. Prepare for expected and unexpected hospital admissions, discharges to home and other treatment facilities, and the changing health needs of the person you care for. Taking on the care of a family member is challenging. Hear how to recognize and cope with the many emotions you may be experiencing.

Experts from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, as well as Carol Levine, nationally renowned advocate for family caregivers, will be here to guide you through the landscape, and answer your questions. Please call to let us know if you can join us: 212-746-4365 by April 3rd.

NewYork-Presbyterian
Weill Cornell Medical Center

HealthOutreach/Caregivers Service

420 East 76th Street
New York, NY 10021
RSVP 212-746-4365

Through the Looking Glass: Dementia from the Inside Out

Saturday • March 17 • 2:00 pm

The Very Rev. Tracey Lind will talk about what it is like to live with early stage dementia and what spiritual and life lessons she is learning by living with this disease. After being diagnosed with Frontotemporal Dementia (FTD) in fall of 2016, Tracey continues her service and ministry through speaking and writing about the spirituality of dementia.

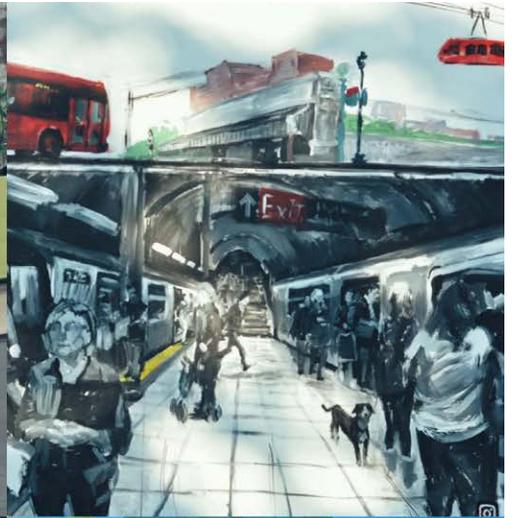
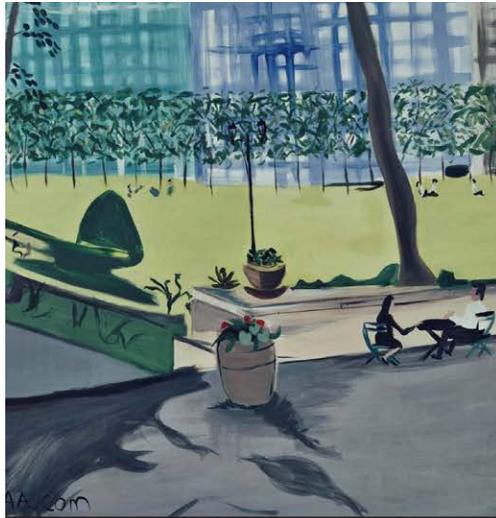
Epiphany
Talks



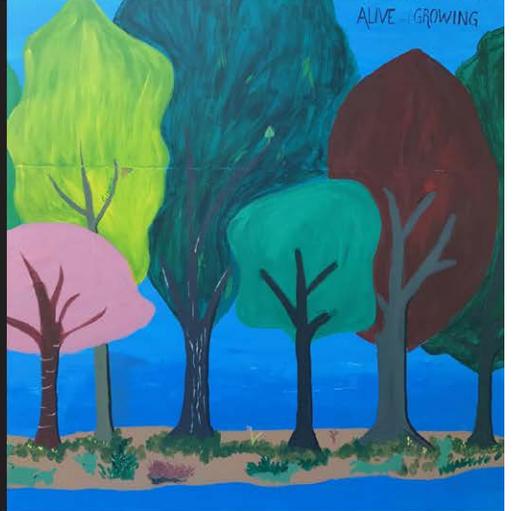
THE CHURCH OF THE

Epiphany

Serving faith and hope since 1833.



MOTOR GATE GALLERY OPENING



**Wednesday, March 28th
6:30-8:30pm**

Motorgate Atrium

688 Main Street, Next to Gristede's
FREE EVENT • Refreshments
Live Music with the Jazz Salonists

For more info, call 212-832-4540
or visit rioc.ny.gov



Roosevelt Island
Operating Corporation



CONSTRUCTION UPDATES

Second Avenue Subway

E-News



MTA Contractors to replace conduit on northwest and southwest corners of 63rd Street and Third Avenue

Dear Resident,

You are receiving this notice as part of MTA Capital Construction's (MTACC) continuing efforts to keep the community apprised of construction activities in support of Phase 1 of the Second Avenue Subway (SAS) project.

MTACC contractors for the 63rd Street Station will be working to complete final conduit updates on the southwest and northwest corners of 63rd Street and Third Avenue.

Work is set to begin the week of March 12th and is expected to last approximately one month, contingent on favorable weather and field conditions.

This work will be completed in two stages so that sidewalk access will be maintained at all times. Phase 1 work will be to replace conduit from 63rd Street heading east on both corners. Phase 2 will connect the conduit heading north

and south respectively on Third Avenue.

All work has been approved by the appropriate City agencies where required.

If you have any questions, please contact Outreach@mtacc.info
