



FEBRUARY IS NATIONAL

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

*Celebrating the groundbreakers who stood up against injustice, shaped our nation's history and inspired the next generation to continue the fight for equality*



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Since 1976, the month of February has been a time to celebrate the contributions of Black Americans and honor the activists who stood up against racial discrimination and helped shape our country. In celebration of National Black History Month, our office is accepting essays, poetry, artwork and other expressions of admiration for a Black American who has shaped history or is a personal hero. In the enclosed report, and reports through February we will include a spotlight on Black Americans in history.

It has been a productive start to the budget season in the Assembly. This week there was a hearing on Transportation and I took the opportunity to question MTA Chairman and CEO Lieber regarding the stalled installation of OMNY readers at the Roosevelt Island Tramway.

We are working hard to ensure that funding for a sustainable workforce for Individuals with Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) is a priority in this budget. As Chair of the People With Disabilities Committee, I joined a press conference and rally to urge our governor to invest \$15 million and to make the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) available for students with disabilities so they can succeed and thrive while pursuing higher education and their dreams.

We welcome the advocates for the I/DD workforce to Albany this Monday, February 13 to strategize around the proposal for an 8.5% Cost Of Living Adjustment (COLA) and a Direct Support Wage Enhancement for non-profits providing essential care. Let us know what your priorities are for this budget!

Our office is partnering with Project Cicero to collect books for kids in under-resourced classrooms in New York City through March 8. Please consider donating your new or gently-used grade school books to our collection at the district office 1485 York Avenue, between 78 and 79 Streets.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if we can be of assistance.

**Phone:** 212.288.4607

**Email:** [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca A. Seawright". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R'.

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

National Black History Month

Spotlight On...

**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**



**Ida B. Wells-Barnett**

★ ★ ★ ★ 1862-1931 ★ ★ ★ ★

In honor of Black History Month, the Assembly celebrates the life of Ida B. Wells-Barnett. Born into slavery, she never stopped fighting for equality. She was a talented and tenacious civil rights activist and journalist who used her skills to shed light on the conditions of African Americans throughout the South. We are honored to carry on her fight and memory. [www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett](http://www.womenshistory.org/education-resources/biographies/ida-b-wells-barnett)

**Seawright Spoke At Students With Disabilities  
Higher Education Press Conference In Solidarity  
With NYS Students**



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright said, *"Over 86,000 students with disabilities are pursuing higher education in New York State. Institutions of higher education should be accessible and experiences in the classroom to learners of all backgrounds. I proudly stand beside my colleagues in the Legislature in solidarity with students with disabilities and their families. We need to ensure that all higher education students in New York are eligible to qualify for TAP grants – and that includes students with learning disabilities. We must meet the unfulfilled promise that every college or graduate student in the Empire State can reach their full potential, which the Legislature and the Governor can help achieve by honoring the Regents' request for full State funding of \$15 million for enhancing supports and services for postsecondary success of students with disabilities."*



Click above for Assembly Member Seawright's full remarks at the press conference.



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright (center top) with Ryan Martin, Director of Inclusive and Adaptive Sports (right) with two of the players from his team at the rally for higher education for students with disabilities.



In The Well of the Legislative Office Building with CUNY, SUNY and Syracuse University students.



Assembly Member Seawright with student advocates in The Well of the Legislative Office Building to advocate for an investment in the budget for students with disabilities across our state.

# Ndaba Mandela, Grandson Of Nelson Mandela, Visits The New York State Assembly Chamber



Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and Ndaba Mandela.



Following in the footsteps of his beloved and iconic grandfather, Ndaba Mandela has taken the torch – and run with it. Today, Nelson Mandela's legacy lives on as Ndaba continues to keep its beacon of hope bright, fueling its fiery message that one person can make a difference. Thankfully for all, the legacy lives, as Ndaba was recently named one of the "28 Men of Change" by BET. His recent book, "Going to the Mountain: Life Lessons from My Grandfather, Nelson Mandela," is the first-ever to tell Nelson Mandela's life through the eyes of the grandson who was raised by him, chronicling Ndaba's life living with, and learning from, one of the greatest leaders and humanitarians the world has ever known.

## Seawright Questions Head Of MTA On Delayed Installation of OMNY For Roosevelt Island Tramway



Click above to hear Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright question Chairman and CEO Janno Lieber and his response.



## Seawright Keeping Up The Fight To Keep Roosevelt Island In Manhattan- Delivers Testimony To The Redistricting Commission

### Roosevelt Island Daily

Using forceful language and logic, 76th District State Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright argued in favor of Roosevelt Islanders' interests. Her message, delivered for a Districting Commission hearing, reasoned against a proposed map that shifts the community's representation into Queens. Seawright has represented Roosevelt Island and the Upper East Side since 2015.

[Read More](#)

## An Advocate For People With Disabilities, Seawright Cosigns Letter to Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation to Pause Rate Hikes



Seawright's office has been engaging the Roosevelt Island Residents Association (RIRA), attended its meeting last week to discuss the issue. This week, cosigning a letter with Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine and other elected officials to RIOC President Shelton Haynes regarding this issue. The letter asked for a pause on implementing a fare increase and consider a more gradual approach to give impacted members of the community more time to plan financially and become familiar with the

new payment structure.

As far back as 1991, Roosevelt Island disabled residents were allowed to park free at the Motorgate Garage, but not any longer. Without any prior notice from the Roosevelt Island Operating Corp ( RIOC), invoices were received last month by disabled residents informing them that their Motorgate Garage parking fees were increasing from zero to \$125 per month.

[Read More](#)

## Seawright Speaks With the Manhattan Student Leadership Council



Seawright spoke with the Manhattan Student Leadership Council at the Wagner School on advocating for a local issue and democracy. Students asked great questions about how to change the menu at school, how to prevent climate change and food waste, and improving mental health access in their schools.



## Vice President Of The East 86 Street Association Andrew Fine Visits Legislators In Albany



Assembly Members Rebecca Seawright (left), Alex Bores (right), and Andrew Fine (center).

Fine advocated against the negative impacts of the congestion pricing plan and for the East 86 Street Association's initiatives for the sanitation and beautification of our neighborhood.

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## Seawright Visits The Future Site Of The Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center



Assembly Member Seawright and Judith Kasen-Windsor, Edie Windsor's spouse, visited the future home of the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center that opens on June 28, 2024.

On June 24, 2016, President Barack Obama officially designated the Stonewall National Monument, making it the first national monument to tell the story of the struggle for LGBTQ+ rights. Pride Live has secured the lease at 51 Christopher Street and will transform it into the Stonewall National Monument Visitor Center (SNMVC), the first LGBTQ+ visitor center within the National Parks System. The mission of the SNMVC is to preserve, advance, and celebrate the legacy of the Stonewall Rebellion.



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High School Student And Survivor Carly Weiss  
Designates A Cancer Awareness Day  
At Eleanor Roosevelt High School



Assembly Member Seawright presents a proclamation declaring Cancer Awareness to her former intern and Eleanor Roosevelt High School Junior Carly Weiss, a cancer survivor who created this important commemoration.

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## Assembly Member Seawright Discusses Education Priorities With United Federation Of Teachers (UFT) President Michael Mulgrew



Assembly Members Rodneyse Bichotte Hermelyn, Rebecca Seawright, and Daniel, a member of the Assembly's "Baby Caucus."

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright with UFT President Michael Mulgrew who is the fifth president of the UFT, representing nearly 200,000 New York City public schools educators and school-related professionals, as well as child care providers, nurses, adult education instructors, retired members and other titles and organizations.

## Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine Delivered His State of the Borough



Inspiring, visionary "State of the Borough" speech by Manhattan Borough President Mark Levine in the historic Great Hall at City College.

## Upcoming Events



# ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA SEAWRIGHT



## BOOK DRIVE

for kids in under-resourced NYC Schools  
through March 8, 2023

District Office of Assembly Member  
Rebecca Seawright  
1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)

- ✓ Yes: new and gently used books for pre-school through high school
- ✗ NO: Adult books, textbooks, library discards, or out-of-date non-fiction/reference books

Want to order books from the Project Cicero wishlist?  
Visit [projectcicero.org/wish-list](https://projectcicero.org/wish-list)





**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**  
**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**TUES. FEB 21**

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 3:30 PM ATTORNEYS FROM  
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE  
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL  
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-COST  
FOR CONSTITUENTS OF THE  
76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!

**A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL  
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE SESSION  
WITH ATTENDEES.**



**SCAN ME TO  
RSVP!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:  
CALL: 212-288-4607  
EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord-tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney-client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

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COMMUNITY BOARD 8 MANHATTAN presents

# Winter Crafts Show

featuring

## LOCAL NYC CRAFTERS



**SHOW DATE**

**February 11, 2023**

**11am - 4pm**

**LOCATION**

**Church of the Holy Trinity**

**316E 88th St (btwn 1st & 2nd Ave)**

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Crafts • Jewelry • Clothing • Soaps  
Pottery • Housewares • Notecards  
Gifts • Handmade items • And more!



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Spotlight  
on four new  
**MEMORY**  
support  
programs

A **Search and Care** SENTINEL virtual meeting  
co-sponsored by CB7's Senior Task Force

**Featuring programs seeking participants  
from these NYC organizations:**

**marlene  
meyerson jcc**  
manhattan THE WECHSLER CENTER FOR MODERN AGING

**THE  
MET**

**NCJ**  $\geq$  **NY**  
National Council of Jewish Women New York

*Search and Care*

**Friday, February 24, 2-3pm**



Advance registration for this Zoom:  
<https://tinyurl.com/SentinelMeeting2023>

[{View as Webpage}](#)



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