

QUEENS TODAY



— October 22, 2018 —

★★★

QUEENS FAMILY LEAVES FAMILY FEUD GAME SHOW \$20,000 RICHER

A family from Astoria made an appearance on Family Feud on Oct. 15 and won the jackpot. The McFarland family, consisting of Kari, Kimberly and Jennifer McFarland, along with Kari's husband, Anthony Cauogno, and Kimberly's husband, Keith Murphy, were contestants on the show. Cauogno is Port Authority police officer and Murphy is a former firefighter, according to the *Queens Chronicle*. The pair have been friends since kindergarten in Rego Park. This also wasn't the first game show for Kari, she previously appeared on game shows like Supermarket Sweep, The \$25,000 Pyramid and Pictionary.

★★★

QUEENS MAN DEAD AFTER FLUSHING VEHICLE FIRE

A Queens man was found dead inside of a vehicle after an early morning blaze in Flushing, the police said on Friday. FDNY firefighters and officers from the 110th Precinct responded to a 911 call of a fire at Northern Boulevard and Prince Street just after 8 a.m. and discovered a vehicle ablaze. *Read more on Page 16.*

★★★

RENOVATED QUEENS LIRR STATION REOPENS

The newest renovated Long Island Rail Road station is open for business in Queens. Local officials cut the ribbon on the newly rebuilt and reconfigured Flushing-Main Street station on Thursday, Oct. 18, providing some much-needed TLC to a major transit fixture of Eastern Queens. The new station features two elevators — one on the eastbound platform and the other on the westbound platform — as well as a new street-level ticket office, and a new set of entranceways connecting the platforms directly to Flushing's main hub, Main Street. *Read more on Page 2.*

★★★

KATZ APPOINTS JACKSON HEIGHTS RESIDENT AS QUEENS' NEW DIRECTOR OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

There's a new cultural affairs director in town. Queens Borough President Melinda Katz announced on Thursday the appointment of internationally recognized cultural event producer Phil Ballman as the borough's new director of cultural affairs and tourism. "Phil is a valuable addition to our team here at Borough Hall," said Katz in a statement. "Mr. Ballman has extensive experience as a live event producer, arts programmer and project

Continued on page 2

DA Brown Honors Queens College President With Hispanic Heritage Award



Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown (left) and Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez.

By Jonathan Sperling

Queens Daily Eagle

Queens College President Félix V. Matos Rodríguez was honored for his tireless dedication to promoting Latin culture throughout his career as an educator and as a

public servant in Puerto Rico, Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown announced on Friday.

Brown presented Rodríguez with the 13th Annual Hispanic Heritage Award for his efforts, which have seen him serve as a close advisor to

the governor of Puerto Rico.

"This year we pay tribute to Félix V. Matos Rodríguez. Dr. Matos Rodríguez currently serves as the tenth president of Queens College and former president of Hostos Community

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A scene from the March for Black Women.

Photo courtesy of Chaumtoli Hug

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Women's Movement Lacks Diversity, CUNY Law Prof Says

Despite Good Intentions, The Women's Movement Is Not Intersectional

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Police ID Man Found Dead in Car Fire

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DA Brown Honors Queens College President With Hispanic Heritage Award

College. These accomplishments have given him the rare distinction of being one of a select group of educators in the nation to have served as both the head of a baccalaureate and community college institution," Brown said in a statement. "Not only is President Matos Rodríguez heralded for his work in academia - most recently for his work to improve Hostos College's academic and financial reputations - but he is also lauded for his work to advance and influence the lives of Hispanic Americans through his extensive public service initiatives."

A native of San Juan, Rodríguez earned a graduate degree in Latin American studies from Yale University and a Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and has served as an educator at Hunter College, Northeastern University, Boston University, the Universidad Interamericana - Recinto Metro, City College and Yale.

Rodríguez also serves as a board member of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities, Phipps Houses, the United Way of New York City, the TIAA Hispanic Advisory Council and the Research Alliance for New York City Schools.

Last year's recipient of the Hispanic Heritage Award was ABC 7 Eyewitness News reporter Joe Torres. Past recipients include the first Latina President of the Queens County Women's Bar Association and former Queens Assistant District Attorney Lourdes M. Ventura, the Metropolitan Latin American Law Student Association (MetroLALSA), for its work bringing together the Latino student law communities from 13 different New York and New Jersey law schools, and Joseph A. Zayas, Judge of the New York State Court of Claims, among others.

"Our Latino population here in Queens represents 28 percent of our 2.3 million residents," Brown added. "It is a population of great cultural significance to the fabric of our society, but more importantly to the various communities they call home within our borough."



Queens District Attorney Richard A. Brown.

Photo credit: Photo courtesy of DA Brown

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★★★

manager and understands the many strengths of our borough's cultural institutions. He has an impressive dedication to serving our community and has the talent and determination to further the growth in interest that 'The World's Borough' has recently been receiving as a culturally-rich tourism destination." As part of his extensive resume, Ballman served as the manager of community engagement and partnerships for the College of Performing Arts at The New School. See more on Page 13.

★★★

NORTH CAROLINA MAN SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON FOR KILLING A BAYSIDE MOTORIST

Milan Heggs, 43, of Raleigh, North Carolina was sentenced on Oct. 16 by Brooklyn Supreme Court Justice Evelyn LaPorte to 18 years to life in prison for the manslaughter death of Joe Cavera. Heggs was convicted in May 2017 following a jury trial and was labeled as a persistent violent felony offender and given a mandatory life sentence. Prosecutors said, on April 30, 2015, Heggs crashed his speeding car into the rear of another vehicle on the Belt Parkway. Cavera, 55, of Bayside, Queens, was in the other vehicle stopped in traffic near the Pennsylvania Avenue exit. The force of the impact caused Cavera's car to flip in the air and land on its roof. In addition to crashing into Cavera's car, Heggs hit four other vehicles and continued driving. Heggs's car finally came to a stop after sliding against a guardrail. Cavera was transported to Brookdale Hospital where he later died from his injuries.

★★★

EAST ELMHURST RESIDENTS DRAW UP IDEAS TO BEAUTIFY NORTHERN BLVD.

On Oct. 15 residents went to Louis Armstrong Middle School for a public workshop held by the city's Department of Transportation to make suggestions on how to better improve to look of the bland roadway. This was the first of three meetings officials will host regarding the infamously known "new Boulevard of Death." So far this year, four pedestrians have died on the six-lane street as a result of a car-related collision. The second DOT public meeting will take place on Oct. 22 at P.S. 151, 50-05 31st Ave., Woodside. The third will be held on Oct. 29 at P.S. 166, 33-09 35th Ave., Long Island City. All of the workshops begin at 6:30 p.m.

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Office of the Queens Borough President



cordially invite you to:

CITY HALL IN YOUR BOROUGH: CITY RESOURCE FAIR

| Tuesday, October 23rd, 2018 |
11:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M.

Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities
107-20 Northern Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368

Meet with top representatives from City Hall, Department of Transportation, Department of Finance, NYPD, Economic Development Corporation, Department of Education, Department of Health, Small Business Services, Department of Parks and Recreation, and more.

Sign Up Here to Attend: www.nyc.gov/QUEENS-CHIYB or by calling 212-788-1453





La Oficina del Alcalde y
La Oficina de la Presidenta del Condado de Queens



cordialmente les invita a:

LA ALCALDÍA EN SU CONDADO: FERIA DE RECURSOS

| Martes, 23 de Octubre 2018 |
11:30 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.

Elmcor Youth and Adult Activities
107-20 Northern Boulevard
Corona, NY 11368

Representantes de la Municipalidad, el Departamento de Transporte, el Departamento de Finanzas, el Departamento de Policía, la Corporación de Desarrollo Económico, el Departamento de Educación, el Departamento de Salud, los Servicios para Pequeños Negocios, y el Departamento de Parques y Recreación, estarán presentes, entre otros.

Para Asistir Regístrese en: www.nyc.gov/QUEENS-CHIYB
También Puede Llamar al: (212) 788-1453



TO SUBMIT OP-EDS & LETTERS CONTACT DAVID

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From the Editors of EarthTalk Magazine: Dear EarthTalk



Photo by petradr on Unsplash

The Environmental Magazine
Special to the Eagle

Dear EarthTalk: **Do environmental factors influence fall foliage colors?** — Bess Walker, Clinton, CT

An uptick in the intensity of hurricanes, prolonged periods of drought precipitating wildfires, flooded out coastal regions, melting ice caps—most of us can agree that man-made climate change is at least a contributing factor for these modern-day environmental maladies that seem to be compounding on top of one another in recent years.

But another (less serious albeit still troubling) effect of our fossil fuel profligacy might just be compromised

fall foliage displays.

The deciduous trees that drop their leaves in the fall rely on cues from the surrounding environment to signal when to stop producing chlorophyll (which turns the leaves green) in order to conserve energy and hunker down for the colder air temperatures of the upcoming winter.

When the trees do get the signal, the chlorophyll begins to drain from the leaves, leaving behind carotenoids (in orange and yellow leaves) or anthocyanins (in red leaves) until the they fall to the ground.

But the unpredictability of a fast-changing climate has some species of trees confused about when to

drop their leaves as warmer temperatures linger longer into the fall. Some trees are simply producing fewer leaves as a result, while others are thrown out of whack as to when to drop their leaves.

A 2016 study by Chinese researchers and published in the peer-reviewed scientific journal *Global Change Biology* found trees changing color (phenology) later than in recorded history across 70 percent of the study area (the Northern Hemisphere), presumably due to warmer air temperatures pushing the process back.

Also, drought before and/or during the fall can drastically reduce the foliage show, given trees lack of

resources to begin with.

Researchers have found that during drought years, trees' leaves tend to turn color early and peter out sooner, if they don't skip the color show altogether and go straight to brown. Granted droughts come and go and cannot be pinned directly on global warming, no doubt climate change is increasing their prevalence and intensity.

And at a more macro level, the overall year-by-year warming trend is forcing many species north in search of the right temperature conditions for optimal growth.

To wit, some of the stars of New England's fall foliage show—such as sugar maples, yellow birches and

others—are expected to shift their habitat north within the next few decades. Indeed, biologists warn that foliage fans might have to head north of the U.S./Canada border to see these colorful denizens of the autumnal forest by 2100.

Meanwhile, other iconic foliage species—such as ashes, elms and oaks—are facing new threats from warming-induced insect outbreaks, with various troops of beetles and borers moving into new habitat with global warming clearing the way for them.

One way you can guarantee some kind of fall color display in your yard is to plant a variety of native plants and trees known to turn bright

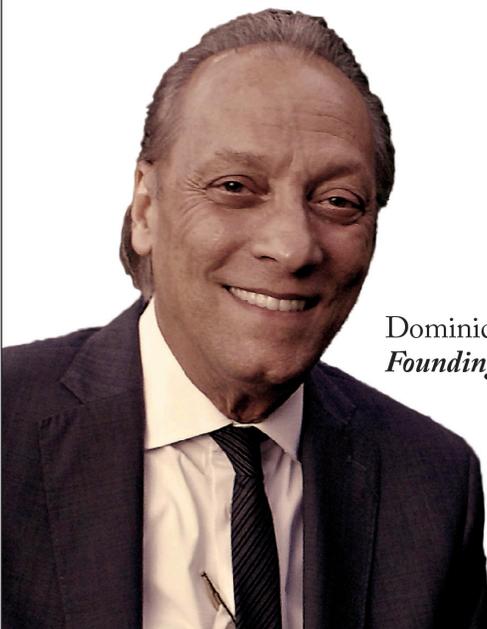
colors in the fall. If there is enough diversity among them, you're sure to get some kind of show every year, even if every plant isn't "turned on."

CONTACTS: "Delayed autumn phenology in the Northern Hemisphere is related to change in both climate and spring phenology." *onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/gcb.13311.*

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Women's Movement: What We Need to Do to Build A Global Intersectional Grassroots Movement



By **Chaumtoli Huq**

Special to the *Eagle*

After the election of Donald Trump, millions of women marched in the United States and around the globe protesting the disenfranchisement of women.

Largely heralded as a movement for women everywhere, the movement's base provided an opportunity for women to organize and fight back against the Trump regime. However, despite its good intentions, the movement has largely become that of white, middle-class, cisgendered women, and the issues those most relevant to white women.

And, although cast as a global movement, its issues are largely U.S. centric.

The movement made activists out of bystanders, with thousands of new activists taking to the streets among Black, Indigenous and Women of Color (BIWoC) who have been protesting and fighting for years. The women's movement, particularly supported by Women's March, continues to grow and receive spotlighted attention despite questions surrounding its inclusivity and willingness to share its platform.

Over the past few weeks, resistance against the appointment of Judge Brett Kavanaugh, largely in the form of protests organized by the Women's March, has been broadcast on major news channels and Twitter.

Thousands of retweets, mentions and replies lifted the #CancelKavanaugh efforts to the forefront of an already concentrated news cycle. Meanwhile, the Black

Women's March took place on Sept. 29 with hardly a peep of support. Twitter was largely silent. Major news outlets were nowhere to be found.

S.T. Holloway, an activist and HuffPost contributor, noted the lack of representation at a previous Women's March: "[I]n a sea of thousands, at an event billed as a means of advancing the causes affecting all women, the first and last time I heard 'Black Lives Matter' chanted was when my two girlfriends and I began the chant."

The resulting disconnect between the women's movement we hoped for and the women's movement as it stands today is blamed on a myriad of failures: the failure of white women to understand the history of women's movements, the leadership of the Women's March, the structural systems in place that allow certain women to be heard the loudest or the resulting feminism trend that sought to make millions off of merchandise touting feminist messaging.

As a result, many issues have succumbed to the more accessible, trendier topics of female empowerment, reproductive rights and equal pay, leaving critical issues such as climate change, prison abolition, indigenous rights and labor rights behind.

Privilege and Power: How White Women's Voices Silence

The women's movement has largely focused on issues that impact white women — specifically white women in the United States. It ignores systems rooted in white supremacy and racism

that oppress BIWoC and the imperialist, neocolonial policies that the United States continues to enforce both at home and abroad. It assumes that all women are equal beneficiaries of progress. It ignores barriers to voting, a rallying call that has become even more prominent as midterms inch closer; it denies inclusion of immigrant and indigenous communities that have been disenfranchised by racist, nativist policies. It denies recognition of the disproportionate impact climate change has on communities of color. Pennie Opal Plant, a climate activist, rightfully points out that, while 50,000 individuals attended the Women's March in San Francisco this year, only 30,000 individuals attended the March for Climate, Jobs & Justice, signaling that "most people do not understand the critical times in which we are living."

The movement fails to recognize Tarana Burke as the creator of the #MeToo movement and fails to actively de-center white feminist issues while "white women who believe themselves to be just and 'well-meaning,' are also contributing to white supremacy."

White bodies, cisbodies, middle-class and able bodies move through the world differently all on their own. When these bodies enter the political arena, their voices are heard first. Because of this, the issues that consistently become centered in women-focused movements are usually dismantling rape culture, equal pay and diminishing the patriarchy. These issues

ignore structural inequities and the fact that, even if these goals are achieved, the impact is felt differently across communities.

Just look at Sen. Susan Collins' disappointing decision to vote to confirm Judge Kavanaugh. Collins cited the #MeToo movement and its importance in fighting against rape culture while simultaneously voting to uphold a system that primarily disenfranchises women that do not fit within the white, cisgender and middle-class bubble Collins lives. Collins completed a critical step in promoting and ensuring the survival of toxic femininity and white supremacy. Vox host, Liz Plank, stated on Twitter: "The way white women accept to be used as pawns by a party that consistently strips their rights and minorities' rights away cannot be overstated."

Don't forget: white women voted for Trump. As the women's movement grows, the hypocrisy in the movement's growth must be addressed: many of the white women touting themselves as activists were complicit in Donald Trump's rise to power by remaining silent throughout his campaign. Many women became involved only after threats to reproductive rights became actualized. Some women are there for themselves. Others are there for all women. Many fail to actively include communities of color, LGBT community, immigrants or criminally convicted women.

The women's movement seen today is a co-opt of what BIWoC have been doing globally for centuries:

combating gender violence and racial abuse and exploitation of labor.

The ability of Western women to use the foundation laid by years of anti-imperialist, labor-focused, and abolitionist work to propel forward white feminist issues is a privilege experienced only by those whose identities are not at constant risk of state-perpetuated violence.

Our fragmentation in the women's movement, Farah Tanis, co-founder and Executive Director of Black Women's Blueprint, says, makes it harder to see progress:

"People need to have more vision. Leadership," she says, "needs to have a deeper understanding and embody what it means to fully commit yourself to liberation; for both ourselves and each other." White women must do better at acknowledging the active silence they have expressed against issues impacting BIWoC. "Black women get no coverage, no attention. Our issues are out of sight and out of the mind of community leaders," Tanis states.

"Women of color have actively fought for the rights and livelihoods of women for more than two centuries, yet their stories and contributions are often sidelined in the mainstream narrative of the feminist movement. White feminism has become complicit in white supremacy and enshrining patriarchy even deeper, not only within the United States, but globally. Western feminism fails to recognize that the world cannot progress if only Western women are

benefitting from movements," Natasha Johnson, founder of Globalizing Gender, said, cautioning that movements like these are not sustainable.

"Without including women's experiences, coopted movements 'reek of colonialism, just in a new form. Collaboration and genuine coalition building, along with inclusion of community-identified leaders," she says, are critical in creating and including global grassroots movements.

"Movement building," Natasha says, "is sustained by the recognition that often disparate, but equal parts make the whole."

The potential of the women's movement is revolutionary.

"The potential is beyond what we could have ever imagined because we have ended the gender binary. We are seeing full transformation of gender relations, full transformation of how we identify and move and show up in the world," Tanis says. "We've turned culture on its head, and that's the potential of the women's movement if we are to unite across race, class, sexuality to fight for each other's rights."

Simply put, the women's movement can do better. To realize our revolutionary potential, we need to amplify the voices of grassroots feminists globally and from marginalized communities to determine our path forward.

Chaumtoli Huq is a labor law professor at CUNY Law. A version of this piece appears on Huq's website Lawatthemargins.com.

Maloney Raises Millions to Fight to End Breast Cancer

By Victoria Merlino
Queens Daily Eagle

They're ringing out for a cure.

Congress Member Carolyn B. Maloney (NY-12) rang the opening bell at NASDAQ in honor of Breast Cancer Awareness Month on Oct. 16 to bring awareness to the illness that affects one out of eight U.S. women.

"When I first came to Congress, I wanted to double federal funding for breast cancer research and I am proud to say that we have actually more than tripled it!" Maloney said in a statement about the Breast Cancer Research Fund (BCRF). "We have allocated more than \$885 million in federal funds this year but what I always hear from breast cancer research and awareness groups is that we need ever more funding because research is the only way we are going to finally defeat breast cancer."

Maloney was joined by breast cancer survivors, Myra Bibowit, president and CEO of the BCRF, William Lauder, president of the American

Medical Women's Association and Dr. Connie B. Newman, President of the Medical Women's Associations, who is also a breast cancer survivor.

Maloney authored the Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Act, which created the U.S. Mint's Breast Cancer Awareness Commemorative Coin Program. The "pink-gold" coin could potentially raise \$8.5 million for the BCRF and the coin is on sale through the end of the year.

"Breast cancer does not discriminate," said William Lauder, BCRF chairman and executive chairman of The Estée Lauder Companies, in a statement. "Every 2 minutes a woman in the U.S. is diagnosed with the disease. We're making great strides towards eradicating breast cancer—research is the reason that breast cancer deaths are down by 40% over the last 25 years. But there is still critical work to be done and funds raised from this coin will bring us closer to our mission to end breast cancer."



Carolyn B. Maloney rang the opening bell at NASDAQ to bring awareness to and help support breast cancer research. Photo courtesy of the office of Carolyn B. Maloney

St. John's Professor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award For Spanish-Language Work

By Victoria Merlino
Queens Daily Eagle

A professor at St. John's University received a lifetime achievement award from the Ecuadorian government and the Foundation for the Integration and Development of Latin America for her work as an educator.

The award winner, Dr. Marie-Lise Gazarian, is a professor of Spanish and Latin American literature and the university's director for the Spanish graduate program.

Dr. Gazarian's past accolades include being appointed a Cultural Ambassador of Ecuador in the United States, receiving the Al Mérito Cultural award from Spain in 1981, as well as receiving a Citation of Honor from former Queens Borough President Claire Shulman in 1991 and 2000. She was also awarded a Certificate of Special Recognition from the U.S. Congress in 1997 and a Certificate of Congressional Recognition from Ecuador in 2000.

She is also the author of over 14 books.

The "Life Path to Educational Excellence Recognition" is awarded to exceptional teachers and professors from Latin America, Spain and the United States, and helps honor a teacher's commitment to education.

Earlier this October, Gazarian was also named an honorary professor by The Private Technical University of Loja for her work in Hispanic culture and the literary field.



Dr. Marie-Lise Gazarian was awarded a lifetime achievement award from the Ecuadorian government for her work as an educator.

Photo courtesy of St. John's University



Phil Ballman.

Photo courtesy of Borough President Melinda Katz

Katz Appoints Jackson Heights Resident as Queens' New Director Of Cultural Affairs and Tourism

By Jonathan Sperling
Queens Daily Eagle

There's a new cultural affairs director in town.

Queens Borough President Melinda Katz announced on Thursday the appointment of internationally recognized cultural event producer Phil Ballman as the borough's new director of cultural affairs and tourism.

"Phil is a valuable addition to our team here at Borough Hall," said Katz in a statement. "Mr. Ballman has extensive experience as a live event producer, arts programmer and project manager and understands the many strengths of our borough's cultural institutions. He has an impressive dedication to serving our community and has the talent and determination to further the growth in interest that 'The

World's Borough' has recently been receiving as a culturally-rich tourism destination."

As part of his extensive resume, Ballman served as the manager of community engagement and partnerships for the College of Performing Arts at The New School. While in that role, he created ongoing partnerships and programming with an array of arts organizations, including the City Parks Foundation, the Lincoln Center Atrium, The Morgan Library and others.

Before that, Ballman was coordinator of special programs for The New School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, as well as the founder, producer and artistic director of the Otherground Music Festival, a free outdoor summer concert series that served Jackson Heights and Elmhurst with internationally-

themed music performances throughout the summer of 2010.

Ballman also co-founded and was an agent at Mondo Mundo talent agency from 2006 to 2010 and served as director of publicity for Manhattan's Sounds of Brazil music venue from 2004-2006.

"It is a thrill and an honor to have been selected by Borough President Katz to fill this important position," said Ballman, who resides in Jackson Heights with his wife, visual artist Deborah Wasserman. "I look forward to helping the Borough President implement her vision for maximizing the impact and reach of our borough's great cultural institutions and its other fabulous attractions, which have made Queens a go-to destination for so many visitors and residents."

New Legislation Takes Aim at Illegally Parked Delivery Trucks

By **Evan Rosen**
Queens Daily Eagle

District 22 Councilmember Costa Constantinides introduced a bill on Wednesday to end a city program that allowed delivery and truck drivers to pay reduced fines for parking tickets.

“Stipulated Fine Program favored delivery corporations while everyday New Yorkers had to pay,” wrote Constantinides on Twitter before the Oct. 17 meeting. “...I’m introducing a bill to end this unfair system, plus make streets, bike lanes & crosswalks safer.”

The city’s Stipulated Fine Program started almost 15 years ago under then-Mayor Michael Bloomberg and gave delivery companies registered with the program the option

to pay a flat fee when ticketed. Typically, whenever a driver receives a parking ticket, the owner of the car has 30 days to pay the fine in full or answer to fight the charge.

The program, which is free to join, lessens the incentive for truckers to abide by street parking rules that usually block traffic and cause congestion throughout the city.

“By ending the Stipulated Fine Program, everyone will have to follow the same traffic rules that other drivers, pedestrians and cyclists abide by. Traffic congestion, noise pollution, and emissions will be reduced and we’ll see less bike lanes and handicap spots illegally blocked,” wrote Councilmember Ydanis Rodriguez in a post on Twitter before the meeting.



Truck parked at a fire hydrant.

Photo by Simon Shim on Unsplash

Retooling Skills to Remain Valuable As Law Firms Downsize

By **David Bargman**
Special to the *Eagle*

Value investing is a strategy that seeks out fundamentally sound companies with strong balance sheets and price earnings ratios. It is becoming increasingly popular during the downturn brought about by the credit crunch. Because the good times inevitably follow the bad (at least they always have), value investors reason that over time they will be less susceptible to ups and downs and create long term growth.

Similarly, the demand for lawyers has returned to a focus on fundamentals, such as credentials, expertise, and drive. Because their skill sets are their primary asset, lawyers should focus on building value during the down times to prepare their careers for the return to good times.

Call it value lawyering.

Firms have stopped filling their ranks with lawyers, permanent and contract, to perform due diligence in Initial Public Offerings (IPO) and Private Equity and, of course, securitization deals. Proposals for modifying lockstep pay for associate have surfaced and been adopted. Indeed, a recent article in *Above the Law* cited a proposal by one law partner to return “value to clients” by having junior associates pay their firms for their training until they become “productive” after three years. (Presumably the firms will return the investment should the associates stay.)

Despite the economic downturn, the fundamentals of lawyering have not changed. Associates with top law school backgrounds, top grades and large firm experience, will remain (if they wish) relatively secure at top tier firms or in practice groups for which demand remains relatively strong, such as patent litigation and

restructuring. Many others, having had a taste of big firm practice and compensation, will have to retool for the new economic climate of layoffs, downsizing, casting off unprofitable practice areas, and flat compensation. In

What non-legal education and work experience and skill sets do you have that will help you enhance or retool your practice?

3. Legal experience: Drafting, negotiation, research and writing, depositions,

available? How do they stack up against your current job and your dream job?

A good career counselor or recruiter can aid you in appraising your skills, experience, goals and creating a search strategy. (See my

can, even in the areas that are not hot right now (like M&A) working on lower profile deals and basic corporate matters instead of fleeing to a new hot area unless these really appeal to you. For instance, litigators should consider plaintiff’s

Use school to retool. Education is always a worthwhile investment. This is particularly true of professional education such as a Masters of Law degree in Tax, Environmental, Labor or Trade Regulation. Even if your prior practice does make you a specialist in a certain field, a degree in the field goes a long way toward establishing your expertise. Just be certain the area you choose is one to which you are ready to commit. Remember, you have a long career ahead of you.

Invest in yourself. If you have always wanted to start your own practice, now, believe it or not, is the time. With big firm training (and perhaps a few bucks set aside), you can offer quality service at lower rates than larger firms, and may snag business from clients of your former firm with whom you have built trust and who appreciate more reasonable fees for certain matters. The younger and less encumbered you are, the more risk you can take.

Establishing a strategy based on your fundamentals, your experience, skills, priorities and goals and on current, accurate market information can grow your “portfolio” personally and professionally. You can do nothing more important for your career.



People gathered in a meeting.

Photo by rawpixel on Unsplash

either case, the buyer’s market requires lawyers to emphasize basic skills and to pay serious attention to career decisions.

Value lawyering – How to do it:

Do a vigorous self-assessment: 1. Objective (What can you do?):

I. Academic: How do your credentials stack up objectively (rank of law school attended, class rank, honors, clerkships)?

2. What are your skills (i.e., What are you good at)? Are you organized, analytical, and outgoing?

participation in trials or arbitrations:

II. Subjective (What do you want to do?) - What are your career goals and priorities, both near and long term? Do you want to stay in the law? Do you want to maximize your compensation or your personal time?

Do you prefer a more or less structured work environment? Do you want to be a “headliner” or a staffer? (Be honest with yourself.) Do you like working with lawyers?

III. Get the necessary information — What jobs are

article on recruiting checkups on www.baumstevens.com) We are not magicians. The good ones give you the tools to evaluate your situation and determine the way forward. That requires you to examine closely (and simultaneously) what you want to do, what you can do and what is available.

Only after you have done an assessment of your skills, goals and laid out a strategy (or strategies) should you move forward:

Find a need and fill it: specialize as deeply as you

work that generally is less credentials focused. Consider relocating and readjusting your short term compensation goals.

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Local Officials Cut Ribbon On Newly Renovated Flushing Main Street Station



Local officials cut the ribbon on the new Flushing-Main Street station on Thursday. Photo courtesy of the MTA

By Jonathan Sperling
Queens Daily Eagle

The newest renovated Long Island Rail Road station is open for business in Queens.

Local officials officially cut the ribbon on the newly rebuilt and reconfigured Flushing-Main Street station on Thursday, Oct. 18, providing some much-needed TLC to a major transit fixture of Eastern Queens.

The new station features two elevators — one on the eastbound platform and the other on the westbound platform — as well as a new street-level ticket office, and a new set of entranceways connecting the platforms directly to Flushing main hub, Main Street.

“We are pleased to be able to make this station fully accessible to all our customers, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, thanks to the addition of two new elevators,” LIRR President Phil Eng said. “We are also pleased that our station will now be easier to reach from the heart of the Flushing community. We hope our

improvements will transform a station that was inaccessible and mostly hidden from public view into an inviting and prominent community landmark. We are continuously working to make the LIRR accessible to all, and this is an important achievement in that campaign.”

Construction on the project, which began in 2016 and cost \$24.6 million, provided an added level of accessibility to a station that had been built in 1913 and not been renovated since 1958. In its previous configuration, the station’s westbound platform was only accessible via a narrow staircase in an alley between buildings. The eastbound platform led out to Main Street but was also narrow. Neither platform featured an elevator.

The station’s one-story ticket office, located at the eastbound entrance, did not conform with ADA guidelines and was demolished. The renovated station remedies this with a new ticket office adjacent to the primary westbound entrance, as well as an open plaza for future retail kiosks, new staircases,

platform shelters, railings, LED lighting, new signage, USB charging ports, an upgraded public-address system with clearer audio quality and yellow tactile platform edge strips.

“Today’s grand re-opening of the LIRR Flushing-Main Street Station is a major milestone for Flushing and for all of Queens. This critical transportation center is now accessible to everyone who travels to and from Flushing, a vibrant and fast-growing community that will benefit from the upgrade to a first-class, fully accessible rail station,” said Queens Borough President Melinda Katz in a statement. “The station’s new entryway will also enhance the traveling experience of LIRR riders and will be an attractive and welcome addition to the neighborhood.”

With more than 2,200 people using the station on an average weekday, the Flushing-Main Street station is the LIRR system’s 50th-busiest station out of 124 total stations. It is the ninth-busiest station in Queens.

Queens Man Dead After Flushing Vehicle Fire

By Jonathan Sperling
Queens Daily Eagle

A Queens man was found dead inside of a vehicle after an early morning blaze in Flushing, the police said on Friday.

FDNY firefighters and officers from the 110th Precinct responded to a 911 call of a fire at Northern Boulevard and Prince Street just after 8 a.m. and discovered a vehicle ablaze. After extinguishing the fire, FDNY personnel discovered an unidentified man unconscious and unresponsive inside of the



Firefighters in Flushing discovered a man unresponsive following a vehicle fire.

vehicle. EMS responded and pronounced the man dead at the scene.

The Medical Examiner will determine the cause of death and the investigation remains ongoing, according to police.

Queens County Criminal Court Calendar — Oct. 22 —

UPSTATE MAN ACCUSED OF BREEDING PITBULLS FOR FIGHTING

Dominick Barizone is expected in TAP A to learn the judge’s decision on a motion. Barizone, 49 of Middletown, NY, was indicted for breeding, selling and attempting to sell pitbulls for dog fighting. Barizone is charged with 44 counts of violating sections of Agricultural and Marketing Law 26-351 (prohibition of animal fighting) and one count of fifth-degree conspiracy. Detectives caught wind of Barizone’s online operation that used coded terms to describe the pictured dogs like

“tremendous mouth” meaning the animal has bite strength and a strong jaw, “game” as in aggression, “extreme ability” and “long-winded” code words for stamina during fights. If convicted, Barizone faces up to four years in prison.

JUSTICE BARRY KRON PRESIDES

FLUSHING MAN ALLEGEDLY FLEECED SENIOR CITIZEN FOR \$41K IN FAKE BAIL SCAM

Andrew Sanders is charged with third-degree grand larceny for his alleged role in a “jail bail” scam to fleece

senior citizens. Prosecutors says Sanders, a Flushing resident, allegedly convinced an elderly victim to give him cash in 2017 by saying that he needed the money to post bail in the Dominican Republic. Sanders allegedly told the victim he had been arrested on marijuana charges. Sanders is expected in TAP A for the start of trial.

JUSTICE BARRY KRON PRESIDES

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OPENING DOORS
OCTOBER 24-26, 2018

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www.queensbp.org/knowyourrights

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24 4:00 — 6:00 PM	Ocean Bay Community Center with Rock Safe Streets 57-10 Beach Channel Drive in FAR ROCKAWAY RSVP: www.queensbp.org/RSVP or 718.286.2661
7:30 — 9:00 PM	Redfern Houses Community Center with Fathers Alive In The Hood 1544 Hassock Street in FAR ROCKAWAY RSVP: www.queensbp.org/RSVP or 718.286.2661
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25 4:00 — 6:00 PM	Transitional Services for New York, Inc. with LIFE Camp, Inc. 90-27 Sutphin Boulevard in JAMAICA RSVP: www.queensbp.org/RSVP or 718.286.2661
7:30 — 9:00 PM	South Jamaica Cornerstone Community Center with Fathers Alive In The Hood 109-04 160th Street in JAMAICA RSVP: www.queensbp.org/RSVP or 718.286.2661
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26 4:00 — 6:00 PM	696 Build Queensbridge 10-31 41st Avenue in LONG ISLAND CITY RSVP: www.queensbp.org/RSVP or 718.286.2661

Melinda Katz
Queens Borough President

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