

Happenings: Around The District



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Paper & Plastic Bag Tax Victory!



See story on page 3

WHODYA? A Solid Message for Our Children



See story on page 10-11

HAPPENINGS... AROUND THE DISTRICT

Community Service Award



Senator Felder with staff member, Michael Gregorio, presented Ashraf Abdelaal (center), the owner of Associated Supermarket on Avenue J, with a Community Service Award for regularly assisting the Senator's office and staff with their outreach programs. Congratulations Mr. Abdellaal!

Brooklyn Diocese Legislative Breakfast



The Senator is pictured (L to R) with Brooklyn Democratic Leader Frank Seddio, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio, NY State Senator Roxanne Persaud, and NY State Assemblywoman Helene Weinstein.

Senator Felder Joins the Chinese New Year Celebration

Senator Felder was happy to stand with civic leaders and other elected officials at the 30th annual Sunset Park Chinese Lunar New Year Festival, which included a parade and speeches.

The parade began at 11 a.m. at 5002 Eighth Ave. and ran for 10 blocks. Greeting Paul Mak, president of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association (BCA), and Shiu Kam Leung, vice president, Senator Felder praised the BCA, which was founded in 1998 with the primary mission of providing assistance to the growing Asian-American community.

Enjoying the festivities are U-R: Brooklyn District Leader Joe Bova, Senator Felder, Assemblyman Peter Abbate, Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, Paul Mak, President of the Brooklyn Chinese American Association and Assemblyman Felix Ortiz.

Senator Felder Honors One of NYC's Finest



Senator Felder honors Police Officer Christian Lopez for saving the life of a missing autistic child while off duty. L-R: Captain Gonzalez, PO Lopez, Michael Gregorio, Senator Felder and 70th Pct. Community Council President, Ed Powell.

COJO of Flatbush Breakfast



L-R: Senator Felder, Police Commissioner James O'Neill, District Manager CB#14 Shawn Campbell, Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro and Assemblywoman Pemala Harris.



Did You Know?

About the Bag Tax

1. The tax would have cost you:

- a. nickel
- b. dime
- c . unknown

ANSWER: (c) It was a MINIMUM of 5 cents. You could have been charged more.

2. The tax would have applied to:

- a. only plastic bags
- b. only paper bags
- c. plastic and paper bags

ANSWER: (c) Both plastic & paper bags were included in this tax.

3. The monies would go for:

- a. environmental programs
- b. City of NY
- c. store owner

ANSWER: (c) The store owner would keep the tax and not a penny would have gone to help the environment.

Still not sure of the facts?

It was a tax on some of the stores, not all and for some of the people, not all - and the store owner got to keep the money.



bag tax which was passed in both houses

Rain or shine, snow or sleet, Ace Foundation staffers ensure that the sidewalks are clean and safe, thanks to a special grant from Senator Felder. Pictured are Senator Felder, Ace staffer; Leo Gil, Quality Control Officer: Travis Tinnev, Director of Develooment and Felder staffer, Judah Wohladelmter.



Senator Felder speaking at a rally in Albany for Rebuild NY Now in support of improving water quality and investing in water infrastructure in New York. "It's not an issue many people think about until they can't shower or drink their water. That is why proper planning and investment is important to keep New York's water safe."

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HAMODIA

PARTIES DON'T MATTER.

Op-Ed by Senator Simcha Felder

my decision this legislative session to caucus you. with the Republicans. The news reports have been speculative, sometimes confusing, and was based on three things: First, I need to often inaccurate. So I'm pleased to have an consider what's best for my constituents. opportunity to explain things directly to you and Secondly, I need to consider what's best for New clear up any questions with regard to why I've Yorkers. I believe that every government needs chosen this path.

with fairly conservative views. In New York City—a place where winning a Democratic people's best interests. primary is equivalent to winning office—you Third, I have to rely on my experience. That must be a Democrat

City elections. So why join sides with the Republicans?

Having been born and schooled in the same district that I represent having raised a family here and maintained

involvement with

are. for the most part, the same as yours. The families, free school transportation (a direct decisions that I make politically are, what I help to parents and their families), protecting think, best for us. I believe most of you would the bodies of the deceased, and fighting the make the same decisions. There are exceptions, City's Bag Tax, to name a few. sure, but caucusing with the Republicans isn't one of them.

Which brings me to my decision.

At the end of the day, regardless of which lever people may have pulled for me—Democrat, people are recognizing that it's not about the Republican or Conservative—you don't want me parties—it's about the issues.

I've seen a fair amount of coverage about representing a party. You want me to represent

My decision to caucus with the Republicans balance; that having a stacked deck with either Like many of you, I am a registered Democrat party controlling all of the centers of power. either on a Federal or State level, is not in the

> dictates that I stand to have a say in experience



done great things together and seen success with our community—I believe that my thoughts many issues including protecting special needs

> The reason behind my decision was no more complicated than that. If it ain't broke, don't fix it. I stick to the belief that I must represent you as I'd like to be represented. More and more

United Nations: "LET MY PEOPLE GO HOME!"

A group of New York lawmakers, Senator Simcha Felder and Council Member David Greenfield among them, and Jewish communal leaders came together as ICRC launched a coordinated effort to condemn Hamas for holding the bodies of two deceased Israeli soldiers and two Israeli civilians currently being held captive.



At the podium is Rabbi Michael S. Miller, Executive Vice President and CEO of JCRC. Also in attendance was Mr. Simcha Goldin, father of Hadar Golden, one of the soldiers whose body is being held by Hamas. He traveled to New York along with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to call on the United Nations to take responsibility in returning his son's body.

"The families of these brave soldiers have been denied the basic human right to the dignity of a proper burial according to our customs. The pain they are feeling is unfathomable," said Senator Felder who attended the press conference to show his support.

Felder Appointed to Task Force on Counter Terrorism

In September, Senator Felder was appointed to our national catastrophe to open the the new NY State Senate Majority Task Force on eves of those who didn't realize how Counter Terrorism and Public Protection by Sena-dangerous a time we live in—a time tor Thomas Croci, Chair of the Task Force.

The Task Force's mission is to review and report to reshape the world by whatever monon the Counter Terrorism / Public Protection activities that have occurred since September 11, 2001 and to make findings and recommendations, including proposing future legislative and admin- get," Senator Felder continued. "As istrative actions, that will promote the improved such, I fully support the formation public safety of all New Yorkers.

Senator Felder. "Nevertheless, it took the scope of tion efforts in our City and State."

when radical Islamist groups attempt strous means they deem necessary."

"New York remains a principal tarof this new task force to improve the "Terrorism wasn't born on September 11th," said counter terrorism and public protec-



Spring 2017 FELDER FOCUS

COVER STORY

Safety and Security on McDonald Avenue

In an effort to improve the safety and security along McDonald Avenue, which has long been a dark and dangerous street, Senator Simcha Felder has secured funding to increase sidewalk lighting.

Under the new program, the NYC Department of Transportation has designed and installed special streetlights under the F train tracks so that the sidewalks along McDonald Avenue will have better lighting for pedestrians and will benefit drivers and cyclists as well. The first part of the project will run from Ditmas Avenue to Bay Parkway. The next phase will continue further south

McDonald Avenue runs through the middle of the neighborhood, making it a very busy thoroughfare. With crime and terrorism on everyone's

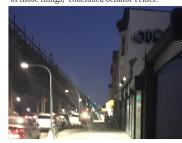
mind, this lighting project will be a monumental improvement. Currently, millions of dollars have been allocated to upgrade the lighting that will help residents feel safer and more secure.

"There is nothing more important than people's safety and security," said Senator Felder. "This lighting project will ensure that residents who walk along McDonald Avenue are out of harm's way and I thank the Department of Transportation for working with the community to make life safer for residents."

A similar project to improve the lighting at the entrances and exits to the F-train stations along McDonald Avenue was recently completed. For residents who use those stations at night, the dif-

ference has literally been night and day.

"There is so much out there to be worried about: walking down McDonald Avenue shouldn't be one of those things," concluded Senator Felder.



HAPPENINGS... AROUND ALBANY



Senator Felder joined his colleagues in the Legislature to urge state leaders to make New York seniors a priority in this year's state budget.



Senator Felder recognizes the 75th Anniversary of the Civil Air Patrol in the Senate Chamber of the NYS Capitol, L-R: Senator Simcha Felder, Major Bob Ellwood, Colonel Tom Carello, Senator Tom Croci, Lt. Colonel John Jones



The faculty and boys from Yeshiva Mevakshei Hashem of Brooklyn on the Million Dollar staircase with Senator Felder in Albany's New York State Capital building.



L-R: Senators Tedisco, Felder, Murphy and Ashkar wear their "Lots of Socks" during Tuesday's session for World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD) which is meant to raise awareness of Down syndrome.



Senator Felder (left) and conductor Cindy Christensen (right) with student musicians from Edward R. Murrow H. S. Rand who were in Albany as part of the Music in Our Schools Month celebration

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"My vision was to provide a free, fun-filled event with lots of rides, entertainment and healthy snacks for families. Together with Human Care Services, we succeeded." - Senator Simcha Felder















L-R: Pesach Tikvah BP Clinic Director, Yerachmiel Stern, LCSW; Board Member, Rabbi Naftuli Weiss; Executive Director, Irwin Shindler, Psy.D.; Senator Simcha Felder.



Joining his colleagues along with Board Members of NY Community Hospital and the Yad Ephraim team, at the ribbon cutting of the new Bikur Cholim room.



Senator Felder speaking at Yeshiva of Flatbush about civic responsibility.



Senator Felder greeting seniors at Club Nissim's Holocuast Memorial Event.



Joined by Councilmember Mark Treyger, Felder presents a Proclamation to Paul Mak at the BCA's Senior Center's Twelfth Anniversary Celebration.



Getting into the spirit with Lipa at the Met Council's Pre-Chanukah senior event.

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SENATOR SIMCHA FELDER 2017 New York City Parking Calendar

July 4/Tues.

Independence Day*
MAJOR LEGAL HOLIDAY
RULES IN EFFECT

Aug. 15/Tues.

Sept. 1-3

Fri.- Sun.

Idul-Adha (Eid Al-Adha)

Sept. 4/Mon.

MAJOR LEGAL HOLIDAY
RULES IN EFFECT

Sept. 21-22

Thurs.-Fri.

Sept. 30/Sat.

Oct. 5-6

Thurs.-Fri.

Oct. 9/Mon.

Oct. 12/Thurs.

Oct. 19/Thurs.

Nov. 1/Wed. All Saints' Day

Nov. 7/Tues.

Nov. 10/Fri.

ALTERNATE SIDE SUSPE

Nov. 11/Sat.

Nov. 23/Thurs. Thanksgiving Day*
MAJOR LEGAL HOLIDAY RULES IN EFFECT

Dec. 8/Fri.

Dec. 25/Mon.

Oct. 13/Fri.

Jan. 1/Sun. New Year's Day* RULES IN EFFECT

lan. 2/Mon. New Year's Day* (Observed MAJOR LEGAL HOLIDAY

Jan. 16/Mon. Ir.'s Birthday

Jan. 28/Sat. ALTERNATE SIDE SUSPI

Feb. 13/Mon. ALTERNATE SIDE SUSPEND

Feb. 20/Mon Washington's Birthday (Presidents' Day)

March 1/Wed. Ash Wednesday
ALTERNATE SIDE SUSPENDE

March 12/Sun.

April 11-12 Tues.-Wed.

April 13/Thurs.

April 14/Fri.

April 17-18 Mon.-Tues.

May 25/Thurs.

May 29/Mon.

May 31-June 1 Wed.-Thurs.

June 25-27 Sun.-Tues.

Christmas Day*
MAJOR LEGAL HOLIDAY
RULES IN EFFECT * Meters not in effect

Felder Urges Mayor on Three-Year IEPs

State Senator Calls on NYC Mayor to **Streamline Special Needs Services**

At a hearing before state lawmakers in Albany on January 30th, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio was once again urged by State Senator Simcha Felder to finally implement the long promised three-year Individualized Educational

An IEP is a detailed, multi-page document containing all pertinent medical, developmental and academic information on students with any disabilities or special needs. It is vital to any New York State or City public or private school student obtaining any special education services.

Currently, New York City parents of students with IEPs, often children with significant intellectual and/or physical disabilities, must renew their children's IEPs at the start of each school vear. The annual renewal is a burdensome study in tediousness and bureaucracy and parents have long requested that IEPs require renewal only once every three years.

"You testified here on May 4, 2016 before the Education Committee and made a commitment

at the time to parents of special needs children to finally implement, before the start of this school year, 3-year IEPs for special needs students that require no changes to their IEPs. That never occurred," Felder said at the hearing.

"And children and families are still suffering humiliation and financial hardship to maintain their IEPs by having to pay lawyers over and over and over again," he went on, "despite the fact that there are no [diagnostic] changes [to the IEP]. The example I gave last time was... a child [who] has Down syndrome, autism," said Felder. "There's no fix for that, unfortunately, and there's no need to force them to do it over

The longstanding public champion of children with disabilities ended on an upbeat note by thanking the Mayor for strides and improvements that were made. "But," said Felder, " that doesn't give me or anyone else a pass on doing whatever we have to do to help these families, so ebrating his birthday. The boy was so excited that I sincerely hope that New Yorkers can count on the Senator, visibly moved, promised he would your commitments in 2017."

A PROMISE KEPT!

by Country Yossi Toiv





It was a hastily made promise uttered on the spur of the moment by Senator Felder during a visit to Bonim Lamokom, a school for special

Avrohom Boruch, one of the students, approached him and told him he would soon be celcome back to celebrate with him.

"And not only that," he continued, "I will bring you a special surprise as well!"

Avrohom Boruch's grin spread from ear to ear.

Later in the day when Simcha called me and asked me to be the "Surprise," I quickly and hap-

A few days later, despite a busy schedule, the Senator, followed by a slim, bearded man wear-

ing a large, black hat (not an uncommon sight in Flatbush except this was a 10 gallon cowboy hat!") hurried upstairs to the classroom where the party was about to begin.

While Simcha walked inside to loud cheers and applause, I remained secreted outside in the hall where nobody could see me.

Simcha handed Avrohom Boruch a birthday cake, and wished him a hearty Happy Birthday.

"You remembered!" he exclaimed.

"Aaand," continued Simcha pointing to the door, "I promised you a special surprise... and here he

Slowly the door swung open and in I strolled singing Happy Birthday while strumming my guitar. The entire class immediately recognized my huge hat, if not my face, and amid loud squeals of

surprise and delight they all joined in the singing. Other songs quickly followed with his classmates, the Senator and I dancing around him in a lively, spirited circle.

Avrohom Boruch couldn't stop smiling! This was a birthday party he and his friends would never

And to tell the truth, neither would I! I learned something very valuable that day. No matter how busy or important a person you are, making time to bring joy to others is what it's all about. It was a lesson the Senator taught me well.

There was a lot of hugging as Simcha bid them all farewell. Remember," he said as we left, "always keep your promise."

And with those final words, the Senator and the cowboy disappeared into the sunset (actually it was into the heavy traffic on Ocean Parkway but sunset sounds better!)

Country Yossi is an internationally renowned singer/songwriter, radio personality and publisher of the Country Yossi Magazine.



Felder Offers Many Free Services





Senator Felder hosted a PSA screening recently at his office, as well as a Meidicare Rights Seminar for people turning 65 in 2017. A representative from Medicare Rights offered a soup-to-nuts tutorial on Medicare and explained the various choices people have when applying. An extensive question and answer session followed.

You can see Felder's Spring/Summer 2017 upcoming events at the back of this newsletter.



Felder Honors Local Boy Scout

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) is the largest Scouting organization in the United States of America and one of the largest youth organizations with more than 2.4 million youth

National Eagle Scout Joel Feinberg was recently awarded a certificate of recognition at a Court of Honor ceremony by Senator Felder. "The mission of the Boy Scouts is to prepare youth to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by focusing on building character, citizenship and developing physical, mental and emotional fitness. It is my pleasure to award Joel Feinberg a Certificate of Recognition for embodying these principles."

Pictured with him are his proud parents, Senator Felder and Shomer Shabbat Scout Troop Leader, Neil Poland.

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SENATOR FELDER'S "WHODYA" APPRECIATE CAMPAIGN OFF TO A ROUSING START

The Masores Bais Yaakov auditorium was brimming with over 120 animated but well-behaved 3rd and 4th grade girls. Some of them were holding brooms while others were wearing uniforms made of big, black garbage bags! Still others were holding a large oak tag adorned with envelopes while yet other girls were holding a replica of a beautiful, painted fire-house.

The air was electric with anticipation!

Sitting up on stage was NY State Senator Simcha Felder surrounded by an imposing array of uniformed community workers. There were members of the NYPD, the FDNY, the U.S. Postal Service, The Department of Sanitation, Hatzolah and the US Army War Veterans.

What was going on? Was it a Fire Drill? A national emergency?



"WHODYA?" campaign stimulating, educational yet fun experience designed to foster ap preciation for community workers and the important, but often unheralded. services they provide!

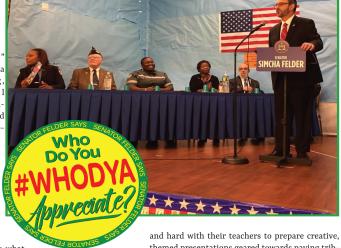
"Who knows what
'WHODYA?' means?" asked Senator Felder. When
no-one responded he continued. "I'm not surprised. It's a new word. We made it up. It means
Who Do You Appreciate?

"Imagine," he continued "having to go out in the boiling hot weather or the pouring rain or the icy snow to deliver the mail or having to come out in the middle of the night or during a holiday meal because someone's family member is sick. How would you feel if you knew that people appreciate what you're doing but nobody ever said thank you?"

One by one Senator Felder introduced the uniformed men and women on stage who, in turn, explained to the curious children what they do and why it's important.

When the speakers concluded, it was the children's turn.

It was evident that they had worked long



and hard with their teachers to prepare creative, themed presentations geared towards paying tribute and sincere shows of appreciation to each special guest

To provide a souvenir for the children, and to help reinforce the lessons learned, a beautifully produced 12 page full color WHODYA? APPRECIA-TION activity booklet was distributed.

"Everyone was deeply touched by the event," said Senator Felder. "In fact, one of our guest speakers had tears in her eyes.

"We live in very complex times where events occur at lightning speed and one doesn't know what will happen from one moment to the next. We need to take the time to stop—and show people we appreciate what they do for us. A sincere 'thank you' goes a long way," concluded Senator Felder.

So, WHODYA?

Schools interested in doing a WHODYA? event can contact Yossi at 718-253-2015 for more details.















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PRSRT STD U.S. Postage PAID New York Senate

FREE CHOLESTEROL SCREENING

Thursday, May 4 • 10:00 am - 1:00 pm **Flatbush**

FREE GLAUCOMA SCREENING

Thursday, May 11 • 9:30 am - 12:30 pm **SBH Flatbush**



FREE HEARING SCREENING

Thursday, May 11 • 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Flatbush**



MEDICARE RIGHTS SEMINAR

Tuesday, May 16 • 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm **Flatbush**

FREE MAMMOGRAMS SCREENING

Wednesday, May 24 • 9:30 am - 5:00 pm Flatbush

UNCLAIMED FUNDS

Wednesday, June 14 • 10:00 am - 3:00 pm **Flatbush**

METROCARD

Thursday, June 29 • 10:00 am - 12:00 pm • Flatbush Thursday, June 29 • 1:00 am - 3:00 pm • Boro Park

SENATOR

2017 SPRING/ FALL EVENTS CALENDAR

FLATBUSH 1412 Ave J #2E 718-253-2015

BORO PARK 4623 16th Ave 718-484-3216

CALL IMMEDIATELY TO SECURE YOUR APPOINTMENT

NYLAG

Wednesday, May 3 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Flatbush**

Wednesday, May 24 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Boro Park**

Wednesday, June 7 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Flatbush**

Wednesday, June 28 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm **Boro Park**

Wednesday, July 5 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Flatbush

Wednesday, July 26 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Flatbush

Wednesday, August 2 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Flatbush

Wednesday, August 23 • 10:00 am - 4:00 pm Flatbush