

Padavan, Officials Celebrate Korean Vets Memorial



On Sunday, June 25, Senator Frank Padavan (R-C, Bellerose) joined members of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Association to break ground for the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Kissena Park. The sculpture, more than 16 feet long, 10 feet wide and 11 feet high, has been in the works since 1999 and will stand as a tribute to the 172 Queens men who died in combat during the Korean War. Shown are (l. to r.) President of the Korean American Association of Greater New York Kyong Ro Lee, Padavan, Korean Ambassador Hong Joo Moon and John Park of the Korean American Community Empowerment Council. At right, Padavan and Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Commissioner of Parks Department go over the plans for the Korean War Memorial.



APAC Plays Added To Library Collection

The Astoria Performing Arts Center (APAC) has announced that the Astoria Branch of the Queens Borough Public Library will be accepting into its permanent collection the complete series of plays written by middle-school students in the APAC Playmaking Program. This single bound volume of 15 student-written plays will be made available to the public, signaling the library's and community's support of the writings of Queens youths.

"The Queens Library is delighted to house a collection of plays written by the APAC Playmaking Program middle-school students," Thomas W. Galante, library director, said. "The Queens Library takes pride in the enrichment of children's lives by providing invaluable programs and services. We are excited to add this series of plays to our diverse collection of materials here at the Queens Library."

The APAC Playmaking Program is built around a specific method of teaching playwriting to children. During two five-week cycles of after-school classes, each student writes one short play. The new works are then directed and performed by adult, professional actors. Developed by Daniel Judah Sklar, author of *Playmaking: Children Writing and Performing Their Own Plays*, the program came to life at The 52nd Street Project, a Manhattan youth arts organization. Results of the program have shown that children given focused attention by a teaching artist and supported by adult volunteers are able to build their self esteem as they develop new skill sets through playwriting. The classes are a mix of theater games, improvisations and writing.

"Everything about APAC's Playmaking

Program is about validating the importance of kids finding their own voices," Taryn Drongowski, APAC executive director, said. "They put a lot of work into their plays, and that work is honored with attention from a lot of adults, including teachers, volunteers, actors, directors, community leaders, audience members, and now the library. The message to the students is clear—use your imaginations, work hard, be yourselves and have fun!"

With the support of City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr., APAC was given a CASA Award from the city Department of Youth and Community Development to start a playwriting program at I.S. 126, the Albert Shanker School for the Visual and Performing Arts in Astoria. APAC extends special thanks to Vallone Jr. for his constant support.

"I'm so proud of these kids and all the work that APAC does," Vallone Jr. said, "It's also good to know that if I happen to miss a show I can always go to the library and check out a copy."

The second round of plays, eight in total, was presented to the public free of charge in a staged reading by professional, adult actors and directors on Tuesday, June 27 at 6 p.m. at I.S. 126. This performance will be followed by an encore presentation at the Astoria branch of the Queens Borough Public Library this summer in celebration of the students' 15 complete new works being accepted into the library's permanent collection. The first round of plays, seven in total, was presented in April.

For more information regarding the APAC Playmaking Program or any other of APAC's theatre and performing arts pro-

Gianaris, NYPA Fund Literacy Garden In Astoria

The school year at P.S. 84 in Astoria took on an outdoor touch, thanks to a \$2,000 contribution from the New York Power Authority (NYPA) that Assemblymember Michael Gianaris requested for creation of a "literacy garden" at the school.

"Our students and their teachers began using the outdoor classroom as soon as the weather broke," said Tony Loverso, assistant principal of P.S. 84. "Although the project was completed in mid-May, we could not take advantage of this great addition to our school because of the very cool spring we had. After the weather became warmer, the literacy garden was used daily by at least three classes for such activities as read-aloud story time and scientific exploration and observation."

The focal point in the literacy garden is a massive oak tree that provides shade even on the sunniest of days. Flowering beds of black-eyed Susans and wax begonias line the perimeter of the garden. Students can sit on a carpet of artificial turf as teachers read to or instruct them from an oak bench.

The Power Authority funds, provided last December, were used to pay for all materials, while the labor to construct the landscaped project cost nothing because of the voluntary efforts of the community, parents, students and the school's teachers and administrators.

NYPA uses no tax money or state credit. It finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. NYPA is a leader in promoting energy-efficiency, new energy technologies and electric transportation initiatives. It is the nation's largest state-owned electric utility, with 18 generating facilities in various parts of the state and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines.

Nolan Honors Women Iraqi Vets



Assemblymember Catherine Nolan (c.) welcomed four soldiers, including three Iraqi vets, to the Assembly Chamber in celebration of their courage and dedication. The Assembly passed a resolution to recognize the three on their visit to Albany.