

Editorial

We Salute Our 25 Years Together

A lot happens in 25 years. A child born in 1982, the year this newspaper first made its appearance, graduated from college in 2004. In the world of the students in the class of 2004, who graduated and embarked upon their adult lives and careers in the ensuing three years, the president of the United States has always broadcast a weekly radio address on Saturday morning. ATM machines have always been part of their environment. Cable television has always been available and offered 'round-the-clock coverage of congress, public affairs, weather reports, and rock videos. There is no such thing as "Wite-Out" in their lives. In 1982, according to the *New York Times*, the fad of "the boom in video games" had come to an end.

The *Times* pronouncement demonstrates that for the most part, newspapers should refrain from making predictions. We have always found this much the wiser course, so we will not try to predict what the next 25 years of this newspaper's existence will bring. Instead, as you, the readers will see in these pages, we will look back at some of the events and people we have covered in the 25 years since we first made our appearance. We will also express our thanks for the support we have received from our readers, advertisers and even the subjects of our stories.

We begin the celebrations that mark this, our 25th year of publishing the *Gazette*, by expressing our heartfelt thanks

to all of those who have supported us from Day One to the present —our readers, our advertisers, all our and their employees, some of whom have been with us for most of these 25 years, elected officials, the civic associations, the community at large and everyone else involved in making these 25 great years of publishing a weekly newspaper possible. We started in January 1982 as an eight-page weekly. Here we are, more than 25 years later, with a 208-page edition, making us the largest Queens community weekly in the history of this county.

From the beginning, we have tried to focus on good news, rather than bad. We have celebrated the lives of individual members of the communities we serve as we expanded from the localized neighborhoods of Astoria and Long Island City to cover almost all of Queens County—one life, one birth, one death at a time. We have tried to present news that is important to us as members of the borough of Queens. We use the word "members" deliberately because we see ourselves as members of a huge, diverse family—a family that includes all two million residents of this exciting and colorful county. In the more than 9,300 days and 1,300 issues since the *Gazette's* inception, we have tried to represent what we believe is the truly great American experience of being a Queens resident.

Like any family, Queens, the most eth-

nically diverse county in the United States, has its problems. These are far outweighed by the pleasures and privileges that come with living here. Some of the greatest restaurants, the greatest theater companies, the greatest musical organizations, the most productive and prolific artists and writers to be found anywhere proudly call this borough their home. They all imbue this county—and this paper, which reports their doings—with the greatest energy to be found anywhere in the planet. Queens is jumping from one end to the other, from Astoria and Long Island City to Bayside and Fresh Meadows, from the shores of Flushing Bay to the scattered islands and marshes of Gateway National Park off Jamaica, and we are proud to say we are there to cover it all.

All of us, with our myriad ethnic roots, came here from somewhere else originally, yet we all call this borough home as we struggle to fulfill the American Dream. The *Gazette* endeavors on a weekly basis to share all the trials, tribulations, joys and raptures of the individuals that, taken together, make up the family of the people of Queens. We count it a privilege to share their lives.

As we enter our second quarter-century, we shout from the rooftops, for all of us, "Onward and Upward!" as we anticipate sharing the next 25 years with our extended family together.

for and impact on the residents of Queens.

For 25 years, the *Gazette* newspapers have been a vital community resource, providing the borough with great information and great journalism.

Congratulation son 25 years of outstanding local reporting for the residents of Queens. The entire borough owes you a debt of gratitude.

Sincerely,
Thomas P. DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller

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Dear Tony:

Congratulations to the *Gazette* on the occasion of 25 years of distinguished journalism.

For a quarter of a century the *Gazette* has provided the citizens of Queens County with news and essential information, together with insightful and thought-provoking commentary, with respect to current events and issues affecting their lives. You and your staff are to be complimented on your commitment to professionalism and to having provided a voice to the many communities that you serve.

Since the inception of your publication 25 years ago, Queens County has evolved into a remarkable microcosm of the world, one that has enriched our social fabric with a multitude of languages and cultures. It is a testament to the *Gazette* that your newspaper have provided—and continues to provide—equal access and an equal voice to all members of the increasingly diverse community that you serve.

Again, congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

Sincerely,
Richard A. Brown
District Attorney
Queens County

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Dear Mr. Barsamian:

It is a pleasure to have the opportunity to say to you and the entire staff of the *Gazette*—Happy 25th Anniversary!

This milestone in the history of the *Gazette* is, indeed, cause for celebration and a time to acknowledge the enduring and growing role that it plays in so many communities, especially here in Western Queens.

Each week, readers have come to rely on the *Gazette* for fair and accurate reporting on the events and activities affecting their lives and their communities. On a personal level, I have always been grateful to the *Gazette* for reporting on so many of our monthly Borough Board and Cabinet meetings over the years at Borough Hall.

As you end your first quarter-century of service to the people of Queens, my hope is that the *Gazette* remains for at least another quarter-century one of the finest and vocal voices in the chorus of newspapers in our great borough and city.

Again, Happy 25th Anniversary!

Sincerely,
Helen Marshall
President
Borough of Queens

The Queens
Gazette

PUBLISHED BY THE
SERVICE
ADVERTISING
GROUP INC.



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Display Advertising Copy Deadline
Friday 5 p.m.

Camera Ready Deadline Monday 4 p.m.
Editorial Copy Deadline Friday 12 noon

All items for the Queens Gazette must be submitted in writing. Pictures cannot be returned. The Queens Gazette reserves the right to edit or reject any material, including advertising, submitted for publication. Send your news, bulletins, photos, calendar listings, etc., to: The Editor, The Queens Gazette, 42-16 34th Avenue, Astoria, NY 11101. Entire contents copyright © 2007 The Service Advertising Group Inc. No part of the publication may be reproduced without the written consent of the publisher. Any copyright infringements will be pursued to the fullest extent of the law. The Gazette is not responsible for the content of any advertisement nor is it responsible for opinions expressed in this publication.

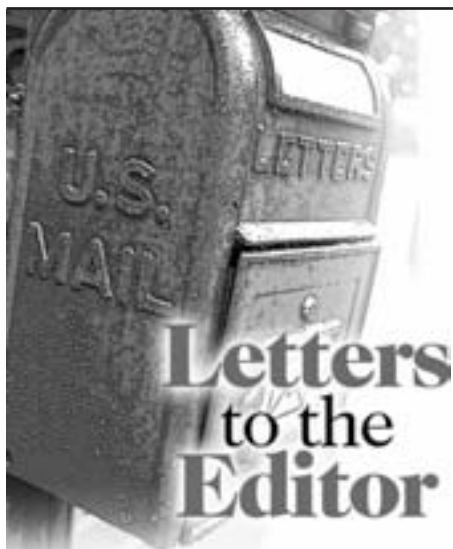
We welcome your correspondence.

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Gazette 42-16 34th Ave., Long
Island City, N.Y. 11101. Or EMail
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www.qgazette.com Please include
a name and address on all
correspondence, names will be
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The Queens Gazette ISSN: 1547-3538 is published weekly on Wednesday for \$20 per year by Queens Gazette Newsprinting Service Advertising Group Inc. 42-16 34th Avenue, Long Island City, N.Y. 11101. Periodical postage paid at Long Island City. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Queens Gazette 42-16 34th Avenue Long Island City N.Y. 11101.

The Gazette is not responsible for the opinions expressed in the letters or op-eds contained on these pages.



Congratulations...

Dear Editor:

Since 1982, the *Gazette* newspapers have kept a steady hand on the pulse of community news for residents and businesses in Queens. As the eyes and ears of the community, the *Gazette* weekly newspapers provide a vital service by reporting the local news to Queens' families, seniors and business people.

Covering local news from politics and community events to the arts and entertainment, from breaking news to restaurant reviews, the reporters at the *Gazette* cast a unique light on Queens. They say all politics is local. Most news is too, and the *Gazette* covers all the important local news, often overlooked by other media, that has relevance