

Applications Open For Douris Tower, New Senior Housing In Astoria

A senior housing project in Astoria named in honor of the late George Douris, a newspaperman and founder of HANAC, is opening soon and

Senior Spotlight

By John Toscano

applications for admission are being accepted.

The George T. Douris Tower, under construction at 27-40 Hoyt Ave. South, will have 183 one-bedroom affordable units, according to City Councilmember Peter Vallone Jr. (D-Astoria) who encourages local seniors to submit applications.

Vallone said 50 percent of the units have been set aside for Queens Community Planning District 1 residents and some have been equipped with special resources for the disabled and hearing impaired. The structure was built in collaboration with HANAC and Astoria Redevelopment Associates.

Vallone said interested persons must write to Evergreen Management Corp. at 384 East 149th St., Room 424, Bronx 10455, or telephone 718-665-5410 between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. to request an application. Applications must be received by Dec. 10, 2008.

Douris was a City Hall reporter and political writer for the *Star Journal* and *Long Island Press*.

Among local Greek Americans who participated with Douris in founding HANAC in the late 1960s were John Kaiteras, a high-ranking official at the social services organization, and Archie Mavromatis and Angelo Petromelis, both deceased.

WEINER WANTS HIGHER COLA: Citing higher living costs for seniors in Queens and New York City, Congressman Anthony Weiner says seniors in those areas should get higher Cost of Living Adjustments (COLAs) added to their Social Security benefits.

Weiner, co-chair of the Bipartisan Congressional Caucus on the Middle Class, said a new study shows New York seniors paying more for housing, rent and food. Their Social Security

payment is not enough to keep pace.

"Social Security cost of living allowances, which are designed to help seniors with these rising costs simply have not kept pace," Weiner said.

Weiner noted the most recent COLA announced by Social Security Administration officials will increase Social Security checks by 5.8 percent beginning in January. That's the highest COLA in 25 years, Weiner said, usually the increases are lower than that.

To make sure New York seniors get a higher COLA than those in other parts of the country, Weiner has proposed a "COLA Fairness Act". Under this act, COLAs would be based on different regions of the country so that seniors in expensive regions, such as New York City, aren't penalized. Under the bill, New York seniors would get 2 percent more in Social Security benefits over a five-year period.

"While many New Yorkers are struggling with rising prices, our senior citizens are taking it on the

chin," Weiner said. "That's not fair and should be corrected."

SENIORS AND POVERTY: These will be the subjects discussed at the November 5 meeting of the Queens Interagency Council on Aging (QICA), joined by the Queensboro Council for Social Welfare (QCSW) at Queens Borough Hall, 120-55 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, Room 213.

The Institute for Puerto Rican/Hispanic Elderly (IPRHE) will also join with QICA for this event.

Experts in the field will talk about the effects of the economic downturn and city service cutbacks, as well as programs available for relief. Medical care and prescription drug costs, high costs of food and access to services will be among the topics discussed.

Advance registration is requested and continental breakfast will be provided. To register, call QICA at 718-268-5954.

Mount Sinai, Broadway Cardiopulmonary Align

The Mount Sinai Hospital has formed a new affiliation with Broadway Cardiopulmonary, one of Queens' leading providers of health care. In addition to the group's thriving primary and specialty care practices, Broadway Cardiopulmonary is a recognized leader in cardiovascular care.

"This new agreement underscores our commitment to strengthen health care in the communities that we serve," Mount Sinai Hospital President Wayne Keathley said. "It creates a world-class continuum of care that leverages the best of both organizations."

Broadway Cardiopulmonary is a multi-spe-

cialty medical practice with 35 primary and specialty physicians. The original practice, located at 31-41 45th St., Astoria, was founded in 1989 by Bhupendra Patel, M.D., William J. Schwartz, M.D., Farah Atallah-Lajam, M.D. and Sachal Badlani, M.D. The practice treats 130,000 patients annually in four office locations—two in Astoria, one in Jackson Heights and one on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

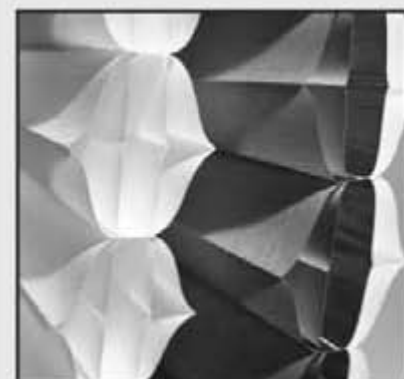
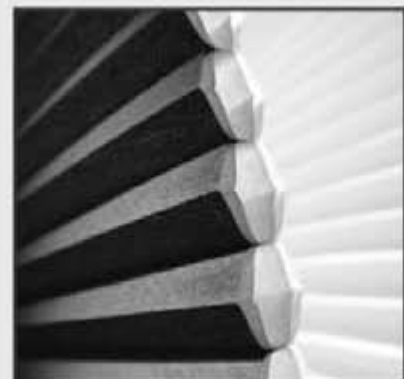
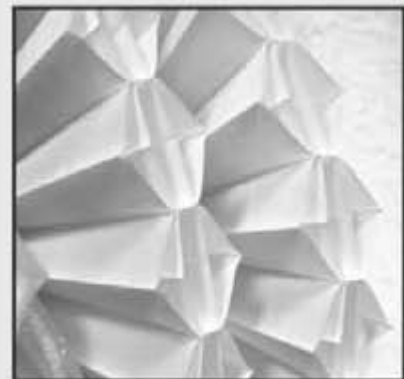
Broadway Cardiopulmonary is confident that the new affiliation with The Mount Sinai Hospital, including its renowned Heart Center, will take its practice to new levels.

"We have worked with Mount Sinai

Queens for many years," Patel said. "We're pleased that our patients will benefit even further from the unsurpassed services that Mount Sinai provides."

"It's the natural next step," Atallah-Lajam said. "By aligning our practice with Mount Sinai, we will be able to provide our patients with truly comprehensive care."

"We're excited to establish this new agreement with Broadway Cardiopulmonary because it will benefit our patients and our community," Mount Sinai Queens Executive Director Caryn A. Schwab declared.



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