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Consultas y rompecabezas

Programa de enfermería ayuda a residentes confinados en casa
Por Gregg McQueen

Cuando todo lo demás falla, llame al super.

Comunícense con el superintendente del edificio en tiempos de problemas es un pilar de la vida en apartamentos, especialmente en ciudades densamente pobladas como la de Nueva York.

La enfermera facultativa Marie Carmel Garcon, profesora asistente de enfermería clínica en ColumbiaDoctors, sabe recurrir al superintendente para llegar a sus pacientes. "Muchos de nuestros pacientes viven solos, no tienen familiares ni cuidadores que les ayuden", explicó Garcon, quien provee cheques regulares en casa. "Un paciente, a veces necesita ir al super [del edificio] para que me deje entrar. No tienen a nadie más".

Secundino García, quien ahora tiene 100 años, si cuenta con asistencia, en la forma de su hija Hildelisa García, con quien vive. "Aun así, Hildelisa, de 72 años, ha luchado por brindar atención integral a su anciano padre. Fue muy difícil ver a un médico o ir a un hospital para las pruebas", dijo.

Su padre carece de fuerzas para moverse con facilidad. "Necesitábamos tomar una silla de ruedas. A veces había lluvia o mal clima. Fue un gran proceso salir".

"En 2017, una trabajadora social la refirió a un programa dirigido por la Escuela de Enfermería de la Universidad Columbia que ofrece atención primaria a pacientes de la zona alta en su hogar, y la enfermera practicante Garcon ha estado con ellos desde entonces. "Es realmente una bendición. Puede obtener los servicios de salud que necesita aquí mismo", dijo Hildelisa.

Garcon, quien también se desempeña como profesora asistente de enfermería clínica en ColumbiaDoctors, realiza visitas de rutina a la casa de García en Washington Heights. "Si la necesito, puede pasar y revisar a mi papá", dijo Hildelisa. "Siempre puedo comunicarme con ella por teléfono, siempre está disponible para hablar. Es de gran ayuda que ella me explique todo sobre su salud".

El programa de visitas domiciliarias grupales de enfermeras facultativas de ColumbiaDoctors está disponible para pacientes confinados en sus hogares en Washington Heights e Inwood. Más de 200 personas se han inscrito en el programa desde 2017, la mayoría de ellas inmigrantes y/o de familias de color. Actualmente, el programa de visitas domiciliarias grupales de enfermeras facultativas de ColumbiaDoctors está disponible para pacientes confinados en sus hogares en Washington Heights e Inwood.

"Reviso cómo obtienen sus comidas, su estado de salud mental, todo el entorno", dijo. "Puedo conectarnos con servicios en la comunidad, todo desde esa primera visita".

El programa de Visitas Domiciliarias coordinará las pruebas de diagnóstico y llevará especialistas a los hogares de los pacientes. "Es como un rompecabezas que tenemos que armar para ayudar al paciente", comentó Garcon.


"Para las personas confinadas en el hogar, es fácil sentir que a nadie le importan", comentó. "Muchos pacientes, me cuentan sus historias, me muestran sus álbumes de fotos".

See PUZZLE p17

Consultas y rompecabezas

Nursing program helps homebound residents
By Gregg McQueen

When all else fails, call the super.

Reaching out to the building superintendent in times of trouble is a mainstay of apartment living, especially in densely populated cities like New York City.

Nurse Practitioner Marie Carmel Garcon, Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at ColumbiaDoctors, knows to turn to the super to reach her patients.

"Many of our patients live alone. They don’t have any family or caregivers to help them," explained Garcon, who provides regular checkups at home. "One patient, I sometimes need to go to the [building] super to let me in. They don’t have anyone else."

Secundino García, now 100 years old, does have assistance – in the form of his daughter Hildelisa García, with whom he lives.

Still, Hildelisa, 72, has struggled to provide comprehensive care for her elderly father.

"It was very difficult to see a doctor or go to a hospital for tests," said Hildelisa. Her father lacks the strength to move around easily. "We needed to take a wheelchair. Sometimes it could be rain or bad weather. It was a huge process to go out."

In 2017, a social worker referred her to a program run by Columbia University School of Nursing, which offers primary care to homebound patients in their home – and Nurse Practitioner Garcon has been with them since.

"It’s really a blessing. He’s able to get the health services he needs right here," said Hildelisa.

Garcon, who also serves as Assistant Professor of Clinical Nursing at ColumbiaDoctors, makes routine visits to the Garcia home in Washington Heights.

"If I need her, she can drop by and look at my dad," said Hildelisa. "I can always reach her over the phone – she is always available to talk. It’s a huge help to have her explain everything to me regarding his health."

The ColumbiaDoctors Nurse Practitioners Group House Calls program is available to homebound patients in Washington Heights and Inwood.

More than 200 people have enrolled in the program since 2017, most of them immigrants and or from families of color.

Currently, Garcon is the only staff member making house calls for the program, visiting up to 18 patients per week.

"Because these patients are homebound, they don’t have primary care anymore. Some have been dropped by their providers because they can’t go to the doctor in person," Garcon said. "If we were not visiting, these patients would absolutely not be receiving medical care."

When Garcon first sees new participants, she sometimes discovers that they have not seen a doctor in some time or had key medications lapse.

She performs a comprehensive assessment of each patient’s situation.

"I’m checking on how they get their meals, their mental health status, the whole environment," she said. "I can connect them with services in the community, all from that one visit."

The house calls program will coordinate diagnostic tests and bring specialists into patient homes.

See PUZZLE p17

Puzzle Practice

Nursing program helps homebound residents

By Gregg McQueen

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The house calls program will coordinate diagnostic tests and bring specialists into patient homes.

See PUZZLE p17
THE HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (HEAP)

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Apply now for the GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools Youth Leadership Council!

Please share this opportunity with your high school students. This is the third year GrowNYC is hosting a YLC and we can’t wait to work with another group of students!

GrowNYC Zero Waste Schools works directly with NYC K-12 schools to help them achieve Zero Waste. We believe students are the best change-makers and aim to support them and amplify their voice in the fight against climate change by providing background on the connections between waste, food, soil and climate and by motivating them as they develop their own solutions to reduce waste and improve the environment. Working with other high school students from across the five boroughs, our YLC members will learn from and teach each other about best practices in creating an action plan for change. At the end of the YLC year, each student will have completed a project plan and begin implementation (as much as is possible during hybrid learning), to increase awareness and action towards Zero Waste at their school and in their community.

Starting in November, the GrowNYC ZWS YLC will meet every 3-4 weeks via zoom on Tuesdays at 4:30 pm for 1 to 1.5 hrs.

For more, please visit bit.ly/3bOn61a.
By Gregg McQueen

Prompted by tragedy, a newly signed state law is taking aim at bad landlords.

The legislation establishes a 60-day deadline for property owners to make court-ordered repairs of hazardous building violations.

Considered a win for tenants, the bill was passed by the State Legislature earlier this year and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo on November 11.

“This will protect tenants and possibly even save lives,” said State Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz, who sponsored the legislation.

He said the bill was inspired by an August 2002 fire at 3659 Dekalb Avenue in the Bronx, which took the life of 8-year-old Jashawn Parker.

At the time of the fire, the building had more than 380 building violations, including some for faulty wiring, which was named as the cause of the fire by investigators.

“A fire that should never have happened,” Dinowitz remarked during a virtual press conference on November 16. He said tenants and advocates had fought for years to improve conditions in the DeKalb Avenue building.

“The landlord was ordered to fix many, many violations in the building. That never happened,” he said. “That was a terrible tragedy that was totally avoidable.”

Jessica Bellinder, Supervisor of Legal Aid Society’s Bronx Housing Justice Unit, said that low-income tenants often rely on the courts to pressure landlords to complete necessary repairs.

“For a lot of our clients, they don’t have a lot of options to just move when the building deteriorates,” she said. “They need to hold the landlord accountable to be able to stay in affordable housing.”

The new law goes into effect in December. It amends the current Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law, which Dinowitz said was “essentially open-ended, with no limits that would force landlords to make necessary repairs.”

“Unfortunately, the way that we’ve seen these processes work out in housing court is that it takes months of procedure and trial to actually get to a point where the judge is ready to make a decision about these conditions,” said TakeRoot Justice Staff Attorney Greg Baltz.

When tenants sue their landlord for housing violations, the court can appoint an outside administrator to maintain the building — known as Article 7A. There are frequently delays in doing so if the landlord requests extensions, Baltz explained.

“Even after a landlord has failed to use those months to make repairs, the 7A law gave them second, third and fourth bites at the apple before a judge would appoint an independent administrator to do the job the landlord wouldn’t,” he said.

The new legislation allows for landlords to request only one extension related to court-ordered repairs.

In the case of 3659 Dekalb Avenue, housing court judges granted at least two rulings that extended the property owner’s deadline for repairs before the electrical fire occurred.

“Hopefully this new law will prevent anything like that from ever happening again,” said Dinowitz.

The legislation had languished for years in the state legislature. Introduced

See REPAIR p14
The agency is addressing unlawful practices.

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) is sending refunds totaling nearly $1.5 million to individuals who were affected by allegedly unlawful financing and sales practices by auto dealer Bronx Honda, located at 2541 East Tremont Avenue.

According to the FTC, Bronx Honda and its General Manager told sales employees to charge higher financing markups and fees to African-American and Hispanic customers. The defendants told employees that these groups should be targeted due to their limited education, and not to attempt the same practices with non-Hispanic white consumers, the FTC said.

The complaint alleged that African-American consumers were charged about $163 more in interest than similarly situated non-Hispanic white consumers, while Hispanic consumers were charged about $211 more in interest.

In addition, the FTC alleged that Bronx Honda failed to honor advertised sale prices, changed the sales price on paperwork in the middle of the sale without telling the consumer, double-charged consumers for taxes and fees and misrepresented to consumers that they were required to pay extra reconditioning and warranty fees to purchase “certified” vehicles.

Bronx Honda and its General Manager Carlo Fittanto will pay $1.5 million to settle FTC’s charges. In addition, the dealer will be required to establish a fair lending program that will, among other components, cap the amount of additional interest markup they can charge consumers.

The FTC is providing refunds, averaging about $371 each, to 3,977 victims of the Bronx dealer’s practices. Actions by the FTC led to more than $642 million in refunds to U.S. consumers in fiscal year 2020.

Consumers who financed a car purchase from Bronx Honda from 2016 through 2018 and have not previously requested a refund should contact JND Legal Administration at 888.921.0727.

For more information, go to bit.ly/38uR0Ok or call 877.FTC.HELP.
Questions of race vex a young transplant to the ‘burbs. These stories are among those told by filmmakers in Northern Manhattan, whose efforts to bring the narratives to the screen were aided by grants from Inwood Art Works. A nonprofit that curates numerous visual and performing arts events in Northern Manhattan, Inwood Art Works also sponsors the annual Inwood Film Festival and conducts a popular outdoor film series, Film Works Alfresco.

The organization has distributed $25,000 in grant money to filmmakers. Launched in 2019, the Inwood Film Festival Filmmakers Fund is intended to grant money to filmmakers. Inwood Film Festival and conducts a popular performing arts events in Northern Manhattan, were aided by grants from Inwood Art Works.

Inwood Art Works also sponsors the annual performing arts events in Northern Manhattan, whose efforts to bring the narratives to the screen were aided by grants from Inwood Art Works. "Estamos poniendo a alguien en condiciones de hacer realidad su visión", comentó Simms, quien está comprometido con mantener el programa de subvenciones a pesar de los desafíos financieros de la pandemia para su propia organización sin fines de lucro. "Estos artistas nos han dicho que de otra manera no habrían podido hacer estas películas".

Los proyectos ganadores representan una amplia gama de temas y estilos, incluida una película stop-motion sobre la historia de Inwood, un documental sobre la gentrificación, una historia de romance a través de las divisiones culturales y una historia de fantasía que involucra a un gigante de 30 metros. Para ser elegibles, los solicitantes necesitaban residir en Inwood o en los vecindarios circundantes y los productos se produjeron en el vecindario. "Esto tipo de programa es realmente importante. Es muy competitivo para conseguir fondos y seleccionados", dijo Simms, quien tiene confianza en que este proyecto continuará y se presentará en muchos festivales. "Lo que esperamos es que estas películas continúen y se presenten en muchos festivales y la gente verá que Inwood Art Works lo hizo posible", agregó Simms. "También esperamos que podamos atraer más fondos a Inwood Art Works como resultado de esta subvención".

The organization has distributed $25,000 in grant money. The grant money must be used by recipients for film project expenses incurred between September 2020 and August 2021. In addition to the monetary award, grant winners will automatically have their films submitted to the selection committee for a future installment of the Inwood Film Festival.

"We’re putting someone in a position to realize their vision," remarked Simms, who is committed to maintaining the grant program despite his nonprofit’s own financial challenges from the pandemic. "These artists have said to us that they wouldn’t have been able to make these films otherwise."

The winning projects represent a diverse array of styles and themes, including a stop-motion film on the history of Inwood, a documentary about gentrification, a story of romance across cultural divides and a fantasy story involving a 100-foot giant. "This type of program is really important. It’s very competitive to get grants and selected for film festivals," said grant winner Dileepan Ganesan, whose project The Other Side of Broadway will tell the story of two teenagers who meet at a bodega and fall in love despite cultural differences.

"I’ve noticed a class divide that exists uptown, depending on which side of Broadway you live on. I wanted to tell that story," said Ganesan, who had an earlier film selected for screening at the Inwood Film Festival. He said organizations that spotlight hyper-local projects are vital for emerging artists. "There aren’t a lot of programs like this, that focus on helping artists from a very specific area or neighborhood," he said of Inwood Art Works.

Simms said the local community will also reap the benefits of the film grants. "This money is going right back into the community — the filmmakers will be casting local actors, using local filming locations, will spend money in restaurants," he said. "It’s going to pay artists and that’s always a good thing."

"My hope is that these films go on and play many festivals and people will see that Inwood Art Works made it happen," Simms added. "I also hope is that we can attract more funding to Inwood Art Works as a result of this grant." Grant applications were accepted throughout June and July 2020. To be eligible, applicants needed to reside in Inwood or the surrounding neighborhoods and have a previous validated credit as a Producer, Director, or primary Director of Photography. While not required, locally based stories with cultural relevance, historical associations, or geographical significance were given preference.

See SCREEN p12
Dire straits for drivers

Rallying for taxi medallion bailout plan

By Gregg McQueen

The dream is dying.

For the past four decades, Ricardo López has driven a yellow cab. An immigrant from Colombia, López saw the possibility in the for-hire trade.

“I came here looking for the American Dream, like every one of us,” said López. But he says he can no longer afford to stay in the industry due to financial struggles.

“Today we are in bankruptcy,” López said. “If we don’t get any help, I’m going to go out of business and soon, because I can’t afford it anymore. The streets are empty.”

López was among the cabdrivers who rallied outside City Hall on November 12, voicing their support for a plan by the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA) to restructure loan for taxi medallions.

They were joined by NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer, the city’s chief financial officer, who is endorsing a union proposal that would help taxi drivers who are overwhelmed by medallion debt.

Under the proposal, the city would act as backstop for outstanding loans written down to $125,000 and refinanced for a maximum of 20 years at a 4 percent interest rate, requiring a monthly payment around $757. In the event of a loan default where the medallion goes up for public auction, the city would place a minimum bid to cover the balance on the $125,000, giving drivers the chance to recover the cost.

Stringer termed the plan “financially sound” and “good for drivers, lenders and, yes, good for taxpayers.”

He estimated the proposal would cost the city around $75 million over 20 years.

“That is a small amount for a city with a budget of 90 billion dollars,” remarked NYTWA Executive Director Bhairavi Desai, who labelled the proposal a necessity for saving the ailing industry, which has seen many medallion owners enter bankruptcy and nine drivers commit suicide since 2018.

“It is the only way that drivers are going to survive. It is the only way that the yellow cab industry is going to survive,” Desai said.

According to the NYTWA, taxi ridership dropped 92 percent in June, with many drivers indicating in a union survey they did not have enough for food.

Driver Ricardo López said he has been operating a yellow cab for the past 40 years but cannot afford to stay in the industry due to financial struggles.

“I came here looking for the American Dream, like every one of us,” said López, an immigrant from Colombia. “Today we are in bankruptcy. If we don’t get any help, I’m going to go out of business and soon, because I can’t afford it anymore. The streets are empty.”

Cab drivers parked their taxi around the perimeter of City Hall during the rally, honking horns and chanting “No more suicides! No more bankruptcies!”

About 6,000 driver loans are currently in default, with 3,500 currently in bankruptcy.

See DIRE p19
High-speed internet at a price that works for you.

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verizon.com/info/low-income-internet/
By Kathleen M. Pike

World War II bomber pilot Roman Tritz died earlier this year at the age of 97.

He was the last known survivor of a U.S. government program that lobotomized combat veterans who suffered from treatment-resistant forms of mental illness, including profound depression, anxiety and psychosis.

As we honored our veterans this past week, this dark piece of history is a reminder that war trauma puts combat veterans at risk for serious and enduring mental illness. It also lays bare the exacerbation of suffering and the extraordinary human rights violations that occur as a result of ignorance about mental illness.

1. What happened?
According to a 1955 Research Council study, 680,000 active-duty WWII US servicemen were admitted to hospitals for battle injuries. By comparison, twice as many – 1.2 million – were admitted for psychiatric and neurologic problems. The servicemen who exhibited severe and enduring symptoms of anxiety, depression and psychosis that did not respond to routine treatment presented a conundrum for mental health providers. The proposed solution: lobotomy. It was not until decades later, and thanks to the investigative journalism of Michael Phillips, that the public came to learn this dark secret. Between April 1947 and September 1950, at fifty Veterans Affairs hospitals across the United States, physicians lobotomized at least 1930 former servicemen.

2. What is a lobotomy? Also called a leucotomy, a lobotomy is a surgical strategy to curtail psychiatric problems. The surgery involves severing neurological connections in the brain's prefrontal cortex. Most typically, the connections to and from the prefrontal cortex, and the anterior part of the frontal lobes of the brain, are severed. Portuguese neurologist António Egas Moniz, was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1949 for the “discovery of the therapeutic value of leucotomy in certain psychoses,” and for about two decades, it overpromised. The use of the procedure increased dramatically from the early 1940s and into the 1950s until it fell completely out of favor as a treatment for psychiatric illness.

3. From Shell Shock to PTSD. It was called shell shock in WWI. The same traumatic responses among WWII and Korean War veterans were called battle fatigue, combat exhaustion and war neurosis. In 1952, the DSM-I called it Stress Response Syndrome so that is the condition that Vietnam War soldiers were diagnosed with. It was not until 1980 that PTSD or Post Traumatic Stress Disorder made its debut in the DSM-III and not until 1992 that it was included in the ICD-10. Regardless of what we call it, the core features are the same: re-experiencing of the traumatic event, avoidance associated with the traumatic event, arousal and reactivity symptoms, and cognitive and mood symptoms. This experience of traumatic impairment following the combat of war is common. WWII veteran Roman Tritz was one among many. He went to war in good health, experienced intense combat, and returned home with imaginary voices in his mind.

See ROMAN p15
ADOPT - A - FAMILY

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Stay 6 feet apart
Wash your hands often

nyc.gov/health/coronavirus
Grant winner Carlos Hiciano, one of the grant winners, is working on a 10-minute film title Quico, which depicts how a young Latino boy deals with racial prejudices after moving to the suburbs.

Though Hiciano planned to begin filming on a smaller scale in February, the pandemic derailed his plans. He is now able to approach his project differently since receiving the grant, as he can work with a larger budget for equipment and paying actors.

“I’m so grateful for this funding. There’s a lot of local talent, local artists that go unnoticed if not for assistance like this,” he stated. “Maybe my film wouldn’t get made without it.”

“It enables the community to be a part of filmmaking,” Hiciano said. “People of color have such unique stories. It’s really empowering and gives us a lot of hope.”

Inwood Art Works has remained busy during the pandemic, launching an online film series called Short Film Fridays, a musical storytime project for children viewable on social media, and a podcast on Apple Music and Spotify.

This year’s Inwood Film Festival, originally scheduled for March 13 to 15, has been postponed indefinitely due to the pandemic.

“We lost a ton of money with zero box office coming back in. It was tough but we need to keep everyone safe,” said Simms.

While many film organizations have pivoted to online-only sessions during the pandemic, Simms explained that he is reluctant to do the same with the Inwood Film Festival.

“Our live events have always transcended being just about the films,” he said. “We’ve used films as a way to bring people together in the neighborhood. At our events, you can meet new people, tighten and strengthen bonds within the community. I haven’t found a great virtual way of doing that. Much of what makes our events special would be lost in a virtual setting.”

Simms expressed hope that the film festival can return in spring or summer 2021 with in-person attendance, depending on where things stand with the COVID-19 in New York City.

“I’m not ruling out doing the film festival virtually if this drags on, but it’s not our intention right now,” he said.

Despite the uncertainty, Simms is resolute that Inwood Art Works — and the artists it supports — will weather the pandemic.

“We’ll be around and so will these films. The creative spirit won’t be stifled,” he said. “If we can keep people focused and positive, and willing to create, there will still be great art that comes out of these times.”

THE INWOOD FILM FESTIVAL FILMMAKERS FUND AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2020-21 ARE:

JIM BRADLEY
Project Title: Karen
In confusing times, we can all get confused. Sometimes “Karen” describes someone. Sometimes it’s just a name. When we reach out and help each other, we define who we are and keep hope alive.

STEVEN BURNESON
Project Title: Beautiful Strokes
Washed up tennis player Pete Sampers rediscovers his dream of defeating tennis legend Pete Sampras, by playing against a poster on a wall.

DILEEPAN GANESAN
Project Title: The Other Side Of Broadway
Two teenagers find young love, crossing the cultural divide that is Broadway.

CARLOS HICIANO
Project Title: Quico
Quico is an emotional portrait of a young Latino boy navigating his youth in white suburban America.

MICHAEL MANESE
Project Title: Asian Persuasion
A fistfight, ugly cries, betrayal, coming out, unrequited love, lovers spat, what else can happen during a public marriage proposal between a couple in front of their closest friends?

BRIAN MILLER
Project Title: Giant
Maddie just moved to the small city of Leith, where she begins to interview a famous hundred-foot giant who lives there, but the job soon turns into an obsession as Maddie battles with her own sense of size.

GEFFREY SMITH
Project Title: Get Out! Gentrification: Good, Bad or Ugly?
What impact is gentrification having on the NW Bronx? View gentrification from the perspective of the 2020 business owner, as well from the vantage point of the new neighborhood tenants.

LIBBY STADSTAD
Project: Where the Rivers Meet
Where the Rivers Meet is a new stop-motion film that celebrates the history and community of Inwood, placing historical events at the center of the narrative to learn from the past and create a better future.

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For more information, visit inwoodartworks.nyc.
To view a virtual event to announce the grant winners, go to bit.ly/35KAcRM.
Las solicitudes de subvención se aceptaron durante junio y julio de 2020. Para ser elegibles, los solicitantes deben residir en Inwood o en los vecindarios circundantes y tener un crédito previamente validado como productor, director o director principal de fotografía. Si bien no es obligatorio, se dio preferencia a los artistas locales que con relevancia cultural, asociaciones históricas o importancia geográfica. Carlos Hiciano, uno de los ganadores de la subvención, está trabajando en una película de 10 minutos titulada Quico, que describe cómo un joven latino se enfrenta a los prejuicios raciales después de mudarse a los suburbios. Aunque Hiciano planeaba comenzar a filmar a menor escala en febrero, la pandemia descarriló sus planes. Ahora está trabajando en una película en línea llamada Short Film Fridays, un proyecto de cuentos musicales para niños que se puede ver en las redes sociales y un podcast en Apple Music y Spotify.

El Festival de Cine de Inwood de este año, originalmente programado del 13 al 15 de marzo, se pospuso indefinidamente debido a la pandemia. “Perdimos una tonelada de dinero y no volvimos a recaudar taquilla. Fue difícil, pero tenemos que mantener a todos a salvo”, dijo Simms. Si bien muchas organizaciones cinematográficas han pasado a sesiones solo en línea durante la pandemia, Simms explicó que se muestra reacio a hacer lo mismo con el Festival de Cine de Inwood. “Nuestros eventos en vivo siempre han trascendido de ser solo películas”, dijo. “Hemos utilizado las películas como una forma de unir a las personas del vecindario. En nuestros eventos uno puede conocer gente nueva, estrechar y fortalecer los lazos dentro de la comunidad. No he encontrado una buena forma de hacer eso. Gran parte de lo que hace que nuestros eventos sean especiales se perdería en un entorno virtual”.

Simms expresó su esperanza de que el festival de cine pueda regresar en la primavera de 2021 con asistencia en persona, pero el trabajo pronto se convierte en una obsesión mientras Maddie lucha con su propio sentido del tamaño. "No descarto hacer el festival de cine virtualmente si esto se prolonga, pero no es nuestra intención en este momento”, dijo. A pesar de la incertidumbre, Simms está decidido a que Inwood Art Works, y los artistas a los que apoya, resistan la pandemia. “Estaremos presentes y también estas películas. El espíritu creativo no será reprimido”, dijo. “Si podemos mantener a las personas enfocadas y positivas, y dispuestas a crear, habrá un gran arte que saldrá de estos tiempos”.

Para obtener más información, visite inwoodartworks.nyc. Para ver un evento virtual para anunciar a los ganadores de la subvención, vaya a bit.ly/35KAcRM.

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Receta para la reparación

Nueva ley estatal busca acelerar las reparaciones de vivienda ordenadas por la corte

Por Gregg McQueen

Impulsada por la tragedia, una ley estatal recién firmada va dirigida a los malos propietarios.

La legislación establece un plazo de 60 días para que los propietarios realicen reparaciones ordenadas por la corte debido a infracciones peligrosas en los edificios.

Considerado una victoria para los inquilinos, el proyecto de ley fue aprobado por la Legislatura del estado a principios de este año y firmado por el gobernador Andrew Cuomo el 11 de noviembre.

"Eso debería haberse aprobado hace décadas", dijo el senador estatal Robert Jackson, quien patrocinó la legislación.

"Un incendio que nunca debería haber ocurrido", comentó Dinowitz durante una conferencia de prensa virtual el 16 de noviembre. Dijo que los inquilinos y defensores lucharon durante años para mejorar las condiciones en el edificio de la avenida Dekalb.

"Se ordenó al arrendador que arreglara muchas, muchas infracciones en el edificio. Eso nunca sucedió", dijo. "Esa fue una terrible tragedia que era totalmente evitable".

Jessica Bellinder, supervisora de la Unidad de Justicia de Vivienda del Bronx de la Sociedad de Ayuda Legal, dijo que la aprobación de la ley fue un éxito para los defensores que lucharon durante años para mejorar las condiciones en el edificio.

"Esto debería haberse aprobado hace décadas", dijo el senador estatal Robert Jackson.

"Uno de los cosas que nos preocupan es la posibilidad de que los propietarios se nieguen rotundamente a hacer reparaciones, citando las condiciones económicas de la pandemia de COVID-19", dijo Stephenson. "Eso debería haberse aprobado hace décadas", dijo el senador estatal Robert Jackson, quien culpó a los colegas republicanos en el Senado por las demoras.

"Fue bloqueado por los colegas republicanos en el Senado estatal", señaló. "Digámoslo como es. Lo demoraron todos estos años".

Joshua Stephenson, director ejecutivo del Centro de Recursos Vecinales y de Vivienda del West Bronx, dijo que la aprobación de la ley es un paso importante en la mejora de las condiciones de vida de los inquilinos.

"Una de las cosas que nos preocupan es la posibilidad de que los propietarios se nieguen rotundamente a hacer reparaciones, citando las condiciones económicas de la pandemia de COVID-19", dijo Stephenson.

"Esto debería haberse aprobado hace décadas", dijo el senador estatal Robert Jackson.

Para más información, por favor visite nysenate.gov/legislation/bills/2019/s3320.
4. Treatment for PTSD. When Roman Tritz presented at his VA for care, the prevailing view was that the mental distress following active military service would be transient. Unfortunately for him, and for many WWII veterans who sought psychiatric care, this was not the case. It is estimated that as many as 54% of WWII servicemen who presented for psychiatric care had PTSD, even if we weren’t calling it that at the time. In Tritz’s case, he spent eight years as a patient in the Tomah Wisconsin VA hospital where he underwent 28 rounds of electroshock therapy, insulin-induced comas, and finally, a lobotomy. Today’s treatment is altogether different, and it is widely recognized that medication and trauma-informed psychotherapy are effective for most individuals who suffer from PTSD.

5. Collective Trauma, Collective Healing.

Individual therapy can have dramatic benefit for people suffering from PTSD, but as Dr. Jack Saul argues, in the wake of widespread community disasters, populations need to heal collectively as well. When the trauma is shared, healing is enhanced when it, too, is shared. Dr. Saul wrote “Collective Trauma, Collective Healing” in the wake of September 11 and draws on that historical moment and multiple others to describe what it takes to recognize, develop, and sustain a community approach to healing. His wisdom would have made for a completely different approach to treating Roman Tritz and the 1930+ other WWII veterans who underwent a surgical lobotomy. Let us hope that we have learned enough to heed Dr. Saul’s wisdom today in the wake of the current global pandemic.

It is eminently apparent that the mental health cost of war is profound. It is also eminently apparent that the cost of ignorance about mental health and mental illness is incalculable, casting a dark shadow for decades. As war and other collective traumas test our values, may we reach for enlightenment over ignorance in the search for healing.
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“Una vez que obtienes esa confianza, eres como un miembro de la familia”, agregó. “Están aislados. Esperan con ansias esas visitas que no solo son importantes desde el punto de vista médico, sino también son mentalmente importantes para el paciente”.

Garcon también ha hecho arreglos para que un asistente de salud a domicilio visite a los García varias veces por semana. Esto le permite a Hildelisa salir del apartamento para hacer mandados y obtener un respiro de la atención las 24 horas del día que requiere su padre.

“Es bueno para los pacientes y para el cuidador. Es realmente algo importante para la comunidad”, dijo.

El programa también proporciona pruebas de anticuerpos y de COVID-19, dijo Garcon, quien no pausó sus visitas domiciliarias en ningún momento durante la pandemia.

“¿Qué más harían estos pacientes? Si necesitaba estar ahí, estaba ahí”, dijo.

Originaria de Haití, Garcon emigró a los Estados Unidos en su adolescencia. Ha vivido en Rockland County ever since.

Garcon tiene dos maestrías y un doctorado en enfermería y ha trabajado como enfermera facultativa durante 32 años. En 2017, fue nombrada “Enfermera Facultativa del Año” por la Asociación de enfermeras facultativas del estado de Nueva York.

“Hacer esto no es un trabajo para mí. Me despierto y empiezo a revisar a los pacientes. Lo hago todo el día hasta que me voy a la cama”.

Mientras la ciudad enfrenta una segunda ola de casos de coronavirus, Garcon tiene la intención de estar ahí para sus pacientes. “No puedo detenerme”, dijo. “Estos pacientes me esperan”.

Para obtener más información sobre el programa de visitas a domicilio, por favor visite columbianps.org.
**Rekindle the romance**

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**Rekindle the romance**

Renueva el romance
DIRE from p8
underwater and would need to be refinanced, Desai said.
She explained that the city currently has a surplus from a Taxicab Improvement
Surcharge Fund, which collects 30 cents for every yellow cab trip.
“That fund has a standing surplus today of $40 million,” she said.
“We can get started. We cannot wait. If the
city continues to wait longer, this industry is
going to absolutely disappear,” Desai added.
“Thousands of families’ lives are going to
disintegrate.”

Stringer projected the NYTWA proposal
could end up costing the city less than $75
million and said it could become a good deal
for the city in light of potential lawsuits. He
noted that New York Attorney General Letitia
Stringer, who is currently running for mayor.
“Equally important, we’d be restructured
these loans so that the people who
who drive cabs and are making the payment can
actually make payments.”

“This proposals are like penicillin. We’ve
been wounded for so long,” said Victor Salazar,
a taxi driver from the Bronx. “We were already
in a financial crisis before the pandemic and
then things just got worse.”
He said he hardly had any business during the
summer months, as New Yorkers were faced with COVID-19 restrictions and mostly
staying home.

“Unemployment insurance, the stimulus bill
helped us to stay afloat but it’s still not enough
without additional help,” he said. “It is getting
almost impossible to go on. This plan is the
light at the end of the tunnel. I hope the city
does the right thing.”

Salazar said the city is at fault for allowing
the medallion prices to get out of hand.

“The city owes us – they inflated values, up
to a million dollars,” he said. “Then, through
the back door, they let Uber and Lyft come in
where no regulations, like a wild horse running
all over New York.”

Though he is saddled with debt from
his medallion loan, Salazar said he had
considered his medallion as the pathway to
earning a better living. “I believed in New
wanted to get out of poverty to get to the
middle class. We want to work and do this.
I still believe in it.”

“The taxi medallion crisis is a test of
our commitment to fighting poverty and
preserving pathways to the American
Dream,” Stringer said.
He said drivers were wronged by the city
and predatory lenders, whose actions served
to amplify driver debt as medallion values
skyrocketed in the early 2000’s.

“We need to solve this problem,” he said.
“We have a moral obligation to the drivers
make this right. We must relieve the
suffering.”

For more on the NYTWA proposal, go to

Yellow cabs lined
up along City Hall.

DESESPERACIÓN de p8
ciudad con un presupuesto de 90 mil millones de dólares”, comentó la directora ejecutiva
de la NYTWA, Bhairavi Desai, quien calificó
la propuesta como una necesidad para
salvar a la industria enferma, que ha
visto la luz al final del túnel.

“Ekla única forma en que los conductores
van a sobrevivir. Es la única forma en que la
industria de los taxis amarillos va a sobrevivir”, dijo Desai.
De acuerdo con la NYTWA, el número de
pasajeros en taxi se redujo en un 92 por ciento
en junio, y muchos conductores indicaron
en una encuesta sindical no tener suficiente
comida.

Los conductores estacionaron sus taxis
remolques por el interior del Ayuntamiento
durante la manifestación, tocando bocinas
y gritando: “No más suicidios! ¡No más quebradas!
Cerca de 6,000 préstamos para conductores
se encuentran actualmente devaluados y
deberían ser refinanciados, dijo Desai.
Explicó que la ciudad actualmente tiene un
excedente de un Fondo de Recargo por Mejora
de Taxis, que recauda 30 centavos por cada viaje
en taxi amarillo.

“Ese fondo tiene un superávit actual de $40
millones de dólares”, comentó.

“Podemos empezar. No podemos esperar.
Si la ciudad sigue esperando más tiempo, esta
industria va a desaparecer destruido”, agregó.
“La vida de miles de familias se va a desintegrar”.

Stringer proyectó que la propuesta de NYTWA
podría terminar costando a la ciudad menos
de $75 millones de dólares y dijo que podría
convertirse en un negocio para la ciudad a
la luz de posibles demandas. Señaló que la
procuradora general de Nueva York, Letitia James,
presentó una demanda de 800 millones de dólares
durante la urbanización de Nueva York
durante el mes de febrero por inflar el precio de los
medallones.

James también ha expresado su apoyo al
paquete de ayuda.

“Los trabajadores conductores y propietarios
individuales de medallones de taxis individuales
ingresaron a esta industria creyendo que la
ciudad administraría un sistema justo. En
 cambio, muchos de estos trabajadores y
propietarios de pequeños negocios fueron
enviados a la madriguera de una ruina financiera”, dijo James en un comunicado
emitido el 18 de noviembre. Después de revisar
la propuesta de la Alianza de Trabajadores de
Taxis de Nueva York, y comprender que el
director financiero de la ciudad, el contralor
Scott Stringer, ha apoyado este plan, cree que
es esencial que avancemos en este paquete de
ayuda de inmediato para mitigar el daño ya
causado. Esta propuesta proporcionaría una
forma fiscalmente justa y responsable de apoyar la
recreación de la industria de los medallones
de taxis al garantizar préstamos de depredadores
a no más de $125,000 dólares. Este paquete de
ayuda no solo presenta la mejor manera de
apoyar las necesidades de una comunidad que
ha sido devastada económicamente, sino que
ayudará a garantizar que finalmente se haga
justicia”.

“Parte de lo que estoy evaluando aquí es que
$75 millones de dólares pueden terminar siendo
buenos para la ciudad también porque limitarían
nuestra exposición a muchas demandas”, dijo
Stringer, quien actualmente se postula para
candidato a alcaldía. “Lo que es igualmente importante,
reestructuraremos estos préstamos para que las
personas que conducen taxis y realizan el pago
puedan de hecho realizar los pagos”.

“Estas propuestas son como la penicilina,
Llevamos mucho tiempo heridos”, dijo Victor Salazar,
un taxista del Bronx. “Ya estábamos en una crisis financiera antes
que la pandemia. Este plan es la luz al final del túnel. Yo espero que la ciudad
haga las cosas bien. Deberíamos
aliviar el sufrimiento”.

Para más información sobre la propuesta

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