

government, arts and culture, business, education, and religion.

BID on Culture is a new initiative developed through the partnership between the 125th Street Business Improvement District and the Harlem Arts Alliance to help build a community-based vision of Harlem's heritage, its role as a vibrant cultural center, and to promote the continued revitalization of 125th Street as the commercial and artistic heart of Harlem.

BID on Culture Banners will extend the brand of 125th Street as the center of culture in Harlem, a diverse community with an unparalleled history of contribution to the nation in all fields of human endeavor. Let me recognize the five selected artists whose banner designs will be displayed on the 125th Street Corridor.

Andrea Arroyo, a Mexican born, New York-based artist whose work has been exhibited in twenty-four individual and more than eighty group shows in galleries and museums. Andrea is in the public collections of The Smithsonian Institution, National Museum of American History, The Library of Congress, the Mexican Museum in Chicago and numerous private collections in the US, Mexico, Europe and Japan. Her public art projects include commissions for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of New York, the New York School Construction Authority, City Arts and the Florida Art in State Buildings Program.

Laura Gadson is a native New Yorker raised in Jamaica Queens. A graduate of Fiorella LaGuardia High School of Music and Art, she received her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the City College of New York. She has been a teaching artist since age 14 for a variety of public and private New York City institutions. Ms. Gadson's craftwork is in the private collections of Susan Taylor, Iyanla Vanzant and other collectors. Her work has been exhibited in the New York State Museum in Albany, The Cork Gallery at Lincoln Center, Columbia University and she currently has two quilts on a National Tour until 2010. A Harlem brownstone has been her home studio and personal gallery since 1993.

Obatola Wilhelmina Grant, a native New Yorker and resident of Harlem is an assemblage artist, creating pieces from discarded objects. Obatola was formerly the Director of Programs and Administration at the National Jazz Museum in Harlem and before that the Director of Community Outreach for SHARE, Self-Help for Women with Breast or Ovarian Cancer. She has a Bachelor of Arts in English Language Arts from Hunter College and expects to graduate in June from Hunter with a Masters of Science in Urban Affairs. She has exhibited at Bank Street College, Union Theological Seminary, the Simmons Gallery and the New York Public Library.

Sharon Lewis, a graphic designer, originally from Detroit, Michigan, now based in New Rochelle, New York, Sharon is a Production Associate at DMD Insight, a boutique agency specializing in integrated marketing for arts and culture, architecture, design, philanthropic and financial services clients. She has a BFA in Industrial Design from Columbus College of Art and Design and her career focus has been print design in the fields of publishing, advertising and law.

Shimoda, a Harlem-based artist, whose work has been featured on television on The Cosby Show, HGTV—Crafting Coast to Coast, in the magazines *Essence*, *Braids* and *Beauty*,

and YSP, and the book *Jumping the Broom: The African American Wedding Planner*, among others. Shimoda's exhibit and presentation schedule includes Bank Street College, The National Black Arts Festival, The Mt. Vernon Library, Mt. Vernon NY, the Center for Book Arts, and the Donnell Library in New York City. She serves on the crafts panel for the Artists' Fellowships of the NY Foundation for the Arts, has taught beading at Brooklyn Academy of Music and Harlem School of the Arts, assisted Sonya Clark and Joyce Scott at Penland School of Crafts, NC and Ralph Lauren with his 1998 beaded jewelry collection.

The 125th Street Business Improvement District (BID) is a non-profit organization funded primarily from an additional tax assessment collected from the property owners within the defined boundaries. Organized in compliance with state and city laws, the property and business owners determine the services and programs needed for the district. The BID will utilize the competition to bring visibility to its streetscape improvement efforts and to enliven the community's central business district.

The Harlem Arts Alliance (HAA) is a non-profit membership service organization committed to nurturing the artistic growth and organizational development of artists and arts organizations primarily in Harlem and its surrounding communities. Comprised of over 400 individual artists and arts organizations, HAA is the only service organization of its kind in Harlem and plays an essential role by helping to build the resources, network and capacity of its richly diverse membership. Counted among its members are young emerging artists as well as established and internationally recognized artists. Also represented are small grassroots organizations and major cultural institutions in Harlem and beyond. Major funding for HAA is provided by the Upper Manhattan Empowerment Zone Corporation, the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, and the New York City Council.

Barbara Askins, President of the 125th Street BID says the BID on Culture project "seeks to maximize the value of the 125th Street corridor by initiating efforts to secure the future of cultural presentation and production in Harlem and to encourage the ongoing revitalization of 125th Street as a premier arts and culture entertainment destination."

Michael Unthank, HAA Executive Director, says that "over the past 10 to 15 years,

125th Street Corridor has emerged as a major destination anchored by not just local and national chain retail outlets but also by major cultural institutions such as the Studio Museum in Harlem and the Apollo Theater."

TRIBUTE TO JOHN McNAMARA

HON. TIMOTHY H. BISHOP

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring to the attention of my colleagues and the entire nation the service and sacrifice of firefighter and 9/11 first responder John McNamara.

A 10-year veteran of the New York Fire Department, John is currently assigned to Engine Co. 234 in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. He is a

first responder who not only assisted during the search and rescue efforts following September 11th, 2001, but also assisted the New Orleans Fire Department and the citizens of Louisiana during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Formerly a resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, and currently a resident of Blue Point, Long Island, John is valiantly struggling to survive a nearly three-year battle with Stage 4, metastatic colon cancer. John, age 43, and his wife Jennifer have a 2½ year old son named Jack.

In the firefighting tradition of "leaving no man behind," John's friends and fellow firefighters at Engine 234 / Ladder 123, Engine 220 / Ladder 122, the Blue Point Volunteer Fire Department and the New York City Firefighter Brotherhood Foundation are working hard to see that John and his family are supported as his battle grows more difficult.

Like John, many of the brave first responders who served at Ground Zero are now struggling with debilitating diseases as a result of their courageous efforts. As a nation, we made a promise to help all those who suffered as a result of the heinous acts of September 11th. We must keep that promise. We must ensure that those brave first responders receive the medical care and other support they need.

Today, we in Congress honor John McNamara for his service to New York and to our nation.

A TRIBUTE TO MARSHA T. DuPONT

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Marsha T. DuPont.

Marsha was born in Brooklyn, NY, to Deacon Clyde Tarrant, Sr. and the Late Catherine Britt Tarrant. She is the only girl child out of three children born; her siblings are Clyde Tarrant Jr., and the Late Bruce Tarrant.

She received her education from Public School 11 and Rothchild Junior High School both of Brooklyn, New York. Marsha received a scholarship from Fashion Industries Vocational High School, where she graduated valedictorian and Female Athlete of the Year, class of 1972. She continued her education attending and graduating from LaGuardia Community College and Fashion Institute of Technology where she majored in pattern making and fashion design. She later changed her career and attended and graduated from the Grace Downs Vocational Air Career and Hotel Management College in Glen Cove, Long Island. Marsha was employed by the Inter-Continental Hotel for 10 years as Reservations Manager. She changed employment to the Drake Swissotel Hotel in New York City where she also worked as Reservations Manager for 17 years. She received numerous awards and departmental training certificates and she was also cited as Employee of the Month and Manager of the Year. Marsha was loved and respected by her staff and fellow co-workers; she was always giving career opportunities to others.

Marsha's love and flare for fashion and decorating encouraged her to form a company

"Duchess Unlimited" where she worked as a Wedding Coordinator and coordinated anniversaries and other types of social events at cost.

Marsha joined the Mt. Ollie Baptist Church in 1959 under the leadership of the late Rev. R.D. Brown. She sang in the Junior Choir, was an original member of the Buds of Promise, a member of the Junior Usher Board and later joined the Young Adult Choir. Rev. Brown appointed Marsha to the Senior Trustee Board to "observe." She was the youngest female trustee. This was a major accomplishment for Marsha, for little did she know that God was preparing her for the future. In 1989 she was elected as the first female Chairperson of the Board and is still serving in that capacity today. She has given 20 years of service to the trustee board.

At present Marsha works as the Director of Housing/Food & Beverage for the Office of Conventions and Meetings for the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc. She was appointed to this position by the President of the Convention in 1995. She is a member of the religious Conference Management Association and Coalition of Black Meeting Planners. She is also a member of the National Council of Negro Women.

Marsha began her work as a member of the Brooklyn District of the New York State Chapter of the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. in the 1970's under the leadership of Bishop Albert L. Jamison, Sr. as Chapter representative. Marsha gave great support and dedication to the late Brother Larry Brown and the late Minister Allen D. Jamison as Borough Presidents of the Brooklyn District. After their passing she then was appointed Borough President. The Brooklyn District took on new life and direction under her leadership.

Marsha is also a Charter Member of the famous Tri-boro Mass Choir of which she credits the choir's annual prayer and fasting shut-in as her introduction to her spiritual growth and her enhancement to her personal relationship with God.

Marsha was appointed by Bishop Jamison as his Executive Director to the Chairman of the Board for the Gospel Music Workshop of America, Inc. also she is the Administrative Assistant to the New York State Chapter.

Her love for her church family and retired Pastor and his wife, Rev. Dr./Mrs. Spurgeon E. Crayton is consistently enthusiastic; the bond between them has always been a positive one.

Her love and dedication for church work is untiring. Her motto: "If I can help somebody as I pass along then my living shall not be in vain."

OTTOMAN EMPIRE DOCUMENTS ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, recently, the New York Times reported on a recently published book *The Remaining Documents of Talat Pasha* by Turkish author Murat Bardakci. The book details Pasha's methodical reordering of the disappearance of nearly 1 million Armenians in a 2-year period. Pasha served as interior minister to the Ottoman Empire and

helped orchestrate the Armenian Genocide. Like the Nazis, Pasha kept detailed population figures of the Ottoman Empire's Christian ethnic minority, the Armenians.

Before 1915, 1.2 million Armenians lived in what today is modern Turkey. By 1917, the number was down to 284,000 Armenians. Bardakci received these original lists of population figures from Pasha's wife, Hayriye Talat, in 1983. However, he waited to include them in his book until he felt Turkey was ready to receive them.

As the New York Times reported in November of 1920, Talat Pasha used to say, "the only way to dispose of the Armenia question is to kill the Armenians." As Ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, Henry Morgenthau made many courageous efforts to stop the ethnic cleansing of the Armenians, as well as alert Americans to the genocide that was taking place. Morgenthau, who dealt with Talat in Istanbul, believed strongly that Pasha was fully responsible for the killings of the Armenians.

These figures in Bardakci's book provide further evidence that those who masterminded the genocide against the Armenians were obsessed with exterminating all the Armenian people. Talat Pasha's meticulous figures bring to mind the Nazis who kept records of 17 million victims, including the Jews who were exterminated during the holocaust. In aggregate, the Nazis kept 50 million pages of documents now available for the families of those who lost loved ones, scholars, and the public.

Unfortunately, Bardakci does not believe that the Armenian Genocide took place. Like his government, he is an outspoken denier. However, he believes that Turkish people should be exposed to historical documents. Bardakci is correct that Turkey needs documents. This week's Times article astutely notes the chilling silence that swept over Turkey in response to these figures. Turkey needs to come to terms with its past.

It is with sadness that it may take the figures of the man who orchestrated the genocide to convince the Turkish government and the Turkish people that 90 years ago the Ottoman Empire committed genocide against the Armenians. I am hopeful that Turkey will soon unclench its hold on its people's memory and openly discuss the Armenian genocide; instead of using words like "alleged" or funding a multi-million dollar lobby in the United States to distort fact.

It has taken a while, but Americans look back constantly on our own history. We question why we enslaved millions of Africans. We question why we slaughtered millions of Native Americans. We discuss it in our schools. We reflect on our history. Doing this helps our nation deal with its past and enables us to learn and heal.

Not only does Turkey deny the Armenian Genocide, it asks Americans to deny it as well. It asks the United States Congress not to honor the victims of the genocide. The Armenian Diaspora exists today because of the genocide. Why should Armenian-American voices be silenced? Why are the voices of those who want to end the vicious cycle of genocide being hushed? Why do we allow ourselves year after year to be threatened by Turkey?

These are our constituents who lost loved ones in the Genocide. We must honor their memory and not be bullied by Turkey.

IN RECOGNITION OF MATILDA M. GARCIA IN HONOR OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

HON. KATHY CASTOR

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 26, 2009

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I rise today to honor Matilda Martinez Garcia, a devoted advocate for Hispanic Americans in Florida. Ms. Garcia exemplifies the power of women to make a difference in their communities.

Ms. Garcia is a third generation Floridian whose grandfather came from Spain to Tampa via Cuba. Ms. Garcia serves as a liaison between the Tampa government and the Hispanic community as a council member of the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council. She also serves on several boards including the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Council, LULAC and the University of Florida's Mental Health Institute.

Ms. Garcia is a member of the Tampa Hispanic Heritage Board of Directors, which is comprised of Hispanic Americans with varied roots who share pride in being Hispanic. The organization serves to share rich Spanish language, culture, and traditions with the community during Tampa's Hispanic Heritage Celebration.

Ms. Garcia served as the Former State Director of The League of United Latin American Citizens. LULAC's mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. In 2007, Ms. Garcia spoke at a LULAC convention seminar on the historic and ongoing contributions that Latina leaders have made to the civil rights struggle in the U.S. and the development of LULAC as a civil rights organization. Women's leadership has long been a cornerstone of the Latino community.

As a member of the Florida Institute for Community Studies (FICS) Board of Directors, Ms. Garcia speaks to children about her life growing up in Tampa as the child of Spanish immigrants and the challenges facing the Hispanic community.

In 2001 the Department of Child and Family Studies created the Matilda Garcia Initiative, or "Latin American Research Scholars Exchange," to ensure continued collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies and Latin American researchers and practitioners. The Matilda Garcia Initiative provides the Institute with a means for strengthening the level of exchange with Latin America through the funding of these and other activities. Ms. Garcia's support has encouraged a new vision of future collaboration between the Department of Child and Family Studies at FMHI and a wide variety of Latin American academic institutions and organizations.

In 2002, The Community of Tampa Bay proudly awarded Ms. Garcia the Silver Medalion Humanitarian Award. This award is given to members of the community who have helped to promote dialogue and respect among cultures, religions, and races.

At the age of 89, Ms. Garcia attended the 2008 Democratic National Convention as Florida's oldest delegate. At the convention Ms. Garcia inspired Florida's delegates with her