



The First Annual **GOING GREEN IN QUEENS** – the most exciting and informative green event in Queens – sponsored by *Queens Civic Congress, Queens Coalition for Parks & Green Spaces, Partnerships for Parks, the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, HSBC, Metro Your Green Energy Source, Queens Botanical Garden, NY/NJ Trial Conference, Queens Blvd Restoration Group, Friends of Gantry Neighborhood Parks, Belle Harbor Property Owners Association, Eastern Queens Alliance*



Queens Civic Congress

Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces



City of Queens Parks & Recreation
 55-10 25th Avenue, 11th Floor
 Jamaica, NY 11435



Queens Civic Congress Vice President Barbara Larkin greeting visitors at the registration desk (Photo by Helen Ho/Partnerships for Parks)

Going Green in Queens – a free environmental, educational and networking event for green, environmental, parks, volunteer and civic minded individuals and groups – took place at the New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th Street, Queens, NY 11368 (718) 699-0005

Despite the pouring rain, over 200 people attended with folks trickling in all day long. And we got overall rave reviews from the Parks Commissioners, table exhibitors, workshop presenters and event participants. Commissioner Liam Kavanaugh said that Queens took “Best in Show” compared to similar events in the other 4 boroughs. Among those who attended included State Senator John Sabini and a representative of Senator Malcolm Smith.



Participants sample the sumptuous breakfast in the Great Hall courtesy of HSBC and Metro Your Green Energy Source. Both sponsors hosted our lunch of sandwiches and wraps followed by cookies and pastries. (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)



One of the many tables in the Great Hall,. The tabling exhibition highlighted local and city wide volunteer, non-profit, and green organizations such as our sponsors, City Parks Foundation, Citizens Committee for NYC, Solar One. Transportation Alternatives Queens Committee along with 2 dozen other organizations. (Photo by Jill Weber/ NYC Parks)



Steve Melnick a parks activist from Forest Hills who represented sponsor HSBC introduced Keynote Speaker, Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski. Notice the Going Green in Queens poster in the background. (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)



Keynote Speaker, Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski.

Some views from the audience follow on the next three pages



Some of the packed audience at the morning opening ceremony and keynote address (Photo by Jill Weber/ NYC Parks)



Another audience view



In the audience: note upper left Community Board 13 chair and Queens Civic Congress Vice President Rich Hellenbrecht and Assistant Parks Commissioner/ Flushing Meadows Corona Park Administrator Estelle Cooper. Below left is activist David Qunitana. (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)



State Senator John Sabini, Corey Bearak, David Quintana.



Queens Civic Congress Vice President Ed Westley(Jackson Heights) and Gary Comorau



Lou Widerka and Barney Aquilino



Alley Pond Environmental Center



Urban Parks Ranger



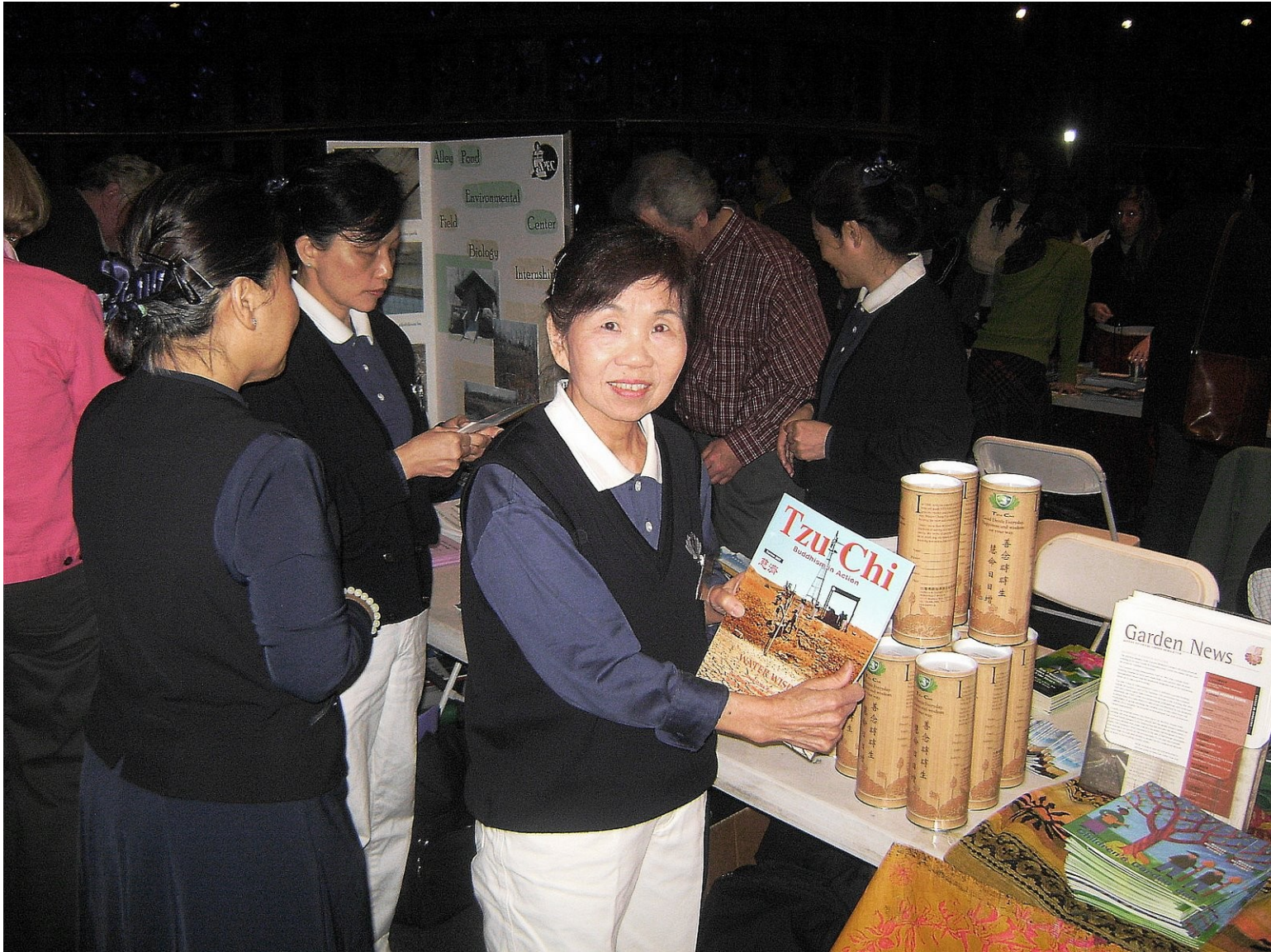
Kayak



Sponsor Metro Your Green Energy Source's table



Public Farm 1



Tzu Chi



Parks activist Warren Schreiber from Bat Terrace Community Alliance who staffed the Queens Civic Congress table much of the day with Corey Bearak, President of the congress.



Ridgewood Reservoir Education and Preservation Project



Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance



Parks Commissioner Adiran Benepe and Queens Civic Congress President Corey Bearak making the rounds.



Rockaway_leader Barbara Larkin, a Queens Civic Congress VP (Beller Harbor) talks lifeguards with Commissioner Benepe.

Three workshop sessions took place from 11:40 a.m. – 12:25 p.m.; 12:30 – 1:15 p.m. and 1:20 – 2:05 p.m.:

**Informational Workshops: Trees workshops *City of Water short film screening (Auditorium)*

**Parks Resources workshops *Make Waves in the Blue Movement workshop*

**Environmental Sustainability*



One of several workshops (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)

The “Trees” workshop featured:

- *Street Tree Sleuthing – Discover the Secrets of NYC Street Trees. Presented by Laura Wooley , Central Forestry and Sam Bishop, Trees NY
- *Masters Level Pruning – More Than Just Dead Wood. Presented by Sam Bishop, Trees NY
- *One is the Loneliest Number. Presented by Cindy Van Houten & Jennie Nyulasi – Friends of Gantry Neighborhood Parks

Participants learned how by gathering friends and neighborhood locals together how they can build community and be a better friend to neighborhood trees. Cindy and Jennie revealed their formula for success.

The Water workshop featured:

- *City of Water – A Short Film on NYC Waterways. Roland Lewis, Remy Monteko-Sherman and Jennifer Stark-Hernandez from Metropolitan Waterfront Alliance
- *Make Waves in the Blue Movement – Queens Waterfront Communities Make a Splash! PART I & II. Presented by Karen Overton, Partnerships for Parks; Katie Ellman, Green Shores NYC; Aline Euler, Alley Pond Environmental Center; Kate Schmid, Newtown Creek Alliance; Erik Baard, LIC Community Boathouse

The workshop on Environmental Sustainability featured:

- *Composting in the City – Indoors and Outdoors. Presented by Dan Tainow, Queens Botanical Garden
- *Building Foundations for a Sustainable Future through Green Building and Solar Energy. Presented by Nicole Defeo, Queens Botanical Garden and Anthony Conklin, Mercury Solar Systems
 - How Run-off Water Affects You and Build Bioswales too! Presented by Andrew Faust, Permaculture Instructor

The “Resources for You” workshop:

- *Building Relationships with Elected Officials. Presented by Asi Klein, Partnerships for Parks; Phil Craft, City Parks Foundation; JR Nocerino, Kidz Care
 - *Parks 101. Presented by Jill Weber and Iris Rodriguez, NYC Department of Parks & Recreation
- Participants got the ultimate insiders scoop on the ins and outs of Queens Parks, found out how to get their questions answered effectively and how to navigate their way around Parks.
- **Grants for Community Building Projects. Presented by Lixian Hantover – Citizens Committee for NYC*



Another Workshop. (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)



Another Workshop (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)



Another Workshop (Photo by Helen Ho/ Partnerships for Parks)

The Closing Ceremony and (free) Raffle took place in The Great Hall.



*Borough Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski, Queens Civic Congress President Corey Bearak and Queens Coalition for Parks and Green Spaces President Fred Kress watch Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe deliver closing remarks.
(Photo by Jill Weber/ NYC Parks)*



Corey Bearak and Fred Kress flank some civic activists (Photo by Jill Weber/ NYC Parks)





Additional photos by Teri Muroff and Sam Franqui – courtesy of David M. Quintana, Lost in the Ozone blog,