

Queens Borough President Helen Marshall's remarks at the Flushing Library, December 6, 2007

WELCOME EVERYONE TO QUEENS ! AFTER 350 YEARS SINCE THE FLUSHING REMONSTRANCE, IT STILL MAINTAINS ITS CULTURAL AND SPIRITUAL DIVERSITY.



photo by Dominick Totino

Queensborough President Helen Marshall at the unveiling of the Flushing Remonstrance at the Flushing Library which is on loan from the NYS Archives until January 7, 2008

IMAGINE THAT 350 YEARS AGO WHEN OUR COUNTRY WAS IN ITS INFANCY, A GROUP OF FLUSHING

CITIZENS MADE A DECISION THAT WOULD BECOME PART OF THE GREATEST DEMOCRACY IN THE WORLD ESTABLISHING FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES IN AMERICA. THESE

FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS TRANSENDS 350 YEARS TO DATE. NOT ONLY IN FLUSHING, NOT ONLY IN QUEENS BUT REMAINS THE CORNERSTONE OF DEMOCRACY IN OUR NATION.

WE ARE PARTICULARLY HONORED THAT THE 60 DESCENDANTS OF THE SIGNERS OF THE REMONSTRANCE HAVE JOINED US TONIGHT. I KNOW THEIR ANCESTORS WOULD BE FILLED WITH PRIDE TO KNOW THAT THEY HAVE JOINED US IN THIS WONDERFUL CELEBRATION.

THIS MORNING I ADDRESSED A GROUP OF STUDENTS AT A LOCAL SCHOOL. I SAW

BEFORE ME STUDENTS OF ALMOST 40 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES. A FAMILIAR SIGHT IN ALL OF OUR SCHOOLS. WE ARE GATHERED HERE TONIGHT TO CELEBRATE THE VISIONARIES OF THE SIGNERS OF THE FLUSHING REMONSTRANCE. AS BOROUGH PRESIDENT I HAVE THE PRIVILEGE TO INVEST THE PEOPLES MONEY IN MAJOR PROJECTS TO ENHANCE THE LIVES OF OUR RESIDENTS. AS A TEACHER I KNOW THE IMPORTANCE OF HISTORY IN THE LIVES OF OUR CHILDRENS DEVELOPMENT. STUDYING THE PAST IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THE PERFECTION OF DEMOCRACY IN OUR NATION. THEREFORE, I HAVE INVESTED IN A TRAVELING EXHIBIT ABOUT THE REMONSTRANCE AND A CURRICULUM THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN 2008 AND TAUGHT IN QUEENS SCHOOLS.

THE FLUSHING REMONSTRANCE CELEBRATION IS A CULMINATION OF HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF PLANNING AND I WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MANY ORGANIZATIONS AND ELECTED OFFICIALS THAT HAVE HELPED MAKE THIS CELEBRATION POSSIBLE:

TOM GALANTE DIRECTOR OF THE QUEENS BORO LIBRARY SYSTEM

NEW YORK STATE LIBRARY ARCHIVES

PARTNERSHIP TRUST NYC

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

COUNCILMAN JOHN LIU ASSEMBLYMEMBER ELLEN YOUNG SENATOR TOBY STAVISKY

BOWNE HOUSE

DAVID OATS, A LONG TIME

ADVOCATE FOR CELEBRATION OF

THE REMONSTRANCE FLUSHING BID

FLUSHING TOWN HALL MUSEUM OF

**THE CITY OF NEW YORK QUEENS
HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNE FRANK
CENTER JACH EICHENBAUM
QUEENSBOROUGH COMMUNITY
COLLEGE, HOLOCAUST RESOURCE
CENTER AND ARCHIVES SGI-USA
QUEENS COMMUNITY CENTER
QUEENS FEDERATION OF CHURCHES
GOTHAM CENTER QUEENS MUSEUM**

**I WANT TO GIVE A SPECIAL THANKS TO MY STAFF PERSON TERI OSBORNE FOR HER
MANY HOURS OF COMMITMENT TO DEVELOPING THIS PROJECT.**

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a project of the Flushing Meadows-Corona Park World's Fair Association.*

Founder: David Oats