

# From the Archives: History of the SCA Fair

The year was 1951, Harry Truman was President, U.S. troops were on their way to Korea, and An American in Paris with Gene Kelly won the Academy Award for Best Picture. That same year, the Manhasset SCA opened "The Turnover Shop" in a room of the Plandome Road School to sell "outgrown but not outworn clothing," with the proceeds divided equally between the donor and the SCA. The fore-runner of the fair, The Turnover Shop, was soon doing a brisk once-a-week business in clothing as well as skates, skis, sleds, bicycles, books, records, rugs and other household items. A blackboard in the shop listed large items for sale – like nursery furniture – that could not be held in the crowded shop; customers could also list the items that they wished to purchase. After the end-of-school-year mark-downs, unsold items were reclaimed by the donors or donated to charity.

The Turnover Shop continued to be a well-run, financially successful SCA project until the mid-1960s. The 1960s were a time of social and educational change in Manhasset and in America. By mid-decade, President Kennedy and Malcolm X had been assassinated, riots were occurring in U.S. cities, and the Beatles had landed on American soil. Of these times, the then-SCA executive president, Mrs. Roger (Margaret) Mastrude, wrote: "The community and its schools took the problems in stride and moved quietly on to new tasks in a spirit of re-dedication to those basic American principles in which we all believe." Mrs. Mastrude served as SCA executive president for two years, until May 1965, and during her tenure the first SCA Fair was launched.

The concept of the fair grew out of the changing times, during which the need for classroom space forced The Turnover Shop from its home in the Plandome Road School. Although use of commercial space on Plandome Road for The Turnover Shop was explored, the rent costs were prohibitive, and The Turnover Shop closed its doors. The ingenuity of SCA members Claire Lowlicht, Claire Heinzen, Martha Spruill, Dorothy Jump, Marie Eslinger and Betty Platt led to the establishment of a fair for the sale of Turnover Shop-type items. Through the

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# It Takes A Village To Teach A Child To Fly

## *Hoops on the Hill is up to the task*

By PAT GRACE  
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"I believe I can fly..."

So sang the children's choir as their voices rose in the wake of the warm welcome by the Executive Director of Adventures in Learning, Diana Holden, and the opening prayer by Kalah Johnson. The words captured the mood of the upbeat Hoops on the Hill awards ceremony on April 23 at the Manhasset Great Neck EOC Hagedorn Community Center.

The crowd was witness to the success of the program's mission—to provide youth from neighboring communities opportunities to realize their full potential academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

The program began six years ago, the result of a small community group project of Shelter Rock Church on Plandome Road, to provide weekly basketball instruction to boys and girls 5-18 years of age. That first night, 19 children participated; they now serve 95. As more and more children participated, Hoops on the Hill has responded to needs beyond bas-



Guest speaker Joe Jones, head coach Boston University men's basketball team, congratulates students and presents them with a commemorative T-shirt.

ketball. An academic support program was launched in 2009 with five professional teachers available every Thursday night. The program now serves in multiple capacities as a bridge between High Street and Plandome Road.

Steve Leondis, of Manhasset, founder and executive director of Hoops on the Hill, acknowledged he is the face of the program but that without the dedication and consistency of the 27 volunteers they

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# Maragos Calls For End To Unfunded Mandates

## *Nassau County comptroller finds county moving ahead in stabilizing finances*

By WENDY KARPEL KREITZMAN  
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Despite the tremendous pressures municipalities face in terms of increasing costs for health insurance and pensions, Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos reports that Nassau County has made "big strides in stabilizing" its finances. Speaking with the Anton Newspapers editors last Tuesday, April 24, the comptroller said that these increasing costs are coming in at "unheard of numbers." He added that these increasing costs, unfunded mandates from the state, are "unconscionable."

Mr. Maragos said that the county is facing an increase of 25 percent in Medicaid caseloads, and combined with more and more people losing health insurance, the result will be more people going to local hospital emergency rooms. And when that happens, the bill goes to the county. Combined with health insurance costs for the county rising 30 percent and county pension costs increasing by 60 percent, it is a tough road

for the county, the comptroller said.

However, on a brighter note, Mr. Maragos reported that Standard & Poors once again granted the county an A+ rating. "The county has made significant strides in restructuring and improving fundamentals," he said.

And although Mr. Maragos was happy to report positive financial strides, he expressed great concern over "the fiscal challenges ahead." He said that Nassau County has reached the end of the cost savings plans and will now have to balance the budget. "I see this happening this year and in 2013 and beyond, unless the economy significantly improves."

Mr. Maragos did note that the county's biggest source of revenue is the sales tax and if the current upward swing continues at the current higher rate than was anticipated this will go a long way toward helping finances. But with pensions and health insurance increasing at three or four times the rate of inflation, the county will still need new revenue sources.



Nassau County Comptroller George Maragos meeting with Anton Newspapers editors.

When asked what revenue sources the county could find, Mr. Maragos said "I am only the comptroller ... I don't have to come up with revenues."

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# Facts On Underage Drinking And Influence Of Parental Example

## *Students communicate regularly, parents must too—it takes a village*

By REVEREND LORI BURGESS  
ASSOCIATE MINISTER,  
THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

At Manhasset CASA's recent town hall meeting, parents gathered to discuss the issue of underage drinking in our community. Parents shared personal stories, frustrations and feelings of helplessness. Now as a parent, I realize more than ever

the power of comradery. As a fellow struggler on the road of faith and life, I understand the deep need for solidarity and friendship. As a minister working with young people, I realize the need for caring and committed adults to stand up for our young people. We need loving adults to offer friendship and a listening ear. We need caring mentors to give hope and encouragement - to lift our young people to higher ways of thinking, that they might experience an abundant and fulfilled life. We cannot do it alone. It truly takes a village - and this is my challenge to all of us. My article and research on the subject follows.

"It's Monday morning, and tales about the weekend start trickling in. Did you hear about the Sweet 16 [party]? Three kids passed out, one girl turned up unconscious, and the police came and hauled everyone in. [Pause] Isn't it awful? Next Monday; different characters, same outcome." In her article entitled "Why Adults Ignore Underage Drinking and Other Stories," Linda Flanagan, *Huffington Post* contributor, calls to mind the all too familiar conversations lingering through the hallways of our high schools today.

The article goes on to report that, "Parents who permit or ignore underage drinking are reluctant to talk about it openly..."

But off the record, some common explanations emerge. ...Parents believe that kids will drink regardless of the rules, and that allowing it to happen at home is safer than sending them out to drink elsewhere. If drunk driving can be prevented, they reason, the big risk is gone. As well, parents understand that demanding abstinence from a son or daughter will condemn that child to social exile. And anyway, underage drinking is not that big a deal, they believe, as long as it doesn't get out of hand or lead to drugs. Look, we did it and we're OK. Finally, being the bad guy all the time - the one saying 'no'

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## Facts On Underage Drinking

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again, the one having to feign indifference when your son screams, 'I hate you!' The one who is immediately told 'No, Mom, we're not drinking' – gets old. And we're all so tired, fantasizing already about that chilled bottle of [wine] waiting for us in the refrigerator."

One of the most rewarding parts of my job as associate minister is working with teenagers. We discuss issues relating to pop culture, religion and everything else imaginable in between. Our teens inspire me at times and other times I lie awake at night worrying about their young lives and the complicated teenage struggles and pressures they face. I worry if they are feeling validated. I worry if they are finding fulfillment or continually searching. I worry if they will make choices that will chip away parts of their soul and if they will find their inner strength to stand up for what is right and good and true.

The American Medical Association reports that "25 percent of all teenagers, and 33 percent of teenage girls get alcohol from their parents, while 40 percent of teens say they get their [alcohol] from friends' parents. The number bears this out: according to the AMA, about one-fifth of 12 to 20-year-olds are binge drinkers and most kids take their first drink at age 12." The Manhasset Coalition Against Substance Abuse (CASA) 2011 Bach Harrison Prevention Needs Assessment Students Survey reports our children are also binge drinking (five or more alcoholic drinks in a row in two hours), drinking and driving and riding with a drinking driver. Of those students who report underage drinking in 10th and 12th grade, more than 72 percent report drinking alcohol at their home or someone else's home without any parent permission.

Since 2001, CASA has advocated to parents and the community of the importance of delaying our teens' age of onset to underage drinking because young people who begin drinking before age 15 are four times more likely to develop alcohol dependence than those who abstain until age 21. John Moriarty, marketing director of Sunrise Detox in Stirling, N.J., states, "Parents think drinking [verses drugs] is the lesser of the two evils. Nothing could be further from the truth. A boatload of studies and articles spell out the dangers of even moderate drinking among teenagers. Alcohol damages young brains. The AMA study discovered that 14- to 21-year-olds who abused alcohol had 'about 10 percent smaller hippocampi' – where the brain learns and remembers – and that the harm may be irreversible. Alcohol use is inseparable from the leading causes of teenage death, starting with car accidents and moving right down to suicides, homicides and overdoses, with or

... "parents influence whether and when adolescents begin drinking"...

—National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

without additional substances. Of those kids drinking before they're 15, 40 percent show signs of alcoholism as adults. Alcohol use goes hand-in-hand with other nightmarish behaviors: rape, delinquency and the use of "real" drugs, including a new favorite in New Jersey – synthetic pot known as K2, which is associated with seizures, blackouts, cardiac infarction and psychosis."

The National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism reports that, "parents influence whether and when adolescents begin drinking as well as how their children drink. Family policies about drinking in the home and the way parents themselves drink are important." As parents, we need to set boundaries for our children especially when it comes to alcohol.

Studies from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services find that the following tips are crucial. "Talk early and often, in developmentally appropriate ways, with children and teens about your concerns and their's regarding alcohol. Adolescents who know their parents' opinions about youth drinking are more likely to fall in line with their expectations."

Secondly, parents should "establish policies early on, and be consistent in setting expectations and enforcing rules. Adolescents do feel that parents should have a say in decisions about drinking, and they maintain this deference to parental authority as long as they perceive the message to be legitimate; consistency is central to legitimacy." Thirdly, "work with parents to monitor where kids are gathering and what they are doing. Being involved in the lives of adolescents is key to keeping them safe. Work in and with the community to promote dialogue about underage drinking and the creation of implementation of action steps to address it." Lastly, "be aware of your state's laws about providing alcohol to your own children, and never provide alcohol to someone else's child." The study concludes reporting that, "with open, respectful communication and explanations, parents can influence their children's decisions well into adolescence and beyond."

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