

COMMUNITY NEWS

FALL
2009



HAMILTON
MADISON
HOUSE

Eighth Annual Gala Largest to Date!

On October 29th Hamilton-Madison House hosted a heritage-themed gala at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel Battery Park. Four hundred twenty people attended the event that generated almost \$140,000 in support for the House's underfunded youth and adult programs. Sincere thanks to the Gala Committee, a dedicated group of business leaders, who made the event a success despite the economic climate.

The evening's program began with the emcee Sal Marchiano introducing the Gala Chairs, Margaret Abruzzese, Anthony Giorgio, and James Halpin, Jr., who welcomed the guests and thanked them for their phenomenal support. A special violin performance was given by a select number of Music School students who wowed the crowd. Executive Director Frank Modica provided some reflection on his 34 years serving the House and Mr. Giorgio updated the guests on recent accomplishments. This was followed by HMH Board Chairperson and President, Chi K. Chu and Cao K. O, respectively, provided an introduction to the awards Hamilton-Madison House gives out annually. Mr. Modica introduced the recipient



Left to Right: Board Vice President Anthony Giorgio, Executive Director Frank Modica, Honoree Nicholas Caiazzo, Board President Cao O, Board Chairman Chi Chu, and Gala Chair Jim Halpin.

of the Shirley Chisholm Award for outstanding civic and community service, Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development Dennis M. Walcott. Mr. Walcott was honored to receive an award named after such an inspirational public servant. He also noted Mr. Modica's achievements during his tenure at the House, almost a third of the 111-year-old organization's history. The award ceremony concluded with the presentation of the 2009 Humanity Award by Mr. Halpin to Nicholas Caiazzo. Mr. Caiazzo was especially surprised when his father was asked to the podium to deliver a few kind words. Mr. Caiazzo delivered a heartfelt acceptance speech that reiterated the importance of family heritage and the

support families receive at social service organizations like Hamilton-Madison House. Hamilton-Madison House is thrilled to welcome Mr. Caiazzo, his family, and his work family at Wilson Elser Moskowitz, Edelman, and Dicker LLC into our home so that we may continue to support thousands of immigrants' lives together.

The remainder of the evening was spent with a raffle of five fabulous prizes and the special guest entertainment by Steve Maglio. Hamilton-Madison House would like to thank everyone who attended the event, purchased a journal ad, or sponsored the event, especially Bank of New York Mellon

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2009-2010

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

As one of the last publications Hamilton-Madison House produces during my tenure as Executive Director, there is a great breadth of information and stories upon which to reflect. It was not until recently that it was pointed out to me that my tenure at the House accounts for over a third of the organization's 111-year history. During this time, I have seen a great amount of change in the community, within the organization, New York City, and in general American culture. A recent highlight was Family Fun Day, where more than 100 children and families from the community came to celebrate my retirement. There were performances by City Hall Senior Center Chorus, the Music School, and the Saturday Cipoeira class. It meant a great deal to see the variety of activities and age groups that the House serves by improving their quality of life. This experience and the many more that have occurred over these years will keep the House in my memory.

In addition, I realize how cyclical time can be. When I was hired, in 1975, New York City was in a fiscal crisis and having a negative impact on all New York City non-profits. Soon after starting as Executive Director I had to make a 22 percent lateral budget cut to behavioral health programs. There were no salary increases or cost of living adjustments for four years. Today, New York City and its non-profits are again facing a fiscal crisis, but I am confident that my successor will bring the required experience to deal with the challenges that lie ahead. Settlement Houses have a long history of weathering "storms," and we are confident that Hamilton-Madison House will proudly continue to serve the needs of the community during and after the current crisis.

While I will no longer serve as Executive Director after January 15, 2010, I will continue to have input into the community in other leadership capacities. I want to sincerely thank the Board of Directors and staff who have worked so tirelessly over these years. It is because of this community that I have stayed so long.

Sincerely,

Frank T. Modica

ESOL Teacher Biming Long Honored by Mayor's Office of Adult Education



Biming Long (center) with the Chinatown Resource Center staff provided translation services at the Project Renewal free mammogram and chest x-ray clinic in November 2008.

Biming Long, a House ESOL teacher, is the recipient of the Calvin Miles Award for Student Leadership by the Mayor's Office of Adult Education. This is the first time the Mayor's Office of Adult Education has recognized the contributions of adult learners from across New York City's adult education system with an award.

Ms. Long became involved with Hamilton-Madison House as a student in the ESL program. Last year was her first as a co-teacher alongside Max Norat who teaches the Saturday ESOL class at 50 Madison Street. In addition, she provided translation services in November 2008 at the Chinatown Resource Center's free mammogram clinic through Project Renewal. Ms. Long continues to co-teach the 2009-2010 ESOL class, which is sponsored by the

Borough of Manhattan Community College. She continues to improve her own English-language literacy by taking classes at University Settlement.

The Calvin Miles Award Ceremony was held at Scholastic Inc. in lower Manhattan on Tuesday, November 24, 2009. The Award is an honorary award meant to promote student leadership in adult education. It recognizes the life of the late Calvin Miles, an organizer and advocate for adults learns who passes away in January of 2009. Mr. Miles was said to have "never forgotten that literacy is the key to changing lives and understood that adult education and social justice are intertwined." If you have questions about the House's ESL and adult literacy classes, please contact the Chinatown Resource Center at 212.571.2823. 📍

Gambling Disorder Research Project Launches

Gambling disorders (problem or pathological gambling) are estimated to affect up to 5% of the adult population in the US. Studies suggest that it is considerably higher, possibly up to 20%, among Chinese populations, especially immigrants.

The Behavioral Health Program is collaborating with the Nathan Kline Institute to study how gambling affects the Chinese community. The study, which started this fall and will run through 2010, is designed to identify instruments and explore the feasibility of identifying individuals in the Chinese community who could benefit from evidence-based interventions for gambling and co-occurring psychiatric conditions, such as mood, anxiety

and substance abuse disorders. For our participation, the House will be awarded \$50,000 at the conclusion of the study. House Staff are delivering an education program on gambling and mental health through workshops at senior centers, schools, and Chinese social clubs. Workshop attendees are asked to participate in a gambling and mental health survey. Individuals who indicate that another family member may have a gambling problem will take home an invitation for their family member to participate in the survey as well. Individuals identified as having a definite psychiatric or gambling disorder diagnosis will be given a referral for treatment at the House. 📄

Gala – continued from page 1

Executive Director Frank Modica presents Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development Dennis M. Wilcott with the 2009 Shirley Chisholm Award.



and Platinum Maintenance who were Platinum Sponsors. If you have any questions regarding the gala, please contact Illyse Kaplan at (212) 349-3724 x 313. 📄

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COMMUNITY NEWS WIRE

Halloween at the House

On Halloween eve, Two Bridges Tower Community Center hosted a party that was attended by 85 participants. On Halloween, over 100 children attended the community-wide party on Halloween afternoon in the gymnasium. Special thanks go to the 20 volunteers from Pace University who helped with the event.



The Child Care Program held a costume contest, which was won by Ms. Millicent's class as M&M's (pictured right) and Ms. Maria's class as ghosts.



Thanksgiving Celebrations

The Teen Girls Group held a bake sale to raise money so that they could attend the movies and enjoy a positive evening activity together. On 11/20, City Hall Senior Center held a turkey luncheon, which was attended by 380 seniors. The kitchen was



busy days in advance preparing enough turkey for over 600 seniors – for the luncheon and for the House's off-site senior programs.

UPCOMING

Holiday Volunteer Opportunities

The holiday season is a great time to give back to those less fortunate. We are currently seeking volunteers to be Santa and hand out gifts at parties or bring a team to volunteer and sponsor a program's Holiday Party. *If you or your*



company is interested in volunteering, please contact Tracy Garber @ 212.349.3724 x 316.



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To donate to the House
or for information
about Community News
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YOUR FALL 2009
ISSUE OF COMMUNITY NEWS IS HERE!

FUNDRAISING REPORT

Hamilton-Madison House receives financial support from government agencies, private foundations, corporations, and individuals, like you, to keep our vital programs operating and our community strong. After having 14 foundation and corporate supporters during the summer quarter, the fall quarter has slowed substantially. Grants were received from the Beautiful Foundation and Unilever United States Foundation.

Due to this slowing, the Annual Appeal will play an even greater importance this year. By now everyone should have received the letter. If you have not given to Hamilton-Madison House before, please considering making your first donation, and if you are a long-time supporter, please consider increasing your gift. The House needs your support now more than ever!

DONATE NOW

For more information about what we do, to make a tax-deductible gift, or to find out about estate planning, call (212) 349-3724, email illyse@hnhonline.org, or visit www.hnhonline.org.