

JURY POOL NEWS

A NEW YORK STATE UNIFIED COURT SYSTEM PUBLICATION HIGHLIGHTING THE LATEST COURT INITIATIVES AND RELATED NEWS

Jurors in the Limelight at Star-Studded Tribute

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It was a star-spangled affair at Manhattan Supreme Court last November as luminaries of both the entertainment and political arena saluted jurors statewide for their contributions to our democracy, also providing personal anecdotes about their recent jury service.

"Dare I say I actually look forward to it?" asked the elegant Sarah Jessica Parker of doing her civic duty. The actress "served" twice this past year, once at the Manhattan courthouse and in her role as Carrie Bradshaw on the popular HBO series "Sex and the City."

"I learned a lot about the justice system and met a wide variety of very interesting people," she said, referring to her real-life juror stint.

A rather energetic Conan O'Brien, of late-night TV fame, joked about how he tried to serve several times but was told he'd be a distraction "not because I'm a celebrity but because of my hair."

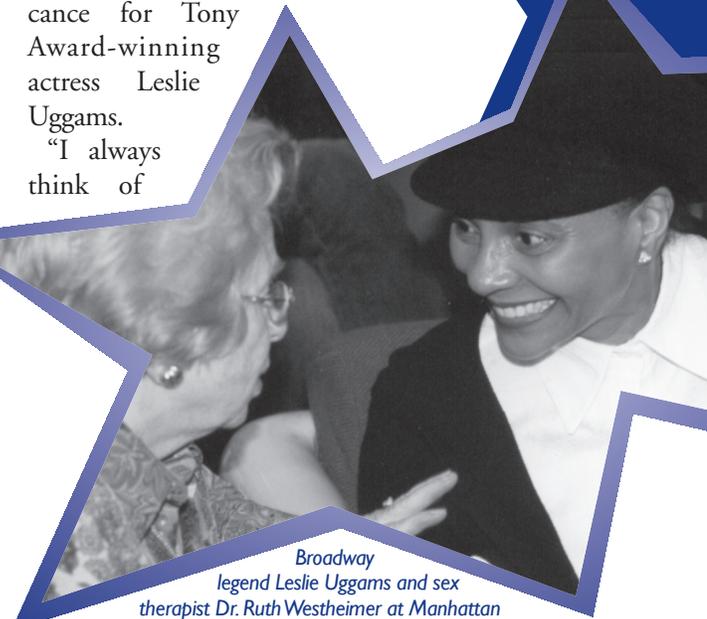
"All joking aside, it is an honor to be here. I believe in this system," added the comedian in a rare moment of sobriety.

Sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer quipped that jury duty "is a wonderful way to meet a partner." Then, turning serious, she told the packed jury assembly room, "It's very emotional to be here

because I come out of Nazi Germany . . . and for me to be in a country that has this system is very special."

Being at the courthouse to highlight the integral role jurors play in our system of justice also held particular significance for Tony Award-winning actress Leslie Uggams.

"I always think of



Broadway legend Leslie Uggams and sex therapist Dr. Ruth Westheimer at Manhattan Supreme Court, where last November they lauded jurors statewide for their contribution to our justice system.

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NY DISPLAYS ENLIGHTEN PUBLIC ON NEED FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES

THE APTLY NAMED "HEART GALLERY" TELLS THE STORY OF A GROUP OF CHILDREN awaiting adoption in Central New York in a series of compelling portraits that capture the spirit of these 49 youngsters with dreams of a family to call their own. From a graceful-looking girl holding a sunflower to a preteen boy with a sweet smile enhanced by dimples, these images are guaranteed to tug at the viewer's heartstrings.

Spearheaded by Syracuse photographer Gail Haile and modeled after a New Mexico exhibit, the moving display

debuted at a popular Syracuse art gallery early last November, kicking off National Adoption Awareness Month 2004, a nationwide campaign underscoring the plight of children in need of permanent homes and highlighting the joys of adoption. Ms. Haile collaborated with the New York State Office of Children and Family Services on this worthy endeavor, which features the work of 34 local shutterbugs who donated their time and talents to the project.

"It's so, so evident that these children want a family. They just want what every

other kid has, and sometimes they just don't understand why they can't have it," says Ms. Haile of the children featured in the display. "I'll be satisfied if even one child finds a family through our efforts, though I feel strongly that the exhibit will likely lead to multiple adoptions."

A Focus on the Plight of Older Children

"Heart galleries" have proven largely successful in New Mexico, Connecticut, Oklahoma and Florida, sparking some unexpected results, including several photographer and gallery coordinator

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NEED FOR ADOPTIVE FAMILIES- *continued from page 1*

adoptions, says New York State Office of Children and Family Services adoption training specialist Suzanne Colligan, who jumped at Ms. Haile's proposal to launch such a display in Central New York.

Getting off to a propitious start, the Syracuse exhibit generated quite a lot of buzz, including considerable press coverage. "I've gotten numerous calls from people who've told me that they'd been thinking about adoption for a while but didn't know where to start," reports Ms. Colligan, adding that many callers have expressed an interest in adopting older children, the focus of much of the exhibit.

Tom Chiodo, an adoptive parent from New York City, made the trek to the Syracuse exhibit's opening to promote the rewards of bringing an older child into one's life. "I feel so grateful for having met my son. These kids have been through more than most adults. Just think of the wisdom one can gain from a child as well as what you can give," says this single dad with a demanding career whose thirteen-year-old, a Central New York native once on the verge of being placed in a special-education class, is now an honor student.

NYC Initiative Attracts Diversity of Commuters

Just about the time Mr. Chiodo visited Central New York, adoption experts back in his home turf were getting the word out about the need for adoptive families for New York City foster children via an outreach booth set up by the New York City Administration for Children Services (ACS) in Manhattan's bustling Grand Central Station.

As the evening rush approached one Thursday, several individuals passing through Grand Central Terminal's Graybar Passage stopped at the ACS booth, taking a few minutes to view the posters of foster children on display, pick up informational literature and speak with the adoption professionals.

"It's been a very diverse group, a lot more single people than you'd expect," noted Vanessa Gamble, an ACS child welfare specialist supervisor who'd been volunteering at the booth several hours that day. Also working the booth this particular Thursday was Michele Reed Bowman, a New York City-based legal adoption specialist for the New York State Office of Children and Family Services. Lauding the Manhattan outreach initiative, Ms. Reed Bowman commented, "This is an excellent place to do something like this. The pictures really draw people in . . . I'm hoping a lot of children get adopted as a result." ■

STAR-STUDED- *continued from page 1*

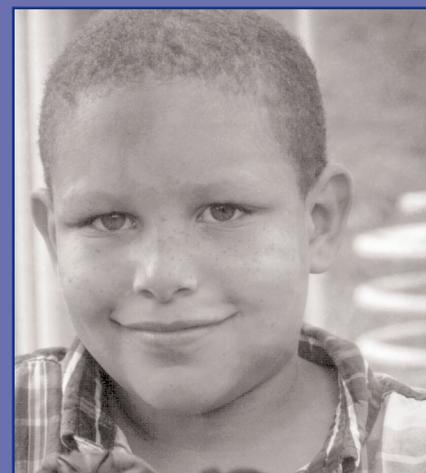
my mother and dad, the things they weren't able to do because they were African American . . . If you get the opportunity to serve, take that opportunity," she emphasized to a group of high school students in attendance.

"I, for one, have always believed that of the three branches of government the judiciary is the most important . . . it preserves our freedoms, balances rights and ensures the laws are enforced," said New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. "And the reason the system works is because of you," he added, addressing jurors in the audience.

Others joining the courthouse tribute's star-studded lineup included actor Matthew Broderick, newswoman Barbara Walters, country singer Roseanne Cash, actress-comedienne Anne Meara and New York City's former mayor, Rudolph Giuliani. The lively celebration was one of many events held statewide in late November honoring the 650,000 jurors who serve each year throughout New York's 62 counties. ■

INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT ADOPTION?

Call the New York State Office of Children and Family Services' adoption hotline at **1-800-345-5437** or visit the office online at **WWW.OCFS.STATE.NY.US**. For information on adopting a child living in foster care in New York City, call 311 or log on to **WWW.NYC.GOV/ADOPT**.



A PASSAGE TO INDIA FOR COURT VETERAN AND KIN

What court attorney Michele Kern-Rappy surrendered in material comforts on her recent sojourn to a remote village in northwestern India, she more than made up for in life-transforming experiences and friendships.

An expert on matrimonial law who conducts legal research and mediates disputes at Manhattan Supreme Court, Michele traded in her cozy suburban lifestyle in idyllic Katonah, New York, for nine days at a farming compound sans modern-day amenities, compliments of National Geographic Channel's "World's Apart" series.

Accompanying Michele on the nine-day journey were hubby Floyd, daughter Ariana and son Max. The Rappys were chosen from a large pool of applicants for the reality TV show, which transplants American families into remote cultures to give them a firsthand taste of everyday native life.

A Woman's Work is Never Done

Guests of the once-noble Rathores who today earn their living as farmers, Michele and her family shared in the day-to-day customs of village life in Rajliya, where stifling, desertlike temperatures and daily struggles are the norm.

In fact, conditions were so harsh the Rappys were at first ready to pack it in. However, a few days later Michele began finding her labor-intensive duties as "the queen of the household"—and camaraderie with the village women—life-affirming, and even six-year-old Max was adjusting to the family's new, albeit temporary, existence.

"I quickly began to enjoy myself. Each day was so intense, and there were no distractions like television to bring you out of the inner circle. We were all working together, each dependent on the other, which melted away the language and cultural barriers," recounts Michele, whose daily tasks as a villager included milking goats, gathering cow dung for use as cooking fuel and brewing 22 cups of

morning *chai*, the milky, spice-infused Indian tea that of late has become a beverage of choice for many New Yorkers.

Though Michele had to overcome her resentment over the villagers' sharply differentiated gender roles—with the women taking on the lion's share of the work and restricted from venturing outside the compound—once she worked through her anger the cooking tasks and resultant intimacy with the spirited village ladies brought this yoga enthusiast an inner peace she'd never before experienced. "Even with all their hardships, there were lots of smiles and laughter," marvels Michele.

By contrast, Floyd spent most days twiddling his thumbs, due both to his gender and special status as the personal guest of Mahendra Rathore, the village's former prince who lost most of his property when Indira Gandhi took power but remains revered by the villagers.

Ironically, Mr. Rappy would have been quite content trading places with his wife, who quickly points out that she and her husband typically divide the household chores back in New York, where he runs a graphic arts business and also devotes considerable time to the fine arts. An accomplished painter, Floyd delighted Mahendra during their final days together with a detailed portrait that captured both the ex-prince's elegance and humanity.

Cherished Memories

More than a year later, Michele and Floyd fondly recall Mahendra's deep compassion and humility, despite his privileged upbringing and the fact that the villagers still look to him as the final authority on just about everything. Michele also expresses great affection for Mahendra's wife, Prem, a feisty, warm woman with a deep curiosity about Michele's work as an attorney.

"I was quite upset to learn Prem couldn't



Michele Kern-Rappy and daughter Ariana don Indian garb for this photo with several of the village ladies Ms. Kern-Rappy befriended on her nine-day stay in northwestern India. Michele and her family were guests of Prem Rathore (standing behind Ariana) and Prem's husband, Mahendra, a former prince.

go beyond a certain grade," says Michele, explaining that the girls of the village were not encouraged to pursue higher studies. "I saw such tremendous potential in these women, who run every aspect of the home with the most minimal of materials. They're extremely resourceful, organized and hardworking."

The trip may have given Michele and her family a newfound appreciation for all the opportunities and conveniences of American life, yet their nine-day adventure—during which they witnessed a much-needed monsoon and Ariana discovered her gift for sewing and raising goats—left them aching to revisit this wondrous nation and their special friends in Rajliya.

"I fell in love with the energy of India, the cacophony of sounds from the rickshaws, vans, pedestrians and elephants as we traveled the city streets en route from the airport to the village, but what struck me most was the humanity of the people," says Michele, recollecting the poignant sight of a city man struggling in the heat on his bike, then stopping to offer a stranger a lift. "It was so heartening, in the midst of all this poverty and hardship."

As Floyd mused upon his return to New York: "Here we have a good life, all of our comforts and then we say, 'I feel a calling to bring spirituality into my life.' I came back with a sense that life is spirituality ... it's so much about being with others." ■

ATTORNEYS, OTHERS GET BASICS ON MEDIATION AT COURT FORUM

BE IT A LANDLORD-TENANT PROBLEM, FAMILY FEUD OR QUARREL with the dry cleaner who just ruined that favorite jacket, disputes can get very personal with many folks eager to have their day in court just to prove the other guy wrong. A natural reaction, perhaps, though not the course touted by a panel of judges and attorneys at Brooklyn Civil Court's recent "Talk Can Work" seminar, one of numerous events held statewide last October to educate attorneys and the general public about the benefits of mediation in appropriate cases.

Spurring Creative Solutions

"Mediation allows the parties to say things that they would otherwise not be able to," said panelist and Brooklyn Civil Court Judge Sarah Krauss, of this confidential process whereby a professionally trained, neutral party facilitates discussion between the opposing sides to aid them in working out a mutually beneficial agreement.

"People between themselves can come up with creative solutions that judges can't," Brooklyn Civil Court Judge Ellen Gesner, a former divorce mediator, told seminar

attendees, recollecting one Buddhist couple who sought her mediation services and reached an agreement that called for their lama's guidance on custody-related matters.

"In court the judge basically says, 'you're right, you're wrong, and here are the damages,' but in mediation the parties can give each other a second chance," pointed out panel member Michael Eisner, an attorney-mediator. "For example, rather than sever a business relationship the two sides may agree to go forward with the job at a lower price."

A Chance to Air One's Point of View

According to panelist Mary Jo Eyster, typically the toughest part of the mediation process is getting the parties to sit down and express their views.

"But once they buy into the idea they're in control, they can move on to a resolution," says this Brooklyn Law School professor and volunteer at the Brooklyn Civil Court's mediation program, part of a citywide civil court initiative offering free, on-site dispute resolution services to self-represented litigants on small claims, housing and other matters. The program is administered by Safe Horizons, a nonprofit organization with a model mediation training program.

Brooklyn Civil Court mediation program coordinator Norma McIntosh, who organized the "Talk Can Work" forum and spends much of her workday mediating small claims cases, provided a glimpse into this arena, relating, "Most people just want to be heard. I had one case involving five dollars where the defendant basically told the plaintiff, 'It's not about the money. What I need you to understand is why I won't pay you.'"

Mediation's Popularity on the Rise

Informing attendees that the use of mediation is on the rise at the Brooklyn courthouse, jurist and moderator Alice Fisher Rubin also said mediators are

becoming increasingly sophisticated in their ability to facilitate settlements, adding, "It's rare on any given day that our mediators don't resolve at least one or two cases."

Lawyer-mediator Daniel Weitz, who oversees a large network of dispute resolution programs for the New York State court system, says mediation is a popular choice for resolving conflicts, from commercial matters to divorce.



"Talk Can Work" panelist Mary Jo Eyster responds to a question posed by moderator Judge Alice Fisher Rubin (right) as civil court attorney Lisa Ottley looks on. The Brooklyn Civil Court forum explored the benefits of mediation in appropriate cases.

Citing an average settlement rate of 80 percent for cases mediated via these court-affiliated programs, Mr. Weitz muses, "Conflict is an inevitable part of life, with people frequently getting locked into a win-lose or lose-lose mindset even though there's much more to be gained through collaboration and negotiation."

It's a philosophy that more and more people, like attorney Robin Garfinkel, appear to be subscribing to these days. "It sounds like mediation can work wonders in housing matters," concluded Ms. Garfinkel after attending the Brooklyn Civil Court's mediation forum this past fall. "I'm ready to sign up for training." ■

MEDIATION: THE ADVANTAGES

- In mediation, each party has control over the outcome
- Mediation gives each side the opportunity to be heard and examine any underlying issues that may be adding fuel to the dispute
- The process has proven effective in reducing hostility between the parties
- Mediation is less time-consuming and costly than litigation
- Everything said at the mediation is strictly confidential
- If the parties can't work out a settlement, they still have the option of taking the case to court

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COURT-AFFILIATED MEDIATION PROGRAMS, VISIT WWW.NYCOURTS.GOV/IP/ADR OR CALL THE NEW YORK STATE COURT SYSTEM'S OFFICE OF ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION AT (212) 428-2892 OR (518) 238-2888.

Majestic 9-11 Memorial Finds Second Home at Nassau Courthouse

At over 16 feet high by 17 feet wide, the Barnum Woods Elementary School's "Quilt of Angels" that in recent years has intermittently adorned the lobby of the Nassau County Supreme Courthouse is an awesome sight to behold. Conceived by third-grade teacher Susan Pepper and school parent Susan Lombardi as a vehicle of expression for the students following the 9-11 tragedy, this heartfelt display comprises 175 creative works honoring the fallen heroes—including three New York state court officers—and victims.

"The children had a lot of questions about the tragic events. Many of our parents worked at the World Trade Center," says Ms. Pepper, explaining the stimulus for the project. Ms. Pepper, along with a committee of teachers and school administrators, kicked off the initiative by giving each student a piece of five-by-seven paper and a March 1st deadline for submitting a picture, poem or other written work reflecting the youngster's thoughts on the disaster.

Upon selecting the 175 visual and written creations to be scanned and transferred onto fabric, the committee members, in conjunction with some 200 students and other volunteers, spent countless hours hand-stitching the quilt's patchwork components.

Among the quilt's embellishments are 440 stars embroidered with the names of those police officers, firefighters and other emergency workers who perished at Ground Zero, clouds symbolizing each of the airline flights

that went down in the disaster and a border listing the names of all the attack's civilian victims.

An Inspiration to Many

Ready for its public unveiling at the school gymnasium on May 1, 2002, the quilt evoked a teary reaction from Nassau County Supreme Court Judge Joseph Covello, whose wife teaches at the Long Island school.

"This is an unbelievable tribute and particularly inspirational when you stop to think it's the creation of elementary schoolchildren," says the jurist.

Since its unveiling the quilt has been exhibited at the Nassau County Supreme Courthouse on numerous occasions, in between stints at the Jacob Javits Convention Center, Madison Square Garden, Manhattan Criminal Court and other venues.

"The quilt will always have a home at the Nassau County Supreme Courthouse," says the county's administrative judge, Anthony Marano, who's been working with the school to make this mammoth fabric memorial available to a broad array of communities. "We hope to continue to display it at the courthouse annually but would also like to see others gain the benefit of this extraordinary experience."

Jurors Pause to Admire Youngsters' Efforts

On a balmy October afternoon, a couple of weeks shy of the quilt's journey from the Long Island courthouse to Albany's Court of Appeals, several jurors stopped at the magnificent

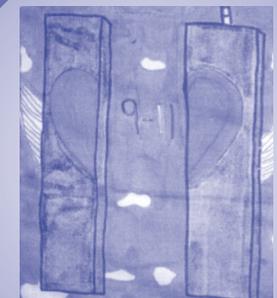
display, craning their necks to take it all in, from the youngsters' written tributes to world harmony sweetly depicted as a globe encircled by hand-holding children of all colors and creeds.

"What detail," marveled first-time juror Barbara Kelly, admiring the children's handiwork. Another juror, who'd been part of the World Trade Center rescue efforts, was visibly moved by the youngsters' efforts. "These students did an outstanding job . . . They haven't forgotten all the rescuers," he said, his voice on the verge of cracking.

As for the youngsters, their work on the quilt truly was a labor of love.

"I just felt so honored that I was a part of making something that's a piece of art," reminisced one student who learned to sew while pitching in on the project with her mom, grandmother and sister. Another youngster added these sentiments regarding her contribution to the patchwork design: "Seeing the quilt travel to different places makes me feel both happy and proud. At the time we were making it, we didn't know how important the quilt would be to the families of 9-11."

In addition to providing solace to some of these family members, the quilt spawned a nonprofit organization that raises funds for the purchase of safety equipment for New York City firefighters, police officers and other first responders. Visit www.quiltofangels.us to learn more about these efforts or to obtain further details on the making of this impressive tribute. ■



Plattsburgh Jurist Explores Region's Past



Plattsburgh City Court Judge Penelope Clute

The late Harry S. Truman once said that “there is nothing new in the world except the history you do not know.” Perhaps it's this quest for novelty that fuels Plattsburgh City Court Judge Penelope Clute's passion for local history. Whatever her inspiration, Judge Clute has spent hundreds of hours poring over old court records, news clippings and other documents in researching past crimes and other notable events in the Plattsburgh, New York, area.

The judge's first stint as local crime historian was initiated several years ago with a request from an area museum for then District Attorney Clute to lead a discussion on nineteenth-century murders in the Plattsburgh region. That's how the jurist first got acquainted with an 1825 murder case that continues to fascinate her.

Defendant Peggy Facto, a married woman of modest means, was convicted and ultimately hanged for the alleged murder of her illegitimate baby while Francis Labare, also charged with the infant's death and tried separately on the same day as Mrs. Facto, was acquitted of the crime.

Unsolved Mysteries

For Judge Clute, the pivotal question remains: Peggy Facto, murderess or victim of the time's societal prejudices? The judge has yet to come up with a definitive answer, even after uncovering several interesting twists and turns in the case over the course of her exhaustive, and often challenging, investigation.

Among Judge Clute's more intriguing findings were the discovery of both a gruesome indictment that makes it appear as if Mrs. Facto had killed the baby several times over and a fire-and-brimstone sentencing of Peggy by Judge Reuben Walworth of Saratoga Springs, who several weeks later joined the community in seeking clemency for the alleged murderess. Then Governor DeWitt Clinton denied Judge Walworth's plea, with Peggy Facto's death sentence carried out on March 18th.

Citizens Celebrate New Status at Poughkeepsie Courthouse

EMOTIONS RAN HIGH AT THE DUTCHESS COUNTY COURTHOUSE in Poughkeepsie as 17 individuals, their family members and friends looking on, were sworn in as new citizens on a blustery Friday in early December.

“This is probably the most important responsibility I have as county clerk,” said Dutchess County Clerk Colette Lafuente, before leading the new Americans in reciting their vows of citizenship. Dutchess County Family Court Judge Damian Amodeo presided over the joyous proceedings, with representatives from every branch of county government at the courthouse that day to cheer on the newly inaugurated Americans.

Recounting his own family's journey from Europe to America two generations ago to escape persecution and otherwise make better lives, Judge Amodeo informed the new Americans, “Each of you came into this courtroom today as residents of the United States. Each of you will walk out today with all the rights and responsibilities of citizens.”

Urging the new citizens—who hail from 14 countries spanning the globe—to “exercise your rights as Americans,” the judge implored, “Please be generous in sharing all the good you may have learned from your experience in your former land.”

Marty Rutberg, head of the Dutchess County Bar Association and a second-generation American of Eastern European descent, was on

hand to welcome the county's newest citizens. “Yesterday we were from many different countries. Today we are one,” he said, addressing the group.

Alerting them to the obstacles historically faced by newcomers to this country, Mr. Rutberg offered these words of encouragement: “You will meet those challenges as millions before you. You will be good for America, and America will be good for you.”

“May all of your dreams be fulfilled, and all of your hopes and expectations be realized,” a visibly moved Judge Amodeo told the new citizens in closing, as many of their loved ones rushed to their side, showering them with hugs and kisses.

Asked how she was feeling after the ceremony, just-inducted U.S. citizen and Jamaica native Patricia Richards Deon, holding back tears, replied, “I'm out of words.”

“This is very emotional for me . . . This country gave me freedom, gave me a job,” added Tigran Chatrchyan, originally from Armenia, as his toddler daughter beamed at her now-American dad. ■



Dutchess County Family Court Judge Damian Amodeo and Dutchess County Clerk Carol Lafuente congratulate a new citizen following last December's naturalization ceremony at the county courthouse in Poughkeepsie.

“With several issues of the Plattsburgh and Malone newspapers that had reported on the case missing from the microfilm, I was never able to find any articles that could give me a sense of the public reaction to her conviction,” laments the jurist, who penned a piece on the trial and its aftermath for a recent edition of a newsletter published by the New York state courts' historical society.

Court's Move Sparks Another Research Project

Currently, the Michigan native is working on a magazine article for the New York State Archives about the Plattsburgh barracks, where young civilians underwent “military preparedness training” between 1916 and 1917.

“Thousands of lawyers and businessmen, some quite wealthy, were trained here,” notes the judge, whose interest in this segment of Plattsburgh history was spurred by the city court's recent move to renovated quarters in one of the former barracks, erected in 1896. “I was curious as to what this building had been through, and one thing led to another,” she explains of the evolution of this latest historical project.

The judge has already culled a good deal of information about life at the civilian training camps from newspaper stories—*The New York Times* ran daily articles on the Plattsburgh barracks for three consecutive months—and other documents, including an original 1917 camp yearbook that she somehow managed to locate.

“The yearbook has some of the first aerial photographs ever taken,” reports the jurist, who along with her gift as history detective also happens to know her way around the darkroom. In fact, several enlarged prints of the former prosecutor's photographs bedeck the Plattsburgh City Court lobby and a couple of snapshots she took in 1968 appear in a publication for young adults on human rights that hit the bookstores nearly two years ago.

“Capturing that moment in time that may not have been significant then” is the bonus of picture-taking for this jurist of many talents, including a knack for juggling a diverse array of duties and hobbies. ■

INTERESTED IN SHARING YOUR JURY EXPERIENCE WITH OUR READERS?

We'd like to hear from you. We also welcome any comments about the newsletter as well as story ideas for future issues. Please send juror anecdotes, newsletter suggestions and story ideas to:

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QUERY TO JURY COMMISSIONER TURNS UP HISTORIC TIDBITS



Erie County Commissioner
of Jurors Mehrl King

ERIE COUNTY COMMISSIONER OF JURORS

MEHRL KING got a dose of local jury history—complete with a few ironic twists—upon pursuing a woman's request regarding her grandmother's status as one of the county's first female jurors. With only a partial clipping from a vintage edition of *The Buffalo News* to document her ancestral link to this noteworthy moment in Erie County jury history, Mary Hibbard Stack sought the commissioner's help in obtaining further

details pertaining to her grandmother's groundbreaking service.

After delving into the jury office archives and coming up dry, Commissioner King contacted *The Buffalo News* to track the 1937 article, also looking to Appellate Division court attorney Patrick McDonnell to learn more about state legislation relating to women jurors.

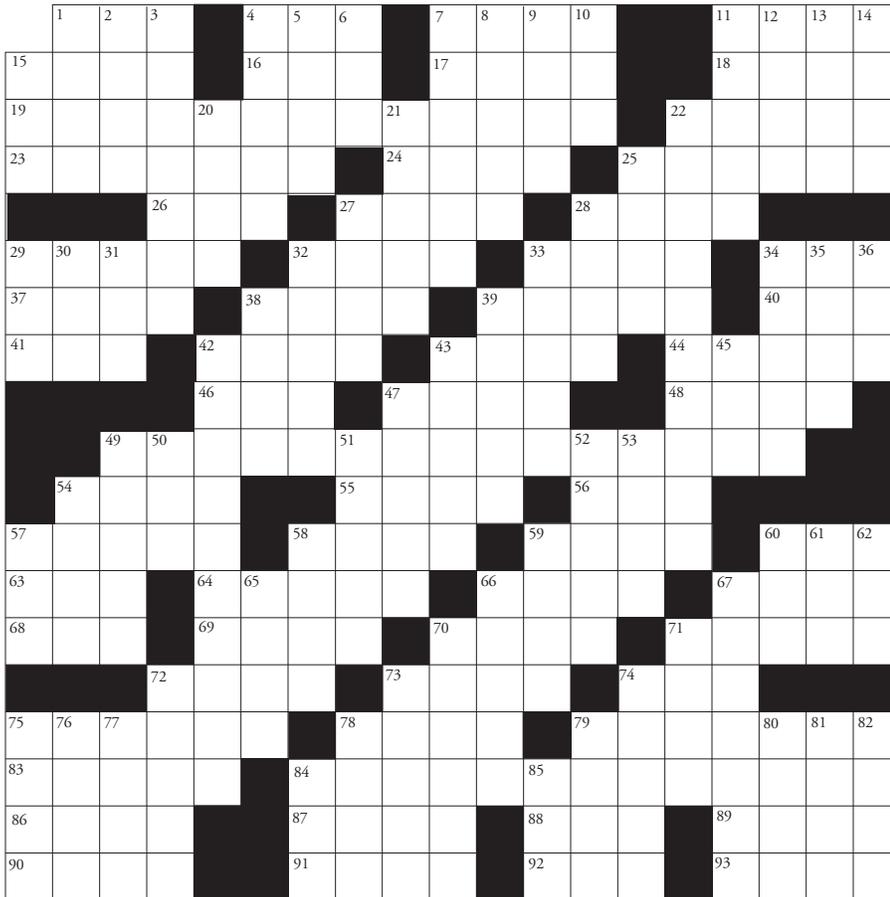
“Our research found that while Wyoming had female jurors as early as 1870, the New York legislature was persistently killing bills permitting women to serve on juries, up until 1927. According to the records, New York lawmakers believed that the state was not ready for such 'experimental legislation,’” reports an incredulous Mr. King, adding that it would take legislators another decade before passing a bill granting female New Yorkers the right to participate on juries.

The commissioner made yet another embarrassing discovery in the course of this research. On September 1, 1937, the very day the New York law went into effect, two lawyers for then Erie County Commissioner of Jurors Otto Volger—who had refused to honor the new law and was subsequently challenged by Erie County resident and Republican County Committee vice chair Louise Gerry—were arguing against its validity before the Appellate Division of State Supreme Court in Rochester.

Paul Batt, who it turns out is Patrick McDonnell's grandfather and would later become a Supreme Court justice, and Jacob Tick, another future jurist whose wife would go down in history as the county's first woman juror to be sworn in, comprised the commissioner's legal team. The duo contended that under a state law amended in 1911 counties such as Erie, with populations over 300,000 and jury commission offices, could continue to ban women from juries.

Fortunately, Louise Gerry prevailed, with the five-judge tribunal ruling to uphold the right of eligible Erie County females to perform their civic duty. Consequently, two days later, on the morning of September 3, 1937, Jacob Tick's wife, Kate, and Ms. Stack's grandmother, Mary Hibbard, were deemed qualified for jury service in Erie County, a fact revealed to Mr. King exactly 67 years to the date the two women took their oath as jurors. “It's strange, but true,” chuckles the county's present-day jury commissioner of this rather eerie coincidence. ■

COURTSIDE CROSWORD



ACROSS

- 1. Take legal proceedings in court
- 4. School group: abbreviation
- 7. Bangkok native's mother tongue
- 11. The late Ms. Garland
- 15. Nickname for Hemingway
- 16. Rabbi
- 17. Cause pain
- 18. Piece for a diva
- 19. Does a trial lawyer's work: 2 words
- 22. Billy Joel's instrument
- 23. Smallest
- 24. Killer whale
- 25. Certain greetings
- 26. Commissioned officer: abbreviation
- 27. Elegant
- 28. Green-colored legumes
- 29. Premier

- 32. Market
- 33. A Baldwin
- 34. Year, in Madrid
- 37. Move like some racehorses
- 38. His and ___
- 39. Swap
- 40. Take part in a race
- 41. Feline
- 42. Head, to Pierre
- 43. Prefix with "unsaturated"
- 44. One's strong point
- 46. Spanish cheer
- 47. Obsolete form of address for a king
- 48. Ones, in Toledo
- 49. It includes the right to a fair and speedy trial: 4 words
- 54. Floating device
- 55. Canine co-star of 11-Across
- 56. Chum

- 57. "House of ___" Edith Wharton novel
- 58. Bok ___
- 59. Refuse to grant, as a request
- 60. Viper
- 63. Tavern order
- 64. Heron
- 66. Hunger pain
- 67. Poker stake
- 68. Actor Danson
- 69. Lion's den
- 70. No ifs, ands or ___
- 71. Boredom
- 72. Tree branch
- 73. Wan
- 74. Boy
- 75. Dahl or Francis
- 78. Men's planet, according to best-selling author John Gray
- 79. Casablanca's country
- 83. A primary color, in Paris
- 84. In civil cases, the plaintiff must establish this: 3 words

- 86. This, in San Juan
- 87. Member of the choir
- 88. Industrious insect
- 89. Lease
- 90. The late poet, Mr. Silverstein
- 91. Let the defense ___
- 92. Inlet
- 93. Suffix with "lemon"

DOWN

- 1. Indian garment
- 2. "Once ___ a time ..."
- 3. Least difficult
- 4. Squeeze
- 5. Printed work
- 6. Lawyer's organization: abbreviation
- 7. Ardent desire
- 8. Intuitive feeling
- 9. Region
- 10. "___ a girl!"
- 11. Puts behind bars
- 12. Russian mountain range
- 13. The Flintstones' loyal pet
- 14. NBA's Ming and namesakes
- 15. Proportion: abbreviation
- 20. Mailed
- 21. They conquered Spain
- 22. In a nonviolent manner
- 25. Pay attention to
- 27. Peel
- 28. Enjoy a game
- 29. Consumer protection agency: abbreviation
- 30. One of the Gershwins
- 31. Decay
- 32. Metrical unit
- 33. Geographical setting for many a van Gogh painting
- 34. Archer's need
- 35. Crazy
- 36. Half a pair
- 38. Aid
- 39. Sculptor's work
- 42. Follow orders: 3 words
- 43. Devoutness
- 45. "___ Clear Day, You Can See Forever;" Streisand hit
- 47. Shoo!
- 49. Defied
- 50. Educators' union: abbreviation
- 51. Additional one
- 52. Unlocks
- 53. Sharp tooth
- 54. Agitate
- 57. Gymnast's item
- 58. Bed for Baby
- 59. Social engagement for two
- 60. The controversial Ms. Coulter
- 61. One of the Littles, for short
- 62. Big name in the architectural world
- 65. Chess or checkers
- 66. One of the vital signs
- 67. Country bordered by Spain and France
- 70. Brigitte, of filmdom
- 71. One of Doc Holliday's cronies
- 72. Lawful
- 73. Separates from
- 74. Noble
- 75. Greek god of war
- 76. ___ Hashanah, holiday for 16-Across
- 77. Stringed instrument
- 78. Stubborn sort
- 79. ___ Lisa, Da Vinci work
- 80. Like most colleges today.
- 81. Ice-cream shop order, maybe
- 82. Frequently, in feudal days
- 84. Legal profession
- 85. Apprehend, as a felon