



# COMMUNITY NEWS

from Assemblyman

## Steven CYMBROWITZ

SPRING 2010

Dear Neighbor,

As we approach the summer months, I want to update you on what's happening in our community. Much of the Assembly's time since February has been dedicated to working on a State budget. Given our nation's economic downturn, the budget process has been more complicated and prolonged than usual. My primary concern during the process has been to minimize the impact that any cuts would have on the people who live in my district. While we have to reduce state spending, we must be sure that it's done in a sensible manner.

Despite my schedule in Albany, I was back in Brooklyn several days each week to work and attend community events. Some of the things that I have done in our community are detailed in this newsletter. I invite you to read through it.

Communicating with you is very important to me. I value your opinions, thoughts and comments, so please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Addresses Summer Blood Shortage



Blood supplies become dangerously low every summer, yet every two seconds someone in the United States needs blood, even in July and August. That's why Assemblyman Cymbrowitz is conducting his annual blood drive **Thursday, July 8th.**

Your donation can save as many as five lives and it takes less than an hour. Most people between the ages of 17 and 70, in good health, may donate. To make the process more convenient, the New York Blood Center van will be parked outside of Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office on July 8th, from 12 Noon to 6:00 p.m. Please call or e-mail to make an appointment, however, walk-ins are accepted. A photo ID is required.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Continues to Encourage Young People to Read



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz is reading to the children at the Midwood Public Library. After reading *If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* and *If You Give a Moose a Pancake*, the Assemblyman told his young audience that he was there to highlight the importance of reading for both pleasure and learning. Each summer, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz sponsors a Summer Reading Challenge that encourages students to read 15 minutes on at least 40 days over their vacations. Students who participate receive personal congratulations from the Assemblyman and a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz also provides funding for the libraries of schools in his district.





## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Helps Constituent with Mobility & Reading

Adam N., who has cerebral palsy, desperately needed a replacement electric wheelchair to enable him to get around. The donated chair he was using was not a good fit and had become dangerous and unreliable. The government bureaucracy, however, refused to replace it. When Assemblyman Cymbrowitz learned of Adam's situation, he got involved and intervened with the NYS Department of Health, explaining Adam's unique circumstances. The bureaucrats agreed and Adam got a new chair. Adam also mentioned to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz that he wanted to strengthen his reading skills. With the assistance of Dr. Billy Katz, the Assemblyman arranged for Adam to attend a literacy program at Kingsborough Community College that will also afford him socialization opportunities.

*You can tell from his smile that Adam N. is happy to show off his new electric wheelchair as his sister Susan N. and Assemblyman Cymbrowitz look on.*

*Assemblyman Cymbrowitz prides himself on his office's record of helping constituents. Check out a sampling of some of the other cases that Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has solved over the last few months on page 4.*

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Meets With Students

Whether they come to him or he goes to them, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz believes that talking with and listening to his young student constituents is very important. "I want the young people in this district to truly understand what government is all about and not just from textbooks and teachers' lessons. That's why I make it my business to visit classes throughout the year and also invite students to my offices in Albany and Sheepshead Bay. I hope that actually showing them government in action will motivate them to be more involved as they mature into adulthood," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz explained.



*Students from Coney Island Avenue's Brooklyn Amity School displaying the certificates they received while visiting the State Legislature and Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Albany office during Turkish Cultural Day festivities in the Capitol.*



*Class from PS 195 visiting Assemblyman Cymbrowitz on the way into his community office. The Assemblyman explained to the students what he does and then answered questions from the inquisitive fourth graders.*

*Assemblyman Cymbrowitz got to see the results of what happens when students put their minds and talents together during his visit to St. Edmund Elementary School. The students proudly displayed their robotic entry, The Yellow Submarine, and awards they received from The First Lego League New York City Championship Tournament.*





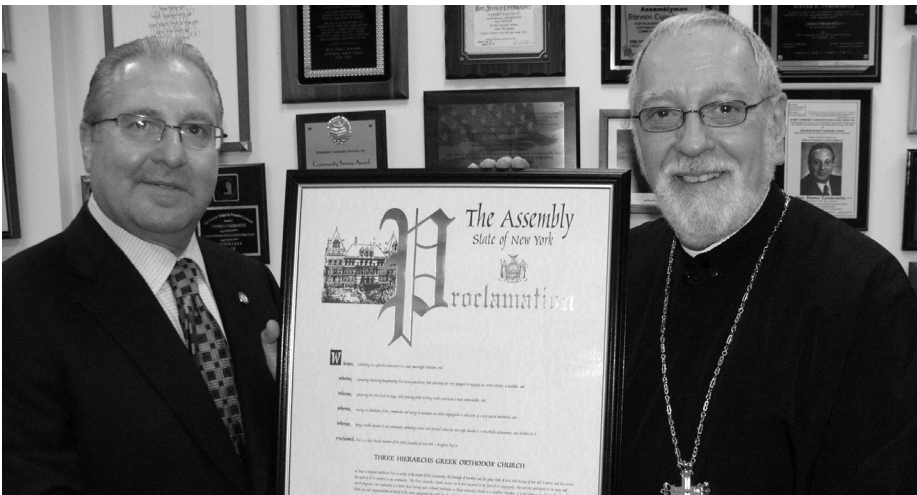
# Hundreds Memorialize Holocaust at Holocaust Remembrance Day Ceremony

Over 350 students, their family members, teachers, and principals participated in Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Holocaust Poetry, Essay, Performance, and Art Contest Awards Ceremony on Holocaust Remembrance Day. The morning's program was designed to provide contest winners with greater insight into the Holocaust. The audience was diverse, representing many nationalities, religions, and cultures. In addition to student performances, Holocaust survivors Ruth and Jack Gruener shared their personal experiences. The keynote speaker was New York State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli, who pointed out that we can never let our guard down because hatred continues to be a part of the makeup of the world. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Holocaust Contest asks students to study this horrific era, think about it, and then express their feelings using their creative talents. It has attracted thousands of entries from public and parochial schools, as well as yeshivas, over the past ten years.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz congratulating first place winners from PS 206. Their entry was a large patchwork quilt embroidered with Holocaust icons explained in an accompanying journal.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Helps Mark Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church Milestone



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented the Very Reverend Eugene Papas, pastor of Three Hierarchs Greek Orthodox Church, with an Assembly Proclamation honoring the church as it celebrated its 80th Anniversary. "It is important that we acknowledge all that this institution has done and continues to do for the residents of this community. Its programs span the generations, from educating our youngest to engaging our senior citizens," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz stated.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Reaches Out to Seniors



Whether it is Thanksgiving when he sponsors his turkey gift card raffles, a monthly birthday party, or just a regular meeting, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz enjoys visiting with the members of the senior centers in his District. He sees firsthand the value of these centers. This is why he continues to fight hard in Albany to make sure that all of our centers receive as much funding as is fiscally possible.

## HAVING TROUBLE PAYING YOUR MORTGAGE?

**There is Help:**

**The Greater Sheepshead Bay Development Corp.**  
718-332-0582  
gsbdcorp@aol.com

**Midwood Development Corporation**  
718-376-0999, ext. 103  
bnoble@middev.org

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wants you to know that two local organizations are offering assistance if you are either concerned about your ability to make your mortgage payments, or if you are actually having difficulties making those payments. We are in the midst of a serious economic downturn which is affecting just about everyone in one way or another. That's why The Greater Sheepshead Bay Development Corporation and the Midwood Development Corporation both offer free homeowner mortgage assistance programs. They may be able to prevent further aggravation and even help save your home.

# Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office Continues to GET RESULTS

Sometimes, it's a minor problem or just a question. It could involve personal matters or a community concern. Whatever the issue, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and his staff can usually help. Here is a sampling of some of the cases that Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has solved over the last few months:

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office is Here to Help:

### CALL:

718-743-4078

### COME IN:

Monday to Thursday:  
9:30 a.m.–5:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

### WRITE:

1800 Sheepshead Bay Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11235

### E-MAIL:

cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us

- **When National Grid upgraded the gas service on East 11th Street, it left a large, temporarily filled-in construction hole in front of homeowner Gean K.'s driveway and broken concrete next to his house.**

Not only was it difficult to get into his driveway and dangerous to walk on his side path, but water and litter were accumulating in the holes. Frustrated at getting no results after numerous calls to National Grid over a three month period, Gean K. contacted Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office and the driveway and concrete problems were quickly corrected.

- **While disputing a Health Department violation that Ms. B. believed she didn't deserve, she was assessed with a late charge.**

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz believed that it was unfair and after discussing this with the Health Department, Ms. B. received a refund for the late payment fee.

- **17-year-old Esther M. was seriously injured after being hit by a car.**

The doctors told her family that the Rusk Institute would give her the best opportunity for recovery. Her insurance company wanted her transferred to a rehabilitation facility that did not have a good reputation for the type of therapy she needed. While her No Fault insurance coverage was acceptable to Rusk, they required secondary coverage. That coverage was Medicaid, which balked at paying for Rusk. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz contacted Medicaid, pointing out Rusk's track record for treating young patients with Esther's injuries. They agreed to pay for her rehabilitation at the Rusk Institute and she is on her way to recovery.

- **Joseph C. lives across the street from a medical building that kept the bright lights of its sign on all night interfering with his sleep.**

After Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office made the building's management aware of the problem they agreed to turn the lights off overnight.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Greets Lubavitch Youth Director in Albany



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz giving tzedakah (charity) after he and his Assembly colleagues heard a prayer from Rabbi Shmuel Butman, Director of the Lubavitch Youth Organization (pictured), at the opening of an Assembly session.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Mobile Office Continues to be Out in Our Community



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz with Father Joseph R. Grimaldi at St. Mark Church's Family Day. The Assemblyman's mobile district office was set up at the event, which was attended by hundreds of parents and children, to help with problems, answer questions and provide information. The mobile office regularly visits two Public Libraries: The Midwood Branch (975 East 16th Street) and the Kings Highway Branch (2115 Ocean Avenue), as well as the Sephardic Community Center (Ocean Parkway and Avenue S). Please call Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office for the dates and times at each location.

## Be "E-Formed"

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has started an e-mail mailing list as an additional and more immediate way to communicate with his constituents. He'd like to add your e-mail address. If you would like to join (*your e-mail address will not be given to anyone else*) just e-mail him at [cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us) or call his office. Please be sure to include your name as well as your e-mail address. Also, if there are particular topics (*senior programs, healthcare, housing, education, conservation, etc.*) that you are especially interested in, let him know.