



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I was saddened to hear of Dr. Hazel N. Dukes' passing. As President of The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Dr. Dukes spent nearly fifty years leading the most crucial policy and justice efforts of our time. We have lost a civil rights stalwart and an iconic New Yorker. Her powerful legacy will live on.

This week in Albany we voted on the election of new members to the Board of Regents. I am proud of my constituent Brian Krist who has been elected a Regent presiding over The University of the State of New York (USNY) and the New York State Education Department.

On higher education advocacy day, I met with Hunter College President Nancy Cantor and Queens College President Frank H. Wu to discuss CUNY's budget priorities.

Please consider nominating a woman of distinction in our community to be honored at an awards ceremony. You can use the nomination form [here](#) or contact our office for a paper form.

In this special report you will find updates of our work in Albany, helpful resources, and upcoming events. Join us for an upcoming event we are sponsoring:

Monday through Friday from 10am-12pm- **No-Cost Notary Public Service at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets).**

Tuesday, March 18 at 3:30pm- **No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic** at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). To make a reservation please call 212-288-4607.

Wednesday, March 19 from 10:00am-12:00pm- **MetroCard Sales/OMNY Bus-** Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). Refill your MetroCard/OMNY card or apply for a reduced fare card.

Thursday, April 10 from 9:00am-4:30 pm- **No-Cost Screening Mammograms-** The Mammogram Bus will be at the Community Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets). For an appointment, please call 212-288-4607.

Wednesday, April 16- **Save the Date! The "Big Shred NY!"** no-cost community paper shredding with AARP at Lenox Hill Neighborhood House, 331 East 70 Street. Time and more details to be announced!

As always, please consider our office your resource.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: [SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov](mailto:SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov)

Sincerely,

*Rebecca A. Seawright*

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

**Legislature Elects New Member Brian Krist to Board of Regents**



Regent Brian Krist and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright after the vote by the full Assembly on the newly elected members of the Board of Regents in the Assembly Chamber. Krist is a constituent from Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's 76th District. He has served as a public member of the New York State Education Department since 2016, including in his current role as chair of the New York State Board for Certified Shorthand Reporting. Krist is an associate court attorney in the Chambers of the Honorable Jeffrey S. Zellan in the New York State Unified Court System.

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**Seawright Meets with Leaders from CUNY to Discuss Budget Priorities Including Wage Increases for Members of Faculty Union and MetroCards for Students**



Queens College President Frank H. Wu and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, member of the Higher Education Committee discuss funding for the Asian American / Asian Research Institute (AAARI) at CUNY and other state budget priorities.



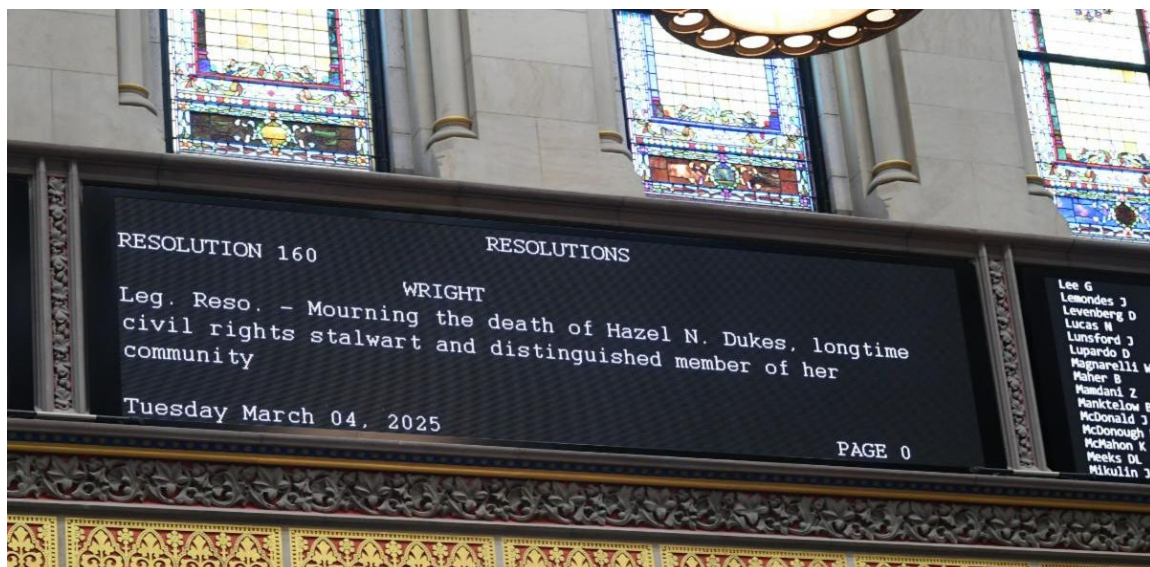
Hunter College President Nancy Cantor, Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright and New York State Regent Brian Krist in the Assembly Chamber on Higher Education Advocacy Day.

## Seawright met with The Collective: A Coalition of Culturally Specific Gender-based Violence NYC Service Providers



The Collective met with the Office of Assembly Member Seawright to discuss the allocation of \$23 million in new funding to support culturally specific gender-based violence service providers across the state. The coalition's members primarily serve communities of color and immigrant communities, which report domestic violence at lower rates due to hesitancy to engage with law enforcement, and other language or community barriers that they face.

## The New York State Assembly Honors the Life of Civil Rights Leader Hazel Dukes







Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, president of the New York State National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) dedicated her life to working on the frontlines of the fight for equality, bringing a seat to the table when none was in sight.

Dukes was born in Montgomery, Alabama, on March 17, 1932. She was the only child of Alice and Edward Dukes. Her father was a Pullman porter. She enrolled at Alabama State Teachers College in 1949 hoping to become a teacher. However, after moving to New York City with her parents in 1955, she started school at Nassau Community College majoring in business

administration.

In 1978, Dukes received a bachelor's degree in business administration from Adelphi University. She also completed post-graduate work at Queens College. She held three honorary doctorate degrees from the City University of New York Law School at Queens College, City University of New York's Medgar Evers College, and Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine.

While living in Roslyn, on Long Island, she worked to combat discrimination in housing. She worked for President Lyndon B. Johnson's "Head Start" program in the 1960s. In 1966, she took a position at the Nassau County Attorney's Office, becoming the first black American to do so. She eventually worked as a community organizer for the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County and taught children who were living in poverty. She remained consistently outspoken throughout the Reagan and Bush presidencies during the 1980s and into the 1990s. Dukes was an advocate for education reform and the advancement of civil rights.

## Thank you to Neighbors for a Successful Project Cicero Book Drive



Webster Library Book Cellar volunteers donated books to Seawright's book drive. District Office Liaison Harley and Intern Michelle helped to organize the book drive for under-resourced NYC Schools.

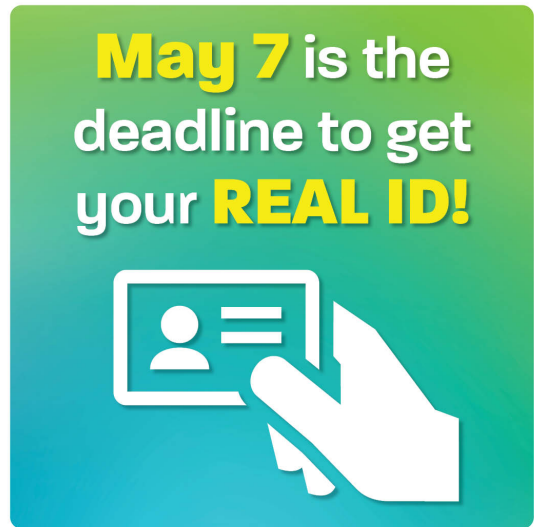
## Consider Our Office Your Resource!

### Office of Unclaimed Funds:

The New York State Comptroller's Office has over \$19 billion in lost money waiting to be claimed by New York State residents.

Some of this money could be yours!

To find out, or submit a claim, visit: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaiame>



**The deadline to get your REAL ID is rapidly approaching!**

Starting May 7, 2025, all residents will be required to have a REAL ID to board domestic flights or enter certain federal buildings, unless you have a valid passport.

For more information and a list of necessary documents, visit <https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/enhanced-or-real-id>.

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER  
REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**  
is seeking nominations for the

**2025  
WOMEN OF  
DISTINCTION  
AWARDS**



***TOGETHER, LET'S RECOGNIZE THE  
EXTRAORDINARY WOMEN WHO ARE  
MAKING OUR COMMUNITIES STRONGER.***

For a nomination form or more information about this or any community issue,  
contact Assembly Member Seawright at [seawright@nyassembly.gov](mailto:seawright@nyassembly.gov)

**NOMINATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY:**

**3/31/25**

via email to [seawright@nyassembly.gov](mailto:seawright@nyassembly.gov).

Keep an eye on my website for details about the  
2025 Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony.



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**

1485 York Avenue, New York, NY 10075  
212-288-4607 • [seawright@nyassembly.gov](mailto:seawright@nyassembly.gov)

Nominate a Woman of Distinction



**Rebecca**  
**Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

# NO-COST NOTARY

Monday - Friday

10am-12pm

1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)



**ASSEMBLY MEMBER**

**REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT**



# HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY**

**EVERY OTHER TUESDAY  
AT 3:30 PM ATTORNEYS FROM  
THE LAW OFFICES OF GRIMBLE  
& LOGUIDICE, LLC WILL  
PROVIDE ADVICE ON HOUSING-  
RELATED MATTERS AT NO-  
COST FOR CONSTITUENTS OF  
THE 76TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT**

Get help navigating the housing court process, responding to notices, dealing with threat of eviction, getting repairs from negligent landlords, and advocating for your rights as a tenant in New York City!



**SCAN ME TO  
RSVP!**

**RSVP REQUIRED:  
CALL: 212-288-4607**

**EMAIL: SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**

*The legal clinic is solely to provide guidance and advice from attorney's experienced in landlord- tenant law. The clinic does not guarantee a desired outcome and does not establish an attorney- client relationship. Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright does not represent or advise constituents in any legal matters.*

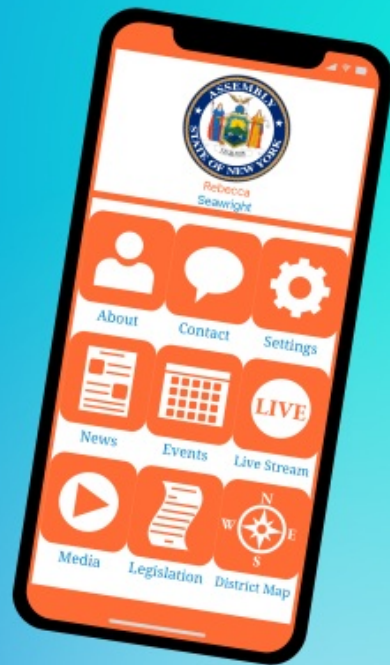


# Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright's App is Live!

Stay Up-To-Date with the latest:

- News
- Events
- Legislation
- Livestream
- Media

Available on iPhone and iPad



Aging Spotlight On: DOROT

**Rebecca  
Seawright**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER

## Spotlight on Aging Services

**DOROT**



## At Home, Online, and by Phone

DOROT offers a wide array of programs that help you stay active and socially connected in the comfort of your own home. There are online and telephone programs for every interest: lifelong learning, health and wellness, current events, art and culture, and more. You can also sign up for friendly visits or phone conversations with a DOROT volunteer.

[Read More](#)

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### Cash Assistance Benefits Skimming Alert

Beware of attempts to steal your EBT benefits electronically through skimming or phishing. To learn more and file an online claim for stolen Cash Assistance benefits, go to <https://on.nyc.gov/on.nyc.gov/benefitreplacement>

### New York's Paid Family Leave Program

Since first launching in 2018, New York State Paid Family Leave has provided critical benefits to improve the lives of tens of thousands of working New Yorkers and their families. In addition to ongoing enhancements, the wage replacement benefits continue to increase in line with the New York State Average Weekly Wage. Click here to learn how Paid Family Leave may be able to help you and your family in 2025. Visit: [paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/2025](https://paidfamilyleave.ny.gov/2025)

### Empire State Child Credit

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is issuing supplemental Empire State Child Credit payments to over 1.5 million low- and moderate-income New Yorkers. The 2024–2025 New York State budget provides for an additional payment to eligible taxpayers based on the Empire State child credit. If you qualify for a payment, you don't need to do anything; we will automatically calculate and send you a check for the amount you're entitled to. For more details, visit [the Additional Empire State Child Credit Payments](#).

### Energy Affordability Programs

The NYS Energy Affordability Program provides income-eligible consumers with a discount on their monthly electric and/or gas bills. You may be enrolled automatically if you receive benefits from a government assistance program. For more information visit [this ConEd webpage](#) and click the "download form" button in the Energy Affordability Program box (or click [this link directly to download the pdf](#)). Or call 800-752-6633; the seniors-only direct line is 800-404-9097, M-F, 8:30 am – 5 pm.

### Regular HEAP Benefit

The 2024-25 Regular HEAP benefit reopened January 25, 2025. Find out if you may be eligible to apply for programs and services. If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year to help you pay for heating your home. Visit: [otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/](https://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/)

## **Health Insurance**

New Yorkers can enroll in a Qualified Health Plan by the 15th of the month for coverage starting the 1st of the following month and benefit from new cost-sharing reductions for additional savings. Visit [nyc.gov/health/healthcoverage](https://nyc.gov/health/healthcoverage) or call 347-665-0214 to connect with an enrollment counselor and get more information.

## **HIICAP**

Approximately 500 trained HIICAP counselors located in local offices for the aging across the state are available to answer New Yorkers' questions about Medicare, Medicare Advantage programs (managed care), Medicare prescription drug coverage, Medigap, and other health and long-term care insurance. Counseling is also available through a toll-free HIICAP helpline at 1-800-701-0501. Visit: <https://aging.ny.gov/health-insurance-information-counseling-and-assistance-program-hiicap>

## **Renters rights**

In New York City, tenants have many rights relating to the safety and quality of their housing. Tenants should expect to live in safe, well-maintained buildings that are free from vermin, leaks, and hazardous conditions. [Laws protect tenants from harassment and discrimination](#). For more information on tenants' rights, please see the [Tenant Bill of Rights](#).

## **Homeowner Handbook**

Homeowner Help NY offers a comprehensive guide to help New York homeowners navigate the responsibilities of homeownership and access available resources in their time of need. To view the handbook, visit <https://homeownerhelpny.org/handbook>.

## **Property Tax Exemptions**

It's time to renew property tax exemptions, including SCHE, DHE, and the Clergy Exemption, for the 2025-26 tax year. The deadline to renew is March 15, 2025. Visit [nyc.gov/contactdof](https://nyc.gov/contactdof) or call 311 for details.

## **Mental Health Hotline**

There's a three digit phone hotline, 988, for mental health. Call 911 for mental health emergencies.

## **Mobile ID**

Ever forget your wallet and wish you had your ID on you? Now you can with New York Mobile ID! Just download the app, and a highly secure digital version of a state-issued driver license, learner permit or ID will be on your smartphone whenever you need it. [More info here](#).

## **NYCDOT Street Work Permit Maps**

The NYC DOT provides a street work permit map for our district so New Yorkers can have access to any active street work information in real time. You can view the map here: <https://dmv.ny.gov/id-card/mobile-id-mid>

## **Curbside composting**

Curbside Composting service is now available to ALL NYC residents citywide. Compost is picked up every week on your recycling day. Visit: [www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page](https://www.nyc.gov/site/dsny/collection/residents/curbside-composting.page)

## **Attention MTA Reduced-Fare customers**

Your half-fare benefit is moving to OMNY! Look for your new Reduced-Fare OMNY card in the mail soon and [check this page for updates](#). Continue to use your Reduced-Fare MetroCard in the meantime.

## **MTA Mobile Sales**

Services offered at mobile sales vehicles

- Get help with a Reduced-Fare application
- Get more information about OMNY and sign up
- Transfer MetroCard balances (full-fare and Reduced-Fare to OMNY account)
- Report a lost/stolen Reduced-Fare MetroCard
- Ask our team about any OMNY-related issues

Note: Mobile sales buses and vans are making credit card transactions for OMNY only. You can still buy a MetroCard using cash. Check this site for the sales bus schedule:

[www.mta.info/fares/mobile-sales](https://www.mta.info/fares/mobile-sales)

## **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits**

New changes include providing a simplified one-page application form, allowing older New Yorkers to re-certify their benefits for 36 months instead of 24 months and eliminating the



interview requirement for re-certification. To learn more about SNAP and apply for benefits, [click here](#).

### Unclaimed Funds

Check to see if you or someone you know may have unclaimed funds via this tracker by NYS Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds?fbclid=IwAR2JRsjGd4zt7CdT5aw5NQjBqIoud2O141dOUbqPWOjooIlaO8Qi7xxTFw>

### COVID-19 resources

You can order four COVID tests (for free, including shipping!) at [this website](#)! To see the latest data and key metrics on COVID-19 in New York City, check out the [NYC Department of Health's website](#). Vaccine shots are also available in pharmacies, clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices.

### Community Service Society of New York

Need healthcare assistance or an advocate on your side when dealing with a medical bill, insurance denial, or a confusing notice? Call the Community Health Advocates hotline at 1-888-614-5400 and receive help today!

### Congestion Pricing discounts and exemptions

Vehicles entering Manhattan streets at or below 60th St will be tolled. Most E-ZPass users will pay \$9 during peak hours or \$2.25 overnight, once daily. Discounts and exemptions, such as the Low-Income Discount or Disability Exemption plans, are available—learn more at [mta.info/discounts](http://mta.info/discounts). Update your E-ZPass account to ensure accurate toll rates and credits. For details, visit [congestionreliefzone.mta.info](http://congestionreliefzone.mta.info).

### Animal Care Centers of NYC needs your help!

Due to a temporary suspension of dog intake, they're calling on the community to step up and adopt. If you're ready to welcome a furry friend into your home visit a local ACC Center or [check out their website for more details](#).

### Emergency Preparedness

NYC Emergency Management (NYCEM) will keep you informed and prepared during emergencies through the Notify NYC alert system. Sign up at [nyc.gov/notify](http://nyc.gov/notify) or by calling 311.



## Upcoming Events



**WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS RISING**  
MWBE CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE

NEW YORK STATE OF OPPORTUNITY | Division of Minority and Women's Business Development  
A Division of Empire State Development

**"Women Entrepreneurs Rising" is an initiative to help minority- and women-owned businesses complete their applications for MWBE certification with the State of New York.**

**Starting 3/3/25 through 4/18/25**, all applicants will have the option of working with a free business advisory service center to complete their DMWBD certification application. Participants in DMWBD's **"Women Entrepreneurs Rising"** certification initiative may receive their determination in as quickly as 90 days.

**FREE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS** (business advisory service centers):

- **EACs - Entrepreneurial Assistance Centers Program**  
[esd.ny.gov/entrepreneurship-assistance-centers-program](http://esd.ny.gov/entrepreneurship-assistance-centers-program)
- **Empire APEX Accelerator** - Inquiries on MWBE certification: [empireapex.com/mwbe](http://empireapex.com/mwbe)
- **LaGuardia APEX Accelerator**  
[laguardia.edu/ce/business-services/apex-accelerators/](http://laguardia.edu/ce/business-services/apex-accelerators/)
- **Bronx Chamber of Commerce**  
[bronxchamber.org/](http://bronxchamber.org/)
- **La Fuerza CDC**  
[lafuerzacdc.org/pages/services](http://lafuerzacdc.org/pages/services)



**Disclaimers:** Participation in DMWBD's **"Women Entrepreneurs Rising"** program does not guarantee MWBE certification with New York State. To qualify for certification, a business must meet the requirements set forth in Executive Law Article 15a, and Title 5. Applicant must respond to the Division's request for clarifying information and/or documentation within 5 business days upon receiving the request. Failure to respond within the aforementioned timeframe may delay the review by DMWBD.

For questions or for more information please call 212-803-2414.



Give a **little** time.  
Make a **BIG** impact.

## Deliver Joy to an Older Neighbor!

Volunteer for DOROT's Passover Package Delivery

**Sunday, March 30, 2025**

When you volunteer to deliver a Passover package and connect with an older neighbor for a visit or call, you can make their day—and yours!

*Pre-registration and valid U.S. government-issued photo ID are required.*

### How it works:

- 1** Register at [dorotusa.org/package-delivery](https://dorotusa.org/package-delivery)
- 2** Pick up a package and get matched with an older adult
- 3** Deliver the package to the home of an older adult
- 4** Connect for a visit or friendly call!

**Sunday, March 30**  
**10:00 AM - 12:30 PM**



**171 W 85th Street • New York, NY 10024 • [dorotusa.org](https://dorotusa.org)**

DOROT deeply appreciates the generosity of Marilyn and Stanley Katz who help sustain our Passover Package Delivery Program. We are also grateful to Congregation Emanu-El of the City of New York and the estate of Sanford H. Goldstein for its support of DOROT's Holiday Package Delivery programs.



# Outdoor Summer Movie Series Poll



SCAN ME



Polling ends  
March 31st.



Roosevelt Island  
Operating Corporation

Tell RIOC what you want to see on the big screen this year by filling out a quick survey: <https://forms.office.com/g/Y1kbwFLKDD>  
Cast your vote by March 31st!

[Community Update: February 28, 2025](#)

[Community Update: February 21, 2025](#)

[Community Update: February 14, 2025](#)

[Community Update: February 7, 2025](#)

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