

Rebecca Seawright



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Along with my colleagues, we passed the Assembly One House Budget which includes more than \$376 million in restorations to medicaid and \$29.5 billion in school aid.

We also passed the HALT Solitary Confinement Act. The bill would significantly limit the use of solitary confinement and exempt vulnerable populations, including minors, older New Yorkers and people with disabilities. This is a milestone on the road to reforming our criminal justice system, and respecting human rights.

Join us on Tuesday, March 23 from 7:00pm- 8:00pm to honor Women of Distinction from our community on Zoom and Facebook live with keynote speaker Senior Vice President of Hospital Administration at MSKCC, Cynthia McCollum. We look forward to the celebration of women and their achievements in their respective fields.

Join us for one of the events that I am pleased to sponsor:

- *Tuesday, March 23 from 7:00 pm- 8:00 pm on Facebook live and Zoom- **Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony.** [RSVP here.](#)*
- *Thursday, March 25 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm at the District Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, 1485 York Avenue (78/79 Streets)- **No-Cost Face Covering Giveaway.** [RSVP here.](#)*
- *Thursday, March 25 from 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm on Zoom- **Virtual Knitting Social.** [RSVP here.](#)*
- *Tuesday, March 30 at 2:00 pm by telephone- **No-Cost Housing Legal Clinic.** [RSVP here.](#)*

Stay safe, wash your hands frequently, keep your social distance, and wear your face-covering! Please don't hesitate to reach out to our community office if we can be of assistance.

Phone: 212.288.4607

Email: SeawrightR@NYAssembly.gov

Sincerely,

Rebecca A. Seawright

SIXTH ANNUAL



Women OF DISTINCTION AWARDS

Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 7:00pm - 8:00pm
On Zoom and Streaming live on
[Facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/Live](https://www.facebook.com/RebeccaASeawright/Live)
To RSVP: <https://forms.gle/hWJE8GVqhBQJ9fdN7>

Keynote Speaker & Woman of Special
Distinction Senior Vice President
Cynthia McCollum, Memorial Sloan
Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC)

Cynthia McCollum, Senior Vice President,
Hospital Administration, has been at
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center for
over 30 years.



2020 Honorees



Julia Fan
Advocate for Gender
Equality



Andrea Jackson
Vice President of the
Roosevelt Island Senior
Association



Louise Merriman, RD
Retired Administrative
Director of Clinical Nutrition

Janette Gautier
Director of the Dinner
program at the Church of
the Epiphany



Dr. Mini Kamboj
Chief Medical
Epidemiologist, Infection
Control at Memorial Sloan
Kettering Cancer Center



Ann Meschery
Director of In-Park Events with
New York City's Carl Schurz
Park Conservancy

Ruth Halberg
Former Democratic State
Committeewoman for the
76th Assembly District



Zena Kaufman
League of Women Voters



Bobbie Slonevsky
Vice President of the
Roosevelt Island Historical
Society



Lynda Smith
Dedicated district office volunteer
Office of Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright

2021 Honorees



Saundra Coleman
Co-founder of the Holmes-Isaacs Coalition and Co-chair of the Social Justice Committee, Community Board 8



Gayle Baron
Co-chair of the Women and Families Committee, Community Board 8



Betsy Feist
Community Activist and freelance writer and editor



**Deputy Inspector
Melissa Eger**
NYPD 19th Precinct



Aiesha Eleusizov
Roosevelt Island Girl Scout Troop 3001 Leader



Dr. Katherine Teets Grimm
Child abuse pediatrician for Mount Sinai Medical System and the New York Center for Children



Wendy Machaver
Community Activist, educational rights activist, and public member of Community Board 8



Dorian Mecir
President
Dorian's Seafood Market



Josephine Napolitano
Owner
Arturo's Restaurant



Margaret Price
Journalist, editor, author
and community activist



Gabrielle Ross
Programmer and app
developer, proficient in
multiple coding languages,
and a High School
sophomore at The Brearley
School



Serena Sabet
A passionate and dedicated
eighteen-year-old, who is
currently a senior at the
Spence School



Jeanne Straus
President of Straus News,
publisher Our Town and of
16 other local newspapers in
New York, New Jersey and
Pennsylvania

Shari Weiner
Co-chair of the Voting
Reform Task Force,
Community Board 8

Julia Wischnevsky
Social justice and mental
health advocate



Dr. Shirley Zussman
Therapist and neighborhood activist

Past Women of Distinction Honorees

2015

Judy Berdy, Barbara Chocky, Winnie Cudjoe, Helaine Eisenberg, Jill Eisner, Yvonne Fitzer, Monica Iken-Murphy, Patricia Sanders, Judy Schneider, Betty Wallerstein

2016

Loraine Brown, Alice Heyman, Zoe Markowitz, Ellen Polivy, Margie Smith, Eileen Toback

2017

Michele Birnbaum, Eva Bosbach, Judy Buck, Mary Coleman, Maureen Fairlie, Linda Heimer, Sherie Helstien, Wendy Hersh, Jean Kim, Dara Lamb, Jacqueline Ludorf, Valerie Mason, Marilyn Mehr, Sonia Ossorio, Liz Patrick, Barbara Parker, Lynn Shinozaki, Joyce Short, Louella Streitz, Betty Walker, Elaine Walsh

2018

Erlinda S. Brent, Reverend Beverly Dempsey, Joan Falcetta, Lisa Fernandez, Nikki Leopold, Rachel Levy, Marie Luarca-Reyes, Truly L. Mason, Madelaine D. Piel, Jennifer Ratner, Naomi Semeniuk, Mallory Spain, Carol Tweedy, Inspector Kathleen Walsh, Sharon Williams

2019

J. Khadijah Abdurahman, Alexandria Abenshon, Ruth Berghammer, Lori Bores, Jennilie Brewster, Alida Camp, Rossana Ceruzzi, Christine Crowther, Julia Ferguson, Faith S. Fraser, Shakima Grant, Ruth A. Gutman, Officer Lori Murray, Officer Ashley Pappas, Jovemay Santos, Officer Lorraine Wade, Arlene Williams

New York Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie and Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright Have Announced a "Recover and Restart" State Budget Plan

THE ASSEMBLY BUDGET PROPOSAL MAKES PUBLIC COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES MORE AFFORDABLE:

- 1** Rejects the proposed tuition increase
- 2** Closes the TAP gap
- 3** Increases the maximum TAP award by \$1,000
- 4** Provides a **\$30 million increase** in funding for college opportunity programs

"We must look to the future even as we press ahead to vaccinate every New Yorker and defeat COVID-19," said Assembly Member Seawright. "The Assembly proposal will provide the funding to complete the recovery, restart the economy and restore and rebuild our communities."

"We are receiving significant federal funding, but we must also ask those who can do more to step up and help, said Speaker Heastie. "We need to make investments that will aid in our state's recovery while ensuring that New Yorkers continue to have access to the vital services they need."

The budget makes investments in critical social service programs and public housing and provides a rent relief program for those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. In total, \$3.125 billion in combined federal and state dollars will be provided for rent relief, including:

- \$29.5 billion in K-12 school aid. \$1.4 billion increase in Foundation Aid funding for public schools.
- \$400 million for prospective rent;

- \$200 million to reduce homelessness; and
- \$100 million to supplement \$575 million in federal mortgage relief in the most recent federal stimulus for a total of \$675 million for mortgage relief.

The Assembly's proposed budget includes \$1 billion for a new Small Business Reopening and Relief Grant Program. Grants cover various business costs, including payroll, rent, mortgage, property taxes, insurance, utilities, full or pro-rated state-required fees, as well as pandemic-related expenses. These include personal protective equipment necessary to protect workers and consumers, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and other related construction costs.

"These critical investments will help New York's small businesses recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and get New Yorkers back to work," said Seawright.

The Assembly plan would restore funding to general support for public schools, an increase of \$3.1 billion or 12 percent, over the 2020-21 school year. Environmental initiatives would include \$140 million for clean water infrastructure for New York City. The plan restores critical funding for programs that support children and families and invests in vital mental health, addiction, and substance abuse services.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating effect on New York's arts and entertainment industry. Across the state, museums and other venues closed for months and still operate at a reduced capacity. The Assembly's proposed spending plan would invest \$100 million in a new Arts Recovery and Revitalization Program to assist with reopening various arts organizations' efforts and providing financial support for converting new outdoor venue spaces.

The budget invests in making higher education accessible for all New York students, funding the State University of New York and City University of New York's world-class education, and providing almost \$180 million for opportunity programs.

The Assembly's budget includes funding for capital projects that would update and improve campuses. SUNY would receive \$180 million. CUNY would receive \$120 million for expansion projects to ensure colleges have state-of-the-art facilities that offer current and future students the best possible education. The funding plan also increases critical maintenance funding to SUNY by \$100 million for \$650 million and by \$66 million to CUNY for a total of \$350 million, which would maintain classrooms and facilities to keep them modern and safe.

Assembly Member Seawright Joins in Passing Legislation to Increase Transparency and Accountability in Government During Sunshine Week

Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright has joined in supporting four measures in the New York State Assembly to enhance transparency and accountability in government, marking the Sunshine Week's nationwide observance.

"Now more than ever, our democratic society demands the public's business transpire openly," Assembly Member Seawright said. "We take these actions fully mindful of Justice Louis Brandeis words more than a century ago that 'sunlight is the best of disinfectants.'"

For Freedom of Information Law requests involving criminal actions, the Assembly's sunshine package includes a bill cosponsored by Seawright to clarify that records cannot be withheld from the public solely because they involve an investigation or criminal proceedings.

It also ensures that when the law enforcement exemption is used to deny a FOIL request, out of concern that the disclosure will interfere with a judicial proceeding, only the presiding judge can determine whether to uphold the exemption or release such information.

The Assembly approved a clarification that while the name of a state pension retiree can be publicly disclosed, the retiree's beneficiary's name is to be protected. Assembly Member Seawright is a cosponsor of this bill.

Another measure passed would require the disclosure of names and residence addresses of members, managers or other authorized people of an LLC in lease agreements where New York State is the tenant in office buildings owned by LLCs.

A fourth bill in the package would waive the ability of government agencies in New York to claim copyright protection unless the work reflects artistic creation, scientific or academic research, or if the agency intends to distribute the original work or derivative work based on it to the public.

The Freedom of Information Law allows the public to access and obtain various government documents, records, and information from various government agencies, such as property and deed records, court cases and police records, budgetary and government transactions, and more.

Sunshine Week, a national initiative by the American Society of News Editors, promotes the importance of open government and the dangers of excessive and unnecessary secrecy.

Seawright Stands Up For Nursing Home Residents

Madison Thomas, representing Assembly Member Rebecca Seawright, spoke in support of Coler hospital residents and to remember the lives lost.

Hundreds of supporters showed up in person and virtually to Saturday's *#NursingHomeLivesMatter* Vigil. We heard expressions of grief and calls for justice from Coler residents, elected officials and faith leaders. NHLM founder Vince said:

Nursing Home Lives Matter (NHLM) founder Vincent Pierce said: *Some on this island have said that we're troublemakers for speaking up. Well, the late Congressman and Civil Rights hero John Lewis said, "Never, ever be afraid to make some noise and get in good trouble, necessary trouble."*



Mayor de Blasio and Dr. Katz responded to a question regarding Coler at the *Mayor's Briefing on March 16, 2021* regarding Roosevelt Island's Coler Hospital. [Click here to watch the clip.](#) Seawright issued the following statement to respond:

"I am deeply concerned by the joint statement this morning by Mayor de Blasio and Dr. Mitchell Katz responding to a reporter's question about the Roosevelt Island Medical Center as it relates to Coler Hospital. It was reported by Dr. Mitchell Katz that a different strategy was used to handle Coler's COVID-19 positive patients separately, including through the use of separate entrances and elevators for staff.

This statement is in contradiction to the reality of what long term residents, and their advocates experienced and witnessed. Since April, we have been sounding the alarm on behalf of residents, and advocates including Friends of Coler and Open Doors, to inform Health + Hospitals and the City's Administration of reports from residents, and staff within. Residents shared that sick patients were sharing rooms with long-term residents. Additionally, staff and patients raised the issue of PPE shortages. Furthermore, Health + Hospital's Coler administrators informed us that Roosevelt Island Medical Center (RIMC) staff taking care of COVID-positive patients were sharing entrances and elevators with the regular staff, increasing long term residents' risk of infection. These complaints were numerous as a new 350-bed Roosevelt Island Medical Center came online.

Upon hearing disturbing accounts from Coler residents, we held a Coler Town Hall to demand the creation of a Coler Task Force with the office of Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer. At the height of the pandemic, we responded to the pleas from staff inside Coler and delivered life saving PPE including masks, gloves, gowns, and 3-D printed face shields created and donated by Cornell Tech students to Coler Hospital on Roosevelt Island to protect its workers and vulnerable patients in partnership with the friends of Coler. I witnessed large refrigerated trucks behind the facility and asked for updates on the deaths as days passed and our concerns grew. The administration has been unresponsive to our pleas for assistance, and information of the number of sick and deceased patients due to COVID-19.

Through action and advocacy, we are sending the message that Nursing Home Lives Matter. I believe the accounts of the long term residents who shared their lived experiences and watched their friends and loved ones die. Just this weekend, there was a

vigil to remember all of the lives lost at Coler. We all gathered to let the residents know that Nursing Home Lives Matter! We are devastated by the loss of precious lives and must do better as a City and State in protecting residents.

Vigilance is key to protect the people who call Coler home. In the Assembly, I am proud to have strongly co-sponsored and voted to pass sweeping nursing home reforms. Importantly, I strongly supported the passage of Assembly Bill 3397 to repeal Article 30-D of the Public Health Law to hold facilities and their administrators accountable for harm to patients and residents. I am supporting the compassionate caregiver bill A11075 to authorize the Department of Health to allow visitation and care by family or caregivers in nursing homes. There must be a call to action to move this bill through committee so these patients can see their caregivers again.

We are also strongly advocating the expansion of wifi in these facilities to ensure that social connections are fostered through connectivity on social media and other channels in partnership with Cornell Tech." It is long past time for the City and State to do everything within its vast powers and resources to ensure that nursing home resident lives do matter.

Seawright Speaks in Support of HALT Solitary Confinement Act



COVID-19 Vaccination Information

All in favor of a COVID-19 vaccine,
raise your arm.



[Visit the New York State Vaccine Site Locator](#)

Call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829)

or [Visit the New York City Vaccine Site Locator](#)

Call 877-VAX-4NYC (877-829-4692)

New York State and New York-Presbyterian Hospital vaccination site for eligible New Yorkers in Washington Heights- visit the [connect Online Patient Portal](#).

Veterans 65+ currently enrolled in Veterans Affairs health care can receive their [COVID vaccine through the VA](#) New York Harbor Healthcare System. Schedule an appointment at 877-877-9267.

NYC Health & Hospitals - Make an appointment online at any NYC Health + Hospitals location. For appointments by phone, call 1-877-VAX-4NYC or 1-877-829-4692.

To schedule a vaccination appointment at Rite Aid, Duane Reade, or Costco, please follow these links to register and check for appointment availability:

- [Costco](#)
- [Rite Aid](#)
- [Duane Reade](#)

[Sign up here to receive the latest information on the COVID19 vaccine.](#)

Free transportation to vaccine sites is available through Curb (646-349-0289) and Hunter Ambulance (718-991-2211).

COVID-19 Resources

The Department of Tax and Finance will be extending the New York State income tax deadline to May 17. This aligns with the federal decision to do the same and provides New Yorkers still coping with the complications of the COVID-19 pandemic ample time to file.

Unemployment Insurance

Many New Yorkers are approaching their Benefit Year End Date (or "BYE Date") but may qualify for extended federal benefits or a new unemployment insurance (UI) claim.

Indoor Dining

As you may have heard, the State has announced that indoor dining can increase to 50% capacity in New York City beginning on Friday, March 19. Learn more [here](#).

Reminder: Deadline Approaching for the Paycheck Protection Program

The deadline to apply for the federal Paycheck Protection Program is March 31, 2021. If you haven't already, we encourage you to contact your lender or visit nyc.gov/ppp to get 1-on-1 support, access webinars, and find other resources to help you apply.

Need help finding a PPP lender? Check out our list of Community Development Financial Institutions accepting applications [here](#).

Curtains Up NYC

In partnership with the Mayor's Office for Media and Entertainment, SBS is offering free application assistance for the federal Shuttered Venue Operators Grant program through Curtains Up NYC.

Learn more about how to prepare, get connected with 1-on-1 assistance, or sign up for an informational webinar at nyc.gov/curtainsupnyc.

Vaccine Information

For information about who is currently eligible and where to get the vaccine, please visit the [NYC Vaccine Command Center website](#).

Eligible New Yorkers can find vaccination sites and make an appointment online at vaccinefinder.nyc.gov or by calling 877-VAX-4NYC (1-877-829-4692).

Interested in working at a vaccination site? Help serve your community and bring this pandemic to an end. Connect with Workforce1 Career Centers to learn more: nyc.gov/vaccinejobs

Small Business Spotlight

Nisi Restaurant



Nisi restaurant is on Roosevelt Island, serving breakfast, lunch and dinner. Established in 1999, Nisi is the child of Trellis, a father and son run business that has been fortunate enough to call Roosevelt Island home for close to twenty years.



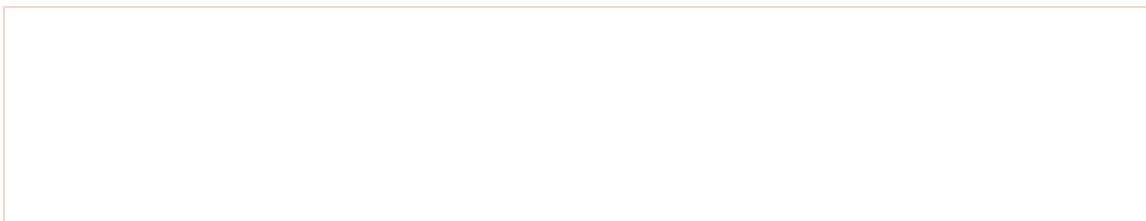
Nisi father and son owners Kaie & Alex Razaghie.

"Kaie and Alex are both owners and managers of Nisi. We are a father & son run business that love the community we work in. It has been our passion and commitment to provide good quality food and service to Roosevelt Island, its residents and its visitors. A community space for islanders to meet in and a welcoming environment to share the island's hospitality for people visiting Roosevelt Island."

Submit your favorite small business here to be featured in our next e-newsletter!

Upcoming Events

No-Cost Concert: Barbra Streisand, Idina Menzel and More Announced as Presenters at Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards





Barbra Streisand, Idina Menzel and More Announced as...

Click Here for More Articles on Virtual Events The enduring legacy of one of America's most decorated composers has been the basis for launching the Marvin Hamlisch International Music Awards, aimed at recognizing and enabling the next generation ...

[Read more](#)
www.broadwayworld.com

**ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT**



**PROTECTIVE
FACE MASK
GIVEAWAY**



THURSDAYS

12:00PM-2:00PM

**COMMUNITY OFFICE
1485 YORK AVENUE
(78/79 STREET)**

SCAN ME TO RSVP!

**OFFICE OF ASSEMBLY MEMBER
REBECCA SEAWRIGHT
PHONE: 212.288.4607
EMAIL:
SEAWRIGHTR@NYASSEMBLY.GOV**



RSVP to the Face Covering Giveaway on 3/25



Assembly
Member
Rebecca
Seawright

VIRTUAL KNITTING SOCIAL

JOIN NEIGHBORHOOD
KNITTERS FOR CRAFTING
AND CONVERSATION

EVERY THURSDAY ON
ZOOM
2PM-4PM

ALL SKILL LEVELS
WELCOME

Contact the Office of Assembly
Member Rebecca Seawright
Call: 212.288.4607
Email: SeawrightRaNYAssembly.gov

RSVP for Virtual Knitting Social on 3/25

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

REBECCA A. SEAWRIGHT



HOUSING LEGAL CLINIC

TUES. MARCH 30

EVERY OTHER TUESDAY
AT 2:00 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!

DUE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS, A
VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY WILL
HOST A ONE -ON-ONE PHONE
SESSION WITH ATTENDEES.



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.

RSVP to the Legal Clinic on 3/30

[View as Webpage](#)



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instagram.com

