

The Greenpoint Monitor Museum Says Thanks To All Who Attended The "Site Dedication" and "2004 Road Show" Awards

Continuing from last week's issue of the Greenpoint Williamsburg Gazette

December 18, 2003 was a historic day for Greenpoint, Brooklyn and a happy day for the Board Members of The Greenpoint Monitor Museum. Janice Lauletta-Weinmann, Irene Klementowicz, Stella Harmatiuk, Karen Olszewski, Elizabeth Ronchetti, George J. Weinmann, Paul Pullo, Prof. Louis Pignataro and George Stanley with Ernest Thiffault, the Museum's attorney, were notified by Motiva Enterprises LLC that the Texas based oil company is contributing land within Bushwick Inlet on the East River, to the museum for the construction of a museum home in honor of the USS Monitor. The Bushwick Inlet is located adjacent to the former site of the Continental Iron Works, birthplace of the USS Monitor and several of the Union's ironclad warships. The northern section of the donated property at Quay Street shares

historical significance as the location where the USS Monitor, famed for the March 9, 1862 Civil War Battle between the Monitor and Merrimack, was first launched.

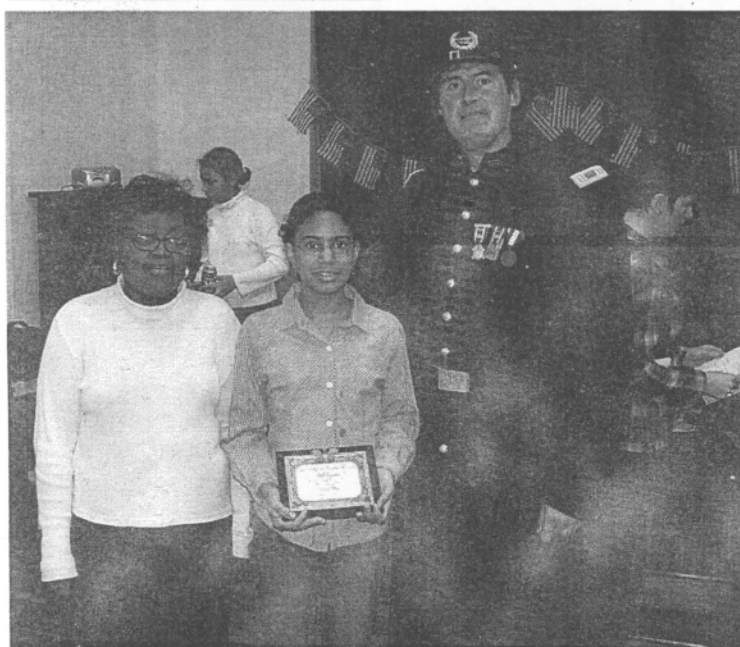
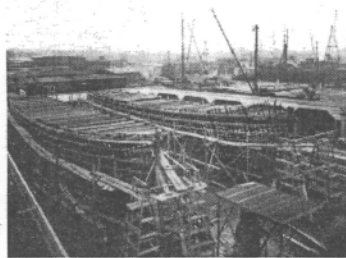
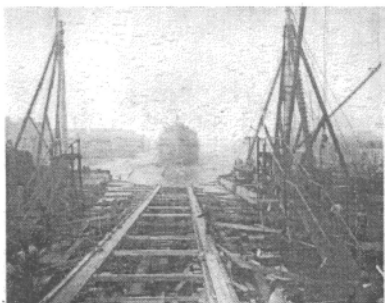
The construction of the USS Monitor began with the laying of its KEEL in October of 1861. On October 16, 2004 the Museum together with its friends and supporters raised a flag dedicating the site in honor of the USS Monitor while the land was blessed.

The Site Dedication included the following: Call to Order: George J. Weinmann, Secretary, The Greenpoint Monitor Museum; Commander Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26; Captain Co. I, 83rd NYV Sons of Veterans Reserve. Advancing of the Colors Invocation: Chaplain George Munkenbeck, 14th Brooklyn Co. H, SVR & SUVCW. Welcome: Captain George J. Weinmann Welcome: Janice Lauletta-Weinmann, President, The Greenpoint Monitor Museum;

Vice President, The John Ericsson Society Musical Interlude: George Forsythe, SUVCW (bagpipes) Raising of Flag: Co. I, 83rd NYV SVR, Company H 14th Brooklyn, The National Anthem: Karen Olszewski, Treasurer, The Greenpoint Monitor Museum; Organist, Church of the Ascension Blessing of new Museum Grounds: Members of the Clergy - Rev. Robert Czok Musket Salute Musical Interlude: Arthur Kirmss, Patriotic Instructor, SUVCW Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26 & SVR Guest Speakers: -Jeff Johnston, Historian, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, who mentioned that The Greenpoint Monitor Museum will be part of the USS Monitor trail. -Kjell Lagerstrom, President, The John Ericsson Society, spoke about John Ericsson and the USS Monitor. -Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez presented Congressional certificates to the

Museum and its supporters and is attempting to obtain government funds for the construction of The Greenpoint Monitor Museum. -Assemblyman Joseph Lentol was unable to attend but

on Friday, October 15, Mr. Lentol called in "very good news" for the event. He has obtained a grant in the amount of \$50,000 for Museum site preparation. -A *continued on the next page >>*



representative of Councilman David Yassky presented a City Council Proclamation to the Museum. Hillary Russell, whose father owned Liberty Dry Dock Co., which operated on the site during the 1940's and 1950's, spoke about his father's business on the Inlet. Photos taken on the site during ship construction were on display showing how the inlet looked during this time. -Teachers:

PS110- The Monitor School - Antoinette Locascio

JHS126 - John Ericsson Junior High School - Ann Kandratino

PS161 - Manhattan - Terry D'Attilio Spoke about the Museum's Road Show activities at their schools including the writing of letters to help secure the site. Chaplain George Munkenbeck spoke about the

USS Monitor. Musical Interlude: Pipes and Drum Dismissal: Captain George J. Weinmann **PARADE TO CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION** where Karen Olszewski, the Museum's treasurer and Church organist, worked hard with her family and church members to set up a reception in the Parish Hall for Site Dedication Day and the 2004 Road Show Award Recipients. The Church of the Ascension was built through funds donated by Thomas F. Rowland owner of Continental Iron Works, builders of the USS Monitor. Money obtained from the construction of the USS Monitor was used to build this church. 2004 ROAD SHOW AWARD PRESENTATIONS were made to the following students: The Greenpoint Monitor Museum 2004 Road

Show Award Recipients PS 110 The Monitor School First Place Krystal Pienczykowski Second Place Linsen Settembrini Third Place Jose Aquayza Fourth Place Joanna Bdgienka Honorable Mention Anais Villa JHS 126 John Ericsson School First Place Sandra Serva Second Place Edyta Sawicka Third Place Kareena Rivera Fourth Justyna Szeksztao Honorable Mention David Santiago PS 161 Manhattan First Place Deneja Armstrong Second Place Rosemary Rodriguez Third Place

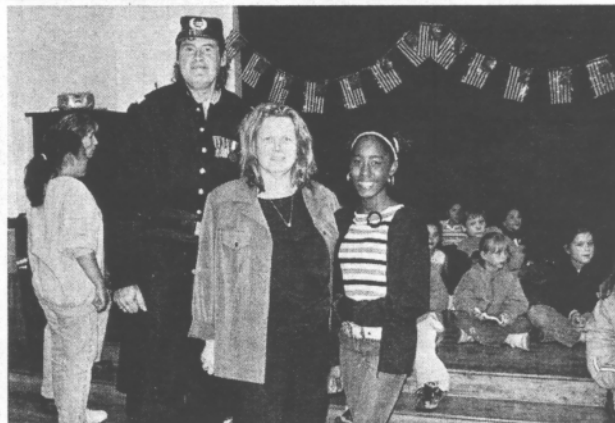
Stephanie Curbelo Fourth Place Kashaun Avila Honorable Mention Katherine Gomez St. Stanislaus Kostka School First Place Carolina Steczkowski Second Place Kinga Pieta Third Place Piotr Trusewicz Fourth Place Kacper Kuzmicki Honorable Mention Matthew Niedzielski

CIVIL WAR CONCERT at the CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION. Featured Music of the Civil War Era, Stephen Foster, Spirituals, Battle Songs, Ballads sung by Karen Olszewski, mezzo-so-

prano, accompanied by Eero Richmond on the piano with Arthur Kirmss on the piccolo recorder.

CONTRIBUTORS TO DATE WHO HAVE HELPED TO MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE INCLUDE: Mr. T Carting, Prestige Interior Demolition, Keyspan, Con Edison, Tentsmiths, New York Flag & Pole Co., Bracci Fencing, Metro Fuel, Evergreen Funeral Home, Greenpoint Lions Club, American Pallet, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War

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War, Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26. Special Thanks to Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Assemblyman Joseph Lentol, Councilman David Yassky, The Road Show Schools - PS 110 "The Monitor School", JHS 126 "John Ericsson Junior High School", St. Stanislaus Kostka School (for your letters to Motiva) and PS 161 Manhattan, St. Anthony/St. Alphonsus School and the Immaculate Heart of Mary School. MTA employee's who assisted Janice and George Weinmann with the site clearing and preparation. Concerned Citizens of Greenpoint, Church of

the Ascension, Ernest Thiffault - Museum's attorney, NOAA's USS Monitor National Marine Sanctuary, The John Ericsson Society, Hillary Russell, Rev. Robert Czok, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War, Oliver Tilden Camp No. 26, 14th Brooklyn Co. H, 94th Precinct and all community and historic organizations who have worked with the Museum. THANK YOU ASSEMBLYMAN JOSEPH LENTOL FOR OBTAINING \$50,000 TO HELP THE GREENPOINT MONITOR MUSEUM KEEP SAILING FORWARD For information contact: THE

GREENPOINT MONITOR MUSEUM P.O. BOX 220378 BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 11222-0378 718-383-2637 PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AND JOIN THE ROAD SHOW AT: <http://greenpointmonitormuseum.org/index.htm> The website is under construction. Active buttons: Newspaper, Road Show, Events, Breaking News.

