

# \*CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR NEW YORK CITY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

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## Citizens Committee to honor Gelb, Burden, others at Annual Gala



On Monday, February 4, 2007, Citizens Committee for New York City will host its “New Yorker for New York Awards Gala” to celebrate extraordinary New Yorkers and volunteer groups that contribute to the cultural life and spirit of community service in our city. The black-tie event will be held in the Grand Ballroom of The Waldorf=Astoria.

Six extraordinary New Yorkers will be honored for their outstanding contributions to New York City’s cultural and philanthropic contributions, and their spirit of community service: Peter Gelb, General Manager of the Metropolitan Opera; Amanda M. Burden, Chair of the New York City Planning Commission; Karen Cohen, Founder and President of the Randall’s Island Sports Foundation; Jack O’Kelley III, Principal at Katzenbach Partners; Bill Cunningham, Style Section photographer for *The New York Times*; and Karen Washington, Co-Founder, La Familia Verde. Founder Osborn Elliot, and Chairman Henry Cornell will also be featured.

More than 650 guests will be there to enjoy cocktails, dinner, and entertainment. Patricia Racette and Marcello Giordani from the Metropolitan Opera will perform with accompanist Craig Rutenberg, as well as Peter Duchin and his Orchestra. All proceeds benefit Citizens Committee for New York City. For more information on the gala, contact Lois Henry [lhenry@citizensnyc.org](mailto:lhenry@citizensnyc.org).

## Cash Back Kicks off 2008 Tax Season

Tax season has arrived, and Citizens Committee is kicking off Cash Back, an annual initiative designed to help thousands of first-time filers and other low income earners take advantage of tax credits and free tax preparation. At mobile sites in all five boroughs, Citizens Committee, in partnership with grassroots organizations, will help first-time filers and other eligible New Yorkers take advantage of important tax credits that will put hard-earned dollars back in their pockets. For the first time, specially trained individuals will also screen and enroll eligible New Yorkers for food stamps and health insurance, including Medicaid.

The Cash Back Hotline, **212-822-9584**, is up and running, where residents can call to find out what groups are working in their area and how to get in touch with them. Assistance is available in multiple languages. “So many hard-working New Yorkers don’t realize that they are eligible to receive larger refunds, and as a consequence, don’t claim money that is rightfully theirs,” said Mr. Kostmayer. “With Cash Back we are working to put that money back in their pockets”.

This year, Citizens Committee provided special funding to seven community groups in targeted neighborhoods taking part in the campaign. These community groups will organize door-to-door campaigns, host workshops on tax credits, offer translation services to tax filers and distribute informational materials at subway stops and public events. For more information, contact Pinky Vincent [pvincent@citizensnyc.org](mailto:pvincent@citizensnyc.org).

## Citizens Committee Names New Director of Development



Citizens Committee’s new Director of Development, Lois Henry, brings more than 25 years of nonprofit experience to her new position. “I’ve spent the past few years doing national and international fundraising, but my heart is in New York City and in community empowerment,” says Henry. “I’m delighted that Citizens Committee for New York City has given me the opportunity to raise support for an organization that is an enduring and invaluable asset to the neighborhoods that comprise New York City”.

Henry’s recent positions include VP of Development for the Thurgood Marshall College Fund and Director of Foundation and Corporate Giving for Amnesty International USA. Henry also has a history of development work for such New York-focused organizations as Baruch College, CUNY, The North Star Fund, WBAI-Pacifica, and the New York State chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU).

\*A new year, a new logo, a new look! Next month: a new website.