

Triumph

July 2005



Special Olympics
New York

Summer Games Brings Home the Gold

Third Time a Charm at Hofstra University.

The Hofstra University campus was the epicenter of great competition, inspiring moments, new records, fun, smiles and excitement for three straight days as the Special Olympics New York 2005 Summer Games came to town. More than 3,000 athletes and coaches competed in the games on Long Island from June 16-19.

The Games started with a bang at the Opening Ceremonies on Thursday night. Although the Ceremony was set to take place outside at the soccer stadium, a storm blew in and forced it inside to the Hofstra Arena. The arena could hardly contain the excitement as the athletes came in to thunderous applause. Senator Charles Schumer, the senior Senator from New York, attended the Ceremonies despite the weather delay. He congratulated the athletes on their accomplishments and wished them the very best in the competi-



Sen. Charles Schumer

tions to come. Local law enforcement officers then came into the arena, still wet from the downpour while they ran the final leg of the Flame of Hope, and with the help of Long Island Athletes Donna Grillotti and Dan Carrochio lit the torch. SONY President and C.E.O. Neal J. Johnson, along with Male Athlete of the Year Paul Asaro, officially opened the Special Olympics New York 2005 Summer Games.

"The competition over the next two days was phenomenal," said Peter Lawrence, Vice President of Competition. "There were so many great and inspiring moments that it wouldn't be fair to single out just one. The athletes did what they do best: competed, showed what true sportsmanship is all about and had a great time doing it."

After two full days of competition the Games came to a close, but only after the

gold medal basketball game. "The game was great," said Johnson. "It was a wonderful opportunity to allow everyone to watch an exciting game that they normally would too busy to see, and the athletes on both the Long Island and Queens teams were great."



After the game the Closing Ceremonies officially brought an end to a great Summer Games. Peter Lawrence relayed "I will remember these Summer Games for a very long time to come."

See Pages 4 & 5 for more pictures.

2005 Metro Tournament Shines at Riverbank State Park

More than 1,200 athletes from the five boroughs of New York City, Long Island and Hudson Valley were in attendance, accompanied by more than 350 coaches and approximately 800 volunteers.

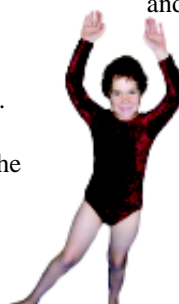
Despite a gray and drizzly morning, the 2005 Metro Tournament at Riverbank State Park turned into a beautiful, sunny day by the time Opening Ceremonies began. The New York City Fire Department



New York Lottery's Yolanda Vega was her usual upbeat and charismatic self as the

(FDNY) provided parade marshals, a color guard, bagpipe and drum corps, and accompanied the Parade of Athletes into the track and field arena.

emcee of Opening Ceremonies. Several elected officials also came out to cheer the athletes on; Congressman Charles Rangel, Speaker Gifford Miller, Councilmember Robert Jackson and Commissioner Ken Podziba. Opening Ceremonies highlights included the P.S. 194 Chorus singing "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy" (with many athletes dancing along,) and a touching tribute to longtime SONY friend, advocate and hero Peter Loeb. After a moment of silence, Marla Greenspan, former SONY board member, presented a memento to Mrs. Jeanette



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A Message from the President

Neal J. Johnson, President & CEO of Special Olympics New York, Inc.



Now that Summer Games are over and Satins Weekend is approaching fast, I am reminded about how lucky we are as an organization. With a small statewide staff to serve 40,000 athletes, we are blessed with the generosity of tens

of thousands of volunteers and sponsors. Whether they give of their time, talents or resources, we could not do it without them. In the end, the commitment and dedication of all those who make up the SONY family produces programs and events that are second to none. This fact was evident at every venue of the 2005 Summer Games.

As I scan our calendar for things yet to


come, I see many exciting and fun days ahead and many opportunities to get involved. From the training clubs and fundraisers on the local level to big events like the Miles for Medals walks and Fall games, the entire SONY family will rise to the occasion to insure that our athletes have the best possible experience.

If you can't make a long-term commitment, don't worry. We have a very important role for you. Be a fan. Come to an event, bring a friend and cheer as you witness some great athletic competition. The energy you bring will inspire greatness and the energy the athletes produce will inspire you.

Whether you are a first-time volunteer or an old friend, we look forward to seeing you at an upcoming event. We also know from history that once you have your first SONY experience you will keep coming back for more. ■

2nd Annual Royal Flush Tour Poker Run set for August

Bikers to raise money for SONY athletes

 The 2nd Annual Royal Flush Tour poker



run is set for Saturday, August 13. Just like last year the start and finish for the event will be at Hender' Son's Restaurant, 188 Lower Main, in Schaghticoke.

Bikers are encouraged to pre-register at www.royalflushstour.hender-son-s.com or pick up a registration form at Hender' Son's, 518-753-7510.

"We're still working out the last of the details for the ride, but we know the riders will be pleasantly surprised," said Organizer James Henderson.

Registration begins at 9am and ends at 11am. Bikers will then leave Henders' Son's to begin the 100 mile, tri-state scenic tour through New York, Massachusetts and Vermont.

The poker run will be led by WQBK 103.5 - 103.9 The Edge, the Official Media Sponsor for the event.

2005 Metro Tournament *Continued from P. 1*

Loeb, complete with a ceremonial shot from a starter's pistol.

After the torch was run into the field and the cauldron lit, Board Member Anthony Bifaro proclaimed "Let the Games Begin!" Athletes competed in aquatics, basketball, powerlifting, softball throw, track & field and volleyball. The facilities at Riverbank provided a lovely backdrop against the Hudson River, for the 9th annual Metro Tournament. There were many wonderful athlete accomplishments, contagious enthusiasm and exciting moments in every sport.

As part of their "Impact Day," Deloitte & Touche volunteers joined a large contingent from the FDNY to help with set-up on Friday.

Key sponsors included Goldman Sachs, Mattel, New York Lottery, NYSUT, New York Sports Club, Oppenheimer Funds, Ross Stores and United Federation of Teachers. Blimpie provided lunches and Coca Cola beverages again this year. ■



Natt Morris was one of the athletes who recited the Athlete's Oath during Opening Ceremonies at the Metro Tournament.

Triumph

Vol. 9, No. 7, July 2005

Triumph is published 12 times a year by the Public Affairs Department. It salutes the athletes, volunteers, employees, Board members, local and regional programs, sponsors and donors of Special Olympics New York, Inc.

Inspire Greatness

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Special Olympics New York Excites Binghamton with Fall Games 2005

Southern Tier to host statewide competition.

On Wednesday, June 1, SONY's president and C.E.O, Neal J. Johnson announced that the Special Olympics New York 2005 & 2006 Fall Games are coming to Binghamton. Johnson made the announcement with Binghamton's Mayor, Richard Bucci, and President of Binghamton University, Lois DeFleur at his side. It's safe to say both SONY and the city of Binghamton are excited about this bond.

"We are excited to host the Special Olympics New York 2005 and 2006 Fall Games," said Mayor Bucci. An enthusiastic Neal J. Johnson added "the entire community (of Binghamton) has welcomed us with open arms and we are sure this will be an incredible experience for our athletes."

Binghamton University's new Events

Center will play host to the Fall Games Opening and Closing Ceremonies, and they feel honored to do so. According to President DeFleur, the University is gearing up to "provide an outstanding venue for celebrating the athletes' achievements and for recognizing the commitment and support of their families, their coaches, and the many Special Olympics volunteers." The athletes will compete in eight Olympic-style events: bocce, cross-country running, cycling, equestrian, golf, roller skating, soccer and softball.

The athletes being the most important element of the Games, and it was appropriate enough to have Binghamton's own super athlete and global messenger Kim Richards speak at the press conference.



Richards spoke about how much she looks forward to competing in front of her friends and family, as well as how good of a time she's going to have. Richards then joined Mayor Bucci and Neal Johnson to raise a SONY flag in front of City Hall. It was a picture perfect day and it was only the beginning to what will be a great Fall Games. ■

Satins Silks & Stars Benefit Around the Bend

New Location, New Excitement


The 15th Annual Satins Silks & Stars Gala presented by GE will be Saturday, July 30. The theme for the night is "Knights and White Satins" and white attire is suggested for everyone who plans on attending the Gala.

"This year the location for the Gala has been moved to the Saratoga Polo Club and we are thrilled with our new location," said Bridget Graber, Associate Director of Development for Special Olympics New York (SONY). That's not the only change as the equestrian demonstration has been moved from Sunday morning at the track to Saturday night at the Gala. "We will have six SONY athletes participating in the equestrian demonstration," said Graber. "We hope that by changing the venue we will be able to better showcase our athletes and their tremendous abilities."

The Gala will begin with a cocktail hour at 6:30 p.m. at the Saratoga Polo Club. The equestrian demonstration is at 7 p.m. and

dinner at 8 p.m. Music will be provided by Grand Central Station. Live auction items will include a fur stole, jewelry, furniture from Ethan Allen, a Derek Jeter signed baseball bat and American Airlines tickets.



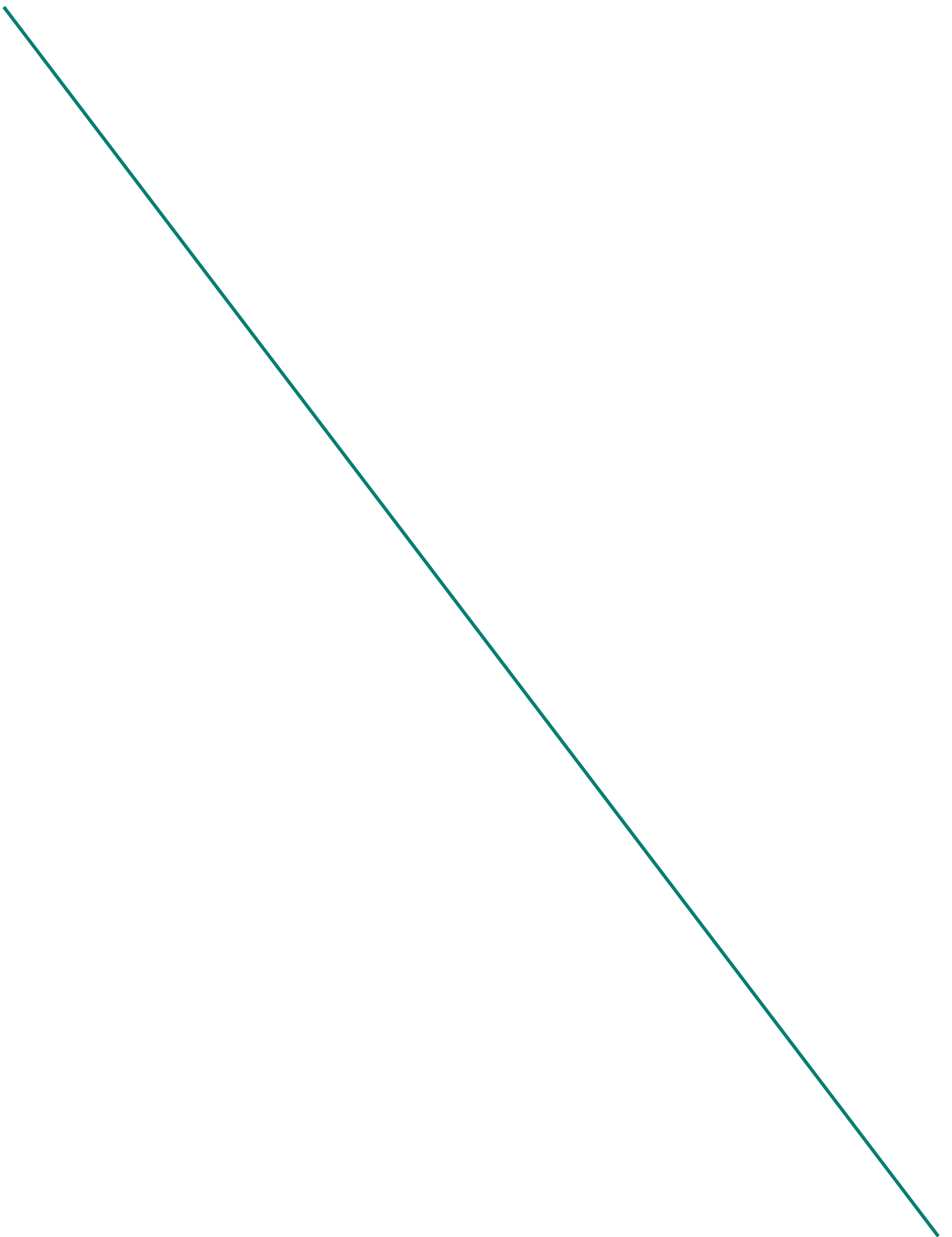
presented by  Celebrities slated to attend include: Thom Christy, Emmy Award Winning "Guiding Light" and "One Life to Live;" Betsy Palmer, who starred as Jason's mother in "Friday the 13th;" John Castellanos of "Young and the Restless;" Robin Strasser of "One Life to Live;" and Olympic Skier Pam Fletcher. John Gray, of Fox 23 and New York Lottery's Yolanda Vega will co-host the gala.

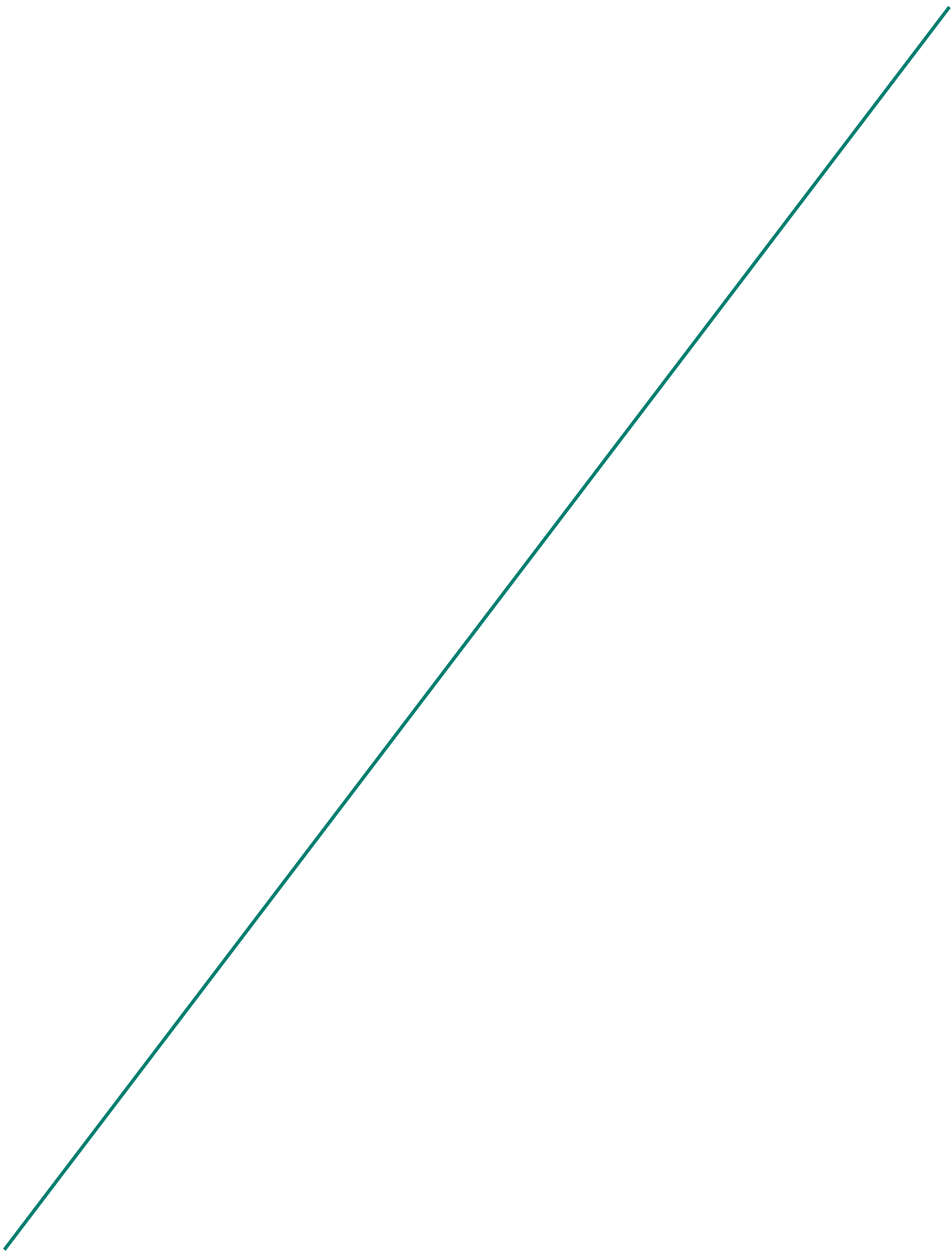
On Sunday, the Saratoga Race Track will host a celebrity Q&A at 11 a.m., and at

12:30 p.m. guests will enjoy a gourmet luncheon at the At The Rail Pavilion. Another auction will take place at the luncheon. "We've been planning this event for months and we're excited for another great year," said Graber. "We'd like to thank the local event committee and a long list of dedicated volunteers and sponsors who will help make this year's event the best yet."

The 15th Annual Satins Silks & Stars is presented by GE and sponsored by The New York Lottery, New York State United Teachers, Price Chopper, Blueshield of Northeastern New York, Merrill Lynch, Citizens Bank, FYE, Quad Graphics, M&T Bank, Saratoga Gaming and Raceway, Amtrak, Crossgates Cares, Courtyard Marriott, Fox 23, The Times Union and 99.5 The River and American Airlines.

For more information on Satins, Silks & Stars contact SONY at 800-836-6976 or email: rstreeter@nyso.org. For a complete list of events and competitions please go to www.specialolympicsny.org. ■





TORCH RUN TIMES

Law Enforcement Torch Run News

Special Olympics Torch Shines Light on Empire State

Guardians of the Flame carry message through the state.

The Special Olympics New York (SONY) Flame of Hope arrived at Albany City Hall at noon on Thursday, June 9th. The run began in Schenectady and arrived at Albany City Hall via Central Avenue. SONY President and C.E.O. Neal J. Johnson and Mayor Gerald D. Jennings made remarks during a brief presentation at City Hall.

The flame began its local leg at 9:00 a.m. at the corners of State Street and Nott Terrace Avenue in Schenectady.

Throughout the Capital Region road trip, dozens of New York State Police, law enforcement officers from the Schenectady Police Department, Niskayuna Police Department, Albany Police Department, and Zone 5 Training Academy protected the flame, along with SONY athlete and

Albany FBI employee Kevin Brown. This was the first time a SONY athlete ran the entire 16 miles.

The flame's Capital Region visit was part of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, a statewide journey that encompassed 26 legs, 1,500 miles and involved 4,000 law enforcement officials. It culminated with the arrival of the flame at Hofstra University in Long Island for SONY's 2005 Summer Games Torch Run. Legs started on May 7 in Attica, New York, and the final leg was from Farmingdale University to Hofstra on June 16. At Hofstra, the flame was then used to light the Special Olympics Cauldron, which kicked off the Summer Games for nearly 3,000 Special Olympics athletes and coaches.

Randy's Auto Parts of Rotterdam, in conjunction with CARQUEST (the premier international sponsor of LETR) once again participated in the run with local law enforcement agencies.

The LETR is the largest grassroots fund-raising and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics in the world. In addition to carrying the Flame of Hope to their local, state or national Special Olympics games, law enforcement officials have organized and conducted fund-raising activities such as Plane Pulls, Harley-Davidson raffles and golf tournaments. ■





Members of the Final Leg commence to Opening Ceremonies from the Nassau County Coliseum then onto Hofstra University Friday, June 17, 2005.

Special Olympics New York 2005 Glen Falls Kiwanis Support SONY Again

Million Dollar Duck Race and Kid's Day

🔥 Haviland's Cove Park will host the 15th annual Kiwanis Club of Glen Falls Million Dollar Duck Race on Saturday, July 30th, 2005. The race will begin at 12:30p.m., 1/4 a mile up from the entrance to Haviland's Cove. The Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) to benefit Special Olympics New York has been selected as one of the many charities to receive proceeds from the Glen Falls Kiwanis 2005 Duck Race.

For \$5 you can adopt one duck or you can purchase a Quack Pack of 5 ducks for \$20. One duck out of every 3,333 ducks sold will be randomly selected as a potential winning Million Dollar Duck, and when the first duck crosses the finish line, a race

official will determine whether that duck is one of the pre-selected Million Dollar Ducks. If you win, you will be paid in 20 equal annual installments of \$50,000. You don't have to be present, you don't have to live in NY, and you don't even have to like ducks!

Prior to the Million Dollar Duck Race, Kiwanis Kid's Day will begin at 11:00 a.m. and will include free games, live entertainment and loads of fun. Barbeque hot dogs and hamburgers will also be available.

The Glens Falls Kiwanis Club is one of the largest and most active Kiwanis Clubs in New York State. They sponsor events like the Duck Race and Taste of the North

Country to raise funds that benefit a large number of area organizations. Glens Falls Police Chief Richard Carey who is a Kiwanis member and also the Co-Chair for LETR said, "The Kiwanis Club of Glens Falls couldn't be happier to do something positive to help with awareness for SONY. Our Kiwanis Club Duck Race is a phenomenal way to raise money for a great charity like SONY."

For more information on The Million Dollar Duck Race, or for a full schedule of competitive events in your region, visit www.specialolympicsNY.org or call 800-836-6976. ■

Clarkstown Police Department Dons Aprons for Special Olympics New York Athletes

Cops & Lobsters event raises money in Hudson Valley Region

🔥 "Officers from around Rockland County, and in particular the Clarkstown Police Department, support the needs of the LETR and we thank them so much for their efforts," said Jeanne Grebert, LETR Liaison. The annual Cops & Lobsters event took place this year on Thursday, May 19th, and was coordinated by Sergeant Nick LaFasciano of the Clarkstown Police Department. LaFasciano's fellow officers helped bus tables, serve seafood and raised over \$1,400 for LETR. The event was a precursor to the Rockland County Torch Run that took place on Thursday, June 9th. ■



Randy's Auto Parts Hosts Series of Fundraising

Events to Benefit LETR

🔥 On Friday, May 6th, Randy's Auto Parts of Rotterdam hosted a Chicken Barbeque Fundraiser. In addition to raising \$750, the fundraiser also served as a promotional event for two more fundraisers that Randy's Auto Parts will be holding in the near future. A bus trip to Yankee Stadium in July is already sold out and a second trip to the "house that Ruth built" is scheduled for August, with limited seats still available. "Our friends at Randy's Auto Parts are amazing," said Jeanne Grebert, LETR Liaison. "Their efforts on behalf of our athletes are second to none and we are proud to have them on our team." ■



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*Don't forget to send your letters to the editor. Submit letters to Eric Wohlleber,
Special Olympics New York, 504 Balltown Road, Schenectady, NY 12304, or e-mail them to ewohlleber@nyso.org.*



Newest Member of the SONY Family

Congratulations, to Bridget (Associate Director of Development) and Brian Graber on the birth of their first child. Madeline Sophie was born Monday, May 30th. CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

SONY's mission is to provide sports training and athletic competition to individuals with intellectual disabilities, including mental retardation. Our programs are designed to offer participants continuing opportunities to enjoy sports, develop physical fitness and demonstrate courage while interacting with their families, the community and other Special Olympics athletes.