CRAFTY TOTTEN KIDS

In 2006, Matthew Silverstein, the Corresponding Secretary for the Friends of Fort Totten Parks, introduced the Crafty Totten Kids Program. Crafty Totten Kids is a bi-monthly educational program sponsored by the Friends of Fort Totten Parks, and the Northeast Queens Park Administrator. Using a hands-on approach, the program endeavors to promote cultural and environmental awareness for children ages 3 to 10.

Each of the sessions has a different theme. The first session was held in September of 2006 and the theme was “Patriot’s Day”. Using craft materials, the children created their own American flag. Afterwards, they were read the story, Curious George and the Fire Fighters. The Urban Park Rangers ended the session with a tour of Fort Totten Park.

In November, the theme was Native American Culture. Representatives from The Matinecock Indian Tribe taught the children how to make their very own “Medicine Wheel”* and explained the various aspects of Native American heritage and culture. Appropriately, the theme for the January 2007 session focused on Winter. The children made snowmen from a water bottle and by using a gift bag, made penguins. Approximately 25 children participate in each of these sessions.

We are pleased to announce that Crafty Totten Kids will continue throughout 2007, thanks to a generous grant from New York State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky, and the support of the Bay Terrace Community Alliance. The Crafty Totten Kids program schedule for the remainder of 2007 is as follows: March 24th, May 5th, July 14th, September 15th and November 17th. All sessions are from 12pm to 1:30pm. Pre-registration is recommended and is free of charge. The pre-registration form is available on our web site.

For more information please contact us at (718) 670-3684, or by e-mail at friendsofforttottenparks@yahoo.com, or by visiting our website www.forttottenpark.org. We look forward to seeing you and your children at our next session. They will enjoy this unique experience.

* Find out more information about the “Medicine Wheel” at www.spiritualnetwork.net/native/medicine_wheel.htm

~ The FOFT Newsletter— All the news that fits, we print ~
The Fort on Haunted Hill

High winds and torrential rain forced this year’s event to be delayed a day. Spirits were high and running around the park along with ghouls, witches and various scary types on Sunday. This signature event was hosted by The Friends of Fort Totten, Councilman Tony Avella, and The Parks Dept.

Kids parlayed with pirates, pranced through a pumpkin patch and hopped in potato sacks. Dancing to the music of DJ Obefami “Abdullah” Wright plenty of smiles and laughter seemed to make up for the previous day’s inclement weather. Face painting, cotton candy & popcorn kept many a child happy and more than one volunteer rather sticky.

Many thanks to the NE Queens Park Administrator, Aylon Pesso from the Cardoza Lacrosse team, Party City, Cord Meyer, Friends of Fort Totten Volunteers and Councilman Tony Avella for donating a variety of time, effort and products.

Visit us at our updated webpage
www.FortTottenParks.org
Check our calendar, pictures of events, newsletter, and upcoming events.

The Board of Directors, and Executive Committee would like to extend a hearty thanks to

Jerry M. Iannece, Esq.
160 - 05 Horace Harding Expwy, Flushing, NY 11365 Tel. 718 961 5550 ~ Fax. 718 961 5755
For all his efforts to help the Friends of Fort Totten Parks establish itself as a Corporation for his continuing advice, and friendship —

Jimmy Papageorge Peter Kaouris

DJ Obefami “Abdullah” Wright disguised as legendary DJ “Wolfman Jack” at the Fort on Haunted Hill event spinning tunes and scaring the masses.

www.FortTottenParks.org
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO JOIN RELAY FOR LIFE

The American Cancer Society is seeking volunteers for the 3rd Annual Relay For Life at Fort Totten, taking place June 2-3, 2007. Cancer survivors of all ages will walk around the parade grounds in a victory lap, and friends will honor loved ones lost to the disease and celebrate those who are winning the battle in an evening candlelight vigil.

This non-competitive overnight event joins teams of people who camp out and take turns circling the parade grounds to raise awareness and funds to support cancer research, education, advocacy and patient services in the community. For those who participate in Relay For Life, the event represents the hope that those lost to cancer will never be forgotten, that those who face cancer will be supported, and that the disease will one day be eliminated.

Currently, volunteers are needed to lend a helping hand for this annual event. Cancer survivors and caregivers are needed to start the event, committee members are needed to plan the event, and volunteers are needed to assist with day-of activities. To register, participate, or volunteer, log on to http://www.acsevents.org/relay/ny/forttotten or contact Leslie Orlovsky at (718) 263-2225, ext. 26 or via e-mail at leslie.orlovsky@cancer.org. For 24-hour cancer information, the public can call 1-800-ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

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A TASTY WAY TO RAISE DOUGH

To Benefit - The Friends of Fort Totten Parks
Fundraiser Date - Thursday—May 3, 2007
(from 4 Pm to 10 PM)
39 02 Bell Blvd - Bayside, NY 11360

A portion of your check will be donated to the Friends of Fort Totten Parks after presentation of this voucher to your server. This event is only valid at this location on the date and time listed. Tickets are not to be distributed in the restaurant or within the parking areas. To print additional certificates please visit www.FortTottenParks.org (excludes taxes and gratuity)

PLEASE CUT OUT THIS VOUCHER & PRESENT TO YOUR SERVER
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Fort Totten Fact

Fort Totten has always been a line of defense for the United States. But did you know that in the 1950’s, Fort Totten was the headquarters for over half of the NIKE missile defense program? The missile defense program protected the area from New England to the Mid Atlantic States and west to the Great Lakes.

This issue of The Friends of Fort Totten Parks Newsletter was printed in part with the help of

Crystal Clear Printing Co.
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www.FortTottenParks.org
NATURE & WILDLIFE Corner

The Swans of Little Neck Bay

While driving north on the Cross Island Parkway one day last October, I came upon a beautiful and surprising sight. On Little Neck Bay, I was thrilled to see a flock of at least two dozen swans. I had never seen them there on the bay before, and it caused me to wonder if swans are a migratory species. I found these birds so majestic I wished they would stay there for good.

So, I decided to do some research and alas, I discovered that the answer is yes; swans do migrate, and sure enough the birds probably moved on because I did not see them in the bay since then. But, I did learn some interesting things about swans.

There are two species of swan native to North America—the trumpeter and the tundra—and both are migratory. The swans I saw were most likely tundra swans, and as the name implies, these birds spend their summer breeding season in the distant north, close to the Artic circle. By early fall, they are on the move, working their way south along the Atlantic coast and other major flyways. The birds on the Atlantic don’t travel much farther south than the Carolinas. They often winter along the Carolina coast, and then begin their journey back to the Artic for their summer breeding season.

Will I see them again this coming fall in Little Neck Bay? I sure hope so. -Robin Finch

FORT TOTTEN FACT

In the late 18th and early 19th century every ship coming into New York Harbor & Long Island Sound, had to stop at City Island to pick up a harbor pilot as part of the harbor defense system. The pilot’s task was to guide the vessel past Fort Schuyler and Fort Totten into the East River into the lower bay.

In 1917, a freighter steamed into Eastchester Bay and failed to halt at City Island to take on the pilot. Artillerymen were alerted and the gunners at Fort Totten fired a warning shot across the ship’s bow. The shell ricocheted off the water and hit Fort Schuyler where it exploded. The damaged wall can still be seen at Fort Schuyler… damaged by a shot fired from Fort Totten!

The Center for Women of NY

Founded in October 1987, The Center for Women of NY was established by Ann Jawin. It is a voluntary, non-profit organization existing primarily on dues from volunteer members, business, professional and community women. Their aim is to be a one-stop, walk-in resource center for women.

The Center for the Women of New York, formerly known as the Queens Women’s Center is a research and conference center. It is “living” museum, dedicated to recording and aiding women’s struggles in achieving full equality in our society. They are also part of the Queens Borough President’s Task Force on Sexual Harassment and Domestic Violence. They are part of a group working in this vital area to provide services to victims and provide educational programs.

Representatives for the center are working to secure a property at Fort Totten. Ann Jawin was quoted as saying that $1.2 million have been raised to be used for renovations but, that additional funds would be needed to complete the project.

This past October 22, the Queens Chapter of the United Nations Association honored Ann Jawin for her lifelong commitment to the fight of women’s rights and equality.

Currently, the Center for Women operates out of an office space donated by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall at Queens Borough Hall in Kew Gardens, Queens.

Stories, Email, comments and suggestions can be E mailed to FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com
Or can be mailed to Friends of Fort Totten Parks - PO Box 604984 Bayside NY 11360

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www.FortTottenParks.org
The "77th Army Reserve" (ARCOM) has a distinguished career serving through World Wars 1 & 2, Korea, Vietnam, Desert Storm & Desert Shield and currently Iraq. During the Kuwait conflict in 1990 the 77th mobilized some 3500 soldiers (about 25%) of ARCOM's total strength to aid the efforts. During the Persian Gulf war the 77th Engineering unit was primarily responsible for construction of roads and water lines to support troops stationed there.

Known today as the "77th Regional Readiness Command" the 77th has been stationed at Fort Totten since 1968. Its primary goal is to aid the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the event of a natural or human disaster during peace times, but is combat ready at a moments notice.

The 77th was called into action on September 11, 2001 when the World Trade Center was attacked by terrorists. Within 45 minutes of the attack, the 77th Emergency Operation Center (EOC) was ready and enroute to aid the civil need for help. Within hours, the 77th had established a command post at scene of the attack dispensing protective equipment, machinery and support services to aid in the recovery. In the days after the attack hundreds of soldiers in the reserve unit (both active and retired) reported to duty and aided in the rescue efforts at the Twin Towers.

Today, the 77th is the largest Army Reserve installation in the United States, deploying troops all over the globe. They're a very proud unit, and we’re so very proud of them.

LKL—Information compiled from the US Army Reserve Website.

Fort Totten Soldiers in Iraq receive Hanukkah gifts

Volunteers from the Samuel Field YMHA/YWHA on Little Neck Parkway sent care packages of Hanukkah menorahs, candles, treats and toiletries for Jewish reservists serving in Iraq. The packages, along with 230 personal messages were sent this past Veteran’s Day, 2006.

The packages were sent to Jewish reservists fighting in Iraq who are based out of the 77th Regional Readiness Command at Fort Totten. Each box was packed with candy, cookies, Samuel Field Y shirts, decks of cards and other items.

Col. Steven Hirshkowitz of the Army Central Command said the packages would mean a great deal to the reservists at Hanukkah. Councilman Tony Avella was among the volunteers packing the boxes. He said he hoped the act was a small reminder to the troops that they are always in the minds of the folks back home. "We support that they are out there for us", he said, “These packages are our way of saying we remember each day what they are doing for us.”
**PARK OR PARKS?**

Many readers have contacted us to ask why our organization’s name is “Friends of Fort Totten Parks”? Some thought it should be “Friends of Fort Totten Park”. Others thought this was a typo error.

So, an explanation is in order. We are the Friends of Fort Totten Parks. You see, there is more to our beautiful area than just the park at Fort Totten. There is also Little Bay Park at the base of the Throgs Neck Bridge, and the famous Joe Michael’s Mile, along Little Neck Bay, where scores of joggers, skaters and walkers pass by every day.

So when we speak of Fort Totten Parks, we are speaking of all three of these pristine and unique areas. Our volunteers work with the Department of Parks to do all we can to make all three areas the best and most beautiful in all of New York. But it’s a big job and we can’t do it alone. So if you would like to help or if you just want to get some information about the parks, please visit us on our website at www.forttottenparks.org or e-mail us at friendsofforttottenparks@yahoo.com or you may wish to call us at (718) 670-3684. We thank you for your interest in our lovely parks.

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**Fishing Around Fort Totten**

*By: Ranger Andrew Parisi*

Whether your preference is surf fishing or pier fishing, Little Neck Bay offers the fishing enthusiast both options.

Some of New York State’s largest fish species have been caught from the surf. If you have the patience and you learn the right techniques, you could land a 20 lb. striped bass, (incredibly some can weigh as much as 75 lbs!). There are also bluefish, winter flounder, fluke, weakfish, and porgy.

The bluefish is a fierce fighting fish and can generally be caught year round. Winter flounder and fluke are similar species in that they are both bottom feeders and do turn into an excellent meal. Weakfish are abundant in the summer months and can weigh up to 17 pounds. The porgy is another popular catch in these waters and can be fished off a pier.

The best bait to use when fishing these species is bunker, spearing, sandworms, and squid. Bunker bait is usually preferred by the fish because it has an oily texture and an attractive odor. The winter flounder and porgy favor sandworms but use caution as these sandworms do bite. The best option when fluke fishing is the squid spearing combination. If you don’t have the patience using traditional fishing methods, try using lures and top water poppers. In recent years, fly fishing for striped bass and bluefish has become very popular.

The listing for New York State marine fishing regulations can be found on the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation website or at your local bait shop. Regulations protect fish populations for future seasons. In this way you can be sure of always getting “your catch of the day”.

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Chilly winds and bright sunshine set the stage for the first Halloween dog costume event at the dog run in Little Bay.

Over fifty canines were on hand and twenty five competed for the honor of being top dog in two categories of “Best store bought costume” & “Best home made costume”.

On hand was Dr. Keith Niessenbaum a veterinarian & Frank Cahill, a Dog Trainer both offering advice and goodies. Also on hand were Judith Avella & Gary Forster who served as Judges, & Pam Goldberg who served as Master of Ceremonies. Competition was tough but the Judges ultimately chose three top dogs.

First place in the “Best Home Made Costume” was captured by “Frankie” the dachshund, dressed in a tasteful costume as a hotdog sandwiched between two buns with a smear of fabric mustard atop. “Rocky” the dinosaur dog took first place in a fetching costume for the best store bought costume. Prizes were awarded by Councilman Avella and Pam Goldberg. The event was hosted by Councilman Tony Avella, The Freedom Run Association, The Friends of Fort Totten Parks & The North East Queens Park Administrator.

Fort Totten Park is home to many things including the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and there’s plenty of room for you!

Chances are you may have seen our USCG-Auxiliary sign on Bell Blvd and 212th St. directing you to Flotilla 12-01 on the grounds of Fort Totten. The Auxiliary Unit is a civilian arm of the US Coast Guard but our main mission is to promote boating safety. Our responsibilities to the public and the Coast Guard are rapidly expanding. The Auxiliary unit is credited with saving 500 lives and assisting 11,000 boaters on an annual basis.

Our major activities range from education through public “safe boating courses” to vessel safety checks and assisting Coast Guard units. We do this by conducting safety patrols on land, sea and air. As team Coast Guard members we serve the Department of Homeland Security. We are always looking for new members. So, if you’re over 17 and a US citizen, you’re eligible for membership and we’d love to hear from you. Don't hesitate to call us at (718) 352 3764 or visit us on the internet at http://a0141201.USCGAUX.info Smooth Sailing!

The Friends of Fort Totten Newsletter Committee
Contributing Editor - Robert Sansosti
Contributing Writers & Researchers - Joe Branzetti, Sylvia Johnson, Lily K Louis, Janice Melnick, Andrew Parisi, Pat Riot & Matthew Silverstein

Our Logo!
We’re pleased to introduce our logo. It’s an original artwork designed by Stephanie Louis, depicting a stylized partial view of the front gates and surrounding foliage.

John Schenck Agency Inc.
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Bayside, NY 11361-3349
Tel (718) 224 5436 ~ Fax (718) 224 8901
Friends of Fort Totten Parks & The New York City Dept of Parks

Schedule of Events 2007

**April**

Astronomy
Sun– 4/29 @ 8PM

Guided History Tours Of Fort Totten
Every Sat @ 2PM / Every Sun @ 1PM

**May**

It’s My Park Day
Sat, May 19

Guided History Tours Of Fort Totten
Every Sat @ 2PM / Every Sun @ 1PM

**June**

Guided History Tours Of Fort Totten
Every Sat @ 2PM / Every Sun @ 1PM

Dancing Under The Stars
Every Wednesday @ 7PM–June 13—Aug 15

Yoga In the Park
Sat, 6/2 through 6/30 @ 9-11AM

Moosehall Theater - “Julius Caesar”
6/17 @ 7PM

Astronomy
Sun, 6/17 @ 8PM

Nocturnal Fliers Hike
Sat, 6/23 @ 8PM

Bayside Historical Society Concert
6/24 @ 6PM

Canoeing
Fri, 6/29 & Sat 6/30 @ 11AM

**July**

Puppets In The Park “Cinderella Samba”
Fri 7/6 @ 10.30AM

Dancing Under The Stars
Every Wednesday @ 7PM—June 13—Aug 15

Pilates In The Park
Every Saturday - July 14—Aug 11 (9 - 10.15AM)

Friends Of Fort Totten Parks Family Fun Day
Sat 7/21 @ 12 Noon

Moosehall Theater “Spartacus”
Sun 7/29 @ 7PM

**August**

Movies Under The Bridge
Tues, 8/14 @ 8PM  Film to be determined

Movies Under The Bridge
Tues, 8/28 @ 8PM  Film to be determined

**September**

Movies Under The Bridge
Thurs,9/6 @ 8PM  Film to be determined
Back to School Festival  Sat,9/8 @ 12 - 4 PM

**October**

World’s Largest Dance Party
Sat, 10/6  (time to be announced)

Fort On Haunted Hill
Sat, 10/27 @ 12 - 4 PM  (rain date 10/28)

Haunted Lantern Tour
Sat 10/27 @ 6.30 - 8.30 PM

Please call (718) 352 4793 x 16 or check the websites for all the details and/or changes
Www. FortTottenParks.org  /  Www. NYC Parks.gov

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**2007 FRIENDS OF FORT TOTTEN PARKS DONOR**

Please join us in shaping the future of Fort Totten Parks by making a donation.

Name _______________________ Address _____________________ City __________  _Zipcode_______

E-Mail Address _________________________________ ( for notices, updates & events)

Please make checks payable and mail to: Friends of Fort Totten Parks—PO Box 604984, Bayside, NY 11360

5 □ 10 □ 25 □  Other □

Are you interested in joining one of our many committees? _____Yes _____No
We welcome your suggestions under separate note or via e-mail  FriendsOfFortTottenParks@yahoo.com)

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Fort Totten IS Not Just Another Park ~ It's "Our" park!