

# Biz Breakfast Forum At Douglaston Manor

**B**rooklyn City Councilmember David Yassky, who is the Chair of the Council's Small Business Committee as well as a possible Comptroller candidate in 2009, made the short ride from Brooklyn to Queens to address business leaders at a recent breakfast at the Douglaston Manor.

Yassky told the nearly 100 business leaders in attendance that during the difficult economic times, there are a number of things the city can try to do to help businesses, including looking for ways to help with healthcare costs and eliminating the unincorporated businesses tax. However, he also said that while there are things government could do to help businesses, it's also important for them not to get in the way.

"It's hard enough to run a business without having someone from government walk in and add expense," Yassky said.

The breakfast, which was organized by the DSNYgroup and its CEO Dennis Sneden, also featured distinguished panelists from local businesses including The Queens Courier CEO and Publisher Victoria Schneps-Yunis and Jack Friedman, Executive Vice President of the Queens Chamber of Commerce.

"We as the business community are the economic engine," Sneden said.

Friedman introduced Yassky during the breakfast and talked about the Chamber's desire to become involved with many business institutions throughout the borough – both large and small.

"Our lifeblood is our small businesses, those are what keep us going," Friedman said.

While most of the panelists agreed that it was a difficult time for businesses, they stressed that in order to get through the tough times organizations should work together.

"The real key is working together and supporting institutions like the Queens Chamber," said Yassky, who praised the forum as well as others like it that take place in the borough on a consistent basis.



**Chamber Executive Vice President Jack Friedman, Kim Hint, DSNY Group, Chamber President Al Pennisi and DSNYgroup CEO Dennis Sneden at the Back-to-Business breakfast at Douglaston Manor.**

## Chamber Promotes Learning About Franchises

**B**ased on the tag-line "Franchise – It's not just donuts & burgers!," Chamber member Armando D'Accordo, President of CMIT Solutions, an office technology systems and service franchise, and John Ryley, Senior Consultant of MatchPoint, a specialist in matching franchises with entrepreneurs presented a seminar at the Jackson Heights branch of the Queens Public Library. A franchise can cost less and last longer than a traditional business. Many franchises are lower investment alternatives to renting a retail storefront, as spiraling rents force many Queens merchants out of busi-

ness. There are over 5,000 different franchise companies in more than 60 industries, 28.6 percent of which require less than a \$50,000 investment, while another 23.9 percent can be attained for \$50,000 to \$100,000. Many franchises may be home-based, offering flexibility and self-determination. Owning a franchise buys into the expertise and proven formula of the franchisor, a way to open and own a business without reinventing the wheel. A proven product, marketing strategies and logo/brand identity drive the business. According to statistics from the U.S. Department of Commerce, 92 percent of franchises

stay in business into the fifth year, as opposed to only 23 percent of independent businesses. Most of all, owning a franchise allows you to be in business for yourself, without being in business by yourself.

Feel free to contact Armando for general business advice and specific CMIT Solutions information at 516-208-4161 and John Ryley for advice about selecting and funding a franchise at 631-744-1552. For excellent information regarding specific franchises available, visit these websites: [www.inc.com](http://www.inc.com); [www.entrepreneur.com](http://www.entrepreneur.com); [www.franchise.org](http://www.franchise.org).

## CALENDAR OF UPCOMING QUEENS EVENTS

**Oct. 2, 2008** Queens Courier "Kings of Queens" Awards Breakfast – Honoring Al Pennisi at The New Douglaston Manor. Info or to purchase tickets call Maria Romero at 718-224-5863 x226

**Oct. 6, 2008** QCC International Advisory Council Meeting about plans for the first Queens International Trade Show & Exhibition in Jan. 2009, to be held at the Queens Chamber Board Room. Call Jacqueline Donado at 718-898-8500 for more info.

**Oct. 7, 2008** Committee Chairs Meeting at Chamber's Board Room 75-20 Astoria Blvd. Suite 140 Jackson Heights At 8:30am

**Oct. 7, 2008** Queens Library Enrich Your Life New American Program in collaboration with United States Small Business Administration presents Starting Your E-Commerce Business Part II Websites and Search Engines Speakers: Patrick Hardy, Man-Li Kuo Lin Tuesday 6-7:30pm Room A & B 41-17 Main Street Flushing 718-661-1200. Admission is free. For more information in Mandarin Chinese: 718-990-8539 or In English: 718-990-0883

**Oct. 14, 2008** Queens Library Enrich Your Life New American Program in collaboration with United States Small Business Administration presents Starting Your E-Commerce Business Part III Marketing and Analytics Speakers; Patrick Hardy, Man-Li-Kuo Lin Tuesday 6-7:30pm 41-17 Main Street Flushing Room A & B 718-661-1200. Admission is free. For more information in Mandarin Chinese: 718-990-8539 In English 718-990-0883

**Oct. 16, 2008** Ninth Annual Frank J. Tempone Golf Outing – North Hills Country Club Manhasset More information TBA Grand Slam Sponsor Commerce Bank

**Oct. 20 2008** QCC & LaGuardia Community College/CUNY invites you to a free Business Workshop (Spanish) Monday from 5:30pm-7:45pm Taking Control and Getting The Future You want. For reservations call Sophia Ganosis or Jacqueline Donado at 718-898-8500 or on web [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org).

**Oct. 24, 2008** Job Fair – Matching Employers to Workers with Developmental Disabilities – 9 AM – 3 PM Queens College Student Union Bldg., 4th Floor, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing 11367 Sponsorship Opportunities Tickets and Exhibitor Tables Available- For More Info contact Ms. Christine Buschhorn call 718-217-5534

**Oct. 23, 2008** QCC & LaGuardia Community College/CUNY invites you to a free Business Workshop Small Business Financing Part 1 Thursday 6pm-7:30pm. To reservations Call Sophia Ganosis or Jacqueline Donado at 718-898-8500 or on web [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org)

**Oct. 24, 2008** AQA Annual Costume Ball & Dinner-The Arts from Yesteryear to Tomorrow at Terrace on the Park 7:30pm Join us in honoring Community Leaders: Ray Irrera –Business Award former President, Queens Chamber of Commerce and Ann Irrera-Education Award – Educational Leadership Institute coordinator & retired principal of P.S. 160 Call AQA Gallery at 718-520-9842 or email [rhmenzel@brianlink.com](mailto:rhmenzel@brianlink.com)

**Oct. 27, 2008** QCC and LaGuardia Community College/CUNY invites you to a free Business Workshop Managing Credit & Your Relationship with Financial Institutions Mon. 5:30pm- 7:45pm For Reservations Call Sophia Ganosis or Jacqueline Donado at 718-898-8500 or on web [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org)

**Oct. 28, 2008** We are pleased to invite you to participate in our annual Job Fair at York College of The City of New York. From 11am-3pm. This year we are inviting employers to recruit for full-and part time positions and internship opportunities. Our job/internship fair will be open to our entire student body of approximately 6000 students. If you or a representative of your company, will be able to join us, please register for this event on the website, <https://york-cuny-csm.symplicity.com/events/fair08> by Oct. 17, 2008. There is a modest registration fee of \$150.00 which includes lunch for two people and a six-foot display table. Please make your check or money order payable to York College of Career Services.

If you have any questions, you may contract Ms. Terri Moore at 718-262-2282 or 718-262-2398.

**Oct. 30, 2008** QCC and LaGuardia Community College/CUNY invites you to a free Business Workshop Small Business Financing – Part II Thursday 6pm – 7:30pm For Reservations Call Sophia Ganosis or Jacqueline Donado at 718-898-8500 or on web [www.queenschamber.org](http://www.queenschamber.org)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THESE AND OTHER EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT US AT (718) 898-8500. VISIT US ON OUR WEB [WWW.QUEENSCHAMBER.ORG](http://WWW.QUEENSCHAMBER.ORG) CLICK ON CALENDAR**