

Keeping Your Creativity Alive

(Or, just because you're 9-to-5 doesn't mean you can't follow your dream)

Once upon a time when you were small and the world seemed so large, they pinched your cheek and asked, "What do you want to be when you grow up?" In those moments of youth when everything is possible, you told them you would be the world's greatest astronaut or musician or a race car driver or a Broadway star, and in the magic of your child's universe there seemed no reason why not.

But why not was waiting around the bend, and soon enough nine-to-five became your reality and your dream of creative self-expression got put on a shelf.

Well, have we got news for you. Just because you're running the race doesn't mean the grind has to grind down your dreams. Here's how to make them real.

I've always wanted to be in show business, darling ... If you've mastered the art of smiling at inane clients and loopy relatives, you're Oscar-worthy already. But just in case, how about working with a professional theater group. *The Killing Kompany* is a troupe of professional Broadway, television, and film actors who write and perform original mystery plays at dinner theaters from coast to coast. They've been interviewed on CNN, MSG Networks, and elsewhere, and they're willing to sell you an actual role. You'll rehearse with the actors, learn the art of interactive theater, and appear in a dinner theater setting. (Participating will also let you do good since *The Killing Kompany* donates a portion of their ticket sales to the Children's Aid Society and various other philanthropies.) Find out more by calling 1-888-SHOOT-EM, or log on to www.killingkompany.com.

Speaking of doing good while you strut your stuff on stage, here's a great way to fulfill your dream of a Broadway part. *The Auction of 1,000 Stars* is an annual fundraising event held

online each Fall in cooperation with Yahoo. Benefitting The Actors' Fund, the oldest national social service organization for folks in the entertainment industry, *The Auction of 1,000 Stars* has in the past included such items as walk-on roles in *Phantom of the Opera* and *Cabaret*. There also have been TV walk-ons for *Will and Grace* and *Frasier*. For more info, log on to www.actorsfund.org and click on to *The Auction of 1,000 Stars* icon.

For the love of dance, here's an outstanding chance to find out what really goes into creating the magic of a ballet while performing a grande plie with the creme de la creme. *The New York City Ballet Educational Department* offers Ballet Fundamentals, a unique half-day course where students, designers, choreographers, musicians and other members of the American Ballet give you an overview of the entire ballet process and lead you in simple ballet movements. For more information and to enroll, call the *New York City Ballet Education Department* at (212) 870-5636.

The hep cat in you will jump and jive for the groovy chance to learn what it's like to gig at a real jazz club. Play at open jam sessions courtesy of the *Smoke Jazz Club* (jam sessions every Monday night at 2751 Broadway and 106th Street; (212) 864-6662; www.smokejazz.com), and *Cleopatra's Needle* (open jams on various nights at 2485 Broadway at 92nd Street; (212) 769-6969, www.cleopatrasneedleny.com). Or if Cabaret is your thing, the *92nd Street Y* offers *Y Cabaret*, a by-audition-only course to learn how to rehearse and deliver theatrical songs in staged solos and small ensembles. The course ends with a public performance. To learn more, phone (212) 415-5580.

Never to be outdone musically, the Evening Division of the world-renowned *Juilliard School* offers courses in both choral and orchestral conducting. Drop that air baton and really find out what every motion means and how tough a job conducting really is. For more information, call (212) 799-5000, extension 273, or log on to www.juilliard.edu/evening and click on "Performance Practice Courses."

With all the juggling you do in your life, no doubt you've got what it takes to really juggle — balls and clubs, that is. *The Carmine Street Irregulars* (a.k.a. New York City Jugglers) is an affiliate of the International Jugglers Association. They meet Thursdays from 7:30 to 10:00 PM in the West Village at the Carmine

SENIOR MANAGEMENT EXECUTIVE BARBARA BERRISFORD *The Pursuit of Harmony*



Photo by Bob Newey

Lawrence Properties Senior Management Executive Barbara Berrisford literally came of age with New York's residential management industry. Born and raised in Queens, she graduated New York University with a degree in political science. She didn't know where her studies would take her, but she knew she liked working with people.

It was the early 80s and Barbara responded to an ad for an entry-level clerk in a real estate rental management firm. Soon after she moved to one of the largest property management firms in the city as an assistant on-site manager.

"When I first became a property manager, I managed a portfolio of buildings in Queens," says Barbara. "That was a good experience because I learned a lot about physical and mechanical infrastructure. I was also negotiating new contracts for my properties. The work was different every day, and that's what made it satisfying. Opportunities came and I moved on."

Move on she did, to a 20-acre, 450-unit garden apartment complex in Queens. "The property was in foreclosure," Barbara recalls. "They had no money, the boiler was on its last legs, every single roof leaked, there was almost no staff, and what staff they had didn't know what they were doing. On December 31st, I lost a boiler in zero degree weather. I spent that New Year's Day celebrating in the management office because I finally got heat and hot water up for the residents. Then I had to figure out how to pay for it all." In the end, however, Barbara helped negotiate

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Ask Anton

Not a day goes by that Lawrence Properties doesn't respond to our residents with answers to real-life, day-to-day household operating questions. Our Ask Anton column is dedicated to your most frequent inquiries. Doing the answering is our own in-house expert, Director of Operations Anton Cirulli.



Photo by Bob Henery

Question: I have just installed the most gorgeous new maple floors in my apartment. Now I am told I must cover 80% of them with carpet. I love the look of the wood. Why do I have to cover them?

Anton responds: Maple floors are beautiful, but unfortunately it doesn't matter whether your floors are newly-installed maple or 50 year old linoleum — the rules are the same throughout all New York co-ops, condos, and rental apartments. To wit, 80% of the floor surface excluding the kitchen, bathrooms, and closets, must be carpeted.

This is New York City Code and is included in all House Rules. The idea behind the code is to muffle the pass-through of noise between floors to the greatest possible extent. And it doesn't matter whether your floors are wood or concrete, either. Each apartment acts like a sound chamber. Carpeting cuts down not only on vibrations caused by walking but also on the vibrations caused by electronic equipment like televisions and stereos. So, while there's no way around the requirement to cover 80% of your new maple floors, you may want to investigate using area rugs that extend to 80% of the floor surface. Such area rugs will keep you in compliance with the coverage requirement and can add another attractive decorating touch to your apartment.

Lawrence Properties Director of Operations Anton Cirulli is a veritable font of information when it comes to apartment life in the Big Apple. We invite you to submit questions for the Ask Anton column by mailing to Lawrence Properties, 855 Avenue of the Americas, NY, NY 10001; faxing to (212) 279-2119; or e-mailing to acirulli@bernsteinre.com. Submissions must be signed, will not be acknowledged, become the property of Lawrence Properties, and may be edited and used in future issues of the LP Update.

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Recreation Center (2 Seventh Avenue South, one block north of Houston Street on the northwest corner at Clarkson Street; (212) 242-5228). Jugglers of all levels, including beginners, are welcome. Be sure to wear rubber-soled shoes and comfortable clothing — they'll show you what to do. Your first visit is free, but then you'll have to pay an annual membership fee to keep attending. For more, click on to www.juggler.net/carmine.

For those who love the sound of their own voice, what could be better than a personal radio show? **WLUX-AM**, a Deer Park, Long Island-based radio station, will sell you weekly 30 or 60 minute time segments in 13-week installments and show you how to create and host your very own radio show. And yes, the show is actually broadcast. To find out how it all works, call Ms. Megale at (631) 243-5400, extension 206.

I want to paint, I want to sculpt, I want to write ... Psychologists tell us that the highest level of human actualization is self-expression through art. If the inspiration to paint or sculpt abides within your psyche, the **Brooklyn Museum of Art** (200 Eastern Parkway, Brooklyn; (718) 638-5000; www.brooklynart.org) offers a catalogue of courses in painting, drawing, sculpture, and mixed media through its hands-on, professionally-instructed Gallery/Studio Program. Create something extraordinary and your work will be displayed in the museum. Similarly, **Art Zone at The Queens Museum** (New York City Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park, Queens; (718) 592-9700; www.queensmuse.org) provides professional guidance, materials, and interactive space to make art in all media. Instruction is linked to the museum's changing art exhibitions throughout the year.

If the written word is your milieu, you can hone your craft at **The Writers Studio (8 Charles Street, Greenwich Village; (212) 255-7075; www.writerstudio.com)** a private, non-degree granting writer's school that provides intensive ongoing workshops in poetry and fiction, private tutorials, and online courses in fiction and poetry for writers of every level, from beginners to advanced to published. Once your words have found their voice, you can actually vocalize them at open poetry mikes every Wednesday night at **Nuyorican Poets Café (236 East 3rd Street** between Avenues B and C; (212) 505-8183; www.nuyorican.org), or head uptown for an ever-changing variety of classes, readings, and other literary opportunities at **Makor at the 92nd Street Y (35 West 67th Street** between Central Park West and Columbus Avenue; (212) 601-1000; www.makor.org [click on Literary@Makor]). You can also take your inspiration in the company of other writers by attending the numerous local, national, and international writers conferences for beginning, advanced, and published writers held throughout each year. To find a conference you might like to attend, log on to www.shawguides.com (click on Writers Conferences and Workshops), or www.writersdigest.com, where you will also find a listing of online writers, courses, thousands of places to get published, and a full calendar of literary conferences.

Perhaps the rough and tumble of sports ... If you fancied yourself a Gretzky clone in high school or college express yourself on the ice at **The Sky Rink at Chelsea Piers (23rd Street and Hudson River; (212) 336-6100; www.chelseapiers.com**, and link to "Sky Rink") for various open hockey sessions during the week. They're accessible to anyone older than 18 — just bring your own equipment, a dark or white jersey, and a mouth guard.

Attention men and women who love driving fast: here are two driving schools that show you how to get behind the wheel and live your dream of driving a stock car on an actual track. Both are based at the **Thompson Speedway** in northeastern Connecticut, a mere three-hour drive from Manhattan (less if you drive really fast). Choose from 1988 Winston Cup Rookie of the Year Ken Bouchard's **Drive to Victory Racing School (877-722-3438)**, or racing pro Mark Ebert's **Racing Reality (877-226-7223)**.

To express your love of the nautical visit www.floatplan.com. This site will teach you what you need to know about hoisting anchor and sailing away with listings for both paid and unpaid crew positions destined for ports as close as Long Island Sound and as exotic as the Pacific Isles.

But the ultimate sports experience happens through **Dream Week**, which makes sports fans, dreams come true by organizing five-day programs for participants to meet and play with their professional baseball, basketball, and hockey heroes. (Football will be available soon.) In the New York area, the group represents the Mets (the camp is held at the team's Florida training facility in January); the Rangers (in Toronto in mid-summer); and the Knicks (in Atlantic City in September). To get in the starting line-up, be over 25 years of age and call (800) 888-4376, extension 200.

So cooking gets you cooking?... If the kitchen is where you express your creative self best and you enjoy watching well-known public television chefs like Mary Ann Esposito and Lidia Matticchio Bastianich, actually cooking with them would probably be even more fun. At **Cooking By The Book**, a downtown culinary school (11 Worth Street in Manhattan; (212) 966-9799; www.cookingbythebook.com), the speciality of the house is demonstrations and seminars by cookbook authors. And for the really serious, the **Cordon Bleu** (yes, the one in France at 8 rue Leon Delhomme, Paris; (800) 457-CHEF; www.cordonbleu.net/schools/france) offers a selection of one-day courses for cooking enthusiasts. Drop by when you're in the City of Lights.

For the nature lover in you ... If you've never gotten over your childhood fascination with dinosaurs, anthropology, astronomy, or natural history, express your passion by becoming a volunteer 'explainer' at the **Museum of Natural History (81st Street and Central Park West)**. A 12-session training program led by museum scientists and staff will equip you to help visitors understand what's on display. Call the Volunteer Office at (212) 769-5566 or log on to www.amnh.org. If you're certain your boss comes from another planet and you have the hankering to know which one, you can participate in the **Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI)** by running a free program in the form of a screensaver that downloads and analyzes radio telescope data. The project, called **SETI@home**, is a scientific experiment that uses Internet-connected personal comput-

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SUCH INTERESTING PEOPLE

Such interesting people live in Lawrence Properties-managed buildings. We thought you might like to meet some of them, so each issue we introduce someone we think you'd like to know. This issue, meet:

Governor Mario Cuomo: The American Dream Personified



The story of New York's Governor Mario Matthew Cuomo is the American Dream personified. Born in 1932 at the hands of a mid-wife in a room behind his family's grocery store in South Jamaica, Queens, Governor Cuomo's journey from the child of poor Italian immigrants to renowned and respected public servant, orator, and man of letters is a lesson in what is possible when innate ability and intelligence encounter uncommon vision and preparedness.

An alumnus of the New York City public school system and summa cum laude graduate of St. John's Law School, Mario Cuomo was admitted to the New York bar in 1956. He married Matilda Raffa while still in law school, and upon graduation taught as an adjunct law professor and worked as an attorney in a small law firm. It was during these early years that he honed his reputation for representing the less fortunate against the power machines of money and politics.

Mario Cuomo's first major success came in the early 1960s' when he defeated developer Robert Moses's plan to remove junkyard owners from Willets Point to make way for the second World's Fair. Soon after, he was contacted by a contingent of homeowners from Corona, Queens. "They called me saying that (then-mayor) Lindsay wanted to take about 100 homes behind Lefrak City," says the Governor. "They were mostly immigrants or the children of immigrants. They didn't know anything about politics. All they knew was that their homes were going to be taken. It was a terrible situation. I represented them. I won again." It was the first time in the history of New York City that a condemnation of property was reversed by a bill in the Legislature, and it garnered a modicum of publicity for the young lawyer.

"Then I get a call that Lindsay is having tzuris

with the Jewish community and the welfare community because he wants to build (low-income) apartments in the middle of Forest Hills," Governor Cuomo recalls. He asked me to mediate. I said, "Look, I will do it. I don't know anything about housing in particular. But I know about people."

It was then that Mario Cuomo began to think about a future in politics, and it didn't take long for events to evolve in that direction. In 1975, then-Governor Hugh Carey appointed him to the position of Secretary of State. In 1977, under pressure from Governor Carey, he ran for mayor of New York City but lost to Edward Koch. "What I learned," says Governor Cuomo, "was a lesson that I knew pretty well until I broke my own rule by saying yes to the governor. And that is, you just don't do it when your heart's not fully in it. I never did it again politically, including running for president. I did run when my heart was fully in it, and that was for the governorship when everybody told me not to. And when ironically Koch decided to run against me for the governorship, we won that thing and wound up the only place in the country where the governor wanted to be mayor and the mayor wanted to be governor."

Mario Cuomo was elected New York's 52nd Governor in 1982, and set popularity records in both his successful 1986 and 1990 runs for re-election. During his tenure, he stewarded the Empire State through two national recessions, created more than 500,000 jobs, and introduced the state's largest and most successful economic development plan. Under his leadership, New York City gained Stuyvesant High School and Battery Park City, foreign investment in New York State more than doubled, New Yorkers enjoyed the most significant tax cuts in the state's history, and the nation's most expansive homeless housing assistance program, drug treatment network, and program for the mentally ill were inaugurated. He enacted the country's first seat belt law; appointed the first African-American, Hispanic, and female judges to the State Court of Appeals; and gave New York our first ethics laws for public officials.

But it was Governor Cuomo's keynote address at the 1984 Democratic National Convention that catapulted him into the national spotlight and identified him as one of the most insightful and compelling political thinkers and speakers of our time. Although widely regarded as the front-runner for the 1988 Democratic presidential nomination, he declared his noncandidacy when then-Massachusetts Governor Dukakis expressed his desire to run.

"I've never thought of the presidency as something you should do because you want it," says Governor Cuomo. "You should pursue the governorship, the mayoralty, whatever the position, because you believe that you are better than the other people available to do it. I didn't believe that about the presidency (in 1987). In 1991, frankly, I could have brought myself to believe that I was as good as the people in the field at the time because by then I had had every experience you could have as

Executive Barbara Berrisford (cont'd from page 1)

a new mortgage for the distressed property, and is credited with getting the co-op back on track structurally, mechanically, and financially.

"It was one of the most rewarding experiences of my career," she says, "because I left that property a lot better than when I found it."

It was because of this outstanding achievement that Lawrence Properties invited Barbara to join our family about two years ago.

Barbara's typical day begins before 9:00 AM, when she arrives at the office to check and respond to e-mails and messages. Then she does her paperwork, and goes out to her buildings, where she interacts with the superintendent and residents, and the vendors and contractors, of the properties she manages. And then she goes to Board meetings, which usually last until 10:30 in the evening or later.

"You have to be very well organized, and you have to organize priorities," says Barbara. "I seem to have a knack for that. I try to solve the smaller problems as quickly as possible so that I have enough time to delve into the more serious challenges. That's the key. You have to keep on top of everything."

"I have a personal philosophy about managing buildings. It's a series of partnerships. When it works well and everyone involved is supportive and in harmony with each other, the results are always successful, the path to them smooth. There is a partnership between the agent and the board. And there is the partnership of the board itself. When boards are in trouble, invariably so are the buildings. Getting along, moving, and thinking in tandem, are key."

Practicing harmony in her professional and her personal life has become an important goal for Barbara. To achieve this balance, she owns a thoroughbred horse named Rue, which she rides every evening (unless, of course, she has a Board meeting). Riding has been Barbara's renewal for more than 20 years; she has competed in and won several horse shows. "We practice a kind of equestrian choreography called dressage," explains Barbara. "That's all about partnership and harmony between the rider and the animal. That's when you get an exquisite movement ... a fluid dance. It takes discipline, concentration, and patience."

"To have everything move well together is always my objective. I think of it here, at Lawrence Properties, as being a partnership, a harmonious environment. When one of us has a predicament, we all try to solve it. Everyone is here for everyone else. That's a very rare thing in business today."

It is the daily application of discipline, concentration, patience that has enabled Barbara Berrisford to foster uniquely harmonious and productive partnerships with the buildings she manages. Congratulations on your outstanding work, Barbara. Lawrence is proud to have you among us.

Such Interesting People: Governor Mario Cuomo *(continued from page 3)*

Governor. But then I was stuck with my budget situation." In fact, it was New York State's budget situation in 1990 that not only squelched a run for the presidency but lost Governor Cuomo his fourth gubernatorial term.

"My life consists of a whole lot of roads not taken," says Governor Cuomo. "Baseball, the presidency, the Supreme Court. I played baseball in South Jamaica, was All City in high school, and then I played in Connecticut. A scout saw me bat against Whitey Ford, followed me for a couple of weeks, and signed me to a contract. I was beamed in August of that season. You didn't wear helmets in those days. I had a hematoma on the brain and that ended my career.

"I would have loved to serve on the Supreme Court because all my basic instincts are compatible with that kind of work and the things I like to do most: study, learn, reason, listen to brighter people than I, wrestle with hard problems and try to come to a conclusion that resolves the problem, and then write it up and try to give people guidance through that process. That's what the Supreme Court does. And on a purely social level, it exempts you from all cocktail parties, eliminates all fundraising, and you don't even have to buy pants because they give you this robe that goes from your chin to your shoes.

"But I don't allow myself any regrets because I've been given so much," says Governor Cuomo. "I've made mistakes, like everybody else, and if I had another opportunity to do it, I would do some things differently. But no

regrets."

Today, Governor Cuomo is special counsel at the law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher, practicing corporate and securities law, litigation, business reorganization and restructuring, real estate, and other specialized fields of law. He lectures widely and is currently working on a new book about Abraham Lincoln. Upon its completion, the book will take its place in the Governor's bibliography beside such works as, Forest Hills Diary: The Crisis of Low-Income Housing; Diaries of Mario M. Cuomo; The Cuomo Commission Report; America's Agenda: Rebuilding Economic Strengths; Lincoln on Democracy; More Than Words; The New York Idea: An Experiment in Democracy; the highly heralded, Reason to Believe; and the autobiographical children's book, The Blue Spruce, which the Governor says is, "the one thing I've done that I'm proudest of."

"The best thing about New York City is the people, so many people from all over the world. It's the diversity, the history of the place and its people. People like my parents who came here looking for an opportunity that they wouldn't have found in the place they came from. This place has created opportunity for ten generations of people who wouldn't have gotten it otherwise. And it's given them good lives, the way it gave my family a good life."

Of New York City, says Governor Cuomo, "I will die here. I love it."

Governor Mario M. Cuomo. Such interesting people.

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ers in the search for life "out there." It's affiliated with the **SETI Institute** in Mountain View, California, and you can get there via www.setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu ... or they can just beam you aboard.

Oh, the unbearable ennui ... Still haven't found your path to creative self-expression? Here are our two last suggestions. Go to www.imar.com and see what amazing products and services New Yorkers are buying and selling at the **Insider's Marketplace**. Or, try the **Time Out New York** website at www.time-outny.com.

**LAWRENCE
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