

Speed Networking A Huge Hit



Chamber members enjoyed the speed-networking event at the Bulova Center.



Queens Chamber Executive Vice President Jack Friedman and Chamber Chief of Operations Sophia Ganosis helped keep the networking moving.

How long does it take to find a new business partner? It could be as little as three minutes thanks to a new concept called speed networking that the Queens Chamber of Commerce recently brought to its membership. More than 100 business people came to Gotte's Café at the Bulova Corporate Center last month for the Chamber's inaugural speed networking event. Speed networking, which stems from the concept of speed dating, allowed business people to meet individually with other Chamber members for 3-5 minutes and pitch their business model to see if there is a match.

If there is interest on either side, or a potential match, the business people could exchange contact information and continue their conversation later.

After the five minutes of conversation, a bell is rung and the parties move onto the next five-minute meeting.

During the Chamber's first event, many of those in attendance raved about the new format and excitement it added to the networking experience. The event was so successful, the Chamber will likely host more speed networking events in the future.

Muss Delivers Keynote At Biz Forum

By Pete Davis

One of the biggest developers in Queens spoke about the long history of city policies preventing development in the borough – a trend that could be ending with major developments planned throughout the borough.

"The future I believe for Queens is as bright as it's ever been," said Joshua Muss, Principal of the Muss Development Company, at a Queens College Business Forum event on Friday, May 2.

The Muss Development Company, which has been developing large and small projects throughout the city for more than a century, is currently working on Sky View Parc in downtown Flushing.

When completed, the 14-acre Sky View Parc site will contain 1,100 condominiums in six towers, 800,000 square feet of retail space, a four-acre park, swimming pool, tennis courts, golf and a fitness center, among other amenities.

In addition to Sky View Parc, Muss spoke about another development project that his company has submitted a proposal to redevelop – Willets Point.

"Willets Point is the poster child for eminent domain," said Muss, who referred to the current site as "God-awful."

"There is no earthly reason for anyone to be on the site," said Muss, who believes that the

current landowners knew the situation when they decided to start their business there.

"That is the perfect location for development now," Muss said.

Meanwhile, Congressman Joseph Crowley, who is the Chair of the Queens County Democratic Organization, talked about the painful and difficult times that lie ahead for the borough, state and nation.

"We will be looking to the business community and all sectors of society to help us through this," Crowley said.

In addition to Crowley, Assemblymembers Audrey Pheffer and Mark Weprin and City Councilmembers Leroy Comrie and David Weprin attended the business forum.

"This business forum has turned into a great event; great for Queens County and great for businesses in Queens," said Assemblymember Mark Weprin, who chairs the Assembly's Small Business Committee.

The Queens College Business Forum, which is sponsored by the Queens Chamber of Commerce, Queens Borough President's Office, Chase, Con Edison, Farrell Fritz, PricewaterhouseCoopers, and The Times Ledger began in the fall of 2005.

At the conclusion of Friday's forum, the sponsors presented two \$2,500 scholarships to two Queens College business students in order to help them continue their studies.



Joshua Muss, Principal of the Muss Development Company, delivered the keynote address at the most recent Queens College business forum.

QB/Photo by Pete Davis