

End of the Year Literacy Celebration

By Landa Towns

Back in April The Manhattan Times reported that the YM&YWA of Washington Heights and Inwood was working together with the McDonald's of Dyckman Street and Literacy Inc. to provide a special reading initiative for the children of our neighborhood. On Tuesday June 4th children and parents gathered to celebrate the accomplishments of the Reading Program so far.

The celebration was held to commemorate the passing school year and embrace the beginning of the summer program. The program will continue its course throughout the summer by meeting every Tuesday at the McDonald's at 4PM. The celebration marked the two month anniversary of the reading program.

All the guest readers were invited back for the children to see and to receive a "Certificate of Appreciation" for their dedication to the children participating in the program. All of the children received a "Certificate of Completion" for sticking with the program and free books of poetry called "One World One Heart" written by Susan Polis Schutz. Being that the program has a new guest reader every Tuesday; this week's guest reader was none other than the founder of the Guardian Angels, Curtis Sliwa. Mr. Sliwa read "Milo's Hat Trick". While Mr. Sliwa read his book, Freddy the Pan Man, the New York Yankees Biggest Fan "Freddy Sez" banged his pot with a spoon. Freddy was also a guest reader for the children.

The program has been coordi-

nated by Abraham Palma from the Y up to this point, but he will be on hiatus for the summer while he helps run the Y's Summer Camp Program, he will be back in the fall. In his absence Angelo Ortiz of Unidos Inwood Coalition and Albania Jimenez of Literacy Inc. will be coordinating the activities for the reading initiative. For any additional information please call 212-942-0043. See photos on page 5.



(Above) Guest reader Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels. (Right) Children at the celebration of the Reading Program at McDonald's.