

Dear Neighbor,

Happy New Year! I am honored to continue serving you as the State Senator for the 25th District.

I look forward to our continued partnership to fight for the issues important to our city, state and nation. Please know that your voice is powerful and a critical part of the political process. We have accomplished so much together; and I have no doubt that we will persevere and continue strengthening our communities.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy 2018.

Sincerely,  
Senator Velmanette Montgomery



Senator Montgomery joins Assemblyman Mosley, St. Joseph's College, Sigma Gamma Rho Inc. and the YWCA of Brooklyn to sponsor a Back To School Giveaway

Senator Montgomery joins Executive Director Sr. Paulette LoMonaco and the Good Shepherd Services family to celebrate Thanksgiving in Red Hook.



NEW YORK  
STATE SENATE

New York State Senate  
Albany, NY 12247



## NEWS FROM STATE SENATOR VELMANETTE MONTGOMERY

Winter 2017/2018

### DISTRICT OFFICE:

30 Third Avenue, Suite 207  
Brooklyn, NY 11217  
Tel: (718) 643-6140  
Fax: (718) 237-4137

### ALBANY OFFICE:

903 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, NY 12247  
Tel: (518) 455-3451  
Fax: (518) 426-6854

E-MAIL: [montgome@nysenate.gov](mailto:montgome@nysenate.gov)

WEBSITE: [montgomery.nysenate.gov](http://montgomery.nysenate.gov)

FACEBOOK: [@NYStateSenatorVelmanetteMontgomery](https://www.facebook.com/NYStateSenatorVelmanetteMontgomery)

## Senator Montgomery receives a Lifetime Achievement Award from Nurse Practitioners of New York



Senator Montgomery's trailblazing commitment to public health issues is one of the hallmarks of her distinguished career. On October 21, 2017, the Nurse Practitioners of New York recognized Senator Montgomery with a Lifetime Achievement Award for her tireless advocacy.

Senator Montgomery is a longstanding advocate for the Nurse Practitioner profession. Starting with the landmark legislation introduced by Senator Tarky Lombardi and Senator Montgomery authorizing the title and scope of NP Practice in NYS. Before that time, hundreds of NPs practiced without legal protections. In 2010, she sponsored legislation to allow NPs to sign death certificates, which is now enshrined in law. The Senator introduced legislation to allow independent practice for NPs and also supported the NP Modernization Act.

Throughout her service in the New York Senate, Senator Montgomery has been a leading voice on health issues. Senator Montgomery is the original sponsor of legislation to legalize needle exchange programs and spearheaded the campaign to stem the spread of AIDS among intravenous drug users. She sponsored a bill, now law, that prohibits employers from discriminating in the granting of funeral or bereavement leave

to its employees who are in a committed same-sex relationship. The Senator authored the law banning female genital mutilation in New York State. Throughout her career, Senator Montgomery has fought to expand school based health centers throughout the state where nurse practitioners and medical staff ensure young people have access to comprehensive health, mental health, vision and dental services.

Senator Montgomery with NPNY Treasurer Irene Van Slyke, Audrey Hoover, Chair of the Advocacy and Policy Committee and President Cristina Martinez.

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## MONTGOMERY/WEPRIN BILL (S3982/A3053) TO INCREASE PAROLE BOARD TRANSPARENCY SIGNED INTO LAW (Chapter 412)

The bill directs the State Board of Parole to publish its appeal decisions within 60 days on a public website and create an annual index of such decisions.

The decisions are useful in that individuals and their attorneys can read appeal decisions in similar cases to see what kinds of arguments might apply to their cases and because agency transparency is an important tenet of open government. The Board of Parole, which exercises extraordinary discretion, will now post its administrative appeal determinations so that the public and concerned citizens can have access to the body of decisions that informs the Board's practice.

This bill is part of a package of legislation Senator Montgomery has introduced to reform the Parole Board, including changing how Parole Board members are appointed and increasing the diversity of members to reflect to the prison population.

## RAISE THE AGE REFORM



Senator Montgomery thanks Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Leader of the Senate Democratic Conference; Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie; her colleagues in the Senate and Assembly; Governor Cuomo; Hazel Dukes, President of the NAACP New York State Conference; Judges; members of the clergy and the thousands of advocates who worked tirelessly to Raise the Age in New York State.

This important measure was included in the final 2017-18 Budget:

- Beginning October 1, 2018 all 16 year olds and subsequently beginning October 1, 2019 all 17 year olds, charged with most MISDEMEANORS will be diverted to Family Court NOT criminal court.
- The bill expands the existing law requiring parental notification upon the arrest and/or interrogation of a juvenile to 16 and 17 year olds.
- New provision will allow certain non-violent convictions to be sealed upon application to the court and after a 10-year waiting period following completion of sentence (sealing applies to no more than two misdemeanors and 1 felony).
- Establishes a new class of offender named "Adolescent Offender" who is a 16 or 17 year old charged with a felony offense.

"We have not done everything that I would have liked to have done. But at least, we have changed the direction. We just have to continue looking at children as children," said Senator Montgomery.

## SENATOR MONTGOMERY, ASSEMBLYMEMBERS DIANA RICHARDSON, LATRICE WALKER AND TREMAINE WRIGHT SPONSOR "VOICES FROM THE FORMERLY INCARCERATED: REFORM AND RE-ENTRY" WORKSHOP

as part of the NYS Assn. of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc.'s 46th Annual Legislative Conference Weekend. The workshop discussion centered on issues including legislation to assist victims of domestic violence, the need for programs in correctional facilities, access to higher education opportunities, the need for increased diversity on the New York State Board of Parole, parole and restrictive mandates that can trigger violations and lead to recidivism.

Senator Montgomery with panelists: staff member Jason Salmon; Cesar Sosa, NY Therapeutic Communities, Inc.'s, Donna Hylton, From Life to Life; Kyle Leonard; Serena Liguori, Herstory Writers Workshop, Kyle Leonard; and Theresa Sweeney, JustLeadership USA and Fortune Society; and Tyrell Muhammed, Correctional Association.

## NEW YORK STATE CONSTITUTION

The New York State Constitution predates the United States Constitution by ten years and provides greater protections for New Yorkers.

In September, Senator Velmanette Montgomery, joined by Senate Democratic Conference Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, her colleagues in government and union leaders, held an informational panel on the guaranteed rights and protections that would be at risk should a State Constitutional Convention be convened.

Current rights guaranteed by the State Constitution include:

- Public employee pension and retirement benefits.
- The right to minimum wage and worker's compensation.
- Unions' right to organize and bargain collectively.
- Prevention of private corporations from profiting off prison labor.
- Right to counsel and security against unreasonable searches, seizures and interceptions.
- Free public education for all students of the state.
- Structure for an independent New York State Education Department.
- Conservation of natural resources, including 3 million acres of forest preserves and our state's reservoirs.
- Safety net and housing protections

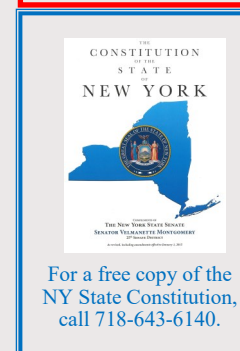
The event was co-sponsored by the New York State AFL-CIO, New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), New York State Nurses Association, Transport Workers Union Local 100, Council of School Supervisors & Administrators (CSA), CWA Local 1180, District Council 1707, 32BJ SEIU, UFCW Local 1500, United Federation of Teachers (UFT), Teamsters Local 237, District Council 37 (DC 37), United University Professions (UUP), UAW, Region 9A.



Senator Montgomery with members of CWA Local 1180



Senator Montgomery meets with President Wayne Spence and members of the New York State Public Employees Federation to discuss the labor protections guaranteed in the State Constitution.



For a free copy of the NY State Constitution, call 718-643-6140.

"Fighting on behalf of a community that is home to notorious Superfund sites and which suffers from the pollution belched from the congested highways in New York - that's what Senator Velmanette Montgomery is all about. Consistently one of the Senate's top performers, her 100 score this year exemplifies her commitment to her constituents."

EPL/ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES

SENATOR MONTGOMERY RECEIVES PERFECT SCORE ON 2017 ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD





# REFLECTIONS FROM 2017

## Dancewave breaks ground on new home



Senator Montgomery joined Deputy Borough President Diana Reyna, Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon, Executive & Artistic Director Diane Jacobowitz and the Dancewave family to celebrate the groundbreaking of their future home.

In 2016, Senator Montgomery and Assemblywoman Simon authored a law that enabled New York State, through the Dormitory Authority, to assist Dancewave with low-interest capital construction financing to help build the organization's new community arts and cultural center in Brooklyn. The state's assistance with the new Dancewave Center will allow the non-profit organization to expand its programming and provide affordable community rental space for rehearsals, events and performances.

Dancewave is a Brooklyn based non-profit dance organization that began in 1995 under the leadership of Diane Jacobowitz with the mission of promoting growth and development through a dance experience that is accessible to all.

This Capital Project will allow for the building of a new community arts and cultural center at 182 4th Avenue in Brooklyn. The new Dancewave Center will allow expansion of the current class offerings to meet demand and reduce reliance on outside studio rentals. The new center will accommodate Dancewave's growth and mission; providing affordable arts programming and cultural connectedness that strengthens the health and vibrancy of the community.

For more information about Dancewave, visit <http://dancewave.org>



Executive & Artistic Director Diane Jacobowitz and Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon present Senator Montgomery with an award at Dancewave's 2017 Spring Gala. Senator Montgomery was recognized for her unwavering dedication to the arts and her visionary leadership in support of community empowerment.

## CELEBRATING MILESTONES!

Congratulations to our neighbors and institutions in our community that marked milestones in 2017:

**15th Pastoral Anniversary of Reverend Dr. Robert M. Waterman of Antioch Baptist Church**

**20th Anniversary of Groundswell Community Mural Project**

**35th Anniversary of Christ Fellowship Church**

**40th Anniversary of New York Therapeutic Communities (Serendipity I and II)**



**50th Anniversary of 140 Cadman Plaza West**

**50th Anniversary of Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corp**

**100th Anniversary of Cornerstone Baptist Church**



**100th BIRTHDAY OF Georgina Scott aka "Ms. Jean"**

**Lynn Nottage wins second Pulitzer Prize Award for Drama**



**150th Anniversary of Brooklyn Community Services**

**60th Anniversary of 500 MacDonough Street Block Association**



## Senator Montgomery honors Judge Betty E. Staton as a Woman of Distinction

Senator Montgomery and the New York State Senate honored Judge Betty E. Staton as a 2017 Woman of Distinction.

As New York State commemorates the 100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage, Senator Montgomery is proud to pay tribute to a personal shero, mentor and friend. Judge Staton is a tireless warrior, an iconic trailblazer and an unsung shero in our community. She is an inspirational role model and a visionary leader who has selflessly devoted her life to empowering our community.

Judge Staton is a distinguished jurist who spent almost 20 years on the bench of Kings County Family Court before returning to the Bedford Stuyvesant Community Legal Services Corporation (BSCLS) where she began her legal career in 1979. She is currently President of Brooklyn Legal Services (BLS), an organization that has provided free legal services to poor and low-income Brooklyn residents for 50 years.

Judge Staton is a distinguished lawyer and legal scholar. In March 1987, she became a founding partner in Boyd Staton & Cave, the first African American female law firm in New York. She was an instructor at several colleges, including New York City College of Technology, where she taught Business Law for more than 15 years. A servant leader at the Emmanuel Baptist Church and a worship leader for the Prime Time Senior ministry, Judge Staton feels blessed to have served her community throughout her legal career. Her greatest hope is that her work and daily life reflect the highest recommendation of God's love for us.

## CELEBRATING NEW AFFORDABLE AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN BROOKLYN



Senator Montgomery celebrates the opening of Concern Bergen, a 90-unit supportive housing development for persons with disabilities and families in need of affordable housing. Concern for Independent Living, a leading non-profit provider of supportive housing constructed the building with funding from the NYS Housing Homes & Community Renewal and the NYS Office of Mental Health. For more information about Concern for Independent Living, visit [www.concernhousing.org/](http://www.concernhousing.org/)

## Senator Montgomery convenes "Connecting the Dots: A Networking Event on Re-Entry"

featuring representatives from the NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision (DOCCs) which operates the Brooklyn Community Supervision Office and the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services' Office of Probation and Correctional Alternatives to discuss existing re-entry programs and services, and potential opportunities for collaboration with community based organizations.



The goal of the meeting was to create a network of support to serve formerly incarcerated individuals and to ensure that the community is prepared to receive them. Strengthening and maintaining these relationships is vital to the success of re-entry and the safety of our communities.



## Senator Montgomery Marches to Preserve Women's Access to Healthcare



Senator Montgomery joined thousands of her constituents for the Women's March in New York City to stand up for progressive values and to continue fighting to preserve women's access to primary and reproductive healthcare.

Access to healthcare plays a vital role in ensuring women have agency over their own bodies, especially young, working and poor women. Senator Montgomery has an unwavering dedication to organizations that provide these services at little to no cost such as Planned Parenthood. Healthcare centers that provide services regardless of an individual's ability to pay have provided a safety net for communities in Brooklyn and throughout the state for decades. For many women, these clinics are their only options to receive services ranging from annual physicals and vaccines to contraception and family planning.



As an advocate for women's health, Senator Montgomery is proud to co-sponsor two bills that would preserve women's access to reproductive health: the Reproductive Health Act (RHA) (S2796/A1748) and the Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (CCCA). The RHA would protect New Yorkers' rights if any federal action is taken to restrict abortion access. The Comprehensive Contraception Coverage Act (S3668/A1378) would require insurers in New York to provide copay-free coverage for all FDA-approved contraceptives, including male contraceptives. Emergency contraception would be covered over the counter. To learn more about the bills, visit [www.nysenate.gov/](http://www.nysenate.gov/)

Senator Montgomery and members of the Senate Democratic Conference will continue to push for passage of RHA and CCCA to protect the health of women across New York State.

## CELEBRATING DR. JOAN MAYNARD'S LEGACY



Senator Montgomery proudly attended a ceremony to co-name part of Buffalo Avenue after Dr. Joan Maynard. Dr. Maynard was a founding member, former president and former executive director of the Society for the Preservation of Weeksville and Bedford Stuyvesant History, now Weeksville Heritage Society.

Senator Montgomery reflects on Dr. Maynard's legacy, "we must make sure that we are not written out of the history books, out of the libraries, out of our own communities. The only way to do that is to make sure we talk about people like Dr. Joan Maynard who build institutions. We have to maintain that our history, our people and their contributions are appreciated and are important and let no one forget."

To learn more about Dr. Maynard and the historical institution in the heart of Brooklyn, visit <http://www.weeksvillesociety.org>