

Queens Tax Battle

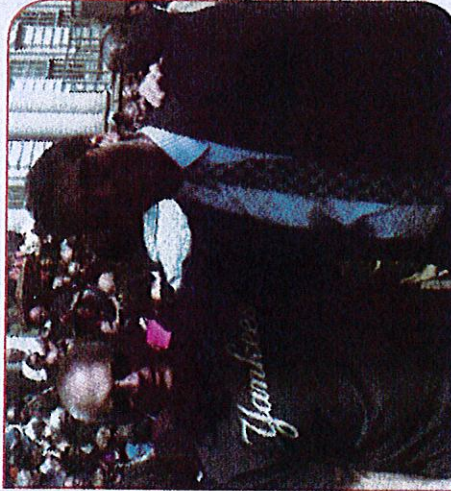
BY STEVEN YOUNG



The tax battle taking place across Queens has pointed out how vulnerable we are as middle-class citizens in this city that we call home. There is no question that we were used as Bloomberg's pawns to pad the city's budget. Frankel, our finance commissioner, could never get his story straight, when the little people from LeHavre, Glen Oaks and Cryder's Point were holding his feet to the fire.

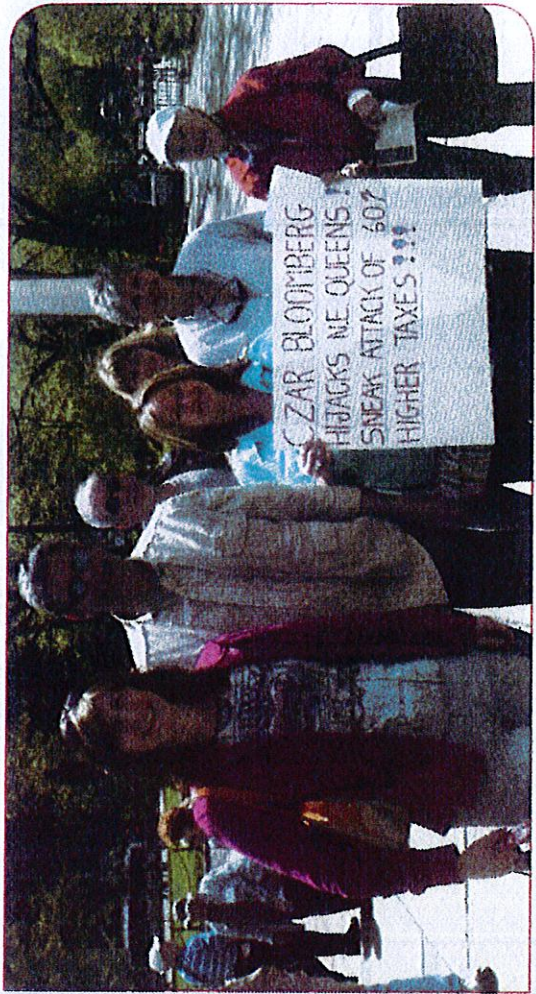
I think that some of us felt like we were at the Boston Tea Party, without tea, and why not? We were burdened with a 122 percent tax increase that we refused to accept; our reaction? Dump it into Little Neck Bay!

This fight is by no means over. We now know that we must remain forever vigilant and united with our neighboring co-ops. To do otherwise leaves us open to the city trying to make its budget on our backs.

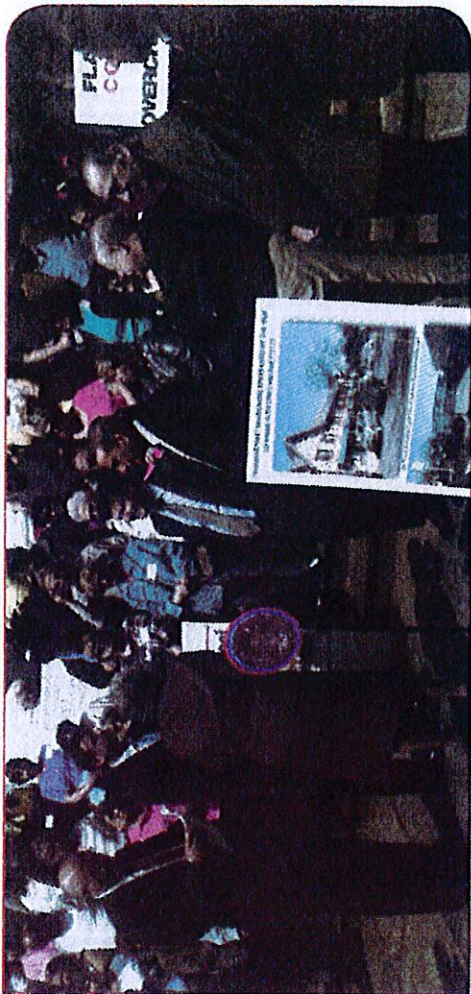


Steve Young and co-op attorney Mark Hankin at the City Hall rally.

This first battle would not have been successful without our Board President, Mike Palladino's and our Treasurer, Stanley Greenberg's leadership. Thanks should also be given to our co-op lawyers who lead the legal fight against the city, as well as Board members Phil Greco and Tommy Affatato, and our manager, Margaret Costello, who attended crucial meetings to plan our strategies. Special recognition (pictures included) should be given to the brave LeHavre residents who attended the demonstration in front of City Hall, and to the Bredibart and Posner families who walked over the Brooklyn Bridge to join us. With apologies for borrowing this relevant quote, "We have only just begun to fight!"



Marlene Fox, Sam Fox, Ginny Coy, Donna Conti, Irene DiLiberto and two unidentified people at the City Hall rally.



Bob Friedrich (Presidents Council representative), Assemblymember Edward Braunstein, State Senator Toby Stavisky, Councilmember Mark Weprin, Assemblymember David Weprin, Warren Schreiber (Presidents Council representative), some LeHavre residents and Geoffrey Mazel (attorney) at the City Hall rally.