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FREE

What's In A Name?

By Jonathan Dunn

Do we as a society ever really look up the origin of our own names? Let's take a moment to reflect on how we now "name" our streets. We appreciate the true meanings behind "the dedication" of streets, especially since 9-11-2001 with the loss of our fellow heroic New Yorkers who put their lives on the line daily for our own safety and comfort.

Today, we re-named a street after a former athletic organization that was not only multi-cultural, but successful in bringing home to the U.S. the gold, silver and bronze Olympian awards for outstanding achievements in sports. The current Celtic Park Apartments in Sunnyside/Woodside was once the former home of a grand sports complex and home of the Irish-American Athletic Club (I-ACC). We came together as a community to remember and honor these former Olympians recognizing their contributions, not only to the City of New York but to the world as we know it today – and a place where we can

always "remember".

These former New Yorkers participated in various local and global athletic events; entertaining us then - as athletes do now. It was an honor to reflect on their achievements and preserve the legacy of this athletic club on 43rd Street between 48th and 50th Avenues by renaming it Winged Fist Way based on the I-ACC's original emblem of a winged fist adorned with American flags and shamrocks.

Ian McGowan is the force behind the well-deserved recognition of this historic spot. Working tirelessly, he let us know about our local legacy starting with slide shows in neighborhood pubs, and ultimately enlisting the aid of local civic and political leaders to bring about the honor bestowed on Sunnyside/Woodside yesterday. His hard work, research, and determination paved the way for this history-making event of renaming our street.

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Photo by Joe Gurrado



Letters To The Editor

The following letters are the opinions of its author and not necessarily those of the Woodside Herald.



Celtic Park

Dear Editor,

It was a pleasure to attend the Street Co-naming of Winged Fist Way (43rd Street & 48th Avenue) on Saturday in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of The Irish-American Athletic Club athletes who built and trained in Celtic Park Stadium from 1898 to 1930. This group of multi-ethnic athletes who were immigrants to America competed in seven Olympic Games winning more than 50 medals for the United States of America.

Thanks to Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and Congressman Joe Crowley for their support for recognizing these amazing athletes who honored both the USA and our Woodside/Sunnyside neighborhood with their presence and achievements.

I was disappointed and disheartened to learn of the refusal of the Board of Directors of the Celtic Park Co-op Apartments, later built on the site, to allow a commemorative plaque to be placed on a building at this historic site. Common sense should prevail and the glorious history of Celtic Park should be honored with the plaque.

Sincerely,
Catherine Fitzgerald Volpe
Woodside

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What's In A Name?

Photo Credit: Sue Baldock / Joe Gurrado

Some of those in attendance were NYC Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer, State Senator Michael N. Gianaris, Councilman Daniel Dromm, Congressman and U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley, Community Board Two Chairman, Joe Conley, NYPD Captain Tom Farrell, Chief George Anderson, Captain Terry O'Toole, Detective Tim Black and members of the NYC Emerald Society, including bag pipers: Dan O'Grady, Matt McCrosson, Tom Dubois. Also highly recognized for the unveiling and fine speeches was United Forties Organization members Don McCallian and Richie O'Connor. With attendance of over 75 people from the community we had the pleasure of NY1 News and Channel 2 News to cover the story. For further information log on to www.wingedfist.org

So the next time you see a street has been renamed; take a moment to reflect on the story of what is in that name.

