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For Immediate Release
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**COUNCIL MEMBER MARK WEPRIN PRESENTS
AWARDS AT APEC'S 33RD ANNUAL ARLINE THOMAS
URBAN BIRD LITERARY AND ARTS CONTEST CEREMONY**

Council Member Mark S. Weprin presented awards at the 33rd Annual Arline Thomas Urban Bird Literary and Arts Contest Ceremony at Alley Pond Environmental Center (APEC) in Douglaston, Queens. Children who showed extraordinary talent and an in-depth understanding of urban birds received recognition. This year's contests were art projects and literary works focusing on the bluebird, the official bird of New York State.

"I thank APEC for promoting understanding of the environment in Queens. It is important to pass this appreciation on to future generations," said Council Member Mark Weprin.

Arline Thomas was a Queens native who dedicated her life to caring for sick and injured urban birds.



Council Member Mark S. Weprin with some of the contest winners at the 33rd Annual Arline Thomas Urban Bird Literary and Arts Contest Award Ceremony.