

# Bloomie: No Deal



## Boomtown

Fireworks light up the sky above Grand Army Plaza in this time-lapse photo taken from atop 36 Plaza St. on New Year's Eve.

The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Calan

## Mayor says Bear Stearns gets enough

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Michael Bloomberg is playing hardball with Bear Stearns & Company, according to published reports, refusing to grant any additional subsidies and tax breaks to the investment bank to keep it at Metrotech Center in Downtown Brooklyn.

Bear Stearns is threatening to pull 1,500 jobs out of Metrotech, seeking to relocate them to New Jersey or, if the city provides a subsidy package, to Lower Manhattan.

Both the Bloomberg administration and Bear Stearns were tight-lipped this week about the negotiations, but the New York Times reported on Monday that the mayor, in

See **NO DEAL** on page 7



The Brooklyn Paper / Tom Calan

## Joy bundle

Brooklyn's first baby of the New Year, Nicholas Isaac Cherry, was born to Lisberthe Elias and Diango Cherry at Park Slope's New York Methodist Hospital at 15 seconds after midnight Wednesday. Immediately, a controversy arose as to whether baby Nicholas was the city's first baby, or if that honor would go to a baby born in the Bronx. For the complete story, and additional photos of other Brooklyn New Year's babies, see back page.

# Prospect Park set to go car-free ... sort of

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Paper

It may feel a little like summer in Prospect Park later this month — for motorists that is.

The city Department of Transportation (DOT) is starting a five-month trial extension of the summer hours to which it restricts motorists driving through Prospect Park, allowing cars in the park only during the morning and evening rush.

Beginning on Tuesday, Jan. 21, cars will only be allowed in the park on weekdays from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Currently,

cars can drive through the park unrestricted during weekdays from November through April.

Cars are prohibited from the park Saturdays and Sundays.

The trial will last until Friday, April 4, but after that weekend, summer hours will take effect again, on Monday, April 7, running through Nov. 21, according to DOT.

"We will monitor this trial and gauge its effect on neighboring communities," DOT Commissioner Iris Weinshall, a resident of Park Slope, said in a prepared statement. "And we are optimistic that this plan will be successful."

Members of Transportation Alternatives, an anti-car group that has lobbied for a car-free Prospect Park for more than two decades and, to a lesser extent, the extension of the summer hours, applauded the announcement.

"We think this is a wonderful announcement," said Clarence Eckerson, Brooklyn chairman of Transportation Alternatives. "It's going to provide people in Brooklyn and their families an additional five months [of summer hours]."

Eckerson added, however, that the group would not relinquish its calls for a three-month trial of a complete ban

on cars in the park.

The group is supported by City Council members Bill DeBlasio (Park Slope-Windsor Terrace), David Yassky (Brooklyn Heights-Park Slope), Yvette Clarke (Flatbush) and James Davis (Fort Greene-Prospect Heights), whose districts abut the park.

Sunset Park-Red Hook Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez also supports the cause. "This is a big step forward," Yassky told The Brooklyn Paper Tuesday, following DOT's announcement. "And I commend the Department of Transportation for doing it."

See **CARS** on page 4

## New plans for lower Joralemon



New plans approved by Community Board 2 would demolish 36 Joralemon St. and build two three-story residential buildings there.

The Brooklyn Paper / File photo

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Paper

Pitching a new building in historic Brooklyn Heights is a notoriously delicate task.

With the community's inclination towards preservation coupled by a sharp eye for architecture — owed in no small part to the fact that many accomplished architects live in the neighborhood — the task can drain even the most tireless developer.

Take, for example, the previous would-be developer of the former Joralemon Street French restaurant, Bistrot 36, who called the Brooklyn Heights community "the toughest group I've ever come across."

Despite the tough crowd, a fresh plan for 36-38 Joralemon St., at the corner of Columbia Place, narrowly won approval from Community Board 2's land use committee on Dec. 18.

Manhattan-based architect Alex Campano's design for two three-story, redbrick townhouses with brownstone bases was approved by a 7-5 vote.

Campano declined to identify the owner, who was listed by the city Department of Buildings as the Dutch West India Corp. Land Use Chairman Bill Vincemonte said the committee was so divided over the design that a comprehensive set of recommendations was impossible to achieve. Instead, he called for a simple "yes or nay" vote.

While some on the committee liked the design and felt the scale of the building was appropriate for the corner, others thought the building, which would be just under 40 feet tall,

See **PLAN** on page 2

# Court: Hynes can't evade lawsuit

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Paper

A federal judge has ruled that a homicide prosecutor fired by District Attorney Charles Hynes has the right to sue his former employer.

Rob Reuland, 39, author of the novel "Hollowpoint," and a former prosecutor in Hynes' homicide bureau, claims in his lawsuit that his firing was political payback for statements he made to a journalist while promoting the book.

A U.S. Court of Appeals panel in late December ruled against Hynes, who sought to have the suit thrown out on the grounds that as a public official he was protected from being sued. The case now goes back to the federal courthouse in Downtown Brooklyn with Judge John Gleeson presiding.

The dark novel, published by Random House in 2001, graphically depicts the life of a prosecutor confronting death and decay in Brooklyn. The book, Reuland alleges, put him in bad stead with Hynes.

Shortly before Hynes began campaigning for re-election in 2001 against insurgent challenger Sandra

Roper, Reuland, of Park Slope, who had been with the homicide bureau for a year and a prosecutor for five years, told a New York magazine reporter, "Brooklyn is the best place to be a homicide prosecutor. We've got more dead bodies per square inch than anywhere else."

Soon after he made the comments, Reuland charges in his suit, he received an angry letter from then-state Sen. Marty Markowitz chastising him for what he said. A copy of the letter was sent to Hynes,

according to Reuland, who also took issue with his words.

"[Hynes] told me that my saying that Brooklyn has a homicide rate makes it harder for him to send out his public message. That he, Joe Hynes, is responsible for the decline in homicide rates," Reuland told The Brooklyn Paper.

Reuland, who is seeking unspecified damages, said he was given a choice of resigning or accepting a demotion just weeks after getting a \$10,000 raise. He further alleges that



DA Charles Hynes BP / File photo

after his comments to New York magazine, he went from prosecuting high-profile murders to litigating public urination charges. A few months later, in July 2001, he was fired from his \$84,000-a-year post, he said.

Hynes spokesman Jerry Schmetterer would only say, "It would be inappropriate to comment on a case that's now before Judge Gleeson."

Hynes' defense attorneys had argued that the district attorney was

See **HYNES** on page 7

# Anti-immigrant settlement

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Paper

An anti-immigration group that was forced to take down billboards near the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges won a settlement in its lawsuit against the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

Now, Craig Nelson, the founder and director of the group named Project USA, has suggested he may target Port Authority property as future sites to spread his group's message that immigration policy is to blame for a range of issues from traffic to the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center.

"What we'd really like to do is put one up on Port Authority property,"

Nelson told The Brooklyn Paper this week. "But we'll see what happens."

In 1999, Project USA erected a billboard near the Manhattan Bridge, at Flatbush Avenue facing Tillary Street, that read: "Tired of sitting in traffic? Every day another 6,000 immigrants arrive. Every day!"

Nelson was forced to remove his

sign — for which he paid \$750 for three months — by the city Department of Buildings, which claimed he had not obtained the proper permits.

He accused the Buildings Department of bullying the billboard company, but an ensuing First Amendment lawsuit was eventually thrown out of federal court.

See **SETTLE** on page 7

# Murrow chess team keeps rolling

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Paper

The chess team at Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood has gotten used to winning.

The school took home first prize Dec. 29 at the New York City chess championships. It was the team's 10th city title. Now they're busy preparing to take the state title at the championship in upstate Rochester.

Teacher Eliot Weiss says coaching the team is a labor of love. Weiss started the chess club in 1983. He says it's what keeps him going. "Without it I would just be teaching calculus," he said.

While Weiss helps the less-experienced chess players get started, their more experienced teammates often teach him a thing or two.

Renowned for its academics and performing arts courses, Murrow, on

Avenue L at East 16th Street in Midwood, has in the past decade become equally known for its chess team. Many team members say that's what attracted them to the school.

Since 1990, the team has placed first or second in the city championship and has fared well in the state and national competitions, beating out suburban public and private schools with far more resources.

At a special chess club meeting on Monday afternoon, the teenagers immediately lined up along either side of the chess boards set out along the back of Room 446, home to the chess club and Weiss' calculus classes.

The front bulletin board in 446 is covered with photographs of the chess team posing with their glided trophies, alongside the likes of former Vice President Al Gore, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and Gov. George Pataki.

Dmitry Minevich and Olga Novikova

va were involved in a heated match on Monday. Each move of a bishop, pawn or knight was immediately followed by a slap of the digital clock adjacent to the black-and-white-checked chessboard. Any interruptions seemed to irritate the young players.

Novikova, 17, who moved to America from the Ukraine two years ago and now lives in Sheepshead Bay, learned to play chess by watching her father, Igor Novikov (whose name does not end in a), a grand master professional chess player. "I like the challenge," said Olga, one of the few girls on the team, as she eagerly returned to the game.

While the chess team was once predominantly white, Jewish and male, Weiss said there are now black, Hispanic and female members. He said he liked the mix much better.

Minevich, 16, has been playing

See **CHAMPS** on page 4



Senior chess champs Dmitry Minevich (left, front) and Olga Novikova (right) square off, as do other team members.

The Brooklyn Paper / Greg Murgio



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DISCOUNT DENTISTRY

# Sex-for-purse a no-go

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

A couple of purse snatchers were busted after stealing a woman's purse and then offering it back to her in exchange for sex.

Police said the woman was chatting with a pair of teenage boys in a club on Pearl Street, between Front and York streets, in DUMBO, around 2 am on New Year's Eve.

Shortly after they left, she realized her purse had been stolen. She called the police and then called her own cell phone, which was inside the handbag. The saucy suspects picked up the phone and told her she could have the purse back if she agreed to have sex with them.

The victim pretended to acquiesce to the costal compromise and set up a meeting at Jay and Court streets, Downtown. Police searched the area and arrested two boys, both 16, matching the victim's description. They were each charged with one robbery.

**Cop and robber**  
A lively cab driver was attacked and robbed outside a building on Sterling Place, be-

## Police Blotters

tween Sixth and Seventh avenues, by a man claiming to be a police officer.

The victim, 41, told police that on Jan. 3, at 7 pm, he responded to a call at the Sterling Place building but the dispatcher canceled the pickup. Before leaving, however, he got into an argument with a woman, who then yelled up to a fourth-floor apartment.

An unknown man came downstairs, allegedly identified himself as a police officer, flashed a badge and said, "You're under arrest."

The "cop" then punched the victim in the face, causing minor injuries, and proceeded to pull the victim out of his car. As the perpetrator pulled on the victim's leg to get him out of the vehicle, \$175 fell out of his sock. The assailant picked up the cash and fled.

Police officers responding to the scene notified the Internal Affairs Bureau, which had no listing of police or corrections officers living at the address. Internal Affairs is continuing its investigation, according to the report.

## New Year stab

New Year's revelry erupted in violence at a club on Flatbush Avenue between Bergen Street and Saint Mark's Avenue, police said.

Three men were stabbed while leaving the nightclub at around 5 am on Jan. 1.

As one of the victims, 47, attempted to leave the bar he was stabbed in the back and abdomen by unidentified attackers. Outside the club, two more men, one 21 and the other 28, were seriously injured, and the first victim was treated at Long Island College Hospital.

## Honest thief

A moment of conscience defeated common sense... or was it just plain stupidity?

When 78th Precinct police recovered a fake gun from a suspect hanging around in a jewelry store and they inquired what his intentions were with the fraudulent firearm, he allegedly responded, "Was gonna rob the place."

On Dec. 30, at around 1:20 pm, the suspect entered the jewelry store, on Fifth Avenue between 12th and 13th streets. He had reportedly hung around aimlessly for about half an hour when a witness grew suspicious and called the police.

When police arrived they questioned the man and searched him. After they recovered the fake gun, he made his damning confession.

## Box-cut thug

A woman was grabbed from behind while picking the trunk of her car, on Carroll Street between Eighth and Washington avenues on Dec. 30, and robbed at knifepoint.

The victim, 31, told police the robber grabbed her at around 7:30 pm, just after she opened the trunk. He put a box cutter to her throat and said, "Shut up and keep quiet."

The woman handed over \$26, jewelry and a \$300 camera and credit cards. The mugger then attempted to force the woman into the car. She resisted and the thief took off with the car keys, leaving the vehicle behind.

## Train duo

As a man was on his way into the M, N and R Union Street subway station at Fourth Avenue, at 11:30 pm on Jan. 5, he was attacked by a pair of muggers.

The victim, 46, told police that before he headed into the station he was grabbed by two men, one of who displayed a knife. The knife-wielding mugger punched the victim and then stole \$46.

## Holy roller

A break-in at a church on Eighth Avenue at Sixth Street — which resulted in at least a couple of broken commandments — ended well enough when the thief heeded the one that goes, "Thou shalt not steal."

The church closed at 8 pm on Jan. 2. The next morning someone discovered the church had been broken into. Police said a side window was forced open and the unholly roller snailily sifted through closets and cupboards. The intruder did not, however, take anything, according to the police report.

## De-celled

A 20-year-old woman was bumped for her cell phone on Christmas Eve while walking down the retail strip on Fulton Street near DeKalb Avenue.

The victim told police that at around 4 pm someone bumped into her and soon after she realized her cell phone had been lifted from her purse.

## PLAN

Continued from page 1

would disrupt the low-lying, sloping curve of rooftops on Joralemon Street and overshadow its neighbors.

In a letter to Sherida Paulsen, chairwoman of the city Landmarks Preservation Commission (LPC), Tom van den Bost, an architect who is chairman of the Brooklyn Heights Association's landmarks committee, said, "While the development of two single-family structures does limit the scale of the project, the overall height is problematic, especially on Joralemon Street. The apparent height of the Joralemon Street facade is magnified by the downward slope of the street...."

"While we support the general direction of this proposal," he wrote, "we feel that additional effort should be placed on the above points."

Compagno said he was actively reworking the design to incorporate the suggestions before a final draft is considered by the LPC later this month. Because the existing structure is in a historic district, its demolition requires the approval of the LPC as do plans for the exterior of the new structure.

Among suggestions Compagno said he is trying to incorporate, is creating ample separation between 36 and 38 Joralemon St., so it does not appear as a single block of buildings, and the compression of elements to the width and height can be reduced slightly.

"We compressed the building more and broke it up so that it reads more clearly as two buildings," he said.

Updated designs are still under way, he said. The older plans were scrapped last spring, after the previous developer, Marshall Sohn, abandoned the idea of erecting two townhouses of between three and four stories that would have featured plain facades and single-paned windows.

In summer 2001, Brooklyn Heights residents furiously protested the plans, which also included garages that neighbors complained were an anomaly in the Heights except for a few former carriage houses.

Sohn eventually ditched the plans and sold the building to a new company, Compagno said. The two single-family townhouses are slated to have ground-floor porches with four bedrooms on the upper floors and a side yard between the buildings.

He hopes to be able to break ground in spring and estimates the construction to last about one year.

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— Paulanne Simmons

## Feds not worried about B'klyn air

By Patrick Gallahue  
The Brooklyn Papers

After being excluded from the Environmental Protection Agency's testing and cleanup for homes contaminated by dust emitted from the collapse of the World Trade Center, it's looking like Brooklyn will also be cut out of a study of the potential health effects of 9-11.

The preliminary qualifications for potential candidates of a \$20 million health registry, paid for by federal disaster relief money, excludes Brooklyn residents, many of whose homes and neighborhoods were blanketed by the initial plume.

Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio this week railed against Brooklyn's exclusion from the registry.

"As I am sure you are aware, satellite photographs taken on Sept. 11 show that the smoke plume resulting from the destruction of the trade center towers extended across Brooklyn (including large portions of the 39th Councilmanic District, which I represent) and even to the southern tip of the Rockaways," DeBlasio wrote in a letter to both Dr. David Williamson, director of the division of health studies of the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, and to Dr. Thomas Frieden, commissioner of the city Department of Health. The two agencies will maintain the registry.

"Ash and dust from the catastrophe was carried in the air and settled in these areas," wrote DeBlasio, whose district also includes Carroll Gardens, Windsor Terrace and Midwood.

Last summer, NASA released a space station photograph taken on Sept. 11, 2001, that showed the dust and smoke plume from Ground Zero spreading across the East River and engulfing most of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn, and then proceeding south by southeast over Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens, Park Slope, Prospect Park, Kensington, Midwood and then over Sheepshead Bay and Brighton Beach.

Though the criteria of the 200,000-person registry is tentative, the objective is currently to enlist people who were in or near Lower Manhattan on Sept. 11, such as shoppers and students, and volunteer and rescue workers at Ground Zero and the Fresh Kills Landfill on Staten Island, where the debris was carted and sifted through.

Health Department spokes-



## On the mulch

From left, Stephanie Dimont and Claudia Erica and Mark Freeman take Christmas tree to mulcher in Prospect Park Saturday. Mulching continues at Green-Wood Cemetery Jan. 11, 10 am to 3 pm.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Callan

man Andrew Tucker said the agencies were working under the assumption that those closest to the attacks would suffer the greatest effects.

"I am not aware of any credible scientific basis for concluding that the health of people living only a few miles away from the disaster site could not be affected by toxic airborne elements," DeBlasio noted in his letter.

The registry is intended to track, until 2021, patterns of psychological and physical illness that may be a result of exposure to the dust and debris released on 9-11.

All the participants will be interviewed by telephone, Tucker said, and the registry is not intended to offer diagnosis or treatment but will refer clients to clinical services.

They expect to launch the registry this spring. The registry was proposed last year by Sen. Hillary Clinton, for whom DeBlasio served as campaign manager.

Philippe Reines, a spokesman for Clinton, said the senator was in favor of including Brooklyn in the registry, but he could not say what actions she planned to take to make that happen.

The offices of Rep. Jerrold Nadler and Rep. Nydia Velázquez fumed this week that the Brooklyn delegation in Washington, City Hall and Albany, publicly excoriated the agency for its complacency.

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# A family divided

## Brooklyn resident seeks to bring his family home

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Andrzej Szezw spent Christmas on the telephone. It's something he's gotten used to after spending the past three years 4,000 miles from his wife who is stuck in their native Poland with their two American-born sons and banned from returning to the United States for another seven years.

Andrzej, 29, a cabinetmaker who moved to the United States 10 years ago from Tomaszew, Poland, says he doesn't wish his own enemies should be separated from their families.

"Christmas is the most difficult," he says.

"It will kill you if you think about it too much," says Andrzej, a quiet man who pauses between words to make sure he chooses them carefully.

Andrzej and Agnes Szezw's problems began three years ago when the couple packed a few suitcases at their apartment in Astoria, Queens and headed back to Poland with their two sons for what was supposed to be a month-long trip to sort out Agnes' immigration status.

While her husband was a permanent resident in the United States at the time, and

her two sons are U.S. citizens, Agnes was neither. After filing for an extension on her visa, she scheduled an appointment with the U.S. Embassy in Warsaw, hoping that they could expedite the process for her to get a green card.

It was a trip, Andrzej says, they will both regret for the rest of their lives.

When Agnes arrived in Poland, instead of a green card she was told she wouldn't be able to return to the United States for 10 years. Her husband and sons could go, they said, but she could not.

Had the couple stuck it out a

little longer, Agnes would have easily obtained a green card when her husband became a U.S. citizen a few months after the trip to Poland. But because of a provision in the immigration laws, if a person overstays their visa for 180 days and then leaves the United States, they are barred from returning for three years. Overstaying a visa for more than one year results in being barred from returning to the United States for 10 years.

Andrzej, out of the necessity of earning a living for his family, returned to the United States alone.

So for the past three years, Agnes and Andrzej, who met when they were just 14 and started dating and then fell in love a few years later, have been using the telephone to keep their marriage, and family, together.

"I miss my wife and children very much," Andrzej says, reminiscing about his family, and also the pierogi his wife used to make.

He now shares an apartment in Bensonhurst with his father and brother. While they take turns cooking for one another, Andrzej says it isn't the same.

Colorful pictures of houses and families drawn by his sons, who are both blonde like their mother and father, are a constant reminder of the life Andrzej has left behind.

If the Szezw family only stayed in the United States

back in 1999, the family could still be happily living together — legally. David, 8, would be attending second-grade and Sebastian, 6, would be starting kindergarten.

Instead, the children, who live with their mother and grandmother, watch old videotapes from birthday parties they attended at a McDonald's in Queens. They wear Levi's and Nike's sent by their father. They have named their pet gerbil after the Baby Bop character in the American Barney cartoons, and every time they speak to their father they ask when he's coming back to see them.

"Very soon," he tells them, although he fears it won't be.

Andrzej, who talks to his wife for an hour almost every day, says he doesn't get to speak with his sons often enough. Because he has to call when he returns home from work, which usually includes weekends, it is usually near 3 a.m. in Poland.

When he first arrived in the United States, Andrzej moved to his grandmother's house in Astoria. When Agnes joined him 10 months later, the couple found an apartment of their own nearby. Their wedding followed in April 1994 and a reception was held at a restaurant in Greenpoint, a largely Polish neighborhood.

After returning from Poland alone in 1999, Andrzej kept



Andrzej Szezw's wife and two U.S.-born sons are stuck in Poland.

The Brooklyn Papers • Greg Hargis

the apartment he once shared with his family.

"We had packed for one month, so we were thinking it's like a trip for a green card and we can see the family," Andrzej said. When he returned home alone, the first thing that he had to do was pack his family's belongings and ship them back to Poland.

After a year he decided it was too costly and too much of a reminder of his past family life to hold onto the apartment in Astoria. So he packed his belongings and moved in with his brother, Thomas, in Bensonhurst.

According to Cynthia Ryan, a lawyer with the firm Skisind, Sussler, Haas and Ryan, an immigration law firm located across the street from the Im-

migration and Naturalization Service offices in lower Manhattan, Agnes could have adjusted her status had she only stayed in the country.

"Not all of the consular officers have vast knowledge about immigration and are often under-trained and under-informed," Ryan said, explaining that it's unfortunate but not unusual that the consulate in Warsaw did not advise Agnes against leaving the United States.

Agnes must now file for a waiver of inadmissibility, which means that the INS would lift the 10-year ban on her returning to the United States. Ryan says the family must demonstrate that having Agnes and the children in Poland creates an "extreme hardship."

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## CHAMPS...

Continued from page 1

When asked how the game of chess appeals to real life, most of the kids shrugged their shoulders.

"It doesn't," Gorkovskiy said.

"You have to think," Polyak offered. "It makes you think."

One thing the team does not have to think about as much as these days is finances.

Three years ago, a woman known simply as Rita was riding in a taxi in Manhattan when she heard a report on 1010 WINS detailing how the Marrow chess team could not afford to attend the national championship in Kansas City.

The woman got in touch with Weiss and soon became the patron of the team. She has agreed to foot the \$16,000 bill to cover the cost of travel, hotels, food and fees for the team to travel to Rochester for the state championships on March 1-2 and to Columbus, Ohio for the nationals on March 20-23.

This will be the last high school championship for Polyak and Gorkovskiy, who are both considering CUNY's Baruch College in the fall. There is no chess team at Baruch, but both boys said they would continue to play individually.

"I'll miss the team," Gorkovskiy said.

"But you've got to move on," added Polyak.

Polyak, 17, who moved to the United States from Moldova in 1994, lives in Brighton Beach. He was a national junior high school chess champion. He was also this year's top high school player in the city, winning all five rounds of the championship. Polyak was taught chess by his mother — who plays the game as a hobby when he was just 5.

Gorkovskiy, also 17, moved here from Odessa, in the Ukraine, in 1987, and learned to play chess from his grandfather just a few years later. "It's exciting," he said. "You need to know how to play under pressure," he said, adding that as a player you want move can finish one wrong move can play you

## CARS

Continued from page 1

"I still believe we should at least try a full ban on cars in the park," he said. "But this

is a very solid step towards that."

Lisi de Bourbon, a DOT spokeswoman, said the park averages about 1,450 cars per hour traveling through the park during peak hours and that the agency would use anecdotal data provided by the police department, elected officials and the community boards to gauge the results of the ban.

While the speed limit in the park is 30 miles per hour, Transportation Alternatives

claims its own traffic counts, conducted in 1998, indicated that between 7 a.m. and 8 a.m. on an average morning, 90 percent of cars were speeding. The group claims that a car ran a red light every two minutes.

# Spring COLLEGE PREVIEW

## A guide to Brooklyn colleges and universities

The Brooklyn Papers

If you're one of thousands planning to attend college this spring, here are some schools and programs to consider.

**Polytechnic University**  
One of the nation's leading engineering schools, is offering two innovative degree programs for students who have completed their associates degree requirements. Beginning this month, Polytechnic will offer upper-level undergraduate Computer Science and Construction Management courses in the evening, enabling students to earn a top-tier bachelor's degree while continuing to work full time.

The University is recruiting Associate in Science (AS) and Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degree holders with computer, construction or science-related majors to enroll in this new program.

A recent study by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed that bachelor's degree holders earn \$8,000 more per year than those with an associate's. The starting salaries of Polytech grads are nearly 20 percent higher than the national average for all BS degree recipients.

In this program, students will attend classes two nights per week for three years. For an application, email: partime@poly.edu or download at poly.edu/admissions/undergrad/application. The program is supported by several scholarship and financial aid opportunities, and employer reimbursements may also be available to students.

**Touro College**  
Touro College is well known for its variety of career-oriented programs, as well as for the personal attention given to each student. Its goal is to provide students with a successful education through a combination of small classes, dedicated and caring faculty, convenient schedules, and affordable tuition. There are over 11,000 Touro students currently enrolled.

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**Kingsborough Community College**  
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# NO DEAL...

Continued from page 1

a Dec. 18 meeting with Bear Stearns executives, refused to extend the city's support beyond a \$75 million deal struck in 1997 between the company and then-Mayor Rudy Giuliani.

While Bloomberg has expressed his doubts about the value to the city of keeping businesses through relocation, Janel Patterson, a spokeswoman for the city Economic Development Corporation, told The Papers, "We're working with [Bear Stearns] to try to keep them in the city." She declined to discuss the matter further.

And while the Times reported that Bear Stearns is considering an offer from its landlord, Metrotech developer Bruce Ratner, Joyce Baumgarten, a Ratner spokeswoman, refused to discuss the negotiations.

"Things are coming along the way they usually do," she said.

The 1997 deal included \$45 million in tax abatements to keep at least 5,700 jobs in New York City and another \$30 million in tax breaks if the company could create 13,300 jobs in New York City within 50 years.

In 1991, Bear Stearns agreed to take a 12-year lease on 250,000-square-foot of space at the fledgling 1 Metrotech Center North, after the company threatened to leave for New Jersey. Dinkins

coughed up more than \$37 million in sales tax exemptions, property tax abatements, low cost electricity and other subsidies to keep them here.

"Our 12-year lease is up and we're exploring our options," Russell Sherman, a Bear Stearns spokesman told The Brooklyn Papers. "Bear Stearns has served as a pilot electricity and other subsidies at Metrotech and has been key to its overall success. We hope that it will be financially viable and competitive to stay."

Just what effect their leaving Brooklyn would have on the local economy is unclear.

Many of the businesses that have entered Metrotech have done so with massive public subsidies in order to keep companies in New York and create a third major business district, adding Downtown Brooklyn to Lower and Midtown Manhattan.

The businesses came with the promise that Downtown Brooklyn would evolve into a more community-oriented version of the Manhattan business districts where Brooklynites could work and where shopping strips such as Fulton and Wiloughby streets would thrive on the foot traffic from the office workers.

While some of those promises materialized, the inward-facing campus, with ground-floor restaurants, has also

insulated the workers from the surrounding retail strips.

Michael Weiss, executive director of the Metrotech Business Improvement District—which provides ancillary services to a 25-block area in and around the campus—said the nearby clothing establishments have drawn little revenue from Metrotech office workers while the eateries have done well.

"There's not a big sense that the Metrotech workers are shopping there," he said of clothing and shoe stores on Fulton and Wiloughby. "But the local stores, the food stores do see quite number of Metrotech workers."

He added that about 50 percent of the office workers are Brooklyn residents, up from around 40 percent in the campus' early years.

Critics of government subsidies, such as Bettina Damiani, director of Good Jobs New York, a corporate welfare watchdog group, said there has never been a detailed analysis to ascertain whether threats to move to New Jersey were real.

In the 1997 deal, the city included a clause that said if the company's payroll citywide fell below 5,187 employees it would be required to pay back what it had received to date, by a margin of two to one, meaning the company would owe about \$50 million.

The company currently employs about 6,000 workers citywide, including the 1,500 back-office Metrotech employees.

"If such tenants don't locate in markets like Downtown Brooklyn and Long Island City they're going to end up going to New Jersey, which, in the long term, is not healthy in keeping New York City's employment and economic base," he added.

Jon Shure, president of New Jersey Policy Perspectives, a Trenton-based public policy group, countered, "A lot of the national research seems to suggest that these [subsidies] are not that important to businesses but are levers to pit one jurisdiction against another. You get kind of an arms race mentality where cities are competing with one another to see who can offer the most."

Politicians, he added, tend to be "afraid of getting criticized for not doing enough to create jobs. But we need some balance, they also need to be afraid of being criticized for doing too much."

In the end, Bear Stearns stands to lose a fair share should the company choose to relocate.

In the 1997 deal, the city included a clause that said if the company's payroll citywide fell below 5,187 employees it would be required to pay back what it had received to date, by a margin of two to one, meaning the company would owe about \$50 million.

The company currently employs about 6,000 workers citywide, including the 1,500 back-office Metrotech employees.

# HYNES...

Continued from page 1

shielded from such suits as a public official. But Reuland's comments were not protected by the First Amendment to a matter of public concern.

Gleson denied Hynes' motion to throw out the suit and Hynes appealed. The appeals court ruled against Hynes and sent the case back to Gleson.

Second Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judges Jose Cabranes, Rosemary Pooler and Robert Katzmann noted in their summary order, however, that Reuland must still prove his comments were of public concern and that "it is

perhaps arguable that the novel itself pertains to a matter of public concern" and that it would have been objectively unreasonable for the defendants to believe otherwise.

"I want him to explain publicly why he fired me," Reuland told The Papers. "The fact of the matter is there's no possible explanation he can give that would put him on the right side of the Constitution. What he did was constitutionally wrong and it's doubly wrong be-

# SETTLE...

Continued from page 1

and legal fees. "We see it as a vindication," Nelson said.

"It is the Port Authority's longstanding policy not to discuss the details of litigation," Port Authority spokesman Alan Hicks said when asked about the settlement. "However, I can tell you, though, that the agency was able to resolve the situation and avoid expensive litigation."

Nelson is in the process of moving to Washington, D.C., to step up his lobbying efforts. He has founded another group, Friends of Immigration Law Enforcement, to push for stricter enforcement.

In the meantime, Borough President Markowitz said, "I hope this group chooses to spread its misguidance and un-American message somewhere else."

quencies of mass immigration to Americans."

The Port Authority, which owns the property that hosted the second billboard, ordered the sign removed after just 13 days. Project USA countered with another lawsuit.

In December, according to Nelson, the agency settled out of court.

Though Nelson—whose group has erected more than 100 billboards in Florida, Nebraska, Michigan, Arizona, Colorado, New York, North Carolina, Minnesota, California, New Hampshire and South Carolina since 1999—said, "I hope this group figures of the settlement, he said it included the billboard costs (\$10,000 for one month)

cause his job description is to uphold the Constitution." The Reuland case has tried to cut an antagonistic off at the knees. In September 2001, Hynes tried but failed to get Roper thrown off the Democratic Primary ballot.

After he and the Kings County Democratic Committee failed to invalidate enough of Roper's signatures to have her removed from the ballot, Hynes alleged that Roper's petitions were rife with election fraud.

Roper countered by challenging Hynes' residency status, saying that the Brooklyn DA actually lives in Queens. The court later ruled that Hynes lives primarily in Bay Ridge, although he maintains a second home in Breezy Point, Queens.

In the election fraud case, a state Supreme Court judge ruled in Hynes' favor and tossed Roper's name off the ballot. But the appellate division overturned the lower court ruling and sent her back on the ballot. The Court of Appeals denied Hynes' application for an appeal.

Despite the court's victory over Hynes, the time spent in court kept Roper—already an incredible juggernaut to oust the veteran, party-backed DA—from campaigning for more than a month. Hynes resumed in Brooklyn federal court next month.

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Dr. DiMango, a graduate of Georgetown University Dental School, is a diplomate of the American Board of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery. He is chief of dentistry at Lutheran Medical Center, where he teaches oral surgery to general practice residents, and is an associate professor of oral surgery at Columbia University.

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## 4 tiny contenders vie for 1st baby

By Patrick Gallahue  
 The Brooklyn Papers

A quartet of New York City babies entered the world within seconds of each other to ring in the New Year and each of the hospitals at which they were delivered claims they delivered the city's first baby of 2003 — including Park Slope's New York Methodist Hospital.

"We think ours is the first," said Lyn Hill, a spokeswoman for New York Methodist.

"And ours is always the cutest, no matter who's first."

The obstetric showdown includes Our Lady of Mercy Medical Center, in the Bronx; New York University Medical Center and the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, both in Manhattan; as well as New York Methodist.

Lisberthe Elias, 21, of Flatbush, gave birth at New York Methodist to 4-pound, 10-ounce Nicholas James Chery, at 15 seconds after midnight. He was eight weeks premature.

"There was a countdown at that time and we were all very excited," said Diango Chery, Elias' husband and Nicholas' father. "We were shocked. I've never heard there be a countdown while you're having a baby."

Chery was indifferent to the contested results, happily noting the child's good health and adding, "[The hospitals] were debating about it, but the mother was saying it doesn't matter."

"There's no question," said Dr. Robert Berg, of NYU Medical Center, of his hospital's claim that the baby he delivered, 8-pound, 3-ounce Devon Billingsley, of Manhattan, was first. "Those feet were out just that instant. It couldn't have been more at the stroke of midnight than this one was."

All the hospitals used the same definition for "born," that the child be completely outside the mother, though some used differing timekeeping devices.

"Normally we use the hospital's computer," Berg said. "In this case we went by the television and Dick Clark."

Nurses counted down with a nearby television set as Devon was born, he said.



## Baby boom

Brooklyn's other New Year's babies were (clockwise from top, left) Gabriella Noella Rivas, born at 1:27 am to Denys Rivas at Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park; Hindi Savitsky's baby boy, born at 12:04 am at Maimonides Medical Center in Borough Park; and Lily Liu, with mom Cynthia, who was born at Long Island College Hospital in Cobble Hill at 1:25 am.

If the ceremonial visit from the mayor acts as tiebreaker for first then the victory goes to Our Lady of Mercy, in the Bronx, which delivered 6-pound, 14-ounce Rocheta, to 19-year-old Cassandra Moore. Rocheta, the hospital claimed, was also born at the stroke of midnight.

"I feel great," Moore told The Brooklyn Papers. "It's

wonderful."

Moore added that the television was in the birthing suite during the delivery and that nurses had stopwatches, although it was of little concern to her. "I wasn't really thinking about what was going on, I was so tired," she said. "I just wanted her out."

There was rampant speculation among the hospitals that Bloomberg made his choice because he was coming from Albany and the Bronx hospital was the closest but the mayor's office said the mayor was not taking sides — Our Lady of Mercy was simply the first to call.

Meanwhile, Jan Silco, a spokeswoman for the New York Weill Cornell Medical Center, said the official time of 8-pound Alex Macareno's birth was measured according to standard operating procedure — using the clock on the OB TraceVue, an electronic fetal and maternal monitoring and documentation system.

Macareno was born two seconds after midnight to 23-year-old Christina Valerio, of Queens. New York Methodist — which claimed first-baby victories in 1996 and 1997 — also had a television in the birthing suite and used the countdown broadcast from Times Square as its timekeeper.

Regardless of his reasons, there was no protest from Chery and Elias about being snubbed by the mayor in favor of Moore.

"We're OK with that," Chery said. "We'll let her have it."

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

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# See Emily play

British star Watson takes on Shakespeare & Chekhov at BAM

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

**B**ritten down the hatches! The Brits have invaded the Brooklyn Academy of Music and everyone's going to want a ticket to the first two productions of BAM's spring season.

British actress Emily Watson will make her American stage debut at BAM on Jan. 10 with the opening of Donmar Warehouse's production of "Twelfth Night." BAM is presenting both the Shakespeare comedy and Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" in repertory.

While Watson is confident in the material — she starred in both plays in London this fall — she is taken aback by the 874-seat Harvey Theater, which is triple the size of the Donmar theater.

"What makes me nervous is the auditorium is a lot bigger," Watson, on a brief break from rehearsal this week, told GO Brooklyn in an exclusive interview. "It was not at all what I was led to believe. And that changes the nature of the production. I thought it was just a bit bigger, so we were shell-shocked when we walked in yesterday. But it's beautiful. The needs of the space are different, but I'm sure we'll work that out in the next few days."

Although the commitment to these two plays is much more time consuming than an actor's commitment to a film, the actress said she was happy to return to these two roles after the company's December break.

"It's really nice, actually, to be back in the rehearsal room," said Watson. "[Director Sam Mendes] is really doing some very nice touches and tweaking here and there. It's good fun."

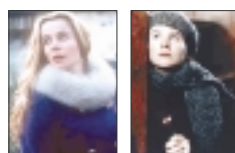
Because advance ticket sales have been so strong (these two Donmar Warehouse productions played to critical and popular acclaim in London in the fall), BAM has extended the run of "Twelfth Night" and Brian Friel's new version of "Uncle Vanya." Both shows are now slated to be performed in repertory at BAM for eight weeks through March 5.

In addition to performing the role of cross-dressing Viola in "Twelfth Night" opposite Mark Strong's Count Orsino, Watson will perform the role of Sonya in "Uncle Vanya" opposite Strong's Dr. Astrov.

"Come and see both plays," said Watson, "because they are very specifically chosen to reflect each other. Both plays are about love triangles and obsession of love, and unrequited love, and one is funny and happy and the other is pretty sad — right into the cracks of human misery. And the cross casting reflects that as well... They're good to see as a pair."

Watson said she was attracted to this repertory run because she likes a challenge — although this one was more than she bargained for.

"I don't think I really realized what I was taking on," she said. "Actually living with it for so long, it is quite — particularly the



**Heartbreaker:** Watson has garnered awards and critical acclaim for her heartrending performances in films including (clockwise from top) "Red Dragon," "Breaking the Waves" and "Hilary and Jackie."

Award-winning production of "Cabaret" returned to BAM to direct these two productions.

"[Mendes] is very emotionally intelligent working on these plays," said Watson. "He didn't come in with a big concept or big idea. He really let the actors respond to the material and he sort of guided us through it. But it was very much using people's own initiative. We all felt very much like equal partners. In that sense he's got very good taste."

This double bill, which Mendes had the cast rehearse for 12 weeks, is the director's grand finale after a 10-year run as artistic director of the Donmar Warehouse.

"There was a real sense to this that [this project] is very precious to him," observed Watson, "but in a way of not having anything to prove, that sense of being relaxed and letting the actors discover things rather than pushing things." Mendes will direct the Broadway revival of "Gypsy," starring Bernadette Peters, this spring.

Watson, 35, has flabbergasted audiences with her riveting, heartbreaking portrayals of women, especially in her first film role — for which she was Oscar nominated — as Bess McNeill in Lars Von Trier's "Breaking the Waves" in 1996.

"[Breaking the Waves] changed my life — in two ways," said Watson. "One was I got work from it, but it really pushed me as an actor in a way I didn't know was possible. It changed the way I act, the way I worked. I realized there was a lot further to go, committing to something emotionally."

Watson received another Oscar nomination for "Hilary and Jackie," and took on her roles in "The Cripple Will Rock," "Angela's Ashes," "The Luzhin Defense," "Gosford Park" and "Punch-Drunk Love."

The British actress' other recent films — opposite Ralph Fiennes in "Red Dragon," the "Silence of the Lambs" prequel, and "Equilibrium," a sci-fi thriller from Dimension Films — are surprising departures from her high-art forays thus far in cinema — another sign that this actress is still looking for new challenges.

For the next two months, those challenges will be bringing Shakespeare and Chekhov to life — sometimes twice a day. Watson couldn't be happier with the location.

"BAM is a most amazing institution," said Watson. "There's nothing like it in London. It's really alive place."

## THEATER

William Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night" and Anton Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," adapted by Brian Friel, will be presented by the Donmar Warehouse at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. from Jan. 10–March 7. Tickets are \$30, \$55 and \$75. For show dates and times and tickets call (718) 626-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).



**Leading lady:** Actress Emily Watson (in a scene from "The Luzhin Defense" (above)) will make her U.S. stage debut at the Brooklyn Academy of Music this week. (At left) Mark Strong as Orsino and Watson as Viola in the Donmar Warehouse production of "Twelfth Night," directed by Sam Mendes, which opens Jan. 10 at the BAM Harvey Theater.

Chekhov and dysfunctional families — is quite draining and painful stuff. But "Twelfth Night" is a good antidote to that. It's very uplifting and fun to do."

Some British critics wrote that they found the Donmar production of "Twelfth Night" toned down compared to other, riotously funny productions.

"It's more like a chamber piece, not a big pantomime version," said Watson. "I find the other guys [in the cast] funny. We'll see."

The Donmar production of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" also offers audiences the opportunity to rediscover an old classic.

"I love it," said Watson. "I think it's very freeing — you probably don't have the same problem in America — because most English translations of Chekhov feel very English-like."

## THEATER

# Star search

Brooklyn Family Theatre is looking for a little orphan

By Paulanne Simmons  
for The Brooklyn Papers



**L**ittle Orphan Annie is arguably the most famous motherless child in America. Born in 1924, the brainchild of Chicago Tribune cartoonist Harold Gray was a feisty little girl who fought the Nazis, outwitted gangsters and fangled crooked gangsters. Then in 1977, she got her own Broadway show, which ran for 2,377 performances at the Alvin Theatre.

This year, Brooklyn Family Theatre is mounting its own production of "Annie," and some lucky and talented young lady will have a chance to play the septuagenarian but forever-young little girl.

Auditions are scheduled for Jan. 21 and Jan. 22, and director Phil Greenland says he's specifically looking for Annie, the orphans and Annie's dog Sandy — all hard roles to cast.

"The orphans and Annie are difficult because they sing up to F, which means their range is an octave and a half," he told GO Brooklyn.

Greenland is also looking for a multiethnic cast. "I'd love to have an African-American or Hispanic Annie," he said.

As for Sandy, Greenland said, "It's easy for the dog. He doesn't have to do a lot. But we need the dog to be tan and medium-sized."

Greenland said he chose the musical because it is both timely and appropriate for his theater company's audience.

"My preference is the old-fashioned, big song-and-dance musicals. There's nothing better than 'Annie' for a musical that's appropriate for family theater," he said.

After the pure entertainment of "The Pirates of Penzance," Greenland believes Brooklyn Family Theatre is ready for the "serious edge" of "Annie."

"One scene shows Hooverville with homeless people. In another, Annie goes to the White House to help out," he explained. "We [Greenland and co-director Jonathan Valdes] didn't realize until we started watching a PBS series about New York history and looked at the 1930s and 1940s, how much those times remind us of the present. Everyone really pulls together after Annie meets the president, which reminds us of Sept. 11, as well."

"Annie" will be staged by Brooklyn Family Theatre at The Church of Gesheva, 1012 Eighth Ave. at 10th Street in Park Slope, from March 7 through March 30.

So if your child has curly hair and a wide-eyed look, can sing and dance, and has lots of sparkle and energy, call BFT at (718) 670-7215.

## MUSIC

# Taking risks

Pianist charts course for voyage into the unknown

By Kevin Filipski  
for The Brooklyn Papers

**F**or pianist Jonathan Biss, performing for an audience carries with it heavy responsibilities.

"I believe very strongly that if you play the music that you love, with commitment, then you can stretch the boundaries of what's 'acceptable' to an amazing degree," the pianist, who performs at Bargemusic Jan. 16-19, told GO Brooklyn.

Referring to the fact that he enjoys playing 20th-century music that is not often heard in recitals, Biss said, "We, as performers, need to be much more open to audiences in order to allow them to open up to the music, whatever it is. If you can get an audience to listen, then you've done enough. If not, you're not doing your job."

Biss, who at the tender age of 22 has been playing piano for 16 years, has certainly been doing his job, and his Bargemusic programs, mixing the familiar with the obscure, have become his hallmark.

Back in November, Biss made his local recital debut at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, performing three Beethoven sonatas alongside lesser-known works by two iconoclastic contemporary composers — Leon Kirchner and Toru Takemitsu — that won raves from critics and audiences.

While his performances at Bargemusic aren't as daring, both programs enticingly offset "known" and "unknown" works. For Biss, the venue itself became part of his process for selecting what to play.

"The [bargemusic] is intimate and a little off the beaten path, so it was a golden opportunity to play things you feel passionately about," he explained. "I was told that I could program whatever I wanted, so I did."

The program for Thursday and Friday days heading into the unjustly neglected by opening with Czech composer Leo Janacek's Sonata for Violin and Piano. Two more celebrated works follow, namely, Johannes Brahms' first Violin Sonata and Robert Schumann's B-minor Violin Sonata. Playing the violin is Miriam Fried, Biss' mother.

"We've played quite a few programs together, actually," he explains, "and the Brahms sonata was one we definitely wanted to do. Janacek is a pet composer of mine, and I think his sonata is a fantastic piece that deserves to be played more. The Schumann sonata, I thought, would be a good complement to the Brahms sonata. I love Schumann, and I think his work is less heard than it should be, especially his

See BISS on page GO 2

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## BISS...

Continued from page G0 1

late chamber music."

The program on Saturday and Sunday finds Biss exploring the Germanic solo piano repertoire in the first half — Alban Berg's Piano Sonata, Arnold Schoenberg's "Six Little Pieces for Piano" and Beethoven's Piano Sonata No. 31 and evening with violinist Mark Peskanov, violinist Toby Hoffman and cellist Samuli Oksanen to play Brahms' expansive Piano Quartet No. 2.

"I adore what Brahms' quartet, but since it's almost 50 minutes long, the idea for the first half was to program shorter solo pieces," he said.

Biss had no qualms about programming music by Berg and Schoenberg, two members of the Second Viennese School from the early part of the 20th century, alongside the more familiar Beethoven and Brahms.

"The Berg and Schoenberg [works] are a combination I like a lot," he said.

"The Berg sonata is very neo-romantic and the Schoenberg pieces are expressionist and less immediately appealing."

Biss said, which is why he programmed the Berg work first in the recital. "Berg's sonata brings you into a state where you can listen to that sort of music, and I think it's interesting to juxtapose the Beethoven with both Berg and Schoenberg."

Biss realizes that there are those in the classical music audience who remain resistant to "new" music, even if it was composed nearly a century ago. But he also knows that part of his job is to try and change such sentiments.

"There's no way to fight an attitude like that except by going out and playing the music, which I do," said Biss. "At the end of the day, I myself, don't love any music more than I love Beethoven or Mozart, but I believe that the music of our time is relevant, and when I find myself convinced by a certain piece of music, I am committed to playing it."

For Biss — who makes his first recording for EMI Classics this spring, again made by Beethoven and Schumann — playing different genres, styles and periods of music is ingrained in his blood.

"Growing up in a musical family has helped me explore all kinds of music, which to me is just a natural progression," he said.

What isn't so natural for Biss is performing on a body of water, which he readily admits.

"I'm looking forward to playing there, although I am worried about getting seasick while I play," he exclaimed.

"I have [felt sick] a couple times that I've attended concerts there, so I might take some Dramamine to come off as a big hypocrite because I've always been high-minded about performers taking anything while performing, but I'll see how I feel after rehearsal."

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## MUSIC

**Jonathan Biss** performs at Carnegie Jan. 15, 17 and 18 at 7:30 pm and Jan. 19 at 4:30 pm at Carnegie, anchored on the East River at Fulton Landing. Tickets are \$35, \$25 senior (Thursdays only) and \$20 full-time students. For more information, visit [www.jonathanbiss.com](http://www.jonathanbiss.com) or on the Web.

The family oriented, rectangular restaurant offers plenty of room between the plastic table-covered tables, jaxbox playing Pictionary, among other classic croquet, and small bar.

The emphasis at 2Fifteen Cucina is clearly on the affordable menu, which offers heating portions. There are daily specials, too, if the extensive menu can't vanquish your hunger.

And I mean value. "It's \$75, \$55, \$30, 2 and 3.30 pm. Harvey Theater, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 622-0018.

Vintage black-and-white photo of South Brooklyn hang by the entrance, reminders of this neighborhood before the rise of the South Brooklyn-Queens Expressway in 1957 — and before South Brooklyn was ever called with trendy names like Carroll Gardens and the Columbia Street Waterfront District.

Patricia Mile Denaro, of Cobble Hill, and Janet Cacciopoli, a life-long resident of Carroll Gardens, are Italian-American.



# Naplace like home

## 2Fifteen Cucina serves up hearty Italian fare

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

For restaurant-starved Brooklynites living west of Columbia Street, year-old 2Fifteen Cucina Napoletana is a haven.

On a recent winter evening, the twinkling white holiday lights in the window beckoned us in from the cold and snow. We took a table by the Bay of Naples at sunset, a wall mural painted by local artist Jerry Calandrea.

The family oriented, rectangular restaurant offers plenty of room between the plastic table-covered tables, jaxbox playing Pictionary, among other classic croquet, and small bar.

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Patricia Mile Denaro, of Cobble Hill, and Janet Cacciopoli, a life-long resident of Carroll Gardens, are Italian-American.

They are not from a culinary institute. They are all from Italy.

"Sometimes, when Tony makes something, I ask him what it's called and he says, 'There's no name. My mom used to make it.'"

On this chilly evening, we ordered familiar-sounding selections from the list of hot appetizers. The *mazzetta in canna*, a deep-fried mozzarella sandwich with a tempura-like coating, was served piping hot. Deliciously fluffy and generously cheesy, there was no need for a dunk in the tomato sauce served on the side.

The *antipasto caldo*, an appetizer (really, a platter that could easily serve two) of warm mushroom caps, shrimp, mussels and clams generously stuffed with buttery breadcrumbs, teetered on the brink of a bland abyss, but was saved by

## DINING

2Fifteen Cucina Napoletana, located at 215 Columbia St. between Union and Sackett streets in the Columbia Street Waterfront District, accepts American Express, Discover, Visa and MasterCard. Entrees \$10.50-\$17.95. For reservations and take-out, call (718) 858-2960.

the fresh mussels.

The enormous veal chop, stuffed with mozzarella and prosciutto, arrived with a tomato-covered bread-handle on a bed of crisp asparagus with a potato croquette (over guilty pleasure). The chop's tame flavor was much improved by the salty, cured ham. The vintage croquette was crispy and cheesy — a potato delight that is more upscale than a Tater Tot but has less cash than polenta.

The seared black Angus steak, from the list of specialties of the house, was indeed special. Served with waxy porcini mushrooms, it is seasoned with generous heaps of roasted garlic.

It would be a disservice not to take a side of super-fresh sautéed escarole, also pungently flavored with garlic.

2Fifteen Cucina offers a list of soups and pastas including homemade ravioli — as well as salads and chicken dishes.

"We have fish deliveries seven days a week," said Denaro, stressing that the fish dishes on his menu — salmon with mussels and clams, *zuppa di pesce* (a soup of mixed fish in a wine sauce), broiled file of sole, among others — are fresh.

For dessert, 2Fifteen Cucina offers a list of grappas, portos and sherries and the Italian specialties you expect. The tiramisu is a delight for the whole family. The large chocolate-and-vanilla ice cream truffle arrives in a shell of chocolate and is topped with whip cream. The diner who digests to the center the fastest is rewarded with a maraschino cherry and almonds.

Homesick Italians and in-the-know neighborhood folk come on Sundays for Tony's beef *bruciato*, rolled with egg, cheese and ham and cooked in oil, white wine and broth. For the rest of its neighbors, it's enough to have 2Fifteen's regular menu offerings close enough to eat-in, with its view of Naples, or to take-out.



2Fifteen Cucina chef Piero Carlo displays her veal chop, stuffed with mozzarella and prosciutto, on a bed of asparagus.

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## WHERE TO GO

compiled by  
Susan Rosenenthal

**THURS. JAN 9**

**SKATE FOR FREE:** Prospect Park Alliance offers a two-for-one deal: two people skate for the price of one. Every Thursday, 4 to 8 pm. Prospect Park, 115 Schermerhorn St. (718) 215-3256.

**TALK:** hosted by Science of Spirituality. Public talk at 5:30 pm. Workshop from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Call to register. Brooklyn Friends Meeting House, 115 Schermerhorn St. (718) 215-3256.

**MEETINGS:** of Park Slope Civic Council, 7 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, room 4 AOC. Carrington Pavilion, Sixth Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues. (718) 832-8227.

**RECEPTION:** Brooklyn Public Library. Central branch, presents the art of Ken Koda. 6:30 to 8 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

**LOW B&B:** presents playwright James Straub reading from his own work. 7 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1106. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** works by Bach, Chopin and Mendelssohn. 5:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**COMEDY:** Lila's Bar amateur variety hour. 10 pm. No cover. 46 Board St. (718) 858-9822.

**FOOD CLASS:** Park Slope Food Coop offers a class on nutrition labels, recipes, testing and more. \$4 materials charge. 7:30 pm. 782 Union St. (718) 622-0560.

**FRI. JAN 10**

**SUPPORT:** Mainroads Medical Center support group for those who have been affected by breast cancer. Registration required. 9:30 to 11 am. Oncology Department, 6322 Convent St. (718) 283-9255. Free.

**RECEPTION:** Kentler International Drawing Space presents photo-drawing by Bill Handelman. 6 to 9 pm. 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098.

**FISH TALK:** Brooklyn Aquarium Society presents Pat Donahoe, owner of Absolutely Fish. He talks about "Keeping Your Reef Fish Healthy." \$5, free for members. 5:30 pm. New York Aquarium, Surf Avenue and West 42nd Street. (718) 837-4855.

**BETWEEN WITH BELUGAS:** New York Aquarium invites kids 5 to 8 years (with an adult) to a sleep-over. 7 pm to 10 am. Saturday. Call for fee info.

**PERFORMANCES**

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** presents "31 Bond," a story about a doorman love triangle. \$40, \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 866-gowanus.

**BARGE MUSIC:** works by Bach, Chopin and Mendelssohn. 5:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**COMEDY:** Lila's Bar amateur variety hour. 10 pm. No cover. 46 Board St. (718) 858-9822.

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## Double feature

Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents a "Shared Evening" with the New York premiere of Shannon Hummel's "Stacy," a duet featuring dancers Vanessa Adato and Donna Costello, and Maureen Brennan's "Alma," vignettes performed by Lisa Mercer (pictured) that are inspired by Tennessee Williams' "The Yellow Bird." The double takes place Jan. 17 and Jan. 18 at 8 pm.

"Stacy" explores perceptions of safety, loss and regret after tragic events. On the lighter side, "Alma" humorously reveals a young woman's journey of self-discovery.

Admission: The Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, is \$15. Call (718) 832-0018 for more information.

**ART MAKING WORKSHOP:** The Brooklyn Museum of Art offers a workshop on china painting. Includes slide show on the making of Judy Chicago's "Dinner Party" ceramics. All materials provided. 3 to 5 pm. Fee included. Pre-registration. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 501-6977.

**SINGLES:** Dance hosted by Bay Ridge Singles Club. \$10 includes light refreshments. 8 pm. 7320 Fourth Ave. (718) 836-7000.

**SUN. JAN 12**

**OUTDOORS**

**MARSHLAND WALK:** Salt Marsh Nature Center talks a vigorous walk. 11 am. 382 Union St. Meet at 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-6211.

**PERFORMANCES**

**THE BROOKLYN MUSEUM:** presents "Music in the Galleries": Traditional and Contemporary Music from Spain and the Americas. Today: classical guitarist Tomas Rodriguez and his

am to 1 pm. 211 Eighth Street. (718) 788-4664. Free.

**PUPPETWORKS:** "The Prince and the Magic Flute." \$5, \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

**BASEBALL REGISTRATION:** 78th Precinct Youth Council spring season. \$95, to 15 years. 10 am. 1000 7th Ave. (718) 962-5863.

**MEETING:** Korean Veterans Chapter 171 meets. 10 am. 800 Fulton Ave. (718) 964-4175.

**SELF DEFENSE:** Free classes for Anti-Violence Education five-week course for female teens. 14 to 19. Sliding scale fees. 12:30 to 2:30 pm. Call to register. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 788-1775.

**MEETING:** AARP. Dvignation Chapter 788 meets. 11 am. 1000 Fulton Ave. (718) 964-4175.

**BROOKLYN WRITERS SERIES:** Brooklyn Public Library. Central branch, reading by Alexander Chee. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza.

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trio. Included in \$6 museum admission charge, free for members and children 12 and younger. 3 to 5 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5200.

**GOSPEL MUSIC:** Brooklyn Academy of Music. Presents "The Sound of the Bond and the Voice of the Bond." 8 pm. \$400 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

**BARGE MUSIC:** chamber music by Beethoven, Chopin and Mendelssohn. 5:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

**BAM:** "Twelfth Night." 3 pm. See Sat. Jan. 11.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Don't Call Us." 3 pm. See Sat. Jan. 11.

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** "31 Bond." 3 pm. See Sat. Jan. 11.

**CHILDREN**

**DUCK MONTAGE:** During the month of January, learn facts about the ducks of Prospect Park, create duck crafts and look for ducks around the park. Noon to 4 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.

**CHILDREAN CLASS:** Park Slope Food Coop hosts a class, "How to Read to Your Neighbors." Neighbors welcome. 3 pm. 782 Union St. (718) 622-0560. Free.

**TRICKS:** New York Rangers official youth hockey camp holds tricks for New York City. Free. Wee squad. 6 to 7:30 pm. Abbe Park. See Sat. Jan. 11.

**BASKETBALL REGISTRATION:** 1 to 5 pm. See Sat. Jan. 11.

**OTHER**

**TAXES 101:** New York City's Abigail Sholom hosts a talk, "Tax Questions Answered by a Friendly Wizard." CPA Paul Danin is guest speaker. 7 to 10 pm. Bay Parkway and Benson Avenue. (718) 372-0933. Free.

**ADULT ED:** Union Temple of Brooklyn hosts the lecture

admission charge, free for members and children 12 and younger. 3 to 5 pm. 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-5200.

**GOSPEL MUSIC:** Brooklyn Academy of Music. Presents "The Sound of the Bond and the Voice of the Bond." 8 pm. \$400 Fourth Ave. (718) 439-8978. Free.

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# Thinking big

**Sculptor Deborah Masters talks about her 'Angel' in the Brooklyn Public Library**

By Lisa J. Curtis  
The Brooklyn Papers

To call Deborah Masters' artwork heavy would be a gross understatement.

The daughter of a bridge engineer, Masters likes to work on a large scale, with cranes and concrete.

The Brooklyn Public Library will host a talk on Jan. 11 by the accomplished Brooklyn sculptor in conjunction with the installation of her latest work, "Angel in Crown Heights," at the Central Library.

Her installation in the library's Lobby Gallery is a large, er-than-life-sized representation of her assistant Angel Mohammed, surrounded by pencil drawings of the street where he grew up.

"He's a kid I worked with for six years because he had an interest in art, but there was no art taught in the high school that he went to," Masters told GO Brooklyn. "I was asked if I would do drawing with him."

He learns very quickly, and it was no trouble and now he just got into Pratt [Institute], which is exciting. He's a terrific artist, and he's the most talented I've ever taught."

Masters said the installation, which she created with Mohammed in her Brooklyn Navy Yard studio, is about the subject and the house he grew up in. The figure of the young black man is seated on a box, and his pencil is

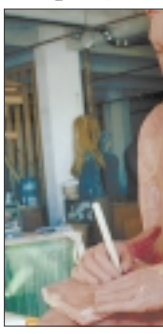
poised over a tablet resting on his knee. The sculpture is cast in Ultracal, which Masters describes as skin to concrete.

"This was the first time I worked with Ultracal and it was very hard to work with," said Masters, 51. The piece's surface, given an earthy, terra-cotta-colored wash, has a rough-hewn quality, yet the sculpture's lines are fluid and round. In fact, the massive head is reminiscent of serene representations of Buddha.

The three large pencil drawings that cover each of the three walls surrounding the figure were done by Mohammed with Masters' assistance.

"He had keys to my studio, and he totally did them on his own," said Masters. "I anticipated working on them much more, but he did such a great job." The drawings are of the street where Mohammed grew up, but with classic Brooklyn brownstones and trees.

"The main panel, which sits directly behind the figure, is a drawing of his house and the stairs," said Masters. The drawings surrounding the sketching figure give the viewer the feeling that he is seeing inside the figure's mind — that this Crown Heights street is a state of mind as much as being the environment that surrounds him. Viewers can enter the installation and walk around the sculpture taking in its Herculean proportions and its sense of quiet power.



Earth 'Angel': Sculptor Deborah Masters at work in her Kent Avenue studio. At left, the completed "Angel in Crown Heights" installation at the Brooklyn Public Library in Grand Army Plaza. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Marano

the quite gentlemanly characteristic of him — going from large to small — I think I was successful in getting that."

On the second-floor balcony, six of Masters' colored pencil drawings are on display. These six sketches were part of her plans for her 28-panel mural, "Walking New York," which Masters was commissioned to install at JFK International Airport in 2001.

The sketches on display are Brooklyn scenes — "Wedding under the Brooklyn Bridge," "Dinner in the Artist's Studio" (in Masters' studio), "Botanica" from Flatbush, "York Street subway station," "Garment Workers" from DUMBO, and "Manhattan Bridge" — but the "Walking New York" murals contain scenes from all over the five boroughs.

The installation of Masters' "Walking New York" was part of the opening of JFK's Terminal 4. For the project, Masters created 28 narrative reliefs of fiber glass, each 8-and-a-half feet high by 10 feet wide, covering a 350-foot-wide span above the immigration booths of the terminal. Her sculpted murals, with reliefs up to 6-inches deep and 800-pounds each, now greet passengers with vibrant scenes of New

York life. The JFK wall relief was cited as the best public art project of 2001 by the Municipal Art Society.

On Jan. 11 at 2 p.m. Masters will show a short film and give a talk about the "complicated" process of making the "Walking New York" murals.

"We had to take a window out of my studio," said Masters. "A crane came and we took all 28 pieces out of the seventh-floor window. I love doing things with cranes. My dad built bridges, so I love the construction thing, but I usually don't have that kind of budget. But in this case that was the cheapest way to get them out. We got them all out in four hours."

Masters' huge, pink relief of Coney Island in front of Long Island University's Brooklyn campus is 16 feet tall. She has created not one but dozens of concrete reliefs for a piece commissioned by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority to one day adorn the Ocean Parkway Viaduct, the last stop on the D-line.

"I like knowing how to use hoists and cranes," she said. "It gets beyond physical ability and into the cleverness of using lifting tools."

"Big pieces are my natural scale."

series "One People, Two Worlds." Rabbi Dr. Linda Henry Goodman leads the series, centered around the book by Reform Rabbi Arnold Shankman and the Orthodox Rabbi Yehoshua Ben-David.

**LITERARY EVENT:** Social Thoughts hosts a reading, 6 to 8 p.m. Fall Cafe, 307 Smith St. (718) 832-2300. Free.

**BARBERS BAR:** Infection writers The Goodman and Gabriel Cohen. Jazz concert follows reading. No cover. 6 p.m. 376 North St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**SENIOR MEETING:** Brooklyn Elderhostellers alumni meet. Call for location and time information. (718) 238-0265.

**Mon, Jan 13**

**WORKSHOP:** Community workshop sponsored by Gowanus Community Stakeholder (CSG) Group and the Victory Block Association to acquire the community with the CSG and its work on the Gowanus Expressway tunnel. 7:30 p.m. Victory Memorial Hospital, Main Conference Room, 1st floor, 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue. (718) 237-7928. Free.

**SINK OUT FRODO:** Brooklyn's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender meet to sing. 7 to 9 p.m. 50 Monroe Place. (718) 935-2960.

**LECTURE:** Congregation B'nai Avraham concludes its series "Israel, Her History, Borders and Meaning." Today: "Making

Aliyah?" 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 802-1827. Free.

**TRYOUTS:** New York Rangers official youth hockey camp holds tryouts. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

**FILM SERIES:** Barbes Bar presents the film "Chinatown" (1974). 9 p.m. 376 North St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

**AUDITIONS:** The Heights Players invites members of the community to audition for its next production, "Remember Mama." Call for audition appointment. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

**WTC MEETING:** Public invited to an interactive, live broadcast of an overview of nine new plans for the World Trade Center site. Audience will have opportunity to comment. Keynote Auditorium, 1 Metrotech Center, East at Jay Street. 6-11 p.m. www.renewnyc.com. Free.

**Tues, Jan 14**

**GRAND RE-OPENING:** The Fort Victory Memorial Hospital, Main Conference Room, 1st floor, 52nd Street at Seventh Avenue. (718) 237-7928. Free.

**WTC MEETING:** 6-11 p.m. See Mon.

**HEALTH TALK:** Health Plus lead poetizing workshop. 8:30 a.m. United Methodist Head Start, 4419 Seventh Ave. (718) 491-7584. Free.

## LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

**SUPPORT:** Mainmores Medical Center hosts a cancer support group. Registration required. 9:30 to 11 a.m. Oncology Department, 6323 Seventh Ave. (718) 283-6955. Free.

**MEETING:** AARP Bay Ridge Chapter. 3:30 p.m. 2:30 p.m. Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 768-5114.

**FORUM:** Men's Club of Bay Ridge election political forum. Meet candidates for City Council. 43rd District. 7 p.m. St. Patrick's Auditorium, 5227 Fourth Ave. (718) 833-5119. Free.

**BRIC STUDIO:** presents "Sink or Swim," a monthly variety show. 8 p.m. 57 Rockwell Place. (718) 855-7882.

**BARNES AND NOBLE:** Author Stephen Tally reads from his book "Majuto America." 7:30 p.m. 207 Seventh Ave. (718) 522-9066. Free.

**METHODS OF MULTIPLES:** Mainmores Medical Center hosts a birthday party and support group meeting for mothers of multiples. Presentation by Leslie Troner, R.N., entitled, "The School Years: Educational

and Social Challenges." Light buffet served. Mainmores Hall, 950 49th St. Registration required. (212) 363-8940. Free.

**ARAB TOUR:** Brooklyn Historical Society hosts a tour of the Arab American community in Brooklyn. Stops include a demonstration of pita bread making and a visit to Sahadi's. 5:15, 5:10 students. 55 children. 6:30 p.m. Danvers Bakery, 195 Atlantic Ave. (718) 224-1111.

**MEETING:** of Community Board 7. 6:30 p.m. Board Office, 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 854-0003.

**MEDITATION:** Experience shajia yoga meditation. Workshop from 7 to 8 p.m. 322A Court St. (718) 833-5751. Free.

**THURS, JAN 16**

**HEALTH TALK:** Health Plus talk on taking care of a new baby. 11 a.m. Health Plus, 195 Montague St. (718) 491-7584. Free.

**JEWISH PROGRAM:** Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, celebrates the Jewish holiday of Tu B-Shevat, the New Year of trees. Lecturer and vocalist Sarah Tivli explores the history and customs of this holiday. 6 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-1000. Free.

**WINE TASTING:** A Perfect Setting hosts a seasonal wine and cheese event. 7 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1000. Free.

**LOW BAK:** playwright Jorge Corrales. 7 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1000. Free.

**BRIDGE PARK:** CSE hosts public information meeting on Empire State, Moveable Greenway and its second phase. 6:15 p.m. ART/New York, 138 S. Oxford St. at Hanson Place. (718) 237-7928. Free.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Don't Call Me a..." Medical review. 8 p.m. See Sat.

**BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** "31 Bond." 7 p.m. See Sat.

**THEATER:** XO Projects and Theater present "Crave," a play about four people craving each other, and the need to be free. \$15, \$10 students. 9:30 p.m. 418 American Can Factory, Third Street at Third Avenue. (718) 608-9536.

**BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE:** presents "A Shared Evening." 8 p.m. See Sat. Jan. 18.

**HUGO PRIZE:** Spoke the Lark invites performers to do five minutes of whatever it is you do best at its second annual Winter Follies. Call: 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 857-5158.

**RAW FOOD:** Park Slope Food Coop hosts its monthly get-together. Bring a raw vegan dish for six to share. \$3 donation per person. 7:30 p.m. 782 Union St. (718) 622-5660.

**GOOD COFFEEHOUSE:** Evening of music, co-sponsored by Park Slope Food Coop and Brooklyn Ethical Culture Society. \$10. 8 p.m. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Chamber Music presents a rhythm and blues concert. 8 p.m. Call for location and time information. (718) 624-4743.

**TWO BOOTS:** blues with Turnstile Jumps. 10 p.m. No cover. 314 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

**BAM:** "Uncle Vanya." 7:30 p.m. See Sat.

**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Don't Call Me a..." Medical review. 8 p.m. See Sat.

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Brooklyn Center debut!  
**Dang Thai Son**  
**SUN • FEB 9, 2003 • 2PM**  
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Tickets: \$30

**Freddie Jackson & Oleta Adams**  
A Valentine's Concert  
**SAT • FEB 15, 2003 • 8PM**  
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**Wednesday, January 22 • 8 to 10 pm**  
**Venue: Bargemusic**

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