

Critics cry foul over Gentile's CB10 picks

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Some community members were fuming this week after Bay Ridge Councilman Vincent Gentile announced that he would not be re-appointing nine members to Community Board 10.

That decision came as a surprise to Tom McCarthy, a Republican and vice president of JP Morgan Chase who chaired the Traffic and Transportation committee and served on the board for five years. He was not re-appointed by Gentile, a Democrat.

"At this point it's like a political appointment and Gentile wanted to appoint his own people who would be loyal to him," said John Al-Habib, a Bay Ridge businessman active in the Republican Party, who was also axed from CB10 by Gentile.

According to Al-Habib, who was appointed to the board by Gentile's predecessor, Marty Golden, a Republican, Gentile is judging potential board appointees by party affiliation rather than qualifications or service to the community.

Other prominent Republicans not re-appointed by Gentile included Marianne Teta, who was placed



Vincent Gentile



Marianne Teta

back on the board by Borough President Marty Markowitz, as one of his selections.

According to the New York City Charter, half of all community board appointments are made by the borough president while the other half are made by the other council members with the approval of the borough president. This year, half of the 50 members came up for re-appointment. This year, 12 of those seats belonged to Gentile and 13 to Markowitz.

Gentile's new appointments included Bob Cassara, John Costello, Timothy Cross, Ron Gross, Brian Kieran, Rhea McCone, Gloria Melnick, Mary Nolan and Dr. Husam Rimawi. The councilman has one seat that remains unfilled.

Gentile re-appointed Frances Loftus and Louise Riso and also Harriet Rosenberg, who was a borough president appointee not re-appointed by Markowitz.

This week's announcement caused a stir among board members, inciting many to claim the board had become more about politics than about community.

Gentile was elected to the City Council in February in a special election to replace Golden who was elected to Gentile's former seat as state Senator.

Calling the changes "disgusting," longtime board member Basil Capetanakis condemned Gentile's actions. "He made the community board all politics now," Capetanakis said.

Refuting the allegations that he based his appointments on party lines, Gentile explained that two new appointees, Cassara and Rimawi, in addition to re-appointee Riso, were all Republicans.

"If anyone said this was partisan, that's just poppycock," said Gentile, invoking a phrase favored by former President Richard Nixon.

Gentile said he looked to diversify the board and placed members who would champion preservation and zoning issues. He said the board had become heavily business oriented.

Gross, president of the Senator Street Block Association and a resident behind the recent historic district designation for that block, is among the new appointees. Gross moved from Carroll

See GENTILE on page 6



Paul Gualtieri next to site of new footings that will obstruct the bike path along the Belt Parkway.

Sign to cut off Belt bike path

Obstruction puts bikers, walkers at odds

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

With summer on the way, it may be time to pump up the tires and oil the chains on those long-neglected bicycles.

But bicyclists beware, a new obstruction along the scenic Bay Ridge bike path sandwiched between the Belt Parkway and the bay may cause some dangerous accidents.

Paul Gualtieri, a Bay Ridge dentist and recreational biker, first noticed a fenced off section of the bike path between 94th and 95th street last month. He believes the

obstruction could have been avoided.

According to state Department of Transportation spokeswoman Jennifer Nelson, a cement footing is being poured for a new Belt Parkway sign. The fence will remain until the project is completed.

Because of the obstruction, bikers currently have to cross over to the foot path. But if the cement base had been installed several feet over, to a section dotted with benches between the foot and bike paths, the obstruction could have been avoided, said Gualtieri.

Engineers for the state DOT

were not available for comment by press time.

According to Nelson, the fence is only temporary and the newly reconfigured bike path will meet the required standards.

Not all residents are as concerned about the obstruction as Gualtieri.

"People should be riding leisurely, not racing," said Peter Killen, president of the Bay Ridge Community Council and a bike safety activist. "Riders are sharing the path with children and baby carriages. If there's an obstruction, you slow down and you walk around."

Moose Lodge awaits seniors

Paper's calls spur city to set Narrows Center meet

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

After years of waiting, putting off needed renovations and turning away members interested in hosting parties, the leader of a local fraternal organization said this week that he is finally fed up.

"I thought this was a done deal," said Sam Mazza, chief administrator for the Kings County Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge in Bensonhurst. The lodge is slated to host a new senior center when the nearby Narrows Senior Center, which must close because it is not handicap accessible, moves to a new location over a mile away.

The new facility, which was supposed to open last January but has faced several delays, is now set to open in Borough Park in about two weeks, according to Catholic Charities, which operates the senior center.

When that happens, the Narrows Senior Center, on New Utrecht Avenue at 79th Street, will close, leaving Bensonhurst with no senior center.

For the past year, the Narrows Senior Center has been at the heart of a political tug of war between local elected officials, the Department for the Aging (DFTA), Catholic Charities and the Moose Lodge.

But when Mazza finally sat down with all the involved parties in March, and the politicians came out to shake hands and joke with the seniors, Mazza thought the plans were finally set.

See MOOSE on page 6



That's a mouthful

Tori Canning, 5, enjoys some cotton candy during Fifth Avenue Festival, which took place between 65th and 75th streets on Sunday.

Klein visits boro board

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Schools Chancellor Joel Klein came to Brooklyn this week to address the concerns of Brooklyn's council members and community boards over the new centralized school system.

He walked right into an ambush.

The invitation to address the Borough Board, comprised of community board chairs and council members came from Borough President Marty Markowitz, who took advantage of Tuesday night's meeting at Borough Hall to berate Klein for everything from being shortchanged on the Department of Education's capital commitment plan to overcrowding in Brooklyn schools.

"This was not a system that was failing all children. We had many children that were succeeding," said Markowitz, referring to the sweeping education reforms that put the responsibility for the city's schools back into the hands of the mayor for the first time since 1969 and eliminated the current school districts.

Just this week, Markowitz sent a letter to Klein outlining some of Brooklyn's worst school problems, including the most severely overcrowded high schools in the city, which he also detailed in a report delivered in front of Midwood High School. At 185 percent capacity, Midwood is among the most overcrowded high schools in the city.



Schools Chancellor Joel Klein at Borough Hall Tuesday.

In response, Klein on Tuesday said he had freed up 8,000 seats by eliminating bureaucrats in the old Board of Education.

Criticizing the Education Department for squeezing Brooklyn out of its fair share, Markowitz said in a written statement that while Brooklyn had more severe overcrowding than any other borough, Klein's capital plan commits only \$89 million to high school construction in Brooklyn, compared to \$107 million in Manhattan and \$471 million in Queens.

Additionally, the Education Department's new capital plan, which outlines funding for schools between 2003 and 2007, only allows Brooklyn 16 percent of the 28,000 new classroom seats planned citywide.

The borough president also attacked the Parks Department for not addressing the city's worst school problems, including the most severely overcrowded high schools in the city, which he also detailed in a report delivered in front of Midwood High School. At 185 percent capacity, Midwood is among the most overcrowded high schools in the city.

See BOARD on page 8

Marty trades diet for workout

At second 'Lighten Up,' beep vows to sweat it off — and keep it off

By Yoav Gonen
for The Brooklyn Papers

The image of Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz jogging up the steps of Borough Hall, jumping up and down like Rocky Balboa with arms upraised as he reached the top step, captured the essence of Tuesday's kickoff to "Lighten Up Brooklyn 2003."

The theme this year, "Fitness is Forever," is intended, in addition to shedding pounds, to make exercise fun and part of the regular routine.

"I dreamed that this day would never come back," Markowitz joked as he introduced the second annual borough-wide initiative to combat obesity and promote healthy lifestyles.

"Last year the emphasis was on losing weight," said Markowitz. "This time we're emphasizing long-term results — changing eating habits and adding exercise to your daily life."

As such, Markowitz eschewed a weigh-in. Weight-loss totals will not be the benchmark, but rather participation in workout programs.

Fitness trainers from around the borough joined Markowitz in announcing a wide variety of activities that will be occurring in more than 20 Brooklyn parks, and with the participation of 25 gyms, on weekends in June. He hopes that the variety will entice the largest number of people to participate, with events ranging from power walking and yoga to kickboxing and canoeing.

Michael Adams, a 29-year-old train-

er at the Park Sports Sports Club, presented one of the more unusual events, Capoeira Dance Fitness, which will be held at Cuyler Gore Park in Fort Greene on Saturdays at 2 p.m.

"It's gonna be hot," promised Adams, who described the exercise as an "Afro-Brazilian martial art/dance hybrid" accompanied by a house music deejay. He managed to pique the interest of at least one of the approximately 50 listeners and passersby.

"I'm excited," said Sarah Kaufman, a Borough Hall employee. "The Capoeira sounded good."

She's one of a group of Borough Hall workers who have been meeting this past week in the rotunda at 7:30 a.m. to participate in daily aerobic workouts as a prelude to the month's activities.

Kaufman says she likes the community aspect of the fitness initiative, and compares it to a "buddy system," in that seeing other people participate can serve as motivation.

Markowitz made his own attempts to motivate borough residents on Tuesday by demonstrating how to use an elliptical machine, which simulates running, without the stressful impact.

Dressed in tan shorts, a T-shirt and running sneakers, for the borough president also completed a resting metabolic rate test while seated on a blue Swiss ball — used to involve additional muscle groups, especially the abdominal muscles, in various exercises — by breathing into a Body Gem.

The kazoo-looking device is used to

See LIGHTEN on page 6



Marty Markowitz works out on an elliptical machine at Borough Hall.



The borough president learns some "Boot Camp Fitness" from trainer Darren Taylor.

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The Brooklyn Papers

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Lutheran celebrates 120 years of service

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center celebrated 120 years of service to the Brooklyn community at its annual dinner dance on Saturday, May 17, at the Brooklyn Museum of Art.

Lutheran President and CEO Wendy Z. Goldstein presented the inaugural bronze Sister Elisabeth Fedde Medal for Service to Danny Tsai and Salvatore Sclafani, MD.

The new award, named in honor of Lutheran's founder, recognizes a deep commitment and dedication to the community and people of Brooklyn.

More than 600 guests were scheduled to attend the gala, and all proceeds will support Lutheran's efforts to renovate the emergency department

Nieto joins MMC

Maimonides Medical Center

Jaime H. Nieto, MD, a neurosurgeon specializing in spinal disorders and degenerative back problems, has joined the acclaimed surgical staff at Maimonides Medical Center. Dr. Nieto has a special interest in the use of minimally invasive surgical techniques.

"I am excited by the opportunity to join the neurosurgery team, and I am also looking forward to collaborating with some of the world's finest spine specialists who pioneered the use of minimally invasive spinal surgery," said Nieto.

A resident of Bay Ridge, Nieto was born in Colombia, South America, and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was 20 years old.

After college and post graduate study, Nieto's fascination with the central nervous system and spinal cord injury led him to the SUNY Health Science Center at Syracuse, where he earned his medical degree.

and improve its staffing and delivery of services.

Lutheran Honoree Danny Tsai is a dedicated community leader and owner of Ocean Palace Restaurant in Sunset Park, and Sclafani is an orthopedic surgeon and longtime member of the Lutheran medical and dental staff.

A Level One Trauma Center and Stroke Center, Lutheran Medical Center has cared for the citizens of Brooklyn since 1883.

Providing medicines, surgery, intensive care, coronary care, pediatrics, obstetrics and

gynecology, and emergency services among others, Lutheran Medical Center is the hub of Lutheran HealthCare, a network of primary, acute and long-term services dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the people of Brooklyn.

Beth Israel honors 'greeter' for service

Beth Israel Medical Center

For lack of a more formal title, Essie Bernstein calls herself a "greeter." Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Fridays, she is stationed in the lobby of Beth Israel Medical Center-Kings Highway Division and greets patients, visitors and staff who come through.

An exemplary volunteer since October 1997, she was honored by the United Hospital Fund at its Ninth Annual Hospital Auxiliary and Volunteer Achievement Award ceremony held at the Waldorf-Astoria in Manhattan.

According to Cynthia Kirby, Volunteer Coordinator, Bernstein was chosen for the award for several reasons.

"She is reliable and always willing to help. Her perpetual good will and high spirits are a positive influence on all who interact with her," said Kirby.

Simply known as Essie by everyone, she is a vigorous woman who won't give her age but

admits to being old enough to have a granddaughter who is completing her training as a pediatrician, and a grandson who is a law student at Harvard.

She is up at 4 am everyday and starts "blowing the dust around" before going out for a brisk walk. "I sometimes walk with friends, but if they walk too slowly, I prefer to go on my own," said Bernstein.

For 20 years, she worked as a private secretary for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, where she was the only female in an office of 35 engineers. She left the job to take care of her husband at home after he suffered a stroke. Bernstein has never been one to sit still and do nothing. Even "a little arthritis in the shoulder" does not stop her.

In addition to volunteering at Beth Israel, she attends Bible class and helps at her synagogue. Her favorite expression is "you rest, you rest."

"Essie's activities can put many much younger folks to shame," said Kirby. "She's an inspiration to all of us."

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POLICE BLOTTER

Jumped in front of train

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A Gowanus man plunged to his death in front of an R train Wednesday night.

Salvador Depaz, 21, was killed by an oncoming train on the northbound tracks of the 86th Street subway station at approximately 8 pm on May 28, police said.

The medical examiner's office ruled it a suicide.

Man, 76, attacked

A woman called police May 31 to report an elderly man being beaten outside her window, at 94th Street and Fifth Avenue, around 5:30 pm.

The victim, 76, was punched and kicked by his attacker, who snatched his car keys, got in the vehicle, and fled westbound on 94th Street, according to the witness.

The car, a 1994 four-door Honda Civic, was later retrieved near Caesar's Bay, police said.

Check scammed

A young man learned a hard lesson about international crooks this week, and his bank account was the worse for wear.

The 21-year-old Ridgite told police at the 68th Precinct on May 29 that he had put his car up for sale on www.cars.com earlier that month.

The victim had been contacted by a man in England who said he was interested in purchasing the vehicle.

When the cashier's check from Washington Mutual Bank arrived by Federal Express from England, made out for \$9,200, the buyer wrote to say that he had sent too much money by accident. He asked the seller if he would mind sending some of it back.

Being a trusting soul, the seller deposited the check at his bank and went to a check cashing store to wire \$4,650 back to the buyer.

The victim was later notified by the bank that the buyer's check had been fraudulent.

Sick thief

A patient at Victory Memorial Hospital, on 92nd Street and Seventh Avenue, told police this week that his wallet and cell phone were taken from his jeans pocket while he lay unconscious in a hospital bed. The incident allegedly occurred around 8:45 am on May 30.

Snoozer loses

A slumbering commuter had a sobering awakening when he reached the 62nd Street station along the W line.

The victim, 49, had boarded the train at 42nd Street in Manhattan and fallen asleep along the way.

When he woke up at 9 pm, he discovered his briefcase was gone.

The incident occurred on May 31.

Gunpoint rob

A man entered a deli on 65th Street at West Sixth Street just after 10 pm on June 1 and pulled out a gun.

"Give me your money or I'll blow your head off," the intruder told the deli clerk.

Given his options, the clerk handed over the cash and the perp fled.

Picked on 86th

A woman walking along 86th Street at Bay Parkway, around 6 pm on May 29, stopped to talk to a passerby who seemed to want to chat.

After the stranger left, the victim, 48, realized that her wallet was missing.

Bottle to head

A bottle-wielding pugilist wreaked havoc in the late morning on May 29.

A 15-year-old girl was approached by another girl who said she wanted to fight at 11:45 am on 62nd Street and New Utrecht Avenue.

The assailant, described as 5-foot-2, then took a bottle from a friend and hit the victim in the forehead, police said.

'Relay' on Sunday

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Hundreds of Bay Ridge Residents will unroll their sleeping bags and camp out beneath the stars at Poly Prep Country Day School this weekend as they come together to honor cancer survivors and raise much-needed funds to help battle the disease.

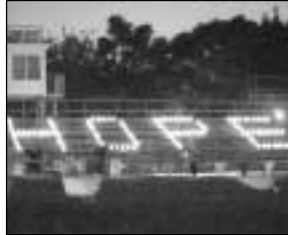
The annual Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, will kick off on Saturday, June 7, at 3 pm, at the school's track at Seventh Avenue and 92nd Street.

Every June for the past 18 years, thousands nationwide have joined the all-night event where teams of people take turns walking or running around a track in an overnight relay. Hot dogs are grilled, games played and cancer survivors and victims honored in the effort to support cancer research.

The event has spread to 3,300 communities in the United States and eight other countries.

Brooklyn joined on five years ago with its first site at Poly Prep. The number of participants has grown over the years and last year, 450 people raised almost \$89,000 at Poly Prep alone.

An estimated 86,000 people in New York State and 1.3 na-



Candles in Poly Prep's grandstand spell "hope" during Relay for Life in 2000.

tionwide will develop cancer in 2003, according to American Cancer Society statistics.

The first lap around the track, at 5 pm, is done by cancer survivors. A lumina candlelight ceremony to honor

those who have lost their lives to the disease will be begun at 9:30 pm.

For more information, contact the American Cancer Society at (800) ACS-2345 or visit www.cancer.org.

CORRECTION

The article headlined "Pressed to Sell" (The Bay Ridge Paper, June 2) accidentally inverted the numbers to a house for sale on 80th Street that is a source of some controversy.

The correct address is 435 80th St. We regret the error.

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Ed Weintrob / Big media, advertising and misspelled names

Belated attention was paid Monday by the TV networks and big dailies to the Federal Communications Commission's sellout of the public interest in allowing still more mega-media consolidation. The FCC's action is likely to prove even a greater threat to both the democratic ideal of unfettered discussion and the capitalist notion of free commerce than Congress' earlier media deregulation votes.

The FCC chairman went to great lengths to stifle discussion prior to Monday's decision, scheduling only one public hearing (in California).

Big media didn't raise much of a ruckus about this overt suppression of debate, however, since it will be big media's cash registers that will reap a fast, full harvest. On matters affecting big media's financial interest, debate is becoming an anachronism. It's a shame the FCC commissioners have no shame.

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Getting it right

An old newspaper adage goes, "I don't care what you say about me in the newspaper — just spell my name right!"

I'd sometimes divine a new reporter's accuracy quotient by hearing the reporter ask for the spelling of a source's first name. Marianne, after

all, could just as easily be Mary Ann. People are rightfully concerned that their names appear correctly in The Paper — particularly a name that won't appear all that often; a misspelled name can cloud those 15 minutes of fame and make a Google search problematic for eternity. Most often, however, it's the substance of an article that will delight or rile.

It's important for readers to call errors to our attention; even if an error in nuance does merit a printed correction, knowledge of the questionable point can better

inform future stories. A misspelled name, not corrected, can literally take on an identity of its own.

In the case of NY Times reporter Jayson Blair, who injected fiction in dozens of his reports, people felt calling the Times to complain would have been an exercise in futility. At The Brooklyn Paper, we want to hear your praise as well as your criticism.

Now, here's my copy of the week: In last week's column, I misspelled the name of The Paper's copy editor. It's Beverly Cheonant. EdWeintrob@BrooklynPapers.com

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Alliance revisits curb cut problem

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge residents have long complained about the lack of parking in their neighborhood. And for just as long, community groups have been trying to devise ways to deal with the problem.

But adding to the problem, or perhaps caused by it, is the trend of homeowners converting their need for parking spaces by turning their front lawns into driveways and carving out basement dens to build underground parking.

The result has been a diminishment of the Ridge's suburban style green lawns and for car owners an equally distressing diminishment of on-street parking spaces, as they give way to the curb cuts, many of them illegal, needed to accommodate the new driveways.

The Alliance of Bay Ridge Block Associations has decided to take on the problem once again, forming a new committee to investigate the proliferation of both legal and illegal cuts.

Back in 1998, the group asked for a moratorium on curb cuts and then-Borough President Howard Golden ordered a study of the problem, sending out teams to several of the borough's neighborhoods.

Relying on telephone calls from residents, Community Board 10 compiled a list of

curb cuts in the neighborhood and submitted it to the Department of Buildings.

But that report fell on deaf ears, says Alliance co-president Judie Grimaldi, an attorney and CB10 member.

To tackle the problem once again, the Alliance gathered Tuesday night to discuss plans for a new study.

Revisiting old studies and putting together a new comprehensive chart of all existing curb cuts, the Alliance hopes to limit new curb cuts.

Surprisingly, said Grimaldi, the Special Bay Ridge Zoning District, created to preserve the character of the community, could also be at fault for this measure of its demise.

Under that 1978 zoning regulation all new residential developments involving three dwelling units or less must provide one enclosed accessory off-street parking space with no parking permitted on the side or rear.

"We think the time has come to put a moratorium on curb cuts because they are proliferating at a rate that is incredible and soon we will have no on-street parking," said Joanne Senaldi, a member of both the Alliance and CB10, who attended Tuesday's meeting.

In order to obtain a permit for a curb cut, a homeowner must bring a copy of a survey of the property to the Department of Buildings, submit construction drawings, complete an application, and pay a \$100 filing fee.

If approved, a construction permit can be obtained. Additional curb cut fees, calculated at \$3 per foot, will also be assessed.

The construction of the curb cut must comply with the zoning for the area.



The Brooklyn Papers • Don Cohen

Bike safety

Bicyclists, led by retired cop Peter Killen (fourth from left with wife, Patricia Killen), gathered at 9004 Fourth Ave. Saturday to learn about bicycle safety, taught by 68th Precinct police officers.

Zoning in residential areas of Brooklyn generally permits parking driveways that are at least 8.6 feet wide and 18 feet deep.

There must be sufficient clearance on either side of a pole or fire hydrant.

While the past attempts to block new curb cuts, and to fine homeowners with illegal curb cuts, have been unsuccessful, Grimaldi says, "We've got to keep trying."

The Alliance of Bay Ridge Block Associations is asking residents to report any curb cuts they know to be or suspect of being illegal via e-mail to curbcuts@aol.com.

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Sunday bank hours come to Bensonhurst

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Sundays aren't what they used to be.

First came the repeal of the antiquated blue laws allowing for liquor sales on Sunday, and now some banks are even offering Sunday hours.

HSBC Bank USA announced this week that it will be expanding to Sunday hours at 11 of its New York City branches. Several of its Manhattan branches have offered Sunday banking since 1997, but starting last weekend, five of its Brooklyn branches will be open from 10 am to 1 pm on Sundays.

Headquartered in London, HSBC bank has over 400 branches in New York State, with 100 branches in New York City and 26 branches in Brooklyn.

An HSBC spokeswoman said the decision to add Sunday hours was made to accommodate the busy lives of the bank's clientele.

"We are always looking for better ways to serve our customers. We want them to be able to bank in a way that's most convenient for them," said HSBC spokeswoman Pamela Plehn.

But the new hours may also be a way for HSBC to gain a competitive edge as Commerce Bank, which bills itself as "America's Most Convenient Bank," is opening a new location at 1630 Shore Parkway — right next door to an HSBC branch — on June 14.

Commerce Bank has offered seven-day-a-week banking since 1994 and recently opened its first Brooklyn branch at 2700 Coney Island Ave.

The four HSBC branches offering Sunday service will include locations in Bensonhurst, at 86th Street and 23rd Avenue and at 1628 Shore Parkway; Sheepshead Bay, at Avenue U and East 17th

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Exercising their minds

Muscle gives way to gray matter in boro chess tourney

By Jotham Sederstrom
for The Brooklyn Papers

Mehdi Harizi, a sixth-grader at the Brooklyn New School in Cobble Hill, leaned forward, entranced by the afternoon games unfolding before his eyes.

Draped in an all-black tracksuit, the 13-year-old watched the action from underneath a basket in a gymnasium at the New York City College of Technology. But Harizi wasn't marveling over slam-dunks and 3-point shots. Instead, it was opening moves and endgames that caught the boy's attention.

"I like all types of sports," said Harizi. "But you need something to work your mind, not just your body. That's why I play chess."

For the record, Harizi considers the Game of Kings as much a sport as, say, basketball. And judging by the tough competition, so do his peers. Along with Harizi, more than 275 kids competing in the May 22 Scholastic Chess Championships demonstrated that chess isn't just for graying intellectuals.

Open to Brooklyn-area students of all ages and levels of skill, the event attracted kindergartners from Canarsie and high schoolers from Highland Park.

"Without chess in schools there wouldn't be as many kids playing the game," said Eliot Weiss, a coach at Edward R. Murrow High School. "Who knows what else they'd be doing after school."

Murrow, which fields the top-ranked chess team in New York, placed first among high schools at the tournament, followed by Fort Greene's Brooklyn Tech. The win marks the team's third consecutive victory at the tournament, no surprise considering that in April the Murrow team finished eighth in the National Chess Championships in Charlotte, N.C.

Dmitry Minevich, a Russian-born 17-year-old and one of the school's top players, finished in third place, win-



Aleksandr Pelekhaty, of PS 228, competes in the seventh- and eighth-grade group during chess championship.

ning three games and settling for one draw at the Scholastic championship. Alexander Lenderman, 13, a junior high national champion from IS 228 In Gravesend, took first-place honors, winning all four of his matches.

"Considering we're city and state champs this year, winning it wasn't much of a surprise," said Weiss, who also teaches calculus at Murrow. "But Brooklyn Tech is a tough team, very tough. I was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn. So it's an honor to be the Brooklyn champs."

Long established in the Bronx and Manhattan, Chess-In-The-Schools, the event's sponsor, began hosting the Scholastic Chess Championships in Brooklyn only three years ago, despite the borough's storied connection to the game.

Besides Bobby Fischer, who grew up in Crown Heights, Brooklyn has been home to Maurice Ashley, the first black grandmaster, and chess clubs still thrive in neighborhoods like Brighton Beach.

Then there's Park Slope's Fabiano Caruana, who at 10 is ranked No. 1 in the country for players under 12 and is

taught Fischer.

"Years ago there was nothing for kids," Weiss recalled. "And when there was, they had to pay."

Chess-In-The-Schools, a nonprofit that has been teaching the basics to kids in all five boroughs, began in 1986, with a handful of instructors at half a dozen elementary schools. By 1999, the program reached 160 public and private schools and more than 38,000 kids. The theory behind the program, said Stephen Herx, the organization's program director, is that chess helps develop critical thinking skills.

"Chess promotes problem-solving skills, socialization and self-esteem," said Herx. "These three things are sorely needed in many of the kids we work with in the inner-city public school system."

Harizi, who recorded one win and three losses for the

mentored by Bruce Pandolfi-

ni, the chess master who



Pole vault

Inclement weather Sunday forced the Liberty Pole ceremony inside New Utrecht Reform Church, on 18th Avenue at 84th Street, where Edward Paunetto, vice president of the Friends of Historic New Utrecht, Scott Sommerville, of Cub Scout Troop 20, and Rose Lood, president of the Liberty Pole Association, display wreath in honor of veterans and servicemen.

day, admitted that, compared to some of the players, he was a far cry from Mikhail Tal, one of his favorite players.

Although he learned how to play several years ago when his dad took him to the boards at Prospect Park, Harizi wasn't serious about the game until last year, when he joined an after-school program. Now, he said, chess is as much a part of his life as basketball, another favorite sport.

"I made up one of my opening moves, but I haven't come up with a name for it yet," he said.

Daphne Exavier, a fifth-grade teacher at PS 276 in Canarsie, said that, if nothing else, chess had done for her what she had never thought possible: lure her students away from the video games.

The 28-year-old teacher, who learned how to play chess just three years ago, said she was astonished to see her four students, running wild earlier that morning, now settling down to the rows of black-and-white checkered boards. "I've never seen them this quiet," she said.

"It's like a tomb," said Herx of the near-silent gymnasium. "You can hear a pin drop. The level of concentration is really, really intense. You can almost feel how beneficial chess is to these kids."

For Erick Manigat, one of Exavier's star pupils, the game was an exercise in memorization. Wrapping his fingers around a white plastic pawn, the third-grader made the first of five winning plays that would advance him to the second round of the tournament. In the second game, he defeated a girl from Midwood's PS 315 in eight moves. In the third, however, the 9-year-old succumbed to Libby Devonshire, a third-grader from PS 39 in Park Slope. Manigat, who finished eighth out of 33 players in the K-3 section, nevertheless expressed regret about his showing.

"Our teacher taught us how to win in four moves," he said, "but I forgot some of the moves."



Ricardo Maynard (at left), of PS 10, and Jack Brody, of Holy Name, both third-graders, face off at the Brooklyn Scholastic Chess Championship held at New York City College of Technology on May 22.

Brooklyn Scholastic Chess Champs

Grades K-3

Individuals:

- 1st: Vinneet Naran, PS 39 (Park Slope)
- 2nd: Libby Devonshire, PS 39
- 3rd: Shakill Amish, PS 315 (Midwood)

Schools:

- 1st: PS 39
- 2nd: Brooklyn New School (Carroll Gardens)
- 3rd: PS 276 (Canarsie)

Fourth Grade

Individuals:

- 1st: Feven Berhane, PS 39
- 2nd: Henry Cummings, PS 39
- 3rd: Angelo Rosado, PS 40 (Brownsville)

Schools:

- 1st: PS 39
- 2nd: PS 180 (Borough Park)
- 3rd: PS 198 (East Flatbush)

Fifth Grade

Individuals:

- 1st: Christopher Murden, PS 308 (Bedford-Stuyvesant)
- 2nd: Dallas Milea, PS 52 (Sheepshead Bay)
- 3rd: William Scott, PS 308

Schools:

- 1st: PS 308
- 2nd: PS 52
- 3rd: PS 34 (Greenpoint)

Sixth Grade

Individuals:

- 1st: Yevgeniy Israelov, IS 228 (Gravesend)
- 2nd: Cesar Calendar, IS 318 (Williamsburg)
- 3rd: Kenny Liu, IS 318

Schools:

- 1st: IS 318
- 2nd: IS 228
- 3rd: IS 171 (Cypress Hills)

Grades 7-8

Individuals:

- 1st: Dario Mass, IS 318
- 2nd: Jeffrey Wang, IS 318
- 3rd: Nick Martinez, IS 318

Schools:

- 1st: IS 318
- 2nd: PS 308
- 3rd: IS 228

Grades 9-12

Individuals:

- 1st: Alex Lenderman, IS 228
- 2nd: Boris Cenderovich, Brooklyn Tech (Fort Greene)
- 3rd: Dmitry Minevich, Edward R. Murrow (Midwood)

Schools:

- 1st: Edward R. Murrow
- 2nd: Brooklyn Tech
- 3rd: IS 228

CITY COUNCILMAN Vincent Gentile invites you to his Tenant Meeting/Rally on Wednesday, June 11th



In case you were unable to attend the recent tenant rally in Albany, please join us at City Councilman Vincent Gentile's Tenant Meeting/Rally to Save Rent Regulation. With the June 15th deadline of renewal of rent regulations approaching, the communities of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst must unite to let the Governor and State Legislature know that rent laws must be preserved.

Councilman Gentile's Rent Meeting/Rally
Wednesday, June 11, 2003
7pm -10pm
at St. Anselm's Hall
365 83rd St. between 3rd and 4th Aves.
Enter through the school door marked "BOYS"

For further details call (718) 748-5200, or drop by
Councilman Gentile's new office at 8703 3rd Ave. at 87th St.

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Rep. Weiner ditches Kings for Queens

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Rep. Anthony Weiner, who prides himself on his Brooklyn roots, recently packed his bags and headed for Queens.

After redistricting left Weiner with the majority of his constituents in Queens, the liberal Democrat representing the 9th Congressional District, moved his home, district office and voter registration to the borough to the north.

Moving his main district office from Sheepshead Bay to Kew Gardens, Queens, with a staff of 12, the old Brooklyn office remains open, but with just one full-time staffer.

In May, Weiner went the way of his office, packing his



Rep. Anthony Weiner

belongings and trading his rental apartment in Sheepshead Bay for a co-op in Forest Hills.

"I've rented for my entire life," Weiner told The Brook-

lyn Papers this week.

The moves followed the congressional redistricting, which left Weiner with 70 percent of his (654,361) constituents in Queens. Before redistricting, the district was split evenly between the two boroughs.

Weiner lost his portions of Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Flatlands, Canarsie, Bensonhurst and Gravesend in the redistricting, which is based on the 2000 Census.

His district still includes portions of Bergen Beach, Brighton Beach, Gerritsen Beach, Kensington, Kings Highway, Manhattan Beach, Marine Park, Midwood, Mill Basin, Ocean Parkway and Sheepshead Bay, but much of the Brooklyn end includes the

unpopulated Gateway National Recreation Area in Jamaica Bay.

Raised in Park Slope, the son of a lawyer and a high school teacher, Weiner said he had his first foray into Queens as an infant. His parents moved for a short time to Rochdale Village in Jamaica.

After graduating from the State University of New York at Plattsburgh, and serving for six years in the office of then-Rep. Charles Schumer, Weiner became the youngest person elected to the City Council when he was voted in at age 27 to the Sheepshead Bay-Midwood 48th district.

In 1998, Weiner was elected to replace Schumer, who was elected to the congressional seat when he was elected to the

Senate.

Weiner has been mentioned as a potential Democratic challenger of Mayor Michael Bloomberg in 2005.

Borough President Mark Markowitz, the most boisterous proponent of Brooklyn, lamented Weiner's move to Queens.

"[Weiner] will never forget his roots, and we are so very proud that he still represents an important part of our borough," said Markowitz. "Our only regret is that he doesn't represent more of Brooklyn because we don't want to share him with the rest of the city."

Some constituents are upset about the move. "I was born and raised in Brooklyn and continue to live

and raise my family here. I am proud of that fact and Anthony Weiner should have been too," wrote one angry constituent, who identified himself as Duncan Donald in an e-mail circulated to local newspapers.

"I'm a Brooklyn and Queens congressman and I've been that way since the beginning," said Weiner, adding that he may have moved, but he certainly hasn't left Brooklyn behind.

The new move does put Weiner closer to both La Guardia and Kennedy airports for his commutes between Washington, D.C. and home. That also means less time on the Van Wyck Expressway, something Weiner said he would not miss.

Army Terminal van to bring workers

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The problem for employers along Sunset Park's waterfront is not finding workers, but rather getting them there.

The night and early morning shifts can be most problematic, with public transportation running infrequently. The nearest subway is 15 minutes away and the walk through the deserted streets past warehouses and underneath the Gowanus Expressway overpass can be especially intimidating in the dark.

But thanks to a new, free van service that will shuttle workers from the subway to

various businesses in the area between 7 pm and 9 am, that trip might get a bit easier.

The Ride-to-Work Program was officially launched Friday morning in a ceremony in front of the Brooklyn Army Terminal, at 58th Street and First Avenue, which houses dozens of companies that employ more than 3,000.

The van, a joint effort of Seecode, a non-profit organization that works with community groups to revitalize low-income areas, and the Southwest Brooklyn Industrial Development Corporation, is funded through a grant from the Federal Transportation Administration of the U.S. Department of Transportation, and will be

available to the roughly 25,000 workers along Sunset Park's waterfront.

Organizers expect nearly 500 workers in the area to take advantage of the new vans.

"We need a good way to get workers here," said Abraham Rosenberg, a chocolate manufacturer at First Avenue Lines, Inc., will be free for the first six months and then there will be an undetermined fee that organizers described as "nominal."

Attracted by the cheap rent, expansive space and easy access to the highway, industrial and commercial business, according to Rosenberg, who said his employees hail from as far as the Bronx and Queens.

The new shuttle service will pick workers up at the N, R, M and W subway station at

36th Street and Fourth Avenue and drop them off along First and Second avenues between 39th and 58th streets.

The service, contracted by the Greenpoint-based Royal Line, is expected to be in place by the end of the year. The terminal is expected to be the first of a series of new developments in the area, which will be an undetermined fee that organizers described as "nominal."

The thriving waterfront business in Sunset Park declined over the years and the Brooklyn Army Terminal was built in the 1970s. The terminal is run today by the city Economic Development Corporation.

A plaque inside the terminal boasts a picture of Elvis Presley and details his pass

cell phone distributors.

The terminal was designed by renowned architect Cass Gilbert, who also created the Woolworth Building in Lower Manhattan. During World War II, the Army Terminal processed nearly 80 percent of U.S. supplies and troops for the war effort, employing 10,000 civilians.

The thriving waterfront business in Sunset Park declined over the years and the Brooklyn Army Terminal was built in the 1970s. The terminal is run today by the city Economic Development Corporation.

A plaque inside the terminal boasts a picture of Elvis Presley and details his pass

through the terminal when he traveled from Memphis to Brooklyn after he enlisted in the Army in 1958.

While many of the business owners at Friday's launch ceremony were pleased about the new van service, Michael Isaac, president of the U.S. Bullion Company, said the van would better serve his 100 employees if it also picked up at the 59th Street subway stop to service workers coming from Coney Island and other parts of southern Brooklyn.

With business expanding at the Brooklyn Army Terminal, Isaac said the loss of the ferry from the 58th Street Pier to Wall Street made it difficult to attract middle management employees from Manhattan.

Starting last month the ferry was taken over by New York Water Taxi after the federal government stopped funding the free service put in place after the attacks on the World Trade Center. The ferry now costs \$5 each way.

Looking to connect low-wage workers with available jobs, Seecode President William Grinkler said the Sunset Park van could be a model for the future.

"Our strategy is to better meet the needs of workers and employers by linking workers to jobs through effective transportation services," he said. "If our program works along the Brooklyn waterfront, we have the resources to expand it to other areas."

Felder appointed Carmine Melillo and George Appel to CB1 and re-appointed Thomas Colaninno.

James Oklo, the council's Republican leader, whose district includes Staten Island and a small swath of Bensonhurst, re-appointed to CB1 Eileen LaRuffa, a community activist, and Vincent Chirico, a neighborhood attorney. He also replaced Stephen Miceli, who died in June from cancer, with Steve Camarata, the owner of Moss Lake bakery on 86th Street and 15th Avenue. Camarata started attending community board meetings when he got frustrated with the process of applying for a sidewalk cafe permit over a year ago.

Councilman Dominic Recchia, whose district includes sections of Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Sea Gate, Gravesend and Bensonhurst re-appointed both David Gordon and John Raffaele.

Councilman Simcha Felder, whose district includes sections of Midwood, Borough Park, Ditmas Park and Bensonhurst, re-appointed Shirley Finerman, Corrado Manfredi and Gary Pollack. John DiViglio was not re-appointed due to health reasons.

Felder appointed Bensonhurst businessman Bruce Welsler to replace DiViglio.

LIGHTEN...

Continued from page 1

measure how many calories a person burns while at rest, according to Jodi Fallick, regional personal training director of Bally Total Fitness, who performed but didn't complete the five-minute test on Markowitz.

Afterward, Markowitz's new personal trainer, Darren Taylor, kept him on the Swiss ball and had him push his arms up against Taylor's resistance.

"I know it's a big, big thing I gotta do," Taylor said of getting Markowitz to exercise more. "He's such a busy guy." But Taylor already seemed to have made strides by narrowing down which activity would yield the best results.

"He loves to walk," said Taylor, "that's his thing."

Walking activities, including Wednesday lunchtime walks with Markowitz starting at noon at Borough Hall, are one of the draws meant to raise the number of people who participate this year.

More than 6,000 Brooklynites lost a combined 41 tons over the course of eight weeks

in last year's "Lighten Up" campaign. However, according to Markowitz, the benefits seemed to be short lived.

Having lost 11 pounds last year, Markowitz said Tuesday that, like many participants, he "fell off the wagon" and gained most of it back over the winter.

"I have a treadmill at home," he said. "[But] I'll admit I have clothes hanging on it."

"We did a great job last year, but the big question is did we keep it off?" Some Brooklynites have stayed nice and svelte, but many, like yours truly, have gained some of it back," Markowitz said.

The borough president blamed his inability to keep the weight off on "the great quality of food in Brooklyn" and on having "very little self-control." He made this announcement less than 20 feet from a Baker's Bounty stand that was doing steady business selling cakes, focaccia, strömboll and other epicurean delights.

Jennifer LaMatto, of Williamsburg, who works at the stand, described Markowitz's presentation as "cute," but perhaps overly so.

"It's a good plan but he didn't emphasize the issues of obesity," she said, but then added, "If I'm not busy, I'll do it."

Those who participate in at least 10 activities will be eligible for a raffle in which the top prize is two tickets to anywhere but Blue travel.

Markowitz's self-imposed incentive is that if he participates in more activities than Brad Korn, corporate director of community affairs for Continuum Health Partners, then Camp Brooklyn, a 654-acre park fund for sending underprivileged children to sleep-away camp, will receive a \$10,000 donation from Continuum. If Markowitz fails, the fund will receive a \$5,000 donation.

"I'm gonna do it for the kids," Markowitz promised, in one of the few serious moments of the day. Then he smiled and added, "It's good for the kids, better for their parents."

The complete "Lighten Up Brooklyn" schedule is available by logging on to www.brooklyn-usa.org or calling (718) 802-3875.

MOOSE...

Continued from page 1

"All I keep hearing is, 'It's in the works, it's in the works, it's in the works,'" said Mazza. "But I don't see anybody coming in." Mazza said he has been turning away groups interested in renting the hall for special events, because he does not know when construction will begin.

Assemblyman Peter Abbate, who is releasing part of the capital funds to build the center, said on Friday that he shared Mazza's frustration.

Abbate sent a letter to DFTA over a month ago and as of last week had not heard back. "I assume the Department for the Aging must be out giving tickets with the rest of the [Bloomberg] administration since nobody is there to answer letters or phone calls," said Abbate, making reference to the recent onslaught of violations being meted out for obscuring parking spaces.

Adding that DFTA has not contacted him to figure out how to get the money, Abbate said the city should be looking for every dime it can be getting from the state, not turning it away.

After phone calls from The Bay Ridge Day Spa, DFTA set up a meeting with Abbate and state Sen. Marty Golden for later this week to discuss the progress of the Moose Lodge site.

For more than three years the Narrows center has been in negotiations with the Moose Lodge — located just a few blocks away on 18th Avenue at 77th Street — to obtain space that would better accommodate its 100-plus seniors.

But DFTA and Catholic Charities, which is the prime sponsor for the senior center, instead decided that the Angel Guardian Home on 63rd Street between 12th and 13th avenues, more than 21 city blocks away, would make a better home for the seniors.

To keep a center in Bensonhurst, Golden announced during his campaign last October that he had secured \$225,000 in matching funds from the state Senate and \$100,000 in annual operating costs from Mayor Michael Bloomberg for a center at the Moose Lodge. He said a new center would cost \$450,000.

But the money was contingent upon two things — the Assembly committing to put in the other half of the funding and the election of Golden to the newly drawn Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst-Dyker Heights seat.

Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno later amended that pledge and promised to match only what Abbate brought to the table. Abbate pledged \$100,000 and said he was ready to move forward, but that Golden's renovation estimates were way too high.

The Department for the Aging confirmed Abbate's suspicions in October, when spokeswoman Pat Wilks told The Paper that renovations would cost "more in the area \$300,000," primarily in the kitchen and dining area.

When Golden was elected to the state Senate in November, seniors in Bensonhurst wanted to know when they would have their center at the Moose Lodge.

But an embittered battle of the wills between Abbate and Golden — with each blaming the other for holding up the funds — kept renovations at a standstill.

Spurred on by a barrage of bad press and a final deadline of April 30 given by Mayor Golden and Abbate, Golden hosted a press conference in March to announce that the plans would be going forward for a new center at the Moose Lodge.

Funding was to come from a combination of sources including \$100,000 in operating costs from Mayor Michael Bloomberg, \$175,000 for renovations from Golden, \$125,000 from Abbate, and \$35,000 from Borough President Marty Markowitz.

While the Angel Guardian site was originally slated to open last January, delays have prevented its completion.

"We will try to open it as soon as possible," said Margaret Keaveney, a spokeswoman for Catholic Charities, who attributed the delay to city bureaucracy.

"Everyone is looking forward to the move and getting into the facility with good air conditioning for the summer," said Keaveney, adding, "If we ever have summer."

While Mazza has not been invited to Friday's meeting, he is looking forward to thinking about the move and getting into the facility with good air conditioning for the summer," said Keaveney, adding, "If we ever have summer."

"I have one word for you," he said. "Finally."

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GENTILE...

Continued from page 1

Gentile three years ago and said he hoped to address the shortcomings in the current zoning laws.

Gentile said he also sought ethnic diversity and believed it was important to have Muslim Americans represented on the board. Ramadan, an active member in the Islamic Society of Bay Ridge, who has a medical practice in Bay Ridge and is also involved in the cross-cultural Unity Task Force and the Medical Society of Bay Ridge, will join the board.

But Abi-Habib, a Bay Ridge businessman of Middle Eastern descent who cited his perfect attendance record on the board, complained that Gentile had removed three Middle Eastern Christians from the board.

"I was surprised," said Abi-Habib, who has lived in Bay Ridge for the past 23 years.

While Asian Americans account for 14 percent of the population in Bay Ridge, they only make up 2 percent of the community board. Gentile said he is looking to appoint more Asian Americans when the next crop of appointments come up in March, but he made no such appointments in this round.

Marianne Teu and George Prozio were both dropped by Gentile and then re-appointed by Markowitz, who said he was proud to re-appoint them.

"Both of these Brooklynites have already given so much back to their communities," said Markowitz.

In response to allegations that Republicans had been squeezed out to make room for Democrats, Markowitz said, "The only criteria I used in my selection process was to choose the people who would be the best representatives of the community."

Gentile said the swaps and new appointments were getting a bad rap in the press. "They made it sound mean spirited and it's not," he said of one published report.

"At CB10 there are many more people who want to get on the board than there are spots," said Gentile, explaining that unlike in other parts of the city where there is a lack of interest in serving on the community board, tough decisions have to be made in Bay Ridge.

"It was the largest wholesale trade I have ever seen on the community board," said CB10 Chairman Stephen Harrison.

"Gentile had just been coming off a special election that went five ways, I expected him to be somewhat more cautious," Harrison added, referring to the special election in February between he, Gentile, Rosemarie O'Keefe, Carlo Scissura and Joanne Semirara.

Gentile must run for his seat again in November, because of redistricting.

Harrison, who this week filed with the Campaign Finance Board for matching funds in that race, said he was considering a primary run against Gentile in September.

"I was surprised," said Nick Massab, who was not re-appointed to CB10, despite his claim that he supported Gentile in the last election.

"Gentile was re-elected at a special election and it is quite possible that he won't be a council member again in November," said Massab. "So I don't know how politically astute it was to shake the board up when we might have another council person next year."

CB11 takes it in stride
Meanwhile, at CB11 they seem to be missing the jockeying with a bit more political savvy.

While Gentile chose not to re-appoint CB11 Chairman William Guarnello, the borough president stepped in to appoint Guarnello as a replacement for one of his members who resigned.

Guarnello's appointment will expire in March at which time he may be re-appointed by Markowitz.

As a vocal supporter of Gentile's opponent, Marty Golden, Guarnello said he was not surprised by the councilman's move.

"Councilman people want their own people, it's not unexpected," said Guarnello, adding that he and Gentile discussed the appointment and have been working well together over the past two months.

Similarly, CB11's district manager, Howard Feuer, seemed sympathetic to the freshman councilman's stance.

"Quite frankly I can understand Councilman Gentile's position," said Feuer. "Obviously, he just got elected as city councilman and has some people that helped him and want to be on the community board."

Markowitz also appointed Daniel Lan, a community activist and president of the newly formed Brooklyn United Chinese Association.

Gentile appointed Carmine Melillo and George Appel to CB1 and re-appointed Thomas Colaninno.

James Oklo, the council's Republican leader, whose district includes Staten Island and a small swath of Bensonhurst, re-appointed to CB1 Eileen LaRuffa, a community activist, and Vincent Chirico, a neighborhood attorney. He also replaced Stephen Miceli, who died in June from cancer, with Steve Camarata, the owner of Moss Lake bakery on 86th Street and 15th Avenue. Camarata started attending community board meetings when he got frustrated with the process of applying for a sidewalk cafe permit over a year ago.

Councilman Dominic Recchia, whose district includes sections of Brighton Beach, Coney Island, Sea Gate, Gravesend and Bensonhurst re-appointed both David Gordon and John Raffaele.

Councilman Simcha Felder, whose district includes sections of Midwood, Borough Park, Ditmas Park and Bensonhurst, re-appointed Shirley Finerman, Corrado Manfredi and Gary Pollack. John DiViglio was not re-appointed due to health reasons.

Felder appointed Bensonhurst businessman Bruce Welsler to replace DiViglio.

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Make kids eat well and be well

New York Methodist Hospital

Obesity among children in the United States has reached epidemic proportions — an estimated 25 percent of children are considered overweight.

Helping children develop good eating and fitness habits when they are young is important.

"Overweight children may be developing habits that could cause health problems in adulthood. Research shows that some of these children show early signs of coronary heart disease, high cholesterol and high blood pressure," said Pramod Nandla, MD, chairman of pediatrics at New York Methodist Hospital.

In addition, children who are obese have a significantly higher risk for Type II diabetes, asthma and depression.

"It is very important to work with kids and parents to help children stay fit," said Dyan Hes, MD, a pediatrician at Methodist.

To this end, Hes has become a certified personal trainer. She teaches children exercises like power walking, calisthenics and simple weightlifting in her office.

In addition, Hes talks with children and parents about nutrition and resources in their community, like the local Y, Boy's and Girl's Clubs and athletic leagues.

Children are bombarded with junk food, they often do not have enough access to parks and other recreational venues, and they spend a lot of time in sedentary activities like watching television and playing video games.

A recent government study of 4,000 children ages 8 to 14 found a correlation between obesity and time spent watching television.

Children who watched four or more hours a day were more overweight than those who watched two hours or less.

"Children should accumulate 30 minutes to an hour of exercise daily," said Nandla.

He offered several tips to parents to help children reach the mark.

"Parents should set an example by being active themselves. Going to the park, tak-

ing walks, bike riding and swimming are great for fitness and family bonding," he said.

Participating in team sports is also a great way for children to stay fit while having fun and developing socialization skills.

"Help your child find activities that he or she enjoys. Different sports appeal to different kids, so let your child explore all the options. Your child is more likely to be active if he or she is having fun," Nandla said. Nandla added that team sports are only appropriate for children



Dyan Hes, MD, of Methodist Hospital examines a child. Dr. Hes treats children with and without weight problems.

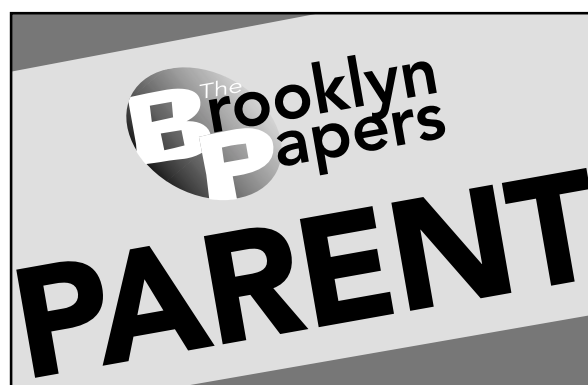
over 6 years of age and that pushing an unwilling child into sports could backfire.

Nandla and Hes agree that having fun and feeling good are key to helping children stay fit. "Helping children who are obese does not mean making them feel bad or at fault. It's not even about losing weight, it's about not gaining weight at the same rate. After all, kids still need to grow," Hes explained.

Children need positive reinforcement, she added, not punishment.

"Above all, it is important to help them feel good about themselves. Not everyone has to be skinny. I try to help kids feel good about their bodies, and to make healthy choices," Hes said.

For more information about New York Methodist Hospital's Pediatric Practice, or for a referral to a pediatrician, call (718) 499-2273 or log onto www.nymc.org.



Fickle girlfriends can wound young hearts

Q: "My 9-year-old daughter plays with a girl who seems to be her friend for a few days, then for no apparent reason the girl tells her friends to exclude my daughter, then later the girl wants to be friends again."

— a mother

A: It starts in preschool. From whispering about birthday parties to arguing about who sits where for snack, 3-year-old girls unwittingly begin to experiment with social power.

As girls' social testing gains momentum and peaks in middle school, the tactics are often subtle but as painful as physical aggression. What drives parents the craziest: Two girls are best friends, one dumps the other, then they're best friends again. All within a week.

"If you went through this as a child, it will push your buttons," says Rosalind Wiseman, author of "Queen Bees & Wannabes" (Three Rivers Press, 2003). "Admit to yourself: 'I can't stand these kids,' but don't say that to your daughter."

Parent to Parent looks at girls' social bullying in two parts. Today's column: Understanding the problem. Next week: How girls can learn to make healthy friendship choices.

Girls' aggression toward each other has been written off as a phase," says journalist Rachel Simmons, author of "Odd Girl Out" (Harvest Books, 2003). "There has been a sense that if a girl is

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flager

nice one day and mean the next, it's just girls being girls."

But writing off the behavior as a mistake, she says. Instead, girls need guidance to learn what healthy relationships are all about. And to believe it's OK to say, "Wait a minute. This isn't OK."

An extreme case of aggression in girls grabbed the nation's spotlight in May: A brutal hazing ritual was endured by junior girls at a "powder puff" football game at a suburban Chicago high school. Five girls were sent to the hospital; 12 girls and three boys have been charged with misdemeanor battery.

For her book "Odd Girl Out," Simmons interviewed more than 300 girls in 10 schools and found a culture where all the girls were at times aggressors and victims. Her concern: "Since we don't

talk about it, a lot of girls just endure this behavior. If we don't help girls identify aggression and understand it is inappropriate, they will learn to be treated this way."

Simmons and Wiseman agree that girls need help to learn to identify what characteristics they want in a friend and when enough is enough. Otherwise, when the victims take whatever is dished out, the aggressors routinely get away with mean-spirited choices.

A 20-year-old reader says she still feels emotional pain from social bullying and got no help from her mother: "I got put on the back burner whenever someone else showed up."

Neither friend could decide whether they wanted to treat me like a human being. I've suffered permanent scars from those girls. I was too in awe to realize what an awful position I was in."

Girls crave connections, Wiseman says, and feel they can't speak their mind because they are afraid of losing those connections. One way to at least appear to climb ahead is to send a peer down the social ladder — to hand out two party invitations in front of three girls or to tease about clothing brands.

The behavior can be devastating if not handled compassionately, says a mother whose sixth-grader recently stood up to a girl who only wanted to be her friend in secret so a more popular student wouldn't know

about the relationship.

For mothers particularly, it's tough to refrain from intervening or judging when your daughter is crying about the slumber party invitation that never came from her supposed close friend.

"It's painful that parents can't make the hurt go away," Wiseman says. But don't leap into "automatic fix-it mode."

Instead, be a source of comfort, help your child think through what's happening, and talk about qualities she wants in her friends.

And be careful what you say. An enemy today may be a best friend tomorrow.

Can you help?

Q: "My son is 11 and going to middle school. He seems to be very self-conscious about his weight lately. Although he has gained a few pounds, it's not anything major. I have noticed he's eating more often than usual. How can I encourage him to eat healthy without making him feel more self-conscious?" — a mother

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Carrie & Co.

Sarah Jessica Parker and Ron Livingston on the steps of Borough Hall last Wednesday filming an episode of HBO's "Sex and the City." The series is entering its final season.

Brooklyn Ikea faces tough fight

Swedish furnishings giant already trying to sway public

By Patrick Gallahe

The fight hasn't even been sanctioned — the official public review is months away — yet the partisans are already heading to their respective corners.

John McGettrick, co-chair of the Red Hook Civic Association, and representatives from Ikea — both leading their own lobbying campaigns over the future of a proposed store in Red Hook — had a spirited standoff Monday night before the First Place Tri-Block and Summit Street Block Association.

McGettrick and Ikea have led furious lobbying campaigns in Red Hook and the surrounding neighborhoods in recent months, and on Monday night McGettrick accused Ikea of "sugar-coating" the impacts of its proposed store at Columbia and Halleck streets. An Ikea representative, meanwhile, accused McGettrick of leading a "misinformation campaign."

The scope of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Ikea project has not been presented yet and the project is still months away from being certified to begin its official public review.

The effort to sway the hearts and minds of civic associations and residents, however, is well underway. Ikea has been mailing fliers to its database of Brooklyn customers

with response cards that ask them to check a box if they "support the effort to bring Ikea to Red Hook." The mailing also provides space for respondents to volunteer to "speak in support of the project at public hearings" or write a letter to elected officials or letter to the editor.

McGettrick for his part, is leading a crusade to have the Swedish furniture giant opposed at every turn. He is visiting block associations and civic groups with changes that the do-it-yourself store is fudging its traffic tallies.

Ikea proposes to build a \$70 million, 346,000-square-foot store at the New York Shipyard. The store would provide 1,400 parking spaces and Ikea has proposed a ferry service from the Smith-Ninth Street F and G subway station in Carroll Gardens, and the Fourth Avenue, F, M, N and R station at Ninth Street in Park Slope.

Still, few in the audience Monday believed those measures would significantly mitigate traffic since most items at Ikea are large and very heavy and shoppers would not be able to carry them back on a train, bus or ferry. And Ikea charges at least \$99 to ship items home.

"Are people going to take advantage of this if they need to pay 99 bucks to ship it a mile?" asked Sandi Mason, a resident of Carroll

Gardens, one of many people who believe most shoppers would drive to the store.

Ethan Goodman, a consultant hired by Ikea, estimated that 90 percent of the visitors would come by car on the weekdays and 80 percent on the weekends.

A detailed presentation on Ikea's suggestions to facilitate traffic in the neighborhood was omitted because the president of the First Place Tri-Block association, Maria Pagano, cut Ikea off, citing time constraints as well as some annoyance at the furniture company.

She later claimed her anger was sparked by their proposed "suburbanization" of the neighborhood.

"The only thing that bothered me was what I saw as their suburbanization of New York City," Pagano said, fearing that big box stores would drive out mom-and-pop businesses. "I don't want Elizabeth, New Jersey, I want the Statue of Liberty," she said, making reference to Ikea's busiest store in the metropolitan New York area.

"I just thought it was kind of strange that we were asked to make our presentation and talk about traffic and we got through 20 minutes of our presentation ... and they shut us down," said Ikea spokesman Patrick Smith.

As McGettrick presented his view that the store would create a moving wall of traffic near to

where thousands of children are playing on any given day," Community Board 6 Chairman Jerry Arner suggested people suspend their judgement until the data is heard.

"I have a problem with someone who comes to a particular position

without the data," Arner said. Ikea will introduce the scope of the project before the City Planning Commission at 1 p.m. on June 10, at 22 Reade St. in Lower Manhattan. The public is invited to attend the meeting and make suggestions for what they feel belongs in the study.

BOARD...

Continued from page 1

Policy, the volunteer advisory board comprised of eight mayoral appointments and one appointment by each of the five borough presidents. The panel replaces the former Board of Education and votes on major issues involving education policy and budgetary matters.

"How many of the mayoral appointments vote against the mayor?" asked Markowitz, who also called on Klein to meet with Donald Weber, Markowitz's appointee to the panel, who sat alongside him at Borough Hall Tuesday night.

Klein agreed to meet with Weber.

Klein kept his cool through most of the evening, gently reminding Markowitz of his own Brooklyn roots and commitment

to improving the lives and education of children.

Emphasizing that the school system as it existed was not working, Klein responded more than once, "If you keep using the same methods, you get the same results."

Markowitz repeatedly criticized what he called "one-man rule," referring to the mayor's new position as ultimate boss of the city's public school system.

"I am asking your office to make sure Brooklyn receives its fair share of funding," Markowitz said before opening the floor up to council members.

While at times Markowitz led a tirade against the new system, Klein calmly defended it.

Klein said after the meeting, "As I know with Marty it's passionate, it's never personal."



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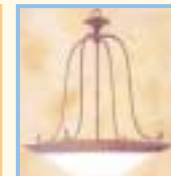
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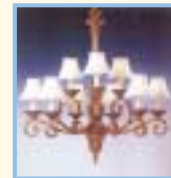
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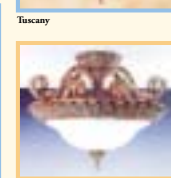
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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • June 9, 2003

High notes

Rosie Perez lends her voice to the Brooklyn Youth Chorus

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn native **Rosie Perez** came out to the Brooklyn Museum of Art to support the Brooklyn Youth Chorus at its gala benefit on May 12.

Perez, who recently starred in "Frankie and Johnny in the Clair de Lune" on Broadway, is best known for her roles in "White Men Can't Jump" (1992), "It Could Happen to You" (1994) and "Fearless" (1993), for which she was Oscar nominated. She proved to be a spunky emcee for the evening, introducing performances by the Concert Chorus and presenting the Voices of Harmony award to the evening's honoree, philanthropist **Emily Hargrove Fisher**.

When the microphone was uncooperative, Perez gamely turned up her own volume, saying with a smile, "Now I know why they asked me here—because of my mouth!"

Perez cheerfully encouraged the "rich people" in the audience to generously support the chorus and its new Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy in Cobble Hill by bidding high on the silent auction's luxury items displayed in the museum's Beaux Arts Court.

"Money has always made a difference in my life," said Perez, who started her career as a dancer on "Soul Train." "I used to hate

it when rich people said, 'Money doesn't matter.' Take a walk in Bushwick! Rich people gave money to this poor Puerto Rican and it made a difference."

Among the temptations at the silent auction were a dinner with "Pieces of April" screenwriter **Peter Hedges**. The gala raised more than \$100,000 for the organization.

Under the direction of **Dianne Berkun**, the Brooklyn Youth Chorus regaled the audience with a varied program featuring dazzling soloists **Brenda Mathisen**, whose voice rang out like a bell, and **Ekela Dixon**, before they filed into the ballroom for a dinner catered by **ColliArt**.

The chorus does not perform for "rich people" alone, although they have performed with scandal-adulterated superstar **Michael Jackson** as well as with many illustrious orchestras.

Catch the Chorus' next performances, "Songs in Bloom," on June 14 at Saint Augustine Church, Sixth Avenue between Park Place and Sterling Place, in Park Slope. The family matinee at 2:30 pm will feature the 200-member training choruses with a brief appearance by the Concert Chorus. The formal concert at 7:30 pm will feature the Concert Chorus and Intermediate Chorus in a program of choral masterworks, international folk music and the premiere of a new work by jazz composer **Kirk Nurrock**. For tickets, ranging from \$8 to \$25, call (718) 243-9447.

Final answer

Television host extraordinaire **Regis Philbin** ("Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?" and "Live with Regis and Kelly") will be honored at the annual Joe DiMaggio Award Dinner on June 10.

The dinner benefits Ray Ridge's Xavierian High School and its program for students with learning disabilities.

Philbin has been the subject of much lampooning in a recurring "Saturday Night Live" skit that pokes fun at the age difference between he and his much younger co-host, Kelly Ripa.

Former baseball commissioner **Fay Vincent** is expected to speak and there will be an award presentation by Baseball Hall of Famer **Tommy Lasorda**. **Jim Ryan**, anchor of "Good Day New York," will serve as master of ceremonies.

Gala attendees, to include actor **Michael Badalucco** ("The Practice") and "Saturday Night Live" alum **Joe Pis-**



Coming up **Rosie**: (Front row) Brooklyn Youth Chorus Founder **Dianne Berkun** (far left) and actress **Rosie Perez** (far right) with members of the chorus on stage at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. (Below right) Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts Ovation Awards honorees, **William Slapin**, **Mark Willis** and **Leroy Campbell** at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden on May 7.

copo, will also have the opportunity to bid on DiMaggio memorabilia during a silent auction.

The gala begins at 6 pm at the New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, between 45th and 46th streets, in Manhattan. For tickets, which begin at \$500 for cocktails and dinner, call (718) 836-4100, ext. 119, or visit www.joedimaggiogala.com.

Center of attention

Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College honored artist **Leroy Campbell**: Slapin, Lieb, Pike & Rampolla chairman **William Slapin**, and JP Morgan Chase Executive Vice President **Mark Willis** at its annual Ovation Awards on May 7 at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's deejay Palm House.

Campbell's artwork is displayed at his Spiritual Rhythms Art Gallery in Fort Greene and has been featured on the sets of several television shows: "The Heat of the Night," "The Cosby Show" and "Martin," among others.

A highlight of the evening — which featured al fresco cocktails, dinner and dancing to the sounds of the Robert Mitchell Orchestra — was a performance of **Lloyd Price**'s hit "Personality" performed by the 70-year-old rock and roller himself. The audience soon began singing along with Price, who acted as "celebrity master of ceremonies."

Price will perform again, with Jerry

Butler, Ben E. King and Gene Chandler, on June 14 at the Westbury Music Fair as part of The Four Kings, which he said is "like Sinatra's rat pack."

Other VIPs included a quick cameo by Brooklyn Borough President **Marty Markowitz**, who literally had to take his food to go, and gala co-chairs **Virginia Gledman** and **Louis Rosenthal**.

The benefit raised \$118,000 for Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts, which stages productions at Brooklyn College's Whitman Theater, one block from the junction of Nostrand and Flatbush avenues.

BCBC's final event of the season at Brooklyn College is June 14, when Trinidad's 50-member **Lylian Singers** and their steel orchestra, under the direction of **Pat Bishop**, will be joined by **King David Rudder** and tenor **Edward Cumberbatch**.

The choir will perform Fletcher's Choral Fantasia from Tannhauser and Bach's Concerto in F minor as well as Caribbean and Latin folk songs, black spirituals, calypso, and Rudder's hit "Trini 2 de Bone." (The show was re-scheduled after the choir backed out of their March 22 date, citing the war in Iraq as their reason to sit close to home.) For tickets, which cost \$40, call (718) 951-4500.

BOOKS

She's no angel

Lynda Curryn's second novel, "Engaging Men," is a breezy comedy that follows the angst-ridden Angela DiFranco, a struggling actress, who mines her friends, ex-boyfriends and raucous Italian-American family in Marine Park for some not-always-sage advice on how to provoke her current boyfriend, Kirk, into popping the question.

While she schemes and plots to get Kirk, a software designer, to buy her a ring — a symbol of the emotional security and dual income she's craving, 31-year-old Angie fights her way through agonizing bouts of self-discovery. Luckily her mother is waiting to comfort her with bowls of pasta.

A "Sex and the City" episode for the bridge and tunnel set, Curryn's paperback is (literally) light reading and a guilty pleasure to be sneaked out on a beach blanket.

Curryn, a Brooklyn native, will read from "Engaging Men" (Red Dress Ink, \$12.95) at Barnes & Noble (105 Court St. at State Street) on June 9 at 7 pm. The event is free. For more information, call (718) 246-4996. — Lisa J. Curtis

DINING

Grin & beer it

Brooklyn Brewery hosts the AIWF Beer and Food Fest

By Tina Barry
The Brooklyn Papers

There are few things more pleasant on a summer day than sitting outdoors with the sun beating down on your head, an ice-cold beer in your hand, and a plate of good food in front of you.

Trumping that would be drinking many glasses of artisanal beer and sampling signature dishes from 20 of Brooklyn's finest dining establishments.

On Saturday, June 7, from noon to 4 pm, the Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg, in conjunction with the New York chapter of the American Institute of Wine & Food (AIWF), invites diners to the fourth annual "Critic's Choice Summer Beer and Food Festival." Twenty Brooklyn restaurants and 25 domestic and international breweries will participate.

"We started this event with a dozen restaurants," said Tom Potter, CEO of the Brooklyn Brewery and the chapter chair of AIWF-NY. "This year, we have 20 restaurants participating."

"The Brooklyn restaurant scene is so much more exciting now. [Only] interesting restaurants that have been favorably reviewed by food critics were asked to take part," he said. "Some are new to Brooklyn's restaurant scene; others are old-timers."

"All the restaurants serve beer-friendly food," he said, describing the occasion as his "favorite of all the events at the brewery because it focuses on Brooklyn, and I'm very proud of Brooklyn."

The food selected must be of the highest quality to pair with the Brooklyn Brewery's award-winning beers.

Marc Elliot, owner and chef of the Whim Oyster Bar in Cobble Hill, one of this year's participants, raved about Brooklyn Brewery's products.

"You can taste the time they put into their beer. They do it right," he said. In addition to wine, Elliot serves only Brooklyn Brewery beer at Whim.

"They have Pilser and chocolate stout and everything in between," said Elliot.

"We're among the top 30 producers in the country, but we're tiny compared to the larger ones," said Potter. Of the 41,000 barrels of beer that were produced at the brewery last year, much of it was small-batch, artisanal brews.

Dead-Heads should stop by Elliot's table; his oysters on the half shell will be accompanied by sauces named for Grateful Dead songs. The "Mexicali" is made with beer, smoked and roasted Mexican chilies; "Friend of the Devil" is a spicy, Virgin Mary cocktail sauce; and "Stella Blue" features ginger pickled in blue curacao, sugar and vinegar.

The Chickenbone Cafe, a new Williamsburg restaurant serving "Brooklyn global cuisine," is also joining the event.

"The Brooklyn Brewery is our neighbor in Williamsburg and we want to support them," said Kirk Willson, one of the cafe's managers. In keeping with the Brooklyn-themed cuisine, chef Zakary Pellicchio has chosen the ideal mate for beer: kielbasa bruschetta (chopped, spicy Polish sausage mixed with

See BEER on page GO 2

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BEER...

Continued from page GO 1
fresh dill and minced pickles
served on toasted, white,
country bread.

Adam Rose, chef of Soma,
another of the brewery's
Williamsburg neighbors, and
Daniel Ray, the restaurant's
manager, would like to be-
come more active in Brook-
lyn-based activities.

"If Brooklyn Brewery is in-
volved, it has to be worth do-
ing," said Rose. Like Elliot,
Rose offers only Brooklyn
Brewery beer to his patrons.
"We're partial to their pilsner,
lager and pale ale," he said.

On the day of the festival,
Rose will treat festival attendees
to an assortment of dishes from
their house-baked bread. Rose is
contributing two dishes that
make delicious use of his effort:
pizza, either traditional tomato
and cheese, or chipotle pepper
and barbecued pulled pork and
steak salad sandwiches.

Garrett Oliver, the brew-
master-in-residence, will be
on hand to sign copies of his
new book, "The Brewmaster's
Table," (HarperCollins Pub-
lishers, May 2003).

If you haven't followed up
on all the great dining places in
Brooklyn, June 7 is your chance
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Going for Baroque

Director Robert Carsen on
the making of 'Les Boreades'

By Kevin Filipksi
For The Brooklyn Papers

It seems like only yesterday when
baroque opera was practically un-
heard and unstaged.

Monteverdi, Handel, Lully and
Purcell were merely footnotes in
opera history until the period-instru-
ment movement of the late-1970s re-
surrected them, helping make baroque
opera the norm rather than the excep-
tion. What was once played for his-
torical reasons is now done be-
cause there's an audience.

From June 9
through June 15,
concert William
Christie and Les
Arts Florissants will present "Les
Boreades" (1763),
the last opera written
by French compos-
er Jean-Philippe
Rameau, closing BAM's spring sea-
son.

Les Arts Florissants, named after a
work by French composer Marc-An-
toine Charpentier, is certainly no
stranger to BAM as "Les Boreades"
— its seventh fully staged opera —
will be its 13th appearance there since
debating in 1989.

Christie and Les Arts Florissants'
Erato recordings are arguably the
greatest hits of baroque music.

But, with Christie and his cohorts
are newer members of BAM's artistic

family: stage director Robert Carsen,
whose second BAM staging this is
(the first, appropriately, was Handel's
"Orlando" with Christie and Co.), and
the Paris National Opera — where this
production originated — making its
American debut.

Of Rameau's late operas, "Zoroas-
tre" (1756) and "Les Boreades" recount
mythological stories: "Zoroastre" is no
less than the ultimate battle between
good and evil, while "Les Boreades"
goes a few steps further, as the four sea-
sons go to war over a queen's
questionable re-
turnance. In both
operas, Rameau
hones a distinc-
tive genre: the
French opera-bal-
let, an early at-
tempt to meld
two art forms to-
gether.

For his part,
Carsen wanted to
ensure both were
given their due in
"Les Boreades."

"I wanted to create a production in
which dance isn't just tacked on but is
integral to the story," he explained by
telephone from Paris, where he is cur-
rently working with singer Ute Lemper.

"I wanted to find the raison d'être
for the dance, and I was delighted
when [choreographer] Edouard Lock
and his company [La La Human
Steps] agreed to take part," said
Carsen. "His choreography is not tra-
ditionally 'period' baroque movement



'Tis the seasons: Director Robert Carsen's production of "Les Boreades," which premiered at the Paris Opera in March, illustrates the clash of the seasons with autumn leaves, summer blossoms, winter storms and thunderous spring storms. The costumes are inspired by late-1940s Dior designs.

— it's dangerous, fast, thrilling, and
slightly worrying, which is right for
this piece."

Carsen modestly defers to Rameau
for certain decisions since, upon
reaching artistic maturity, the compos-
er bypassed the rote conventions of
baroque opera.

"Rameau's musical construction is
so surprising and so amazing that by
itself it creates a kind of architecture,
and I want the audience to be aware of
that sturdy structure," the director ex-
plained. "A production should support
the music, which is why this produc-
tion is quite light scenically, to let it
feel like a modern dance scene. When
there's too much clutter onstage, you
get in the way of the music and the
characters."

Carsen also had no hesitation defer-
ring to Christie, with whom he's col-
laborated on several productions —
BAM's gothic 1996's "Orlando" — be-
cause of the conductor's in-
guarable baroque-era expertise.

"My collaboration with [Christie]
goes back 10 years now, and is always
a great delight," the director said.
"Working with good friends is impor-
tant, since there's a great deal of trust,
the essential building-block for any

kind of collaboration. And when he's
conducting Rameau, he's emotionally
connected with each character on-
stage, whatever they're experiencing.
It's not just a fast or a slow tempo —
it requires something extra, the ability
to suffer with the characters. And
[Christie] absolutely has that."

So does Rameau, in spades, even
though "Les Boreades" was mysteri-
ously abandoned during rehearsals
and was never heard until after its
composer died.

Carsen doesn't even worry about
transferring the production from the
enormous Paris National Opera stage
to the smaller stage at BAM. "We
have 80-something people on the
stage, so it should be interesting to see
how it looks at BAM, whose stage is
only half as deep as the stage in Paris
[where] we had the premiere," he
said. "But we made allowances for
that when we first conceived it, so
there shouldn't be a problem."

All that's left now is to give Ameri-
can audiences their first look at an
opera that was composed, astonish-
ingly, 240 years ago, when Rameau
was 81. Better late than never for fans
of baroque opera and Les Arts Floris-
tants.

WHERE TO GO

compiled by
Susan Rosenthal

THURS, JUNE 5

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DISCUSSION GROUP: Brooklyn
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examines the quest for mean-
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RECEPTION: Diane Brown Gallery
presents "Poetry Photographic,"
by Valerie Truchita. 6 to 9 p.m.
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YOGA: Introductory talk and in-
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SEMINAR: Brooklyn Arts Council

hosts a talk for artists and arts
organizations "Financial Man-
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Organizations." 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
WYCA of Brooklyn, 30 Third
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Michael "Buzzy" O'Keefe and
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6:30 to 9 p.m. Empire-Fulton
Ferry State Park, between the
Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges
on Water Street. (718) 802-0503.

DINNER DANCE: Bay Ridge
Community Council hosts its
annual event. 7:00, 6:45 p.m., El
Caribe Courtyard, 5945
Strickland Ave. (718) 921-2573.

MEETING: Park Slope Civic Coun-
cil. 7 p.m. New York Methodist
Hospital, 5th Street between
Seventh and Eighth avenues.
(718) 832-8227.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Author
Lynda Milla reads from her
book "Mafia Wife." 7 p.m. 106
Court St. (718) 246-4996. Free.

READING: Belita Lozano-Venish
reads from her book "The Sun
Believes: A Step-by-Step Guide
to Help Latinos Recognize and
Overcome Depression." 7 p.m.
Palacio Restaurant, 167 Fifth
Ave. (718) 837-9091. Free.

BOOK PARTY: BookCourt pres-
ents its monthly party for "Honk-
to: The Zen Artist's Guide to Road
Rage." 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (718)
875-3077. Free.

LOW BAR: Reading series pres-
ents Susan Brown, reading
from her play "Jane Doe." 7 p.m.
Blood on the Moon, 10 p.m.
No cover. 81 Washington St.
(718) 595-2150.

BARGE MUSIC: Chamber music
program by Copland, Schumann,
Beethoven and Chopin. \$35.
7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Land-
ing. (718) 624-2063.

AMATEUR ASTRONOMERS: New
York Amateur Astronomers

Association search for the moon,
planets and stars through tele-
scopes. 8 p.m. Meet in front of
War Memorial Building, Cal-
man Plaza Park, Brooklyn.
Highgate. (718) 854-7004. Free.

EUROPA DANCE CLUB: The
Horn Band, Ghost Exits and
Mosses Murrey. No cover.
\$5, 8 p.m. 98-104
Meadside St. (718) 383-5723.

BARBERS BAR: Music with all
Darius. 8 p.m. Also, Rachelle
Garnier sings. 9 p.m. No cover.
376 Ninth St. (718) 765-9177.

MUSIC: The Brooklyn Arts
Council presents The Celeste Ray
Ensemble. Program: Beethoven's
Symphony No. 5. 8 p.m. First
Avenue Church, 50
Morris St. (718) 875-2157.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Dark-
ness. June 29 at the Triangle Theater
at Long Island University, Flatbush Avenue Extension at
DeKalb Avenue. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and stu-
dents; \$40 for award ceremony, performance and recep-
tion on June 22.

For more information, call (718) 875-9710 or e-mail
thelmalhi@msn.com.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum
presents works in progress by
"Groundwork." 7 p.m. Also,
Blum Dance Theater presents
"Egg." "My Mother's Egg." 7 p.m.
"Far From Heaven" (2002).
\$10. Q & A with special guest
follows 6:50 p.m. screening. 10 p.m.
No cover. 81 Washington St.
(718) 595-2150.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Annual the-
ater event by the Gallery
Players. 8 p.m. See Sat.

GALE GATES: presents "The
Miami Project." 8 p.m. See Sat.

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Jewish Festival Shavuos

BAMCINEMATEK: "Village Voice
Take 4" film critics poll pre-
sents "Far From Heaven" (2002).
\$10. Q & A with special guest
follows 6:50 p.m. screening. 10 p.m.
No cover. 81 Washington St.
(718) 595-2150.

SUMMER BLOCK PARTY: New
broque of Atlantic Avenue
host a party — including Mich-
ael "Buzzy" O'Keefe, Ute Lemper,
Monter, Scarle, Giger, Kimer
and Sir Cocktail hour and pre-
view. 5 to 9 p.m. Atlantic Ave-
nue between Hoyt and Bond

Dance fever

"The Souls of Our Feet: People of Color Dance Festi-
val" presented by the Thelma Hill Performing Arts Center

(THPCA), kicks off June 7 at 8 p.m.
with "Women Dancemakers," a pro-
gram curated by Marshall Swiney.

On June 22, the festival will hon-
or dance pioneers Fred Benjamin
and Kathleen Stanford Grant as
well as offer the program, "Mixed
Nuts," curated by Marley Yearby.

On June 14 and 15, Regional
Crump, aka, Monstah Black
(pictured) will perform a new
evening-length work,
"This Suite Devine" with his five-piece
rock band The
Souls of Mesami.

Festival performances continue
through June 29 at the Triangle Theater at
Long Island University, Flatbush Avenue Extension at
DeKalb Avenue. Tickets are \$15, \$12 for seniors and stu-
dents; \$40 for award ceremony, performance and recep-
tion on June 22.

For more information, call (718) 875-9710 or e-mail
thelmalhi@msn.com.

RECEPTION: The Chopped Kitchen
Gallery presents paintings and
drawings by artist. 6 to 9 p.m.
91 Fifth Ave. (718) 623-
4343. Free.

WILLY & PARTY: Brooklyn Arts
Council and the Daily News
host photo exhibit "This Is Our
Bridge" to celebrate the 100th
anniversary of the Williamsburg
Bridge. 6 to 10 p.m. Brooklyn
Brewery, 79 North 11th St.
(718) 625-0880. Free.

AUCTION: at Salem Lutheran
Church. 6 to 10 p.m. Homeless
animals. 6:30 p.m. 450 67th St.
(718) 612-4308, ask for Digby.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music
performance of works by
Bartok, Beethoven, Brahms and
Chopin. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry
Landing. (718) 624-2063.

SNOOKY'S: Comedian Tim Hor-
nagon's headline entertainer. The
Big Show. \$10. 9 p.m. 140
Seventh Ave. (718) 675-1774.

BLACK TIE BIKINI: The National
Theater of the USA hosts its
second annual benefit. Drinks,
prizes, food, dancing and
more. \$15. 9 p.m. New. 72
Washington St. (718) 615-6607.

TWO BOOTS: Reverend & the
Mojos. 10 p.m. No cover. \$14 Second
Street. (718) 875-2150.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Annual the-
ater event by the Gallery
Players. 8 p.m. See Sat.

GALE GATES: presents "The Miami
Project." 1 p.m. See Sat.

SUMMER FITNESS: WYCA of
Brooklyn student fitness mem-
bership for \$99. 30 Third Ave.
ext. 225. (718) 875-1190.
Call for info.

SAT, JUNE 7

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

PARADE AND RALLY: March for
Jesus from churches all over
area. Parade forms at 9:30 a.m.
Third Avenue and ends at 9:30 a.m.
Rally at 11:30 a.m. 101st and
Fourth Avenue. (718) 921-HOPE.

BROOKLYN PRIDE: 7th Brooklyn
Pride Street Festival and Art
Market. Fun run at 10 a.m.
street for 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
stage performances from 1 to
6 p.m. evening parade at 9 p.m.
Prospect Park West and Bartel-
Pritchard Square. (718) 670-3337.

CANCE THE GREAT: Urban Park
Rangers lead a tour of the Salt
Burnett Street side of Gentlemen
Road cemetery and visit burial
sites of theater greats from the
past. \$11. Members of
Brooklyn Center for Urban
Environment, 88 seniors and
students. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. 25th
Street and Fifth Avenue. (718)
388-8500.

BROWNSTONE BROOKLYN NY
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Your Answer
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Party Food is
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GET YOUR
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Only 60¢
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Gofish

Williamsburg's Cono & Sons Oscopatore offers classic Italian seafood and more

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Making a visit to Cono and Sons' Oscopatore in Williamsburg is like taking a pleasurable trip back through time to Little Italy circa 1950. Those sepi-toned pictures—or kids playing handball on quiet side streets, quaint pasticceria with windows boasting impossibly fatty, decadent sweets and tables populated with men sipping espressos while their cigarettes smolder—suddenly transform into living color when you're heading for Ainslie Street and Graham Avenue.

You can't miss this corner, also named Via S. Cono for the restaurant, which has been in Williamsburg for 19 years, but has been in business for 45 years in several locations. As you enter Cono's, you're greeted with a window of gaily colored platters brimming with the makings of heart-stopping hot and cold antipasto combinations. There's a small bar whose every seat is taken by men with dark, slicked-back hair.

Cono's has an elegant, spacious dining room made to seem more intimate with its lowered ceiling. The formally dressed waitstaff sees to all of those little extras: the tinted linen napkins, the surprising scent of fresh flowers on every table and, most importantly, gracious service. (Cono's even has its own—albeit small—parking lot behind the restaurant.)

The extensive Italian menu offering dozens of fish dishes as well as chicken, veal, steaks and more is matched by an equally lengthy wine list that offers everything from affordable wines by the glass to \$250 Super Tuscan. We shared the room with young families, dolled up seniors on double dates and romantic dates for two.

We swooned over Chef Cono Natale's

DINING

Cono & Sons' Oscopatore Restaurant is located at 301 Graham Ave. at Ainslie Street. Entrees: \$9.95-\$29.95. Tuesdays are Wine Lover's Night and any bottled wine on the list is half-price. The restaurant accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Diners Club. For reservations or takeout, call (718) 388-0166.

cold antipasto platter, scallops marinara over linguine and, for desert, calzone. The cold antipasto was akin to the Italian version of dim sum in Chinese restaurants—a sampling of bite-size delights. We were treated to garlicky string beans, grilled red peppers, eggplant and zucchini, broccoli, various cheeses ranging from a creamy fresh mozzarella to a solid, pungent Fontina Reggiano and salami. Every last bite was fresh, delicious and paired perfectly with its platter partners. This extravaganza was reminiscent of my favorite meals while on my honeymoon in Sicily. In retrospect, it seems my wave of nostalgia hindered my ability to control myself: my husband and I sopped up every last bit of the remaining olive oil-rich crumbs on our plates with the fresh-baked bread.

A scrumptious, sweet marinara sauce was the perfect complement for my entrée—a substantial portion of scallops tossed with linguine and topped with freshly shaved Parmesan cheese. (The linguine tasted house-made, and according to the waiter, I was fooled by the above-par flavor.)

Next time, we're delving into the *tonnato di pesci* for two, a pile of clams, shrimp, scallops, calamari, mussels, whiting and fillet of sole sautéed in a wine and tomato sauce and served with rice.

The only dish shy of a bull's eye was



Fisherman's friend: Chef Cono Natale serves up Italian classics with flair at Cono & Sons Oscopatore Restaurant in Williamsburg. (Above) His frothy, refreshing zabaglione dessert and frutta di mare appetizer (below), a salad of mussels, whelks, squid and octopus tossed with celery, green olives, capers and pimientos.

the chicken alla Cono, served with moist potatoes, mushrooms and red peppers. The dish was served piping hot and a bit dry.

After this substantial feast, a light dessert was in order and Cono's did not disappoint. Their light-as-air zabaglione is a frothy, warm, winery mixture of egg yolks, sugar and Marsala wine tossed with quartered strawberries. Served in a wide-mouthed wineglass, the orange-ye-

low concoction, topped with a sprig of mint, tasted as refreshing as it looked.

The crunchy cannoli, stuffed with chocolate chip ricotta and mascarpone cheese filling, and liberally laced with cinnamon, was another winner.

Cono's Oscopatore is an old-fashioned classic. It's the place to go any time you wish to make another cherished memory of another authentic Italian meal packed with rich flavor.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN!

PROSPECT PARK BANDSHELL

Joan Armatrading
THUR • 6/12 • 8:00PM
Legendary Singer-Songwriter

Spanish Harlem Orchestra
NYC Salsa Stars
SAT 6/14 7:30PM
Latin Progressive Rhythms
West Coast Big Band
Salsa, Latin, Salsa
FRI • 6/13 • 7:30PM

BLACALCOIDS
SAT 6/14 7:30PM
Latin Progressive Rhythms
West Coast Big Band
Salsa, Latin, Salsa
FRI • 6/13 • 7:30PM

ROSAANNE CASH
FRI • 6/20 • 7:30PM
Grammy Award-Winning Singer-Songwriter

ERIKAH BADU
SAT • 6/21 • 7:30PM
Grammy Award-Winning Singer-Songwriter
\$50 Advance/\$40 Day of Show
Tickets Available At
Ticketmaster
212-387-7171 Or
718-941-4829

SAW DOCTORS
SUN • 6/22 • 6:00PM
"Sweet Six's Greatest Rock Band"
Boston Globe
PADRAIG STEVENS
Guitar/Singer/Songwriter

Hal Willner's Leonard Cohen Project
w/ Rufus Wainwright,
Martha Wainwright,
Kate & Anna McGarrigle,
The Handsome Family, Marc Ribot
And Other Notable Artists

through major neighborhoods, from Brooklyn Heights to Park Slope. \$36 includes lunch. Limit of 12 people. 11 am to 3:30 pm. Call (718) 393-7537.

WATER WONDERS: Prospect Park Lake hosts an interactive exhibit. Learn about the park's waterways. Noon to 5 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 287-5400. Free.

WILD WALK: "Wildman" and naturalist Steve Brill leads a walk through Prospect Park. Learn about wild edibles. \$12. 1 pm. Meet at Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 220-2100.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Big Onion offers an introduction to the history, architecture and people of this Brooklyn resting place. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (212) 439-1090.

ANTIQUE CAR SHOW: at Richmond County Bank Ballpark. 7 am to 10 pm. St. George West Parking Lot, Staten Island. (718) 853-3874. Free.

PERFORMANCES

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "Random Violence" at 1 pm; Groundworks with Zachary Hays at 3 pm; sandwich and cinema at 5 pm; Groundworks with Anderson Gahagan at 7 pm; "All is Full of Love" at 8 pm; Blue at 9:30 pm. \$12 per show. \$18 evening pass for three shows. 227

Fourth Ave. (347) 683-7698.

SALUTE ST. PETERSBURG: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, hosts performances and talks by over a dozen Russian artists, writers, actors, TV personalities, musicians and singers. 1:30 to 4 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 220-2100. Free.

DANCE: Straight to the Helicopter presents excerpts from "Avalanches." 7 pm. In front of the Parkside Avenue Q station at Ocean Avenue. (718) 812-6418. Free.

GALA JAZZ ART SPACE: Anti-social music. \$7. 7 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

THELMA HILL: Women chorographers perform. \$15. \$12 students and seniors. 8 pm. Triangle Theater, Long Island University, Flatbush Avenue Extension at Dekalb Avenue. (718) 875-9710.

OPERA: Regina Opera performs "La Traviata." \$15. \$10 seniors and students. 7 pm. Regina Hall, 12th Avenue and 65th Street. (718) 222-3300.

CONCERT: Cafe Eden hosts its first anniversary celebration with pianist Mike. Helen Pollins. 1:30 to 3 pm. Park Baptist Church, 254 East Eighth St. (718) 435-7657.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program by Bach. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BLACK BOX SERIES: Annual College Players event. Box 2 features "The Kitchen Sink Play" a play

about two actors arguing with their director about the play they are in. Other plays. \$15. \$12 children under 12 and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

GALE GATES: presents "The Miami Project," featuring dance and theater. \$12. 8 pm. 37 Main St. (718) 389-2115.

BROOKLYN SOUNDS: 651 Arts presents a new annual series featuring performers from Brooklyn. Singer and composer Annel Lanius performs. \$20. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. (718) 858-2424.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: Year-end performance features members of the Theater Workshop performing original material. Solo and ensemble work. \$5. \$5 members. 8 pm. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

BARBERS BAR: One Ring Zero and brass quartet. \$15. No cover. 8 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

OPERETTA: The Opera Company of Brooklyn presents Puccini's "La Rondine." \$25. \$15 Brooklyn residents. \$5 students. 8 pm. First Unitarian Church, 50 Monroe Place. (212) 567-3283.

JAZZ: Caribbean Jazz Vibes presents Monty Alexander. 8 pm. Restoration Place, 1368 Fulton St. Call for tickets. (718) 725-1533.

JAZZ SPOT: Chicago Tullit Nicole Mitchell performs original music. 9 pm. 375 Kodjokodje St. Call. (718) 453-1925.

JAZZ: Marcus Strickland Quartet

performs. \$20 plus minimum per set. 9 and 11 pm and 12:30 am. Up Over Jazz Cafe, 351 Flatbush Ave. (718) 398-5413.

MUSIC: Brad Shepley Trio performs. No cover. 9 and 10:30 pm. Le Bistror Bar, 279 Flatbush Ave. (718) 399-2000.

PARLORE JAZZ: presents vocalist Tulvin-Donna Cumberbatch. \$15. \$10 seniors. 8 pm. 1045 and 1045 pm. 119 Vanderbilt St. (718) 855-1981.

BAR: Benefit party for The Miami Project. 9 pm. Call for tickets. 81 Washington Ave. (718) 222-110W.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew-His-His with Susan Pineda as MC. \$5. 9:30 pm. East End Ensemble, 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

SUPERFINE BAR: Urban Cowgirl. 12 pm. 126 Front St. (718) 243-9005.

TWO BOOTHS: Renee Manning Group plays jazz. 10 pm. No cover. \$14. Second St. (718) 499-9150.

CHILDREN

AQUARIUM: Family weekend features a variety of activities including face painting, storytelling, arts and crafts, giveaways and more. Lion demonstrations at noon, 2 and 4 pm. \$15. \$7 children ages 2 to 12 and seniors, free for children 2 and under. 10 am to 5 pm. New York Aquarium, West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-4502.

SUMMER READING: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, invites kids to take part in the summer reading program kick-off. Noon to 3 pm. Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

YOUNG ARTISTS WORKSHOP: variety of classes offered, including fine arts, drawing, painting, clay sculpture and mask-making. Ages 5 to 10, teens and adults. Call for program information. 30 Third Ave. (718) 875-3585.

PUPPETWORKS: presents "Cinderella." \$6. \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-5391.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Family program "How to Raise a Dinosaur." Learn if dinosaurs made good parents. 1 pm. Also, best-selling children's book "The Dinosaur's Watchtower Howlers." Story is told through puppet performance. 1 and 2 pm. Other activities. \$4 per person. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

AFRICAN SAFARI: Imagination Playground hosts a program, "Auntie's African Safari." Learn about Africa's traditions with storybook Asante. 3 to 4 pm. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 965-8943. Free.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum of Art monthly event. 6 to 11 pm. Evening's entertainment includes world music from 6 to 9 pm. Cabaret show from 9 to 11 pm. Music from the Congo at 6 pm. Hand-on art from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Family performance of "The Last, the Very Last... Butterfly" at 7 pm. "The Mummy" a horror film. 9 pm. Dancing to live music from 9 to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

PIER SHOW: 115 Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition presents its annual art show. Noon to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 195-2507. Free.

FITNESS FOR LIFE: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts "Lighten Up Brooklyn." Join the Urban Park Rangers and Empire Fitness Club of Brooklyn to get into shape and run a 5K race. 8 am. Meet at Field House, near Marine Parkway and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 421-3201. Free.

BOOK SALE: Brooklyn Public

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PUPPETWORKS: presents "Cinderella." \$6. \$7 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-5391.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Family program "How to Raise a Dinosaur." Learn if dinosaurs made good parents. 1 pm. Also, best-selling children's book "The Dinosaur's Watchtower Howlers." Story is told through puppet performance. 1 and 2 pm. Other activities. \$4 per person. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

AFRICAN SAFARI: Imagination Playground hosts a program, "Auntie's African Safari." Learn about Africa's traditions with storybook Asante. 3 to 4 pm. Enter park at Parkside and Ocean avenues. (718) 965-8943. Free.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: Brooklyn Museum of Art monthly event. 6 to 11 pm. Evening's entertainment includes world music from 6 to 9 pm. Cabaret show from 9 to 11 pm. Music from the Congo at 6 pm. Hand-on art from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Family performance of "The Last, the Very Last... Butterfly" at 7 pm. "The Mummy" a horror film. 9 pm. Dancing to live music from 9 to 11 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

PIER SHOW: 115 Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition presents its annual art show. Noon to 6 pm. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 195-2507. Free.

FITNESS FOR LIFE: Salt Marsh Nature Center hosts "Lighten Up Brooklyn." Join the Urban Park Rangers and Empire Fitness Club of Brooklyn to get into shape and run a 5K race. 8 am. Meet at Field House, near Marine Parkway and Flatbush Avenue. (718) 421-3201. Free.

BOOK SALE: Brooklyn Public

Brooklyn Youth Chorus

**Spring Concert
Songs in Bloom**
Saturday, June 14

Brooklyn Youth Chorus • Songs in Bloom
Dianne Berkun, Artistic Director

Location: St. Augustine R.C. Church
116 Sixth Avenue, Park Slope

Tickets: \$25 Preferred Seating
\$15 Adults
\$8 Children under 10/Seniors

Directions: St. Augustine R.C. Church is located in Park Slope on 6th Avenue between Park Place and Sterling Place, three blocks off Flatbush Ave. Take the 2 or 3 train to Bergen Street or the D train to 7th Ave.

For information: call: 718-234-9447 or visit: www.brooklyn-youthchorus.org

Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy
The programs of the Brooklyn Youth Chorus Academy are made possible, in part, by public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs, with support from the Brooklyn Delegation of the New York City Council and Brooklyn Borough President Marty Markowitz.

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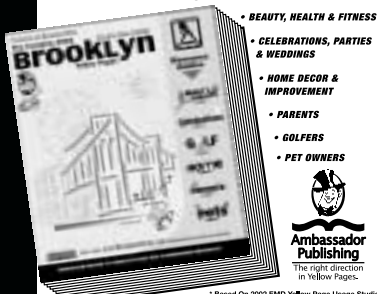
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June 9, 2003

Living legend

New book: Silver screen casts
Bklynites as losers & terrorists

By Michael Wells
for The Brooklyn Papers

In his engagingly nostalgic foreword to the new book "The Brooklyn Film: Essays in the History of Filmmaking" (McFarland & Company, \$35) columnist and author Pete Hamill describes Hollywood's skewed view of his hometown: "Our confidence in all movies was shaken; if they couldn't understand Brooklyn, why should we trust them about Casablanca or China or the streets of Dodge City?"

"The Brooklyn Film" (McFarland & Company, \$35) collects nine essays — plus a foreword and introduction, both substantial — on the Borough of Kings and its relationship with the cinema. They were chosen by editors John B. Manbeck, former official borough historian and a Brooklyn Papers columnist, and Robert Singer, CUNY professor of English and Film Studies.

While the book doesn't entirely live up to the potential of its subject matter, it's a commendable and readable effort and a good starting point for future ventures in this area — of which there by rights should be plenty, given our borough's near-mythological status around the globe.

As indicated by Hamill's anecdote, a recurring concern of the pieces in "The Brooklyn Film" is the wider world's contradictory images of Brooklyn derived from movies.

That is a subset of Manbeck's own contribution, "Who's a Character? He's Just a Lovable Mug," which traces the history of Brooklyn's image in film from the 1920s to the 1990s. The book, the Brooklyn Papers columnist, and Robert Singer, CUNY professor of English and Film Studies, is a commendable and readable effort and a good starting point for future ventures in this area — of which there by rights should be plenty, given our borough's near-mythological status around the globe.

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BOOKS

John B. Manbeck and Robert Singer, editors of "The Brooklyn Film: Essays in the History of Filmmaking" (McFarland & Company, \$35) will discuss Brooklyn's image in film at BookGor! (143 Court Street) on Tuesday, June 10 at 7 pm. For more information, call (718) 875-5677.

Age Hollywood as the stereotypical Brooklynite of the time, "a likeable chump, ready to be a fall guy, to get the second or third leading lady if any; but more likely to be killed while standing up for his buddy or some principle."

Del Valle offers a new documentary film, "The Brooklyn Film," which is a collection of essays on the borough's image in film. It is a collection of essays on the borough's image in film. It is a collection of essays on the borough's image in film.

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The fall guy: Actor William Bercot, in a scene from "Guadalcanal Diary" (1943), was typecast by Hollywood as the stereotypical Brooklynite of the time, according to "The Brooklyn Film."

As he tries to "make it" but inevitably fails or settles for less."

Singer briefly chronicles a postwar slide into poverty, crime and despair as an explanation for this shift. But surely those things have always existed in Brooklyn, as in any big city. Why do they now so dominate the borough's screen image? Singer touches only glancingly on the possibility of a racist and xenophobic reaction to the explosion of the non-white and immigrant population. This possibility of minority viewpoints to their exclusion, largely due to the indie movement, seems as likely a possibility.

Hollywood attitudes towards race, when you start to take a closer look at the hood, its parks, bodegas and boardwalks for granted. You'll be reminded that you live in a legend.

and most challenging piece in the book. It dissects the briefly controversial thriller "The Siege" (1998), about a string of bombings in New York by Middle Eastern terrorists based out of Brooklyn, a premise which sparked protests from Arab-American and Muslim groups and lots of op-ed copy. (The editors note, smartly, that this piece was written before Sept. 11, 2001.)

The author notes the film's strenuous efforts at balance, its PC gestures and its condemnation of the irrefutable martial law clamped on Brooklyn in the film's second half. But she theorizes that "The Siege" encodes in its images and editing its real, if unintended, message: immigrant enclaves like the Arab community on Atlantic Avenue are menacing and people like the Lebanese-American FBI agent character must prove their loyalty to a liberal melting pot ideal.

I have reservations about her sometimes overly pat interpretations of slippery visual cues — her "Shot X means Y" certainty. But it's refreshing to see a writer interrogate the film text in a way that offers essays in film and Brooklyn to take the story or the filmmakers' stated intentions at face value.

Sometimes simple pleasures are the best. The most purely enjoyable piece in Cezar Del Valle's "Brooklyn Moviegoing: A Short History from a Fan's Perspective."

Del Valle offers an economical but flavorful portrait of how film exhibition developed in Brooklyn, with a focus on the rise and decline of the old-fashioned movie palace. It's a bit of a revelation from today's vantage point to see the role movie theatres used to play in a community, from audience centers and amateur performance nights to WWII bond rallies and scrap drives. Any filmmaker who feels his soul shrivel in the sterile boxes of today's multiplexes ought to feel a pang upon reading Del Valle.

So give "The Brooklyn Film" a thumbs-up when you're feeling complacent about living in Brooklyn, when you start to take a closer look at the hood, its parks, bodegas and boardwalks for granted. You'll be reminded that you live in a legend.

WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...

Library, Brooklyn Heights
Branch, hosts a sale, 10 am to 4 pm, 280 Cadman Plaza West, 718.855.5794.

HARBOR DEFENSE MUSEUM:
Weekend hours begin for the only Army museum in NYC, 10 am to 2 pm, Fort Hamilton, 230 Sheridan Loop, Call for tickets, info, (718) 630-4349.

OUTDOOR FAIR: St. Charles Borromeo School hosts its annual event featuring collectibles, crafts, books, plants, food and more, 10 am to 4 pm, 23 Sidney Place, (718) 596-1362.

OPEN READING: Poets Under Glass hosts a reading. Poets who wish to participate are asked to bring five to seven minutes of material, 1 to 3 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, Business Branch, 280 Cadman Plaza West, (718) 623-7100. Free.

BALITC BAZAAR: Learn how to crochet with Kathy King, 1 to 2 pm, 141 Atlantic Ave. (718) 658-2903. Free.

YOGA: Introductory talk and instruction, 1:30 pm, Diet Center, 837 Union St. (877) MEDITATE. Free.

TRICKET TRAY FUNDRAISER: at Veterans of Foreign War Post, 510 includes tickets and lunch, 2 to 6 pm, 9312 Fourth Ave. (718) 288-2602, ext. 155.

ARTIST TALK: Brooklyn Museum Art presents a talk with Josef Sudek, an artist-Holocaust survivor whose work is included in the exhibit "Art and Auschwitz," included in museum admission of \$6, free for members, 3 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 638-5050.

RECEPTION: Williamsburg Art and Historical Center presents "The Robin Show 2," 4 to 7 pm, 15 Broadway, (718) 852-6647. Free.

RECEPTION: Open Ground presents "Dirty Again," a group exhibit of live artists who use media and methods to explore memory and the re-imagining of experiences, 5 pm to late, 252 Grand St. (718) 387-8228. Free.

FILM SERIES: Coney Island Museum hosts a series of films, tonight, "Gibekape," a story about five Animators from the center of the Earth, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, 1208 Surf Ave. (718) 372-5159.

SUN, JUNE 8
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
DUMBO TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of the art scene in DUMBO. Learn about the 300 artist studios in the area, 11 am, 39 members, \$8 seniors and students, 10 am to 1 pm. Meet at High Street station on Cadman Plaza West near Midway Station, (718) 788-8500.

GOOD, BAD & UGLY: Learn about bats, snakes and spiders during a tour of the Salt Marsh Nature Center, 11 am, 3:00 pm, U, (718) 421-2021. Free.

ART IN THE PARK: Annual event hosted by The Narrows Botanical Gardens. Art, music, kids workshops. Noon to 6 pm, Shore Road between 69th and 72nd Streets, (718) 745-1737.

WILLIAMSBURG WALK: Diana Bauer, "Manhole Cover Lady," leads a tour, 11 am, 1 pm. Meet at Hevens Street subway station on J/M/Z line, (718) 685-6150.

BY THE SEA: NY Like a Native takes a tour of Coney Island, 11 am, 1 to 3:30 pm, Call for reservations, (718) 393-7537.

GREEN WOOD CEMETERY: Tour and talk about Green-Wood's historical, sociological, architectural, artistic, horticultural and theatrical appeal, 1 pm. Meet inside P.I. Hamilton Parkway Gate off McDonald Avenue, (718) 469-5277.

PERFORMANCES
SPRING FEST: Brooklyn Botanic Garden presents a tour of its roses and clematis, 1 and 3 pm. Lee Feldman Concert at 3 pm. Also, The Andy Blain Quintet Concert at 4:30 pm, \$5, 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7333.

CIRCUS SUNDAYS: Waterfront

'Face' time

"E Minha Cara (That's My Face)," a new documentary by Fort Greene director Thomas Allen Harris (pictured), will come to a television near you — assuming you have cable — courtesy of the Sundance Channel on June 9 at 9 pm.

The film follows Harris' journey to the city of Salvador Da Bahia in Brazil. Shot on silent Super 8 film, and shifting between color and black-and-white, the film weaves myth, fantasy and documentary into Harris' search for Orishas, the African deities who make up the core of the Afro-Brazilian religious practice of Candomble.

The film's score was composed by Vernon Reid, former guitarist of the rock group Living Colour. For more information, go to sundancechannel.com on the Web.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Family program for families with special needs, \$4 per person, 11:30 am to 1 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella," 12:30 and 2:30 pm. See Sat.

PIER SHOW 11: Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition annual art show, Noon to 6 pm. See Sat.

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, Central branch, presents "The Russian Detective's Handbook," 2 pm, Grand Army Station, (718) 423-0250. Free.

FALL CAFE: hosts Spiral Thought Reading Series, 6 to 8 pm, 307 Smith St. (718) 423-0250. Free.

OCULARS FILM: Cinema Williamsburg presents "The Way Things Go" (1987) and "Radio Thrift" (1987), 6 to 8:30 pm, 70 North St. (718) 765-1188.

SPRING FEST: at St. Patrick's

Parish, 2 to 11 pm. See Sat.

MON, JUNE 9

BENEFIT DINNER: Turning Point/Discipline hosts a fundraising dinner honoring actor Danny Glover and US Senator Charles Schumer. Other honorees, \$150, 6 to 10 pm, New York Marriott Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 439-0077.

EXPLORER PROGRAM: Urban Park Rangers lead a photo walk in Salt Marsh Nature Center with digital artists, Jessica Schulman and Jeff Berman, 6:30 pm, Meet at 402 Ave. U, (718) 421-2021. Free.

FOLK DANCING: Every Monday. No experience necessary, \$10. 7:15 to 10 pm, Congregation Mt. Sinai, 280 Cadman Plaza West, (718) 522-5349.

TUES, JUNE 10

MEETING: of AARP Bay Ridge Chapter, 9:30 am, Shore Hill House, 9000 Shore Road, (718) 748-9114.

AWARD DINNER: Avenian High School fourth annual Joe DiMaggio Award Gala to honor Regis Philbin. Keynote address by former baseball commissioner Fay Vincent, 7 pm, New York Marriott Marquis, 1535 Broadway, Manhattan, Call for ticket info, (718) 636-7100.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: 5th anniversary celebration of the Cranford Rose Garden. A 20th theme will celebrate the decade the garden was founded, jazz, Model T cars and more, 5:30 to 8:30 pm, 100 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7287.

AWARD DINNER: Brooklyn-based. Continued on page G17...

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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from page C6 4...
 a drama by Henrik Rossen.
 Performed in Swedish with
 English translation. \$75, \$55,
 \$35. 7:30 pm. Harvey Theater,
 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.
BARNES AND NOBLE: Eric Alterman
 reads from his book "What Liberal
 Media?" 7:30 pm, 267 Seventh
 Ave. (718) 632-9066. Free.
GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Pie Hole
 comedy show. \$2, 8 pm. Klammer
 music. 6:30 pm. No cover. 70
 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

WEDS. JUNE 11

BLOOD PRESSURE SCREENING: at
 Heights and Hill Community Coun-
 cil. 12:30 to 2 pm. 160 Montague St.
 (718) 596-8789. Free.

FILM: Watch Club Video presents
 "Emotional Balance" (1993). 2 pm.
 St. Ann's Parish Hall, 157 Montague
 St. (718) 875-4900. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: "Village Voice
 Table 4" film critics and presents:
 "Last Orders" (2002). \$10, 4:30,
 6:50 and 9:30 pm. CinemaChat
 with film critic Elliott Stein and
 director Fred Schepers follows.
 6:50 pm screening. 30 Lafayette
 Ave. (718) 595-1150.

MEETING: Community Board 6, 6:30
 pm. St. Peter and St. Paul Church,
 190 Court St. (718) 643-3327.

SMALL BUSINESS TALK: Borica
 College Small Business Develop-
 ment Center offers a workshop
 for Latino small business owners.
 6 to 8 pm. Brooklyn Economic
 Development Corp., 175 Remond St.
 (718) 963-4112. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Experimen-
 tal cinema meets experimen-
 tal video. \$5, 7 pm. Also, baguette
 music. 8:30 pm. No cover. 70
 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Conservatory of
 Music hosts its first annual Spring
 Choral Festival. Performing both
 include the Conservatory's classi-
 cal choir, women's vocal ensem-
 ble, children's chorus, the teen
 jazz and gospel chorus and the
 adult jazz and gospel chorus.
 \$10, 5:30 children and seniors. 7:30
 pm. Old First Reformed Church,
 229 Carroll St. (718) 622-3300.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Noah Elron
 reads from his book "Red Jews:
 Secular Versus Ultra-Orthodox."
 7:30 pm, 267 Seventh Ave. (718)
 832-9066. Free.

POLITICAL TALK: Rabbi Michael
 Boyden, director of the National
 Rabbinic Council for the Israel
 Council of Progressive Rabbis,
 speaks about the political situa-
 tion in the Middle East. 8 pm.
 Union Temple, 17 Eastern
 Parkway. (718) 636-7600. Free.

LOW BAR: Spokenword night fea-
 turing jazz, country and funk music.
 Also: Seton Returns, Julie Atlas
 Muz and Armen Ra dance. \$6, 9
 pm to midnight. 81 Washington
 St. (718) 222-1200.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Susan Ken Filano
 performs. No cover. 376 Ninth St.
 Call for time. (718) 636-7600.

BAM: "Les Boreades." 7:30 pm. See
 Mon. Also, The Royal Dramatic
 Theater of Sweden in "Ghosts."
 7:30 pm. See Tues.

THURS. JUNE 12

ELDER LAW: Learn about nursing
 homes, Medicaid planning, asset
 transfer, wills, trusts and more.
 11 am, 4 and 7 pm. Greenhouse
 Cafe, 717 Third Ave. Call. (718)
 238-6500. Free.

R&B FEST: B&B hosts a series of
 outdoor musical events. Today's
 performance by Floetry. Noon to
 2 pm. MetroTech Convention Cen-
 ter of Flatbush and Myrtle
 avenues. (718) 624-1251. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Big Onion Tours
 takes a walk around the Brooklyn
 Heights. \$12, 5:00 students and
 seniors. 1 pm. Meet at southeast
 corner of Broadway and
 Chambers Street. Stop at
 Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.

HEALTHY AGING: New York
 Methodist Hospital presents a
 talk "Enhancing Your Quality of
 Life." 2:30 pm. People 60 years and
 older are invited to attend.
 Refreshments served. 506 Sixth
 St. (718) 677-4633. Free.

CELEBRATE BROOKLYN: 25th
 birthday celebration of the city's
 summer festival of music, comedy,
 and film. Monrovia includes
 photographer Mark Morris and
 former NYC Parks and Recreation
 Commissioner Gordon Davis. \$250
 includes dinner, concert and
 birthday party. 5:30 to 9:30 pm.
 Public concert at 8:15 pm. Appli-
 cation fees \$285. Owner (917) 945-4734.

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Fort Greene
 Bright, sunny, spacious 1 BR apt. on
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 Hardwood floors, lots of details,
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Midwood
 E. 9th & Ave. M. 2 apts, 3 rooms
 each, new kitchen, parquet
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Park Slope
 Prime area. Bright, sunny, spacious
 1BR apt. w/ hardwood floors, mantle,
 exposed brick w/ lots of details, full
 bath w/ shower. "F" train, 7th Ave.
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 1 mo. sec. No pets. \$1,600/mo. Call.
 (718) 768-0996.

Bay Ridge
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 rity. NO FEE. Available 7/1. Share same
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Bklyn Hts/C Gdns

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Clinton Hill

Fully renovated 2 BR, new appliances, steps to C train and walking distance to C train. \$1525 per month including electric. First month's rent + 1 mo. sec. required to move in. Will be available 6/15. 718-907-3423.

Ditmas Park Victorian

Spectacular 2 bedroom, very sunny 1,100 sq. ft., working fireplace, new kitchen & appliances including dishwasher, huge upgraded bath, private entrance, stained glass subway, mint. \$1,650. 718-895-3246.

Fort Greene

Bright, sunny, spacious 1 BR apt. on 2nd fl. of owner occupied corner house. Hardwood floors, lots of details, pantry, full bath. Heat incl but not gas and electric. Required: full screening, 1 mo. rent and 1 mo. sec. Near transportation and shopping. Non-smoker, no pets, no kids. \$1,200/mo. No fee. Call for appointment. (718) 855-7941.

Midwood

E. 9th & Ave. M. 2 apts, 3 rooms each, new kitchen, parquet floors, \$739/mo. Kostas Realty. 718-833-2000.

Park Slope

Prime area. Bright, sunny, spacious 1BR apt. w/ hardwood floors, mantle, exposed brick w/ lots of details, full bath w/ shower. "F" train, 7th Ave. Screening req. plus 1 mo. rent and 1 mo. sec. No pets. \$1,600/mo. Call. (718) 768-0996.

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