

The Brooklyn Paper

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LUCKY POKE!

House of D can reopen — expansion must wait

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A state judge ruled on Tuesday that the city can fully reopen the Brooklyn House of Detention right now — but the mayor's controversial \$440-million plan to double the jail's capacity must go through a rigorous public and environmental review.

The warring sides each found something positive — and negative — in State Supreme Court Justice Sylvia Hinds-Radi's split outcome over the Atlantic Avenue slammer.

The decision rejected a claim from the opponents, a group that includes Controller Thompson, Councilman David Yassky (D—Brooklyn Heights) and neighborhood organizations, that the city must conduct a public review to reopen the jail at all.

The 11-story prison has been closed since 2003 — a period when neighboring Boerum Hill has rapidly gentrified. The Department of Correction suggested it would repopulate the 759-bed House of D sooner rather than later.

"With many aging facilities on Rikers Island continuing to deteriorate, and knowing that defendants in the city's jails will always be



Feel the Fury

The 78th Precinct rolled out its old squad cars as part of the St. Patrick's Day parade in Park Slope on Sunday, including this 1980s-era Gran Fury with the ice cream truck wheels. The graffiti on the building behind it adds a nice authentic touch.

best served when they are held closer to their courts and communities, we will continue to reduce our reliance on Rikers Island," Commissioner Martin Horn said.

The critics were saddened that the jail would reopen at all, but comforted by Hinds-Radi's verdict that the plans to build a second tower and increase capacity to 1,469 prisoners must undergo a full public review.

"The Department of Correction was trying to pull a fast one here," said Yassky, who was "thrilled" with the decision. "It, in effect, wanted to build a new jail without going through the process that requires the City Council's approval, but the judge said, 'Wait a minute, Buster.'"

Neighbors hoped that the necessary environmental study and votes by Community Board 2, Borough President Markowitz, the City Planning Commission and the City Council would help them defeat the enlargement of the jail.

"That's what it is needed — a full public review," said Sandy Balboza, head of the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association. "We never got answers to those questions about the impact of the expansion on the neighborhood. We did well here [in court]."



A WINNER BY A HAIR
FULL COVERAGE OF 'STACHE TOURNEY
SEE PAGE 5

HOLD IT

Panel rejects public toilet by Boro Hall



By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

A city plan for a public restroom in Columbus Park should be flushed away, critics say, because planners chose a location that's too public for such discreet business.

The Department of Transportation, which oversees the city's tortured toilet-siting process, selected a site just north of Montague Street in the paved park that is too close to the Greenmarket, Supreme Court entrance and the Borough Hall subway station for a pay toilet, members of the Community Board 2 Parks and Recreation Committee said on Monday night.

"This is hideous," said committee member Nancy Wolf. "How will the Greenmarket people feel about having to put out their vegetables near the bathroom?"

The Department of Transportation will consider alternate latrine locations, said agency spokesman Scott Gastel.

Some members also disliked the design of the modern too, which will be wrapped with advertising, though there was a general level of support for this self-cleaning, 25-cent answer to nature's call.

"It's going to serve a good function for park users," said Seth Taylor, business services manager of the Court, Livingston and Schermerhorn Business Improvement District.

And this ain't your daddy's Porta-Potty either. After 15 minutes, its door opens to discourage vagrants and deviants from camping out or prostitutes from playing their trade.

It also cleans itself after each visitor leaves, allegedly ensuring high sanitary standards.

Bloomy: Give me keys to 'Park'

Work begins as mayor asks state for control of piers



After many fits and starts, some construction work — as opposed to demolition work — actually appears to be taking place at Pier 1, the first piece of Brooklyn Bridge Park. Last week, the mayor, who hovers above it all, said he wants control of the troubled project.

By Mike McLaughlin
The Brooklyn Paper

Mayor Bloomberg said last Thursday that the city has the means to take over the stalled and underfunded state-run Brooklyn Bridge Park development — and turn it into a city park.

"The city [would] take over management and fiscal responsibility for Brooklyn Bridge Park and Governors Island and use monies that we've already put aside ... for Javits," the mayor said.

"The city has more of an interest and I think the state government has their own problems. It's a good deal for the state. If not, they can take them over or close them down."

Few details have emerged since the mayor's bombshell comment more than one week ago, but state officials did confirm that the details are being negotiated about transferring control of the 1.3-mile strip along the Brooklyn Heights and DUMBO waterfronts to the city — and, possibly, abandoning the controversial funding scheme that put housing and other revenue-generating operations inside the park footprint.

With the uncertainty from Bloomberg's stunning announcement still hovering, Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation President Regina Myer said that the earliest park sections would still open by the end of this year.

But Myer would not discuss the Bloomberg-Paterson shakeup over control of the condo and open space development.

"I'm not going to respond," Myer told Community Board 2 on Monday.

Instead, Myer and her team presented a timeline for Pier 6, near the foot of Atlantic Avenue, that includes sand volleyball courts, a dog run, and a playground opening before the page turns on 2009.

A restaurant and a water taxi berth on the dock would come later.

The entire park will cost at least \$350 million, but only \$231 million has been allocated, causing delays on several pieces until more taxpayer money is procured. And visibly, abandoning the controversial funding scheme that put housing and other revenue-generating operations inside the park footprint — are off the table.

Jew gotta be kidding!

Isaac skips church forum



City Council candidate Isaac Abraham.

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

An Orthodox Jew and five other Council candidates are invited to a Methodist church for a meeting.

So what's the punch line? That depends on whom you ask. Isaac Abraham, an activist in North Brooklyn's Satmar community, will not attend the Central Brooklyn Independent Democrats' endorsement forum on April 23 because it will take place in the basement — not the sanctuary — of the Park Slope United Methodist Church.

"I asked my rabbi and [he said] it was better that I not go," said the devout Democrat, who is one of six candidates for the 33rd Council District, which includes Brooklyn Heights, Greenpoint and parts of Williamsburg, Boerum Hill, and Park Slope.

See **KIDDING** on page 11

They 'Gage' Tollner plan

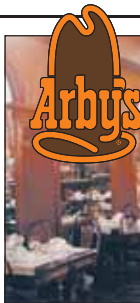
The Arby's sandwich chain is going to open a location in the historic — and landmarked — site of the former Gage and Tollner restaurant on the Fulton Mall in Downtown Brooklyn. We asked shoppers — all potential customers for those fast-food roast beef sandwiches — what they thought:



"It's memories for some people. They should leave it alone." **Donna Richberg, East New York**



"It's a landmark and it's not fair for those corporate guys to take it over." **Michael Calicchio, Carroll Gardens**



Fanciest Arby's in town

Fast food joint to take over Gage & Tollner

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

When the roast beef sandwich joint Arby's opens in the historic Gage and Tollner storefront this spring, there will be big changes on the menu — but hardly any alterations to the eatery's famed interior, the restaurant behind the fast food franchise told The Brooklyn Paper.

Raymond Chera says he will maintain the 1890s atmosphere of famed Fulton Street steak and seafood eatery.

"We are working very hard to preserve everything in the space," said Chera, who is planning to open about 40 other Arby's franchises around the city.

"It's an opportunity to take

advantage of one of the most beautiful interiors in Brooklyn and bring it back to life."

The building and its interior — which boasts arched mirrors, chandeliers, red cherry wood paneling, and 36 famous gas lamps — are city landmarks, so when the restaurant transitions changes from classy suit to grab-and-go turf, there can't be too many modifications.

Chera's plans to install supplemental lighting, signage, and a counter might be a concern for the Landmarks Preservation Commission.

"The Commission needs to see that [the counter] won't have an impact," said Commission spokeswoman Lisi De Bour-

The site of the future Arby's, where Gage and Tollner operated from 1892 until it closed, has proven to be a problematic location for new restaurants.

T.G.I. Friday's opened at the site in 2004 and shut down three years later. This summer, plans to open a branch of the legendary Harlem soul food eatery Amy Ruth's went belly up.

But the man who closed Gage and Tollner said that Arby's might have what it takes to survive on Fulton Street.

"It's a shame it's going to be fast food in that beautiful, beautiful room, but it's not a place where upscale [restaurants] can survive," said Joseph Chirico.

"Maybe fast food can make it," he said.



"It's a shame. It was a beautiful restaurant." **Miriam Pascual, Staten Island**



"They think because it's a historical building an Arby's can't go in? It's a business. The person paying the rent should have that choice." **Bruce Jacobs, Queens**



"They should keep it classy and keep its history alive." **Emon Almonte, Bedford-Stuyvesant**

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NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

BAY RIDGE

Name this tune? Karaoke bar says board is clueless

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Will it be a flash joint — or just a place to sing your favorite Fleetstones song? Will there be prostitutes — or just a lot of people screaming, "Roxanne?"

The owners of a planned karaoke joint in Bay Ridge say their place is the latter — but they were nonetheless stymied on Monday night when Community Board 10 voted nearly unanimously to nix their request for a liquor license amid allegations that the singalong studio was actually a den of prostitution.

The soon-to-be finished video karaoke parlor, Crown KTV, is still scheduled to open next month on 64th Street between Eighth and Ninth avenues — and supporters believe that the board's vote hinged on a misunderstanding of karaoke culture.

Crown KTV's 13 private booths will rent for about \$20 per hour and are equipped with TV screens that display song lyrics. Such facilities are quite common in Midtown Manhattan, but at least one board member was convinced they'd be used for prostitution.



Some residents oppose a karaoke bar, believing that booths like this would be used for prostitution.

"We don't need no hookers here!" the member shouted at the March 16 hearing. But the men who are con-

stitution will be the off-key renditions of "Lady Marmalade" coming from singers' voice boxes.

"There will be no prostitution, that is completely inaccurate," said Eric Zheng, whose venue is applying to sell beer, wine and sake — but not hard liquor. "This is a karaoke place. People come here, they sing and they have a good time. These kinds of places are really common."

Some board members hooked their objection to the proximity of PS 69 on Ninth Avenue.

But Zheng's attorney told The Brooklyn Paper that the board was misguided. "They are suspicious and they are just hanging their hat with some theory that it's too close to a school," he said. "But that's like saying that a restaurant with a wine license would be dangerous close to a school. It's almost laughable."

The State Liquor Authority will make the final ruling on the license. The board's lone voice in support of the karaoke club said the landside vote leaves the neighborhood looking closed-minded.

"There was a cultural issue that needed to be addressed, and I don't think it was addressed," said Ron Gross. "To say on the one hand that we are an accepting community, and then to not take that into consideration when making a decision — that's incongruous."

DUMBO

DUMBO about to get PO'd

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Paper

DUMBO is finally asserting its mail power.

The neighborhood down under the Manhattan Bridge overpass — famous for its small craft manufacturers, artists, media companies and light industries (and the packages they create) — will get its first post office.

And the event better news? No postal workers to be disgruntled!

In the next few weeks, the United States Postal Service will open an unmanned "automated postal center" on Front Street between Washington and Adams, a facility that features electronic equipment for self-service mailing and stamp buying.

This may not sound like much, but the center will replace long treks to the unpopular main post office on Cadman Plaza and an exhaust-belching mobile post office that makes sporadic visits to Front Street.

In other words, this is a red letter



DUMBO will get its first postal center later this spring in this building on Front Street.

day in DUMBO. Postal services were talked about for years. The Brooklyn Paper reported in July, 2007, that the Postal Service had taken out an ad seeking a lease for a 1,000-square-foot storefront. The story also reported that the center "could open by next year."

That turned out to be optimistic. Postal services were talked about for years. The Brooklyn Paper reported in July, 2007, that the Postal Service had taken out an ad seeking a lease for a 1,000-square-foot storefront. The story also reported that the center "could open by next year."

WILLIAMSBURG

Fil condos with renters?

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Finding an apartment in Williamsburg just because a team sport.

A group of North Brooklyn residents are negotiating with the owners of struggling buildings that are now seeking renters instead of buyers — scoring themselves discounted rents and giving ailing developers a chance to raise some revenue.

"These buildings are vacant, so why not try to get everyone to move back?" said Zev Eisenberg, one of the founders of the Williamsburg Buyback, an online group.

The organization aims to link would-be tenants Eisenberg among them — with cash-strapped developers who would consider cutting their losses if they moved



Zev Eisenberg shows a new building that he hopes to fill with discounted renters.

in en masse. Then the interested tenants would sign cut-rate leases and start renting as soon as the developer is ready to house them.

"You can't really go up to a landlord and say, 'Hey, can I get a deal?' — but when I tell these guys I can fill their building in a week, they get a bit more interested," said Eisenberg.

His timing may be good. A condo-building craze transformed North Brooklyn during the boom, but the fiscal collapse has stagnated the Williamsburg and Greenpoint markets, bringing severe price cuts to high-pro-

file condo developments including Northside Piers, and forcing the builders behind the Magic Johnson-funded Viridian to file for bankruptcy.

The Williamsburg Buyback has not reached any deals with developers, but the group claims to be involved in negotiations with four developers for building-wide rent cuts of \$100 or more per month.

In this market, the scheme just might work, according to North Brooklyn broker Herbert Kliegerman.

"Anything is possible," he said. "The only issue might be that the developer might have too much money in the deal to be able to sustain the financing with rentals... But then again, it's always better to have money now than in the future."

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

Garage plan in ruins? Tenants hope relics will halt project

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents of a controversial plan to build a garage in the courtyard of an historic Brooklyn Heights apartment complex are hoping that a blast from the past will put the brakes on the project.

Residents of the 119-year-old Riverside Apartments have long fought against the developer's plans to build a garage topped with a garden behind their landmarked Joralemon Street building, and they say that old New York heirlooms and relics buried beneath the courtyard could be their last chance to halt the construction of the 90-car garage.



Workers discovered the foundation of a prior structure.

"We are hoping and praying that they find something that will stop it," said William Ringler, chair of the Riverside Tenant's Association, which previously opposed an above-ground incarnation of the garage that the city buried last spring.

A March 13 excavation didn't uncover anything earth-shattering — or even identifiable, experts said. "Our maps revealed that there might be relics from an 18th-century distillery, but what we found is a footing — but it's nothing that would historically knock your socks off," said project archaeologist Joan Geismar.

Mike Berfield, a representative for the landlord, Joel Weiner, told The Brooklyn Paper that the discovery of the brick foundation would not preempt excavation for the ga-

rage behind the 157-unit complex built by famed philanthropist Alfred T. White.

"Nothing has been found so far that is historically significant," he said. "It is exceedingly rare for archaeological findings to stand in the way of development projects, as they did when excavators uncovered an African burial ground on the site of a planned office building in Lower Manhattan in 1991."

The conflict over the garage stems from the 1990s, when a judge froze rents for some Riverside tenants after a previous building owner paved over much of the building's once landscaped courtyard.

By building a garden atop the parking garage — which the builders claim is widely needed in Brooklyn Heights — the landlord might be able to abolish the discounted rents.

But some tenants say that the garage would just add pollution and noise to the neighborhood.

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F-ing scary muggings

84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights-DUMBO

There were two scary muggings at the F-train station at York Street in DUMBO last week, including a knife-point crime on March 9 and a gun-point theft on March 12.

In the first crime, a thug held a knife against the throat of a teenager as he left the station's lone exit at the corner of Jay Street at around 4 p.m., taking the 15-year-old's Sidekick phone.

Three days later, a gunman stalked a 28-year-old woman and followed her after she left the station at around 11 p.m. He pounced when she got to the corner of York and Bridge streets, showing off the firearm and demanding her stuff.

She handed over her bag, which contained \$40.

Unholy crime

A thief swiped the wallet of an employee of St. Francis College on Remsen Street on March 4 when the worker went to the store for a 2 p.m. break.

Upon her return, the 26-year-old woman discovered that her wallet was gone from the secured locker in which she had placed it. A half hour later, the wallet mysteriously reappeared, but it was devoid of \$5 and various cards.

Two weeks later, a similar crime occurred at the F. Martinelli Deli on Court Street between State Street and Atlantic Avenue, when a worker said that her locker had been busted

into and her wallet taken. She said the stuff — which included \$140 and various cards — was secure at 10 a.m., but gone when she returned after her 10-hour shift.

Bad wheels

A thief took a nearly decade-old Saturn from a parking spot at the corner of Hicks and Cranberry streets on Feb. 21, its owner told cops.

The 37-year-old driver told cops that the car disappeared between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m., when he knocked off for the day. He did not report the crime until March 10.

Gym rats

It's a Police Blotter staple — the workout wallet swipe — but this one has a twist: the victim did not lock his valuables while sweating in the gym.

The 55-year-old exercise buff told police that he entered the YMCA on Atlantic Avenue between Court Street and Boerum Place at around 3 p.m. on Feb. 17 and put all his clothes in a locker. He exercised himself for an impressive three and a half hours and returned to find that his wallet, which contained \$40 and credit cards, was gone.

He reported the crime a month later, because he wanted to wait to see if the credit cards had been used, he told cops. The Masekian had to the tune of \$2,000.

In an incident related only by the sweat involved, another workout fiend finished a regimen on March 11 to discover that her belongings had been

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

swiped from a secured locker at a gym at the corner of Lorien and Court streets.

She told cops that she was exercising from 10:45 p.m. until 11:45 p.m.

Before she could cancel her cards, they had already been used, she told cops.

ByePhone

A pickpocket swiped a woman's iPhone from her pocket on Joralemon Street on March 13.

The woman told cops that she was between Court and Clinton streets at around 3:30 p.m. when the thief bumped into her and made the pick.

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

New burg city

The Slope was a burglar's playground last week, as at least four houses were hit. Here's a roundup:

• A thief broke into a basement apartment on Carroll Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues that had been occupied by an old lady who recently died. The woman's son, 47, told cops that the thief broke into his mother's former abode sometime overnight on March 10, then went upstairs to help himself to a

jewelry box containing about \$700 in baubles.

Sometime between March 11 and 13, a thief entered — though apparently without force — a fourth-avenue apartment and stole a laptop, a digital camera and \$40. That unit is between Warren and Baltic streets.

• In the early hours of March 12, a woman's son broke into her home on 11th Street between Third and Fourth avenues, stole her credit card, and left but he was later arrested.

• A Union Street homeowner waited more than three months to report that his \$6,000 gold ring had been stolen, police said.

The woman summoned cops on March 3 to report that the ring disappeared sometime between Oct. 16 and Nov. 21 from the home between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

She gave cops a vivid description of two suspects, who had worked for a cleaning service that had once been inside the woman's apartment.

— **Gersh Kuntzman**

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens

Cobble Hill-Red Hook

Cops nabbed a thug suspected of ambushing a 26-year-old and snatching his cellphone on March 9.

The crook and an accomplice confronted the victim on Manhattan Avenue near the corner of Conesheya Street and punched him in the head.

"What you got?" one of the crooks asked, as he pilfered the victim's pockets for an iPod Touch and a Nokia cellphone.

After the mugging, the thugs ran — but they didn't get far before police locked up one of the alleged assailants.

Not so Civic

Greenpoint car thieves have a thing for old Honda Civics, heisting the dependable sedan in at least two separate instances overnight on March 11. Here are the shocking details:

• Crooks hotwired a green 1996 Civic and drove it away from its spot on West Street near the corner of Java Street between 7:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. the next evening.

• A gray 1994 Civic was swiped from the corner of West and Quay streets sometime between 9 p.m. and 9 p.m. the following night, leaving behind only shards of glass where the Japanese-made car was once parked. — **Ben Muesig**

88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene-Clinton Hill

Target snatch

A deft purse-snatcher robbed three women in Target on Flatbush Avenue while their shopping carts were momentarily unattended on the afternoon of March 15.

The first flicking occurred at 2:30 p.m. when a 30-year-old woman said someone stole her cellphone, debit card and driver's license from her cart while she bent down to look at a pair of shoes.

An hour and a half later at the same store, a woman, 32, said a thief took her purse, containing two cellphones and \$1,300, when she retrieved some items from a shelf.

Moments later, another woman said her pocketbook was taken. She reported losing \$300 and her cellphone.

Quiet riot

A burglar broke into and looted a Clinton Avenue home on March 9 while residents were sleeping.

Residents of the townhouse, between Lafayette and Greene avenues, told police they were asleep between 2:30 and 8:30 a.m. (the nerve). When an 88-year-old, third-floor tenant awoke, she discovered that her front and back doors were open. A little later, she noticed that someone had rummaged through a dresser, but had apparently not taken anything.

But a woman who lived upstairs was not as lucky, as the thief stole her CD player, some Louis Vuitton and Coach bags, an assortment of jewelry, Nike sneakers and a computer.

Two bad

Two similar muggings marred the morning of March 9 in Fort Greene.

At 9:30 a.m., two teens targeted a man, 28, at the corner of Myrtle and Vanderbilt avenues. One said, "Give us everything you got," so the victim offered \$50 from his wallet. But when the punks insisted that he give everything from his wallet, as well as his iPod, the victim cursed and the duo ran off.

About an hour later on Adelphi Street, between DeKalb and Lafayette avenues, two teen troublemakers — likely the same kids, but now armed with a knife — ordered a 26-year-old man to empty his pockets. The victim offered what he had, but the crooks didn't take anything.

— **Mike McLaughlin**

Varet violence

Cops nabbed three teen-

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Nurses seek help

By Dustin Seplow
for The Brooklyn Paper

Nurses took to the street in front of New York Methodist Hospital on Monday to demand a beefed-up nursing staff to alleviate what they said is a patient-to-nurse ratio that is twice the industry standard.

The nurses' contract — which mandates one nurse for a maximum of six patients — expired on Sunday night, so staffers picketed the Park Slope institution the next day, complaining that the hospital employs one nurse for every 10 patients.

"For the past six years, we've had nurse-patient ratios in our contracts, but the hospital never complied," said Alyson Selby, a nurse at the Sixth Street hospital.

"The right amount of staffing does equate to an increase in patient care," said Selby. A hospital spokesman disagreed that more nurses



Nurses at New York Methodist Hospital hit the streets on Monday.

mean better treatment for patients.

"Recent research has demonstrated that staffing ratios do not necessarily guarantee better care or outcomes," said Lyn Hill, the hospital spokeswoman. "Staffing is only one of many factors that can be measured to evaluate patient care."

A review of a state health database suggests that Hill has some statistical basis to back her up. Given an average nurse salary of \$100,000 with benefits, "the hospital cannot sustain an increase in the staffing of registered nurses," Hill added.

The nurses' union said that times are tough on hospitals everywhere, but added that "Methodist is unique in its higher patient-to-nurse ratios," said union negotiator, Elaine Charpentier.

She added that the just-expired contract wasn't worth the paper it was printed on because its nurse-patient guidelines went unenforced.

"We want a meaningful enforcement mechanism that makes a consequence for short staffing that doesn't fall just on the nurse," said Charpentier.

It's not the first time that staffing levels at the hospital have made headlines. Last year, the hospital said it would add staff in its ER after hearing complaints on the Park Slope Parents Web site.



Hairy win for these heroes

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

He survived a freak fire that ignited his impressively full beard — yet Steve "Leon" Lutz still went on to win the gold at last week's Beard and Moustache Championship.

And Lutz's was not the only epic performance on the stage at Public Assembly club, which attracted 86 hairy heroes and a crowd of hundreds for the annual battle for facial hair supremacy.

Kevin Byrnes (right) also overcame hurdles of his own to win best patchy beard.

The 22-year-old withstood months of criticism as he prepared for the competition in this most-maligned of categories — but he wouldn't "clean up" his uneven fuzz. "People were always making fun of my patchy beard and saying it was dirt on my face," he said. "But it was worth it in the end — I got the gold."

But it was Lutz's story that earned the admiration

of those with maned mandibles — and the people who love them.

After the allegedly accidental fire, Lutz (left) shaved his chin for the first time in 15 months and styled the remaining scruff into a "Gangs of New York"-inspired style with thick mutton chops and a waxed moustache.

He won best sideburns — an amazing comeback. "I'm just glad it didn't get rid of my hair entirely," said Lutz, 34.

Other winners saw a deeper meaning in the contest.

"Moustaches are catching on, maybe in a tongue and cheek kind of way," said Benjamin Davidson (center) who won for his handbar-styled 'stache that measures nine inches from tip to tip.

"I'm not sure if people are doing it as a joke or taking it seriously," he said.

Other winners included Nate Stathura ("Recession Beard"), Steve "Shoobie" Cline (goutie), Burke

Kenny (freestyle), Jack Passion (best full natural — well, of course), and Jessica Karz ("Ladies Artificial").

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DUMBO...come see what they see

T time in Ridge

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

Finding a parking spot in Bay Ridge is about to become as easy as crossing your T's.

The city is giving drivers a green light to park in front of curbside T intersections — so long as they are not marked with crosswalks, stoplights or other traffic signals.

The move, pushed by Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), will create more than 50 new spots at three-way intersections in the parking-starved neighborhood.

Traffic cops will no longer be on the prowl along Shore Road between 60th Street and 99th Street, issuing \$165 summonses so long as spots are "not marked with a crosswalk and not controlled by all-way stop signs or traffic signals," said Department of Transportation spokesman Scott Gastel.

Gentile, who tried to get such legislation in 2006, was pleased.

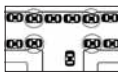
"This new rule will make dozens of new spots available at locations that aren't currently safe for pedestrian crossing, so this really is a win-win for our neighborhood," said Gentile.

When Ridgites started receiving costly tickets for parking in front of the sloped sidewalks, Community Board 10's office was inundated with calls, according to District Manager Josephine Beckmann.

"There was outrage because they weren't marked and you couldn't tell you were doing something wrong," she said. "This is really a big victory." But not all Bay Ridge residents are celebrating.

Wheelchair user Jean Ryan is furious that cars will be able to obstruct certain sidewalk ramps.

"When a car block a curb cut, I won't be able to cross the



street," said Ryan. "They say it would be dangerous for anyone to cross there, but that's patronizing to us. We can look both ways and cross just like anyone else."

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OUR OPINION

No to MTA bailout

Thursday morning aboard the packed F train from Kensington to DUMBO. Commuters are doing what they do best — accepting their sorry fate — but the crowded conditions and constant jostling fray the collective fabric.

"When I get off this train," a woman shouts to no one in particular. "I am calling 3-1-1!"

And therein lies the problem. The city's 311 system handles many things, but it cannot help a subway rider's plight.

That's because the state, or more to the point, Gov. Paterson, has control over the single biggest facet of our urban life. At one time, the subway system was run by the city government. But in the late 1960s, at the city's behest, Albany placed it under the control of an authority it had set up to run the faltering Long Island Rail Road and Metro North commuter rail lines.

The stated goal was to insulate the

subway system from city politics — but the "cure" has been worse than the supposed disease: now the political officials who are most responsible for the MTA's dire circumstances are not held accountable for them.

Now, we are at an impasse. The MTA claims it needs a 23-percent subway and bus fare hike — plus severe service cuts and deep layoffs — to keep the system afloat. That led to the usual Kabuki dance in Albany where officials floated ever-changing schemes that included payroll taxes, lesser fare hikes and tolls on the East and Harlem river bridges.

This week, top officials of the Environmental Defense Fund came to our city to ask us to support those tolls as a way of making drivers pay their share to keep the transit system afloat.

We agree that a regional transportation system requires contributions from all users — drivers, subway and bus riders and even pedestrians and bikers (who

benefit from a good mass transit system) — but giving the MTA more money at this time is like giving a drunk another drink and the keys to the car.

No new revenue streams — tolls and fees that will inevitably be raised as soon as the MTA finds itself in another "crisis" next year — should be created for the authority until it is reformed from top to bottom. A good start would be to fire the existing board, whose members rarely get out of their company cars to see how the other 90 percent lives, and replace it with one whose majority is comprised of transit-using urbanites.

Ideally, these board members would be appointed by the mayor — who gets blamed for subway and bus shortcomings even though he is virtually powerless to fix them.

Which is why that woman on the F train on Thursday needs to forget about calling 311 and instead call the governor and demand a transit agency that works for New York City.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

A Hall of Famer offers praise for Guskind

To the editor,

I met Bob Guskind a few years ago at a community board meeting ("Blogger Robert Guskind died at 50," March 14). Over time, and dozens of community meetings later, I increasingly enjoyed his Gowanus Lounge blog tremendously as a source of information, a venue for opinions, and even for its entertainment value. I particularly loved the sidewalk sofa pictures. I remember one great photo that showed how someone creatively set up some eclectic seating inside one of the city's bus shelters. Priceless stuff!

Like any great artist, Bob was passionate about his work. Blogging was his medium; a blinking

cursor his blank canvas. What I admired most about him was his dedication to getting it right. He was an utter professional in that regard.

I hope someone picks up the mantle where Bob left off and dedicates him or herself to covering issues in the Gowanus community the way he did. If ever there were a community in need of coverage, if for no other reason than to protect its neighborhood character and uniqueness, it would be Gowanus.

The blogosphere is a bit quieter and emptier without Bob in it. I miss him already.

Craig Hammerman, Park Slope
The writer is district manager of Community Board 6 and a member of the NYC Hall of Fame.

Send a letter

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By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

Larry in chains

To the editor,
Your recent editorial on chain stores ("Bring big boxes D'own," Feb. 28) could be great news for consumers and those out of work.

Construction of a new Wal-Mart can provide work for electrical, plumbing, air conditioning, heating and general construction

contractors, along with subcontractors to each trade.

A new Wal-Mart can provide employment opportunities for hundreds of full- and part-time workers. Many students, housewives, heads of single family households, senior citizens and ordinary people currently out of work could find employment locally without having to travel hours elsewhere.

All of these companies and their employees who would work on the construction of, or at long-term jobs within, a Downtown Wal-Mart are our neighbors. Income from jobs would help pay household bills. Doesn't this make sense given our growing local unemployment rate?

Wal-Mart is the nation's largest private sector employer with over 1,200,000 employees and growing each year. Tens of millions of Americans, including many New Yorkers, own stock in Wal-Mart. The same is true for the various retirement and pension plans many people participate in. Professional opportunities including training for higher-paying managerial positions are common.

Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Council Finance Committee Chairperson David We-

prin and their colleagues continue to be the Grinch for New Yorkers looking for affordable medicines, children's clothing, school supplies, food and other bargains. Why should Weprin and Quinn set the rules for who can or can't open a business?

All public opinion polls have consistently shown that New Yorkers would welcome the opportunity to shop at Wal-Mart. It is time to allow Wal-Mart the chance to compete in Brooklyn. Let consumers, rather than politicians, make the decision what to buy and where to shop.

Larry Penner, Great Neck, N.Y.

Call me Arab

To the editor,
Thank you for the balanced coverage of the Palestinian protest of the Israeli dance troupe performing at the Brooklyn Academy of Music ("Protest against Israeli dancers," March 14). Media coverage of Arab concerns tends to be dismissive at best and, at worst, blatantly hostile. In this case, The Brooklyn Paper merely covered the story fairly, which is all Arabs ever want.

This member of Brooklyn's

Arab-American community greatly appreciates the fair treatment that The Paper showed to the protesters and to the story.

Dave Hall, Boerum Hill

Assess this!

To the editor,
The city has sent me a tax bill which says the market value of my house is \$903,000 and the assessed value for taxes as \$12,236, about \$1,000 more than last year.

This is nonsense, as there is no way I could get the market value of my house now, given the Depression that the tax department clearly didn't notice.

The higher assessed tax value means I and everyone else will pay higher taxes. This is unacceptable.

I am a senior citizen living on a fixed income with a retirement portfolio (and we all know what has happened to our retirement funds in the past three months!).

It's disgusting to heedlessly raise taxes on small homeowners when the government knows perfectly well that it will cause hardship.

To help our budget problems, I

think all elected officials — city, state and federal should have to pay part of their health-care costs, say 10 percent.

Maybe then, they would understand some of the difficulties of managing in this economy.

Mona Rosner, Williamsburg

Don't trust MTA

To the editor,
The Metropolitan Transit Authority has been standing on the throat of this city for decades, squeezing the economic lifeblood from this town.

Worse, it is an irresponsible steward of this city's transportation network. It has political muscle and protection unlike any organization in our government.

Unlike a private enterprise, it has no need to constrain its budget for the purposes of profitability. Unlike a government organization, it escapes any kind of voter oversight at the ballot box. We are all victims of the MTA and its reckless use of government funds, and misguided priorities.

The MTA must die if the city of New York is to live. The MTA is not our friend, nor does it respond to our needs.

It borrows money and leaves the bills for the taxpayer and strap-hangers. It subsidizes suburban growth, and leaves the bill for the inner-city working class. It buys filthy toys, like underground radio systems, a connection for the LIRR to Grand Central Terminal, a new extension of the 7 train to the Javits Center, new cars with digital signage, elevators, and electronic billboards.

It builds a completely unnecessary new station complex at Fulton Street to bribe politicians who can't figure out how to rebuild the WTC.

But the MTA ignores basic safety and traffic needs like switches and steel rails, station maintenance, and subway cars with enough signs to know what train you're hoping on without needing to look over the platform with the train arriving.

And they spend hundreds of millions of dollars to preach to us. Don't run up the escalator. Don't lean over the platform. Don't walk between cars. Pick up your trash. Enough. We can't take it anymore.

Don't you love the Metrolink? Fares can be raised at will with a few keystrokes.

Ruben Safir, Midwood

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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

March 21, 2009



The Brooklyn Paper / Tim Callan



Sights of the season: (Clockwise from left) Bussaco chef Kevin Adey's roast chicken. New blooms at Brooklyn Botanic Garden. The strawberry margarita at Cabana Bar. Kickball in McCarran Park. Stephen Browning's lamb shoulder at Flatbush Farm. The Little League parade in Prospect Park.



The Brooklyn Paper / Tim Callan

Spring fever

The calendar says it's time to get out there and play

GO Brooklyn

Everyone talks about global warming. But no one seems to do anything about it. In other words, baby it was cold outside for much of the past four months. Finally, however, the calendar says it's the first day of spring — and your tired old bones are ready to shake off their rust. The GO Brooklyn team knows how you feel, so here's our annual guide to vating your upcoming case of spring fever.

The drink

Springtime means spring break and spring break means margaritas. Cabana Bar in Park Slope calls its version the "mambo fresa," a concoction of muddled fresh strawberries, lemon and mint that puts the standard mix-based "fita to slams. Blended margaritas are available, but, in our experience, stick to them on the rocks. Plus, the straw palapa bar at Cabana is refreshing like the famed summer breeze of that old Seals and Crofts classic. Cabana Bar (448 President St., between Fifth and Fourth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 399-2161).

The sound

The classical music event of the season is a special concert at Bargemusic on April 2 to mark the 90th birthday of Olga Bloom, the floating venue's founder. "It's going to be four hours of the greatest-est works ever composed for chamber music in the last 200 or 300 years," said Mark Teshkanov, the artistic director. The show includes quartets and octets by Hayden, Shostakovich, Mendelssohn, and a little composer named Beethoven. Olga Bloom tribute at Bargemusic (2 Old Fulton St., near Furman Street, (718) 624-2083), April 2. Tickets are \$90.

The lamb

Nothing says spring to some people like



Bloomin': The Brooklyn Botanic Garden's famous cherry trees will be pink before you know it.

fresh lamb, preferably a nice shoulder cut, braised and accompanied by fiddleheads or some other seasonal green. That's why just such a dish has joined Stephen Browning's menu at the aptly named Flatbush Farm. Browning slow-cooks the lamb shoulder in stock, wine and aromatic vegetables until falls off the bone in a delicious mound. Then he rolls it, roulade-style, seasons it some more and cuts it into medallions about two-inches thick. "It's a fresh, simple farm approach," said Browning, who worked at Bayard's under the famed farmer-chef Eberhard Muller. The satisfying dish (\$22) is all the more pleasing with a glass of Malbec. Flatbush Farm (76 St. Marks Ave., between Sixth and Flatbush avenues in Park Slope, (718) 622-3276).

The sights

After the vernal equinox, it's the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's time to shine. Even though today is the first day of spring, excitement was budding all through the week. "Our first cherry has popped over the last couple of days," Patrick Cullina, vice president of horticulture and science, said (yes, he really said that). Hanami, the month-long cherry blossom festival kicks off on April 4, and it's the granddaddy of Garden events. But the magnolias, daffodils and Spanish bluebells are coming into their own soon, too. Brooklyn Botanic Gardens (1000 Washington Ave. between Crown and Montgomery streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 614-7740).

The Park

Prospect Park's warm-weather events officially begin with the Little League parade on April 4 and the return of the UniverSoul Circus on April 8. The parade, a rite of passage for Brooklyn's young ballplayers, celebrates a purer form of the game when the only juice a slugger needed came with a straw from his mom. UniverSoul Circus is comes back for another three-week run in the Wolfman Rink parking lot with its funky assortment of acrobats, clowns and a menagerie of animals under the big tent. The Little League parade starts at Seventh Avenue and Carroll Street in Park Slope at 10 am on April 4 and ends at the Prospect Park bandshell. Tickets for UniverSoul are available via Ticketmaster at (212) 307-7171 or at the Wolfman Rink box office.

The game

Brooklyn's premiere kickball league will kick-off its sixth season on the dirt diamonds of McCarran Park. The wildly popular 30-

team league — which has elevated the city game to new heights since its start in 2003 — will celebrate its opening day on May 3. Registration for the season is already closed, according to organizer Kevin Dailey, but players and fans alike can enjoy the opening-day festivities, which will include lively kick-ball action and an appearance by Knicks legend John Starks.

Brooklyn Kickball opening day at McCarran Park (Bedford Avenue and North 12th Street in Greenpoint), 4 pm, May 3.

The hangout

When the weather warms, Brooklynites head to Habana, Fort Greene's Habana Outpost — an "eco-caterer" known for its pedal-powered blender, tasty Cuban sandwiches, and ample outdoor seating — will reopen after its annual winter shutdown with a kid-friendly Earth Day celebration on April 18 and 19. But the opening weekend won't be the only spring festivities at the neighborhood hangout. Outpost General Manager Darcy Le Fleming told The Brooklyn Paper that the eatery will be serving its famed slushy cocktails and corn on the cob at its all-ways raucous block party on May 9.

Earth Day celebration at Habana Outpost (757 Fulton St. at South Portland Street in Fort Greene, (718) 858-9500), noon to 6 pm on April 18 and 19.

The chicken

Spring past the cold weather and warm your taste buds with the seasonal American menu at Bussaco. "I couldn't be more excited about spring vegetables," said chef Kevin Adey citing an oven-roasted chicken recipe replete with peas and asparagus. He also does a roasted carrot tortellini that would make Bugs Bunny drool. Bussaco (333 Union St. between Sixth and Seventh avenues in Park Slope, (718) 857-8828).

ART

The Gaul!

Gustave Caillebotte may be the Rutherford B. Hayes of Impressionist painters. True, his name might not often be mentioned in the same breath as Monet and Renoir, but without this canvas jockey, the whole artistic movement might never have gotten off the lily pad.



Now, his art is coming to the Brooklyn Museum.

Thanks to a family fortune built on that most-reliable of 19th-century sectors, army uniform manufacturing, Caillebotte was free to not only indulge his limited artistic gifts, but, more important, underwrite art world upstairs Camille Pissarro, Claude Monet and Auguste Renoir. When Caillebotte died in 1894, Impressionism was still very risqué, so the bulk of his collection was bequeathed to his one-time beneficiary, Renoir. Time and again, the cash-strapped artist offered the collection to the cash-strapped French government (what else is new?), yet was turned down each time. By the time the Élysée Palace acted, it was too late: the collection had already been sold to an American.

Which explains why you get to see it today. "Gustave Caillebotte" at the Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000), March 27-July 5. Admission is \$8 (\$4, students and seniors). — Evan Gardner

DINING

Jacques treat

Chocolatier Jacques Torres has again made months wait by spilling the beans on his latest treat: DUMBO's Willy Wonka is expanding into ice cream.

Torres revealed that he wants to open "an ice cream place" this summer in the space beside his chocolate shop.

"Imagine ice cream with chocolate and passion fruit, raspberry, peanut butter, banana," Torres told a crowd at the 92nd Street Y in Manhattan on Tuesday.

Residents of DUMBO don't have to imagine such things at all; Torres already makes ice cream for his shop's ethereal ice cream sandwiches — which are comprised of said frozen treat smushed between two of Torres's totally under-rated, \$2.50 chocolate chip cookies. At \$5, you're getting the ice cream for free!

Fellow sweet sellers told The Brooklyn Paper that the acclaimed chef's decision to open the ice cream shop would improve the borough's sugary landscape. "This is wonderful and exciting," said Jennie Dundas, owner of Blue Marble Ice Cream in Boerum Hill and Prospect Heights.

Jacques Torres (66 Water St., between Main and Dock streets in DUMBO, (718) 875-1269). — Ben Muessig

SHOPPING

Hops to it

Buying beer in Greenpoint is about to become a gourmet experience.

Beer expert Ed Raven (pictured) says his newly opened Greenpoint Avenue booze boutique Browerj Lane will share more in common with high-class wine stores than beer distributors or bodegas.

"Wine shops look nice — they are attractive to go into, but nobody does that with beer," said Raven. The shelves in the spacious beer shop are lined with 150 varieties of bottled beers from Germany, Belgium, England and the United States. Drinkers looking to make a more substantial purchase from the brick-walled shop can refill 64-ounce growlers from Raven's 10 taps, which currently feature the rich and dry Jever Dark and the Belgian amber ale Grunt (growlers cost \$10, with a \$5 deposit on the bottle).

Browerj Lane was set to celebrate its grand opening on Saturday with a free beer tasting and goulash party catered by Fort Greene's Viennese bistro Thomas Beisl. Browerj Lane (78 Greenpoint Ave. at Franklin Street in Greenpoint, no phone). — Ben Muessig

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Salmon topped with bread crumbs & herbs

Filet Sole Bon Femme
Filet of sole, sautéed in a cream & white wine sauce

Petto di Pollo Principessa
Chicken breast sautéed & topped with asparagus, mozzarella & tomato

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Slam dance

Whizzing gizmos, flying trapezes, rooftop jumps, and revolving 20-foot floors — all part of STRIB dance company's opening show on March 27. Think of the show, titled "Catapult," as a poor man's Cirque du Soleil.

"We call it an action event," said Bobby Hedglin, director of the trapeze academy at S.L.A.M. (Strob Lab for Action Mechanics), the company's home on North First Street between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg.

"Performers are spinning and turning around on industrial objects and circus apparatuses. It's like extreme acrobatics. In one segment, dancers are in har-

nesses so they actually perform vertically on the wall."

Founder and chief choreographer, Elizabeth Streh, call her the Evel Knievel of dance, established the "extreme action" S.L.A.M. in 2003, combining dance with other disciplines like boxing, rodeo, circus and Hollywood stunt-work.

"She is an action architect," said Hedglin, referring to Streh. "She pushes the limits of the human body."

With the circus-like atmosphere, audience members can feel free to move around during the show, even watching from the trapeze mat. For a \$10 charity donation, they can become "co-pro-

ducers" of a new series of 10-second dances choreographed by Streh. The people at S.L.A.M. like to call it "the shortest dance with the longest credits."

The highlight of "Catapult" is the "whizzing gizmo," a seven foot yellow wheel that spins as dancers perform on — and in — it.

"Catapult" will run March 27-May 17 at S.L.A.M. 51 North First St., between Wythe and Kent avenues in Williamsburg. (718) 384-6491. Tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and under.

— Aisha Gawad



Shake it for Coney

One awesome party next week might not be enough to save Coney Island, but it can't hurt.

A night of punk rock, DJs, burlesque dancers and side-show acts — dubbed "Fight for Your Right to Coney!" — is geared towards raising money for Save Coney Island, a self-styled advocacy group whose name evokes a former amusement area buffeted by the closure of Astroland and the shuttering of bars and shops along the Boardwalk. The group is also critical of the city's plans to turn the area into a 24-7, 365 hotel and theme park attraction.

But you don't have to care about urban planning to shake your Coney-maker on the last day of March.

Diana Carlin, the creator

of Lola Staar's Dreamland Roller Rink near the Boardwalk, organized the bill that headlined by buccaneer band Jollyship the Whiz-Bang.

Also performing are Dyburn Saints, "a dark, haunting band," Carlin said, and Kissy Kamikaze.

"They're a little more rowdy, a little punk," said Carlin.

Five events have included strippers stuffing money into their bras — a fitting metaphor for Coney Island, if we ever heard one.

Coney Island benefit party at the Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus. (718) 643-6510]. Tuesday, March 31, 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$15 at the door. For info, visit www.fightforyourrighttoconey.com.

— Mike McLaughlin

Pite of spring

Melissa serves up a seasonal treat

By Melissa Murphy
for The Brooklyn Paper

When I grew up in upstate New York, one of the first signs of spring was the emergence of rhubarb "knuckles" in the garden. We'd put on our rubbers, trek through the muddy ground, and use our fingers to take away the dirt. And there they would be: the tiny ruby red nubs pushing up bravely through the soil.

Rhubarb is one of the first spring plants ready for harvest in the Northern hemisphere. Related to sorrel and rich in vitamin C and fiber, its color can range from deep red to pink to green with very little difference in flavor, although I prefer the color that the beautiful red hue can lend to my dishes. Rhubarb has a unique tart flavor that, when sweetened with sugar and combined with raspberries, strawberries, cherries or apples, adds a wonderful dimension to familiar fruit.

The best local rhubarb is available from mid-April through July, but some excellent tender red stalks are already showing up at Jen and Andy's produce on Court Street. Crisp but tender, their rhubarb is crimson in color, slender, glossy and beautiful.

At Sweet Melissa's, we use rhubarb



'Sweet' is a bit sour: Melissa Murphy of the Sweet Melissa patisserie shows off her raspberry rhubarb tart — perfect for spring!

in jams, muffins, cakes and crumbles, and, of course, in strawberry rhubarb pie. But for this recipe, I love the idea of tangy sweetened rhubarb set in a light custard that I flavored with pure vanilla

extract and orange zest. I thought the rhubarb would further benefit from being paired with fresh raspberries and baked in a cookie-like crust.

It's a great way to welcome spring.

Raspberry rhubarb custard tart with buttery walnut crust

Makes one 9-inch tart

FOR THE CRUST

- 1/2 cup walnuts, finely chopped by hand
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 tablespoons cold butter, cut into small pieces
- 1 large egg yolk
- 4 teaspoons heavy cream

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

In a large bowl, combine the walnuts, sugar, flour, and salt. Using a pastry blender, cut the cold butter into the flour mixture until the butter is the size of medium peas. Make a well in the center of the flour mixture.

In a separate small bowl, combine the egg yolk and the cream. Pour egg mixture into the well and toss gently with a fork until all the flour mixture is moistened. Turn out onto the work surface and knead very briefly by hand to bring the dough together.

Form into a six-inch round flat disk, wrap in plastic and refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Spray a nine-inch fluted tart pan with nonstick cooking spray. Lightly flour the work surface, and roll the dough into an 11-inch round and press into the tart pan. Don't worry if the dough cracks or breaks, you can patch it together and re-roll if needed.

Chill the crust for 20 minutes. Dock the crust with a fork about 10 times across the bottom. Bake the crust for 20-25 minutes or until just golden. Set aside to cool before filling.

FOR THE RHUBARB COMPOTE

- 1/2 pound fresh rhubarb, leaves removed, sliced into 1/2-inch pieces (about two cups)
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- Zest of 1/2 orange

In a medium saucepan, melt the butter. Add the rhubarb, sugar and orange zest and cook while gently stirring over medium heat until the rhubarb is tender, about five minutes. Set aside to cool.

FOR THE FILLING

- 1 cup fresh raspberries
- 1 large egg
- 1/4 cup sugar

- 3/4 teaspoon cornstarch
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 cup cream
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla

Prepared rhubarb compote

Place the tart crust on a lined cookie sheet. Scatter the raspberries into the bottom of the pre-baked crust. Set aside.

In a medium bowl, combine the egg with the sugar, cornstarch and salt and whisk until smooth. Stir in the cream and vanilla. Gently stir the cooled rhubarb compote into the custard and mix to blend thoroughly. Pour the mixture over the raspberries into the tart shell. Bake for 40-45 minutes or until set. Cool to room temperature and dust with powdered sugar and additional fresh raspberries for garnish before serving. May be served at room temperature or chilled.

Melissa Murphy is the chef/owner of Sweet Melissa Patisserie (175 Seventh Ave., between First and Second streets in Park Slope, (718) 502-9153; 276 Court St., between Butler and Douglas streets in Cobble Hill, (718) 855-3410). Full menu at www.sweetmelissapatisserie.com.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10
GOSPEL CONCERT: Campaign fundraiser for Saquan Jones. 5:10-7:30 p.m. Multi-Services Center 1758 Fulton St. between Howard and Ralph avenues in Bedford-Stuyvesant. (718) 363-2750.

THEATER, "BUS STOP": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "LA DIDONE": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "TIMES 36524": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "THE PRODUCTIONS": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

DANCE, "DARLING": Sam Kim's work-in-progress takes horror films as inspiration. \$15. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Arts Exchange 1621 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope. (718) 832-0018. www.baa.org

THEATER, "THE HEAVENS OF HELL": New comedy by BrooklynCNETheater. 5:30 p.m. St. John's Episcopal Church 9818 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. at Marine Avenue in Bay Ridge. www.brooklyntheater.com

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Corelli, Soler, Gervasio, Beethoven and others. \$35-\$20 students. 8 p.m. Bargemusic/Pulchri Ferry Landing. Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org

JAZZ, Lisa Mezzacappa Trio: 10 p.m. IBeam Music Studio 168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus. www.beamstudio.com

SAT. MARCH 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS: Free. Noon. See Saturday, March 21.

TOUR HISTORIC BUSHWICK: Sponsored by the Center for the Urban Environment. \$13 (95 students and seniors). 1 p.m. Meet at Graham and Metropolitan avenues. (718) 788-8500 ext. 217. www.theuic.org

DISCOVERY TOUR: 3 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

PERFORMANCE: "BUS STOP": 2 and 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

SATURDAY JAZZ SERIES: Hosted by Cully Biles. Free. 3 p.m. Spike Hill Tavern 1184 Bedford Ave. at North Seventh Street in Williamsburg. (718) 218-9737. www.spikehill.com

BELLA VOICE SINGERS: Women's choir presents work by American composers. Free. 3 p.m. Good Shepherd Lutheran Church 7420 Fourth Ave. at Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge. www.bellavoicesingers.org

STREET DANCE: 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

MUSIC, "ORPHIDS AND EUPHONIA": 3:30 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "LA DIDONE": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "TIMES 36524": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.



Puttin' on the fall: Paul Newman, in his most under-appreciated role, stars as Reggie Dunlop in "Slap Shot," easily the greatest sports movie ever. It will screen on March 21 at BAM.

21. THEATER, "THE PRODUCTIONS": 8 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

DANCE, "DARLING": 8 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

THEATER, "THE HEAVENS OF HELL": 8 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Bach, Copland and Brahms. \$20-\$20 students. 8 p.m. Bargemusic/Pulchri Ferry Landing. Old Fulton Street at the East River in DUMBO. (718) 624-2083. www.bargemusic.org

MUSIC, PRISCILLA HERDMAN: \$30-\$25 in advance. 8 p.m. First Unitarian Church 1199 Second St. between Clinton Street and Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights. (718) 288-5994. www.firstunitarian.org

SO PERCUSSION: Brooklyn-based percussion quartet. \$15 (10 students and seniors). 8 p.m. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music 158 Seventh Ave. between St. John and Lincoln places in Park Slope. (718) 622-3320. www.bbcm.org

THEATER, "PENNY DREADFUL": Part 12 of the adventure serial. 8:15, 11 p.m. Brick Theater 1575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg. (718) 907-6195. www.bricktheater.com

SALES AND MARKETS: Winter Antiques Fair. KET-Free. See Saturday, March 21.

OTHER: BUSINESS CONFERENCE: Learn about franchising, building your business, networking and preparing for the job market. Free. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Brooklyn Marriott 1333 Adams St. in Downtown Brooklyn. (718) 722-9217.

NEW FEMINIST ART SHOW:

ARSHIP: Symposium, including keynote address by curator and critic Cathy Lovelace. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Brooklyn Museum 1200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. (718) 638-5000. www.brooklynmuseum.org

RAISING CHILDREN WITH OUT RELIGION: Workshop led by Dale McGowan. \$40 (\$40 for couples). 1-4:30 p.m. Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture 153 Prospect Park West at Second Street in Park Slope. (718) 718-2972. www.bsec.org

FILM, "THE NAKED CIVIL SERVANT": 1975 film based on Quentin Crisp's autobiography. Free. 1:15 p.m. Tabla Rasa Gallery 1224 48th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunnyside. (718) 833-9100. www.tablarsa.com

FILM, "THE MACKINTOSH MAN": Part of the Paul Newman series. 5:15, 7 p.m. 6:50 p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org

READING, PAUL BACON: Author of "Bad Cop." Free. 2 and 8 p.m. Barnes & Noble Park Slope 267 Seventh Ave. at Fifth Street in Park Slope. (718) 532-9060.

FILM, "LARS AND THE REAL GIRL": Ryan Reynolds stars. Free. 3:15 p.m. Tabla Rasa Gallery 1224 48th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunnyside. (718) 833-9100. www.tablarsa.com

READING, SARAH VOWELL: Author of "The Worshippers." Free. 4 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Park Slope. (718) 220-7100.

FILM, "THE COLOR OF MONEY": 1946 MGM. Free. 5:15 p.m. 5:15

p.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org

ART OPENING: "Surface Contemporary Artists Interpret Landscapes." group show. Free. 6 p.m. 5642 Gallery 168 Seventh St. between Second and Third avenues, third floor in Gowanus. (718) 834-9060. www.brooklynartistsgym.com

NER AND DANCE: Party in support of M51. \$30 (\$45 in advance). 7 p.m. Beth Elshim 274 Garfield Pl. at Eighth Avenue in Park Slope. www.m51.org

ART OPENING: Scott Greenberg's digital collages. Free. 6 p.m. Open Source Gallery 255 17th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope. (646) 279-3969. open-source-gallery.org

SUN. MARCH 29

OUTDOORS AND TOURS:

CENTURY OF BIRD-WATCHING: Walk honors history of bird spotting in Prospect Park. Free. 7:30 a.m.-12 p.m. Prospect Park West and Prospect Park Southwest in Prospect Park. www.prospectpark.org/visit/education

DISCOVERY TOUR: 3 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

PERFORMANCE:

THEATER, "PENNY DREADFUL": 2 and 8 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

THEATER, "BUS STOP": 3 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

MUSIC, "ALL THAT JAZZ": Concert. Regina Opera presents Broadway favorites. \$10. 3 p.m. Reginal Hall 1230 65th St. at 12th Avenue in Midtown Heights. (718) 232-3555. www.reginaopera.org

BELLA VOICE SINGERS: 3 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

CLASSICAL CONCERT: Works by Bach, Copland and Brahms. 2 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

STREET DANCE: 3 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

MUSIC, "ORPHIDS AND EUPHONIA": 3:30 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

THEATER, "THE HEAVENS OF HELL": 4 p.m. See Friday, March 27.

THEATER, "LA DIDONE": 7 p.m. See Saturday, March 21.

SALES AND MARKETS: Winter Antiques Fair. KET-Free. See Saturday, March 21.

FLSA MARKET: Free. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. St. Firmin Church 138 Bay 20th St. at 8th Avenue in Bensonhurst. (718) 246-3323.

OTHER:

FILM, "COOL HAND LUKE": It's got Newman! 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. 11:30 a.m. Brooklyn Academy of Music 30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene. (718) 636-4100. www.bam.org

READING, MONICA REBEL: Author of "Beasts for the Cause." Free. Freebird Books 123 Columbia St. at 4th Street in Columbia Street West. (718) 643-8484. www.freebirdbooks.com

No good pint of Gersh's blood goes unpunished!

Who said you shouldn't drink and donate?

Actually, the New York Blood Center, which has pulled out of the Kelo of Brooklyn's "Pint for Pint" blood donation drive.

"They said we degraded the process of giving blood," said Kelo of Brooklyn brewmaster Kelly Taylor, whose company promised blood donors a free pint of beer after they donated a pint of blood.

"They read the story in The Brooklyn Paper and went all P.C. on us," added Taylor, saying that the Blood Center demanded that he remove the group's name from any announcements about the "Pint for Pint" promotion.

"It was like, 'We don't want to encourage people to give blood and drink beer. Well, why not? These are adults,'" Taylor said.

The irony, of course, is that I'm probably to blame for all the boiling blood in the Blood Center's corporate office. After all, Taylor is not actually encouraging people to give blood and then immediately replace the missing fluid with beer. That was our angle!

As we reported last month, one pint of Taylor's potent Kelo Nut Brown



By Garsh Kuntzman



Larger gets a 160-pound drinker to a blood-alcohol level of .03. But if you've relieved yourself of a pint of blood, Taylor's Web site, www.bloodhelp.net, instructs people to do a Google search for "blood donation locations."

The same New York Blood Center list typically comes up, he said.

So give from the heart — then lift a toast to yourself.

ter had a figurative heart attack. Taylor still doesn't get it.

"What's wrong with beer anyway?" he asked. "The families that need blood don't care how we get the blood. They just want the blood."

I did want the beer, so on Saturday, I did what any self, albeit cheap, citizen would do: I printed out the "Pint for Pint" coupon from Taylor's Web site and then headed to the Blood Center.

A few tricks later — I'm talking about the needles, silly! — and I had given the gift of life.

More important, I had the Blood Center receipt that would entitle me to my free pint.

The Blood Center did not return my calls, and Taylor is moving forward with his donation promotion.

But because the Blood Center objected, instead of providing a direct link to a list of local donation centers, Taylor's Web site, www.bloodhelp.net, instructs people to do a Google search for "blood donation locations."

The same New York Blood Center list typically comes up, he said.

So give from the heart — then lift a toast to yourself.

PIZZA...

Continued from page 1

The oven — ah, the famed coal-burning oven whose 900-degree fire birthed such wondrous

pies — was severely damaged by the torrents of water needed to squelch the blaze, which broke out at 8:44 a.m. on Saturday and was declared

under control at 10:35.

But Ciminieri said she would replace each brick.

Her customers, of course, are salivating over the possibilities.

"Totommo's is what makes Brooklyn pizza famous," says John Giannotta, who wanted

KIDDING...

Continued from page 1

"Maybe I'll be attacked for my position and maybe I'll get some criticism, but I'll come with the territory," said the hardware store owner and tenants' rights activist.

Abraham was right about one thing: the criticism is already coming.

Club President Lucy Koteen, who organized the event, said that Abraham's failure to attend would raise serious questions about his ability to hold office in a secular, multi-cultural city.

"How can someone who has so many restrictions on his life represent us?" she asked. "When you are on City Council, you have to go to funerals, you — if someone gets shot, are you not going to go because it's a

Catholic church?"

Koteen said that the group chose the basement of the Eighth Street church not because of its religious affiliation, but because it is the group's regular meeting place. Plus, she added, it is conveniently located.

"It isn't a religious space to my eyes, but of course I'm not looking from that perspective," she said, adding that she is looking for another site. "I'm sure this isn't the first time when Isaac is going to run into these problems."

The other five candidates are expected to attend the smoke-free endorsement forum in the space, which is used during the day by a neighborhood pre-school.

That secular use, however, did not deter Abraham

from practicing his faith his way.

"The meeting is in the same building as the church, so it's better off that I don't start bending rules," said Abraham, who in the past has stood outside churches during funerals so as not to violate Jewish law. "The most appropriate thing for me to do is not attend."

Fisher suggested that with good staffing, hard work, and a policy of meeting constituents outside of religious establishments, Abraham's religious convictions need not interfere with his Council responsibilities.

"That is the least of Isaac's problems," he added.

"The biggest political obstacle is articulating his views in a way that appeals to anyone outside of a narrow part of the district. . . It's what's under the yarmulke that counts, and not the yarmulke itself."

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MARCH RECOMMENDATIONS

These are Darrin's Best Buys for March!

Clos De L'Abbe Dubois Rose, by Clos de l'Abbe Dubois

Wish it was Spring and you were in Provence? A chilled glass of this chamer will almost take you there! Great with a roasted chicken, ham, cold cuts and salads or a simple sandwich, this delicious is a hint of the warm climate it comes from. What a lovely bouquet!

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Rose Row Sauvignon Blanc, by Marie Niel Durt

We were absolutely delighted to discover this range of wines from the Southwest of France: delicious, well-balanced and priced so well! This sauvignon is dry and crisp with mouth watering ripe pear and apple flavors. This is a great "food wine"!

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Sur Malbec-Cabernet Sauvignon, by Bodega Sur

Argentina brings us another winner! Our friend Mickey Vail lives in Argentina and finds some of our best tasting Best Buys for us! Here is a blend of Argentina's two most important grapes both originally from Bordeaux, making a wine that is a terrific match with steaks, burgers, roasts, stews, pastas, pizza and a full flavored cheeses. Smooth, rich and full bodied!

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Oxford Landing Shiraz, by Oxford Landing Estates

Everybody seems to love a good Shiraz! Flavors of ripe blackberries and hint of cracked peppercorns... all that and a lot more will be going on in your glass when you open a bottle of this best selling Shiraz. Big and bold, yet not hot or heavy, this one is just right on a chilly night!

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Darrin's March Discovery Wines!

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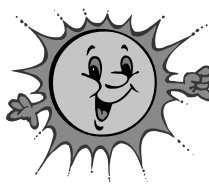


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Brooklyn Friends Summer Arts

375 Pearl St., Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 852-1029
Director: Rachel Webber, ext. 248
Ages: 8-12
June 17-July 31
Full day: 9 am-3 pm
Extended hours: 8:15 am-6 pm
Activities: In addition to swimming and outdoor play, you child can choose to work on sculpture, stop-action animation, songwriting, woodworking, printmaking, painting and drawing.

Camp Onas

(Oaker Sleepaway)
OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, Feb. 21, 10 am-12 pm
Bucks County, PA. (610) 847-5858, camponas.org
Director: Sue Neiger Gould, ext. 210
Ages: 8-13
June 28-Aug. 22 (four two-week sessions)
Activities: art (candle making, beading, tie-dye, weaving), sports, drama, outdoor skills (hiking, archery, gardening), aquatics and challenge activities (canoeing, rock climbing, zip line, backpacking).

Beth Elohim Summer Day Camps

274 Garfield Place, Park Slope, (718) 768-3814, ext. 210, congregationbethelohim.org
Elementary Division
Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
June 30 to Aug 15
Ages: entering K-4
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm

Activities: Swimming (instructional and recreational), arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, circus arts, trips 2 days per week

Movie On Travel Camp
Director: Bobbie Finkelstein
June 30 through Aug 15
Ages: entering grades 5-9
Full day: 9 am-5 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm
Activities: Daily trips, swimming, two 3-day overnights, pre-CIT program for kids entering grade 9

Kim's Kid's Summer Camp

P5 321, Seventh Avenue Park Slope, (718) 768-6419
Director: Dan Moinester
Ages: 4-11
June 30-Aug. 8
Full day: 9 am-4 pm
Extended hours: 8 am-6 pm
Flex weeks and number of days per week available.
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Park Explorers

OPEN HOUSE: Saturday, May 16, 10 am-1 pm
611 Eighth Ave., Park Slope, (718) 788-3620, parkexplorers.com
Director: Chris Altman (parkexplorers@yahoo.com)
Ages: 4-14
June 27 to August 29
Full day: 8:30 am-3:30pm
Extended hours: 10:30 am-6:30 pm
Early drop off: 8 am
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Park Slope Day Camp

OPEN HOUSE: Sunday, Mar. 22 and Aug. 30, 2 and 3 pm
In Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Bay Ridge, (718) 788-7732, parkslopedaycamp.com, campatparkslopedaycamp.com
Director: Konny Schindler
Ages: entering pre-K-9
June 30 to Aug 29
Full day: 8 am-4 pm, early dismissal optional for young kids. Extended hours to 6:30 pm
Transportation: Free morning shuttle from most Brownstone Brooklyn and Bay Ridge
Activities: Outdoor camp with sports, trips, gymnastics, drama, nature, Olympics, travel camp (featuring overnight trips), leadership program for grades 9 and 10. Accredited by the American Camp Association

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Late Drop:
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So, Smartmom ain't so smart?

Smartmom is terrified. What if people find out what a bad mom she really is?

Will she be fired from the now-Munich-owned Brooklyn Paper? Will Dumb Editor accuse her of being a boomer? Will her readers finally stop reading?

Well, it's not like she's a really bad mom. It's just that, as you know, she has this job writing a column called "Smartmom." Which might lead people to believe that she's smart about being a mom.

And maybe she is. Sometimes.

All of this came to mind the other night, when the *Oh So Fussy One* and *Smartmom* went to see the fluffy and fun, "Confessions of a Shopholic," about a college graduate named Rebecca Bloomwood, who writes a popular column in *Successful Living Magazine* called "The Girl in the Green Scarf" about the economic perils of debt and instant gratification.

But Rebecca has a secret: She has \$16,000 on her credit cards because of her incorrigible need to splurge on Christian Louboutin heels, knee-high red Pucci boots and a glittery array of designer handbags.

Smartmom could relate. No, Smartmom isn't a compulsive shopper (if anything, she pathologically hoards boxes of Amy's frozen pizza and macaroni and cheese in the freezer).

And she truly is a mom: her children really are 12 and 17. And believe it or not, everything she writes in these columns is true — if sometimes amplified a bit.

But she mistakes the constant parenting mistakes, that lead her to wonder what she's doing with her life, on a column named "Smartmom."

It all goes back to that fateful day at the now-defunct 10th Street Tail, when Dumb Editor offered her the promise of fame and fortune as a Brooklyn Paper columnist.

During that hyperactive interview, Smartmom never pretended to be a great mom or anything.

She told Dumb Editor that she and Hepcat were just modding through.

She didn't soup up her resume to include degrees in early childhood education or psychology.

She explained to Dumb Editor that the column would not be portrait of successful parenting. Quite the contrary: Smartmom and Hepcat were making every mistake in the book — and their kids were thriving anyway.

Her secret seemed to be OK with that. Something about Smartmom being the "everywoman, struggling with career, family, volunteer work, fame, need, anxiety, etc." Smartmom recalls Dumb Editor being a bit more eloquent, but you get the idea.

Still, sometimes Smartmom makes a smoker, but she doesn't know what to do about it. It brings her pain and anguish especially since her father died of cancer. It's not that she doesn't talk to him about it all the time. But what's a mom to do?

The mistakes that Smartmom makes are all over the map and she's the first to admit them. There was the time she let Teen Spirit miss a day of school because he thought he needed a "mental health day." Or when she encouraged OSPF and a pal to watch "Slumdog Millionaire," forgetting just how dark and sad



By Louise Crawford

mom wonders if the parenting police are going to come after her for all the big ticket mistakes she's makes on a regular basis. The cops will be like Derek Smeth, the debt collector in "Confessions of a Shopholic." Like Smeth, the parenting cops could really have a field day with Smartmom's recent transgressions.

Smartmom actually likes those shorty shorts that OSFO wears with the Acropolis logo on the butt. She even allows her to wear them. But maybe that's not such bad parenting after all. Smartmom believes in letting OSFO define her own style and be herself, which is actually good parenting (phew). Goodbye, 1970s-era feminist values. Hello, healthy self-esteem.

Smartmom actually let Teen Spirit order a mushroom and onion hamburger from the Purty with extra BBQ sauce when he was hungry at 11 pm after missing dinner at 7 pm. Yeah, she knows, she's reinforcing one bad behavior with another. But a boy's gotta eat.

She even knows that Teen Spirit is a smoker, but she doesn't know what to do about it. It brings her pain and anguish especially since her father died of cancer. It's not that she doesn't talk to him about it all the time. But what's a mom to do?

The mistakes that Smartmom makes are all over the map and she's the first to admit them. There was the time she let Teen Spirit miss a day of school because he thought he needed a "mental health day." Or when she encouraged OSPF and a pal to watch "Slumdog Millionaire," forgetting just how dark and sad

that movie can be.

And who can forget the time she went to the Grand Cascades, that hotel in New Jersey with OSFO and neglected to bring a hairbrush to her hotel room?

And there's more. She and Hepcat could be fired in the discipline department. They could say "no" far more often. They could worship their

children a little less.

Indeed, they are guilty of just about all the sins of contemporary parenting over-attachment, enmeshment, and too high an opinion of their spaw (a word Wise Gal would use).

So maybe there's a lesson in all this. The fictional column, "The Girl in the Green Scarf," struck a chord with her "readers" — even though it was written by a chronic over-spender.

In the same way, Smartmom strikes a chord with the readers of The Brooklyn Paper precisely because she's

not perfect and knows she doesn't do the parenting thing that well.

Maybe the imperfection allows the readers to recognize parts of themselves in her, which enables them to empathize a bit. Smartmom discusses universal concepts and no matter how she deals with them, people can learn a thing or two about what they're doing right — and wrong. They can sit back, relax and realize that maybe, just maybe, everything's going to turn out alright.

Not a bad trick. Anyone want to make a movie?

FAMILY CALENDAR

SAT, MARCH 21

11 am: Learn about dinosaurs. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org)

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Free. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400, www.prospectpark.org/audubon]

1 pm: Family singalong with Drew Petersen. \$20 (adult and one child), \$5 each additional child or adult. Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018, www.bae.org)

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." \$8 (\$7 kid, Puppetworks (338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, puppetworks.org)

SUN, MARCH 22

11 am: Melanie Hoppe Greenberg reads and signs her books, "A City Is" and "Good Morning, Digger." Free. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)

11 am: Learn about dinosaurs. Saturday, March 21.

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Saturday, March 21.

1-5 pm: Bell House Rocks. Bouncy castle, kid's music/

videos, educational entertainment and snacks. Music by Kenny Young and the Eggplants. \$10. The Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6370, www.thebellhouse.org)

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." Saturday, March 21.

2 pm: Kids singer Suzi Shelton performs. \$12. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at St. James Place in Park Slope, (718) 230-0236, www.spsounds.com)

2 pm: Kids activities and the music of Astronaut. \$15 (adult and one child), \$8 each additional child or adult. Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 Fifth Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope, (718) 832-0018, www.bae.org)

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." \$8 (\$7 kid, Puppetworks (338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-3391, puppetworks.org)

TUES, MARCH 24

11 am: Sing Along with Lloyd Miller. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)

5-7 pm: Vox Pop (1022 Corleone Rd. at Street Road in Flatbush, (718) 940-2084, www.voxpop.net)

WED, MARCH 25

1 pm: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)

4 pm: Skivley Temple in "Curly Top." \$6.50. Cobble Hill Cinema (265 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 624-3748, bigmovietheatrekids.blogspot.com)

THURS, MARCH 26

11 am: Dance Around with Nat. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)



Pop tart: Kids songstress Suzi Shelton will play Southpaw on Sunday, March 22.

Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)

6 pm: Nintendo Wii Sports Night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

FRI, MARCH 27

11:30 am: Storytime. \$2.50. Movie Spot (81 Atlantic Ave. between Hicks and Henry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 923-9710, themoviespot.com)

6:15 pm: Family movie night. Free. Movie Spot (see venue info above).

SAT, MARCH 28

10 am: Three-mile fitness walk in Prospect Park. \$10 (fundraiser). Meet up at Bartel Pritchard Square (Prospect Park West in Prospect Park, www.brooklyn-3mi.com)

11 am: Storytelling workshop (plus, Caribbean food). \$10 (child and adult), \$5 (additional child). Ronald Center (85 South Oxford St. between Lafayette and Greene avenues in Fort Greene, (718) 488-9233, www.ironlake.org)

11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about rainbows. Brooklyn Children's Museum (145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org)

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Saturday, March 21.

1 pm: Toddler tour of the Aquarium. Registration required. \$24 (\$16 members). New York Aquarium (502 Surf Ave. between W. Eighth and W. Fifth streets in Coney Island, (718) 265-3474, www.nyaquarium.com)

SUN, MARCH 29

11:30 am and 3 pm: Learn about rainbows. Brooklyn Children's Museum. Saturday, March 28.

Noon: Solar energy fair. Free. Hannah Senesh Community Day School (342 Smith St. at First Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 858-8663)

1 pm: Nature Crafts. Saturday, March 21.

1-5 pm: Bell House Rocks. Sunday, March 22.

12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show, "Sleeping Beauty." Saturday, March 21.

6 pm: BINGO/board games. Free. Movie Spot. See Sunday, March 22.

LEGAL NOTICE

New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc. Request for Extension of Inventory. PRO-2007 TITLE: Rehabilitation and Addictive Assessment of Existing Vacant Building into a Fifty (50) Beds Day Residential Facility including Support Areas. (DESIGNATION OF 500000-08 SERVICES) TO BE BID: New York Therapeutic Communities, Inc. is soliciting expression of interest for qualification and bidding of prospective General Contractors for this project located at 2071 Fulton Street, Brooklyn, NY. The project is a comprehensive wage job and single prime. The estimated cost is between \$5.5M to \$10.5M. The contract term for this project is 14 months. The scope of services includes but is not limited to: Addictive Assessment throughout the building; Rental of approximately 5000 sq. ft. including water, electric, services, heating, ventilation, air conditioning and the above specified building for electric services, heating, ventilation, air conditioning of a new structure and more. QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: Interested firms must submit an original proposal with a Statement of Qualifications. Firms shall provide proof of: Successful completion during the last five years of a minimum of five projects of similar size and complexity with names, addresses and telephone numbers of the design consultant and owners of those projects; Financial and bonding capacity; Current operating status; A valid Quality Control Plan; A written Safety Plan; Experience with public client; Firms deemed qualified from this solicitation will be invited to bid and awarded only on the basis of Contract Documents for preparation of the Bid. EXPIRATION OF INTEREST DUE DATE: March, 2009. OFFICE LOCATION WHERE BIDS SHOULD BE DELIVERED OR SERVICE PERFORMED: 2071 Fulton Street Brooklyn, New York 11220. CONTACT: Ronald Williams - President/ CEO New York Therapeutic Communities Inc. 208 West 27th Street, 21st Floor New York, NY 10008 BP 11-12

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