Naughty or nice?

State Sen. Marty Golden has a twinkle in his eye as he sits on Santa's lap at the Lady Moody Triangle tree lighting in Gravesend on Dec. 4. For more, see page 2. Photo by Steve Solomonson

DRONE STRIKE!

Our photog injured by TGI Friday’s copter

BY VANESSA OGLE

Turns out a moment of awkwardness wasn’t the worst that could happen when a popular family restaurant chain unleashed indoor aircraft with the mission of prompting diners to kiss on camera.

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“We do not let consumers touch it,” said Frances Karko.

Continued on page 12
Gravesend kicks off Christmas season with tree lighting

BY VANESSA OGLE

The Christmas spirit is brightening up the neighborhood!

The annual Christmas tree lighting at the Lady Moody Triangle in Gravesend on Dec. 4 featured seasonal songs and holiday dance routines. The celebration was the perfect way to kick off the winter season and spread Christmas cheer, said one elected official who attended the celebration.

“The Christmas tree lighting was great way to usher in the holiday spirit here in our community,” said state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge).

Students from PS 95 sang Christmas classics and showed off their dance moves while the crowd sipped on hot chocolate, and cheerleaders from IS 228 David A. Boody spread Christmas cheer.

But no Christmas celebration is complete without jolly old St. Nick, and Santa Claus jetted from the North Pole to celebrate the winter festivities with the community.

Golden said the red-suited hero was the reason the night was so magical.

“I felt the true excitement of the season among us all — and I know that the special visit from Santa Claus had something to do with it,” said Golden, who gleefully licked a candy cane while seated on Santa’s lap.

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Coney wants cops
Fearful residents appeal for more police

BY MAX JAEGER

They’re calling it a cop out.
Mayor De Blasio’s updated four-year financial plan doesn’t boost the police department’s uniformed head count, but critics say the mayor has to grow the force to keep pace with the city’s rising population — especially in neighborhoods like Coney Island where violence remains a problem.

“If the city is growing — and the mayor boasts of it — we need to increase the budget for the NYPD,” said Councilman Mark Treyger (D–Coney Island). “There have to be more police officers.”

There are currently 34,483 uniformed officers on the force, and the mayor plans to keep that level static through June 2018, according to an updated financial plan released Nov. 25. Maintaining the force’s current size will reduce the number of police per capita as the population continues to grow, say critics. In 2000, there were 202 New Yorkers for every police officer — in 2014 there were 244 people per cop, according to census data.

Even the raw numbers are at record lows, according to another councilman.

“There are 6,000 fewer police officers patrolling our streets than there were on Sept. 11, 2001,” said Councilman Vincent Gentile (D–Bay Ridge). “Indeed, I don’t recall the head counts in the precincts in my district ever being lower than they are today.”

Not hiring additional police will have a negative impact on Coney Islanders, according to locals who say they need more police to quell rising violence in the neighborhood’s impoverished residential sections. The People’s Playground saw a bloody summer and a fall full of gunfire.

The neighborhood has seen a “razor thin decrease” in shooting incidents, according to 60th Precinct commanding officer Deputy Inspector James Rooney, with 21 so far this year and 22 this time last year.

But, several recent incidents that left locals with bullet holes in homes do not toward that statistic because bullets didn’t strike anyone, according to police and lawmakers. Patrols vary, but there are typically five to six cars working the beat in each precinct, police said.

One Mermaid Avenue homeowner and neighborhood leader whose home has been caught in neighborhood crossfire longed for the days when the police were a common sight on city street corners.

“Growing up, we always had the police on the beat — they knew who we were and we knew who they were,” said Pamela Pettyjohn.

HOLE IN THE FORCE:
Coney Islander Pamela Pettyjohn points to the spot where an errant bullet hit her neighbor’s home last month. Pettyjohn said a stronger police presence on area blocks would deter violence, but police officials say they don’t have the manpower.

EXPANSION IN TANDEM:
Councilman Mark Treyger says the police force needs to keep pace with the city’s population growth.

FILE PHOTO BY STEVE SOLOMONSON

Fearful residents appeal for more police

McKinley Park lights up for the holidays

BY MAX JAEGER

McKinley Park is shining!
Neighbors came together for a tree-lighting ceremony in the park that straddles the border between Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights on Dec. 3.

One resident who recently moved to Bay Ridge from Brooklyn Heights said she didn’t really miss the yuletide blow-out at Borough Hall, because the Ridge lighting was so spectacular.

“We were really impressed with the one at McKinley,” said Marianne Ponton. “It was so fun and festive, and the kids had such a great time.”

State Sen. Martin Golden hosted the event, which included free hot chocolate, Christmas carols, and an early visit from Santa Claus, who doled out candy canes and seated starry-eyed kids on his knee for a holiday tete-a-tete.

The concert band from IS 201 played a set of holiday tunes, but a song from a blockbuster movie stole the show.

“The kids got especially excited when they heard the song from ‘Frozen,’” Ponton said. “All of the kids were singing ‘Let It Go.’”

The Oscar-winning tune — penned by a couple of Brooklyn songsmiths — struck a chord with kids, but the more staid classics resonated with adults, according to the band’s director.

“There were enough adults there to appreciate the Christmas carols,” said director John Altieri.

HIGHLIGHTS:
HITS THE SPOT: Gemma Poton enjoys a cup of cocoa on a chilly December evening at the McKinley Park Christmas tree lighting.

FILE PHOTO BY GEORGINA BENVENUTO

HOLE IN THE FORCE:
Coney Islander Pamela Pettyjohn points to the spot where an errant bullet hit her neighbor’s home last month. Pettyjohn said a stronger police presence on area blocks would deter violence, but police officials say they don’t have the manpower.

FILE PHOTO BY STEVEN SCHNIBBE

LIGHT IT UP: Santa, fire department Capt. Paul Brincat, and state Sen. Martin Golden illuminate the park’s tree.
Pol: Landmark the Boardwalk
Coney councilman seeks preservation status to prevent cement replacement

BY VANESSA OGLE

Giving Coney Island’s iconic wooden Boardwalk the same landmark protection as Prospect Park could be the only way to thwart the city’s plans to reconfigure it in concrete and plastic, according to the area’s councilman.

Councilman Mark Treyger (D–Coney Island) is pushing to get the Riegelmann Boardwalk landmarked as a way to halt work on the Brighton Beach section of the Boardwalk to rip up the hardwood boards and replace them with concrete and plastic slats.

The city started construction on the Brighton Beach section last month but the community isn’t giving up the fight to save the wooden walkway, saying that the iconic Boardwalk is essential to the city’s history and should be protected as one of the city’s scenic landmarks.

“This to me is an issue that goes beyond Coney Island — this structure has a role in New York history,” Treyger said of the 91-year-old Boardwalk named after former Borough President Edward J. “Ned” Riegelmann. “There are so many New Yorkers that can recall stories of going to the Boardwalk with their families and friends.”

Treyger wrote a letter to the city’s Landmarks Preservation Committee last week urging it to designate the Boardwalk as a scenic landmark. He said the designation is rare but there are several sites in the city — including Central Park and Prospect Park — that have secured the status. He said the Boardwalk deserves to be landmarked and residents shouldn’t be punished because they have less wealth than other neighborhoods.

“I will be working with my colleagues in government and the community to advocate for what we believe is a public treasure in our part of New York that historically has not been given the level of attention it deserves,” Treyger said. “We hear about this theme of two cities — certain well-to-do areas get more resources.”

The Parks Department said it plans to convert the 2.5-mile Boardwalk — which stretches from the border of Sea Gate to Brighton 14th Street — into a plastic and concrete path to ensure a more “sustainable” walkway. But Treyger said that cement surfaces can’t protect residents from severe weather as well as the wooden Boardwalk.

“Tell the residents of New Orleans that their concrete levees were safer,” he said, alluding to the flooding during Hurricane Katrina. “Mother Nature will destroy anything in her path she wants to.”

One local said the cement Boardwalk is the Parks Department’s way to avoid routine maintenance that future generations would regret. He said a cement Boardwalk will permanently deface the area but he agreed a landmark classification could stop the destruction of the icon.

“IT is kind of like vandalizing the Boardwalk — it is a short-sighted solution that future generations will wonder how this happened,” said Charles Denson, the director of the Coney Island History Project. “Landmarking it would prevent this sort of plan in the future.”
Drone strike in S’head Bay
Our photographer injured by wayward TGI Friday’s mistletoe copter

BY VANESSA OGLE

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Quiones isn’t worried that the drone strike on Benvenuto will be the kiss of death for the restaurant chain’s Mobile Mistletoe holiday promotion, saying that people won’t be scared away because they already know — and disregard — the risks. “If people get hurt, they’re going to come regardless. People get hurt in airplanes, they still fly,” Quiones said. “There is a risk involved — anything flying, there is risk.”

MISTLETOE MADNESS: Our intrepid photographer Georgine Benvenuto was cut in the face by the drone. Community News Group / Vanessa Ogle

COPPE KISS: George and Carmen Gonzalez, who have been coming to TGI Friday’s for about 16 years, kissed underneath a drone carrying mistletoe at the Sheepshead Bay eatery on Dec. 4. Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

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This couple has just the thing for the lactose-intolerant, nut-allergic, vegan chocoholic in your life!

The husband-and-wife Brighton Beach chocolatiers behind Brooklyn Dark — a dairy-free, organic chocolate company — have treats that everyone can eat up this holiday season. Brooklyn Dark’s treats are made with dark chocolate and hemp seeds, and without common allergens like gluten and nuts.

“Our goal is to be the healthiest chocolate in the world right now — and the tastiest, obviously,” said Lev Kelman, who started the company with his wife, Lori Denman, three years ago. “If you have someone vegan in your family and you don’t know what to give them, this is the perfect gift. If you know someone who wants to be healthy, this is the perfect choice.”

The chocolates are made with hemp seeds and high concentrations of cacao beans, which Kelman said offers a rich taste that allows the couple to use less sugar and fat. Kelman said Brooklyn Dark is the first company to use hemp seeds as a standard ingredient — and he said the small seeds pack a mighty punch.

“The hemp seed is what truly sets each of our Brooklyn Dark products apart — not only in taste and texture, but for health benefits as well,” said Kelman. “Hemp seeds are a nearly perfect food source. They contain digestible protein, healthy Omega fatty acids, and naturally occurring vitamins and minerals.”

The chocolate flavors include classic hemp, orange silk, open sesame, and Moroccan spice. The company’s newest flavor is Pop Star, which contains popcorn. Kelman said he created the crunchy flavor to entice folks who are new to cacao-heavy dark chocolate.

“It could introduce other people to higher-content chocolate, like ‘Oh, it is popcorn,’” he said. “This is enticing people to try something they’d never try anytime else.”

Kelman said the organic ingredients can even offer women relief for premenstrual syndrome.

“The change during the time, women lose a lot of metal. Magnesium and hemp helps regulate that,” he said.

But the chocolate isn’t gender specific. Denman said residents who try the chocolate will enjoy it so much, they’ll want to share it with their friends.

“It is also a good regulator of mood,” said Denman. “It is a gift and re-gift.”

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**EAT UP!**

Lori Denman and Lev Kelman show off the different flavors of Brooklyn Dark chocolate — all flavors are dairy-free, gluten-free, and nut-free.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

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**The caring chocolatiers**

Couple makes hypo-allergenic treats

**BY VANESSA OGLE**

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Police arrested a man on Dec. 3 who they said robbed a Surf Avenue woman and threatened to rape her in public if she called the police.

The suspect and the victim live in the same apartment building, between W. 30th and W. 31st streets, police said. The guy allegedly followed the woman and harassed her as she walked her kids to school at 7:45 am.

Then police say he cornered her in a stairwell of the apartment building, grabbed her by the hair, and threw her to the ground before taking her tablet computer. After allegedly beating and robbing the woman, officials say the man threatened her, saying “If you call the cops, I’m gonna violate you in the street.”

The woman told police that the 37-year-old lives with his mother and has no job or car, police said. Officers went to the man’s home, arrested him, and recovered the computer, a police report states.

Socked hard

Some punks at an Ocean Parkway high school beat a kid so badly on Dec. 1 that they broke his eye socket.

The victim was eating lunch at the school between West Avenue and Shore Parkway at 12:45 pm when someone threw food at him, police said. He confronted the punks, who told him they were looking for a fight, a police report states.

The bell rang, and the kids dispersed, but the punks jumped the victim in the stairwell, officials said.

Teens mob guy

A horde of juveniles jumped a guy on Brighton Beach Avenue on Dec. 5.

The 40-year-old victim was between Ocean Parkway and Brighton First Street at 3:42 pm when someone came out of nowhere and punched him in the face, police said.

As he tried to run, about 20 kids between the ages of 16 and 18 hit him and smacked him with a blunt object, a police report states. The punks took the guy’s cellphone and they fled to the Brighton Beach Avenue Q train station.

Caught a stray

Someone shot a man while he was walking home from a W. 33rd Street grocery store on Dec. 1.

An unknown shooter fired four to five shots between Bayside and Neptune avenues at 3:40 pm, and one struck the guy’s thigh, police said.

Paramedics took him to Lutheran Medical Center and was not likely to die from the wound, officials said.

— Max Jaeger
# Holiday Hours

**November 2014**

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*Some stores may open at 6pm.*

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Having a ball for Coney kids

BY MAX JAEGER

There’s no disguising a fun time.

More than 100 people covered their faces and opened their wallets at a masquerade ball benefiting the youth-mentoring program Coney Island Generation Gap at Rex Manor Catering Hall in Dyker Heights on Dec. 4. While the adults played, young members of the organization were busy raising money for a spring trip, the group’s director said.

“We had all our youth there as the paparazzi filming and taking photos,” said director Pamela Harris.

Coney Island Generation Gap raised $6,500 toward an April cruise that will whisk 20 kids and Harris through Jamaica, Mexico, and the Cayman Islands. But the holiday won’t just be a lark — Harris is turning the trip into an educational scavenger hunt, she said.

“They have a lot of questions they’re going to have to answer — math, geology, geography — we don’t just take them on trips and let them eat bon bons,” Harris said.

Guests at the masquerade were treated to food and fun, with a photo booth and raffles to raise money for the youth group.

The organization also honored community leaders, including hero Brian Gottlieb, who broke several toes and took 13 stitches stopping an out-of-control soap box derby car at the Generation Gap’s annual downhill race in August.

FILLING THE GAP: (Left) Officer Eric Castagliola — the 60th Precinct’s crime prevention officer — won an award at Coney Island Generation Gap’s masquerade gala on Dec. 4. His wife, Aidee, joined him for the honor. (Center) Brian Gottlieb won the Heroism Award for stopping an out-of-control soap box derby car during a summer race in Coney Island. (Above) Kayla Lorenzana was on hand to give out raffle tickets.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

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sak, a spokeswoman for the restaurant chain.

Diners at the Harkness Avenue eatery were more amused than threatened by the kiss-coaxing drones looming overhead, saying Benvenuto’s injury was just a flesh wound.

“It was like a scratch on her nose,” said Karim Turner of Yonkers, who didn’t witness the incident but saw a photo of the result. “I’ve seen far more worse blood than that.”

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**DRONE**

Continued from cover

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Diners at the Harkness Avenue eatery were more amused than threatened by the kiss-coaxing drones looming overhead, saying Benvenuto’s injury was just a flesh wound.

“It was like a scratch on her nose,” said Karim Turner of Yonkers, who didn’t witness the incident but saw a photo of the result. “I’ve seen far more worse blood than that.”

Another man, who happily kissed his wife under the heavy downdraft of the larger drone, said the flying toy might even make a good Christmas gift for his wife.

“If you wanna bring it to the house, she’s gonna blow dry her hair with it,” said George Gonzales, who has been coming to TGI Friday’s with his wife for their twice-a-week “date night” for almost 16 years.

Quiones isn’t worried that the drone strike on Benvenuto will be the kiss of death for the restaurant chain’s Mobile Mistletoe holiday promotion, saying that people won’t be scared away because they already know — and disregard — the risks.

“If people get hurt, they’re going to come regardless. People get hurt in airplanes, they still fly,” Quiones said. “There is a risk involved — anything flying, there is risk.”

**Continued from cover**
**Holiday Gift Sets**

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**COURIER LIFE, DEC. 12-18, 2014**
The Christmas spirit is brightening up the neighborhood! The annual Christmas tree lighting at the Lady Moody Triangle in Gravesend on Dec. 4 featured seasonal songs and holiday dance routines. The celebration was the perfect way to kick off the winter season and spread Christmas cheer, said one elected official who attended the celebration.

“The Christmas tree lighting was a great way to usher in the holiday spirit here in our community,” said state Sen. Marty Golden (R–Bay Ridge).

Students from PS 95 sang Christmas classics and showed off their dance moves while the crowd sipped on hot chocolate, and cheerleaders from IS 228 David A. Boody spread Christmas cheer.

But no Christmas celebration is complete without jolly old St. Nick, and Santa Claus jetted from the North Pole to celebrate the winter festivities with the community.

Golden said the red-suited hero was the reason the night was so magical.

“I felt the true excitement of the season among us all — and I know that the special visit from Santa Claus had something to do with it,” said Golden, who gleefully licked a candy cane while seated on Santa’s lap.
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If you suffer from bleeding gums we have treated hundreds of cases with no cutting and no sutures and the results are incredible.
Christmas cheer was part of this balanced breakfast! Kids jumpstarted the Yuletide festivities at King Plaza’s “Breakfast with Santa” in Mill Basin on Dec. 6. The youngsters dined and danced to celebrate the jolly old elf’s early arrival to neighborhood.

The children chowed down on bagels with cream cheese or jelly, and when they finished eating, they danced alongside Santa’s helpers. One parent said the music at the event — which included Christmas classics and pop hits — pumped up her daughter for the holiday season.

“She enjoyed it immensely — she was on stage dancing,” said Sharon Mendoza, who lives in Flatbush and watched her daughter, Jordan Campbell, shimmy onstage. “They did play holiday songs, like the Mariah Carey one, and some pop culture music that the kids now.”

Santa also told the youngsters the story of “The Night Before Christmas” and he answered their questions about the timeless tale. Mendoza said her daughter is already looking forward to Santa’s next visit.

“She really does look forward to it every year,” she said.

CHRISTMAS CHEER: (Above) Santa Claus jetted in from the North Pole to greet children at Kings Plaza’s Breakfast with Santa in Mill Basin on Dec. 6. (Center) One of Santa’s helpers, Tamara Delane, shows the kids Christmas dance moves. (Right) Jordan Campbell munches on a bagel. Photos by Steve Solomonson

Noshing with St. Nick

BY VANESSA OGLE

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Finally! A place to buy $3.75 doughnuts on Flatbush Avenue!

The upscale Manhattan chain Doughnut Plant opened its first Brooklyn location on Dec. 3 in a triangular building bounded by Bergen Street and Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights. The business is known for its big pastries that come in out-there flavors, currently including marzipan, carrot cake, and gingerbread, just in time for the holidays. The confections range in price from $3.25 to $3.75, a far cry from the buck-or-so Dunkin’ Donuts charges, but customers we quizzed say you get what you pay for.

“It’s worth the price,” said Preston House, who trekked out from his home in Queens to snag a treat. “You’re not going to get quality without paying for it.”

There are five Dunkin’ Donuts locations within a mile of the Doughnut Plant outpost, but the Plant’s proprietor said he has never paid attention to the competition.

“When we started, we were the only ones making our doughnuts from scratch,” said Mark Israel, who opened his first shop in 1994. “I just focus on what I’m doing, not on the big chains.”

The new location was packed with devotees on its second day.

“When I lived in Maryland I would get a doughnut every time I visited New York,” said Ore Roberts, who now lives in Flatbush. “When I found out it was opening here I was watching and just waiting for it to open.”

Israel said he had long been courted by former Borough President Marty Markowitz, who once supposedly went so far as driving him around Brooklyn pointing out potential spots to open up shop.

“But it wasn’t until Israel laid eyes on the distinctive storefront on Flatbush, formerly home to a Yummy Taco, that he knew it would work.”

Israel is not the only one excited about his newest shop. The official Twitter account of the 78th police precinct, the station-house of which is kitty-corner on Sixth Avenue, retweeted three tweets hailing the store’s opening.

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NEWS BITE: Courier doughnut correspondent Noah Hurowitz samples a marzipan doughnut from Prospect Heights’s newest round confection spot.

Time to make the doughnuts

Fancy doughnuts on Flatbush Avenue

BY NOAH Hurowitz
Finally! A place to buy $3.75 doughnuts on Flatbush Avenue!

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“But it wasn’t until Israel laid eyes on the distinctive storefront on Flatbush, formerly home to a Yummy Taco, that he knew it would work.”

“I wanted to find the right building,” he said, pointing out rows of doughnut-evoking tiles inside and out, which predate Doughnut Plant. “I really liked the character and personality of this one.”

Israel is not the only one excited about his newest shop. The official Twitter account of the 78th police precinct, the station-house of which is kitty-corner on Sixth Avenue, retweeted three tweets hailing the store’s opening.
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BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

They’ll leave the lights on for us.

The holiday season is in full swing in Brooklyn, and Fort Greene Park and Boerum Hill got in on the action last weekend with two tree lightings. One mom braved cold, soggy weather to bring her daughter out to Fort Greene’s Sunday shin-dig.

“It was freezing, but it was fun,” said Kerry Odom, who came from Crown Heights to the tree lighting in Fort Greene Park with her daughter. “The people were so warm you didn’t notice.”

Hot chocolate and cookies made their way around the crowd as well, in case yuletide cheer was not enough to keep attendees toasty. The modest tree, at the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park corner of the green space, is sponsored by the Myrtle Avenue Business Improvement District and the Fort Greene Park Conservancy. The tree and the event were the perfect size for Odom.

“A lot of times at the big tree lightings you’re stuck watching from far away,” she said. “This was very intimate.”

Also in attendance to pose for photos was Santa Claus, a celebrity resident of the North Pole section of the Arctic Circle, known for his annual gift-giving frenzy. Claus took one 2-year-old onlooker by surprise.

“She was terrified of Santa,” said Sydney Hollon-King, whose 2-year-old daughter Stella was not familiar with Saint Nick’s backstory. “I really need to give her some more context surrounding Santa so she understands.”

Nevertheless, the lighting was a grand old time, the elder Hollon-King said.

“I really appreciate how diverse the crowd was,” she said. “But it felt like we all belonged. There was a real community feeling.”

Claus was fresh off a stop-over on Atlantic Avenue at the Belarusian Church last Friday. The Atlantic Avenue Local Development Corporation threw that lighting, which also included singers from PS 38, refreshments, and a toy drive.

Jeanine and Justine Es-pinosas, 10-year-old twins from Boerum Hill, turned out to see the holiday activity. Their mom said she tries to bring them every year.
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Running of the Santas

BY MAX JAEGER
Santa Claus is running through town.
A cadre of red-suited joggers took to the Shore Road Promenade for Bay Ridge’s second annual Santa Shuffle 5k on Dec. 6. The dash’s organizer said the jolly holiday suits are a great way to get people moving.

“We found that, when you try to get people to come to a competitive race, only certain people will come,” said John Edwards, founder of the Rockaway Running Series.

“You see people running on the street and ask come to a 5k and they say ‘naw.’ But when they put a Santa Claus suit on somebody, they lose all inhibitions and participate.”

The weather outside was indeed frightful that Saturday, when temperatures dipped into the low 30s and a wintry mix of rain and snow came in bursts, but that just made the post-race celebration at Pipin’s Pub all the more cozy, one runner said.

“The rain started at the same time as the race, but after the race, being all together and socializing was really, really nice,” said Alicia Sanchez, a Manhattan resident who was the first woman to finish the run.

Sanchez and men’s first-finisher Jimmy Butler walked away with cheesecakes from Edwards’ Long Island bakery. The prize was a hit with friends, Sanchez said.

“I took the cake to my office to share with my coworkers — now they are asking me when I’m going to run the race again,” Sanchez said.

She’ll have another chance on Dec. 14, when the Shuffle tramps through Prospect Park.

“Prospect Park Santa Shuffle 5k” at Bartel Pritchard Square corner of Prospect Park West and Prospect Park Southwest, (917) 287-7280, www.rockapulcorun.com, Dec. 14 at 11 am. $35.

NO SLEIGH NEEDED: (Left) A mob of merry-makers braved the soggy weather to trot through a Santa-themed 5k in Bay Ridge on Dec. 6. (Center) Rockaway Runners director John Edwards and time-keeper John Lovett present victory prize cheesecakes to race winners Alicia Sanchez and Jimmy Butler. (Above) The wintry mix didn’t stop Alicia Sanchez from finishing first in the women’s division. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto.
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BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

A Dumbo gallery and venue is moving to the Motor City.

In a stunning reversal of the Great Hipster Migration that has defined the part of Brooklyn nearest to the East River for going on two decades, Galapagos Art Space is packing it up and starting a new life in the Midwest. The move will end a 19-year run in the borough, first in Williamsburg, then, starting in 2008, in Dumbo. The head of the operation says that it may be setting out for more post-apocalyptic pastures, but it will remain Kings County to the core.

“We were born in Brooklyn. We grew up in Brooklyn,” said Robert Elmes, executive director at Galapagos. “We’ll always be a Brooklyn venue.”

Galapagos had enjoyed below-market rent at its space on Main Street between Water and Plymouth streets courtesy of its landlord Two Trees, the developer that made Dumbo the real-estate pressure cooker it is today by carefully cultivating an artistic community there. But now the lease is up and, though Two Trees is willing to keep the rent below what it could charge, it is asking too much, Elmes said.

“Increasing costs forced Galapagos to make a move to Dumbo in 2008. There Elmes’s team increased the size of the space as well as the size of the venue’s signature centerpiece, its indoor lake. The size of that lake will increase again when the group moves to the Great Lakes region, with the water feature taking up about as much space as a Major League Baseball infield.”

“In Detroit there’s time and space,” he said. “And the people are coming.”

Williamsburg’s scene was more established than the bankrupt city’s is now, Elmes explained, but Galapagos can make it there.

“We’re confident we can do well in Detroit,” he said. “Even if we’re a little earlier than we were in Williamsburg.”

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“We love lakes,” Elmes said.

Galapagos is forming a veritable arts archipelago, having purchased nine buildings, including five on one block in Highland Park, three elsewhere in the city, and one in the Corktown neighborhood of Detroit proper. Elmes plans to develop a large main performance space complemented by smaller stages and a gallery space. He would not disclose the exact cost of the properties, but said it

Continued on page 38
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Community News Group held its holiday party at Buckley's in Sheepshead Bay on Dec. 8, and it was a boisterous bash with an open bar, a delectable dinner, and some daring dance moves.

But the best part of the night was the bonding between the Brooklyn, Bronx, and Queens employees, according to an account executive, who added that she liked chatting with her coworkers in the social setting.

“It was the camaraderie between all three offices — that was my favorite part,” said Shanika Stewart, account executive for Brooklyn Family. “Outside of work — always a pleasure. You get to know the real them outside of their work representation.”

Employees dined on appetizers including crab cakes and shrimp before the lavish main course of salad, tilapia, chicken Parmesan, and green beans. Between bites, the intrepid employees boogied down on the dance floor, as the deejay played hip hits, like “Cupid Shuffle,” and classics, like “Sweet Caroline.”

The bash was a stress-free shindig, according to one employee, who said the night was all about bonding with his fellow employees and enjoying the finer things in life.

“It was good to blow off some steam with my co-workers,” said John Napoli, a graphic artist who works in the production department. “I had a blast, the pigs in the blanket were awesome, and they had two types of mustard.”

The night ended on a sweet note with cake and chocolate chip cookies for dessert — but one staffer said the party was the true treat.

“What a rollicking revel it was,” said staff writer Shavana Abruzzo.
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Dr. Nick Chiappetta
The holidays are typically everyone’s favorite time of the year. They’re filled with family, festivities, good cheer and delicious food. But for anyone juggling parental duties, work and online learning, relaxing and enjoying the season can be a challenge.

Desiree Carr, a mother of three with a full-time job, knows pursuing a college degree and balancing holiday demands is no easy task. “Carving out time to study on top of my kids’ schedules, a 40-hour work week and setting time aside to spend with my husband can be daunting at times,” Carr said. “For me, a healthy balance and support from my family is the key to making everything work. And honestly, some weeks are tougher than others — especially during the holidays when there are so many distractions.”

Carr’s goal is to earn a bachelor’s degree in political science to move ahead in her career, which helps keep her focused, even in the most trying times. She plans to complete her degree through an online program, and then continue on to law school. Having these goals constantly top of mind helps her remain motivated during the holidays despite the mistletoe and cheesecake.

For working parents pursing an online education, constant motivation is a great first step in achieving your career goals. Here are some other best practices to keep in mind that will allow you to balance schoolwork, family and holiday preparations while still enjoying the most festive time of the year:

**Set up a support system in advance**
Let your friends and family know in advance that you’ll need their support preparing for the holidays. Share your educational goals and how you are planning to accomplish them, and let your family know how important it is to have their support. Instead of doing all the cooking for holiday gatherings, ask your friends and family to each bring a dish. This will save you several hours and give you more time to study. If you have school-age children, study with them to keep their minds active over the holidays. It’s a great bonding experience and will show your kids just how important learning is for both of you.

**Create a study environment that helps you excel**
Chances are your house will be full of loud voices, laughter and commotion during the holidays. A quiet workplace without interruption from your family and holiday preparations while still enjoying the most festive time of the year could be challenging. “I recommend going to a local coffee shop for a couple hours every morning,” Carr said. “If you stay home to study over the holidays, there’s a good chance you’ll be interrupted and tempted to catch up with your family instead of studying.”

**Frequently communicate with your classmates**
Your classes may be online, but you should still connect with your classmates on a regular basis over the holidays via the online discussion boards. “I often found that other students in my classes were facing similar challenges on assignments so we helped guide each other in the right direction with the support of our professors,” Carr said. If students from your classes live near you, form a study group to interact in person as well as online.

The holidays can be a stressful time of the year, but the added responsibility of online studies doesn’t have to add to the stress if you plan ahead. Enjoy the holidays and make this special time with your family a priority, but don’t let your studies fall to the wayside. Trying to catch up and get back on track after the holidays can lead to unnecessary pressure. Remain focused on your end goal of completing your degree and the gift that this accomplishment will bring to you and your family.
Toys and games are sure to be on kids’ gift lists this holiday season. Many parents will hope to mix in something practical with all the fun, aiming to give a gift that can help children of any age do their best in school. With technology in common use in classrooms across the country, many parents will shop for laptops, notebooks or other devices that can help facilitate learning.

Around 58 percent of students use a laptop, notebook or Chromebook for school at least twice a week, according to the 2014 Pearson Student Mobile Device Survey.

In fact, 71 percent of elementary school students, 67 percent of middle school students and 56 percent of high school students would like to use mobile devices more often in the classroom than they do now.

With the wide range of learning tasks students tackle daily, it’s important for parents to choose devices with maximum flexibility. Windows is the most commonly used operating system in the workplace and a vast library of educational materials are Windows compatible, so it makes sense for children to learn on Windows 8-enabled devices with Intel inside. Three types of devices stand out for parents looking for computing flexibility:

**Notebooks**

Smaller, lighter and more economical than full-sized laptops, today’s notebooks still pack a great deal of computing power in their compact frames. Products like the HP 210 G1 Notebook PC allow students to perform basic word-processing tasks, access online learning tools, and share notes and assignments with peers and teachers. Durable yet lightweight, their typical small size allows them to fit easily into backpacks and be used in classroom settings without taking up too much space.

**Tablets**

With their versatile touchscreen interface, tablets inspire creativity and facilitate collaboration among students and educators. Teachers who use tablets in class are able to personalize lessons to appeal to the learning styles and interests of multiple students, rather than approaching a lesson as one size fits all. For younger students who have not yet mastered a keyboard, touchscreen tablets provide an easy way to accomplish tasks. Styles like the Dell Venue 11 can also feature handwriting recognition, making note-taking fast and easy for older students and helping younger pupils practice handwriting skills.

**Two-in-ones**

For older students who do more typing, 2-in-1 devices like the Lenovo Yoga or Asus Transformer provide the convenience of a notebook and the flexibility of a tablet. These devices are lightweight with a touchscreen interface, like a tablet, but can be also used like a traditional laptop through a detachable, flippable or rotating keyboard. Having both functionalities within one device facilitates creativity, note-taking and collaboration.

Not sure which of these device types might best suit your student’s needs? Consult with your child’s teacher. In many classrooms across the country, teachers are already using technology in their lessons. Your child’s teacher may be able to advise you on what type of device would best mesh with what he or she is already using in the classroom.

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They were royally pissed. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside Barclays Center on Monday night for a fifth straight night of protests following a grand jury’s decision not to indict Officer Daniel Pantaleo for killing Gowanus native Eric Garner by choking him and holding him face-down on Staten Island — only this demonstration coincided with a visit by Prince William and Kate Middleton. One protester said the marches are still going because the system has failed black people. “I’m out here to demand justice,” said Derrick West, of Park Slope, as the crowd marched down Atlantic Avenue toward Smith Street. “We are tired of speaking and having no one listen.”

The crowd of protesters didn’t dramatically disrupt the Nets game against Lebron “King” James’s Cleveland Cavaliers, but James and several Nets players, including Kevin Garnett and Deron Williams, brought the activists’ message to the court, warming up in black shirts that read, “I can’t breathe,” the phrase Garner wheezed repeatedly as Pantaleo took him down. Brooklyn royalty Jay Z and Beyonce were also in attendance, and King Hov took time out to pose with the politicized Nets players ahead of the game.

Outside, more than 500 activists assembled, many galvanized by the Twitter topic “#royalshutdown” and seeking to capitalize on the media attention being paid to the English royals’ visit. The crowd staged a silent “die-in” in the intersection of Flatbush and Atlantic avenues, then moved across the street to Atlantic Terminal mall, where protesters roved from store to store, disrupting shoppers, according to the police.

Garner protesters swarm Downtown

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN
Hundreds of protesters marched across the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges and sat down in front of Barclays Center last Thursday evening during a second night of protests decrying a grand jury’s decision not to charge NYPD Officer Daniel Pantaleo with a crime for choking Gowan native Eric Garner to death on Staten Island in July.

In a more widely attended repeat of the Wednesday night demonstrations that followed the decision, activists gathered in Manhattan and fanned out, clogging traffic and transit points throughout the borough. One faction of a few hundred surged across the Brooklyn-bound side of the Brooklyn Bridge roadway at about 7:30 pm, some carrying signs and black coffins. The procession continued up Flatbush Avenue to Atlantic Avenue, where protesters held a “die-in,” lying in the street for seven minutes in symbolic commemoration of the time Garner lay on the street without police or paramedics’ assistance.

Some protesters continued on Fulton Mall, while others returned to Manhattan, this time across the Manhattan Bridge roadway. Police blocked Manhattan-bound traffic at around 10 pm for the marchers to proceed. Some protesters sat down on the bridge and were arrested.

The NYPD said more than 200 people were arrested across the city in connection with the protests, most of them charged with disorderly conduct. Among those was Brooklyn Courier reporter Noah Hurowitz, who officers grabbed along with more than a dozen others out of an agitated crowd in Times Square. Police charged Hurowitz, who was photographing and live-tweeting the event, with disorderly conduct.

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Continued on page 38
Saying goodbye
Funeral for Red Hook police-shooting victim

BY NOAH HUROWITZ

The family of the Red Hook man shot dead by a police officer in November put him to rest at a funeral in Clinton Hill on Dec. 6.

Akai Gurley’s younger brother Malachi Palmer choked up as he read a poem at the services inside Brown Memorial Baptist Church, and their mother Sylvia Palmer was set to say a few words, but opted not to because she was too overcome to speak.

“Want to bury Akai with grace and dignity after everything he experienced,” said activist Kevin Powell, who delivered the eulogy.

Gurley died on Nov. 20 after Officer Peter Liang shot him once in the chest inside the Louis H. Pink Houses in East New York. Liang and another cop were sweeping the dark stairwell, and Liang shot Gurley once in the chest as he entered one flight below, according to cops. Liang had his gun drawn when Gurley opened the door, and Liang fired the fatal shot without warning, according to reports. Police Commissioner Bill Bratton called Gurley a “total innocent” and the shooting an “unfortunate accident.”

The city paid for the funeral, according to reports.

Notably absent was civil rights firebrand Al Sharpton, who Gurley’s family asked to steer clear after his National Action Network sent out an advisory listing the funeral as the evening before, and touting Sharpton as the eulogist. Gurley’s aunt lashed out at Sharpton in the pages of the New York Post, telling him to keep his publicity machine away from the memorial.

Sharpton has appeared at press conferences with Gurley’s live-in girlfriend and daughter, while Assemblyman Charles Barron (D–East New York) has spoken alongside Gurley’s parents and another girlfriend, Melissa Butler, who was with Gurley when he died. Barron has blasted Sharpton for calling the shooting an “accident.”

In the wake of the controversial grand jury decisions not to indict the police officers who killed unarmed black men Michael Brown in Ferguson, Missouri, and Eric Garner in Staten Island, Brooklyn District Attorney Ken Thompson announced on Dec. 5 that he is working to bring Gurley’s killing before a grand jury to consider charges against Liang.

On Monday, state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, with the backing of many city and state pols, including Borough President Adams, called on Gov. Cuomo to appoint him as special prosecutor for all cases where officers killed unarmed civilians, saying it would “restore public trust.”

In response, Thompson reiterated his adamant opinion that, in Kings County, he is the guy for the job.

GARNER

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GARBER

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ROYALS

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GALAPAGOS

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important part of the community here,” Elmes said.

A spokesman for Two Trees said that the company supports local artists with reduced and sometimes free rent, and that the current Galapagos space will continue to be used for a cultural purpose.

“We wish Galapagos all the best moving forward in Detroit,” she said.

Elmes said that ever-skyrocketing costs are causing a crisis in Brooklyn’s art world, and he is hoping that Galapagos can provide some relief for budding creative types, albeit in another city.

“New York is losing its influx of new cultural migrants,” he said. “They’re landing in other cities, and we think we can attract some of them to Detroit.”

The last performance at Galapagos’s Dumbo home will be its Floating Kabarette on Dec. 20.
Brooklyn, NY – Let’s hear it for the home team! LIU Brooklyn’s Blackbirds have continued to thrill their staunchest fans – thousands of Brooklyn neighbors – by bringing exciting play and fierce competition to the borough.

Perfect Season

The nine-time Northeast Conference champion LIU Brooklyn women’s volleyball team (left) dominated this season on the court and in the classroom. The Blackbirds hold the nation’s longest conference win streak with 46 consecutive regular-season victories, earned their third straight NEC title in 2014 and were awarded the 2013-14 AVCA Team Academic Award for recording a 3.55 team GPA.

The LIU Brooklyn men’s soccer team, who has won 15 league titles in its storied history, clinched another NEC Tournament berth this fall while also ranking among the top academic teams in the country. And the women’s golf team continued its recent dominance of the league by capturing a third consecutive NEC title, and earning a subsequent appearance at NCAA Regionals.

Legendary Athletics, Compelling Academics

LIU Brooklyn boasts 18 NCAA Division I teams, including the five-time NEC champion LIU Brooklyn men’s basketball team. The Blackbirds became the first men’s basketball program in conference history to win three straight conference tournaments (2010-13). The only university in Brooklyn offering over 200 award-winning programs, such as LIU Brooklyn School of Health Professions, ranked #1 in the country as Best School for Healthcare Majors’ Salaries by Payscale.com. LIU Brooklyn is also home to LIU Pharmacy, one of the oldest and largest pharmacy schools in the country.

“LIU Brooklyn athletics has enjoyed unprecedented success both on the field and in the classroom in recent years,” interim director of athletics Brad Cohen said. “Our sport programs have won 12 conference championships over the last three years, the most in a three-year span in school history. Our student-athletes have accumulated a 3.22 GPA for the 2013-14 academic year, and three individuals were named Academic All-Americans. It truly is a great time to be a Blackbird”

Blackbirds at Barclays

The LIU Brooklyn basketball teams play a portion of their home games at Barclays Center, home of the NBA’s Brooklyn Nets. Brooklynites also fill the stands on campus at the $45 million, state-of-the-art Steinberg Wellness Center that opened in 2006.

LIU Brooklyn fans can catch Blackbirds’ men’s and women’s basketball over the coming weeks at Barclays Center. The men’s squad will take on Florida International University on December 18, Hofstra University, December 28, and Mount St. Mary’s University, January 17. The women’s team will be the first game of a doubleheader with the men on January 17 against the Mountaineers.

LIU Brooklyn

Located in the heart of downtown Brooklyn’s Tech Triangle and Cultural District, LIU Brooklyn offers nearly 200 academic programs. The self-contained campus includes the $45-million Steinberg Wellness Center, featuring a NCAA-regulation swimming pool, a 2,500-seat arena, and state-of-the-art workout and track facilities. LIU Brooklyn is also the home of LIU Pharmacy, the distinguished Arnold & Marie Schwartz College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences, which was established in 1866, as well as a number of other renowned schools, including the Harriet Rothkopf Helbrunn School of Nursing. Visit liu.edu/Brooklyn.
Prices include all costs to be paid by the consumer except for license, registration & taxes. Used vehicles have normal wear, tear & mileage, some may have scratches & dents. ^Slight h2o damage. **Vehicle must be in safe operating condition, dealer not responsible for excess wear and tear. Photos are for illustrative purposes only. NYC DCA#200342, DMV#711789.
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Some believe that history is cyclical, while others believe that the march of progress in humankind is linear. To these macro theories of history I add another: the pendulum of life often swings until it reaches a “tipping point” and then it shifts course and swings back in the other direction.

This theory, I believe, can be applied on a micro level to New York City’s crime-fighting tactics and now, it seems, we have reached a new “tipping point” that may require us to reverse course.

Allow me to explain.

A little more than two decades ago, the crime rate was soaring and New York felt ungovernable. Our police department was largely reactive and many families and older people fled the city because they feared for their safety. The New York Post famously belloved in a headline, “Dave, Do Something!” urging then-eminent Mayor David Dinkins to try to stop the rising tide of crime and chaos in Gotham.

Dinkins, to his credit, did something, and along with crime and chaos in Gotham.

The first, Compstat, used daily data to send resources to areas that had the greatest concentration of crime. The second, the “Broken Windows” theory of policing, mandated pursuing low-level misdemeanors such as subway fare evasion and cracking down on the ubiquitous “squeegee men” who menaced city drivers.

The theory was that if you clamped down on small offenses, it would send a signal to petty criminals that there is zero tolerance and this, in turn, would deter bigger crimes. Also, by arresting low-level offenders, you would be ridding the streets of criminals who might be wanted for other crimes. This aggressive style of policing was accompanied by an increasing use of “stop and frisk,” which reached its peak in the last few years of the Bloomberg administration.

Now the pendulum has begun to swing back. In the aftermath of the grand jury’s controversial non-indictment of an innocent young man.

There is a third way — allow me to explain.

SPIN CYCLE
Tom Allon

POLITICAL

The public’s appetite for “Broken Windows” policing has reached a tipping point. Society is fed up with aggressive policing that can lead to the deaths of unarmed men.

And so it seems that we will now enter an era where our police will be more guarded and will likely wear cameras that will record their interactions with people. This technology will make things more transparent.

If “Broken Windows” is abandoned and (and if it is, it is unlikely to happen with a press release or a major pronouncement) it will end an era of policing in New York in which our cops played offense rather than defense. If we are now entering a period of kinder and gentler policing, we will see if the dramatic decrease in crime rates will start to rise and whether it was “Broken Windows” policing that kept the crime rate so low for so long.

In the meantime, let us pray that our mayor and police commissioner and the whole NYPD continue to maintain order and peace.

Tom Allon is the president of City & State, N.Y. He can be reached at tallon@cityandstatenewyork.com.
The writer is president of the Brighton Beach Civic Association.

To the editor,

Heartfelt thanks to Councilmen Chaim Deutsch and Mark Treyger for recognizing that the Boardwalk is a national treasure, and should not be replaced with cement and plastic. Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz has recently issued strong statements against the current plan, though it is late in the process and possibly moot. Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny? Who knows where he is hiding! A public statement and public position would be most welcome.

It seems that every New Yorkers and Brooklynites in particular lose the things that make our lives and environments unique, intimate, and connected to history. When all things that once existed are destroyed to make way for all things new, something precious is lost. I am not merely being nostalgic; the boards of the Boardwalk are part of its identity, and part of the identity of the whole area it serves. The sound and feel and connection of walking, cycling, daydreaming on the Boardwalk is something that can’t be experienced anywhere else. A small thing? Sure.

But it is the small things in life that create lasting impressions and a lifetime of memories. I recall with love and joy the sound of my dad’s big work shoes as we walked the Boardwalk every Sunday, watching the gulls wheel over the ocean, and spotting the sunset as we still readied potatoes on the beach. Let’s not let them rip up our Boardwalk!

Nelson Levine
Brighton Beach
Stan: Always check your charities

They're baa-ack! The holiday season is here, and with it comes the charity solicitations — and the potential for trouble.

I was out driving when I stopped for a red light and was approached by one of two men dressed in Battle Dress Uniforms carrying pails on which was written “Disabled Veterans Of America.” “Help the Veterans,” they were shouting and handed a brown bag of the drivers tossing dollar bills into their buckets.

I am a big believer in donating and assisting our heroes in any way I can, but I knew I had seen this hoax before. There is no Disabled Veterans of America charity. The organization with a name familiar with is called Disabled American Veterans.

After a few minutes on the Internet, I learned that the creator of the Disabled Veterans of America scam was arrested two years ago in Michigan for creating fake charities with names similar to legitimate veterans groups. He used the telemarketing proceeds for his own gain. He was sentenced to serve time in prison and had to make restitution.

Either he was released, or someone else is now working his con.

At this time of year, we receive many solicitations for donations. If you are not sure about the legitimacy of the senders go to the following website: CharityNavigator.org. This website ranks not-for-profit organizations on the strength of their finances, the transparency of their operations, and their control of administrative and fund-raising expenses. Four stars is the highest ranking. Three stars is OK. I stay away from anything less than that. Go to that website and you will be shocked at how many very popular charity organizations are two, one and zero stars.

Do you see that woman with the binoculars who looks like a tourist? Maybe she really is, but if you are at a cash machine, make sure you cover the keypad as you type in your codes.

Will you be away on a cruise for the holidays? Do not — I repeat, do NOT — announce it to the world on Facebook. Many people brag about where they are going and come home to find their houses robbed. You might want to warn your teenager now.

Here’s another oldie but goodie that’s back in town. Most retailers have a display of gift cards for you to choose from. Help yourself and make sure that it is activated by paying the amount of money you request. Outside the store, just as you are about to enter, a well-dressed woman holding a gift card approaches you. The bubbie mentsa you are handed is that she just received this 50-dollar gift card and hates shopping there. She offers to sell it to you at a substantial discount — as much as 50 percent.

“You don’t believe that the card is authentic? Come inside and I’ll prove it.”

Ask any cashier to scan it and you’ll learn that the card actually is worth 50 bucks. You can now buy it at half price. So where’s the scam? As you reach down into your handbag for the 25 dollars your new best friend switches the good card for an identical one that she took from the display rack — one that is not validated and totally worthless. You’ll be very embarrassed when you attempt to use it as payment for a purchase. You’ve been had.

I am StanGershbein@Bellsouth.net saying: If it sounds too good to be true, yada, yada, yada.

The Islamization of Britain

Prince William and Catherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, called the shots when they took in a Nets game at the Barclays Center last week — including telling journalists how to dress and behave — because British royalty is the final word on kings and queens. Bhumibol Adulyadej, the king of Thailand, is richer than Queen Liz. Mohammed VI, the king of Morocco, is more powerful. The Japanese, Chinese, and Omane monarchoes are older than the British Crown. But who cares about them?

The House of Windsor may find its days are numbered though, if the radical Islamization of Britain continues to dispose the English way of life — a grim reality that could hit tolerant America next. The writing is on the wall:

• Mohammed is the most popular name for baby boys in the nation which birthed the Anglican Church.

A senior Church of England bishop wants Prince Charles’s coronation service opened with a reading from the koran.

• A rising, parallel Muslim society threatens to bump Christianity as the dominant religion within the next generation.

• The capital is nicknamed Londonstan because of its growing number of Muslims, also known as Asians.

• The country’s legal system permits shariah-style wills, penalizing widows and non-believers.

• Areas once as British as steak and kidney pudding have become sharia-controlled zones banning gambling, alcohol, music, and western clothing.

• Islamo-rappers meld thug culture with extremist ideology, brandishing guns and the koran in music videos.

• Self-styled Muslim vigilantes shut down private corporations that killed 750 people and injured more than 700 in the 2005 London terror attacks, and big-hearted America can learn from its ally’s dismal experience.

Prime Minister David Cameron once said, “It is mainstream Britain which needs to integrate more with the British Asian way of life, not the other way around.” He can toss and turn at night knowing Britain has done that — to a fault.

Freeze! I mean don’t freeze those eggs!

What a crock. Heavy emphasis on crock.

I read that tech giants Apple and Facebook have offered to cover the cost of their female workers to freeze their eggs and postpone pregnancy so they can extend their work life. How big of them.

And this is supposed to be a good thing for the women?

How dare corporate America even begin to proffer this as an option? The thought is so heinous it renders me speechless.

Big business never fails to surprise me with its ruthlessness, but this goes way beyond the bounds of indecency even for it.

This BS method of manipulating female workers in this manner is tantamount to criminal.

Female employees have a hard enough time juggling work and parenting, often times sacrificing time with their children for the sake of the job. And now they have this conundrum to contemplate: “To freeze or not to freeze, that is the question.”

“Tech companies have no sense of propriety. This is just another display of their unmitigated chutzpah to manipulate and force themselves into the bedrooms of their employees and put women in a position of subserviency. And I thought Hobby Lobby had a lot of nerve. SMH — this really takes the cake.

For the sake of giving these corporations the benefit of the doubt, I’m asking the gods of industry this question: “When exactly is it a good time to un-freeze those eggs and have a child? When the woman is 40, 50, or 60 years old? When she is no longer wanted or needed in the workforce and has out-lived her usefulness, then the little woman can go home, take a whole bunch of fertility shots to get her uterus in childbearing shape and defrost a child?

Is that a good time?”

Isn’t it magnanimous for the CEOs to allow a woman to decide? I’m so sure every female employee is saying to herself: “This is great — I can’t wait to freeze my eggs, so that when I’m so pass menopause, I can unfreeze my eggs, have a baby, and spend my retirement funds on diapers, formula and onesies.”

Adding, “Thanks Facebook, thanks Apple, for allowing me to postpone my body’s natural rhythms to stay in my job and be a slave to the corporation.”

Sounds good to me, how about you?

Let’s face it, the only benefit of a female employee freezing her eggs and postponing child bearing is a benefit for the corporation, not the woman.

Not for Nuthin’

Joanna DelBuono

NOT FOR NUTHIN’

Joanna DelBuono

Is that a good time?"
I'm madder than a Jet fan watching the Heidi Bowl over the fact that all my plans for informative public meetings get interrupted by special reports from certain residents who care more about what they care about than the things they should care about that I tell them about.

Case in point was last Tuesday at my semiannual BWECC’s Open Community Council meeting on the identity theft of seniors, a topic close to my heart as I don’t want no one going around saying they are me when in fact they are someone else, thus getting access to my money stashed in a mattress under the floorboards in the attic. I immediately realized that this was the residual affects of the Thanksgiving food pantry at Sea Surf adjacent to John Dewey High School as well as Rabbi Wiener’s Marlboro Senior Center. All these concerns will be investigated and brought up at the BWECC’s Dec. 18 meeting.

Around this time, a few people started questioning the noises coming from my tummy. I explained to them that this was the residual affects of the Thanksgiving abundance son-in-law Michael — who makes every holiday meal not only spectacular but physically impossible to eat all in one sitting — he created. Michael’s first course was giant stuffed shells overflowing with ricotta, accompanied by everybody’s favorite — Michael’s mixed salad (which he never makes enough of, hint, hint!) with cranberries, sliced almonds and (thankfully) no onions. A platter of acici pepe sausage stuffing, stove top stuffing, candied sweet potatoes, mashed potatoes, wild rice and broccoli casserole, a huge macaroni and cheese platter like I’ve never tasted before, corn, stuffed mushroom (I don’t indulge because I gotta watch my weight) and long string beans with almonds.

There was plenty of white wine to go around, and for dessert, I even brought my favorite coconut custard pie, apple pie and blueberry pie, Sicilian cookies, lemon drop cookies, lemon drop cookies, two French and one large seeded twist, (which brought me to my shameless plug of the week, Bread Plus bakery. That place make canolis you could die for. I’m getting fatter just thinking of them!) By the time I finished, everybody had left, and nobody learned nothing about identity theft!

Screech at you next week!
Guards are on the move and saving lives

HARBOR WATCH
Every time the soldiers of the Wisconsin Army National Guard’s 950th Engineer Company go out on a mission, they know they are saving lives.

The route clearance company from Superior, Wisconsin, which is in the final phase of its pre-mobilization training at Fort Bliss, Texas, is one of just a handful of units within the Army specifically designed to combat the threat posed by improvised explosive devices. Secure roads and infrastructure are key to the international coalition’s military efforts in Afghanistan. They are also vital corridors for Afghan civilians trying to go about their daily lives.

Enter the 950th, which with every bomb, IED or other threat that it identifies, will make the roads of Afghanistan a safer place.

Every time the soldiers of the 950th are coming to town from Superior, Wisconsin Army National Guard soldier moves between vehicles during a training mission on Nov. 24 at Fort Bliss, Texas.

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Airmen flash concert

Musicians achieve success on first video

HARBOR WATCH
Musicians in the Air Force Band gave a smooth and unexpected performance after a lot of meticulous planning and coordination during a recent video recorded concert.

“Airmen musicians are fortunate to serve our country in the Air Force by inspiring people through music,” said Senior Master Sgt. Robert Kamholz, the superintendent of band marketing and outreach. “The success of our first video is a testament to the power of music and the power of the U.S. Air Force.”

Kamholz said that the band began preparing its winter surprise in July. The first steps were finding the location and scheduling the proper time in the band’s busy schedule.

Kamholz said the next step of the planning process was securing the rights to use the English lyrics for the songs “Greensleeves” and “Carol of the Bells.” With the publisher’s permission, the band was authorized to arrange the music as needed, perform it live, record the concert, and later release it.

After the selection was approved, Kamholz said the musicians in blue brought on retired Senior Master Sgt. Bob Thurston, the chief arranger from the 2013 flash mob at the Smithsonian National Air and Space museum in Washington, D.C.

“He wrote the one last year and he has the most experience writing these all-encompassing compositions,” Kamholz said.

From there, the music was taken through several read-through rehearsals and tweaked until the final composition was selected.

“Once the arrangement was completed, it was given to the instrumentalists and vocalists to practice and memorize,” said Lt. Col. Donald Schofield, the band’s director of operations. “The musical arrangement was modified slightly between each rehearsal to achieve the right balance between each musical line ... For this year’s video, there were four musical rehearsals at The U.S. Air Force Band’s facility on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling in Washington, D.C.”

The final practice included more than 100 military musicians and was held at the museum the night before the performance.

“Finally, some of our audio technicians and musicians served as videographers for the project,” Schofield said.

“During the final dress rehearsal at the museum, they reacquainted themselves with the video equipment and practiced their cameras angles while the audio crew adjusted their settings to achieve the perfect sound.”

According to band officials, the audio from the performance was recorded through more than 40 different wireless microphone channels and nine different cameras at various locations and angles.

“The Air Force is fueled by innovation and after the success of (our) viral flash mob video last year, we decided to expand upon that concept,” Kamholz said. “We use music to bridge language, cultural and societal differences.”

The nine reels were later edited to make up the final video. Once that was complete, the audio was then synced to the video, timing specific instruments’ audio during playback.

“There is an obvious tie between the Air Force and both of the Smithsonian’s Air and Space Museums,” he said.

“We’ve enjoyed partnering with them to demonstrate the U.S. Air Force Band’s commitment to upholding our mission in air, space and cyberspace.”
Seven tips to stay safe in winter
Planning and preparing are key to maintaining safety in cold weather

HARBOR WATCH
Regardless of the region in which you live, the winter season brings added tips to help you stay safe on the water. With colder air and water temperatures, it’s crucial to be prepared for anything if you happen to be heading out on the water for any activity this winter — boating, kayaking, paddle boarding, or even ice fishing and snowmobiling.

If you plan to participate in any water activity this winter — know what will keep you safe! Planning and preparation are key to any safe outing on the water, but also knowing some basic safety and cold water immersion tips can help save your life.

Here are tips to help keep you safe on the water this winter:

File a float plan
Filing a float plan can be as easy as telling a loved one where you are headed and when you plan to return. Leaving this crucial information with someone on shore can help rescuers narrow down where to look if you don’t return when scheduled.

Wear a life jacket
Life jackets are crucial equipment that keep you safe while out on the water. Find a style that works for you and your activities and just wear it!

Make sure the life jacket is Coast Guard-approved and fits properly. Just as important as wearing one yourself, you should always make sure the people with you have one on as well.

Keep in touch
On a boat, the easiest thing to have is a working marine-brand VHF radio and a handheld navigation system. This will easily allow you to call for help and give rescuers your position if necessary.

Cellphones don’t always receive reception in the areas you may be going on your boat — so it’s better to be prepared with extra equipment and not need it, than need it and not have it. The Coast Guard always monitors VHF Channel 16 for distress.

Dress for the water
Even though the temperature outside may be 60 to 70 degrees, the water temperature could be near freezing. It’s always crucial to check the water temperature and know the proper protective equipment that will keep you warm in the worst case scenario.

Know the 1-10-1 principle
Knowing some basic cold-water immersion principles can greatly increase your chances of survival if something goes wrong.

1 — You have one minute after being submerged in water to get your breathing under control and realize what has happened. If breathing isn’t controlled immediately, the possibility of drowning drastically increases.

10 — After gaining your awareness, there are 10 minutes of meaningful movement to help someone self-recover. After 10 minutes, it’s likely the cold water temperatures will cause a loss of dexterity in fingers and arms, lessening the ability to recover yourself.

1 — There is approximately one hour until hypothermia will set in and you could become unconscious.

GUARD
Continued from page 47

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Maj. Gen. Donald Dunbar, Wisconsin’s adjutant general, Brig. Gen. Mark Anderson, the assistant adjutant general for Army, Lt. Col. Jon Russell, 724th Engineer Battalion commander and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Shields, the state’s senior enlisted advisor, travelled to Fort Bliss to observe the unit’s training and visit with the soldiers, and they came away impressed.

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GUARD
Continued from page 47

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Jazz Age Party creators throw ’30s ball in Fort Greene

By Danielle Furfaro

The Jazz Age Lawn Party that takes place annually on Governor’s Island are throwing another throwback party in Fort Greene on Dec. 13. But unlike the summer event, which channels the spirit of 1920s, the Winter Ball is a celebration of the fashion and music of the 1930s and 1940s, an organizer explained.

“It is a much more elegant affair, said co-organizer Gin Minsky. “There are elaborate costumes and set pieces. It is something you do not see anymore in New York City.”

This is the sixth year the Winter Ball has taken place, but the first time the shindig will be in Brooklyn instead of Manhattan. This time, it will held at the Irondale Center, a cavernous two-tiered ballroom in Fort Greene.

“We have a whole crew from Barney’s who will be coming in to do our displays,” said Minsky. “We put a lot of time and effort into totally transforming the space.”

The entertainment for the evening will include Minsky’s tap-dancing duo the Minsky Sisters, big band Michael Arenella and His Dreamland Orchestra and Roddy and Gretchen Caravella, who play holiday ballroom dance duets. But just as entertaining will be the array of costumes worn by not only the performers, but all of the guests, many of whom aim to outdo each other with their vintage wear, Minsky said.

“We want it to have as much vintage spirit as possible,” she said. “Consider this a black tie affair.”

The Sixth Annual Winter Ball at the Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. between Lafayette Avenue and Fulton Street in Fort Greene, www.winterball14.brownpapertickets.com] Dec. 13 at 8 pm. $150, ticket includes dinner and cocktails.
By Trupti Rami

They’re still standing — and running, hurdling, pole-vaulting, javelin-throwing, and shot-putting!

“Racing Age,” a photography exhibition currently on display at United Photo Industries in Dumbo, features snaps of elderly athletes in action. The show is intended to challenge the notion that older bodies are only good for water aerobics and shuffleboard, said the artist responsible.

“I’ve always been really interested in movement, subculture, sports, and things that shake up stereotypical ideas of people,” said photographer and Prospect Lefferts Gardens expat Angela Jimenez, who recently moved to Minneapolis after 12 years in Brooklyn. “These athletes are setting records that explain what a human being is capable of doing. The body is getting stronger. People are living longer.”

Shot on a friend’s Hasselblad camera, the 14 black-and-white images and three audio pieces in the show were captured at masters track and field meets in Kentucky, Maryland, and Italy over four years beginning in 2007. Age divisions for masters competitions begin at 30, but “Racing Age” specifically documents senior sportspeople who are a decade or so past retirement age, Jimenez said.

The shutterbug said she intentionally used a medium-format camera for the project to slow herself down — without an internal light meter and with manual exposure, focus, and frame winding, her process became as mechanical as the athletes’ movements.

“Racing Age” specifically documents senior sportspeople who are a decade or so past retirement age, Jimenez said.

The race is on: Above, photographer Angela Jimenez and her exhibition “Racing Age” at the United Photo Industries gallery in Dumbo. And left, 87-year-old 55-meter sprinter Tom, one of many older athletes Jimenez photographed for the show.

Jimenez also found kinship with her subjects in other ways. One woman, an 82-year-old black athlete named Johnnye Valien, proved especially memorable, she said.

“She’s a multi-event athlete, which is what I did,” said Jimenez. “There’s an audio piece in the show where she talks about the limited opportunities that she had as a black woman. She was in college in the 1940s. That’s way before Title IX and any of the opportunities that I had.”

Jimenez earned the solo show at United Photo Industries as the jury’s choice winner of the Fence, an annual summer photography installation that features work from 40 photographers displayed on a banner along a walking path in Brooklyn Bridge Park.


Vanilla Fudge guitarist to rock Sheepshead Bay

By Vanessa Ogle

Sweet! The lead guitarist of psychedelic ’60s band Vanilla Fudge will rock out in Sheepshead Bay for the Bay Improvement Group’s 23rd annual Celebrity Concert Toy Drive on Dec. 14. The holiday concert — which is free for anyone who donates a new, unwrapped toy — will feature classic holiday tunes and the guitar guru said everyone is welcome to join in the jam session.

“We do all kinds of Christmas stuff and have everyone join in with is,” said Vince Martell, who lives in New Jersey but has been performing at the concert series for 16 years.

The show is all about spreading holiday cheer, Martell said. The donated toys will be given to a Sheepshead Bay homeless shelter that houses women and children and Martell said it is important for residents to remember that their neighbors may be struggling in the otherwise-silly season.

“A battered women’s shelter — it is a horrible thing but I’m glad somebody’s doing something,” he said.

Martell said the cause is the main reason he keeps coming back to the coastal community year after year. But the setting is a nice fringe benefit.

“It is beautiful there — it is very uplifting to see the water and the boats,” he said. “I was in the Navy before the Vanilla Fudge. I love anything around the water and seashore.”

Martell won’t be the only musician donating his chops for the charitable concert. Other performers include Dom “Randy” Safuto — the lead singer of the doo-wop group Randy and the Rainbows — Denver musician Peg Pearl, and Broadway theatre star Ben Vereen. But Martell said rock fans can definitely expect to boogie down to some creamy classics.

“We try to do the first set with some rock ‘n’ roll stuff — some Vanilla Fudge,” he said.

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UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT
Give the gift of a sweet Brooklyn cookbook

By Matthew Perlman

W e won’t sugarcoat it. Cookbooks might be Brooklyn’s favorite holiday present, and this year’s crop of borough-penned recipe tomes has a heavy bent towards the sweeter side of the kitchen. So here are some tasty titles for every type of sweet-tooth in your life.

Birthday bakers

“Baked Occasions”

Matt Lewis and Renato Poliafito have been luring Red Hookers and Fairway shoppers to their cozy bakery Baked with high-quality cookies and cakes since 2005. Their latest book — their third — dishes out 75 delicious recipes assigned to different holidays and celebrations. There is a praline ice cream cake for Mardi Gras, a rum-infused hair of the dog cake for New Year’s Day, and 12 different cookie recipes for each day of Christmas. But the most enticing — probably because it is the weirdest — is a purple velvet cake for Hunter S. Thompson’s birthday.

The adventurous

“Ovenly”

The brains behind Greenpoint’s popular bakery Ovenly have put together a book full of recipes that whip together salty and sweet in their signature way. Agatha Kulfage and Erin Patinkin melt brains — with combinations such as caramel bacon hot tarts and currant rosemary scones.

Old and nostalgic

“The Soda Fountain”

The jerks behind Brooklyn Farmacy, a retro throwback soda counter on Henry Street in Carroll Gardens, have poured their knowledge into this carbonated cookbook. Not only does it include 70 recipes for such classic beverages as the egg cream, the shake, and the ice cream float, but it is also packed with history, folklore, and ephemera surrounding the soda fountain.

Barflies

“First Prize Pies”

Clinton Hill baker Alison Kave — one half of Smorgasburg favorite Butter and Scotch — has made a name for herself combining pies and booze, with creations such as bourbon ginger pecan pie and margarita pie. But not all of the recipes in this book are alcoholic — Kave also includes quirky innovations such as her candy-apple pie, and the Elvis pie — made with banana, peanut butter, and bacon.

Cool kids

“Ample Hills Creamery”

It is never too cold for good ice cream, and the husband and wife team behind Ample Hills Creamery — which has locations in Prospect Heights, Gowanus, and Brooklyn Bridge Park — want people to be able to enjoy their delicious recipes from the comfort of their homes. Jackie Cuscinu and Brian Smith’s cookbook delivers the frozen goods, with recipes for some of their most popular flavors, such as salted crack caramel and the munchies — which has potato chips, pretzels, Ritz crackers, and mini M&Ms in it.

Cooking the books: Jess Pan from Greenlight Bookstore in Fort Greene holds up some of our cookbook gift suggestions, all penned by members of Brooklyn’s sweet-ear.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

The best reads

— handpicked by some of the best Bklyn bookstores


If you’re looking for a reason to reread the classics, Nafisi has got you covered. The author of “Reading Lolita in Tehran” is now an American citizen, and contemplates three pivotal American books in her new book. By way of “Huckleberry Finn,” “Babbitt,” and “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter,” she examines our current political life, what it means to be a US citizen, and her hopes and fears for modern-day readers. And given the recent political climate and protests, a little extra consciousness goes a long way.


The BookMark Shoppe’s pick: “My Brilliant Friend” by Elena Ferrante

Fans of Adriana Trigiani are sure to find Elena Ferrante’s “My Brilliant Friend” just as amazing as I did. It has the feel of a deeply personal memoir. A great story about the friendship between two girls and how their lives evolve, clash, and diverge. Get a peak into life in Italy in the 1950s, and embrace the two girls throughout their journey.


Greenlight Bookstore’s pick: “Alphabet” by Kathy Page

This is my favorite book of the year. Kathy Page puts you inside the head of Simon. He’s in jail and doesn’t understand his rage. He’s murdered his girlfriend. He learns the alphabet and begins writing anonymous letters to women. He pretends to be someone else — someone who loves art — until someone figures him out and asks him for the truth, and it all unravels. This book is about identity, the prison system, and how to love yourself when you’ve been beaten down.

— Jess Pane, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

Tis the season to rock the Ridge

By Max Jaeger

Holiday tunes and hard rock are waiting for you in Bay Ridge — think of it as the Trans-Siberian Orchestra without all the pomp and fog.

First, get into the Christmas spirit by caroling up Third Avenue (6725 Fifth Ave. between 84th and 85th streets) to catch Irish balladeers the Trans-Siberian Orchestra without all the pomp and fog. The strum down memory lane starts at 9:30 pm.

Then step forward to the 1990s and check out grunge-y rockers the Social Zoo at Three Jolly Pigeons (6802 Third Ave. between 68th Street and Bay Ridge Avenue) at 10 pm.

And Wednesday is your lucky day — trot to Pipin’s Pub (9701 Third Ave. between 97th and 98th streets) to catch Irish balladeers the Brooklyn Bards at 7 pm.
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Holiday Celebration™ with dipped strawberries
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Chocolate Dipped Strawberries Platter with mixed toppings
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Get into the Holiday Spirit

THE PEARL MISTLETOE
“beware the kisses will be flowing”
- coconut vodka 2 oz pour
- frangelico 1 oz pour
- baily’s 1 oz pour
- dark spice rum 1 1/2 oz pour
Mix all together with ice in a shaker
Mix together sugar in the raw & cinnamon
Dip glass rim into mixture
Top off drink with cinnamon stick & toasted coconut

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2:00–4:00pm

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New Years Menu
$100 Six Courses For 9pm Seating

Amuse Bouche – Goat cheese mousse, roasted beet, beet vinaigrette, lemongrass oil

Appetizers – Stuffed arancini with beef and mozzarella

Fritti Misti – Tempura battered calamari, shrimp, and sardines served with salsa rosa

Salad – Caprese: burrata foam, heirloom tomato, micro basil

Pasta – Pappardelle with short rib ragu • Rigatoni Alla Norma

Entrée – Filet mignon with truffle parsnip puree, Brussel sprouts with guanciale and maple syrup, red wine demi

Dessert – Sicilian Cassata cake with mint gelato

*Includes unlimited house brand cocktails, Italian beer & house wine: Kids Menu available for $30

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Eggplant Parmigiana SERVES 4 TO 6

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 medium eggplants, about 2 pounds, peeled and sliced into 1/2-inch-thick rounds
- Vegetable oil
- 1 cup all-purpose flour
- 3 eggs, beaten with 1 tablespoon water
- 3 cups seasoned breadcrumbs

PROCEDURE:
Preheat oven to 350 degrees with rack set in center of oven.
Heat 1” of oil your medium high heat in a large skillet. If you have two skillets you can cook both sides.
Dredge each eggplant slice in the flour, shaking off excess, dip in egg wash, and then press in breadcrumbs, shaking off excess. Place into heated oil. Slices should fit comfortably in all without touching. Fry about a minute and a half per side or until golden brown. As they are finished transfer to a paper towel lined plate. Repeat with the remaining eggplant, adjusting the heat as necessary.

Spray a baking dish (11” x 9” x 2”) with cooking spray. Cover the bottom of baking dish with a layer of Uncle Steve’s Marinara sauce and arrange several eggplant slices over the sauce. Cover the eggplant with a layer of mozzarella, some Romano cheese, and then basil, repeated with two more layers of sauce, eggplant, cheese and basil. Bake uncovered about 20 minutes or until soft and beginning to brown. Let rest 10 minutes before serving.

For more recipes visit www.unclestevessn.com

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Come Celebrate the Holidays with Us!
COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

**FRI, DEC. 12**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS:** $70–$4,000. 7:30 pm.

**SUN, DEC. 14**
- **MUSIC, JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE:** $25.50–$300. 8 pm.

**TUE, DEC. 16**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. MIAMI HEAT:** $20–$4,000. 7:30 pm.

**THURS, DEC. 18**
- **SPORTS, LIU BROOKLYN BLACKBIRDS VS. FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY:** Basketball tournament. $15–$25. 7 pm.

**FRI, DEC. 19**
- **MUSIC, CHRISTMAS IN BROOKLYN:** featuring Run DMC, LL Cool J, DJ Z-Trip, and Lecrae. $19.99–$22.75. 7:30 pm.

**SUN, DEC. 21**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DETROIT PISTONS:** $22–$3,000. 6 pm.

**MON, DEC. 22**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN HOOPS HOLIDAY Invitational:** College basketball tournament featuring Providence, Miami, Fordham, and Manhattan. $15–$56.50. 6 pm.

**TUE, DEC. 23**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. DENVER NUGGETS:** $30–$3,000. 7:30 pm.

**SAT, DEC. 27**
- **SPORTS, HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS:** $25–$193. 5–10 pm.

**SAT, DEC. 27**
- **SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PHILADELPHIA 76ERS:** $30–$3,000. 7:30 pm.

**SAT, DEC. 13**
- **PERFORMANCE, MUSIC, SWEET HONEY IN THE ROCK:** $30–$40. 8 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [290 Campus Rd. between Amsersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org

**PERFORMANCE, MUSIC, 'THE SNOW QUEEN':** Hans Christian Andersen story, as told by puppets. $12. 2 pm.

**SUN, DEC. 14**
- **PERFORMANCE, DANCE, ‘THE COLONIAL NUTCRACKER’:** The Dance Theatre in Westchester performs Tchaikovsky’s classic ballet set in colonial Yorktown during the Revolutionary War. $15. 2 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College [290 Campus Rd., between Amsersfort Place and Kenilworth Place in Midwood, (718) 951–4500], www.brooklyncenteronline.org

**MUSIC, KINGSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE:** Performance by Jerome Kern’s “Show Boat” and other holiday songs. Free. 6 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5000], www.kbccc.cuny.edu.

**MUSIC, FRANK SINATRA BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION:** Celebrating Frank Sinatra’s 99th birthday with special emphasis on the Christmas songs. Free. 6 pm. Good Shepherd Church [Avenue S and Batcheelder Street in Marine Park, (718) 998–2800].

**SALES AND MARKETS**
- **BOOK FAIR:** Large selection of children’s titles, including fun holiday crafts, photos, face painting, tea party, and make your own menorah. Free. 2–5 pm. ShoreFront Park [7518 Flatbush Ave. in Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 646–1444].

**Christmas Train Show**

**Gingerbread House Bash**
- **Children decorate a gingerbread model of the USS Levant, and attend arts and crafts build-up workshop led by an ed- ucator from the Brooklyn Historical Society. $8 for kids, free for company- ing adult. 1 pm. Brooklyn Navy Yard BLDG 92 [63 Flushing Ave. at Carlson Avenue in Brooklyn, (718) 907–5932], bldg92.org/events/gingerbread-house-workshop.

**Reading, Brooklyn’s Best Bakers and Treat Makers:** Tast- e treats from local bakeries including Ovelny, Baked, LiddiBitt Sweets, One Girl Cookies, Four and Twenty Blackbirds, and hear readings by food writers. Free. 3–5 pm. Power-House Arena [37 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3649], www.powerhousearena.com.

**Film, Movie Night at Bay Ridge Jewish Center:** Screening of “Charlie Chan” detective movies, with Chinese food. $4. 6:30 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Avenue between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836–3103], www.bric.org.

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**Other**

**Brunch with Santa:** Includes a buffet, photo with Santa, cupcakes and crafts decorating, and a complimentary bloody mary or mimosa for adults. RSVP by Monday December 2, $30 for all adults and kids over 13, $20 for kids under 13, free for kids under 3. 9 am–noon. Aviator Sports and Events Center [3159 Flatbush Ave. in Floyd Bennett Field in Marine Park, (718) 758–7500].

**Sports, Free Hoops Clinic for Kids:** Join Brooklyn women’s basketball players and coaches and conduct an intro- ductory skills-based clinic for boys and girls ages 8 to 13. Free. 5:30 pm. Steinberg Wellness Center [161 Ash- land Pl. between DeKalb Avenue and Willoughby St. in Downtown, (718) 368-3103], www.bjcc.org.
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Shake it off!

An all-women cocktail contest in W’burg

By Noah Hurowitz

They’re taking the first four letters out of “cocktail.”

A cocktail-making competition is coming to the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Dec. 14, but don’t expect to see the contestants in waistcoats and suspenders. The event, dubbed “Speed Rack,” is a mixology mix-off just for women.

One of the organizers said she first got the idea for the competition when she found herself frustrated by the lack of opportunities for women at craft cocktail bars.

“There was no room for a woman in that scene then,” said Ivy Mix, who started Speed Rack with fellow bartender Lynnette Marrero in 2010.

Speed Rack — which is named for the area bartenders keep their most-used bottles of liquor, as well as a double entendre for the upper-body motion caused by a woman using a cocktail shaker — pits 20 liquor-slinging ladies against each other. The competition is set up like a sports tournament, with pairs going head-to-head and advancing along a bracket from quarterfinals to semifinals to the final round.

In each round the women must make four different drinks with the clock running. But while speed is of the essence, it is far from the most important factor, Mix said.

“Just because I finish more quickly doesn’t mean I win,” she said. “If I sacrifice taste and quality for speed, I could lose.”

The winner of this local contest will move on to the national competition, which will be held in New York next summer. Some of the proceeds of the event on Dec. 14 will go to breast cancer research groups chosen by the event organizers.

Many cocktail competitions require their contestants to bring a recipe for a signature cocktail, but at Speed Rack, the classic cocktail is queen. In quarterfinals and semifinals, the contestants stick to the script, serving up the drinks that any mixologist worth her salt should know by heart. But as they advance, they’re taking the first four letters out of “cocktail.”

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Continued on page 58
Open Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
Join Us New Years Eve
Open New Years Day

Choice of Appetizer
Caesar Salad
Dinner Salad
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Seafood Salad
Lasagna Bolognese
Soup du Jour

Choice of Entree
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Roast Loin of Pork with Baconkrust and Dark Ale Gravy
Chicken Cutlet Parmigiana
Boneless Breast of Chicken Francaise
Seafood Fra Diavolo Over Angel Hair Pasta (Mild or Spicy)
Penne Vodka with Grilled Chicken
Cold Water Salmon with Citrus Chive Sauce
Filet Mignon 10 oz. Cut ($12 Extra)
Twin 5 oz. Lobster Tails ($12 Extra)
Surf & Turf – 5 oz. Filet, 5 oz. Tail ($12 Extra)
All Entrees Served With Potato or Rice and Vegetable Garni

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Chicken Francaise
Egg Battered Sautéed with White Wine Lemon Butter Sauce
Filet Mignon 10 oz. Cut
Server with Béarnaise and Bordelaise Sauce
Broiled Salmon
With Champagne Dill Sauce
Twin 5 oz. Lobster Tails
Two Tails Served with Drawn Butter
Surf & Turf
5 oz. Filet - 5 oz. Tail
Served with Drawn Butter and Béarnaise Sauce
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All Entrees Served with Potato or Rice and Fresh Vegetables

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"When we went into this we didn’t realize how special it would be," Mix said. "It’s very empowering. Women are very smart and don’t necessarily need to have more drink recipes. They’re just getting respect for their craft.

"We’re saying ‘we’re here, we’re doing a craft project. $5. Call for time. Boulevard Books & Cafe [7518 13th Ave. at Bay Ridge Parkway in Dyker Heights, (718) 680-5881]."

"Our team once did a show and we were so proud of ourselves. We were so happy to be there. We were so happy to be present," Mix said. "And you should hire us."

"I’m not sure if Speed Rack caused this, but its organizers said everyone is a winner," Mix said. "We’re saying ‘we’re here, we’re doing a craft project. $5. Call for time. Boulevard Books & Cafe [7518 13th Ave. at Bay Ridge Parkway in Dyker Heights, (718) 680-5881]."
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For 10 People: $155
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1 Humus
1 Beef Salad
1 Eggplant
2 Cheese Rolls
2 Livers
2 Lg. Lamb Gyro
2 Lg. Adana
2 Lg. Chicken Kebab
2 Lg. Shish Kebab
2 x 2 Lt. Coke

For 15 People: $225
3 Large Shepherd
3 Humus
3 Eggplant Salad
3 Russian Salad
3 Beef Salad
3 Lg. Shish Kebab
3 Lg. Chicken Kebab
2 x 3 Lt. Coke

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The party starts at 9:30 pm

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Salad
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Salad of Mixed Greens with Balsamic Vinaigrette

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Tabule……….…………………………….5.50
Mixd Eggplant…………………………..5.75
Russian Salad……………………………5.50
Stuffed Grape Leaves…………………...5.50
Haydari (Lebane)…………………...5.75
Beef Salad……………………………..5.50
Pan Fried Eggplant (Served Cold) …5.50
Mixed Appetizers…………………..14.00

HOT APPETIZERS
Man’i (Turkish Dumplings)………….11.25
Fried Calamari………………….9.25
Cal’s Liver……………………………8.25
Cheese Roll………………………..6.75
Spinach Borek…………………………6.50
Falafel Appetizers…………………...6.50

HOT SANDWICHES
Pita Turkish Bread Wrap
Lamb Gyro………..6.25 ……… 7.00 ……… 7.25
Chicken Gyro………6.25 ……… 7.00 ……… 7.25
Grill Chicken………..6.25 ……… 7.00 ……… 7.25
Shish Kebab ………6.75 ……… 7.25 ……… 7.50
Chicken Kebab…...6.50 ……… 7.25 ……… 7.50
Adana Kebab …….6.50 ……… 7.25 ……… 7.50
Chicken Adana ……6.50 ……… 7.25 ……… 7.50
Falafel …………5.25 ……… 6.00 ……… 6.50

MEAT ENTREES
Lamb Gyro………..sm. 10.00 … lg. 12.75
Chicken Gyro………sm. 10.00 … lg. 13.75
Grill Chicken………..sm. 10.00 … lg. 13.75
Shish Kebab ………sm. 10.75 … lg. 15.25
Iskender ………….sm. 15.00 … lg. 18.50
Mixed Grill …………24.00
Lamb Chops …………25.00

DESSERT
Baklava, Kadayif, Sheker Pare
by the pound……………………………11.00
Pistachio Roll by the pound ………12.50
Baklava……………………………3.50
Sheker Pare…………………………3.50
Kadayif……………………………3.50
Pistachio Roll……..…………………3.50
Rice Pudding…………………4.50
Brown Top Pudding …………4.50
Tiramisu ………….4.50
Chocolate Mousse Cake…………4.50
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RESERVE NOW FOR HOLIDAY PARTIES!
Holy cow — we think we’ve got one here! If you’re all undone over not seeing Weezer in the band’s heyday, you’ll have another shot at the good life when tributers the Sweater Songs rock Brooklyn Bowl on Dec. 17.

The band started out as a one-off novelty show in 2012, cobbled together by Brooklyn musicians who all play in other nationally touring bands. But the reception to the gig was so huge, they have kept the sh*tck going, explained to one band member. “We started selling out at our second show,” said guitarist and Greenpointer Oscar Rodriguez. “We were totally shocked by that.”

The act has struck a nostalgic chord with fans in their late-20s and early-30s, Rodriguez said. For many, it has been a year or two since they were out on the floor, shaking booty, making sweet love all the night to Weezer’s wildly popular breakout album “Weezer” — also known as the “Blue Album.”

“If you’re talking about people in the age range over 25, I think everyone kind of grew up with this band, and people really get amped up about these shows — almost to our detriment,” he said. “At our first show at Brooklyn Bowl, during ‘Only in Dreams,’ this one guy was so drunk and amped up, he grabbed a fire extinguisher off the wall and he just started spraying it everywhere. It was remarkable to me that someone would get that excited seeing a tribute band.”

The band has dabbled in post-’90s Weezer tunes, but it mainly plays the two albums roundly known as the band’s best, said Rodriguez.

“I think we played “Hash Pipe” [from a 2001 Weezer release] at one point,” he said. “But for us, it’s the Blue Album and ‘Pinkerton’ that everyone holds near and dear, and we just get such a kick out of playing them.”

Bespectacled and be-cardiganed on stage, the musicians look like they just walked out of central casting. Even their audiences look just like Buddy Holly — the group passes out thick-rimmed plastic glasses (a nod to Weezer frontman Rivers Cuomo’s signature specs) to everyone who comes to its shows. But although there might be one or two posters of Kiss among the five musicians, there aren’t any 12-sided dice in their arsenal, Rodriguez said.

“We’re all music nerds in terms of music trivia and knowing who played on what records and who played what song,” he said. “Otherwise we’re all pretty normal dudes. Like, I don’t think anyone is going home and playing World of Warcraft.”


Weez along if you know it: Weezer cover band the Sweater Songs plays a rollicking set of classics from the group’s first two albums. J. Ryan Roberts
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DESSERT: (Choose One)
Panna Cotta, Tiramisu or Cannoli

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PASTA: Risotto Porcini & Orecchiette Lamb Ragu

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Heroes rescue borough seniors

**BOROUGH WIDE**

Put your hands together for the stars and heroes of *Citymeals-on-Wheels*. **Dwayne Pierre** (right) of Flatbush and **Bushwick resident Ray Vasquez** (left) were presented the organization’s 2014 Star Awards for outstanding service and for going above and beyond the call of duty to help neighbors in need. The honorees were nominated for the distinction by their colleagues and administrators.

Standing O pals Dwayne and Ray are “true life savers,” according to **Beth Shapiro**, executive director of *Citymeals-on-Wheels*. “I would like to thank Dwayne and Ray for their dedication, compassion, and hard work in ensuring New York’s most vulnerable residents are safe and sound behind their closed doors,” she said.

Standing O hero Dwayne delivers life-saving meals with the Senior League of Flatbush. He came to the rescue of a 96-year-old client who had fallen inside his locked apartment. Dwayne was at the door about to deliver a meal when he heard a thud and realized the homeowner was on the floor. His quick-thinking call to 911 saved the day.

Our champ Ray works for the Ridgewood Bushwick Senior Citizen’s Council and faithfully delivers meals every Thanksgiving and Christmas to frail seniors who would otherwise be alone. In one of the city’s worst blackouts Ray helped cook, pack, and deliver meals, climbing stairs in complete darkness to make the deliveries. Recently one of his regularly did not answer the door when he came with a meal. Although he could hear the woman’s dog barking inside the apartment, he couldn’t hear the senior. He knew that she would never leave her dog alone, and instantly knew something was terribly amiss. He called the paramedics and they found her lying in her bed unable to move. The woman was taken to the hospital, and has since returned home and is recuperating.

*Citymeals-on-Wheels* [355 Lexington Ave. in Manhattan; (212) 687–1234].

**FLATBUSH**

Green-thumbed ‘Friends’

The Friends of Wingate Park, led by **Vivian Morgan**, is truly a pal to our green spaces. The organization received the Golden Trowel Award at the It’s My Park Awards reception hosted by *Partnerships for Parks* at the *Museum of the City of New York*. The accolade honored individuals who have demonstrated exceptional leadership and commitment to local parks — and we have more than 177 of those to talk about.

The Golden Trowel is presented to volunteers who have transformed these outdoor treasures into dynamic community assets, and Friends of Wingate Park was at the top of the list. The organization regularly hosts activities, including concerts and holiday-themed events. This past year, Friends partnered with B.M.S. Family Health Center on the “Parents 2 Children” forum, and offered program support and resources to parents who have lost a child to violence.

Awards and a Standing O — that’s some season for our Friends. **The Friends of Wingate Park**: www.friendsofwingatepark@gmail.com.

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**KICK UP THOSE HEELS**: From left, Rockette Stacey, Mary Queen of Heaven School teacher Joan Sieja, eighth-grader Ciedah Hosten, her proud papa, and Rockette Logan celebrate the student’s “My Favorite Christmas Moment” winning essay.

**EATTOO WINNING STUDENT KICKS IT UP WITH ROCKETTES**

**FLATLANDS**

Hip, hip, hooray for **Ciedah Hosten**. The eighth grader at *Mary Queen of Heaven School* with a passion for writing won the 2014 *Brooklyn-Queens Diocesan* contest with her Pulitzer-worthy essay about “My Favorite Christmas Moment.”

The competition was open to all Brooklyn and Queens students attending Catholic elementary schools. Our young scribe snagged first place out of 675 students and was treated to a special visit by Rockettes **Stacey and Logan**. Ciedah and her classmates also received tickets to see the Christmas Spectacular show at Radio City Music Hall.

The win comes as no surprise to her former Language Arts teacher and very special Standing O pal **Joan Sieja**.

“Ciedah is a very dedicated young lady, with her eye firmly on the prize and a very firm plan for her future,” she told Standing O.

**Eileen Griffo**, coordinator at the school, added her sentiments as well.

“We are very proud of her accomplishment,” she said.

Standing O is pretty proud of Ciedah, too, and offers her congratulations on her win and hopes this is just the first of many more special Christmas moments in this aspiring writer’s future. **Mary Queen of Heaven School** [1326 E. 57th St. between Avenues M and N in Flatlands, (718) 763–2360].

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**CONEY ISLAND**

Take the plunge

Take the chill off New Year’s Day with a heartwarming swim in the frosty Atlantic to raise money for a worthy cause! The ninth **Polar Dip** benefits **Camp Sunshine. Polar Bears** are rarin’ to jump to boost the one-of-a-kind national retreat in Maine for children with life-threatening illnesses and their families.

Jump in on Jan. 1 2015 at 1 pm (registration begins at 10 am). Early registrants with a minimum $20 donation will receive express entry into the early plunge wave. People who raise more than 100 buckeroos will receive a long-sleeve “Freezin’ for a Reason—I Did It” T-shirt.

Standing O says, “What are you waiting for? Get a move on — Jan. 1 will be here before you know it.”

Coney Island Polar Dip (Riegelmann Boardwalk at W. 12th Street in Coney Island; www.freezinforareason.com).
Lions off to roaring start

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI
The Bishop Loughlin girls’ basketball team is well aware of the buzz generated by its young but extremely talented squad, and is embracing the high expectations as a source of motivation.

“We are trying to live up to the hype and show everybody what we can do,” said sophomore Milicia Reid.

Loughlin is off to a good start after a convincing 66–37 victory over Cardinal Spellman in a Catholic girls’ basketball crossover game last Sunday at Christ the King. Murry Bergtraum transfer Reid led the way with 16 points and seven assists.

The sophomore is being asked to be a leader.

Freshman big Zaria Dursey had 13 points and Lynette Taitt and Ahyana Green chipped in eight points each for the Lions. The victory has the Lions off to a 3–0 start, but coach Chez Williams knows this team is still getting its feet wet when it comes to playing against top competition.

“We are not as crisp as I want us to be, but it’s coming,” Williams said. “The more games we play the crisper we will get.”

Loughlin is a team that preaches creating turnovers off its defensive pressure. The Lions flustered Spellman in a Catholic girls’ basketball crossover game last Sunday at Christ the King. Murry Bergtraum transfer Reid led the way with 16 points and seven assists.

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Loughlin is a team that preaches creating turnovers off its defensive pressure. The Lions flustered Spellman in the first half, but could not convert the turnovers into points. The Pilots (3–1) cut the advantage to just 29–22 at the half after a basket by Nicole Hill at the second-quarter buzzer.

Things changed after the break as Reid came alive offensively. Loughlin rattled off an 18–3 run to grab a 49–29 advantage with 15 seconds to play in the third quarter. It was more the way Loughlin envisioned things being when it gets going. Spellman didn’t have a single player score in double figures. Jade Vega and Niajah Morgan led the pack with eight points each.

“We realized we had to separate ourselves,” Reid said. “We are AA, they are an A team. We have to show them

Continued on page 68

LIU volleyball falls in NCAA tourney opener

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI
An NCAA tournament victory has again eluded the Long Island University women’s volleyball team.


It is the second time in three years Long Island University has fallen to the Bruins in the first game. Tamara Ignjic and Annika Foit combined for 19 kills and 15 digs and Veraa Djuric chipped in 24 assists for the Blackbirds.

Long Island University went toe-to-toe with No. 12-seeded UCLA in the first set. The Blackbirds led 15–11 thanks to key service aces from Mirjana Rajic and Adriana Viñas Joy. The advantage was short lived as the Bruins took control of the set by scoring nine points straight.

The defeat ends a season that again saw the Blackbirds dominate the Northeast Conference. LIU went undefeated in league play and earned the program’s first win over a nationally ranked opponent when the Blackbirds took down then-No. 25 Michigan State on Sept. 19.

The Blackbirds went 25–7 overall and beat Robert Morris in straight sets, 25–20, 25–16, 25–15, to claim the conference title behind Djuric, the tournament’s most valuable player. Long Island University loses just four players from this squad and it looks to continue its success next season.
High-voltage Jefferson jumpstarts new season

BY PATRICK MCCORMACK
Thomas Jefferson wanted a fast start to the new season after losing in its second-straight city title game last year. Consider the New York City hoops community on notice in the early goings.

“The team was anxious to get back,” said Orange Wave coach Bud Pollard. “I think we felt like Miami after losing last year to the Spurs. These guys are locked in and focused. They are working hard. I can’t ask for much more as a coach from these guys.”

Jefferson has won its first five games, including an 89–52 victory over visiting Brooklyn Collegiate Public School Athletic League Brooklyn AA boys’ basketball last Sunday afternoon. Junior guard Shamorie Ponds led the way with 25 points. He likes the way the team is playing in the early portion of the season.

“We are playing as a team,” Ponds said. “I think we still have a long way to go, but I think we can do it this year.”

Jefferson’s first real test came against Catholic League powerhouse Cardinal Hayes last Friday night. The Orange Wave passed with flying colors by defeating the Cardinals 131–89. Ponds recorded 44 points and 10 rebounds. The team went out wanting to make a statement against a good Catholic school that had been ranked higher than Jefferson in most preseason rankings.

“They were supposed to be number two in the city,” Ponds said. “They placed them above us in the rankings. We thought we could do something special this year.”

Continued on page 68

New Lincoln stars want to carry on old traditions

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI
Abraham Lincoln’s familiar faces and its legendary coach are no longer at the Coney Island school, but the tradition and expectations still remain.

“The pressure at Lincoln is there,” said first-year coach Kenny Pretlow. “It was a good hands. Coach Bud Pollard. “I think we still have a long way to go, but I think we can do it this year.”

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Continued on page 68
JEFFERSON

Continued from page 66

us and we just had go out and kill them.”

Helping out Ponds this season is Brooklyn Collegiate transfer Davere Creighton. Creighton, who averaged close to 16 points per game last season, is averaging 14 points per contest in three league contests this season, including nine points against his former team on Sunday. Creighton feels that his experience playing in the city semifinals last year is going to help his new squad.

“I bring great leadership and toughness to this team,” the senior said.

Senior point guard Jaquan McKennon, who transferred from National Christian Academy (Md.), guides the Orange Wave’s offense. He scored 16 points and had 12 assists against Brooklyn Collegiate. The senior is averaging close to 11 points per game this season. The trio of Ponds, Creighton, and McKennon lead a fast-paced Jefferson offense that likes to run, play in transition, and is averaging 104 points in its first five contests. Even though the team is off to a good start, Pollard feels there is still more work to be done.

“We have to work on our execution, our defense, our free-throw shooting — a lot of things we just need to keep on getting better,” Pollard said.

Jefferson has been to two consecutive city title games and has come up short in each of them. This season it is off to a quick start and the Orange Wave is showing it is once again a top team in the city with a clear goal.

“It’s championship or bust with us,” Creighton said.

Loughlin

Continued from page 65

why we are AA. We have to give ourselves that push.”

This Lions’ players aren’t new to each other, despite their youth. Many of them played summer travel ball together at New Heights with Williams as coach, winning numerous tournament titles. The adjustment is learning to play against kids older than them in one of the most competitive leagues in the country.

“We are used to playing with each other, so we have chemistry,” Dursey said. “We already know how each other plays.”

Loughlin’s lineup gives it many options for how it can beat teams. Reid and senior guard Kiana Clark can both shoot and attack the rim. Skydajan Patterson can help push the pace. Green gives the Lions another athletic forward to complement Dursey, one of the city’s best young players. Williams makes sure all of them are committed to the defensive end.

The players know they haven’t come close to reaching their potential yet, and expect big things when they finally do.

“We think we have the team now,” Dursey said. “We are looking to take the championship.”

Tip your Waiters

Cleveland Cavaliers guard Dion Waiters dunks over Nets forward Cory Jefferson in the second half of the Dec. 8 game at Barclays Center. Waiters was the high scorer in the Cavaliers’ 110-88 victory over the Nets.

Associated Press / Kathy Willens
**Brooklyn Community Classifieds**

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