

Bridge to reopen in spring

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

The bouncy, \$4.1-million footbridge that connects Brooklyn Heights to Brooklyn Bridge Park is set to get \$700,000 in repairs, but park honchos say they probably won't share what made it so dangerous in the first place.

Work on the Squibb Park Bridge is set to wrap up in the spring, but a councilman's demand for answers does not appear as if it will be met anytime soon.

"We really want to know exactly what happened," said Councilman Steve Levin (D-Brooklyn Heights), who sits on the park's board of directors. "If it's a design or construction problem we want to know."

Park honchos shuttered the springy footpath back in August when they noticed it was moving more than usual. The big repair bill will come just two years after the zigzagging span opened, meaning it will have cost \$200,000 per month by the time it reopens.

"It's a lot of money," Levin said.

During the meeting, Levin

Continued on page 10



GALLERIST: Ellen Rand's Art 101 gallery is showing a collection of painting and sculptures made by veterans from the remnants of their uniforms.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

THE ART OF WAR

Vets' uniforms turned into art

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

This is a serious change of clothes.

A new art exhibit opening at Art 101 gallery in Williamsburg on March 6 will feature works from veterans using paper made out of their old uniforms. The show is part of the Combat Paper Project, which helps returning soldiers cope with trauma and other issues by teaching them to make the paper and then turn it into

art. A former Army medic who returned from service in 2008 said the process is cathartic for a lot of veterans he sees.

"It's a transformational experience for some soldiers," said Eli Wright, who participated in the program and now instructs other vets. "They go through the process of de-constructing the uniform rag and then they reclaim it as medium to tell their stories."

Continued on page 6

Teach gets leg up

BY VANESSA OGLE

Colleagues of a Flatbush elementary school teacher who lost her leg to a hit-and-run driver last year are holding an online fundraiser to help her buy an advanced prosthetic limb she calls her "dream leg."

Diana Salmon — who was nominated as PS 109's

"Teacher of the Year" just days before the tragic incident — was struck while she was unloading groceries from her sister's vehicle on June 30.

The mother to two, whose daughters witnessed the horrific accident, said the last thing she remem-

Continued on page 10



Photo by Steve Solomonson

NEW YORK, NEW YORK: Milton Wellen with a statue of the Empire State Building.

Empire State in Marine Park

BY VANESSA OGLE

The Empire State Building may tower over the distant island of Manhattan, but a Marine Park man has a copy that's nearly as impressive sitting in his dining room.

The 7-foot-9 brass replica of the iconic edifice

had been a gift to Frank Sinatra to commemorate the crooner's signature tune "New York, New York," and Milton Wellen picked it up at a Sinatra memorabilia auction 20 years ago.

The Marine Park resident said the song that inspired the replica and be-

came the city's anthem will always be one of his favorite Sinatra songs.

"I still enjoy that 'New York, New York,'" said Wellen.

The statue was given to Sinatra after he sang the Big Apple-themed hit,

Continued on page 10

A Helping Hand For All Your Kitchen And Bath Remodeling Needs



Make your project our project no matter how big or small, no matter what budget. We offer plumbers, developers, contractors and homeowners the best brands and the latest technology to satisfy any taste and budget.

Our showroom, located in the heart of the downtown Brooklyn shopping district, is your one stop shopping location for all your kitchen and bath needs. Come in and enjoy a relaxing personalized experience that only our professionally trained staff can offer. Simply come in with your dreams, we will make them come true.

Hours Of Operation
Monday - Friday 9:00PM - 5:00PM
Saturday 10:00AM - 3:00PM

Appointments are suggested
but not necessary

Kitchen & Bath
GALLERY OF BROOKLYN
A SOLOCO COMPANY

299 Atlantic Ave.
Between Smith St. and Hoyt St.
718.259.8010
www.kbgbrooklyn.com

Pre-K-arious pick

Ridgites pan plan for pre-K near flophouse

BY MAX JAEGER

Won't somebody think of the children?

The city wants to build a standalone prekindergarten on 93rd Street in Bay Ridge, but neighbors say a seedy hotel up the block will put kids at risk.

"First make it safe for the children," neighbor Stephanie Moustakas said during a Feb. 25 public hearing. "It's not safe. There are a great lot of insane people, bums, drugs, booze."

The Prince Hotel has long been a thorn in the side of 93rd Street residents, who say drug addicts and prostitutes patronize the place daily. The site sits less than 500 feet from the potential site for the pre-K building.

The city plans to knock down the one-story office building at 369 93rd St. and put up a three-story, standalone pre-K facility with eight classrooms and 144 seats, according to Tami Rachelson, a deputy director at the School Construction Authority. The city is in negotiations to buy the lot from Dr. William Spielfogel, who owns the land and runs a podiatry practice in the building, she said. They have agreed upon a price, but Rachelson declined to say what it was. Real estate firm Massey Knakal listed the site with an asking price of \$3,100,000.

Spielfogel did not return requests for comment.

Residents were also concerned about increased traffic on the narrow roadway.

"This is more than a tiny and cramped 93rd Street can bear," said neighbor Jared Milano.

The site is supposed to employ at least eight educators, but the city will not build any parking, Rachelson said. No buses will run to and from the site, and the city expects most par-



THEY'VE GOT THE CURE:

(Above) The city is planning to buy this doctor's office on 93rd Street and knock it down in order to build a three-story, 144-seat pre-K facility to meet the high demand for seats in the crowded 20th school district.. But critics say the proposed school is (left) too close to the Prince Hotel - a reputed den for drug-users and prostitutes.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

ents to walk their kids to school, she said.

But not everyone panned the plan. One neighbor said the school might galvanize a neighborhood effort against the Prince Hotel.

"I'm probably the only one here that is 100 percent for this," said Kerri Catalano, who lives across the street. "I think this will bring the neighborhood together. I would absolutely send my daughter there."

The site might not be ideal, but residents conceded the area needs pre-school seats.

School space is at a premium in District 20, which covers Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and parts of Bensonhurst, Sunset Park, Borough Park, and Kensington.

Fewer than half of the district's pre-K applicants - just 734 of 1,921 - got a

seat in 2014, according to Department of Education records. It was the largest placement disparity in the borough, the data show.

There just aren't enough suitable sites in the area for the city to build on, a local school leader said.

"Last year, when mayor rolled out additional pre-K seats, we didn't get one additional seat, because we didn't have room," said District 20 Community Education Council president Laurie Windsor.

The city also plans to lease space at three other sites in the district to create 396 new pre-K seats, Windsor said.

But Milano and his neighbors said the city must be more mindful when siting new early learning facilities.

"Think about the children," he said.



With this ring I thee pay rent.

Jewelry often comes to you in the best of times. But it can also help you get through all the times in between. Provident Loan is a safe, discreet alternative to your average pawnshop.

And our interest rates will sweep you off your feet.



**PROVIDENT
LOAN SOCIETY**
OF NEW YORK

Pawning, redefined.

718-238-0506

7804 FIFTH AVE. (AT 78TH ST.) BAY RIDGE BROOKLYN, NY 11209

WWW.PROVIDENTLOAN.COM

Courier Life Classifieds call (718) 260-2555

Sandy vics cheated

Feds: Fraudulent reports used to deny insurance claims



NO RELIEF: Adding insult to injury, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is now demanding that some Sandy victims give back relief money they received after the storm.

File photo by Paul Martinka

Pols push back on FEMA clawbacks

BY VANESSA OGLE

Hurricane Sandy victims are being asked to give back relief money awarded to them by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, but a fix is in the works, according to local pols.

The federal relief agency claims it erroneously overpaid some victims in the aftermath of the superstorm, and has started demanding that they pay for its mistakes.

An elected official said may low-income residents in Marine Park and throughout his district are unfairly being asked to pay back the funds they have already spent on Sandy-related repairs for their homes.

“They take the money, then they spend it, and FEMA comes along and says, ‘We gave you too much, give it back.’ ... This is something that comes up frequently it is just not fair,” said Councilman Alan Maisel (D-Marine Park). “They were very poor people — it wasn’t like they were running to Bermuda because they got all this extra money.”

New York senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand are pushing the Disaster Assistance Recoupment Fairness Act in Congress to waive the supposed “debts” the relief agency

says superstorm victims owe after receiving more disaster assistance than the government now says they deserved.

The legislation requires the agency to waive all debts related to disaster assistance beginning from January 2012.

The federal agency is trying to claw back an average of \$7,000 from each affected victim — more than 60 percent of whom make less than \$50,000 a year, according to the senators.

Schumer said that the agency should not require residents to pay back the funds that were awarded because of errors by the agency or the disaster victims, and that residents should only have to return funds found to be awarded through fraud. The senator from Park Slope also said the government should refund any repayments that law-abiding victims have already handed back.

“Much of this disaster aid has been used in legitimate ways to help victims finally get back on their feet after the storm,” said Schumer. “FEMA should waive all debt among superstorm Sandy victims and repay those who have already provided recoupment payments, except where there is clear evidence of fraud.”

BY VANESSA OGLE

Revelations that systemic fraud cheated thousands of Hurricane Sandy victims out of insurance claims unleashed a storm of anger and calls for justice in hard-hit Southern Brooklyn.

Federal officials admitted over the weekend that engineering reports showing flood damage were altered so that insurance companies could deny claims, and said the government is working to settle hundreds of resulting lawsuits.

One Gerritsen Beach couple whose claim was denied based on an altered report was fortunate enough to have gotten evidence of the original determination, according to the couple’s lawyer.

“He was smart enough to take a picture with his iPhone,” said Benjamin Pinczewski, who represents Vincent and Terri Ann Carrozza — whose flood insurance company claimed the damage to their home after the superstorm wasn’t from the flooding but was “preexisting” structural damage.

Pinczewski said the engineer hired to survey the damage by the couple’s insurance company, Travelers, initially determined that the damage was from flooding, but the report was later changed, and the company denied the Carrozza’s claim.

“[The engineer] said it was flood damage — he wrote a report, and then Vincent was told that the report didn’t say that,” he said.

A spokesman for Travelers declined to comment of their claim for privacy reasons.

On the March 1 edition of “60 Minutes,” a Federal Emergency Management Agency official said that insurance companies used fraudulent reports to deny thousands of Sandy victims’ claims.

Brad Kieserman, the agency’s deputy associate administrator for insur-



DEMANDING ACTION: Borough President Adams, left, Councilman Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island), center, and Councilman Alan Maisel (D-Marine Park) warn residents about fraudulent engineering evaluations that were used to deny insurance claims at a March 1 press conference in front of the Gerritsen Beach home of Vincent and Terri Ann Carrozza — whose insurance company denied their post-Sandy claim based on an altered damage report.

Borough Hall

ance, said he has seen engineering reports that were altered so that — as in the Carrozza’s case — reports that originally said homes were damaged from flooding were changed to say the destruction wasn’t related to water damage, so that victims didn’t receive full payouts from their insurance companies.

The head of the Department of Homeland Security, which oversees the relief agency, said he has asked the department’s in-

spector general to investigate the extent of the fraud and recommend ways to correct it.

“FEMA has expressed its deepest concern about allegations regarding the integrity of the claims adjustment processes currently under litigation, and it has encouraged a full review of insurance company adjustment and engineering practices to ensure fair treatment of flood survivors,” said secretary Jeh C. Johnson. “In addi-

tion, FEMA has requested the DHS Office of Inspector General not only investigate allegations of fraud but also review and make recommendations on FEMA’s flood insurance oversight role.”

The relief agency is currently working to settle 1,200 lawsuits from residents who say they were victims of the fraud. But senators Charles Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand want the settlement should apply

Continued on page 6

A Heights to remember

Civic group honors head, skewers Brooklyn Bridge Park at meeting

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

What a night in Brooklyn Heights.

The 105-year-old Brooklyn Heights Association held its annual meeting on Feb. 24 in Grace Church, and honored long-time executive director Judy Stanton, who is set to retire in August.

“No one can replace Judy Stanton,” said the group’s president, Alexandra Bowie, as she presented Stanton with a commemorative trophy. “She has an encyclopedic knowledge of our organization and the determined energy to get things done.”

The group also awarded Stanton the Martha Atwater Award, named for the member who was killed on a Clinton Street sidewalk two years ago by a pickup truck. Channel 13 announcer and Heights resident Tom Stewart teared



THE PREZ: Alexandra Bowie, president of the Brooklyn Heights Association, addressed the group’s members at its annual meeting.

Photo by Jason Speakman

up when he presented the award.

“We are all the beneficiaries of her many years of service in Brooklyn Heights,” Stewart said. “She deserves it, you know.

She really does.”

The rest of the night put a focus on preservation, a hot-button issue for the area and the Association, which spearheaded the effort to designate the Brooklyn Heights Historic District back in the 1960s. Bowie said the work started back then is even more important today.

“We are a quiet corner no more,” she said. “Change is not just coming. It’s here.”

She explained the group’s current efforts to scale back development in Brooklyn Bridge Park, calling on park honchos to lower the view-blocking Pierhouse hotel-condo building and nix the planned towers near Pier 6.

“We have always argued that only housing that is needed should be built, and right now were

are not convinced building on Pier 6 is necessary,” Bowie said.

Community groups involved in those fights presented updates at the meeting.

In addition to Stanton, the civic organization also gave awards to 84th Precinct Community Affairs Det. Sal Ferrante for his 16 years of community involvement, to the congregation of Grace Church for the restoration of its historic building, and to the Department of Transportation for the installation of old-fashioned lampposts in the neighborhood.

Justin Davidson, a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic for New York Magazine gave the guest lecture. He described preservation efforts in various cities and urged the Brooklyn Heights Association to consider the side effects of



BELOVED: Channel 13 announcer Tom Stewart kisses executive director Judy Stanton after presenting her with an award for her service to the community.

Photo by Jason Speakman

conserving their neighborhood.

“Preserving a neighborhood’s architecture doesn’t necessarily mean preserv-

ing its character,” he said. “Turn a working-class district into an historic district, and it’s unlikely to remain working-class.”

BECOME A NEW YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!

“Inches are inches, and the Zerona removes inches, more than four inches on the “test” case we did for The Doctors. I have to say, I didn’t believe it at first either.”

— Dr. Drew Ordon - Lead Physician on the Hit T.V. Show “The Doctors”

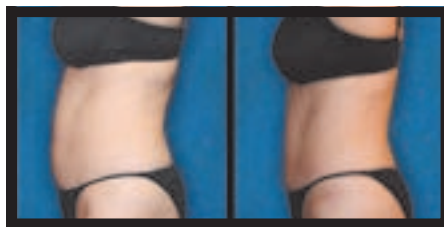
Introducing ZERONA® LipoLaser — removes fat without surgery, pain or wounds. ZERONA® is a new body-sculpting procedure designed to remove fat and contour the body without invasive surgery. ZERONA® allows you to continue your daily activities without interruptions from surgery, pain or wounds. ZERONA® works by utilizing the Low Level Laser (FDA cleared for laser body contouring to emulsify fat which then releases into the interstitial space. The excess fat is passed through the body during its normal course of detoxification. The ZERONA® procedure was proven through a double-blind, randomized, multi-site, and placebo controlled study in which patients average loss of 3.64 inches, and some lost as much as 9 inches compared to the placebo group that lost only half an inch.



What you can expect: Our patients lose an average of 8–9 inches from the waist, hips and thighs and reduction in clothes size in **2 weeks**. This is not a quick weight loss program — we are targeting adipose tissue and not taking off excess water weight. Results vary individually.



ZERONA®
Laser
of New York
www.zeronalaserofnewyork.com



ZERONA® WORKSHOPS

When: March 10 at 1:15 & 6:15 pm
and March 31 at 6:15 pm

Where: ZERONA® Laser of New York
5911 16th Avenue, Brooklyn

Cost: FREE (\$79 value)

Call: (718) 234-6212

Museum of modern angst

W'burg jokesters to build museum for Kerrigan, Harding in hallway

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The whack heard round the world is set to be immortalized in a tiny museum in a Williamsburg apartment.

A pair of comedians are opening the Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan 1994 Museum in the hallway of their abode. The museum is meant to focus on a media machine that hones in on one scandal after the next, and the two athletes that got caught up in it, according to the museum curators, who were both seven when one of figure skater Tonya Harding's associates attacked rival skater Nancy Kerrigan with a police baton.

"We want to focus on the cultural reaction and the media," said Viviana Olen, who lives in the Williamsburg apartment with her friend Matt Harkins. "I had a sense of it as a child and then to revisit it as an adult, you realize how much the media left out."

The pair first launched the museum concept as a joke Kickstarter fund-raiser with a goal of \$75, but it garnered so much attention that they decided to really go for it, she said. The level of interest shows just how much the Harding-Kerrigan scandal resonated with Americans, Olen said.

"Everyone wants to get involved with this," she said. "It is a story that people really connect to."

In January of 1994, Harding and Kerrigan were occasional figure-skating teammates in their 20s who were getting ready to compete in the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, and aiming for spots in the Winter Olympics in Norway. The famous blow to Kerrigan's kneecap was delivered by a friend of Harding's live-in ex-hus-



ON DISPLAY: Viviana Olen and Matt Harkins will display photos of the two figure skaters in their apartment hallway for the Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan 1994 Museum.

Photo by Cate Dingley

band outside of a practice in Detroit, and though Harding denied involvement, she eventually pleaded guilty to hindering the prosecution.

The incident spawned a media circus that lasted for months, culminating at the Olympics, where Kerrigan won silver and Harding suffering a broken lace and came in eighth. The competition was one of the highest-rated broadcasts ever.

Harding-Kerrigan buffs have come out of the woodwork to support the museum project, offering Olen and Harkins copies of play scripts, screenplays, and comics that they have written about the drama. A woman in Portland, Oregon said she is going to send them a handmade diorama of Harding's triple axel, according to Olen. A woman who writes about figure skating professionally sent them buttons and programs from the 1994 U.S. Figure Skating Championships, Olen said.

One fan said the rivalry

may have taken on the status of kitsch, but it has serious implications.

"Every one laughs and chuckles about it, but it is an example of how we treat women in the media," said Zackary Grady, who is working on a play about the incident called "Toe Pick."

The months of focus on the scandal would never happen today, he said.

"Nowadays, this would be on Buzzfeed and we would be over it in a week," Grady said.

Another supporter, who hasn't gone as far as making fan fiction about the incident, said she just wants to see the museum happen.

"It is very zeitgeist-y to me to make a museum in your apartment hallway," said Prospect Heights resident Janie Stolar. "And it hits a sweet spot of nostalgia."

The Kickstarter campaign has raised \$1,007 so far, eclipsing its original goal of \$75. Olen and Harkins plan to throw a party to open the museum in April. The museum will not have regular hours, but will accept visitor appointments over the internet.

"I mean, this is in our home and we have day jobs," said Olen. "But anyone who is into this is someone we would like to meet, at least for a few minutes."

People can contact the pair at mattandviviana@gmail.com.

AUTO BODY RENEWAL SPECIAL



CALL ANYTIME 24/7

Let us Give your Car that

"NEW CAR LOOK"
Package Deal \$995 Most Cars

LIMITED TIME OFFER

- = Repair Small Damages =
- = Compound Entire Car =
- = Renew Car to its Full Value =

Only at **AUTO DENT COLLISION**

3511 Fort Hamilton Pkwy (at 35th St.)

Centrally Located

- Same location since 1958 -

Tel: 718-854-7900



CARCO
Group, Inc.

Official Insurance Inspection Station

OPEN 6 DAYS | MONDAY-FRIDAY, 7:30 A.M.-6 P.M.
SATURDAY, 9 A.M.-3 P.M.



WINDOW-FIX



Serving the New York Tri-State Area for over 30 years | CALL US TODAY 1-800-337-1620

Solutions for Windows and Doors • Commercial | Residential | Architectural | Historical

FREE ESTIMATES

Call Us Today

Have you Heard?

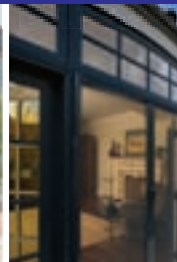
**Passive Houses
Windows & Doors**

ARE THE MOST
EFFICIENT IN THE
WORLD



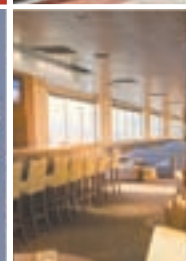
screens
for any door
or window

STANDARD, RETRACTABLE
AND CUSTOM DESIGN



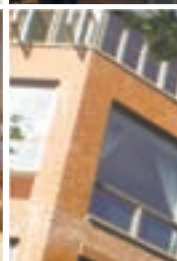
glass
storefronts & more

SHOWER ENCLOSURES,
CURTAIN WALLS,
SKYLIGHTS



windows
to suit your style

REPAIR, INSTALLATION
CUSTOM DESIGN
BROWNSTONES OUR SPECIALTY



ALL INVITED TO OUR NEW WINDOW LEARNING CENTER AND SHOWROOM

Email: info@windowfixinc.com | Website: windowfixinc.com | 335-347 38th Street, BKLYN 11232

Artificial intelligence

Artist teaches our robots how to sculpt

BY VANESSA OGLE

In the future, the message will be inside the medium. The new exhibit opening at the Art Gallery at Kingsborough Community College on March 11 will feature sculptures that were made with three-dimensional printers and are imprinted with the computer code used to create them.

The exhibit, titled "Return to Tomorrow: 3-D Printed Sculpture for the Posthuman Age," is an attempt to explain art to the machines that will be running the world in the near future, according to the artist. She said she hopes the computers will continue to create new works on their own after humanity finally bows down to its robot overlords.

"Art is probably the most human part about us. It is totally illogical, totally unreasonable," said artist Ashley Zelinskie, who lives in Williamsburg. "How would we be able to explain to importance of that to machines?"

The artist, who is a sci-fi fan and is dedicating



CODE OF CONDUCT: Ashley Zelinskie with one of her three-dimensional sculptures from "Return to Tomorrow." Photo by Elizabeth Graham

the show to the recently deceased "Star Trek" actor Leonard Nimoy, said she doesn't view a robotic takeover as the apocalyptic event it is often portrayed to be.

"Especially nowadays you're seeing a lot of this — robots and technology will take over humanity," said Zelinskie. "But I don't

necessarily see it as a bad thing. I don't think it has to be a dystopian future. It could be a slow takeover where we work side-by-side with them."

She said a robotic revolution would, however, change the art world. In order to ensure that art lives on, Zelinskie said artists must try to explain

the importance of art in ways robots can comprehend, which she is attempting to do by incorporating code into her pieces.

"We should probably start integrating our art and culture into this movement," she said.

Zelinskie said other artists don't always support her vision for the future, but that is a common theme throughout history.

"Plato protested against the written word for awhile," she said. "People are always resistant to change."

"Return to Tomorrow: 3-D Printed Sculpture for the Posthuman Age" by Ashley Zelinskie at the Art Gallery at Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd between Quentin Street and Decatur Avenue in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5449, www.kbcc.cuny.edu]. Opening reception March 11 at 3 pm. Exhibit runs until April 14.



MASKING PAPER: Eli Wright made these masks with paper constructed from a recycled military uniform. He said they represent victims of wartime torture. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

UNIFORMS

Continued from page 1

To make the paper, the soldiers first cut-up their old threads into postage stamp-sized squares. They put the pieces through a beater machine that mixes in some water and macerates the fabric into a pulp. Then the slurry is poured into a mold, the water is drained, and it is pressed until it dries. After they have the paper, the participants get to choose how they want to express themselves and what they want to say.

Works in the Art 101 show, titled "Beyond the Uniform," include screen-prints, paintings, and sculptures, all created from the handmade paper.

"That's why I think it's so effective," said contributor Kevin Basl, who did two tours in Iraq with the Army. "It's open for interpretation."

Basl said one piece he has in the show is particularly special to him and his family. It is made from the uniform his grandfather wore during the Korean War, and features a screen-printed photograph of his grandfather at basic training. The two had never talked about their service before Basl decided to make the art work, and he interviewed his grandfather about his time in the Army when he started

working on it. Then his grandfather passed away a few weeks later, leaving the family with the recorded interview, and the screen-printed uniform.

"My family is just happy that they have this piece of his history that was almost lost," he said.

One of Wright's pieces in the show features a large portrait of a veteran screaming into a phone that has no one on the other line. He made the painting after a friend of his, who was in the Marine Corps, attempted to commit suicide, he said.

"It's like he is crying out for help, and he feels like nobody's listening," Wright said about the character.

More than just a form of art therapy, the program also provides veterans with a sense of camaraderie when they might be feeling isolated and alienated, Wright said.

"I really needed to find a community of like-minded veterans," he said. "This was exactly what I needed to deal with my experience in a positive way."

"Beyond the Uniform" at Art 101 [101 Grand St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 302-2242, www.art101brooklyn.com]. Opening March 6 from 6-9 pm. Runs through April 5. Free.

CHEATED

Continued from page 3

to all residents whose engineering reports were altered — whether they filed a lawsuit or not.

The senators said the agency's settlement should extend to all residents whose claims were denied because of altered engineering reports from HiRise Engineering, P.C. — which handled the

Carrozza's claim — U.S. Forensic, Llc, and any other firms that were implicated in the alleged fraud.

Borough President Adams and councilmen Alan Maisel (D-Marine Park) and Mark Treyger (D-Coney Island) joined the Carrozzas for a press conference at their home on Keen Court on March 1, urging Sandy victims whose insurance claims were denied to resubmit

them — and pushing State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman to appoint a special monitor to ensure the claims are treated fairly.

"We've called upon the attorney general," said Treyger, who heads the Council's Committee on Recovery and Resiliency. "We really believe there has to be a designated monitor or Sandy team to handle these cases."

Maisel said the over-

sight is overdue, and could have prevented the fraud in the first place.

"There was really nobody looking at the insurance companies over their shoulders saying, 'You guys aren't doing the right thing,'" said Maisel, adding that many of his constituents had long suspected foul play. "We've been hearing this for two years," said Maisel. "It is one big outrageous scam against the people."



CEO: Les Goodstein
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:
Jennifer Goodstein

COURIER LIFE PUBLICATIONS • BROOKLYN WEEKLY

General Phone: (718) 260-2500
By Mail: Courier Life Publications, Inc.
1 MetroTech Center North, 10th Floor
Brooklyn, NY 11201

NEWS
Fax: (718) 260-2592
E-Mail: editorial@cnglocal.com

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Phone: (718) 260-8302
Fax: (718) 260-2579
E-Mail: jstern@cnglocal.com

CLASSIFIED
Phone: (718) 260-2555
Fax: (718) 260-2549
E-Mail: classified@cnglocal.com

PUBLISHER: Clifford Luster • **V.P. OF ADVERTISING:** Ralph D'Onofrio • **CLASSIFIED DIRECTOR:** Amanda Tarley
EDITOR: Vince DiMiceli • **DEPUTY EDITORS:** Bill Egbert, Nathan Tempey • **LAYOUT EDITOR:** Courtney Donahue

This newspaper is not responsible for typographical errors in ads beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2015 by Courier Life Publications, Inc., a subsidiary of News Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. The content of this newspaper is protected by Federal copyright law. This newspaper, its advertisements, articles and photographs may not be reproduced, either in whole or part, without permission in writing from the publisher except brief portions for purposes of review or commentary consistent with the law. Postmaster, send address changes to Courier Life Publications, Inc., One MetroTech North, 10th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201.

ONLINE AT:
BROOKLYN DAILY.com

MEMBER:
NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION
NYPA



Let the Norse times roll

BY MAX JAEGER

It was carnival — Viking style.

Dozens of Ridgites celebrated Fastelavn — or Danish Mardi Gras — at the Danish Athletic club in Sunset Park on Feb. 22. Traditionally, celebrants used the day as a glutinous bash before the Spartan pre-Easter season of Lent — similar to the New Orleans tradition of Mardi Gras.

But the Scandinavian festival wraps in another familiar holiday tradition —

costumed children extorting treats from adults.

“Its like a Mardi Gras with trick-or-treating,” said organizer Victoria Hofmo, who runs the East Coast Scandinavian Museum.

In one tradition, kids visit neighbors and sing a song promising “trouble” if they don’t get Fastelavn buns — a sweet, creme-filled roll, she said.

But there was no trouble, despite a lack of authentic buns, Hofmo said.

“We had cream puffs instead — usually we have the

buns but Nordic closed,” she said, referring to the recent closure of Ridge staple Nordic Delicacies.

When they weren’t snacking on holiday pastries, partiers played games like Slå Katten af Tønden — once a tradition where folk put a cat in a barrel and smacked it around, but now a harmless pinata game, Hofmo said.

Hofmo organized the event, plus others such as the Norwegian Day Parade, to share the neigh-

borhood’s Nordic heritage. Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, and Sunset Park were once home to the largest Scandinavian population in the country, said Nordic Delacacies’ former owner Arelene Rutuelo.

After the Danish Athletic Club stopped having its Fastelavn parties years ago, the Scandinavian East Coast Museum resurrected the wingdings, Hofmo said.

“We found out that they had Fastealvn’s years ago and kind of brought back this tradition,” she said.

FASTELAVNTASTIC: (Left) Organizer Victoria Hofmo, at left, serves up traditional Danish delights at the Danish Athletic Club’s Danish Mardi Gras celebration on Feb. 22. (Center) Ilen Ryen, at left, gets into the game “I could tissue.” (Above) Magician Katrina Patrick took first place in the “Wonderful, Wonderful Copenhagen” game.

Photos by Steve Solomonson

HCS



In the Business of Caring

My loved one needs care at home....

HCS Home Care has the solution! CDPAP Program

Why CDPAP?

Our Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program allows individuals more control over their caregiver services by permitting you to choose your own caregiver.

- Friends • Family • Neighbors
- No Certificate Needed**

HCS HOME CARE

Phone: **1(855) 239-CARE (2273)** Ask for Ron



CAMP & SUMMER ACTIVITIES DIRECTORY



Manhattan

Asphalt Green
555 East 90th Street
New York, NY 10128
646-981-2261
www.asphaltgreen.org

Construction Kids
718-522-2902
www.constructionkids.com

Surprise Lake
307 7th Avenue
New York, NY 10001
212-924-3131
www.surpriselake.org

Brooklyn

Aviator Summer Camps
Hanger 5 Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234
718-758-9800
www.aviatorsports.com

Beth Elohim Summer Day Camp
274 Garfield Pl., Brooklyn, NY 11215
718-768-3814
congregationbethelohim.org/camp

Brooklyn Urban Garden School
500 19th St., Brooklyn, NY 11215
718-280-9556
www.bugsbrooklyn.org

Construction Kids
718-522-2902
www.constructionkids.com

FasTrackKids
www.ftkny.com

Kane Street Synagogue
235 Kane St., Brooklyn, NY 11231
718-875-1550
www.kanestreet.org

Mill Basin Day Camp
5945 Strickland Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11234
718-351-6200
www.millbasindaycamp.com

Park Slope Day Camp
694 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215
718-788-7732
www.parkslopedaycamp.com

PAC Camps
1500 Paerdegat Ave. North, Brooklyn, NY 11236
718-209-1010 x159
www.pacplex.com

Piper Theatre Workshops
718-768-3195
www.pipertheatre.org

Shorefront YM-YWHA
3300 Coney Island Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11235
718-646-1444
www.shorefronty.org

Ume Ume Music + Arts
319 4th Ave., Brooklyn, NY
718-768-0800
www.umeumearts.com

White Bird Productions Creative Theatrics
718-398-3658
www.whitebirdproductions.org

Xaverian Sports Camps
718-836-7100 x118
www.xaverian.org



Queens

Aviator Summer Camps
Hanger 5 Floyd Bennett Field
Brooklyn, NY 11234
718-758-9800
www.aviatorsports.com

Breezy Point Surf Club
718-634-2500
www.nybreezypoint.com

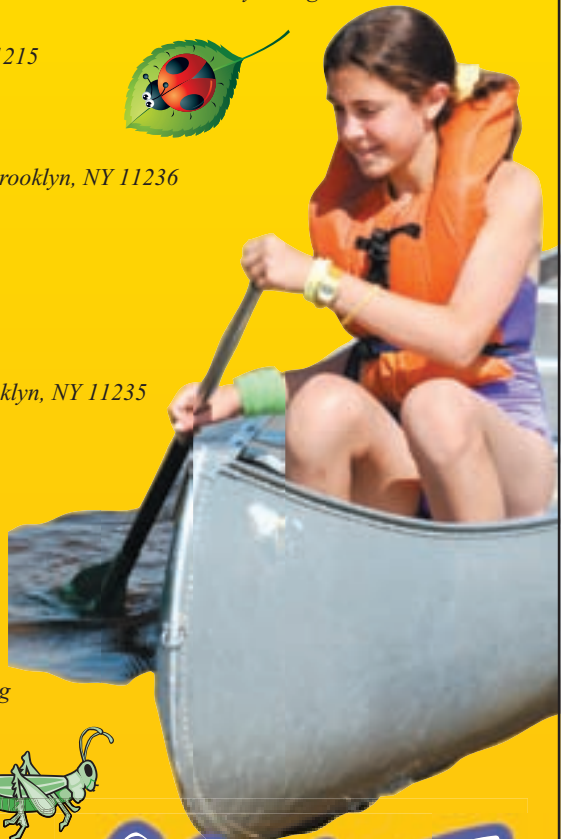
Christ the King Summer Camp
68-02 Metropolitan Avenue
Middle Village, NY 11379
www.christtheking.com

The Kew Forest School
119-17 Union Turnpike
Forest Hills, NY 11375
718-268-4667 x108
www.kewforest.org

Queens Zoo
800-433-4149
www.wcs.org/summer-camps

Samuel Field Y Day Camp
718-225-6750 x261 or x264
www.sfysummercamps.org

Silver Gull Beach Club
718-634-1500
www.nysilvergull.com



Staten Island

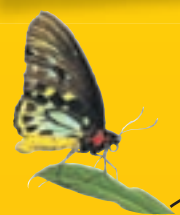
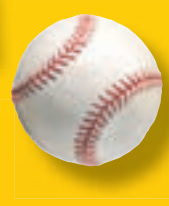
FasTrackKids
www.ftkny.com

Long Island

LuHi Summer Programs
131 Brookville Road
Brookville, NY 11545
516-626-1100
www.luhisummercamps.org

Rockland County

Camp Ramaquos
30 Mountain Road
Pomona, NY 10970
845-354-1600



SUMMER 2015

Book spoofs boro restaurants

'FUDS' book launch with Arthur Meyer at PowerHouse Arena

BY CLAIRE MCCARTNEY

Brooklyn's hottest restaurant is Fuds. This place has everything — tubed lamb, breakfast beef stroganoff, a Moby Dick platter, and chicken spanked with cinnamon-garlic dirt and dimpled with a freshwater whale-tit sauce.

Oh, and it does not exist.

The restaurant began as a joke among three comedian friends. The trio handed out menus for their fake Brooklyn eatery at the 2012 Great GoogaMooga Festival, spoofing the real dishes served by the real chefs at the Prospect Park foodie festival with items such as “three trouts stacked on top of each other,” “shanked goat carcass in a powder dress for two,” and the mysterious

“Bill Clinton sandwich.” One of the creators said the indulgent, adjective-filled menus and super-serious attitudes at hip new Kings County eateries were the perfect ingredients for parody.

“How did it go from killing and eating what you need, to having all of these words used to describe something so simple?” said Arthur Meyer, a Park Sloper and writer at “The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon” who created Fuds with fellow funny-people Kelly Hudson and Dan Klein. “‘Reduction’ is a word you hear used a lot. That word seems to me so mathematical. It’s just food.”

The menu went viral online, and the threesome quickly realized that they

had something special on their hands. For the next two years, they spent their nights and weekends expanding the joke into an entire book, “Fuds: A Complete Encyclofoodia from Tickling Shrimp to Not Dying in a Restaurant,” which Meyer will launch at PowerHouse Arena in Dumbo on March 11.

The comedy writer said he previously worked in catering, and his real experiences there helped inspire the parodies of the foodie culture that, while not exclusive to Brooklyn, seems to flourish here. Meyer described one event that was a particularly rich source of unintentional comedy.

“This one dish, they kept saying to ‘put the tomato at 12,’ as in, place the tomato at 12 o’clock, and everyone

was saying, ‘Tomato at 12! Tomato at 12!’” he said.

In addition to the nonsensical dishes from the original Fuds menu items — none of which, Meyer added, are edible — the book includes new and equally inedible brunch and dessert menus, a foreword from Chef Mario Batali (who outlines five things he’d rather be doing than writing a foreword), and a “who’s who” guide to the restaurant floor.

“The chef is the luckiest person, because he gets to taste the food all night while he’s making it,” Meyer said, “and the host is the unluckiest, because they never see the food, they’re just stuffing peppermints and rolls in their pockets.”

Arthur Meyer launches “Fuds” at PowerHouse



WINE AND DINE: Park Slope comedy writer Arthur Meyer is the co-author of “FUDS: A Complete Encyclofoodia from Tickling Shrimp to Not Dying in a Restaurant.” Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. March 11 at 7 pm. Free.

BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGY

Relieves Back Pain

Local Doctor Treats Herniated And Bulging Discs, Sciatica, And Serious Low Back Pain

WITHOUT BACK SURGERY



DRX9000™

Surgeons perform an estimated 300,000 to 400,000 back surgeries every year. Annually, neurosurgeons perform at least 100,000 operations for lumbar disc disease alone, and orthopedic surgeons perform a similar number. It is estimated that between 20% and 40% of these operations are unsuccessful.

That is why doctors from all over the country are racing to acquire and get trained to operate the DRX9000™...an FDA approved device that is saving thousands of Americans suffering from chronic back pain from going under the knife.

Dr. Melinda Keller, who treats serious back pain without surgery explains how the DRX9000™ works... “Over 10 years

ago, NASA began to notice an unexpected result of space travel - Astronauts that left with back pain would come back without it. After investigated this now phenomenon here’s what they found: During the anti-gravity state of the mission there were decompressive forces on the intervertebral discs and back pain was relieved. How? When you travel through space, the effects of gravity are removed and you are in a weightless state. All the pressure is taken off your spine and discs. Even better - and this is the key - a negative pressure is created. This negative pressure actually sucks the herniated material back into the disc and allows it to heal. Thanks to

the DRX9000™, disc herniation sufferers finally have a non-surgical solution.”

The main conditions the DRX9000™ has documented success with are back pain, sciatica, herniated and/or bulging discs (single or multiple), degenerative disc disease, facet syndromes and a relapse or failure following back surgery.

Anyone wishing to learn more about this new FDA approved solution to back pain or to set up an appointment for a free consultation call Dr. Keller’s office at **718-234-6207** or visit Brooklyn Spine Center, 5911 16th Ave., Brooklyn, New York 11204. Brooklynspinecenter.com.

COURIER LIFE CLASSIFIEDS CALL (718) 260-2555



How can **155,886** households in Brooklyn help your business?



CNG's newspapers, Courier-Life, The Brooklyn Paper and Caribbean Life, have been an important part of the Brooklyn advertising landscape for decades.

Our weekly newspapers let you target a specific neighborhood or reach all parts of the borough with your advertising message. And with the borough's largest household coverage, that's a lot of Brooklyn!

If that's not enough, we can spread your message outside of Brooklyn with CNG's Queens, Bronx and Manhattan newspapers.

Give us a call at 718-260-2510. You'll speak with a CNG advertising professional who can help you develop a plan that's right for you.

BAY News & BAYRIDGE
Courier

BROOKLYN Courier

BROOKLYN Graphic

MILL MARINE Courier

Caribbean Life

The Brooklyn Paper



718-260-2510

TEACHER

Continued from page 1

bers before waking up in the hospital was praying and putting her faith in God that she would have peace, whether on Earth or beyond.

"I believe in God and I prayed," said Salmon. "I asked for three things — I asked for my girls, I asked for them to pray, and then I finally asked to just have peace for what I was about to deal with, not knowing what peace meant — it could have meant peace after death."

The doctors amputated Salmon's leg above her knee the next day. Salmon said when she woke up in the hospital with her friends and family around her, she knew in her heart that her leg was gone but she was just happy to be alive.

"Everyone was whispering and crying — they didn't know how to bring the news to me," said Salmon, who was active with spinning, kickboxing, and running before the accident. "To wake up and know that I'm alive was



LOTS OF LOVE: Diana Salmon is all smiles as she hugs her daughters, Samantha, left, and Sasha. Photo by Steve Solomonson

enough for me. I was just so grateful."

In October, Salmon was fitted with a prosthetic leg that allows her to walk, and she returned to the classroom on Dec. 1. She is still an active person and recently even started indoor rock climbing, but she said

her current prosthetic leg doesn't allow her to keep up with daughters.

The online fund-raising campaign, started by Salmon's colleagues two weeks after she returned to work, hopes to raise \$365,000 to purchase a sophisticated prosthetic leg with a bionic knee that closely mimics the functions of the natural joint, which would allow her to return to some semblance of the active lifestyle she enjoyed before the hit-and-run incident.

"I call it my dream leg because this really allows a person with my activity level and beyond to allow people to live life like they once did — or as close to they once did," she said.

Her insurance company will not cover the cost of anything beyond the most basic prosthesis, so she's on her own to try and make herself whole.

"It's unfortunate that they look at it as a 'luxury' because it's not," Salmon said.

The campaign has raised \$12,521 so far from 134 donors so far.

To donate, visit www.gofundme.com/superteacher.

BRIDGE

Continued from page 1

pressed Regina Myer, president of the private park, about administrators' efforts to recoup the costs for repair and to issue a report detailing the results of an engineering study. Myer said the staff would consider it, but added that she worried doing so could hurt a potential lawsuit.

"We don't want to jeopardize the possibility of litigation," she said.

Myer decides what the board of directors votes on,



BOUNCED OUT: The hiking trail-like Squibb Bridge was made to bounce a bit as people passed over it, but it closed because it was bouncing too much.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

but not how it votes.

A spokeswoman for the park said a study is ongoing.

"Engineers are working to determine the cause of the bridge misalignment and will soon begin repairs to ensure that the bridge is open as soon as possible for the public to safely enjoy," she said.

The embattled Pierhouse development project includes structures that are being built on either side of Squibb Bridge, but park officials said back in October that the construction does not appear to have damaged it.

EMPIRE

Continued from page 1

according to Wellen, who purchased the statue at an auction house for \$2,000 in 1995.

He said the sparkling

statue — which was once displayed in Sinatra's home in Palm Springs — was expected to sell for between \$600 and \$800, but because there was another interested buyer, Wellen said he ended up shelling out more than double the

estimated price.

But Wellen said the brass building is worth every penny.

"The joy you get out of it is worth the money," he said. "It is really a beautiful replica of the Empire State Building."

Video forces DA to drop charge of assaulting cops

BY MAX JAEGER

Another Sunset Park resident is vindicated after prosecutors dropped charges that video of the incident proved were trumped-up.

Prosecutors dismissed charges that 17-year-old Enrique Del Rosario assaulted a police officer on June 8. Cops pinched Del Rosario last summer as he filmed them arresting revelers during Puerto Rican Day festivities on Fifth Avenue in Sunset Park. They beat Del Rosario and then tried to make him look like the aggressor, his lawyer said.

“Basically, my client was a victim of a gang assault by the 72nd Precinct,” said attorney Rebecca Heinegg. “Five officers slammed him against the gate of a closed store. Batons came down on his head.”



BATTERED: Police left 17-year-old Enrique Del Rosario bloody after arresting him for blocking traffic in Sunset Park on June 8. El Grito de Sunset Park

During the melee, one officer accidentally hit another cop with a baton, but when prosecutors brought charges against Del Rosario, they claimed he had

done the damage, said Dennis Flores, head of police watchdog group El Grito de Sunset Park.

Video evidence shot at multiple angles contradicts prosecutors’ claim, according to Heinegg and Flores. One video shot at the scene shows a high-ranking officer tell the person filming that doing so is illegal. It is not.

The clips illustrate a tense scene involving activists and bystanders shouting and chanting, “We’re moving!” as police make arrests and shove back the crowd, sometimes smacking at cameras and striking people with batons.

A grand jury convened in September decided not to indict Del Rosa for assaulting cops, Heinegg said. The youth also faced charges of resisting arrest and larceny,

court records show. Prosecutors offered to drop the remaining charges against Del Rosario — and two unrelated low-level misdemeanors — if he stays out of trouble for the next six months.

The District Attorney’s Office offered the deal to avoid a trial and prevent the defense from introducing embarrassing video evidence showing police malfeasance, Heinegg said.

“This is a common way for the DA to get out of cases they don’t want to go to trial,” she said.

Del Rosario wanted to bring the case before a jury, but the assistant district attorneys’ offer to drop unrelated cases was hard to pass up, Heinegg said.

“This is as close to an outright dismissal that the ADA is willing to con-



INNOCENT: Prosecutors are dropping charges against 17-year-old Sunset Parker Enrique Del Rosario after police and the District Attorney’s Office dragged him through 10 months of court on trumped-up charges that he attacked a police officer.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

cede,” Heinegg said.

Del Rosario’s mother said coming to her son’s eight court dates over the last 10 months has itself been a trial, because she knew her son was innocent the whole time.

“He’s coming to court every month with no verdict,” mother Wendy Tabarez said. “I don’t know why [the judge] doesn’t do anything.”

Court proceedings forced his mother to take days off

from her job to accompany him to court, something that has cost her time off and pay, she said.

The case is the latest in a series involving videos exposing the 72nd Precinct’s apparently heavy-handed tactics.

Activists’ video evidence recently helped exculpate another Sunset Park resident whom police charged with assault in a separate incident

We got our loan from

**BAY RIDGE
FEDERAL
CREDIT UNION**

**LOANS
AVAILABLE**

1750 86th St, Brooklyn
(718) 680 2121

BayRidgeLoans.org

Not mad at batter

A-Rod-inspired bodega tentatively accepts slugger's apology

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

They'll take this hero with a grain of salt.

Some patrons and workers at the A-Rod Grocery on Myrtle Avenue, named for Alex Rodriguez, the heavy-hitting Yankees third baseman who is coming off a year-long suspension for using performance-enhancing drugs, say the slugger's recent apology is worth accepting — for now, anyway.

"Everyone deserves a second chance," said Elvis Flores, a regular customer at the shop between Washington and Waverly avenues.

Flores has been rooting for the team since he moved to New York from Mexico in the mid-1990s.

"We're all human," he said of Rodriguez's foibles.

When Major League Baseball slapped Rodriguez



WE FORGIVE YOU: A worker at the A-Rod Grocery, Geraldo Dominguez, said Rodriguez should get another chance, but he had better play well.

CNG / Matthew Perlman

with the longest suspension in the game's history back in 2013, people at the bodega, like Yankees fans everywhere, felt let down.

Rodriguez underwent a hip surgery prior to his suspension, and now that he is making his comeback and has released a handwritten apology to the fans, bodega denizens are cautiously optimistic.

"If he stays healthy, you know, he can make a real difference," Geraldo Dominguez said from behind the counter, between making sandwiches and printing out lottery tickets.

Hearing the conversation, another customer jumped in, saying he has been a Yankees fan since the days of Reggie Jackson and Don Mattingly.

"Those are players you look at and idolize," said Efrain Arroyo. "A-Rod brought shame to the team. I don't like him."

Arroyo pointed to accusations that Rodriguez

juiced in 2007 and 2009, which Rodriguez ultimately copped to. The ballplayer also denied using steroids when the league first announced his suspension in 2013 as part of the Biogenesis scandal, Arroyo noted.

"We trusted him the first, second, and third times," he said. "It's sad to see, but he got what he deserved."

As for the apology, in which Rodriguez avoided specifying that he used steroids, Arroyo is not buying it.

"He's lucky he's back at all," he said.

A-Rod Grocery owner Ricardo Rodriguez named the store after the heavy hitter back in 2000, when he was playing for the Seattle Mariners, and considered changing the moniker when the scandal broke in 2013, according



WHAT'S IN A NAME: The A-Rod Grocery on Myrtle Avenue is named for the Yankees' steroid-using slugger, Alex Rodriguez.

Photo by Jason Speakman

to a New York Daily News report.

Flores believes the doubters will come around on A-Rod, as long as the team does well.

"If the Yankees win the World Series, we'll all forget about it," he said.

He pointed to a large poster in the store of another famous player of Dominican descent, Pedro Martinez. There is no such poster of A-Rod.

"Pedro is the god of the Dominican, anyway," Flores said.

Sirico's
CATERERS

Offering dinner, cocktail and buffet options

8015/23 13th Avenue, Dyker Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11228 • 718-331-2900 • www.siricos.net

Pearl Room brunch is not to be missed

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

It's always fabulous for dinner, and the Pearl Room is a gem for brunch, too.

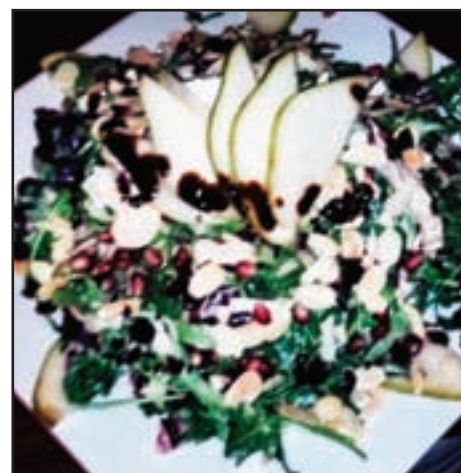
On Saturdays and Sundays, from noon to 3:30 pm, the award-winning restaurant offers a \$12.95 brunch of which there are nine scrumptious choices. Among the options: French toast, pancakes, grilled chicken over Caesar Salad, sautéed mussels, vegetable panini, and a beef burger.

Order the French toast and get three pieces of brioche, served with fresh berry compote, accompanied by a mound of crispy smoked apple wood bacon. Pick your favorite flavor pancakes — plain, fresh blueberry, or banana, and they'll arrive dusted with powdered sugar, syrup and butter on the side. The shell steak and eggs selection — a four-ounce steak with two eggs cooked anyway you like, is served with home fries and gravy.

"The steak was cooked to perfection," said diner Joan Alagna of Dyker Heights who enjoyed every bite.

Brunch here is a wonderful way to start weekend mornings. And, should you need a bit of inspiration to leave the house during the work week, surely the three-course \$25 meal, offered Mondays through Fridays, from noon to 7 pm provides some incentive. Start with a rich white Tuscan bean soup, simmered in a tomato-based broth that will warm your winter-weary bones. Or, keep it light with a mesclun green salad; or fresh tomato and mozzarella salad.

Second courses include pan-seared salmon with grilled vegetables and a lentil salad with a ginger-teriyaki sauce. Or, order



the pork tenderloin with sun-dried tomato-infused tomatoes and Swiss chard, served in a cherry-pepper balsamic reduction. Meatballs and beef braciola over penne is another option, as is chicken portobello with mozzarella, julienne vegetables, potato croquette, in a balsamic fig reduction.

For dessert, indulge in vanilla crème brûlée, cheese cake, tiramisu, or ice cream. It's a terrific value for your money, and the quality of the food is

exceptional, especially when you consider that the Pearl Room has been recognized by Michelin, Zagat, and Wine Spectator.

"We're the most awarded restaurant in the borough," says Anthony Rinaldi, executive chef and owner of the restaurant.

Rinaldi has earned many personal acclaims, too, most notably being named one of the top 25 chefs in New York when he was just 24 years old.

The dishes he creates are as visually appealing as they are tasty, whether you're talking entrees or dazzling desserts such as the Chocolate Heaven — a warm flourless cake with a scoop of ice cream and fresh whipped cream, presented on an oversized square dish that's been drizzled with chocolate sauce. Heaven, for sure.

The Pearl Room is the place to be to celebrate good times. There are three party rooms that can accommodate up to

150 people, ideal for intimate weddings and special occasions.

Or, come party with the bar crowd, Mondays through Fridays, from 3 to 7 pm, when you can order \$6 house Cabernet or Pinot Grigio wine, \$5 cocktails, and half price appetizers. On Thursday nights, sing your heart out at karaoke with Dawn Michaels. Then, dust off your white shoes and suits for the "Saturday Night Fever" party, from 10 pm to 4 am. That's when the

lounge area transforms into a dance floor for Disco Night. As the Bee Gees said, "You Should Be Dancing."

The Pearl Room [8201 Third Ave. at 82nd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-6666, www.ThePearlRoom.com]. Open Sundays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, noon-11; Fridays and Saturdays, noon-11:30 pm. Available for lunch and dinner. Brunch is served Saturdays and Sundays, noon-3:30 pm for \$12.95.



Praying dress-up for Purim

BY MATTHEW PERLMAN

Let the Purim party begin.

The Jewish holiday ran Wednesday evening through Thursday night this week, and Congregation Mount Sinai kicked things off with a carnival on Sunday. Rabbi Seth Wax said the shindig was for more people than just the members of his Cadman Plaza West synagogue.

"We're a community organization, and we wanted to extend the celebration to the whole community," he said.

The carnival, which Mount Sinai has hosted for more than 15 years, was

a kid-friendly affair and included a bounce castle, jewelry making, an art booth, and games. Stephanie Levine ran the cotton candy machine, dishing out puffs of the pink stuff, and helping herself.

"I think I ate more than I gave out," she said.

The sugar wound the kids up, and the other activities helped them work off the extra energy.

"They got their exercise in with the bouncy house," Levine said. "They really had a ball."

Purim is one of the more festive holidays on the Jewish calendar, Wax

said, commemorating the story of Mordecai, who supposedly foiled a plot to destroy the Jews in the Persian empire in the 4th century B.C. Costumes are a big part of the celebration, and Mount Sinai's event drew a sumo wrestler, a clown, and a cat, among other characters. The afternoon snow kept some revelers away, but about 70 turned out for the three-hour celebration.

Levine appreciates how much work goes into events like the Purim carnival.

"The rabbi puts in a nice effort," she said. "He really tries to make the temple better."

A BIG PARTY: (Above) Allison Brustman dressed as a sumo wrestler for the Purim party at Congregation Mount Sinai in Brooklyn Heights on March 1. (Center) Stephanie Levine scooped out cotton candy for Purim party-goers. (Left) Eduardo Pardave, Marlene Antebi, and Revolye Alex had traditional hamantaschen for the festive Jewish holiday. Photos by Elizabeth Graham

+ BROOKLYN MED

THE MEDICAL DIRECTORY FOR BROOKLYN

ALLERGY & ASTHMA

Dr. Gadi Avshalomov, M.D.
The Center for Allergy, Asthma, & Immunology
Board Certified in Adult & Pediatric Allergy & Asthma
2085 E 67th Street, Brooklyn, NY
(718) 444-8014 • www.allergyimmunologydr.com

Dr. Stephen Rand - Kings Plaza Professional Center
Diplomate, American Board of Allergy, Asst. Clinical Professor of Medicine-SUNY Brooklyn. Pulmonary, Nasal & Allergy Testing Treatment
2270 Kimball Street, Marine Park, NY • (718) 377-0011

AUDIOLOGY

Liberty Hearing Centers
Specializing in Revolutionary Invisible Hearing Aid. Free Hearing Screenings
Bay Ridge: 9015 5 Ave.
Sheepshead Bay: 2204 Voorhies Ave.
Flatbush: 445 Lenox Road • 1 (888) 337-5650

CHIROPRACTIC

Live Holistic
Specializing in Spinal Correction & Pain Reduction
Dr. Vincent Adamo
Most insurance plans accepted
446 Bay Ridge Parkway, Bay Ridge, NY 11209
LiveHolistic.net

DENTISTRY

Dr. Joseph Lichter - Cosmetic & Family Dental
1420 Ave. P, Brooklyn, NY 11229
www.JosephLichterDDS.com

Dr. Barry Grossman
Mill Basin Cosmetic & Restorative Dentistry Fellow, Int'l Congress of Oral Implantologists
2135 Mill Ave. & 8919 Flatlands Ave., Brooklyn, NY
(718) 531-7700 • www.millbasindentists.com

FAMILY PRACTICE

Camele White, M.D. - Family Physician
Adults, Children and Gynecology/Women's Health Services
385 Remsen Avenue, Brooklyn NY
(347) 915-1755

INTERNAL MEDICINE

Brookdale Medical Associates
Dr. Yitzchak Weinberger - Hematology/Oncology, General Surgery, Internal Medicine, Geriatrics
2701 East 65 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11234
(347) 304-0716 • (718) 209-0600

Dr. Martin Slavin, M.D.
Board Certified Internist with specialty in Testosterone Deficiency & Replacement Therapy
5601 Flatlands Ave., Brooklyn, NY
(718) 444-7040 • www.martinslavin.com

Dr. Natalie A. Marks, M.D.
Internal Medicine/Vascular Medicine Specialist Director of the Vein Center of N.Y. Specializing in Varicose Veins.
960-50 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219
(718) 438-3800 • www.vascularnyc.com

Dr. Zhanna Tsukerman
514 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, NY 11218
(718) 484-7040 • www.doctortsukerman.com

South Island Medical Assoc. PC
2398 Coney Island Ave, Brooklyn • (718) 627-1100
8918 Avenue L, Brooklyn • (718) 241-1234
1610 Ralph Avenue, Brooklyn • (718) 251-0530
17-31 Seagirt Blvd, Far Rockaway • (718) 471-5400
711 Seagirt Blvd, Far Rockaway • (718) 471-3900
9009 Rkway Bch Blvd, Rockaway Beach (718) 318-5400

OPHTHALMOLOGY

Specialized Eye Care of Bay Ridge
Dr. Thomas Conrad Aiello & Dr. Adam Bennett Pass
Ophthalmologists - Refractive Surgery, Cataract, Retinal, LASIK
8723 3rd Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11209
(718) 836-1779

PAIN MANAGEMENT

Dr. Alfredo del Castillo, M.D. - The Pain Center
9731 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209 • (718) 966-8120

PODIATRY

Santi Podiatry Group
240 East Fifth Street, Brooklyn, NY
(718) 435-1031 • www.SantiPodiatry.com

RHEUMATOLOGY

Dr. Victoria Katz
Internal Medicine. Rheumatology & Pediatric Rheumatology
1664 E 14th St., Suite 401, Brooklyn, NY 11229
71-36 110th St., Suite IJ, Forest Hills, NY 11375
51 East 42nd St., Suite 1808, New York, NY 10017
(718) 375-2300 • (212) 563-6020
www.victoriakatzmd.com

UROLOGY

New York Urologic Institute
2270 Kimball Street, Suite 101A, Brooklyn, NY 11234
110-11 72nd Ave., Forest Hills, NY 11375
2632 E 14th St., Brooklyn, NY 11235
(718) 878-3523 • www.nyui.org

VASCULAR

Dr. Enrico Ascher, M.D. - The Vascular Institute of NY
960-50 St., Brooklyn, NY 11219
(718) 438-3800 • www.vascularNYC.com

WEIGHT LOSS

Conquer the Crave®
Physician-supervised weight loss program
507 Chestnut Street, Cedarhurst, NY 11516
(516) 295-7400 or (718) 285-8807
www.conquercraves.com

CHIROPRACTIC

Dr. Melinda Keller - Brooklyn Spine Center
5911 16th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11214
(718) 234-6212

To Advertise Call: 718-260-2555 • classified@cnglocal.com

Deadline: 4pm Thursday

► **EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS OPPS., EDU., R.E., SERVICES & AUTO** To Place Your Ad Call 718-260-2555

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **MEDICAL HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

► **BROOKLYN APTS UNFURN**

CERTIFIED HHA's

**IMMEDIATE POSITIONS!!!
FOR MALE & FEMALE HHA's
Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan,
Bronx, Nassau**

**\$250 SIGN-ON BONUS
FOR LIVE-INS*
STARTING PAY \$10/HR
HOLIDAYS & OVERTIME PAY
REFERRAL BONUSES
WELLNESS PLAN*
HIP INSURANCE
METRO CARDS PROVIDED***

**ATTENDING HOME CARE
718-940-4900
1125 Fulton Street
Brooklyn, NY 11238**

* Inquire for Details

HOME HEALTH AIDES

**NYS CERTIFIED HHA
F/T ENGLISH SPEAKING
& F/T SPANISH SPEAKING
CASES AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY
IN THE 5 BOROS**

**LIVE IN & LIVE OUT
ALL SHIFTS
EXCELLENT PAY
MEDICAL BENEFITS
LIFE INSURANCE**

**APPLY IN PERSON OR
CALL MON-THURSDAY 9:30-5
COMMUNITY HOME CARE
REFERRAL SERVICE, INC.
3920-13th AVE, COR. 40th ST
BROOKLYN, NY**

718-435-8555

DRIVER JOB FAIR

Monsey Tours Bus Company will be conducting a job fair. We are looking to hire coach operators to join our fleet. Must have a valid CDL class B with P endorsement.

Please join us at **548 Grand Ave** (btwn Pacific & Dean) Brooklyn NY on **Tuesday, March 10th, 2015** from **10:00AM-5:00PM.**

DRIVERS WITH OWN CAR OR VAN

For Delivery of Auto Parts in Brooklyn, Queens & the Bronx
Steve 917-335-2660
Halo 917-709-3194

► **GARAGE AND YARD SALES**

SUN, 3/8, 10AM-4PM.
2143 West St. (Ring "Brooks" Bell) Jackets, Electronics, NFL Jet Bedding Items, Knick Knacks, Sneakers, Picture Frames, Costume Jewelry, Toys, Games and Much More!

► **HELP WANTED**

► **BROOKLYN HOUSE FOR SALE**

Canarsie



Semi-det. 1 fam offering 3brm duplex over walk-in fin. bsmt. 1 car garage, on quiet & convenient block. Won't last! Priced to Sell

How to Sell Realty
contact Victor:
347-356-0359
718-377-3795

► **BROOKLYN ROOM UNFURN**

EAST NEW YORK
Brand New Construction
Furn. 1 Rm For Rent.
Occupancy: 1 Person.
1 block from subway.
\$170 per week
917-385-4156

► **BROOKLYN CO-OP FOR SALE**

GERRITSEN BEACH

1 Family Det, 3 bedroom Duplex, 1st plan, 1 1/2 baths, full basement.
\$349,000
ALSO
Land for Sale. 2 Back to back 40 x 45 buildable lots on a corner, wide street sold as a package. \$325,000



D Greenwood R.E.
718-769-4448
www.dgbrooklyn.com
MLS REALTOR

► **READERS AND ADVISORS**

► **READERS AND ADVISORS**

Yes, he's back from the shadow of death, the Jamaican born Obeah man and spiritual case worker.

MR. B
CALL 718-523-1426

Guaranteed success where others fail. Power to help in all walks of life. Calls your friends and enemies by name, without asking you a single word. A visit to this Obeah worker from Jamaica will be of immense value to you.

► **LEGAL DIR.**

ATTORNEY

Law Office of MICHAEL O. ADEYEMI

Experienced, Personal Attention & Real Solutions

(Over 20 years of Legal Experience in New York State)

- **Accident Cases** (automobile, train and bus, slip & fall on premises, construction accidents)
- **Police Brutality Cases**
- **Civil & Commercial Litigation**
- **Immigration** (Green Card, Work Permit and Deportation Cases)
- **Real Estate**

26 Court Street, Suite 1708, Brooklyn, NY 11242
Call: **718-243-2862** for appointment

► **BROOKLYN CO-OP FOR SALE**

**WHY PAY MORE?
CALL NOW!**

To Advertise Here
Call 718-260-2555

► **SALES HELP WANTED**

► **SALES HELP WANTED**

► **SALES HELP WANTED**

► **HELP WANTED**

CAREGIVER NEEDED

7:30AM-3:30PM, Mon-Fri.
Light duties incl: light cooking & cleaning. References a must. Non-smoking. MUST speak English. Bensonhurst Area.
Call 347-713-4494

► **HELP WANTED**

Customer Service Specialist Needed

for a 77 year old National company

Personable employees needed to politely and professionally answer inquiries from existing customers as well as potential customers. Assure that all phone calls are handled properly and finalized as necessary. Must be computer literate, punctual, and have good attendance. Receptive to constructive criticism, multi-tasker, a people person with a strong work ethic and a clear speaking voice.

Advancement opportunities available.
Bilingual (Spanish) positions available.

Please email resume to
CSHR@columbiautilities.com

DIGITAL RECRUITMENT ADVERTISING SALES ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

CNG (Community News Group) is currently seeking a Digital Recruitment Advertising Sales Account Executive.

In this role, you will sell digital and print recruitment advertising campaigns with an emphasis on digital recruitment advertising.

You will custom craft advertising campaigns that contain successful components of digital online verticals, such as custom search, resume-matching.

You will also have the ability to work with additional sectors for both digital and print marketing opportunities such as real estate and other service sectors.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identify client needs, communicate the benefits of our audience-based marketing solutions as they relate to each need and then sell the appropriate campaign.
- Negotiate contracts.
- Manage day-to-day activities using a CRM system.
- Meet or exceed revenue expectations.

QUALIFICATIONS

- Sales experience.
- Understanding of digital media platforms and be digitally savvy.
- Proficient in sales calling including up-selling, appointment setting and cold calling.
- Ability to work through objections/concerns regarding costs, budgets and selling strategies.

POSITION OFFERS

Base salary plus commission, 401 K, Paid Vacation and medical

Please send your resume and cover letter to: epchenaya@cnglocal.com





New York Spine Institute

Excellence above all

Neck & Back Pain | Scoliosis & Spinal Deformities | Knee & Hip Replacement | Hand, Shoulder, Elbow & Ankle | Sports Medicine | Pediatric Orthopedics | Physiatry, Pain Management | Pain Management Psychology | Chiropractic Care | Acupuncture | MRI



New York Spine Institute is the only comprehensive Spine Institute and Full Orthopedic Center on Long Island affiliated with NYU Langone's Hospital for Joint Diseases. This center brings nationally and internationally recognized leaders in Spinal Care to your community.



World Class Orthopaedic Care at our State-of-the-Art Facility:
761 Merrick Avenue • Westbury • 516.357.8777
Manhattan | Brooklyn | Queens | Nassau | Suffolk

Learn more and schedule an appointment online nyspine.com