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CATASTROPHE



Locals say MTA trying to kill kitties

BY MAX JAEGER

It may be these cats' final stop. The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is conspiring to starve a colony of feral cats living in a Bensonhurst subway station, according to locals trying to feed them.

Cat-loving Bensonhursters has been lobbying for permission to remove the kitties for years, but the authority won't give them access to the property beyond the platform of the N train's Bay Parkway station.

Now the transportation monolith is even blocking caretakers' efforts to feed the helpless animals, causing the cat lovers to bristle.

"It's animal abuse," said Jose Hidalgo, a retired teacher and cat rescuer. "The MTA wants to starve them. Their philosophy is if they starve them, they'll get rid of them."

The colony sits atop a small
Continued on page 21

CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME: Jose Hidalgo and fellow cat advocates have to toss food up to a feral cat perch in the N train's Bay Parkway Station, now that the Metropolitan Transportation Authority boarded up a fence he once reached through to feed the furballs. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

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LEST WE FORGET

Somber memorials mark Holocaust Remembrance Day

BY VANESSA OGLE

Dozens of residents honored the survivors and remembered the victims of the Holocaust on Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, at events across Southern Brooklyn on April 15.

Rabbis and residents tried to brighten the dark day by lighting memorial candles at Temple Shalom in Bergen Beach and the Bay Ridge Jewish Center. But the touching tributes can't take away the pain of the Holocaust, according to one concentration camp survivor, who said at the at Temple Shalom event the world will never be able to understand the horror she lived through.

"It is too hard to explain," said Rose Cwilich, who was in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp from ages 15 to 20 years old. "You go to Hell — Hell is not enough to say."

A former American soldier who helped liberate the Dachau concentration camp almost exactly 70 years ago also spoke at the memorial, saying he still haunted by the horrors he saw there.

"I saw dead people, lots of them. And in a room full of dead people, they talk to you," said Seymour Kaplan.

Kaplan left high school early to enlist in the Army, where he was a machine gunner. Because he spoke Yiddish, Kaplan said he was brought into the camps as an interpreter. But for nearly 50 years, Kaplan said he blocked the monstrous memories of the camp from his mind.

"When I came home my mother and father couldn't stand listening to it and I felt dirtied by it — it just disappeared from my mind," he said.

It was only when he was reunited with a fellow soldier years that he was flooded with



Photo by Georgine Benvenuto



Photo by Steve Solomonson

ALWAYS REMEMBER: (Above) Rabbi Dina Rosenberg leads a Holocaust memorial service at the Bay Ridge Jewish Center on April 15. (Top right) Holocaust survivor Rose Cwilich, who was liberated 70 years ago from the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, lights a candle alongside Len Goldberg. (Bottom right) Jared Miller, center, sings songs with his fellow students.

memories. Since then, Kaplan said he makes an effort to speak about his experiences at events throughout the city. He said he can still picture the dead bodies in the camp and he feels he owes it to them to share with the world what he has seen.

"I tell people very frankly what I saw there," he said. "They seemed to be saying to me, 'You gotta tell everybody, you should expose this, look what they did to me.'"

Yom HaShoah commemorates the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto



Photo by Steve Solomonson

Uprising, celebrating the survivors, honoring the victims, and teaching the younger generation about the tragic time to prevent history from repeating itself.

At the Bay Ridge Jewish Center, locals and elected officials participated in an interfaith event that remembered all those who lost their lives with a dedication to the vic-

tims read from a Torah rescued from the Holocaust.

Temple Shalom honored the victims and survivors with a candle lighting ceremony. Kids from surrounding schools also sang memorial songs on the somber day.

It was an emotional evening, according to Cwilich.

"It is very sad for everybody," she said.

WHAT TO DO
24 SEVEN
Gospel show!
 Actor to perform book of Mark in Carroll Gardens church

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Slow your roll

New app tells parents when kids are speeding

BY VANESSA OGLE

They're not your typical software moguls.

A middle-aged Bergen Beach couple who can barely afford to fill their gas tank have created new iPhone app based on a idea they had while driving to Florida.

The app — which allows parents to monitor their teenagers' driving — could become a money-spinner, but bringing the product to market was about more than chasing Internet fortunes.

"This will save lives," said co-creator Jeffrey Aliotta.

The app, called Driving Awareness Protector, uses the global positioning system and map data to track and monitor teenage drivers and the moment youngsters speed, parents receive a notification on their phones.

"It's a parent's dream," said Aliotta, who came up with the app with his fiancée Karen Kastell. "This is going to be all over the country — worldwide."

The idea came to the couple nine months ago when the pair, unable to afford airfare for a vacation, decided to drive to Florida. Kastell kept having to tell Aliotta to slow down when he repeatedly exceeded the speed limit as he merged from highways to local roads.

Aliotta said he wished his vehicle could announce when the speed limit changed, and Kastell said a phone should be able to do that. The idea then morphed into a speed-monitoring app.

Then, unlike most people who come up with a great idea for an app, Aliotta and Kastell actually took steps to make it a reality, contacting patent attorney Paul Sabaj, who connected them with Hendrick Strydom, a app developer in South Africa, according to Aliotta.

The four had business meetings via Skype, and Aliotta said the attorney and developer were so excited about the project, they agreed to waive most of their fees in exchange for a stake in the business.

Instead of paying his lawyer \$50,000 and his developer \$15,000, Aliotta said he paid each just \$3,000 and agreed to split any profits from the app with them.

"They saw the potential,"



SLOW YOUR ROLL: Bergen Beachers Jeffrey Aliotta and Karen Kastell created an app that allows parents to monitor their kids' driving — and which notifies them when their teenagers speed.

Photo by Steve Solomonson



A NEW FRIEND: Cerrena McKelvey brought home this hand-carved Caribbean mask. Photo by Steve Solomonson

Happy hunting

Coney youth group's scavenger hunt takes them on Caribbean cruise

BY MAX JAEGER

Talk about the trip of a lifetime!

Youth-activity group Coney Island Generation Gap took 15 area kids on a globe-trotting scavenger hunt April 3–12.

The teens and a few adults took a train to Miami and then boarded a cruise that brought them to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and Mexico. For many of the kids, the trip was a succession of firsts.

"I'd never been on a cruise boat before so it was amazing to see," said teenager Florena Forte.

The kids may as well have been on another planet when they climbed waterfalls and rode zip lines in Jamaica, according to the group's leader.

"Some of them never left the city — they'd walk by the train station and that was as far as they got," said Generation Gap director Pam Harris, who accompanied the troop of teens with four other chaperones.

The teens said the outdoor adventuring was a total rush.

"It was fun and scary at the same time," said Cerrena McKelvey, "because I didn't know if I was going to slip on a rock."

But it wasn't just a vaca-



BEAT THE HEAT: Corlena McKelvey's souvenir hat kept her cool in the steamy Caribbean.

Photo by Steve Solomonson

tion for the Coney kids. Harris drew up a scavenger hunt to help kids learn about the places they visited.

"They were tricky questions, and we had to think hard," McKelvey said.

One brain-teaser asked kids what part of their cruise ship was "blue and gray and white all over," Harris said. They found out it was the ship's bridge when the captain took them on a two-hour guided tour of the vessel and his quarters, she said.

Next year, Harris hopes to take the kids to Alaska or Greece, she said.



A dance for Earth Day

BY VANESSA OGLE

Dozens of residents celebrated the sun and soil at the Salt Marsh Nature Center's 10th-annual Earth Day celebration on April 19.

The outdoor event was a great way for families to spend time together, according to one of the organizers, who said technology too often keeps people cooped up indoors.

"It is important for them to be outdoors and appreciate what nature gives them," said

Jessica Schulman, the president of the Salt Marsh Alliance.

Before the celebration, locals hiked around the center's waterfront. Then residents watched performers dance and listened to Native Americans from the Taino tribe play live music and tell stories.

The celebration was also the center's 15th birthday, and one performer said he is thrilled to see how the center has honored the land over

the years by staying true to Mother Nature.

"Seeing the birds and seeing the nature, it allows us — the native people — to appreciate what is being done here," said Roman "Redhawk" Perez.

The family-friendly event is a great way to get kids outside said a longtime attendee.

"It keeps the neighborhood together and safe," Frances Schwartz, who lives in Brighton Beach and has come to the celebration every year.

CELEBRATING THE SEASON: (Above) Two dancers perform the Flamenco, a popular dance in Spain, at the 10th-annual Earth Day celebration at the Salt Marsh Nature Center on April 19. (Center) Roman "Redhawk" Perez leads a Native American dance. (Left) The BellyMystics perform a festive spring dance in colorful costumes. Photos by Steve Solomonson

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Made in Sunset Park

BY MAX JAEGER

Some of Brooklyn's most cutting-edge manufacturers opened their doors to the public during Industry City's open studios on April 18.

Makers were excited to show their revolutionary manufacturing processes, said one tenant in Sunset Park's vast industrial park.

"It's always great having people by, because our process is so strange," said Industry City Distillery engineer and brewer David Kyrejko. "We don't just make spirits — we

breed our own yeast. We're the only ones who machine our own equipment, so getting people in here to see that is great."

The vodka makers established their operation at Industry City in 2011 because the complex had the space and infrastructure to handle their soup-to-nuts brewing process, he said.

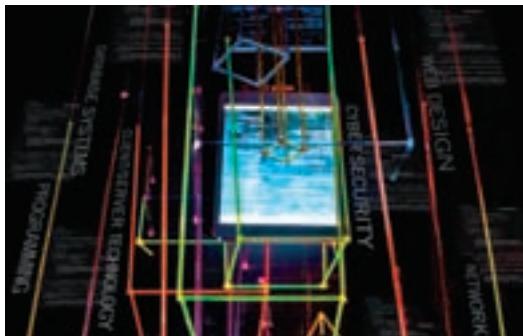
Other manufacturers showing off their wares and workspaces included chocolatiers, furniture makers, and paper producers.

Shipping magnate Irving T. Bush built the sprawling industrial campus — the Bush Terminal — between 1895 and 1925. The facility declined from its post-World War II zenith as shipping operations moved to New Jersey.

Industry City Associates bought the hub in the 1980s, renamed it for their company, and focused on attracting artists and small-scale specialty manufacturers. The consortium announced a planned \$1-billion investment in the site last year.

SWEET GIG!: (Above) Liddabit Sweets co-owners Jennifer King and Liz Gutman show off the fruits of their labor at Industry City's open studios tour on April 18. (Center) Li-Lac Chocolates' chocolate chess board lets you challenge your friends the the tastiest match of your life. (Left) A Li-Lac Chocolates worker fills truffles in the Brooklyn chocolatier's Industry City factory. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

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TRAPPED LIKE A CAT: Jose Hidalgo used a mirror, a rope, and a steady hand to rescue kittens through a gap in a train station wall — until the Metropolitan Transportation Authority covered the gap with wire mesh. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

Catastrophe

Locals: MTA trying to kill feral kitties

BY MAX JAEGER

It may be these cats' final stop.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority is conspiring to starve a colony of feral cats living in a Bensonhurst subway station, according to locals trying to feed them.

Cat-loving Bensonhursters has been lobbying for permission to remove the kitties for years, but the authority won't give them access to the property beyond the platform of the N train's Bay Parkway station.

Now the transportation monolith is even blocking caretakers' efforts to feed the helpless animals, causing the cat lovers to bristle.

"It's animal abuse," said Jose Hidalgo, a retired teacher and cat rescuer. "The MTA wants to starve them. Their philosophy is if they starve them, they'll get rid of them."

The colony sits atop a small platform above subway tracks and adjacent to stairs near the station's Avenue O entrance. Caretakers used to slip cat food through gaps between the stairs and the station walls, but on April 9 Metropolitan Transportation Authority workers essentially entombed the cats, covering the gaps with wire mesh, said Austin Torres, who feeds the ferals along with his sister Mary Ann.

Now Torres and Hidalgo are reduced to lobbing cold cuts up to the cats' stairway-adjacent perch from the platform below to save them from certain death inside the cat-a-combs.

The authority denied allegations it aims to starve out the cat colony, saying through a spokeswoman that it installed the mesh merely to prevent litter from accumulating.

This is not the first time the borough's cat caregivers have accused a faceless bureaucracy of trying to put the kibosh on Brooklyn's cutest street-dwellers. The National Park Service almost sent dozens of cats to their deaths last year when it threatened to dismantle a kittie shanty town in Plumb Beach.

Hidalgo admits that just feeding the cats isn't a permanent solution, and he

has been trying to liberate the colony for years, but the authority won't give him access he needs to lay traps, he said.

Instead, Hidalgo has managed to pull the youngest kitties to freedom through the gaps — before the authority sealed them, he said.

"Through a space of four inches I was able — with a rod and rope — to rope the babies," Hidalgo said.

The self-proclaimed "cat cowboy" has wrangled and found homes for about 30 kittens this way, he said, noting that no kittens were harmed in the process.

Feline rescue organization Ferals in Peril helps Hidalgo neuter the newborns at a Bensonhurst black car dispatch, he said.

But a handful of adult cats remain, because they were too big to fit through the now-sealed breaches. Hidalgo wants the authority to let him set humane cage traps so he can permanently remove the animals from the precarious property. He has lobbied station managers and called 511 — the authority's help line — to no avail, he said.

A spokeswoman for the authority claims it has not received any requests to remove the cats.

But in the past, the authority has suspended service to rescue animals in danger, she said, citing a 2013 incident that halted trains along the B and Q lines in Brooklyn when two kittens wandered onto the tracks.

"If animals are spotted on our property or tracks, we try our best to remove them without causing them injury," said spokeswoman Marisa Baldeo.

The coterie of cat lovers will press on with attempts to liberate the entombed kitties, and has already found homes for the remaining mousers — even though feral cats are notoriously aloof, even by feline standards, Hidalgo said. But he doesn't mind their stand-offishness.

"As long as they use the litter box, they don't have to sit on my lap," he said.



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60TH PRECINCT

CONEY ISLAND-BRIGHTON BEACH-
SEAGATE

Cut for cash

A brute with a blade robbed a Surf Avenue man on April 16.

The goon pulled a knife on the man in the hallway of a building between W. 20th and W. 21st streets in Coney Island at 11:30 am, police said.

"Give me the money — I don't want to do this," the thief told the guy before taking \$214, according to a police report.

But the victim got cut anyway — he scraped his knee after he tripped running from the robber, police said.

Wrong question

A punk punched a man on Brighton Seventh Street for asking an obvious question on April 17.

The tough confronted a guy between Brighton Seventh Court and Brighton Seventh Walk in Brighton Beach at 11:45 pm, saying "Give me your money," according to police.

The mixed-up mark asked: "Are you robbing me?" and the goon knocked him to the ground, police said. When the guy tried to get up, the brute socked him in the face, a police report states.

It was not clear whether anything was stolen, police said.

Double trouble

Two mooks mugged a random man on Brighton Fourth Street on April 18.

The victim was walking between Oceanview Avenue and Brighton Beach Avenue in Brighton Beach at 6:30 am when two twerps emerged from a light-colored sedan and set upon the hapless pedestrian, a police report states.

The pair pushed the guy to the ground and took \$200 before jumping in their car and fleeing, police said.

No relief

A chump choked and robbed a guy as he used a Coney Island Avenue hospital's restroom on April 17.



POLICE BLOTTER

The man was relieving himself in a restroom on the second floor of Coney Island Hospital in Sheepshead Bay when a mugger came up from behind him and choked him until he passed out, police said.

The goon grabbed a wallet containing \$19 and credit cards from the unconscious man's pocket and fled, police said. The victim woke up 30 seconds later, a police report states.

Parasol-t

A lummock assaulted a man with an umbrella on Brighton First Street on April 14.

The victim was walking between Neptune Avenue and Brighton Second Lane in Brighton Beach at 1:45 pm when the umbrella-wielding brute bashed him over the head, police said.

The victim went lights-out and fell to the ground while the attacker fled, officials said. The man suffered a hematoma and cuts to his face, a police report states.

62ND PRECINCT

BENSONHURST-BATH BEACH

Take the call

A wacko whacked a guy with a phone in a New Utrecht Avenue bodega on April 14.

The attacker, a woman in her 30s, hit a 55-year-old man in the head with a cordless phone in a deli between 78th and 79th streets in Bensonhurst at 3:10 pm, police said.

Ganged up on

A gaggle of gangbangers savaged a guy on the corner of Bay Parkway and 72nd Street in Bensonhurst on April 18.

The toughs approached their vic-

tim at 2 am and asked if he was in a gang, and then pounced on him when he told them he was unaffiliated, police said.

The ruffians took the guy's cellphone and \$5, and told him they were part of California-based gang Southside 13, a police report states.

Chump change

Two masked gunmen robbed a Bay Ridge Parkway deli for a paltry sum on April 17.

The heat-packing duo walked into the bodega between 16th and New Utrecht avenues in Bensonhurst waving their guns at 8:10 am, police said.

The pair took \$40 from the register and \$1 from the clerk, officials said. When the victim tried to call her husband, the galoots took her phone as well, a police report states.

Pipes pinched

A clod copped \$74,596 in plumbing supplies from a W. Sixth Street business on April 16.

The store's owner was opening the shop between avenues S and T in Gravesend when he noticed the lock to the cellar was missing, police said. He took an inventory of the basement and realized the supplies were gone, a police report states.

Boozy burglar

A thirsty thief stole iPads, heating equipment, and bottles of liquor from a 17th Avenue heating supply store on April 17.

The boozy burglar broke into the store between 80th and 81st streets in Bensonhurst at 4 pm and took the goods, police said.

68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

Totes from underground

A subterranean scoundrel broke into a Third Avenue deli's basement and stole \$20,000 and some generator motors between April 8 and April 13.

The burgled bodega sits between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge, police said.

Tools vanish

Some opportunistic operatives took thousands of dollars in tools from two vans parked on Shore Road on April 16.

The vans' drivers left their rides between 74th Street and Bay Ridge Parkway in Bay Ridge at 12:45 pm, but when they returned at 2:30 pm, \$2,425 in power tools was missing, police said.

No choice

A gun-toting goon said he had no choice when he stole \$300 and an iPhone from a Fifth Avenue store clerk on April 19.

The trigger man burst into the store between 72nd and 73rd streets in Bay Ridge at 8:10 am waving a handgun and saying "I have to do this. Open the blue box, and give me the money," according to a police report.

The employee forked over the cash and phone, and the robber fled, police said.

Stooges stopped

Police cuffed a trio of toughs who allegedly impersonated cops and stole \$140 from a guy on the corner of 72nd Street and 11th Avenue in Dyker Heights on April 19.

The three stooges shook down their mark at 3:30 am, and then threatened him with a baseball bat before fleeing in a 2015 Honda Civic, police said.

But the goons got into a car accident an hour later, and police pinched them for the robbery, a police report states. — *Max Jaeger*

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Baldwin in Brooklyn

Actor in Sheepshead Bay for film starring Bensonhurst

BY VANESSA OGLE

The stars came out in Sheepshead Bay for the filming of an indie flick written by and starring a borough native.

Actors Alec Baldwin and Michael Madsen were at Romanoff Restaurant on Coney Island Avenue on April 20 filming a scene for "Back in the Day" — a movie about a Brooklyn boxer set in the late-1980s.

The scene featured Baldwin, who was playing a mobster, but the opulent eatery was a star in its own right, according to the movie's lead actor, writer, and producer, who said the restaurant had a certain *je ne sais quoi* that epitomizes Brooklyn in that era.

"We were looking for the location for him to have a real cool, sophisticated place," said William DeMeo, who grew up in the Gravesend and Bensonhurst areas. "We wanted Alec Baldwin's character to be 'the guy.'"

The movie centers on Anthony, a half-Italian, half-Puerto Rican boxer who lived in Bensonhurst when it was still an Italian enclave — and where he faces racism because he isn't 100-percent Italian, according to the DeMeo. When Anthony finally unleashes some of his frustration, mob bosses see that he has potential to be a professional boxer and pair him up with a renowned trainer,



OLD-SCHOOL BROOKLYN: Alec Baldwin was at Romanoff Restaurant in Sheepshead Bay on April 20, shooting scenes for "Back in the Day," a film about a Bensonhurst boxer. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

played by Danny Glover.

The movie isn't based on DeMeo's life, but the independent producer, who has shot five other movies in Brooklyn, said he drew inspiration from his early years.

"I know the streets very much," he said. "I grew up at that time when Brooklyn was like that — it was very racial."

And back in the day, mobsters openly ruled the streets, a stark contrast to today, DeMeo said.

"It just shows how the mob had a hold on the neighborhood back then — and how it's different now," he said.

DeMeo said he has seen Southern Brooklyn change drastically over the past few decades — but he is just happy

the rest of the world finally sees Brooklyn as he always has.

"Brooklyn's kind of like the next hotspot," said DeMeo. "It always was, to me, the place to be, but now it is even cooler."

The movie also stars Mike Tyson, Shannen Doherty, and Annabella Sciorra, and is set to be released in early 2016.

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West Point in formation

BY MAX JAEGER

It's an invasion!

Hundreds of cadets from West Point marched from Fort Hamilton on April 18 to show area students what's in store if they attend the prestigious U.S. military academy.

The 300-strong deployment of young men and women trooped in "the long gray line" a formation that symbolizes the academy's history and new recruits' links to past graduates. One attendee said the

show was a sight to behold.

"It was beautiful because I have a lot of family members in the military," said Rita Polito, who brought her two daughters to the event.

But the officers-in-training did more than march in formation. Cadets demonstrated the unique skills students pick up at their time in the 213-year-old institution.

West Point students' fleet of foot and fist showed area kids how to float like a butterfly and

sting like a bee during a boxing exhibition. And a group of agile swordsmen went foil-to-foil in a fencing match.

West Point lies about 60 miles north of Brooklyn and was founded in 1802. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson both graduated from the academy and were later stationed at Fort Hamilton before the Civil War. The elite military school is the oldest continuously operating military post in the country.



THE LONG, GRAY LINE: (Left) West Point cadets assemble at the foot of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge. (Top) Cadet Mitch Yelenosky shows Andrianna Polito a few boxing moves she might pick up if she attends West Point. (Above) Cadets Tyler Griffin and Josuha Qualls demonstrate the art of fencing.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

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ILL-GOTTEN GAMES: Cops say these three suspects bought \$1,306 worth of merchandise at a video game store using credit cards stolen from someone's car. NYPD

Grand theft auto

Bought video games with cards stolen from car: Cops

BY VANESSA OGLE

Police are asking for the public's help finding the three men believed to be responsible for using stolen credit cards to buy more than \$1,000 worth of merchandise at a video game store in Flatbush on April 7.

Authorities say the suspects broke into a vehicle and stole a wallet, which contained the credit cards, then went

on a shopping spree using the stolen cards at the game store on Flatbush Avenue near Glenwood Road at 8:14 pm. Cops say the perps bought \$1,306 worth of gaming merchandise.

Police said one of the suspects was wearing a brown sweater and a hat and two of the perps were wearing red hooded sweatshirts at the time of the incident.

Flatbush man missing

BY VANESSA OGLE

Police are looking for a 56-year-old man who vanished from his home in Flatbush on April 17.

Authorities say Lennox Clarke disappeared from his apartment on E. 17th Street near Beverley Road at 8:51 am.

Cops say he stands 6-foot-1, weighs 185 pounds, and has short black hair and a goatee. Police said Clarke was last seen wearing a multi-colored shirt, dark pants, and black shoes.

Police ask anyone with information on Clarke's whereabouts to call *Crime Stoppers* at (800) 577-8477, submit tips at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com, or text-message tips to 2474637, then enter "TIP577."



HAVE YOU SEEN HIM?: Lennox Clarke who disappeared on April 17. NYPD

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NO SHOW: The seat in New York's 11th Congressional District has been vacant since tax cheat Michael Grimm stepped down on Jan. 5. Gentile said little would change if voters elected Staten Island District Attorney Donovan, who didn't show up for an April 22 debate in Bay Ridge.
Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Ridgites to Dan: No show, no vote

Donovan ducks Bay Ridge debate

BY MAX JAEGER

The only mark they'll put next to his name is "absent."

The Republican candidate in a special election to replace disgraced former Rep. Michael Grimm lost votes by ducking a debate in Bay Ridge on April 22, voters said.

"Him not showing up switched my vote," said Laura Grassi of Bay Ridge. "I would have voted Republican had I heard what he had to say. He did not give me the respect of hearing his position. He made a big mistake not showing up here — what are we, garbage?"

The candidates who did show up spent much of the 90-minute debate slamming Staten Island District Attorney Dan Donovan for his absence from the debate, which was organized by the Bay Ridge Council on Aging and held at the Ft. Hamilton Senior Center.

"The first thing that sets me apart [from Donovan] is that I show up," said Councilman Vincent "Vinnie" Gentile (D-Bay Ridge). "This is the most anti-democratic behavior in a campaign that I have seen. It is disrespectful and disgraceful."

Gentile, Green Party candidate James Lane, and write-in hopeful Tom Weiss stumped to seniors during the forum, agreeing on several points, including their estimations of the Republican front-runner.

"Call him 'despicable Dan Donovan' for not attending these forums," said Green Party candidate James Lane.

Even the moderators bashed the Republican hopeful when one resident posed a question for the absent attorney.

"We have the Dan Donovan chair," said Peter Killen, gesturing to an empty seat at the dais. "The committee reached out many times to Dan

Donovan and all I got from his people is 'He's busy, he can't make it.'"

Weiss, who was not slated to speak, slipped into the vacant chair meant for Donovan and took the opportunity to voice his unwavering support for liberating Tibet from Chinese control.

Donovan didn't show at a Bensonhurst forum on April 19 either, but a Donovan spokeswoman called criticisms of the attorney's absence "silly."

"We have now entered the silly season of a desperate campaign when our opponent is upset we didn't attend his donor's event," said Donovan spokeswoman Jessica Proud. "Voters already got the message loud and clear from the last two debates that Mr. Gentile plans to raise taxes and take the DeBlasio agenda to Washington. Why he wants to continue talking about that is beyond us."

On Wednesday, Gentile and Lane took turns hammering Donovan for congressional Republicans' plan to cut Social Security and Medicare, which mainly benefit seniors.

Gentile and Lane both support taxing people who earn more than \$118,500 — currently they pay no additional Social Security taxes. The move would replenish the program's trust fund and "save Social Security for generations to come," Gentile said.

Donovan has not endorsed a specific plan for preserving Social Security but has said that any changes made should not affect current recipients.

One resident who came to ask Donovan to make his plan more explicit felt slighted he didn't get an answer — or even the chance to ask the question.

"It's an insult he didn't show up," said Ridgite Ray Pucci, a retired detective.

The special election is May 5.

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Big bullion buys Billyburg's brew, bowling building



\$50 MILLION AND ITS ALL YOURS: No, not the beer or the ball, silly. The building that houses Brooklyn's world renowned Brooklyn Bowl (left) and Brooklyn Brewery (right) is for sale for a pretty penny – or dollar.
Photo by Stefano Giovannini

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The massive warehouse in Williamsburg that houses the borough's eponymous bowling alley and brewery is for sale for \$50 million, putting both businesses' long-term futures in Brooklyn in jeopardy.

Thankfully, both the Brooklyn Bowl and the Brooklyn Brewery have years left on their deals, according to their owners who say their roots in Brooklyn are deep, and they don't intend on going anywhere anytime soon.

"We have a long term lease and no intention of leaving before it is over," said Brooklyn Bowl owner Charley Ryan, who declined to say how long that lease lasts. "If the building gets sold, it gets sold. If the person who owns the building wants to sell it, it is a free country."

Brooklyn Brewery, meanwhile, has a lease through 2025 on its space, giving legendary owner Steve Hindy plenty of time to find new digs in the neighborhood or elsewhere.

"We are not in any hurry," he said. The long leases mean both businesses are safe for the twenty-tens, but since they are both such large operations, they will have to start looking years in advance for relocation spaces.

The Brooklyn Brewery is already in the middle of a massive expansion project on bucolic Staten Island, where the company is building a larger brewery that will allow it to ship beer to the west coast via rail — something it can't do

now. Hindy said he will not have time to seriously work on finding a new spot for the Brooklyn operation until that is up and running, which will not be until at least 2017. But he has already started keeping an eye out, and has scoped some potential spots in Sunset Park and in northern parts of the borough.

"We are very confident that we will be able to find another space," he said.

The half of the Brooklyn Brewery that houses the tasting room is in a different building owned by another landlord, so unless that building also sells, Hindy said he plans to stay on N. 11th Street for the foreseeable future.

Ryan first signed the lease for the Brooklyn Bowl in 2007, but spent two long years renovating the space, installing bowling alleys, bars, and a stage, before finally opening in 2009.

The Brooklyn Brewery moved into the building at 61 Wythe Avenue in the 1990s, when rent in the area was \$3 per square foot and the building was worth less than a million.

"I could have bought a building then, but I did not have a million dollars," said Hindy.

Hindy said he would not consider coughing up \$50 million for the building now.

"For \$50 million, you could not make money brewing beer," he said. "It would have to be a hotel or a nightclub or something like that."

The seller's broker, David Schechtman at Eastern Consolidated, did not return calls for comment.



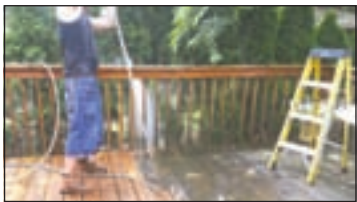
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MKT 1503

Fuel imagination at Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Unplug your kids' video games and turn off the iPads.

Let them experience some old-fashioned fun for a change: arts and crafts projects.

Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies in Bay Ridge carries everything adults and kids need to stir the imagination — and it offers classes that transform creativity into reality.

Build your own gumball fish bowl, create a "Frozen" canvas bag, design some jewelry, use stencils, or paint a picture. Adults can attend knitting and crochet classes. Some have even painted their own wine glasses and built terrariums. Norma Visconti, the shop's owner, says, "the adults have just as much fun as the kids." Families are welcome to come in and craft together.

The business offers help with school assignments, and works with schools to carry supplies that are needed throughout the academic year. Local artists can depend upon the shop for professional paints, brushes, and other much-needed materials.

The store opened last March, and before Norma and her partner, Jim Griffin, committed to the neighborhood, they visited businesses within a 20-block radius to note what these shops sold so that Norma's



Norma Visconti & Jim Griffin, co-owners of Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies, carries everything artists need to stir their creativity. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

Arts and Crafts would complement them, not compete with them. As a result, Norma is proud to help other mom-and-pop shops by sending her customers to local merchants when she knows they carry items that her patrons may desire.

"We all have to work together," she says. "I believe in supporting small business."

Outsiders may think Brooklyn is a big city, but to locals, it's a small town with a sense of community, says Norma. She grew up in the area, still lives here, and wants her shop to be the place where all are welcome to come in for coffee and a chat. One never knows where a conversation

can lead. It is the local moms who give the crochet classes that are all the rage, and that's because these ladies would come into the store, buy wool, and Norma would display some of the beautiful pieces they created. Patrons loved seeing them, and when they wanted to know how they, too, could make them, the shop began offering classes, which are now very much in demand, says Norma. Students learn the basics, and then move on to advanced steps.

Then there was the time Norma was asked to help create a Ninja Turtle bus for dogs, an item that was to be entered into a local dog competition.

"The project came in first place," she says.

Kids come in for help with their science projects and dioramas, too. Norma is always ready with a suggestion, as she has dabbled in crafts her entire life, painting, sculpturing, and making something from whatever material happens to be in her hands at the time. She takes pride in inspiring others to do the same.

Celebrate birthdays at Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies and let the creativity flow. Norma will supply the materials and work with you to develop a plan, whether for a child's party or an adult bash. One recent

theme was a throwback to the 1980s, with music and artwork that reflected the time period. Perhaps in anticipation of spring, another ambitious group built and painted its own birdhouses. The party planners are welcome to bring in their own food and beverages.

"Like" Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies on Facebook for inspiration.

Norma's Arts and Crafts Supplies [7813 Third Ave. between 78th and 79th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-9200, www.Normasartsandcraftssupplies.com]. Open Tuesdays through Fridays, 11 am-7 pm; Saturdays, 11 am-6 pm; and Sundays, 11 am-5 pm.

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TRAPPED LIKE A CAT: Jose Hidalgo used a mirror, a rope, and a steady hand to rescue kittens through a gap in a train station wall – until the Metropolitan Transportation Authority covered the gap with wire mesh. Photo by Elizabeth Graham

CATASTROPHE

Continued from cover

platform above subway tracks and adjacent to stairs near the station's Avenue O entrance. Caretakers used to slip cat food through gaps between the stairs and the station walls, but on April 9 Metropolitan Transportation Authority workers essentially entombed the cats, covering the gaps with wire mesh, said Austin Torres, who feeds the ferals along with his sister Mary Ann.

Now Torres and Hidalgo are reduced to lobbing cold cuts up to the cats' stairway-adjacent perch from the platform below to save them from certain death inside the cat-a-combs.

The authority denied allegations it aims to starve out the cat colony, saying through a spokeswoman that it installed the mesh merely to prevent litter from accumulating.

This is not the first time the borough's cat caregivers have accused a faceless bureaucracy of trying to put the kibosh on Brooklyn's cutest street-dwellers. The National Park Service almost sent dozens of cats to their deaths last year when it threatened to dismantle a kittie shanty town in Plumb Beach.

Hidalgo admits that just feeding the cats isn't a permanent solution, and he has been trying to liberate the colony for years, but the authority won't give him access he needs to lay traps, he said.

Instead, Hidalgo has managed to pull the youngest kitties to freedom through the gaps — before the authority sealed them, he said.

"Through a space of four inches I was able — with a rod and rope — to rope the babies," Hidalgo said.

The self-proclaimed "cat cowboy" has wrangled and found homes for about 30 kittens this way, he said, noting that no kittens were harmed in the process.

Feline rescue organization Ferals in Peril helps Hidalgo neuter the newborns at a Bensonhurst black car dispatch, he said.

But a handful of adult cats remain, because they were too big to fit



FATHER-AND-CHILD REUNION: Hidalgo wants to reunite Old Gray with its kittens, which Hidalgo has been rescuing from the N train's Bay Parkway Station for years.

Photo by Elizabeth Graham

through the now-sealed breaches. Hidalgo wants the authority to let him set humane cage traps so he can permanently remove the animals from the precarious property. He has lobbied station managers and called 511 — the authority's help line — to no avail, he said.

A spokeswoman for the authority claims it has not received any requests to remove the cats.

But in the past, the authority has suspended service to rescue animals in danger, she said, citing a 2013 incident that halted trains along the B and Q lines in Brooklyn when two kittens wandered onto the tracks.

"If animals are spotted on our property or tracks, we try our best to remove them without causing them injury," said spokeswoman Marisa Baldeo.

The coterie of cat lovers will press on with attempts to liberate the entombed kitties, and has already found homes for the remaining mousers — even though feral cats are notoriously aloof, even by feline standards, Hidalgo said. But he doesn't mind their stand-offishness.

"As long as they use the litter box, they don't have to sit on my lap," he said.

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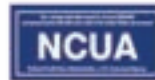
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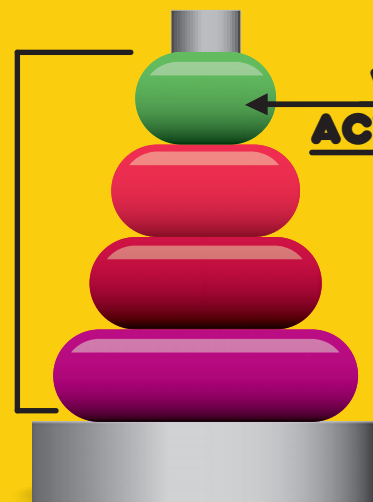


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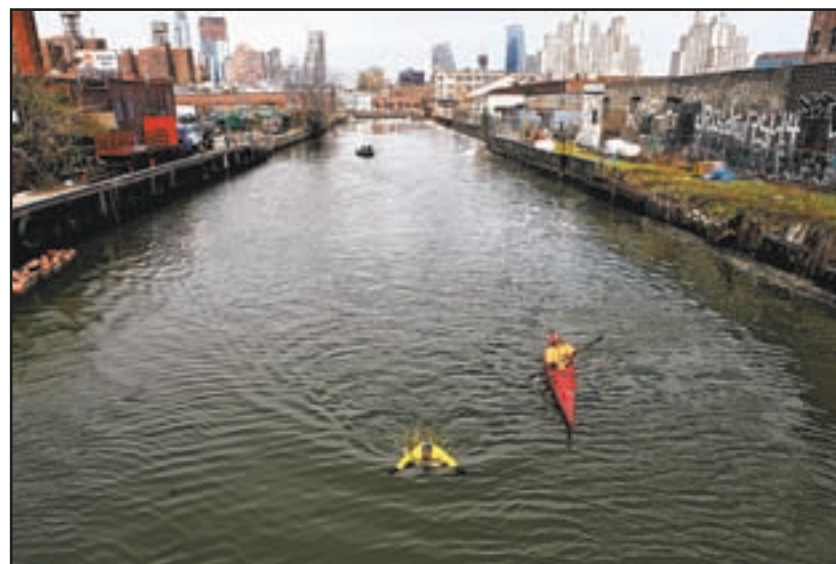
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CRUISING: Daredevil Christopher Swain paddles down the Gowanus Canal on Earth Day in a stunt he said would call attention to the canal's slow cleanup. Photo by Jason Speakman

Toxic avenger!

Activist attempt to swim Gowanus falls short

BY NOAH HUROWITZ AND ARMAND DIPHTHONG

An activist's Earth Day attempt to swim the entire 1.8-mile stretch of the Gowanus Canal — America's most polluted waterway — ended after 30 minutes and just two-thirds of a mile in the water.

A swarm of news media, curious onlookers, and police officials lined the shores of the canal near Degraw Street and watched in awe as Christopher Swain plopped into the canal and attempted to swim from its rear-end to its mouth.

But Swain's journey — which he said he was doing to raise awareness of the slow pace of the federal government's canal-area cleanup — ended abruptly at a nearby grocery store as a falling tide and the threat of a thunderstorm that would have unleashed thousands of gallons of raw sewage into the canal, and he climbed up the rocky shore and into the parking lot where, when greeted by admirers, he swore he will return and get the job done.

"I promise that one day I will swim the entire Gowanus Canal," he said, still dripping with the canal swill.

Swain was dressed in a drysuit and goggles, but attempted his swim without anything covering his face and mouth, which was frequently submerged as he swam. He periodically paused to gargle his mouth clean with hydrogen peroxide, and despite knowing that the Canal is home to viable cultures of gonorrhea, insisted he had no need to worry about contracting the uncomfortable but treatable infection.

Swain's noon dive-off was delayed nearly two hours while he worked with police concerned about the safety of Swain's daredevil experiment. The sticking point was the location of his extraction at the end of the canal, because cops were concerned that any property owner on whose land he slithered out of the water would not neces-

sarily be aware of the dangerous fluids dripping off of his body.

Swain had said he planned to swim as far out into the harbor as was humanly possible to "rinse off," but eventually settled for a dunk in bleach water following the press conference.

Police from the 78th Precinct told reporters that Swain had the right to plop into Brooklyn's nautical purgatory.

The day before his daring deed, the regional branch of the Environmental Protection Agency tweeted a warning advising the activist against dunking in the canal's dirty water.

"The EPA strongly advises AGAINST swimming in the #Gowanus Canal," it tweeted.

The agency linked its tweet to a fact sheet explaining numerous ways such a dip in Brooklyn's nautical purgatory could be hazardous to your health.

It was just that miasma of toxins that motivated Swain to embark on his journey in the first place. The New York-born activist said he hoped the attention his stunt would bring would help spur the cleanup of the canal and its surrounding neighborhood.

"We split the atom, we went to the moon," he said. "Why can't we clean up a 1.8 mile canal to the point of being able to swim in it?"

But not everyone was glad to see him shining a spotlight on the canal or criticizing the cleanup effort.

"I think he is pretty far out of touch with the incredible advocacy this community has been doing all along, which has been matched by the extremely bountiful response by city, state, and federal levels of government," said Craig Hammerman, district manager of Community Board 6. "This was not only a spectacle, but it also drained police resources as well. We frankly think our police should be keeping the community safe, not chasing publicity hounds around."



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KEEPING UP APPEARANCES: The transportation activist group Right of Way hung a giant mural on Kent Avenue on Saturday morning, with silhouettes of 264 people who have been killed in traffic in the year since the city announced the Vision Zero campaign. Rabi Abonour

Truck slams into dead-pedestrian memorial wall

BY DANIELLE FURFARO

The back end of a tractor-trailer smashed into a wall in Williamsburg where a group of activists were installing a memorial to New Yorkers killed in traffic accidents.

The crash rattled the memorial wall where more than 40 volunteers of the transportation group Right of Way were almost paged as they pasted silhouettes of 264 dead people on the temporary wall along Kent Avenue and S. Third Street on Saturday.

And organizers said no one was hurt only because time was on their side.

"If we had started half an hour earlier, probably some of us would be dead," said Right of Way's Charles Komanoff.

The group spent 10 hours on April 18 hanging wooden planks and then pasting on the 264 5-foot-high, 20-inch wide panels that now covers two-and-a-half sides of the full-city-block construction fence. Each silhouette reads "Killed by traffic" and has the name of the victim underneath.

The 18-wheeler sped around the corner at about 11 am, and the back left portion of the truck slammed into the wall, according to the activists. The force of the crash cracked the wall on impact. The volunteers, many of whom were perched on ladders and scaffolding, were shaken, but no one was injured.

The irony of the situation was not lost them.

"It is shocking that while we were installing a memorial for people killed in traffic, a truck crashed into the memorial," said organizer Keegan Stephan.

The truck driver spent a half an



EIGHTEEN WHEELS OF MISFORTUNE: A tractor trailer slammed into a wall where activists from Right of Way were installing a memorial to those killed in traffic on Saturday morning. Rabi Abonour

hour trying to get his truck unstuck, and he finally gave up on getting the giant vehicle back onto the driving lanes of Kent Avenue and instead cut into the separated bike lane, running over several dividers, activists said.

The group installed the memorial to protest what they call the city's insufficient steps taken to quell traffic deaths in the year since it instituted "Vision Zero" — the mayor's plan to decrease the number of pedestrian fatalities to zero.

The temporary wall is wrapped around the construction site that will be one of the massive skyscrapers of Two Trees Management Co.'s Domino sugar factory project.

This all happened on the same weekend that the New York City Street Memorial Project, which installs white bike sculptures in spots where bicyclists have been killed, hosted its Ghost Bike ride across the city. The two projects are unrelated, but have many crossover members and supporters.

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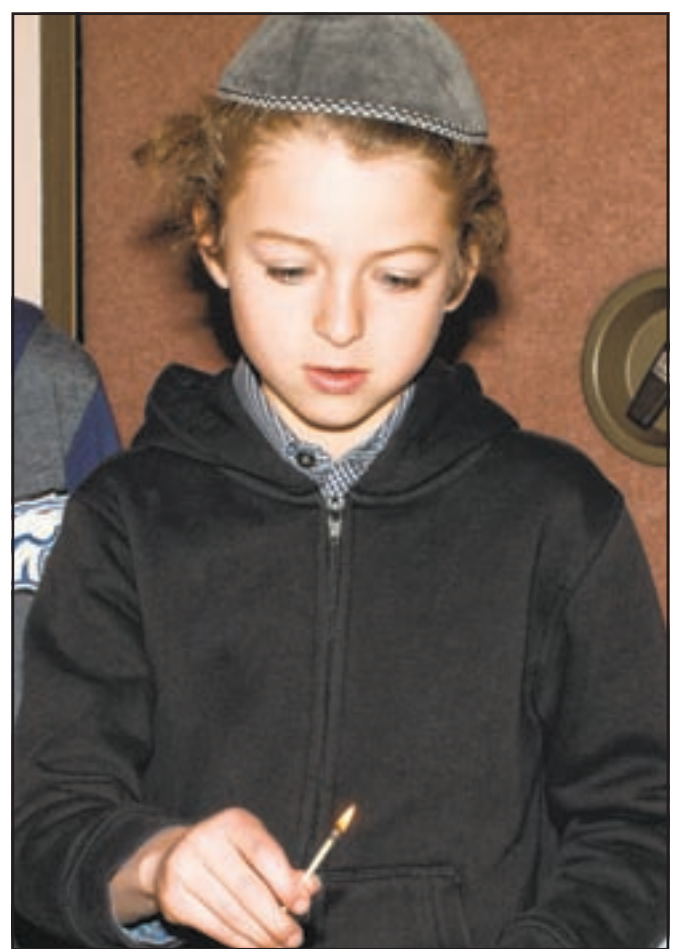
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Rememberance with art

BY VANESSA OGLE

Never forget.

Nearly 500 students — ranging from elementary kids to high schoolers in public and private schools — entered the Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest at Kingsborough Community College on April 19.

Just days after the Holocaust Remembrance Day, the somber ceremony was about showing kids the importance of standing up for what is right, according to contest sponsor Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay),

who is the son of Holocaust survivors.

“As the Holocaust taught us, if you fail to act, and fail to speak out, the consequences can be irreparable,” said Cymbrowitz, who is the son of Holocaust survivors, in a statement. “There are wounds that time won’t heal.”

The art projects included musical compositions, interactive displays, and essays.

The award ceremony featured speakers Ruth Lichtenstein, the daughter of Holocaust survivors and the founder of Project Witness — a Holocaust

resource center in Brooklyn — and Dr. Richard Tomback, director of the Holocaust Studies Program at Kingsborough. Youngsters from Edward R. Murrow High School Junior Chorus, Chamber Orchestra, and Chamber Winds also performed songs at the event.

Students from PS 238, IS 303, and IS 228 received third place. Students from Yeshivah of Flatbush Elementary School, IS 238, and John Dewey High School received second place, and students from PS 255, IS 98, IS 209, and Yeshivah of Flatbush received first place.

NEVER FORGET: (Above) Saul Ancona lights a candle in memory of Holocaust victims at the ceremony for the Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest on April 19. (Center) Artwork from IS 98 won the contest. (Left) Tiffany Hernandez and Klesia Xhaferllari, students from IS 238, stand with their school’s artwork. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

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Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union still going strong

BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA

Hardworking Americans and investors can continue to depend upon the Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union, was the message expressed by Anthony Grigos, Executive Vice President, at the company’s annual shareholders’ meeting held on April 1.

The Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union doubled in size from 2002 to 2008, and then again from 2008 to 2014.

Quoting from a motivational chart the company used to track growth, he said, “No one can predict to what heights you can soar. Even you do not know until you spread your wings.” He noted that this is exactly what the Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union set out to do some 15 years ago, and will persist in doing in the future. “We committed and invested into new markets, and will continue to soar in a safe and sound manner,” he said.

Fueling that ability to

grow are key factors that include its strong membership, the New York City Taxi Medallions, real estate, and personal loan products, he said. “Our partnerships with other credit unions and community banks permit us to carefully expand to new markets and help us manage our risk exposure.”

Quoting from the NYTimes.com, he pointed out the prediction that this would be the year when the Federal Reserve would begin to raise short-term interest rates, and that consumers should prepare for it by purchasing homes they have been considering, or by refinancing ones they own. “Every .25 percent-point change in interest rates is equivalent to approximately \$6,000 for each \$100,000 borrowed over the course of a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage,” he said.

Other advice included paying off credit card debt, investing money in flexible products, and speak-

ing with financial planners about retirement investment risk.

For the Credit Union, this may mean more consumers will be looking for personal loans to consolidate debt and take advantage of lower interest rates. There may be a high demand for real estate loans. Short-term CD deposits may also be on the horizon, he said.

“Whichever financial strategy you choose to pursue, it’s important to prepare mentally to stay the course even when the ride gets bumpy,” he said. “A wise man once told me, ‘Races are won on the turns and not on the straight-aways.’”

Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union is a not-for-profit cooperative that makes it easier for members to get credit. It was formed by a group of immigrants in 1934, because, back then, it was impossible for people of modest means to gain access to bank credit. The ob-



Gene Brody,
President



Anthony Grigos,
Executive Vice President

jective was that they would promote savings among themselves, allowing members to have easier access to credit.

Today, millions of hard-working Americans belong to credit unions across the country. Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union now serves the descendants and families of the original founders, as well as the many new members who have joined. It continues to help people of modest means

reach their financial goals with comfort and respect.

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Environmental factors can trigger asthma

Though many are likely familiar enough with asthma to recognize it's a respiratory disease that affects millions of people across the globe, few may know the role that environmental triggers play with regard to asthma.

Indoor allergens and irritants often trigger asthma attacks, but fortunately, such triggers can be controlled by people who take a proactive approach to reducing their exposure to environmental triggers like those listed below.

Secondhand smoke

The smoke from a cigarette, cigar or pipe contains more than 4,000 substances, some of which are cancerous compounds. In addition to triggering asthma attacks in those already diagnosed with the condition, secondhand smoke is a risk factor for asthma among preschool-aged youngsters.

Thanks to their diminutive statures, kids breathe more rapidly than adults, and that means they take in more secondhand smoke when around smokers than older kids or adults. But secondhand smoke is harmful to adults as well, triggering asthma attacks and increasing their risk for a variety of health conditions. Parents should not let anyone smoke near their children, and adults should avoid smokers

as much as possible.

Dust mites

Tiny, invisible bugs that feed on dead skin, dust mites can be found in mattresses, pillows, carpets, stuffed toys, and clothes, among other things. Individuals who are allergic to dust mites might be susceptible to asthma if they come in contact with dust mites' body parts and droppings, and such exposure can trigger asthma in youngsters who have not previously exhibited symptoms.

Bedding should be washed in hot water at least once per week and dried completely, and dust proof covers should be used on pillows and mattresses. Vacuum carpets and furniture once per week. Also, parents can reduce their kids' risk of asthma attacks by only buying stuffed toys that can be washed in hot water.

Molds

Molds live on plant and animal matter and can be found nearly anywhere that moisture is present. Inhaling mold spores, which continually float through indoor and outdoor air, can trigger an asthma attack. Mold problems in a home should be addressed immediately. Mold on hard surfaces can be removed with soap and water, and the surfaces should be allowed to dry completely before being put to use again.



Studies have confirmed that early childhood exposure to cats, dogs, and other animals may lower the risk of developing allergic reactions later in life.

Six myths about pet allergies

According to The Humane Society, 62 percent of American households have at least one pet. Yet, an estimated 31 million Americans are allergic to animals, including up to 30 percent of those who have asthma. For these people, congestion, sneezing, runny nose, and other allergic symptoms occur whenever they are exposed to household pets.

Below are six common misconceptions about pet allergies. By knowing the truth about these myths, you can take action to live comfortably with the pets in your life.

Myth #1: It's only pet hair that triggers allergies.

Not true. Pet hair can trigger allergies, because it contains saliva or other pet proteins. Allergic reactions to pets are actually caused by pet proteins contained in pet dander, and also saliva and urine. Overactive immune systems attack these otherwise harmless substances.

Animals with more fur are more likely to carry other allergens such as pet dander and dust, according to the American Lung Association. If you have a pet, not only do you need to handle pet hair carefully, you also need to clean household dust carefully, as it may contain pet dander that can trigger allergic reactions.

Myth #2: Continuous exposure to animals will eventually desensitize you to them.

Not only is this not true, but in some cases, the opposite is true. If you have a confirmed allergy to animals, it usually will not get better through increasing exposure — it may even get worse, according to the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy.

However, studies have confirmed that early childhood exposure to cats, dogs, and other animals may lower the risk of developing allergic reactions later in life. One study of 8,000 children found that children continuously exposed to cats from the time they were 1 year old were 67 percent less likely than others to develop allergic asthma.

Myth #3: If you just get the right breed, you won't have allergy problems.

Not true. All cat and dog breeds produce dander. However, some breeds are believed to be better for allergy sufferers than others. Typically, the best breeds are those that shed the least fur. Also, smaller dogs produce less saliva than do bigger dogs. The American Kennel Club recommends breeds that produce the least dander for allergy sufferers, including poodles, terriers, schnauzers, and Bichon Frises.

Myth #4: Small animals are not a problem for allergies.

Wrong. Hamsters, guinea pigs, birds, and other warm-blooded mammals can also trigger asthma and allergies in people with allergies to animal dander, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Birds are also a problem for many allergy sufferers, as birds release dander into the air by cleaning their feathers, flapping their wings, and flying. If you are allergic to animals but still want a pet, try animals without dander like a fish, turtle, or other reptile.

Myth #5: Outside the home, you shouldn't have pet allergy problems.

Not necessarily. Pet allergens easily stick to clothing and other fabrics and are carried to other locations. Animal dander can be found in many public places such as the workplace, classrooms, and hospitals, according to the Lung Association. Those with severe allergies may also want to avoid the homes of family and friends who have the type of pet that irritates their allergies.

Myth #6: An air purifier will help.

It depends. Only a high-performance air purifier can help. Small, low-quality air cleaners make little or no difference at all.



Routinely vacuuming floors can improve indoor air quality in a home by preventing the buildup of dust mites and other harmful allergens.

Keeping asthma under control



It is important for those with asthma to determine with their physicians how best to control their condition.

A 2010 nationwide telephone survey of 1,001 asthma patients found that while most patients with asthma understood the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma, they didn't always act accordingly.

"This finding demonstrates a serious disconnect between the perceived consequences of uncontrolled asthma and the necessary steps people should take to achieve better control," explained Dr. Shailen Shah, an asthma expert with PA Allergy and Asthma Consultants. "Some people believe that asthma goes away when their symptoms do, but asthma is a chronic disease. The good news is that with the appropriate treatment regimen, the inflammation that

causes the symptoms may be properly managed."

Additionally, there are simple steps patients can take to avoid unnecessary complications, beginning with an open discussion with a physician.

Understanding asthma

People with asthma suffer from chronic lung inflammation, with symptoms ranging from coughing and wheezing to chest tightness and shortness of breath. Additionally, asthma triggers such as air pollution, smoke, pet dander, pollen, and mold can set off an asthma episode.

It's important for patients to understand that when their asthma is under control with the help of their physicians,

through lifestyle modifications, and the proper use of appropriate controller medication, they should exhibit few asthma symptoms.

Simple steps to asthma control

A physician can help create an asthma action plan and determine if a controller medication, in addition to a rescue medication, is appropriate.

"Using an asthma action plan...can help patients stay in the know and in control of their asthma," Shah stresses. "By understanding proper asthma management and appropriate use of medications, patients can help maintain control over their asthma symptoms and minimize the risks associated with uncontrolled asthma."

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The growing problem of peanut allergies

Parents tend to be quite familiar with food allergies. In an effort to protect youngsters, schools have begun to crack down more regularly on foods that tend to cause allergic reactions, often placing restrictions on what children can bring in for lunches or snacks.

Parents and children who grew up around peanut and tree nut allergies are quite familiar with what triggers allergic reactions associated with such foods, and the potential side effects of consuming these foods. But those who are less experienced with food allergies may not know what to expect.

According to the Mayo Clinic, being allergic to peanuts is one of the more common food allergies, especially among children. Many people who are allergic to peanuts — although not all, as are peanuts are legumes, not nuts — are also allergic to tree nuts, including walnuts, almonds, and pecans.

As with any allergen, reactions vary from person to person. Some may experience mild symptoms, such as light rashes or swelling, while others may have severe reactions, including anaphylactic shock, which is characterized by shortness of breath, a severe drop in blood pressure, constriction of airways, and potential heart failure. According to Spire Health Partners, more than 3 million people in the United States have a peanut allergy, and one-third of them will suffer from a severe symptom if they ingest peanuts.

A peanut allergy occurs when your body mistakenly identifies peanut proteins as something that can be harmful. Just as your body might fight a cold, it releases chemicals from the immune system to fight off the peanut invader. The number of kids with peanut allergies has been increasing over the last

10 to 15 years, doubling in the last half-decade alone. It isn't known why some people are prone to peanut allergies while others are not. However, Dr. Michael C. Young, Assistant Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Harvard Medical School and a practicing pediatrician at Children's Hospital, has a few ideas. Nursing mothers and very young children are eating more peanuts, particularly in the form of peanut butter, than ever before, something that Young feels could be causing a higher incidence rate of peanut allergies. Young also theorizes that better hygiene may play a role, suggesting that because children have fewer infections (due to improved hygiene and routine immunizations), their immune systems are more likely to target other things, such as foods and environmental factors, resulting in allergies.

Although peanut allergies are prevalent and can be dangerous, there is no reason to act rashly. Young notes that approximately 20 percent of children will outgrow their peanut allergies by the age of 6, and he advises that it is worth having a child retested as he gets older to gauge if there have been any changes in the status of the peanut allergy.

When dealing with peanut allergies, it is important to separate myths from facts:

- Direct contact is the most common cause of a reaction. This results from eating peanuts or foods that contain peanuts. Cross-contamination, which occurs when peanuts unintentionally come into contact with other foods, is another common cause.

- Some people can have a reaction by touching peanuts with their skin. A rash may occur, but a very dangerous reaction will not result unless the peanuts enter the mouth or come into contact with the nose or eyes.

- An allergic reaction can occur from inhalation of peanut dust, such as peanut flour or ground shells. Aerosol cooking sprays that contain peanut oil also can produce a reaction.

- Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York found that peanut pro-

teins can be detected in some people's saliva after eating peanuts. A kiss could transfer some of the peanut allergens to another person.

- Sometimes an allergy is not really an allergy, but rather an intolerance to a certain food. A food intolerance does

not involve the immune system. A person with a food intolerance can eat small amounts of the food with only mild symptoms, such as indigestion, rather than a severe reaction with a true allergy.

Being diligent in reading food labels and asking what ingredients

are in prepared foods at restaurants is key for people with peanut allergies, and so is avoiding potential skin contact. This means thoroughly washing areas where peanuts or peanut butter may have been and ensuring other children wash up after lunch.

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New York Methodist Hospital gets trauma center

NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL

April has marked a new beginning for emergency services at New York Methodist Hospital, and for all Brooklynites who may need life-saving care in the days, weeks, months, and years ahead. That is because the medical center now receives trauma patients via New York City Emergency Medical Services. This follows the New York State Department of Health's designation of New York Methodist as a trauma center — a designation only granted to hospitals that are able to provide life-saving care across all emergency scenarios, and that have a continuous process in place for monitoring and improving that care.

“New York Methodist’s establishment of a trauma center is the result of over a year’s worth of preparation,” said Dr. Bashar Fahoum, trauma surgeon and medical director of trauma services at the hospital. “That included renovating our Department of Emergency Medicine’s trauma bays, as well as extensive training, trauma simulations and drills for all surgeons, emergency medicine physicians, nurses, physician assistants, and other staff members involved



A trauma room at New York Methodist Hospital.

with trauma response,” said Dr. Anthony Tortolani, chairman of surgery and cardiothoracic surgery at the hospital. “We have specialists in each of these areas who are also trained in trauma response. In recognizing NYM as a trauma center, the Department of Health has determined that we can provide the highest level of care for the most severely injured patients.”

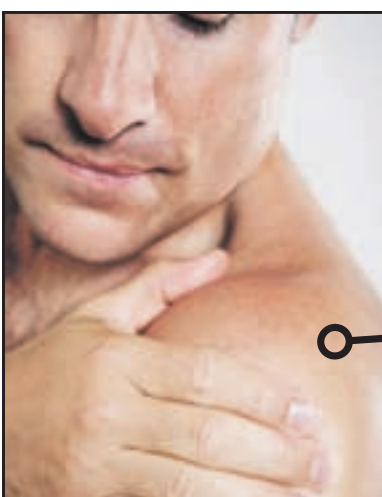
“Each year, over 100,000 Brooklynites already receive emergency care at New York Methodist, including those experiencing life-threatening heart attacks and severe strokes,” said Dr. Joseph Bove, chairman of emergency medicine at Methodist. “The hospital’s trauma team draws on the skills of medical staff members in both the Department of Emergency Medicine and the Department of Surgery, and as a trauma center, we now provide comprehensive treatment for patients with every type and every degree of traumatic injury. We are proud to offer our community the best possible care when they need it most.”

New York Methodist Hospital’s ambulance entrance Seventh Avenue and Seventh Street in Park Slope.

with trauma response.”

“New York Methodist’s Department of Surgery already offers advanced procedures — both traditional and

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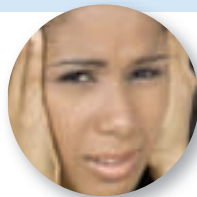


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B3, B44

At New York Methodist, Breathing Deep in the Fight Against Allergic Asthma

At New York Methodist, Breathing Deep in the Fight Against Allergic Asthma

Almost 25 million Americans live with asthma, a respiratory condition marked by spasms in the lungs that leads to coughing, wheezing, rapid breathing, tightening of the chest and shortness of breath. For 60 percent of asthma patients, those spasms are caused by the inhalation of airborne allergens, which may include pollen, that fill the air in warmer months. Allergic asthma can be triggered by breathing in other allergens, including mold, spores, or pet dander.

"Pulmonologists diagnose asthma based on a clinical examination, the

patient's medical history, and the results of other tests that determine how healthy the lungs are," said Jeremy Weingarten, M.D., director of pulmonary medicine at New York Methodist Hospital (NYM). These tests may either be done in a laboratory or in a doctor's office. Additional tests may be ordered to identify which, if any, allergens are triggering the patient's asthma.

A scratch (skin) test performed by an immunologist is often used to identify an allergy, and results are available within 30 minutes. Once the specific allergen, or allergens, have been identified, a comprehensive treatment plan can then be developed to effectively manage the patient's allergic asthma.

For those with milder symptoms that occur as a result of seasonal allergens, over-the-counter treatments and lifestyle adjustments may be all that is necessary to effectively manage their allergic asthma. Allergen immunotherapy, a treatment that can alter the natural course of allergic asthma, may be a good option for individuals whose asthma cannot effectively be controlled by medication or avoidance strategies.

"A full course of allergen immunotherapy takes time—usually three to five years, starting with weekly visits for injections for the first six months, and then monthly visits for the remainder," said Cascya Charlot, M.D., director of NYM's Divi-

sion of Pediatric Allergy and Immunology. "However, the benefits of immunotherapy can last a lifetime, particularly for those living in New York City, where inhaled allergens that can trigger allergic asthma can be found around every corner, indoors and outdoors, throughout the year. Ongoing research and refinement of immunotherapy guidelines have made immunotherapy treatments for outdoor and indoor allergies more effective than ever before."

In most cases, immunotherapy can permanently reduce the frequency and severity of allergic asthma symptoms. Patients with chronic rhinitis, who are naturally at increased risk for developing asthma,

also have a good chance of preventing their condition from worsening through immunotherapy. In addition, the first FDA-approved oral, injection-free immunotherapy (specifically, for grass pollen allergies) became available in 2014.

"Each year, more treatment options for allergic asthma become available, and existing treatments are refined," said Dr. Weingarten. "Now, many people who have allergic asthma are able to manage the disease with few or no symptoms."

To find a physician affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital's Institute for Asthma and Other Lung Diseases, call 866.ASK.LUNG.



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FOCUS ON *Health*

How to cope with season allergies

The season of allergy-induced sniffles and other complications is right around the corner. If you are one of the millions of people affected by seasonal allergies that lead to nasal swelling, sneezing, watery eyes, and a scratchy throat, you may not be eagerly anticipating the warmer weather as much as others.

Allergy research is ongoing, and in the future doctors may be able to prevent allergic reactions from occurring rather than treating the symptoms that ensue. Until then, you will have to work with the remedies that currently exist. These remedies include antihistamines, which can cause dangerous interactions with other medications and may cause drowsiness. These side effects can be dangerous for use in seniors. Consider these other options instead:

Drink plenty of fluids

Although liquids can't wash the allergens out of your system, water, juice and clear broths can help loosen congestion. Hot liquids can soothe inflamed

membranes in the nose and throat.

Avoid allergens as much as possible

Check weather reports for the levels of particulates in the air and stay indoors if they are high. Keep away from tall grasses and places with a lot of foliage.

Use the air conditioning

Rather than keeping the windows wide open, use an air conditioner and dehumidifier to filter the air coming inside of the house and ensuring it is cool and dry.

Head to the beach

If you want to spend time outdoors, areas by the ocean will have pollen counts that are much lower than in mountainous areas.

Dry clothes indoors

Line-dried clothes may smell fresh, but they can bring molds and pollens indoors and exacerbate allergies.

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Oh baby! I have a limit on digital photos

A high-school friend I hadn't seen in years was passing through and we had just a few precious hours to catch up, so we wandered around Central Park, exulting in its blossom overdrive, then sat on a sun-warmed rock to chat. Of course, I wanted to see a picture of her kids.

Or two pictures.
Max? Three.

But thanks to that bottomless photo album that also sends texts and makes calls, I saw them all: the kids in their play, the kids at the holidays, the kids with their friends, the kids, the kids, the blurry-but-still-apparently-worth-a-look kids!

And then the husband! And the great uncle! And the husband's brother's wife's mother who is sick. Or fine. Or something. Really, I barely know the husband, now I'm out on a limb of the family tree and I can hear it cracking under the weight of my not-caring.

Helllllp! Can I really be the only person struggling to utter another, "Oh! Nice!" while plunging into catatonia? That's



RHYMES WITH CRAZY

Lenore Skenazy

what I asked everyone I could — that is, everyone not too absorbed in their cellphones to actually look up to answer me.

"Technology has made it impossible to run away from slide shows," is how Laura Srebnik, a Brooklyn-based education consultant, summed it up. "Back in the day, when

someone invited you, you could say no. Or if you went, they had snacks."

Now? Neither.

"It's not that the pictures are boring," she adds. "I kind of like looking at them. It's when it's like stop-motion animation: 'Here we are, picking up a shell. Here we are, picking up another shell.' You see 20 of practically the same image and you're wondering, 'Couldn't you skip that one?' and they're saying, 'I'm just getting to the good one!'"

The key is the word one, says Marla Muni, a market researcher in Rockland County.

"Some of the pictures don't come out well, and they're never organized and people start flipping through..." Meantime, you're politely waiting or muttering some kind of pleasantries as the photos fly past. That's why Muni's idea of good smartphone etiquette is to have handy one single, clear photo of your children at whatever big event they just had.

"So if you ask somebody, 'Show me the picture from the

prom!' there it is" — un-blurry and, with any luck, including the whole head.

After that? Time to put the device away and resume conversing. When Queens-based new media maven Dawn Siff went to her Dallas high-school reunion recently, "You would look around the room at any given point, and half the people were looking down at the phones, frantically scrolling through pictures to find the exact photo they wanted to show people. So they're seeing this person they haven't seen in years — and immediately ignoring them to cue up the perfect picture."

It made Dawn pine for an earlier era, when people would extract a photo or two from their wallets and apologize because the front-tooth-missing tot in the picture was actually now engaged to be married.

Susan Avery, college counselor at Collegiate Harvest High School in Manhattan, was the only gal I could find who both defended showing an album's worth of photos to

friends, and insisted she liked seeing just as many.

"I'm the first one looking at those pictures," she says.

She relishes them for the same reason she relished her first profession, journalism: "I love people's back stories."

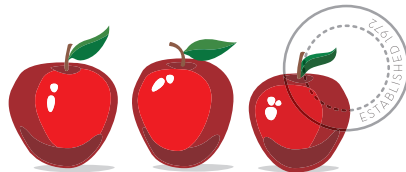
That's certainly a nice way to frame what we are seeing when folks start scrolling through: Oh, here's a pair of shoes I was thinking of buying. Here's our vacation — well, the hotel room, anyway. It was in Antigua. No — Alabama. And here's a cool bird from my bird feeder. Its wings are flapping so you can't really see it. And here's my daughter. And my daughter. And my daughter again, but two seconds later — they change so fast at that age!

As do many of us viewers: From complimentary to comatose. Knowing this, you have your choice of what to edit: Your photos, or your friends.

Choose wisely.

Lenore Skenazy is a public speaker and author of the book and blog *Free-Range Kids*.

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2007	Honda Civic, 14k	8519	\$5,995	2009	Toyota Sienna, 93k	391451	\$8,995	2012	Nissan Altima, 32k	1079	\$9,995
2003	Honda Accord Coupe, 91k	021636	\$5,995	2011	Honda Civic LX, 47k	7569	\$8,995	2012	Chevy Traverse, 50k	1260	\$12,888
2006	Toyota Camry, 106k	10431	\$6,995	2010	Toyota Camry, 34k	1013	\$8,995	2009	Honda Pilot, 36k	1032	\$13,995
2008	Nissan Altima Coupe, 136k	8314	\$6,995	2013	Kia Soul, 10k	10515	\$8,995	2011	Honda CRV, 24k	4923	\$13,995
2004	Toyota Sienna, 121k	2571	\$6,995	2011	Toyota Rav4, 48k	1066	\$9,995	2011	Honda Pilot, 23k	5210	\$14,995

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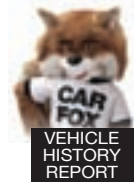
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Readers: Steve and Alec nail it to B'walk

To the editor,

For those of us in our community that have recently celebrated the Passover holiday, we are reminded of the part in the Seder where the song Dayanu is sung which tells of the multitude of things that God did to help free his chosen people from bondage, and that if he had done even just one of them, it would have been enough, Dayanu! In our own community, in the present moment we have the Bizzaro-world version of the biblical tale of Dayanu when it comes to our Boardwalk and the Assemblymen responsible for its continued destruction. To wit: had Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay), who along with Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny (D-Coney Island) funded it, raised his voice in protest in year one of the Parks Department plan for the Boardwalk, it would have been enough! Had he raised his voice in protest in year two, it would have been enough, Dayanu! Had he raised his voice in protest in years three or four, it would have been enough! Had he questioned what the plan was in any of the nearly five years that it was being widely discussed, debated and protested, it would have been enough! Had he kept his word and halted the funding of a plan that he claims the Parks Department "hoodwinked" him into funding, it would have been enough!

But the Assemblyman, did none of these things! Instead, he remained silent for all the years this plan was on the table and widely known. In year five he claims to have been "hoodwinked" and promises to defund it, then goes back on his word committing to that and continues to fund it, then tries all manner of lame explanations of why he is doing so, none of which amount to more than a pile of manure.

Speaking of manure, here is where the esteemed Assemblyman really commits his energies in full force to free his chosen people from their bondage. That is, the bondage of having a bathroom in their line of sight, heaven forbid. He works tirelessly on behalf of his precious ones

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

and garners support from other politicians to pressure the city to let his people go, and to let others go, but to have them go elsewhere.

The Parks Department's decision to waste taxpayers money and move the location of the bathroom when they themselves previously declared that there was no good reason to do so, must be seen in the context of Assemblyman Cymbrowitz's decision to continue to fund Parks' Boardwalk messover project. At the Boardwalk rally a few months ago, many were openly talking about the assemblyman having worked out a quid pro quo arrangement at meetings he had with Parks, wherein he would continue the funding if they were to free his chosen people from their bathroom bondage. This would appear to have now come to pass. The assemblyman has liberated his chosen few while ignoring the legitimate concerns of the less important, but vast majority of his constituents.

No doubt he will be rewarded by those he has served, as all feckless politicians are. As in the biblical tale, we must hope that such hypocrisy and fecklessness will be accorded their righteous desserts by all the rest of us that he has self-interestedly flushed down the toilet!

Rob Burstein

The writer is president of the Coney-Brighton Boardwalk Alliance.

...

To the editor,

A few months ago there was a meeting on a very cold rainy Sunday on the Coney Island Boardwalk, the purpose of which was to discuss and protest the Parks Department's going forward with it's awful plan to concrete over the wood boards.

At that time it was revealed that Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay) had made a quid-pro-quo deal with the Parks Department to continue the flow of funds if they would remove the bathrooms that were now installed in front of the Oceana complex. This has now been confirmed with the recent news that the Parks Department is in fact doing just that, as was revealed by your article, "Whizzed away: City to move beachfront bathrooms from Oceana" (online April 9).

Now we read that the Parks Department by being "responsive to the

peoples wishes" is moving the bathrooms 350 feet to now reside in front of the Shorefront Y. So let me try to see if I understand the concept of being "responsive to the people" correctly: when a very tiny handful of wealthy supporters want something done, you respond to their demands to remove some toilets, but when a very large majority of people want something, like keep the iconic status of a wooden boardwalk that has existed for more than 100 years, you do nothing as long as you perceive them to not be larger donors to your election efforts.

I think I understand the concept of responding to the peoples wishes much better now. Thanks, Mr. Cymbrowitz, the idea was a little fuzzy before. I guess national level elected official aren't the only purveyors of dirty politics.

Nelson Levine
Coney Island

Shav's 'wrong'

To the editor,

Shavana Abruzzo ("A Britisher's View") thinks American nationalism is unblemished ("America's problem with red, white, and blue," March 20). She is wrong as far as American Indians go.

At Wounded Knee, South Dakota, Indians gathered to do the ghost dance, but because of a misunderstanding of the meaning of the dance, the cavalry was sent there, and the dance was banned. After a shot was fired (no one knows by whom), the soldiers opened fire. The Sioux, mostly unarmed, had women and children. This resulted in 146 of them being killed. At Sand Creek, Colorado, the cavalry attacked the peaceful village of Cheyennes and Arapahos in a pre-dawn raid. Colonel Chivington said, "I've come to kill Indians." His soldiers opened fire, even using canons. Indians ran to an almost dry river bed trying to hide. Soldiers followed them and kept shooting. There were 183 Indians killed, mainly women and children.

President Andrew Jackson pushed the Indian Removal Bill through Congress. It said all Indians should go to Indian territory (now Oklahoma). Many were forced by the cavalry to go many miles. There were old people, little children, sick people, pregnant women.

Many people could not keep up and dropped. Thousands of them died along the way.

Shavana says our nationalism is "a torch for life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." She mentions the colonists. Indians taught them how to grow crops, but the colonists were the first to massacre Indians.

Children in school should learn these things. They should learn an accurate view of America. History class now is propaganda to make us think we never did anything wrong. That results in people having the same view that Shavana has. Of course, there are a lot of good things, too.

Jerome Frank
Coney Island

Out of step

To the editor,

So protesters are at it again, marching across the Brooklyn Bridge, tying up rush hour traffic, to protest a handful of unfortunate shootings of black perpetrators by white policemen. These sad, under informed individuals turn a blind eye to the literally tens-of-thousands of attacks, rapes, robberies and murders of blacks on blacks, occurring each year in their own neighborhoods.

Prominent civil rights personalities, like Al Sharpton, march in lockstep with protesters against white policemen while not a word is uttered when thousands of blacks are killed and maimed at the hands of their own. I guess they can't line their pockets and make a buck off of these poor souls.

Robert W. Lobenstein
Marine Park

Jeb Boo-sh

To the editor,

If Jeb Bush runs for president he will not get my vote. He is a job killer. Back in 1989 he outlawed "dwarf tossing" in Florida. Many little people lost their income because of this ban. It was a safe sport mostly played in bars. The dwarfs wore helmets and other protective gear and were tossed onto a mattress or against a wall of velcro. They made a pretty good living until then-Gov. Bush stopped it. Who is he to decide what people do for a living?

Nick Finer
Hallandale, Fla.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Submit letters to: Vince DiMiceli, Editor, Community Newspaper Group, 1 MetroTech Center North, Brooklyn, NY 11201, or e-mail to editorial@cnglocal.com. Please include your address and telephone number so we can confirm you sent the letter. We reserve the right to edit all correspondence, which becomes the property of Courier Life Publications.

Stan gets a lesson in euro finance

Several years ago, my roommate and I were visiting Istanbul, where we did some shopping for fancy souvenirs at the very congested, jam-packed Grand Bazaar.

After we selected some appropriate gifts for the grandchildren and a few friends, I asked the most famous two-word question: "How much?" The clerk broke it down for me and gave me a pretty fair figure (I think). A few more gifts, along with the customary haggling, and my cost became even more reasonable. I had shopped several of these items elsewhere and I was ready to pay and grab a cab back to the hotel when he hit me with his question: "How are you going to pay?"

Euros? Isn't that the preferred currency these days?

"Do you have American dollars?" he asked. "I will give you an exchange rate of ten percent more than today's rate. That will be an extra ten percent off your purchases."

I told him: "Make it twenty and you've got a deal." We settled on fifteen.

As I had left the hotel earlier that day, I jotted down the exchange rate for that morning. Sure enough, he was giving me fifteen percent better than the desk at the hotel. Other than what I bought, my new friend asked me if I had more American money that I would be willing to change. Knowing I was doing well, I pulled out a few more large bills.

"Why are you doing this?" I asked.

That is when he leaned over and whispered, "It is only a matter of time when these euros sink in value. We here have more faith in your money than you do."

This was too easy. Was I being taken? Did he put one over on me?

When I returned to the hotel I checked at the desk, and then walked into the bank around the corner. Yup! I did very well. I had just earned a fifteen percent return on my money without working or investing.

It seems that the vendors in Turkey knew something that most of us didn't. Whatever their thoughts were of the much-heralded euros, they preferred Uncle



IT'S ONLY MY OPINION

Stanley P. Gershbein

Sam's paper dollars.

Last year a euro was worth almost \$1.40. As of this writing the current number is \$1.05. I was tuned in to a financial channel and an economist was talking about the "free fall of the euro." He predicted parity with the dollar by the end of the year, with the euro dropping to 85 cents next year.

It's only my opinion, but if you plan to vacation in Europe this year or next, you might want to tuck a few extra hundred dollar bills into that zippered travel belt she bought you for Christmas.

...

Within minutes of the liar, Harry Reid, announcing his retirement, all political minds were focused on our own Sen. Charles Schumer as his successor. Instantly, everyone was reminded of the famous gag about this publicity seeking hound. Just in case you are one of the three people on the planet who hasn't heard it, here it is: "The most dangerous place to stand in Washington, D.C., is between Chuck Schumer and a camera."

...

My president traded five first-round Taliban draft picks for a possible deserter. He then celebrated the occasion with Bowe Bergdahl's parents in a Rose Garden ceremony. I am **StanGershbein@BellSouth.net** telling the world once again that my president did not think this through. He has been getting some pretty lousy advice from his staff.

Contender Hillary is as fake as a 3-dollar-bill

Stepford presidential candidate Hillary Clinton fancies herself as an elder of American politics, but the former first lady, New York

senator, and secretary of state launched her ballyhooed campaign with the fizz of a bath bomb, dragging along a colostomy bag of smelly scandals and failed careers.

Hill's photoshopped realities collided with the truth like sumo wrestlers, but the American media was too busy bowing and scraping to Her Snootiness to notice much: "Hillary Rodham Clinton ordered a burrito bowl at a Chipotle outside Toledo, Ohio," reported the lofty New York Times. Indeed.

It took the bold British press to bust Hill's chin-wag with allegedly ordinary Iowans who were actually staged groupies, in a pretension ridiculing the everyday Americans she claims she wants to champion. Spindly, too, was Hill's whopper about all her grandparents

— instead of just one — being immigrants, although her Freudian typo on a press release that the "It Takes a Village" author had "fought children and families all her career" was a hoot.

Hill's chronic disconnect with the public — now slightly bigger than Mars — wasn't as laughable, but it did advance her catalog of incompetencies that by now even the Huliwigmen of Papua New Guinea must have heard about:

•As first lady she testified "I don't know" and "I don't remember" 250 times to congressional investigators probing assorted Clinton scandals.

•As a miserly multi-millionaire she claimed a \$2 tax deduction on knickers she donated to charity; later she cried poverty while glomming \$300,000 per speech, complete



A BRITISHER'S VIEW

Shavana Abruzzo

with diva-like demands for boxed medals and special pillows.

•As secretary of state she sulked, "What difference at this point does it

make?" when congressional investigators inquired why the Oval Office blamed the 2012 Libyan U.S. embassy terror attacks that killed four Americans on her abysmal watch on a U.S. anti-Islam movie.

•Her use of a personal web account to conduct state business and then destroying the e-mails without authorization birthed E-mailgate.

•She's a witch, say pals, one of whom recalled to White House chronicler Bob Woodward that Hill once informed her, "Your problem is you just aren't mean enough."

Dora the Explorer would make a more suitable presidential stumper than Hillary Clinton, who proved as much by launching a campaign more souped up than a pre-fixe dinner menu, and faker than a \$3 bill.

Joanna contemplates frozen embryos

An ad for the School of Philosophy once again stared at me as I sat on the train. My thoughts wandered to kindly, bearded sages dispensing the wisdom of the ages, pondering the philosophical issues of the day, and Mel Brooks.

My musings centered on an issue that ancient philosophers never had to deal with — frozen fertilized eggs — and what do we do with them?

Sure King Solomon suggested cutting the baby in half to figure out who the real mother was, and Plato envisioned a civilization governed by the pure wisdom of a philosopher, not courts. But what of fertilized eggs and who has control over their existence?

Advances in fertility treatments have provided incredible gifts to many couples who years ago would have remained childless. But what of the philosophical conundrums this technology has created?

What happens when the eggs are fertilized and the relationship goes sour, and you



NOT FOR NUTHIN'

Joanna DelBuono

have these frozen beings-to-be and you can't figure out who gets them?

That seems to be the case between actress Sophia Vergera and her ex Nick Loeb. A report in the Daily News on April 20 has the exes battling it out over what to do with their frozen embryos.

On the one hand, Nick wants to embrace fatherhood, thaw them out, pop 'em into a surrogate, and raise the little

ones as his own. On the other, Sophia, who already has an adult son of her own, doesn't want any more children, and wants to keep the babes-to-be on ice indefinitely. To thaw or not to thaw? That is the question?

Cutting one in half just ain't going to do the trick this time.

These embryos are, after all, little human beings — we can't flush them down the toilet like dead gold fish, but how long can you realistically keep them on ice?

If the biological parents can't decide, or if one parent refuses to allow the other parent to have the embryos brought to term, who decides? The courts? Religion? Dr. Phil?

Not for Nuthin,™ but this philosophy stuff gave me one heck of a headache.

Where is Mel Brooks when you need him? I'd like to see him coalesce the vapors of this human experience into logical comprehension.

Follow me on Twitter @JDelBuono.

Step off! Carmine can't get into the post office!

I'm madder than that dumb dolphin that made a wrong turn at Albuquerque and ended up dying in the Gowanus Canal over the fact that neither rain nor snow nor gloom of night will keep me from going to the post office to get a new passport for my latest cross-country trip, but I can't get inside because the only way to get in is via handicapped-people-hating stairs!

Look, you all know the ol'Screecher has been riding around on his trusty steed for more years than he can count, and during that time I have been unable to leave the country — or check out the latest FBI most-wanted list — because none of the post offices near my house are *Tornado* accessible!

In fact, the last time I was able to break out of America was in 1994 — the year my last passport expired — for a great trip to my Italian motherland that I've dreamt about since that cold and wet December day when we touched the ground at JFK!

But now, with a plan to



BIG SCREECHER

Carmine Santa Maria

visit Florida, I figured it was time to get a new passport just in case I end up taking a ferry to the Bahamas, or, more likely, Cuba. Look, you have to take advantage of these opportunities when they arise. If there's one thing the Screecher has learned in his life, it is that!

Anyways, I made the nec-

essary appointments to get tagged by the government like some kind of endangered species, and headed over to the Dyker Heights branch, which is my second favorite next to the Blythebourne one. But when I got there, *Tornado* and I were stopped in our tracks by the one six-inch step at the entrance that halted us from making our appointed rounds!

Now, I know exactly what you are thinking: "Carmine, why the heck didn't you just pop a wheely and cruise right in?" The answer dear reader is simple — physics. When it comes to riding *Tornado*, label me "Fragile," and "This end up!" And *Tornado* gets a bit testy when all three wheels aren't on the ground. I wasn't about to risk falling over when I knew full well that every post office is required by the highest law in the land to give me full access whenever I need it!

And that's exactly what I told the manager when she came out to see what the fuss was all about.

That's right, I made a

fuss, as is my wont.

Turns out, she was nice enough. She had my lovely wife Sharon go inside with all the necessary paperwork and — more importantly — checks for almost 400 of my hard-earned dollars (I don't have direct deposit), while I waited outside munching on a dynamic sandwich I got at this week's shameless plug, Theresa's Home Cooking at 8303 13th Avenue between 82nd and 83rd street. It had mozzarella, peppers, chicken cutlet, lettuce, tomatoes, and oil and vinegar to wash it down. All stuffed inside a delicious roll that would have knocked my aunt Connie's socks off! Kudos to the staff there, Colleen, Anthony, Toni, and Gabby for all their help while we waited.

The whole thing took about an hour, in which time I was able to down the sandwich al fresco on the first beautiful, sun-drenched day of the year.

Thankfully, it was quite balmy out, and that saved us from the latest first-class hell that is Access-A-Ride.

We finished earlier than expected and we called to get an bus before 3:16 pm. For the next four hours, I had to call Access-A-Ride every 15 minutes to be told each time to call back in 15 minutes. And each time I called, I was told the bus would be there in 1 minute! Lies!

In fact, the bus never came, and my poor wife Sharon and had to split up, with here taking a cab I couldn't fit in, and me hopping on the B64 that drops me off right in front of my house.

Now for this week's Screecher Senior Tip on How to Live Forever.

I heard on the Eyewitness News that drinking lots of chamomile tea is the secret way to avoid thyroid cancer. So I quickly headed out to buy as much of this miracle cure as I could get my hands on.

As you are reading this, dear reader, I am sitting back enjoying my third glass of the day.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to go to the bathroom Screech at you next week!

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LEGAL NOTICE

Miscellaneous No. 1916998 UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES LAW OFFICE OF TITLES P.O. BOX 494 KINGSTON

March 2, 2015

WHEREAS I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of HUDDERSFIELD in the Parish of SAINT MARY being the Lot numbered SEVENTY-FOUR on the Plan of Huddersfield aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on the 6th of June 1958 of the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the Plan and being the land registered at Volume 934 Folio 114 of the Register Book of Titles in the name of RECENELLA HALL — HAS BEEN LOST:- I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof.

S. Porteous, Acting Senior Deputy Registrar of Titles Insert once overseas in a relevant Newspaper in the vicinity of 17 Sterling Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225, United States of America and once each week in the Daily Gleaner Newspaper Jamaica Observer Newspaper for two successive weeks. R.A. Ricketts & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law Unit 6 Cobblestone Professional Centre P.O. BOX 79 1 Brumalia Road Mandeville Manchester

N.B. The two local Notices must be published in the same newspaper.

Insert once overseas in a relevant Newspaper in the vicinity of 17 Sterling Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225, United States of America and once each week in the Daily Gleaner Newspaper Jamaica Observer Newspaper for two successive weeks.

R.A. Ricketts & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law Unit 6 Cobblestone Professional Centre P.O. BOX 79 1 Brumalia Road Mandeville Manchester

N.B. The two local Notices must be published in the same newspaper.

LEGAL NOTICE

Miscellaneous No. 1916998 UNDER THE REGISTRATION OF TITLES LAW OFFICE OF TITLES P.O. BOX 494 KINGSTON March 2, 2015

WHEREAS I have been satisfied by Statutory Declaration that the duplicate Certificate of Title for ALL THAT parcel of land part of HUDDERSFIELD in the Parish of SAINT MARY being the Lot numbered EIGHTY-THREE on the Plan of

LEGAL NOTICE

Huddersfield aforesaid deposited in the Office of Titles on the 6th of June 1958 of the shape and dimensions and butting as appears by the Plan and being the land registered at Volume 934 Folio 114 of the Register Book of Titles in the name of RECENELLA HALL — HAS BEEN LOST:- I HEREBY GIVE NOTICE that I intend at or after the expiration of fourteen days after the last appearance of this advertisement to cancel the said Certificate of Title and to register a new Certificate in duplicate in place thereof.

S. Porteous, Acting Senior Deputy Registrar of Titles Insert once overseas in a relevant Newspaper in the vicinity of 17 Sterling Street, Brooklyn, New York 11225, United States of America and once each week in the Daily Gleaner Newspaper Jamaica Observer Newspaper for two successive weeks. R.A. Ricketts & Associates, Attorneys-at-Law Unit 6 Cobblestone Professional Centre P.O. BOX 79 1 Brumalia Road Mandeville Manchester

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

"Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to locate rooftop wireless telecommunications antennas on a building that reaches an overall height of 140 feet above ground level at 1430 Bergen Avenue, Brooklyn, Kings County, NY 11213. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Joseph Schuchman, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: joseph.schuchman@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-15-08-23."

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is

LEGAL NOTICE

proposing to locate rooftop wireless telecommunications antennas at an overall height of 34 feet above ground level at 9522 Avenue L, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11236.

Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Marianne Walsh, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: marianne.walsh@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-15-08-22."

LEGAL NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) is proposing to locate rooftop wireless telecommunications antennas at an overall height of 53 feet above ground level at 163 Bay 7th Street, Brooklyn, Kings County, New York 11228. Public comments regarding potential effects from the site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Marianne Walsh, E2PM, 87 Hibernia Avenue, Rockaway, NJ 07866, by email to: marianne.walsh@e2pm.com, or phone: (973) 299-5200. Please refer to E2PM Tracking Number P-15-08-14."

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGS Index No.: 55492/2014 Date Summons Filed: DENISE BROWN, Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is Plaintiff's residence. Plaintiff, SUMMONS WITH NOTICE -against- Plaintiff resides at 687 BRISTOL STREET, 2F, BROOKLYN, NY 11236. MARVIN EDWARD CORLEY, Defendant. ACTION FOR DIVORCE To the above named Defendant:YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the

LEGAL NOTICE

service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. Dated: December 10, 2014

YVONNE AGBONTAEN, ESQ. Attorney for Plaintiff 26 COURT STREET, SUITE 1600 BROOKLYN, NY, 11242 (347) 382-9936 NOTICE: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DRL Section 170 subd. (7) and (2) - the relationship between the Plaintiff and Defendant has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months and the abandonment of the Plaintiff by the Defendant for a period of more than one year.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS HSBC Bank USA, National Association as Trustee for Luminant Mortgage Trust 2006-3, Mortgage Pass-Thru Series 2006-3, Plaintiff, against Mousa Khalil a/k/a Moussa Khalil, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 9/30/2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 05/21/2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 152 68th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11220 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, Block 5861, Lot 29. Approximate amount of judgment \$982,371.16 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 9543/2009. Kenneth W. Richardson, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS & GORDON,

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGSIndex No. 28223/2011 Date filed: 1/6/15 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Premises being foreclosed: 10 Vermont Court Brooklyn, NY 11207 ACTION TO FORECLOSE MORTGAGE ON PROPERTY SITUATED IN KINGS COUNTY U.S. Bank National Association, Plaintiff, -against- Hasibul Shiraj and all the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of any of the aforesaid defendants at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and

LEGAL NOTICE

LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706 01-051065-F00 1137469

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF KINGS

NYCTL 2011-A TRUST and THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, as Collateral Agent and Custodian, Plaintiffs against CONGREGATION KOL ISRAEL, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated February 3, 2015 and entered on February 25, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Kings County Courthouse 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, NY on May 14th, 2015 at 2:30 PM premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, known and designated on the City of New York Tax Map as Block 7024 Lot 119 Said premises may also be known as 4001 MANHATTAN AVENUE, BROOKLYN, NY Approximate amount of lien \$ 426,482.62 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index Number 9562/2012. JAY R. BERMAN, ESQ., Referee The Law Office Of Thomas P. Malone, PLLC Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs 60 East 42nd Street, Suite 927, New York, NY 10165 (212)867-0500 BG 4x 4/10, 17, 24 5/1 2015.

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF KINGSIndex No. 28223/2011 Date filed: 1/6/15 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS Premises being foreclosed: 10 Vermont Court Brooklyn, NY 11207 ACTION TO FORECLOSE MORTGAGE ON PROPERTY SITUATED IN KINGS COUNTY U.S. Bank National Association, Plaintiff, -against- Hasibul Shiraj and all the heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, devisees, grantees, trustees, lienors, creditors, assignees and successors in interest of the aforesaid classes of persons, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff; except as herein stated, Sandy Vega, The People Of The State Of New York, and The United States Of America, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of the Summons exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. In case of your failure to appear, or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in this Complaint. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Plaintiff designates KINGS County as the place for trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County, dated Sept. 22, 2014 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Office of the Register of the County of Kings. The object of the action is to foreclose a mortgage recorded in said Register's Office on Dec. 17, 2009 in CRFN #2009000413441 covering prem. k/a 10 Vermont Court, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 3884, Lot 267. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go

LEGAL NOTICE

successors in interest of the aforesaid classes of persons, if they or any of them be dead, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff; except as herein stated, Sandy Vega, The People Of The State Of New York, and The United States Of America, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of the Summons exclusive of the day of service or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. In case of your failure to appear, or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in this Complaint. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. Plaintiff designates KINGS County as the place for trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated. TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Karen B. Rothenberg, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Kings County, dated Sept. 22, 2014 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Office of the Register of the County of Kings. The object of the action is to foreclose a mortgage recorded in said Register's Office on Dec. 17, 2009 in CRFN #2009000413441 covering prem. k/a 10 Vermont Court, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Block 3884, Lot 267. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go

LEGAL NOTICE

to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH TILE COURT. Dated: Carle Place, New York December 31, 2014 ..Elizabeth Aquino, Esq. Stein, Weiner & Roth, L.L.P. Attorneys for PlaintiffOne Old Country Road, Suite 113Carle Place, New York 11514 (516) 742-1212 52629/FUSB #85817

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF KINGS US Bank National Association as Trustee for Deutsche ALT-A Securities Mortgage Loan Trust Series 2007-2, Plaintiff, against Roshan A. Hussain, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 10/7/2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201 on 05/07/2015 at 02:30PM, premises known as 35 Brighton 1st Walk, Brooklyn, NY 11235 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, BLOCK: 8671, LOT: 56. Approximate amount of judgment \$982,580.92 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 27463/09. David H. Perlman, Esq., Referee FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP Attorney for Plaintiff, 53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706 01-050657-F00 1136765



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He's not the messiah — he just plays one on stage: Actor Christopher Johnson will perform the Gospel of Mark inside a church. Photo by Todd France

Gospel show!

Actor to perform book of Mark in Carroll Gardens church

By Vanessa Ogle

He is a Jesus Christ superstar! An actor will perform almost all of the book of Mark and a sliver of Luke at a Carroll Gardens church on April 25.

The show, “Saint Mark’s Gospel: An After-Dinner Entertainment,” will be delivered verbatim from the Kings James Version Bible — but the theological thespian said even those who find the text hellish to read through will enjoy his live performance, which really brings the story to life.

“The dialogue is very concise, quick, and very funny,” said performer Christopher Johnson, who lives in Prospect Heights

and memorized the show over 18 months. “It is hard to read the stuff on paper ... but it is an incredibly rich text.”

The two-and-a-half hour show, which includes a 15-minute intermission, comprises Mark chapter one, verse one through chapter 16, verse 11, as well as the last chapter of Luke. But for all the scripture, the show is more matter-of-fact than mystical, according to Johnson, who said that the author of Mark penned a realistic savior.

“I just fell in love with the Jesus he presents, because he is so human,” he said, adding that the messiah didn’t mince words. “You get the feeling he really enjoys the intellectual bickering — he

always wins with a zinger.”

Johnson also said he chose to omit the later chapters of Mark and end with Luke — which he said closely mimics the author of Mark’s style — to keep the performance down-to-Earth. He said it is a consensus among scholars that Mark’s current ending was probably tacked on by early churches to add theology and finish the book with a classical closure — but he said the additions ruin the text.

“It is a terrible piece of writing,” he said. “The language changes, the rhythm changes.”

Johnson said he will perform the one-man show — which features old-fashioned language and a simple costume — as it

most likely would have been staged in first-century Rome, when biblical performances were common after-dinner entertainment in private homes.

And you don’t have to be a Christian to watch the show — even heathen theater buffs will appreciate the performance, Johnson said.

“It is as credible as any real theater is,” he said.

“*Saint Mark’s Gospel: An After-Dinner Entertainment*” at Saint Paul’s Church [199 Carroll St. between Clinton and Court streets in Carroll Gardens, (718) 625-4126, www.brownpapertickets.com/event/1351017]. April 25 at 7:30 pm. \$20 (\$15 students and seniors).

THE BARD OF BAY RIDGE

Writers hope to resurrect local author's fame

By Max Jaeger

They're turning over a new page on an old master.

A band of Brooklyn authors are celebrating late Bay Ridge literary giant Gilbert Sorrentino's birthday by reading from his canon at St. Joseph's College on April 27. A Ridge-born publishing executive said it is all part of his ongoing plan to start a Sorrentino renaissance among the borough's bookish.

"I kept on waiting for a Sorrentino revival to start — especially given the fact that Brooklyn has become this almost cliché of a red-hot literary territory — so I kept on waiting for all the Brooklyn writers to discover this native Brooklyn author, but they haven't yet," said author and Doubleday editor Gerry Howard, who grew up on Fourth Avenue near 78th Street.

Howard discovered Sorrentino when he reluctantly returned to Bay Ridge after graduating from Cornell University, he said. He dreaded the prospect of laying roots in what he thought of as a parochial backwater, but reading Sorrentino's treatment of the neighborhood in his 1970 novel "Steelwork" helped change his perspective.

"I didn't really know that writers came from Bay Ridge, let alone write superb novels about it, and it just blew me away," he said. "He was very clear-eye and unsentimental. His characters — a lot of them — were very alive and vividly rendered but a lot of them also seemed a bit trapped by their circumstances and limited in their outlook. But he was never snobby or superior about it — he had a real feel for working-class life and that's not very common in American literature."

Sorrentino was born in Bay Ridge in 1929 and attended PS 102 with childhood friend and fellow author Hubert Selby Jr. He taught at several colleges, including Stanford University, before retiring to Bay Ridge. He died there in 2006.

Howard partnered with Fort Greene's Greenlight Bookstore to organize the event — the book purveyors pulled strings to secure the venue, and Howard pulled together the talent, said store



Vivian Ortiz

owner Jessica Stockton Bagnulo.

Readers slated for the birthday bash include award-winning novelist Don DeLillo, Sorrentino's son Christopher, and "Marine Park" author Mark Chiusano. Chiusano, a Marine Park native, said he also identified with Sorrentino's passages about living in a far-flung part of Brooklyn.

"I came to Sorrentino through

'The Moon and its Flight' — a story about a young guy who's sorely, sickly in love, who lives in Brooklyn and is sad about that and wants to move to Manhattan," he said. "Growing up in Brooklyn, it resonated with me."

Howard and Ridge scribe Henry Stewart will also lead a walking tour of the neighborhood on May 3, passing by some of Sorrentino's old haunts and capping the walk off with a thin-crust slice reminiscent of Sorrentino's favorite pizzeria Lento's, which has closed. Like the reading, the tour is gratis, Howard said.

"You'll have to pay for your pizza, but that aside, this is a public service," he said.

Gilbert Sorrentino Birthday Tribute at St. Joseph's College, Tuohy Hall [245 Clinton Ave. between Dekalb Avenue and Willoughby Street in Clinton Hill, www.greenlightbookstore.com, (718) 246-0200]. April 27 at 7:30 pm. Free.



Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

Fan fiction: (Above) Gilbert Sorrentino enthusiast and author Gerry Howard at Sorrentino's alma mater PS 102. (Left) The late author Gilbert Sorrentino, who we are now calling the "Bard of Bay Ridge." Pass it on.

Gil-ded pages: Sorrentino's Ridge-centric works

By Max Jaeger

He's the greatest Bay Ridge author you've never heard of, lit fans say. Sorrentino was born and died in Bay Ridge, and turned a lovingly critical eye on his home 'hood in many of his novels. Here are a few standout selections featuring the beautiful 11209.

"Steelwork" 1970

Bay Ridge itself is roundly considered the main character in this collection of vignettes. Focused on Bay Ridge from 1935 to 1950, the novel offers a "sharply etched and chronologically shuffled vignettes of working-class Brooklyn types gradually corrupted by wartime and post-war prosperity," according to Sorrentino devotee and Doubleday editor Gerald Howard.



"The Moon in its Flight" 2004

Sorrentino's 13-page short story exposes the physical and cultural isolation his love-lorn protagonist feels living in the relatively homogenous and far-flung reaches of Bay Ridge in 1948. Returning from a date with an upper-crust Bronxite, the working-class protagonist refuses to even think of his love in Bay Ridge's confines "so that he would not have to place her subtle finesse in these streets of vulgar hells, benedictions, and incense."



"Red the Fiend" 1995

Sorrentino profiles Red, a Catholic boy living on 68th Street, as he descends into savagery at the hands of his abusive grandmother. Sorrentino "recreates with immaculate care Red's brutally dysfunctional family and the dangerous city streets (circa 1940) into which the boy escapes,"

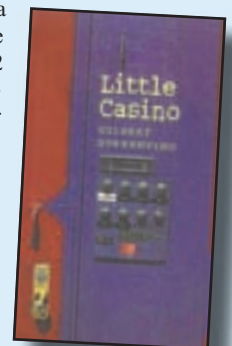
according to a 1994 Publisher's Weekly review.

"Crystal Vision" 1981

All 78 of the vignettes comprising "Crystal Vision" take place in a Bay Ridge candy shop. Sorrentino loads the novel with delicious historical tidbits, like a list of old-timey Brooklyn candies, and at one point, "characters argue, with hilariously excruciating specificity, about the names of the series of parks that stretch about a mile from Fort Hamilton Parkway to the shore," neighborhood scribe Henry Stewart wrote in a 2014 piece for Electric Lit.

"Little Casino" 2002

Stacked like a deck of cards, "Little Casino" offers 52 little episodes centered on post-war Bay Ridge. You may never get to meet Sorrentino for coffee at the Bridgeview Diner (he died in 2006), but his familiar style and commentary on each chapter are the next best thing.



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Sunday, May 10th



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Mother's Day

CHOICE OF APPETIZER

Lobster Bisque • Garden Greens • Lasagna Bolognese
Fresh Fruit Plate • Caesar Salad • Stuffed Mushrooms

CHOICE OF ENTRÉE

Boneless Breast of Chicken Francaise
Egg Battered, Sautéed with White Wine, Shallots, Lemon, Butter

Broiled Salmon with Lemon Saffron Sauce

Shrimp Scampi

White Wine, Garlic, Lemon Butter Sauce

Chicken with Portabella Marsala

Sautéed Boneless Chicken Cutlet with Portabella Mushroom & Marsala Wine

Boneless Shell Steak (\$8.00 Extra)
with Herb Butter or Au Poivre Sauce

Flame Roasted Rack of Lamb (\$8.00 Extra)
with Au Jus & Mint Jelly

All Entrées served with Potato or Rice and Fresh Vegetable

CHOICE OF DESSERT

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tax & gratuity

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tax & gratuity

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Prix Fixe Mothers Day Menu

Includes: Tuscan Vegetable Soup or Salad of Baby Greens w/ Balsamic Vinaigrette
Choice of Entrée • Dessert and Coffee

Entrées:

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- N.Y. Sirloin Steak Served with Herb Butter.....39.95
- Filet Mignon Grilled 10oz Filet w/ Red Wine Mushroom Sauce40.95
- Chicken Cordon Blue Stuffed w/ Swiss Cheese and Ham.....31.95
- Pan Seared Salmon w/ a Herb Butter Sauce29.95
- Shrimp & Beef Filet Mignon & Shrimp with Red Wine Mushroom Sauce43.95
- Penne with Shrimp In a Pink Vodka Cream Sauce.....28.95

Dessert Selection from our Dessert Tray • Coffee or Tea

Reserve Early

Children's Menu:

Includes Soup, Entrée and Dessert

Choice of:

- Chicken Fingers with French Fries.....17.95
- Penne with Marinara or Butter Sauce.....15.95

FLOWER POWER!

Magician brings tricks, heritage to cherry blossom fest

By Trupti Rami

They're the oldest tricks in the book — but with a new spin.

A Japanese-American magician will use his illusions — and his cultural heritage — when he performs at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden's Sakura Matsuri cherry blossom festival on April 26.

"I mainly perform classic magic pieces that have been around for decades," said magician Rich Kameda, who will conjure up two shows at park's annual Japanese culture extravaganza. "But when I perform them, I bring along my perspective of being a Japanese-American magician."

For example, Kameda said, he begins one trick by mentioning famed Japanese animator Hayao Miyazaki. First, an audience member selects a card from a deck. Then Kameda draws a picture of a deck of cards. And then, seemingly by magic, the picture animates to show the selected card.

And in his closing trick, Kameda tears a Japanese newspaper several times. As he talks to the audience about the Japanese approach to the arts, the newspaper becomes whole again.

Kameda said he also studies Japanese magic texts to help craft his routine — a process that is sometimes slow and difficult, because many of the older books are written in Old Japanese.



Three-ring circus: Magician Rich Kameda will bring his Japanese-influenced tricks to the Sakura Matsuri Festival at the Botanic Garden. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

"It's like Old English and modern English," said Kameda, who also calls himself the "Astonishing Asian."

Kameda has been attending the Sakura Matsuri Festival since long before he first waved a magic wand. The trickster said he was at the very first festival when he was 12, helping out as his dad's booth for the Japanese-American Lion's Cub and also participating in a demonstration of kendo — a Japanese sword-based martial art. As an adult, he has performed at the celebration for the past four years, and says he loves the crowd that flocks to the gardens to revel in traditional and modern Japanese culture.

"My favorite part is the feedback I get from the audiences watching the show," Kameda said.

This year's festival, which runs April 25 and 26, will also feature dance, sword fighting, fashion shows, taiko drumming, manga comic workshops, and tea ceremonies, amongst many other performances and activities.

Rich Kameda at the 34th Sakura Matsuri Festival at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden [990 Washington Ave. between President and Carroll streets in Prospect Heights, (718) 623-7200, www.bbg.org]. April 26 at 2:15 pm and 4 pm. \$25 (\$20 students and seniors, free for kids under 12).

Don your fancy pants in Bay Ridge

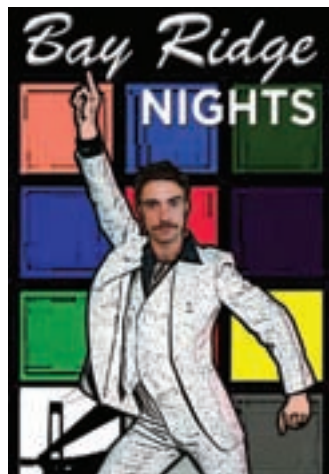
By Max Jaeger

Poetry and opera? The Ridge is getting classy this weekend!

Sure, there is the obligatory smattering of barroom rock, but for this installment of Bay Ridge Nights, we're peppering in a few higher-brow suggestions for your inner intelligentsia. Oh, and don't worry, you can still get loaded.

We're easing you in on Friday. Go to **No Quarter** (8015 Fifth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets) at 9 pm to catch the Art of B — also known as neighborhood singer-songwriter Bart Tesoriero — lay down the smoothest, most soulful set of acoustic guitar music since Otis Redding.

On Saturday, it is time to take the plunge. Head over to **Trinity Lutheran Church** (9020 Third Ave. between 90th and 91st streets), where the LaForza dell'Opera Company will hit the highlights from Giuseppe Verdi's opera "La Traviata" at 7 pm. And don't worry if you don't speak



Italian or are too soused to follow on-stage contextual clues — a narrator will be there to shepherd you through the operatic bliss.

Don't be surprised when you wake up on Sunday with a few strains from one of Verdi's arias still flitting through your ears — we have the medicine for that. Bound over

to the the **Salty Dog** (7509 Third Ave. between Bay Ridge Parkway and 76th Street) for the rockin'-est Memorial Day Parade fund-raiser in the history of Memorial Day Parade fund-raisers. Five bands will shake the Dog to its very core starting at 1:30 pm. We could tell you which acts, but you'll go either way to support the cause. You don't hate veterans, do you?

And if it is the last Sunday of the month, that can mean only one thing — the Bay Ridge Poet's Society returns to the **Owl's Head** (479 74th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues) at 7 pm. It is the thinking man's party in the drinking man's bar. You can sip Sauvignon blanc and talk Gil Sorrentino with other local literary types while Bay Ridge's bards recite their original work. It is the most fun you can have without getting into a bar fight, which we don't recommend — those poets have sharp tongues and even sharper pens!



Spicing it up: Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra bandleader Gianni Miano and lead singer Solange Prat. Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Rumba in the bookshop

Salsa band plays library

By Trupti Rami

They're ordering hits with a side of salsa!

A Williamsburg band is attempting to revive the salsa music that was popular in 1960s and '70s New York by infusing modern indie-rock song with Latin rhythms and hot horn lines, the group's lead said.

"The goal is to expand the salsa genre and help bring it back to life," said Gianni Mano, bandleader of the 10-piece Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra, which will play a free show at the Central Library on April 30 as part of the Central Brooklyn Jazz Festival.

Mano said he started the band five years ago after hearing the song "My Girls" by experimental four-piece Animal Collective and thinking it would make a great yambu — a style of Cuban rumba. So he wrote an arrangement for that song as well as ones from TV on the Radio, Camera Obscura, and others and recorded a demo. Friends and music blogs gave their thumbs up, so he put a band together and started organizing live shows.

It may sound like a strange stylistic fusion, but Mano said

today's indie bands capture the spirit of the salsa scene in its heyday.

"While much of modern salsa has grown formulaic, the indie scene was still 'anything goes' and so it seemed like a good match," he said.

The orchestra, which has a monthly residency at Brooklyn Bowl, includes vocals, piano, bass, three percussionists, and four or five horns, said Mano, who plays timbales in the group.

At the Central Library performance, Mano said the band will play re-imagined covers of "Lonely Boy" by the Black Keys, "L.E.S. Artistes" by Santigod, and "Cheated Hearts" by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs. He said you may have heard these songs before — but you've never heard them like this.

"If you haven't heard a big salsa orchestra in a while, or ever, you will be amazed at the power and subtlety of the band," Mano said.

The Williamsburg Salsa Orchestra at the Central Library [10 Grand Army Plaza between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, www.bklynlibrary.org]. April 30 at 7 pm. Free.



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OTHER

BROOKLYN KIDS' BOOK ILLUSTRATORS DRAW FOR KIDS: Featuring artists Sergio Ruzzier, Brett Helquist, Melissa Guion, Stephen Savage, and more. 11 am-5 pm. PowerHouse on 8th [1111 Eighth Ave. between 11th and 12th streets in Park Slope, (718) 666-3049], www.powerhousearena.com.

SPORTS, NEW YORK COSMOS VS. OTTAWA FURY FC: Soccer match. \$15-\$95. 7 pm. MCU Park [1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449-8497], www.brooklyn-cyclones.com.

FRI, MAY 1

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, MC FRONTALOT, SCHAFER THE DARK-LORD, DUALCORE: \$12. 8 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

THEATER, "THE WEDDING SINGER": Narrows Community Theater presents spring musical production, based on the Adam Sandler film. \$20. 8 pm.

SAT, MAY 2

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

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PERFORMANCE

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BOROUGH WIDE

Standing O sends out congratulations to borough son **Ilya Mekhtiyev**. Our pal Ilya was promoted to store manager of the East 49th Street branch at **TD Bank**,



America's most convenient bank, in that borough across the river. He will be responsible for new business development, consumer and business lending, managing personnel and overseeing the day-to-day operations serving customers throughout Manhattan.

The money man has more than seven years of retail banking experience, having joined TD Bank in 2007 as a part-time teller in the Wall St. location and later serving as a teller, customer service representative and store supervisor before his most recent position as assistant store manager at 49th and Second Avenue. He is also a member of Generation Next.

This guy is Brooklyn through and through, having graduated **Brooklyn College** in 2008, and **Edward R. Murrow High School** in 2004.

Standing O wishes Ilya a long and profitable career.

TD Bank [919 Second Ave. at E. 49th Street in Manhattan (212) 593-8071]

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS

No more violence

With a passionate, informative, and emotional talk about domestic violence, **Kaelyn Quinn** took home first place and \$500 at the annual Delaney Speech Contest held at **St. Francis College** on April 14.

Each contestant is required to make a three to four minute extemporaneous speech on the topic of their choice.

This year's contestants also included **Shantel Risher** (second place) speaking on natural hair as a social movement in the African-American community, and **Dion Costelloe** (third place) who spoke about climate change.

The event is organized by St. Francis Communication Arts Professor **Timothy Dugan** and was judged by Communication Arts Professors.

Professor Dugan explained the creation of the Delaney Speech contest, "While the contest is named after

[Francis] Delaney, we no longer try to cure students of their accents. Instead our focus is on turning our students into solid communicators, both orally and through the written word."

Standing O knows all about the written word and offers congratulations to Kaelyn.

St. Francis College [180 Remsen St.



NEVER FORGET!: Bay Academy students tied for first place in the intermediate school division of the Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest hosted by Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Sheepshead Bay).

Erica Sherman

Making sure we never forget

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Kudos to Assemblyman **Steven Cymbrowitz** (D-Brooklyn) for hosting his annual "Holocaust Memorial Creative Arts Contest." The event invites local students in grades three through 12 in public and private schools in his district to commemorate the Holocaust with essays, artworks, interactive displays, and original musical compositions.

Winners were presented their awards at a ceremony at **Kingsborough Community College** on April 19.

Guest speakers **Ruth Lichtenstein**, the daughter of Holocaust survivors and founder of Project Witness, a Brooklyn-based Holocaust resource center, and **Dr. Richard Tomback**, a history professor and director of the Holocaust Studies Program at Kingsborough, joined with the Sheepshead Bay representative at the event.

Students from **Edward R. Murrow High School** Junior Chorus, Chamber Orchestra and Chamber Winds performed, while **Yeshivah of Flatbush** students lit candles re-

membering the 1.5 million children who perished in the Holocaust.

Cymbrowitz, the son of Holocaust survivors, explained the importance of Holocaust education: "As the Holocaust taught us that if you fail to act, and fail to speak out, the consequences can be irreparable. There are wounds that time won't heal." He added, "I hope these lessons learned stay with them throughout their entire lives, tucked away in their memory, and passed on to their own children and their children's children."

Yeshiva of Flatbush high schoolers clenched first place with an original song composition, elementary students from **PS 255** placed first in their age group with their display, and middle schoolers from **Bay Academy** tied for first place in their category.

Standing O congratulates all the students who participated in the event and sends a thank you to the assemblyman for never forgetting.

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz, District Office [1800 Sheepshead Bay Rd. at Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay (718) 743-4078].

between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 522-2300]

BOROUGH WIDE

Woo hoo!

Five stars and lots of books to the **Clinton Hill**, **New Lots**, and **Windsor Terrace** branches of the **Brooklyn Public Library**. They are among the 10 finalists competing in the annual "New York City Neighborhood Library initiative," which is co-sponsored by the **Stavros Niarchos Foun-**

ation and the **Charles H. Revson Foundation**.

In May, five of the finalists will receive \$20,000 each — the largest cash prize awarded directly to branch libraries in the nation.

The Windsor Terrace Library was chosen for being a center for social cohesion in a changing neighborhood. Many of the 282 people who nominated the library wrote about how important it is in the community. It also serves as the library for PS 130 across the street, and four other schools in the area.



GRAVESEND

Knit one, purl one

High fives to the **Girl Scouts** in **Troop 2717** at **IS 228 David A. Boody**. The crafty scouts, under the direction and instruction of **Ms. O'Sullivan** and **Ms. Califiore**, put their needles and hooks to good use and created blankets that they donated to the non-profit organization **Warm-Up America**. The group provides blankets to neonatal centers, cancer patients, homeless shelters and the Red Cross.

And we all know that nothing says home comfort better than a hand-made, warm and fuzzy blankie.

Standing O says, "Thanks crafters —Keep those blankies coming."

IS 228 David A. Boody [228 Ave. S between W. Fourth and W. Fifth streets in Gravesend, (718) 375-7635].

The **New Lots Library** received 42 percent of its 148 nominations from students, and was cited as a safe haven for everyone, but especially for youth. The library is a unique and indispensable resource providing services ranging from books to the Internet to homework help to a kids' karate class.

The **Clinton Hill Library** has 14 schools and colleges within walking distance and provides children from pre-K through college (Pratt Institute or St. Joseph's College) with educational assistance.

Teacher **Heath**, who lives near the **Windsor Terrace Library**, explained: "I treasure this branch. My two nieces learned to read with their children's programming, and taught my mom to write her memoir. She also brings me the books I read on my way to work each day. Windsor Terrace Library has enriched three generations of my family on a weekly basis."

The **New Lots Library** was selected for its availability to residents, according to local resident **Takora**. "I live in a very impoverished neighborhood," she said. "Every day is a struggle for everyone but because of this place, we have access to the Internet and books and classes. This library helps people in our community better themselves and become a contributing part of society. Without this branch giving us the tools to do so, a lot of us would have no other way to get help or find things available to us."

Standing O sends good wishes to all the libraries.

● 'We are feeling like it is our year for sure.'

– Vanderbilt-bound Poly Prep midfielder Grace Bell on winning a state title

● 'We are trying to make history.'

– Xaverian junior Nick Meola on his team's quest to win back-to-back Catholic city titles

Poly Prep beats defending champs

BY STEPHEN ZITOLO

Clutch hitting and some slick fielding provided Poly Prep with an important win over its Ivy League rival.

The Blue Devils softball team cashed in on its scoring opportunity in the fourth inning and ace Ava O'Mara pitched out of jams in the final two frames to secure a 3-1 home victory over Fieldston, the two-time defending private school state softball champion, last Saturday. The game was originally scheduled for the Bronx, but was moved when Fieldston's field was unplayable.

Poly (5-0, 3-0) scored all three of its runs in the top of the fourth. Center fielder Morgan O'Mara led off with a double that was followed up by a booming triple off the center field fence by third baseman Honor Sankey to give Poly a 1-0 advantage. Catcher Jane Malafronte came to bat next and hit a grounder to first, scoring Sankey.

Shortstop Carly Corr singled to right field and eventually scored on some sloppy Fieldston defense. Poly's Nova Stoller hit a ground ball to Fieldston second baseman Jane Leff. Leff's throw pulled first baseman Kate Koepfel off the bag, but the ball popped out of her glove and scurried into right field. Right fielder Rose Montera's throw to third to try and get Corr out was off-line and allowed Corr to score to make it 3-0.

"We've worked really hard on our hitting," Poly prep coach Mildred Piscopo said. "We're a similar team to last year. We're a young team. But these kids are just getting more confidence and we've hit well of late."

Poly ace O'Mara struck out eight, but it wasn't easy. She ran into trouble in the



WINNING COMBINATION: (Above) Poly Prep's Ava O'Mara struck out eight batters against Fieldston. (Right) Poly's fleet-footed Sarah Healy, at right, beats Fieldston's Jane Leff to the bag for an out.

Photos by Gina Palermo

sixth when Fieldston (6-1, 2-1) loaded the bases with one out. O'Mara got out of the inning when a runner trying score on a wild pitch was tagged out at home, and then Sarah Healy made an amazing defensive play at second base. A grounder got past Stoller at first, but Healy was backing up the play and beat the runner to the bag to end the inning. O'Mara knew her team couldn't make any mistakes against a good team like Fieldston.



"I know Fieldston is a very good-hitting team," O'Mara said. "That's what they're known for. I knew I couldn't throw anything over the plate because they would take advantage of it. I really had to hit my corners and stay ahead in

Continued on page 58



BIG ARM: Xaverian's Nicholas Meola will be seeing more time on the mound this season.

Photo by Gina Palermo

Xaverian squad sets sights set on repeat crowns

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Xaverian baseball team rebounded from an error-ridden loss to St. Francis Prep with two lopsided victories over Archbishop Molloy last week.

The Clippers beat Molloy 7-0 on April 15 and continued their dominance of the young Stanners the next day with an 11-5 Catholic League win in Briarwood.

The back-to-back wins came after a demoralizing loss to St. Francis Prep earlier this month, when late errors let a lead slip away and reminded the Xaverian players that they need to be on their games at all times if they hope to become the first team to repeat as Catholic city champions since Molloy did so in 1978.

"I think it was a wake up call for me," said junior Nick Meola. "We know we have the talent to be a good team. We are still trying to find ourselves, which I think we are starting to do."

Against Molloy, Xaver-

ian's top three hitters – Phoenix Hernandez, Joe Vitacco, and Anthony Scotti – combined to go five-for-12 with six runs batted in and six runs scored. Scotti, playing on a tender ankle, also delivered a 325-foot solo homer over the high fence in left field to make it 7-0. Xaverian pounded out 10 hits.

Clippers coach Frank Del George said he wasn't surprised.

"We are a veteran team this is what they are supposed to do," he said. "We are supposed to be hitting the ball pretty good by this time. This is what we expect them to do."

Del George has the luxury of having the majority of his everyday lineup back, including outfielder Chris Nierova. Xaverian doesn't have the same reliable pitching it did a year ago after losing Anthony Sigismondi and Jeff Manzi to graduation. Rob Amato is the team's ace. Senior John Bini will also see

Continued on page 58

Our picks for best of h'school b-ball

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Brooklyn may not have won a citywide boys' hoops championship this season, but the borough was still home to some of the city's best squads.

Xaverian reached its first diocesan final since 2010 and first Catholic city championship game since 2005, but fell to Christ the King both times. Thomas Jefferson, which won the borough crown, failed to earn a berth in a third-consecutive Public School Athletic League Class AA championship game after falling to eventual state Federation winner Wings Academy in the semifinals.

An inexperienced club still kept Lincoln among the city's elite teams, but Boys & Girls upset the Railsplitters to reach the semifinals. Bedford Academy was again among the top Class A programs.

All these great teams produced plenty of top players. Here are the ones we picked as the best in Brooklyn:

All-Brooklyn Boys' Basketball Player of the Year: Shamorie Ponds, Thomas Jefferson

The explosive junior took the next step in his career this



BEST OF THE BEST: Thomas Jefferson's Shamorie Ponds is our 2015 All-Brooklyn Boys' Basketball Player of the Year. Photo by Amy Rio

year. Ponds became the Orange Wave's leader and go-to scorer. He averaged 25 points, nine rebounds and six assists per contest. The lanky wing scored in bunches, at the rim, and from the outside. Ponds's best game was a 37-point night

in an early season win over Lincoln.

All-Brooklyn Boy's Basketball Coach of the Year: Jack Alesi, Xaverian

Xaverian had one of the best seasons in program history. *Continued on page 58*

All-star games about more than hoops for Fraser

Brianna Fraser wanted to take advantage of every last opportunity to play basketball as a high school baller before starting her collegiate career at Maryland.

The South Shore forward played in three all-star events after leading the Vikings to the program's first-ever Public School Athletic League Class AA title and setting a state Federation tournament record with 46 points in a single game.

Her final game as a high school player was fittingly in Brooklyn as she scored seven points and grabbed nine rebounds to help the East Team to a 76-75 comeback victory over the West in the first-ever girls' game at the Jordan Brand Classic on April 17 at Barclays Center.

"I'm taking it as the last time I'll play in Brooklyn," Fraser said. "I'm just trying to have fun."

She controlled the glass in the first half and then found her scoring touch late in the game. Fraser connected on two beautiful turnaround jumpers, including one with 3:30 to play in the contest. It pulled the East within 67-65.

"It's fun being in Brooklyn because I get to show Brooklyn what I can do, and I am leaving them off with a good taste," Fraser said.

It was the last in a string of successful all-star game appearances. Fraser scored 10 points to help the East to victory at the McDonald's All-American game in April 1 in Chicago. Playing with and against other Division I commits was good preparation for college in her mind. Then she came home to lead Brooklyn to the final of the Wheelchair Charities Classic. Fraser joked that she would keep playing events if she had a chance.

"It's great to show you are among the best players in the nation," Fraser said.

She enjoyed each unique experience — and getting to play both with and against future Maryland team-



JOE KNOWS

by Joe Staszewski

mate Kiah Gillespie in the process. The McDonald's game allowed her to get to know some of the nation's best players, whom she had played against with the Gauchos on the travel-ball circuit. Fraser also got to visit the Ronald McDonald House for children with serious medical conditions. The trip wasn't just about basketball for her.

"It shows the McDonald's game isn't just to show your talents," Fraser said. "It's for others too."

It was the same case for the Wheelchairs Charities game. The proceeds from the contests benefit wheelchair-bound patients at the Henry "Hank" Carter Rehabilitation Center at Coler-Goldwater Hospital. Fraser felt the need to play even if the game isn't as high profile as the McDonald's and Jordan events.

"I like to give back to my community," Fraser said.

The last few weeks have been a fitting end to what has been a nearly perfect senior season for Fraser. She earned the elusive city crown, became her school's first-ever McDonald's All-American, and got to play on national television. Getting to compete once more at home and at Barclays Center was a cherry on top.

"It was great all my goals were accomplished," Fraser said. "I feel excited."

Poly lacrosse aims for state title

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Poly Prep's girls' lacrosse squad is tired of playing second fiddle. It believes its experienced roster will allow it to make a run at a private school state title this season.

"I think this year there are a lot of people who have been on the varsity since their freshmen and sophomore year so we are feeling like it is our year for sure," said Vanderbilt-bound midfielder Grace Bell.

The Blue Devils finished in second place in the Ivy League last season behind rival Hackley, and lost in the semifinals of the state tournament. Poly has already lost its first meeting with the Hornets 20-13 on April 2 in just its second game of the year, but it isn't discouraged.

"We don't feel like they are unbeatable," Bell said. "We definitely feel like we are up there."

The Blue Devils got off to slow start in that contest and played pretty much even the rest of the way. Poly counts on being sharper and more cohesive when the two teams square off again on May 9. First-year coach Terry Denson said Hackley's stick skills were better than his club's so early in the year, but he is confident his team can compete with its rival down the road.



QUICK STICK: Poly's four-year varsity player Grace Bell anchors an experienced squad that wants to make a run for the state title this year. Photo by Steve Schnibbe

Continued on page 58

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ROUND TRIPPER: Xaverian's Anthony Scotti stepping on the plate after hitting a home run against Molloy. Photo by Gina Palermo

XAVERIAN

Continued from page 55

the ball regularly. Meola, who is being asked to pitch until other reliable arms emerge, allowed no runs on two hits over four innings to Molloy.

In the April 16 match up, the Stanners scored five times in the bottom of the seventh with the help of errors. Jonathan Fonseca, Joseph Gallo, and Joseph Papandrea all saw time on the mound against Molloy. Meola, who pitched sparingly last year, is more than happy to help and the Clippers offense knows it

may have to pick its pitching up right now.

"This early we do," the Seton Hall-bound Scotti said. "Toward the end of the season, once we get everything going, we will be fine."

Xaverian won the city title in a season its coach felt at the outset would be a rebuilding year. Now it is the favorite to win this time, and the team has every intention of accomplishing the repeat feat no team has been able to pull off in nearly four decades.

"That's our goal," Meola said. "Anything short of that would be a disappointment to us. We are trying to make history."

SOFTBALL

Continued from page 55

the count. When I got behind, that's when they got a hit off me."

The Eagles loaded the bases again in the seventh. This time, O'Mara allowed a run, but her stellar defense got her out of another jam. A blooper was hit over second base with two outs in the inning, and as the runner on third was charging home Corr threw to the plate to get the runner out and end the game.

Fieldston expects other teams to be at their best again it.

"We know we have a big target on our backs," Fieldston coach Stefanie Godziewski said. "We come into every game knowing



BIG CUT: Poly Prep's Carly Corr delivers a single against Fieldston. Photo by Gina Palermo

that. We hope that we can come into every game motivated to play."

HONORS

Continued from page 56

tory despite not having a true star. Much if that success can be attributed to the confidence, continuity and unselfishness Alesi got out of his players. His Clippers tied a school record for wins with 22, and reached the diocesan and city title games.

All-Brooklyn Boys' Basketball First Team

Forward Sayon Charles Xaverian

The senior was a relentless competitor. Charles's motor kept him constantly attacking the basket and the glass. He was the Clippers' most consistent playoff performer and averaged 12 points in the regular season. Charles had 19 points and nine boards in the semifinals against Iona Prep.

Guard Gianni Ford, Boys & Girls

Ford was the engine to a relentless Kangaroos team. The dynamic guard was a handful for opponents. He averaged 19.7 points and 6.5 assists during the regular season. The junior dropped in 17 points to help upset Lincoln in the quarterfinals.

Forward Najee Larcher, Xaverian

Larcher gave everyone a good look at the quality player he's matured into. The senior was a shot-blocking threat on defense and has a great shooting touch around the hoop. Larcher, who averaged 13.2 points a contest, could quickly change the momentum of a game.

Guard Jaquan McKennon, Thomas Jefferson

The senior proved he is among the elite guards in New York City. McKennon's strength and speed make him a tough cover and a lockdown defender. He pushed his scor-



CUT ABOVE: Xaverian coach Jack Alesi is our 2015 All-Brooklyn Boys' Basketball Coach of the Year.

Photo by Robert Cole

ing average up from 10 to 17 points in the postseason and dished out six assists per contest.

Forwards Jahlil Tripp, Abraham Lincoln

Tripp returned to form after an injury-plagued season last year. He was Lincoln's most consistent performer and a double-double threat each time he took the floor. Tripp averaged 17 points and 11.5 rebounds, while making some of the biggest plays of the year.

All-Brooklyn Boys' Basketball Second Team

Forward Ezekiel Charles, Abraham Lincoln

The senior provided plenty of leadership and one of the city's best jumpers to the Railsplitters. Charles averaged 12 points and nine re-

bounds a contest.

Guard Doyin Isaac, Xaverian

Isaac was one of the quickest and smartest guards with the ball in his hands. The senior averaged 13.2 points per contest and made sure each of the Clippers' talented pieces got involved.

Center Cori Johnson, South Shore

There were few big men who could impose their will like Johnson. The senior averaged 15 points and 11 rebounds per contest to help keep the Vikings among Brooklyn's top clubs.

Forward Jaquan Lightfoot, Boys & Girls

Lightfoot was an unsung hero of the Kangaroos' playoff run. His play inside complemented Boys & Girls guards. The junior averaged a double-double and had 13 points and 14 boards against Lincoln.

Guard Gerald Williams, Westinghouse

The junior was Westinghouse's unquestioned lead and a dual threat on the court. Williams averaged 17 points and 12 boards a contest for one of the city's up-and-coming programs.

Honorable Mention

Guard Tyler Bourne, Abraham Lincoln

Forward Jimmy Council, Berkeley Carroll

Forward Rasheem Dunn, Thomas Jefferson

Forward Craig McKenzie, Brooklyn Collegiate

Guard Anthony Munson, Bedford Academy

Guard Cheyenne Nettleton, South Shore

Forward Ian Roach, Bedford Academy

Forward Najee Taylor, Poly Prep

Forward Jordan Thomas, Bishop Loughlin

Guard Keith Williams, Bishop Loughlin

LACROSSE

Continued from page 56

"Athlete-for-athlete, we are as good if not better," Denson said.

The team is unbeaten otherwise. Poly owns lopsided wins over Fieldston, Riverdale, and Dalton thanks to a balanced offensive attack. The team adapted quickly to Denson after former coach Anni Zukauskas moved back to Massachusetts with her family. Denson was her assistant for four seasons.

He takes over a team that lost leading scorer Jane Tewks-

bury to graduation. Now everything runs through Bell, a four-year varsity player, in the midfield. She is a threat to go to goal and score or send a sharp pass to an open teammate. Bell makes Poly a major threat in transition. Senior Mairead Gormley and Elizabeth Bernstein have been key offensive contributors. Still, when things get tight, the Blue Devils squad knows it can turn to Bell.

"She is always going to be there whether we are down or up by a lot — especially when we are down, because that means emotionally we are also down," junior Emilie Sauvayre said. "So we need someone who

is mentally strong like her to be able to bring everybody up."

Sophomore Lauren Martin and senior Margaret Riordan lead a young defense along with sophomore Collette DiGrazia. The Blue Devils will only get more dangerous when sophomore Meg Coll — the team's best athlete — returns from a groin injury. They are just some of the many pieces Poly possesses that has it thinking about reaching its first state title game since 2011.

"I think because our junior and senior classes are so strong we feel like this is our time," Sauvayre said. "For the seniors, it is their last shot."

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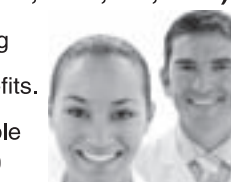
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

BERGEN BEACH
Sun 2/26 1-3 pm
2424 East 70th St
Semi-detached 1 fam on nice block, 3 large bdrms, 1.5 baths, lovely family rm, ballroom living rm & dining rm, parquet flrs, sliding glass doors to private yard, asking \$500's
Talk of the Town Realty
718-251-7400

BERGEN BEACH
Sun, 4/26, 2-4 PM
2243 East 72nd St.
Detach 2 Fam brick home nestled in the heart of Bergen Beach. This 5 BR, 4 Bath house is currently being used as a 1 Fam & has great potential. Lrg DR & LR area w/ new Bath on main level. EIK w/ sliding doors to the bckyard feat an inground pool. The bsmt is fully finished w/ a Bath. 3 Car prking on premises. It's a must see! Owner Motivated! **ASK: \$879K**
CLASSIC HOME SALES:
718-968-2222

Canarsie OPEN HOUSE
SAT. 4/25 From 1-4 PM
1531 E.94th Street (Betwn Ave M & Ave N)
Exclusive: Semi-Det 3 Bdrm Duplex. Mint Cond, prvt drive w/ garage, full fin bsmt w/ laundry area. Beautiful bkyrd w/ deck. Asking \$399,999
BEST SELLER
#1 PROPERTIES LLC
718-646-6900



Canarsie OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 4/26 From 1-4 PM
9226 Kaufman Place (Betwn Canarsie Road & East 94th Street)
Exclusive: New to Market. Large att brick 2 fam, 6 rm, 3 master size bedrooms, 2 bath over 2 bdrm rental. Interior staircase leading to full fin bsmt. Prvt parking. Asking \$599,000
BEST SELLER
#1 PROPERTIES LLC
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CANARSIE
SUN 4/25 1-3pm
1454 East 104 St.
Seaview Village Excellent condition. 1 Family 3 Bedroom Duplex. Finished Basement 1 car garage & private Backyard
FIN 429078
Asking Only \$425K
Fillmore Real Estate
718-377-6161

➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

CANARSIE
SUN APR 26 2-3:30pm
1319 EAST 102nd St Ave M & N
42x100 Waxman split, 3bdrm, 2 baths pkus finished basement. Exterior has new brick porch with granite steps, in-ground pool with new pavers. Priv parking for multi cars, you can make this your dream home. Price reduced \$479,000
Fin#414020
FILLMORE REAL ESTATE
718-998-8820

GERRITSEN BEACH
Sunday 4/26 12-2 pm
21 Nova Ct.
1 Family Detached, 3 bedroom Duplex, 1st floor features open floor plan, 3 baths, full basement. \$349,000

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Kensington OPEN HOUSE
SUNDAY 12:30-2:30
435 OCEAN PKWY #3K
Spacious 1 Bdrm Co-op w/LR, eat-in-kitchen, full bath. Needs TLC. Sublease ok w/board approval. No pets, 5% down OK. \$169,000
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MADISON
Sat, April 25
1-4 PM
2375 Ocean Ave Unit 4B (Bet. Ave S & T)
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

MANHATTAN BEACH
Apr 26 1:30-3:30pm
224 Amherst St
Gorgeous 1 family mansion, 16ft ceilings, grand living rm, lrg master suite w. terrace, custom kitchen w/ top of the line appliances, elevator, fireplace, hwdw flrs, private parking,
A must see!
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Marine Park OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 4/26, 1-4 PM
2123 EAST 35th ST
1 Family attached brick house. 2 BDR, 2 BATH, plus studio apartment. Move-in condition, Large living room & master BDR. Garage. Asking \$528,900
WILK R.E.
Mark 973-727-9312

MARINE PARK
SUN 4/26 12-2pm
1821 EAS 35th ST
Jog through the park, semi-detached 1 fam, 3 bdrm duplex, 2.5 baths, updated EIK, large living rm & dining rm, parquet flrs, fin bsmt, above ground pool, carport
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

MARINE PARK OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, April 26, 12-3 PM
1950 Coleman Street (Between Fillmore Ave & Ave S)
First Time on the Market!
Det 30x100, prvt drive, 2 car garage. Extended home, 3 bedrm duplex w/X-large master suite & 2 bathrms. Full bath w/Jacuzzi tub on 1st flr, FDR, Lrg living rm, parquet floors throughout + full fin basement w/laundry room, tool room, rec room + plenty of storage. 2nd floor can be converted to 4 bdrms! **Will not last!**
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or Call Josephine 347-231-2197

MILL BASIN OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 4/26, 1-3PM
2664 EAST 66th ST. (Dakota Pl & 56th Drv)
Absolutely Stunning One of a Kind!
Custom Det, 40x100, Chef's Kitchen, Subzero, Viking, Custom Moldings, Hardwd Flrs, California Closets, 5 Bdrms, 3 Baths. Park-like Bkyrd. Too Much to List! Offering Price \$1,189,000
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

MILL BASIN
Sun 4/26 1-3 pm
2358 East 65th St
All custom center hall colonial house, 25' ceilings, gorg lrg EIK w/ stainless steel applis & granite counter tops, great bar area in dining rm, 5 bdrms, 4 bathrms, full basement, summer kit, separate entr, lrg bkyrd, private parking
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MILL BASIN
Sun 4/26 1-3pm
2304 East 64th St
1 fam fully det custom colonial, 46X100, 4 bdrms, 3.5 bath-rooms, granite EIK w/ top of the line applis, fin bsmt w/ sep entrance, private parking, a must see!
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

MILL BASIN
Sun 4/26 1-3 pm
2358 East 65th St
All custom center hall colonial house, 25' ceilings, gorg lrg EIK w/ stainless steel applis & granite counter tops, great bar area in dining rm, 5 bdrms, 4 bathrms, full basement, summer kit, separate entr, lrg bkyrd, private parking
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MILL BASIN
Sun 4/26 1-3pm
2515 East 63rd Street
Lovely all brick 1 fam, 18X100, 3 bdrms, 2.5 bathrooms, new kit w/ top of the line applis, formal living rm & dining rm, fin bsmt, priv yard, a must see!
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➤ **BROOKLYN OPEN HOUSE**

MILL BASIN
SUN 4/26/15 1-3 PM
2676 East 66th Street
Lovely detached 1 family, 4 bedrooms, 3 bath-rooms, fully renovated, white tiled floors, all bathrooms black and white, brand new top of the line appliances, finished basement, private parking
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MILL BASIN
SUN April 26 1pm-3pm
2021 East 69th St
Lovely Claudia Split Lvl. This 1 fam. house offers 3 good sized bdrms, 2 full baths & one 1/2 bath. Renov. EIK w/ Corian Counter Tops, Full DR, large LR. Den opens into back yard through security sliding glass drs. Central A/C. All appls are part of the package. Full Attic. 4 car driveway & built in garage. \$600,000's Fin#540021
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MARINE PARK OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 4/26, 1-3PM
1733 E. 37th St.
3 BR Semi Detached, New Front Porch, Large LR, DR, EIK, Full Basement, Large Rear Yard. A Must See!
.....PL1441

FAR ROCKAWAY OPEN HOUSE
SUN. 4/26, 1-3PM
118-14 Beach 119th St.
Beaut. 2 BR, 2 Bath Condo at Seavon in Rockaway Park! Combo LR/DR, brand new modern kitchen, terrace. Ocean/City Views!
..... AC1436

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EAST FLATBUSH: Mint! Mint! Totally Renovated! 2 Bedroom, Semi-Detached Brick Ranch, new bath, new kitchen, hardwood floors, laundry area, private drive, garage.PL1455
MARINE PARK: 3 Bedroom Semi-Detached Duplex, full finished basement, rear yard, deck pool.....PL1301
MARINE PARK: Clean 1 Bedroom CoOp Apt, eat in kitchen, full bath, large living room, lots of closets. Unit faces front of building! Maintenance includes gas, electric, heat, water. Close to all!PL1440

GERRITSEN BEACH: 2 Family - 2 Bedroom over 3 Bedroom over basement. Double Lot! Private drive, garage. Mint Condition!.....PL1358
FLATLANDS: 2 Bedroom Attached Brick Ranch, large living room, dining room, kitchen, living room, full finished basement, private drive, 1 car garage, rear yard.PL1402
CANARSIE: 2 Family Semi-Detached Brick! 3 Bedroom Apt over 2 Bedroom Apt over full basement! Shared driveway, large rear yard. Close to all! Mint condition! Freshly painted.PL1409

MILL BASIN: 3 BR Semi-Detached Brick Duplex, large living room with sliders to yard, dining room, eat in kitchen, ½ bath on first floor, full basement, shared driveway and community driveBS1442
MARINE PARK: 3 BR Attached Brick Duplex, finished basement with 2 rooms and bathroom, detached garage, community drive. Excellent Condition! PM1426
BERGEN BEACH: Beautiful 2 Bedroom, 2½ Baths Condo, eat-in-kitchen with granite counter tops, new appliances, LR, parking.AC1443

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