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### ING

# Cure for crossing chaos

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

Five dangerous intersections around Brooklyn are getting a safety-minded redesign to protect pedestrians.

Local officials joined Borough President Adams at the intersection of Nostrand Avenue and Avenue Z on Sept. 18 for the unveiling of a \$1 million plan to extend streetcorner sidewalks out into the parking lanes at intersections in areas with high concentrations of senior citizens.

The beep said the so-called "bulb-outs" or "neck-downs" — part of his Connecting Residents on Safer Streets initiative — will provide safer crossings that should make a dent in pedestrian-related accidents.

"Our youngest and oldest Brooklynites are at particular risk when crossing some of our busiest streets," said Adams. "Redesigning our crossings through sidewalk extensions is a common-sense approach that helps take our most vulnerable out of harm's way."

The location for the announcement was not chosen at random. A 52-year-old Sheepshead Bay resident, Carol Carboni, was killed while crossing the street when a car *Continued on page 10* 

# BEER AND LOATHIG



# Knocking 'em dead

Green-Wood Cemetery bestowed its highest honor on author Malcolm Mackay, left, and actor John Turturro for their continued support of the historic necropolis. For more, **see page 5.** 

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

## CB18 says no to slinging suds next to mosque

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

Protests from a Flatbush Avenue mosque led the local community board to reject an application by a new restaurant next door for a license to serve beer and wine on Sept 20.

Community Board 18 threw a wrench into plans to open a Caribbean eatery in Flatlands, citing the law forbidding the sale of liquor within 200-feet of a place of worship — despite the fact that the law allows the sale of other forms of alcohol, according to an attorney representing the restaurant owners.

Continued on page 10

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# **BARCLAYS ON ICE**

# Islanders open Brooklyn preseason with win over Flyers

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

The puck is about to drop on the New York Islanders' inaugural season in Brooklyn, but fans got a head start on the action on Sept. 21, when the team opened up its preseason schedule with a Barclays Center match against the Philadelphia Flyers.

The Isles notched a 3-2 victory, already leaving fans smiling. One originally skeptical Long Islander said he could not believe how quickly he embraced the Barclays Center experience.

"I can't say anything bad about it," said Patrick Dowd, a long-time season ticket holder. "The place is fantastic. State of the art, clean, and open. Taking the train is actually really convenient. You don't have to worry about parking and traffic."

A Fort Greene couple originally from Boston usually roots for Beantown's Bruins, but when they found out hockey was going to be just down the road from their home, they got a mini ticket plan last season and traveled to Nassau Coliseum several times. They have a full plan for the Isles first season at Barclays, and they said there was no comparison between the two arenas.

"The amenities here are amazing," said John Parthum. who attended with his wife, Holly Popowski. "The food is better and the bathroom lines are much shorter."

The Islanders iced a roster featuring some regulars, including star center John Tavares, who notched a goal and an assist. But some muchanticipated rookies also laced up the skates, including Russia's Kirill Petrov, who scored a goal, and 2015 first-round draft pick Mathew Barzal.

The Islanders opened up a 3–0 lead by the middle of the





ISLES PRIDE: (Top) Islanders goaltender Jaroslav Halak was ready to snatch a sailing puck during his team's 3-2 preseason victory over the Philadelphia Flyers at Barclays Center on Sept. 21. (Above) Fort Greeners John Parthum and his wife Holly Popowski, who rooted for the Bruins when they lived in Beantown, embraced the Isles in their new home. (Above right) Patrick Dowd of Long Island had no gualms about the Islanders' move to Brooklyn. (Right) Nikolay Kulemin, in front, and longawaited rookie Kirill Petrov skated on one line during the game.

Photos by Paul Martinka

second period, and fought off bers of both team's rosters a Flyers comeback effort. The playing in Allentown, Penngame was one half of a splitsylvania. The Flyers claimed squad affair, with other memvictory in that contest, 5–3.







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APPLE JACKED: Authorities say the alleged drug traffickers transported packets of heroin hidden in boxes of Apple Jacks. Community News Group / Colin Mixson

# **Cereal offenders** DA: Heroin ring hid its drugs in boxes of Apple Jacks

#### **BY COLIN MIXSON**

Talk about finding a prize in your cereal box.

A family-run drug ring in Williamsburg allegedly had its runners hide heroin packets in boxes of Apple Jacks, according to Brooklyn's top lawman.

"It may look innocent, but what was contained in those Apple Jacks boxes was deadly," said District Attorney Ken Thompson at a press conference on Sept. 17, where he served up a crisp. 368-count indictment against 25 people accused of a multimillion-dollar, mom-and-pop drug-distribution scheme he says they operated out of Williamsburg aparttheir ment.

"I think it's extraordinary that a mother and her grown children would come together to spread poison on the streets of our city," said Thompson of the family of flakes he accuses of peddling sugar smack.

Josie Tavera allegedly served as the Cap'n Crunch of the dope ring, which he operated out of his family's Honeycomb Hideout on Driggs Avenue between S. Third and S. Fourth streets, according to Thompson.

Tavera was supposedly aided in his Trix by sister Sheila Taveras, who allegedly packaged, delivered, and distributed the drugs, and his older brother Jose Tavera, who allegedly supplied the unlucky charms, Thompson said.

was involved, according to

Thompson, and was arrested for allegedly laundering the family's dirty Kashi by regularly depositing thousands of dollars in a checking account she opened at a Chase branch only a few blocks from the family home, raisin' alarms with the authorities.

The Tavera family and their accomplices allegedly sold 25,000 glassine bags of heroin wholesale every month, worth a Total of about \$250,000 on the street, according to Thompson.

The drugs were sold under a variety pack of brand names, including "Knockout," "Takeover," "Power Hour," "Killing Time," and "Pure." One bran-d called "Scorpion" even caused polife-threatening tentially side-effects in junkies getting their Kix — including severe swelling around the throat and face, according to the district attorney.

Two Staten Island men Michael Mineo and Jason Collazo - were also busted for their alleged involvement in the conspiracy.

Mineo attended classes at the College of Staten Island, where he studied substance abuse, and worked as a drug councilor, during which time he was allegedly involved in selling Tavera's dope, according to Thompson.

"Just think of the damage he could have caused selling heroin to those recovering drug addicts he was supposed to help," Thompson said.

Callazo served as a com-Even Tavera's mother munity service supervisor Continued on page 4

# **Mom-strocity II:** Back in the PTA

### Mom who stole thousands briefly back in office

#### **BY MOSES JEFFERSON**

Providence Hogan — the Brooklyn mom who infamously stole close to \$100,000 from a Cobble Hill elementary school parent-teacher association while she was treasurer of the volunteer group made a brief return to office last week when the Edward R. Murrow High School parent-teacher association unwittingly elected her to its board last Wednesday night.

Hogan announced her resignation as second vice president of the elite Midwood school's panel the following day, after news outlets splashed her re-emergence across their front pages and Murrow families discovered her sordid past.

"I resigned the post so as to not embarrass the school." she told the New York Post.

Murrow parents and teachers learned what any avid reader of this paper could have told them — that between May 2008 and September 2010, the then-PS 29 parent-teacher association treasurer cut checks to herself from the group's funds ranging from \$6,000 to \$52,000. On the withdrawal slips, Hogan claimed that the pilfered cash was for class trips to the Brooklyn-Queens Conservatory of Music and Club Getaway.

In all, she stole somewhere between the \$82,000 prosecutors charged her with and the \$100,000 theft to which she confessed.



SHE'S BACK !: Providence Hogan, the former PS 29 parent-teacher association treasurer who stole close to \$80,000 from school parents, was elected second vice president at Edward R. Murrow High School's parent-teacher association - but quickly resigned after her past was exposed.

File photo by Gregory Mango

pay for fertility treatments, as well the rent on her apartment and her business, the now-defunct Providence Day Spa on Atlantic Avenue, according to the district attorney who indicted her.

She avoided jail time in a 2011 deal after promising to Hogan used the cash to pay back all the money she stole, but still spent some time in the slammer in 2013 after failing to make one of her payments.

Hogan introduced herself to voters at Wednesday's meeting as a great fund-raiser, but glossed over some important details of her record.

"The PTA I was with before raised \$1 million dollars," she said to the crowd. "I don't wish to be involved with money at this school, but I want to be involved."

Attendees were not given the opportunity to ask Hogan or her fellow candidates any questions before casting their votes, and she ultimately won the paper-ballot election, though it is unclear by what margin.

Afterwards, a parent of a freshman at the school approached the group's leaders and informed them of Hogan's history, citing our prior coverage. Other parents were stunned to learn that they had just elected Hogan, citing a lack of information, the foundation of democracy.

"I'm absolutely appalled that she got elected executive vice president," said one parent who requested anonymity. "I am amazed that she has the chutzpah to even run; wouldn't she realize that parents would figure out who she is and what she had done?"

Several parents then called on the school to veto the vote, but there was no need — Hogan says she stepped down of her own accord.

### Midwood woman has been missing for nearly a month

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

Police are asking the public's help in the search for a Midwood woman who has been missing for more than three weeks.

Suzanne Gruer, 45, was last seen on Aug. 31 at her home on Kings Highway between E. 24th Street and Bedford Avenue.

11, 150 pounds, and in good *are strictly confidential*.

BR

physical condition.

Anyone with information regarding Gruer's whereabouts is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-8477. The public can also submit tips by logging onto the Crime Stoppers website at www.nypdcrimestoppers.com or by texting tips to 274637 (CRIMES) She is described as 4-foot- then entering TIP577. All tips



MISSING: Police are searching for Suzanne Gruer, who disappeared on Aug. 31 from her Kings Highway home. NYPD

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# Sit on it, Bossy!

Hockey legend visits Brooklyn to promote Barclays glass-side seats

#### BY ERIC FAYNBERG

Call it a view to a thrill!

New York Islanders legend Mike Bossy skated into MetroTech last Thursday to hang with hockey fans in a replica of the Barclays Center's glass-side seats — a move he hoped would score the team some local supporters for its inaugural season at the stadium.

"This is a great opportunity for the Islanders to win over these fans and build a new fan base in Brooklyn," said Bossy, who sported the team's new Brooklyn alternate jersey.

The front-row Barclays seats are the highest of any professional hockey arena in the country, thus offering a better vantage of the action on the ice, according to a team rep. And fans joining the Hall of Famer in the coveted chairs said it was the best glass-side view of an office complex lunch hour they'd ever seen.

"I think it's a good idea," said Joseph Liveo of Sheepshead Bay. "But I'll take front row seats no matter how high they are."

But most fans just wanted a seat next to Bossy. Many of those who turned out said they were long-time supporters who grew up watching the goal-scoring dynamo during the team's four consecutive Stanley Cup victories in the 1980s.

"Mike Bossy, he's one of those guys that symbolize the hard work and grit of those four Stanley Cup teams," said



WHO'S THE BOSSY?: Islanders icon Mike Bossy poses in front of the replica of Barclays Center's glass at MetroTech on Thursday. Community News Group / Eric Faynberg

Jeff Leone. "That's why I call myself an Islander fan."

And Bossy hopes the fans will get to see the Isles take home another Stanley Cup soon — maybe even while sitting glass-side, if they're lucky.

"They have a team that did a lot better last year," he said. "I just hope they can continue their progress toward another Stanley Cup."

### **APPLE JACKS**

#### Continued from page 3

in the Midtown Manhattan Community Court, where he allegedly used the court's phone to purchase drugs from Tavera and coordinate distribution to individuals in Brooklyn and Staten Island.

But Callazo's lawyer Peter Gaudagnino contends that his client is innocent of all charges, and that any conversations he might have had with suspected drug dealers have been puffed up by prosecutors.

"My client's innocent," said Gaudagnino. "Just because you have acquaintances you talk to, that doesn't mean he's guilty."

The other defendants' lawyers either didn't return calls or declined to comment.

G

В



**DOPE HEADS:** District Attorney Ken Thompson explains the organization of the alleged drug ring, which he says flooded the streets of Brooklyn, Queens, and Staten Island with millions of dollars worth of heroin. Community News Group / Colin Mixson



# A monumental honor

#### **BY MAX JAEGER**

He must have done the right Green-Wood honcho said. thing.

Award-winning actor John Turturro got a different kind of accolade when Green-Wood Cemetery bestowed it's highest honor on the Brooklynborn titan of the big screen on Sept. 16.

The Hollywood hot-shot and history buff — who has appeared in more than 60 films, including Spike Lee's Brooklynset "Do the Right Thing" and cult comedy classic "The Big Lebowski" — is a major booster of the historic burial ground,

"His mother is interred at Green-Wood, and he even had a couple scenes in his film 'Romance and Cigarettes' filmed at Green-Wood," said the cemetery's director of marketing Lisa Alpert.

The Green-Wood Historic Fund gave Turturro and Brooklyn author Malcolm Mackay the DeWitt Clinton Award for Excellence - named for the former governor and current Green-Wood resident.

The gala served as a fund-

but he's also got family ties, a raiser, too, with cemetery supporters donating mounds of cash to bolster cultural programs at Green-Wood, which are funded separately from cemetery's operating the costs, Alpert said.

"The fund really depends on private funding, because it is funding non-cemetery activities - tours, events, concerts, outdoor theater," she said.

Green-Wood raised \$155,000 according to preliminary counts - and much of it will go toward restoring the landmarked Weir Greenhouse, Alpert said.



NOT SO GRAVE: (Above) Marty Markowitz yucks it up with Green-Wood cemetery president Richard Moylan. (Center) High-rolling donors and cemetery board members enjoy a balmy late-summer evening among the historic burial ground's lush foliage. (Left) Turturro and wife Katherine Borowitz chat with guest Deborah Schwartz, president of the Brooklyn Historical Society. Photos by Stefano Giovannini



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BITE OF HEAVEN: Pizza-eating contest participant Vincent Spagnolo chomps down on one of many slices consumed at Di Fara's 50th Anniversary celebration on Sept. 22.

# Pizzapalooza!

### Di Fara marks 50 years with new pizza, pie-eating contest, and dessert shop

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

Famed Midwood pizzeria Di Fara celebrated it's 50th anniversary on Sept. 22 with the debut of a special-edition pizza and a gut-busting pie-eating contest that had even the biggest slice savorers swooning.

The 78-year-old pizza artisan who opened his shop in 1965 says he never imagined it would last for half a century, much less become a culinary landmark and tourist attraction.

"I don't think I ever thought about 50 years," said Domenic DeMarco. "But everything turns around and things are good. I don't got too many local people, though. They all come from far away. A lot of tourists."

DeMarco turned to his seven children to create the special 50th-anniversary pie. Each of his kids selected their favorite pizza toppings, and thus was born the Chaos Pie, featuring sausage, wild onions, semi-dried cherry tomatoes, fresh garlic, and meatballs.

Normally closed on Tuesdays, Di Fara opened for four hours in the afternoon to serve the Chaos Pie before shutting so DeMarco and his son, Domenic, Jr., could prepare the plethora of pies needed for the pizza eating contest.

Five corpulent competitors had 10 minutes to see who could eat the most pizza. In the end, a competitive eater who specializes in chicken wings managed to stuff the final chunks of crust into his mouth just as time expired, barely finishing an entire pie in the time allotted. He said he was always confident in his victory, but admitted that the contest was more challenging than he thought it would be.

"It was tougher than I expected," said winner Sean Lennon, who said he's been a fan of Di Fara's pies for more than 30 years. "The dough really gets you. Your jaw starts to get tired from the chewing."

The birthday bash also included the opening night of Di Fara Dolce Fatts. a new dessert cafe just around the corner from the pizzeria that will feature espresso and goodies from popular Brooklyn bakeries, as well as in-houseproduced treats, such as a cornucopia of cannoli, including a lemon basil variety made using the same aromatic basil De-Marco sprinkles on his pizzas.

The cafe shares an address with MD Kitchen, the small storefront where the DeMarcos produce some of the Italian favorites the family patriarch used to make at Di Fara. One family member playing a large role at Di Fara Dolce Fatts says the dessert shop makes for a perfect complement to the pizzeria.

"The lines at Di Fara can be long and the seating is short, so you can take your pizza to Dolce Fatts and have some desserts after." said Fabiana Santana, who manages Di Fara's private party packages. "And we have a lot of tourists from around the country and the world. This gives them another reason to stay in the neighborhood and get to know the area."

But then there are folks like Lennon, a tried-and-true fan who was eating at Di Fara long before hipsters and the Zagat set descended on the quaint eatery. Lennon's love for Di Fara's pies can hardly be doubted. The first thing he did after he won the contest and the "old man" presented him with a makeshift championship belt was scarf down a fresh slice.

Di Fara Pizza [1424 Avenue J between E. 14th and E. 15th streets in Midwood, www.difara.com, (718) 258-1367]; Di Fara Dolce Fatts (1012 E. 15th Street, between Avenues J and K in Midwood, www.difaradolce.com).

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#### **68TH PRECINCT**

**BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS** 

#### Ugly mug

A brute beat and robbed a guy on the corner of Third Avenue and Senator Street in Bay Ridge on Sept. 18.

The ogre punched his victim in the back of the head at 5:20 am, sending him falling to the ground, police said. The fiend continued to pummel the poor guy, eventually taking his wallet and running off, officials said.

#### Copper copped

A punk smashed through the door to a Bay Ridge Avenue home and stole copper pipes sometime between Sept. 12 and Sept. 14.

The intruder got into the home between 13th and 14th avenues in Dyker Heights by breaking the glass on a rear door sometime between 6 pm that Saturday and 9 am the following Monday, police said.

#### Sleeper cell

A sneak plucked a cellphone from a 66th Street home while the resident slept on Sept. 16.

The victim was snoozing in her bedroom between 10th and 11th avenues in Dyker Heights at 6 am when a guy reached through her bedroom window and grabbed an iPhone, police said.

#### Vigilant vigilante

A 92nd Street resident caught the man who he said burglarized his apartment on Sept. 20.

The hero was in the hallway of his apartment building between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge at 12:50 pm when he saw the less-than-stealthy suspect leaving his flat — allegedly with a Coach purse that didn't belong to him, police said.

The resident held the suspected scoundrel until cops showed up and cuffed him, officials said.

#### Van-ishing act

A huckster drove off in the van



he had just sold to a guy on 72nd Street on Sept. 15.

The burned buyer paid the stranger he met near 12th Avenue in Dyker Heights at 9 pm \$2,600 for a Chrysler mini-van, but after he forked over the cash, the dealer got into the van and sped away, police said - Max Jaeger

#### **62ND PRECINCT**

**BENSONHURST-BATH BEACH** 

#### **Bottle opener**

Six goons beat and robbed a man outside of his Avenue U apartment building on Sept. 19, taking cash and electronics.

The victim told police that he was coming up to the front door of his building between Van Sicklen and Lake streets at 3 am when the reprobates cut him off and started harassing him.

An argument ensued and eventually climaxed when one of the crew members took up a beer bottle and cracked it open on the victim's head, according to police. The blow sent the victim reeling to the ground, where he was pinned down as the crooks rifled through his pockets and looted his valuables, cops said.

#### Clothing caper

Three punks robbed a man of his cash and a bag full of clothes on 17th Avenue on Sept. 19.

The victim told police that he was between 77th and 78th streets on his way home from a soccer game at 10:40 pm when he dastardly trio skulked up and began showering him with a flurry of vicious blows to the head

When the victim was sufficiently

cowed, the crooks grabbed \$300 from his pockets and took his book bag, which contained a spare change of clothes, cops said.

#### Knife to meet you

A knife-wielding sayage robbed a 27-year-old man inside the vestibule of an 82nd Street apartment building on Sept. 17, taking cash and a cellphone.

The victim told police that, as he approached his home between 23rd and 24th avenues at 3:10 am, he spotted a mysterious tail following him up the block. The lurking stranger followed him into the building's lobby, where he declared his intentions — at knife-point.

"I'll kill you if you don't hand over your property," the knave growled.

The victim handed over his valuables without complaint, cops said.

#### Taxi take down

A stickup man robbed a cab driver inside his taxi on Bay 17th Street on Sept. 17, taking cash and a cellphone.

The victim told police he picked up the fare on 15th Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, and chauffeured him to various destinations throughout the borough, including stops on 85th Street near 23rd Avenue and 16th Avenue near New Utrecht Avenue, before ultimately arriving at Bay 17th Street between 86th Street and Benson Avenue at 12:15 pm.

The victim then turned around expecting his payment, but instead found a silver pistol leveled at his cranium. The crook fled with \$170, plus an iPhone 6, according to police.

#### **Ticket snub**

Cops are hunting an irate motorist who they say attacked a meter maid on Sept. 16, as revenge for issuing him a parking summons.

The victim told police that she was writing up the ticket between W. Seventh and W. Eighth streets at 12:55 pm when the suspect somehow bashed the victim's leg with his car door.

As the victim radioed for backup, the suspect peeled off in his white Kia, which had Jersey plates and a Batman decal, cops said.

#### Rude awakening

A burglar looted a woman's 68th Street apartment on Sept. 21, taking electronics as she slept.

The victim told police she was counting sheep inside her apartment between 18th and 19th avenues by 12:01 am, and awoke at 5:55 am to find that some crook had stolen into her apartment through a side window and made off with her valuables.

#### Jewel thief

A thief ransacked a woman's Cropsey Avenue apartment of jewelry on Sept. 18.

Surveillance footage shows the intruder entering the victim's home between Bay 28th and Bay 29th streets at 10 am, taking advantage of an unlocked kitchen window in order to appropriate the victim's jewels, cops said.

#### Roommates from hell

Cops are hunting two women who they say pilfered their former roommate's valuables from her Bay 16th Street apartment on Sept. 16.

The victim's 11-year-old son told police that he arrived at his home between 85th and 86th streets on his way back from the store at 5 pm, when he spotted the victim's former roommates, who had moved out a week ago, and three other men moving out the women's stuff.

When the victim returned home later, however, she discovered that some of her things were missing too, including \$40, jewelry, and perfume, cops said. - Colin Mixson



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#### Continued from cover

"They were definitely confused about the law," said Tom McCallen, who represents Tasso Bar and Restaurant owners Kenny Merveille and Carnot Guerrier.

Following a brief address by Mc-Callen at Thursday's board meeting, Muhammad Bhuiya, Imam at the Tri-State Islamic Center located between Hubbard Place and Avenue K, stepped up to the mic and claimed that the sale of any alcoholic beverages near a place of worship is against the law.

McCallen asked for a chance to respond, but since he had already spoken, the board at first resisted, with CB18 chairman Saul Needle saying, "You have a right to speak, just like we have the right not to listen."

But the lawyer persisted in making his rebuttal, insisting that the "200-foot rule" applies only to hard liquor, and that selling beer and wine near a religious institution is perfectly legal.

The State Liquor Authority actually backs up McCallen's interpretation that only full liquor licenses are subject to the 200-foot rule, according to an authority spokesman, but CB18 and the many members of the Tri-State Islamic Center who attended the board meeting would not be moved.

One congregant insisted that even if the law wasn't on their side, it shouldn't matter.

"We know people in America. They legalize sodomy, prostitution, and they legalize alcohol, but that does not make these things right," said Salah Uddin Laboy. "Our basis is moral and religious."

The moral outrage took the prospective restaurant's owners by surprise. They said they met with the imam before they firmed up their plans, and that Bhuiya's seemingly warm reception was part of the reason the two partners ended up deciding on that location.

"I said there weren't going to be people outside, hanging out and drinking, and he said there's no problem," said Merveille. "That's why we signed the lease."

So it came as a shock to Merveille and Guerrier when they arrived at the Thursday's community board meeting and were confronted by more than a dozen mosque memebers who showed

### INTERSECTIONS

#### Continued from cover

struck her motorized wheelchair in August.

In addition to Nostrand Avenue and Avenue Z — where there were nine accidents with deaths or serious injuries in the last year — sidewalk extensions will be installed at the following intersections around the borough:

•New Utrecht Avenue, 12th Ave- juries in the last year.



LICENTIOUS LICENSE: Salah Uddin Laboy of the Tri-State Islamic Center on Flatbush Avenue is not happy about a new restaurant next door applying for a license to sell beer and wine. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

up to protest their application to serve alcohol.

"I was very surprised," said Merveille. "It's a big blow for my partner and I."

Bhuiya didn't deny that he'd had a pleasant conversation with the restaurateurs, but disputed Merveille's claim that they had spoken before he signed the lease, insisting that work had already begun at the property well before their meeting.

Community board votes are only advisory, and the decision to approve or disapprove the application ultimately rests with the State Liquor Authority. But the board's rejection means the restaurant owners will now likely have to wait an additional two or three months for the state authority to make its decision, according to Mc-Callen.

"The board's decision to disapprove will add a minimum of 60-90 days to the procedure," he said. "Meanwhile they'll be paying rent."

Even so, the Tasso Bar and Restaurant owners are content — if not particularly pleased — to open without the 'Bar" part in effect for now.

"We're not pulling out, but we'll probably have to open without beer and wine," said Merveille. "I don't want to create any problems in the community."

nue, and 50th Street, which saw three crashes with deaths or serious injuries in the last year.

•Utica Avenue and Church Avenue, which saw nine crashes with deaths or serious injuries in the last year.

• Utica Avenue and Winthrop Street, which saw seven crashes with deaths or serious injuries in the last year.

•Flatbush Avenue, Washington Avenue, and Lincoln Road, which saw two crashes with deaths or serious in-

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**TROJAN TWO-STEP:** Students from Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis Parochial School danced in traditional costumes at the 12th-annual Holy Cross Greek Cultural Event in Bay Ridge Sept. 18-20. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

Hellenist hoedown Thousands turn out for Bay Ridge's annual Greek cultural festival

#### BY SNEHA ANTONY

Volunteers from the Greek Orthodox community of Bay Ridge came together and peeled potatoes, whisked pastry batter and carved meat for gyros to prepare for the 12th-annual Holy Cross Greek Cultural Event.

The annual Ridge cultural festival helps fund the Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church on Ridge Boulevard between 84th and 85th streets and the affiliated Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis Parochial School.

Festival chairman Harry Patsalis said the event raised a record \$74,000 last year.

"We hope we exceed that amount this year," he said.

Stalls decorated with toys, pastries, soaps, candles, books and jewelry spread across the Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis Parochial school auditorium.

Sister Theonymphi and sister Foteini, nuns from All Saints Greek Orthodox Monastery in Long Island — and former Bay Ridge residents brought homemade soaps, lotions, and candles to sell at the festival.

"We know this community from before we were nuns so we get to see people we know and we love them. It is like being with family so it is really nice," Sister Theonymphi said.

Outside, barbecues crackled with roasting meats attracted eager customers as Mihali Papamihalakis stuffed cloves of garlic into tiny slits cut in the side a whole, marinated pig and pointed to another animal on his counter under a plastic cover.

"That is lamb. We will roast that too," he said.

Patsalis said the cultural event attracts people outside the Greek Orthodox community as well. He said nearly 5,000 people attended the event last year.

"We get people from all over New nomic crisis," Father Makris said.



**GREEKS WITH GIFTS:** Pals Elini Diamantopaelos and Lamar Tuma got a stuffed dog at the three-day Greek festival, which raises money for Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church's Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis Parochial School. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

York. A lot of our neighbors are not Greek. They love it here," he said. "It is a family-friendly festival."

Konstantine Lataniotis, attending the festival with his family, said the event brought back fond childhood memories.

"I grew up here. I was baptized at this church. So I wanted to bring my wife and kids here for the first time."

The three-day festival running along 85th Street between Colonial Road and Ridge Boulevard lasted from Sept. 18 to 20, and included rides, raffle drawings, live bands and traditional dances performed by Dimitrios and Georgia Kaloidis Parochial School students.

Father Gerasimos Makris of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church said he enjoys sharing Greek culture and traditions with the community, and to remind them that there is more to the cradle of democracy than the grim news making recent headlines.

"Definitely not today's [Greek] ecoomic crisis," Father Makris said.



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# Thicker than water

#### **BY MAX JAEGER**

This blood drive was not in vain.

Nearly 70 heroes offered their veins and donated blood during a drive in front of Greenhouse Cafe on Sept. 17. The eatery started hosting donations regularly in 2009, and since then Greenhouse has

helped collect enough blood to save thousands of lives, the Ridge restaurant's owner said.

"We've collected probably about 1,200 units — that turns into the possibility of saving 3,600 lives," said owner Bobby Daquara. "That's a lot of people." Daquara's daughter Haley inspired him hold the blood drives, which Greenhouse hosts between four and six times a year. The youngster, who passed away two years ago, was born with a disease that required frequent bone marrow transplants, and seeing others' donations help his



**SANGUINE:** (Left) Frank Puliafico enjoys the blood mobile's luxurious chair while he donates a pint. (Above) Katherine Wyshosky isn't squeamish about giving blood for a good cause. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

child drove home the need for more blood drives, Daquara said.

"After her diagnosis, and once we got her medical condition under control, we realized that was the time to start giving back," he said. Donating blood is a nobrainer, one life-saving local said.

"I'm retired, got nothing to do, so what the heck," said Dyker Heights resident Frank Puliafico. "I felt like I was doing something good."



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#### **BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT**

# Live Holistic helps patients live healther lives



#### **BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA**

Dr. Vincent Adamo of Live Holistic in Bay Ridge has been named "Top Chiropractor" by The International Association of HealthCare Professionals.

He was welcomed into this prestigious organization for his published work on holistic health care. It was noted that the doctor educates patients on how to live healthy lifestyles that include natural remedies and chiropractic care.

Dr. Adamo transforms lives, helping people who suffer with illness and pain. He says his studies have proven that the body has the power to heal itself — without drugs or surgery.

The doctor has observed this locally, and also around the globe. When he graduated from Chiropractic school, Dr. Adamo traveled the world for five years for the purpose of exploring healing techniques. He says he has worked with patients who have had all kinds of illness — autism, scoliosis, and terrible pain in the musculoskeletal system - and his methods have allowed these patients to enjoy their lives again.

How is this possible? The doctor explains that our nerves supply life to all cells,



(Top) Dr. Adamo, wife Christina, and staff member Ali have many patients. (Bottom left) Dr. Vincent Adamo takes a vested interest in making sure patient's bodies are the best they can be. (Bottom right) Live Holistic on Bay Ridge Parkway between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

organs, and systems in the body; therefore, they are also responsible for healing it. He uses the brain as an example.

"It's your brain, which sends messages throughout your body," he says. "But what happens when your spinal cord is injured? You are paralyzed."

When the spine is not aligned properly, this paralysis shows up in other areas of our lives. There's pressure on the spine's nerves, and it causes us to feel pain or become ill. To get healthy again, the spinal cord needs to be realigned, and that's what Live Holistic does.

To keep bodies healthy, it is imperative to be in "an alkaline state," says Dr. Adamo. How do you get there? A good diet helps. So does getting a decent night's sleep and drinking lots of water, too.

But, unfortunately, the majority of us don't practice these healthy habits, bringing our bodies into an "acidic state." As a result, the body breaks down, creating an environment to which diseases cling. A diet of acidic sugarfilled foods is often the cause. Ditch the soda and doughnuts.

"Stay away from acidic foods," the doctor warns. "The body can't heal in an acidic state."

When clients come in for an appointment, they learn more about the nutrients the body needs to heal. Everyone is welcome to become educated, including children.

"We teach people how to impact on the community's health," says Dr. Adamo.

Live Holistic accepts am-noon.

most health insurance, and the practice is committed to working with everyone to make health care affordable.

"We don't turn anyone away," he says.

Learn more by viewing some of the doctor's videos on YouTube.

Live Holistic [446 Bay Ridge Pkwy. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-5483, www.Live-Holistic.net]. Open Mondays stay well, and it is making an and Wednesdays, 9 am-noon and 3-6:30 pm; Thursdays, 1-6:30 pm; and Saturdays, 9



STACKS ON STACKS: Bookseller Sydney Garcia peddles her wares at the Brooklyn Book Festival outside Borough Hall on Sept. 20. Photo by Alexa Telano

# The write stuff Literati hit Downtown for Book Fest

#### **BY HARRY MACCORMACK**

This festival takes all types.

on Sunday to celebrate the written word at the 10th edition of the Brooklyn Book Festival, and attendees said the best part of the event was getting their noses out of a book and hobnobbing with the people who write them.

"There's just so many people, lots of interesting people," said writer Catherine Kirkpatrick, who also showed off a number of books she had penned forewords for at a booth. "We had a Pulitzer-Prize-winning poet come by our table, which was really incredible."

An estimated 40,000 people turned out to peruse books and journals at the open-air market stalls around Borough Hall Plaza, and lis-

ten to talks by local and visiting literati including Augusten Burroughs, Bookworms swarmed Downtown Salman Rushdie, Joyce Carol Oates, Jonathan Lethem, and John Leguizamo (yes, the actor — he wrote a book) at nearby venues.

> And it wasn't just readers and writers having all the fun - publishing-industry pros say they yearly book bash is a great excuse to catch up with others in their field.

> "It's really great to have everyone from the publishing world in one place," said Kendra Sullivan, who works with Lost and Found a City University of New York program that unearths works from interesting and influential authors that otherwise might have gone undiscovered. "The festival allows for collaboration that would just be impossible by e-mail."





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FURRY FERMENTATION FACTORY: Now you can get fermented coffee that hasn't been through the digestive tract of a civet cat. Associated Press / Bullit Marquez

# No crap-uccino!

# Red Hook company makes poop-free fermented coffee for the civet-minded

#### BY MAX JAEGER

It is cat-poop coffee — without the cats or the poop!

A pair of scientists working in Red Hook have created an ethical, excrement-free alternative to kopi luwak the cult Southeast Asian coffee typically made by forcing mongoose-like mammals known as "civet cats" to eat coffee beans so they stew in its gut bacteria and take on a distinctive flavor before coming out the animal's other end — and one coffee expert says it is about time.

"Caged, force-fed cats is truly a terrible thought," said Steve Mierisch, founder of the Pulley Collective — a co-operative roasting facility on Van Dyke Street where microbiologist Camille Delebecque and flavor scientist Sophie Deterre toast their beans. "If you are a fan of kopi luwak coffee then any alternative not involving animals is better."

Instead of feline intestines, Delebecque and Deterre ferment their coffee with flavor-molecule-munching microbes in a lab, before roasting it at the Hook Pulley Collective.

The duo have now turned their cultured coffee into a company, dubbed Afineur, after rustling up more than \$50,000 through Greenpoint crowdfunding website Kickstarter earlier this year, and recently began retailing their beans online.

The pair used their scientific nous to hand-pick microorganisms that cultivate specific flavors in the beans and say their bug stew cuts out bitterness and gives their brew unique floral and fruity notes.

"Microbes chew away basic flavor molecules and leave us with more interesting ones," said Delebecque.

Kopi luwak became a fad about five years back when enterprising cafes and roasters began importing the hard-to-get beans from Indonesia and the Philippines and charging up to \$30 a cup for a taste — which earned the product a reputation as "the world's



HOOKED ON CAFFEINE: Afineur founders Sophie Deterre and Camille Delebecque roast their fermented coffee at Red Hook's Pulley Collective, a co-working space for coffee producers. Afineur

most expensive coffee."

But the style has fallen out of favor in recent years, after animal rights activists revealed how cruelly many civet coffee farmers treat their furry workers, locking them in tiny cages and feeding them nothing but coffee cherries — the fruit that yields the precious caffeinated beans.

Afineur has solved the moral issues, but its high-tech process doesn't come cheap — the company is currently charging \$29 for a five-ounce bag of its beans, or around enough for five cups.

But their product may be even rarer than beans fished out of animal dung

— Afineur is likely the first to ferment coffee in a tightly controlled lab environment, Mierisch said.

"They are the first to my knowledge to try and isolate and control fermentation after the coffee has been processed at origin countries," he said. MAGIC SLEEK the next generation in hair straightening - Formaldehyde FREE **ONLY \$125** 

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# **Clean sweep in Bay Ridge**

#### **BY MAX JAEGER**

Here's a story you won't bristle at.

A dozen proud Ridgites spent their Saturday sweeping Bay Ridge Avenue on Sept. 19. One couple who happened ing up his sleeves was a noto see the effort and couldn't resist lending a hand swept one organizer off his feet, he said.

"There were a few community members that saw us working, and they came out of their homes with their own brooms and just decided to help — that was really moti-

vating," said Yahya Khatari, lected about 10 bags of trash an aide to Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) who helped organize the cleanup.

Grabbing a broom and rollbrainer, one of the impromptu assistants said.

"I want to keep the neighwe'd come out and clean it together," said Ninh Luc, who lives on the avenue between Sixth and Seventh avenues.

between Third and Seventh avenues, Khatari said. The sanitation department lent brooms, shovels, garbage bags, and gloves to volunteers, and it picked up the filled bags as workers progressed down the street, he said.

Mostly, they collected borhood clean, so I figured leaves and litter, but the volunteers also took some larger trash off the streets, Khatari said.

"We found some plywood that was in pretty big pieces All told, the group col- on the street," he said.



IN THE BAG: (Left) Volunteers and Yahya Khatari from Councilman Vincent Gentile's office hauled 10 bags of trash off Ridge streets during the Sept. 19 cleanup event. (Above) Volunteer and co-organizer Tracey Jindyeh sweeps a pile of street trash before bagging it up.

Photos by Georgine Benvenuto



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#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Article 15 of the General Municipal Law ("GML") and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the long-term lease of certain real property in the Brooklyn Center Urban Renewal Area ("Area") to The Willoughby Garage, LLC, the sponsor designated by HPD ("Sponsor"), for redevelopment in accordance with the Fifth Amended Urban Renewal Plan ("Plan").

The properties to be leased are located in the Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York, and

Address	Block/Lot
225 Duffield Street	146/16
223 Duffield Street	146/17
213 Duffield Street	146/18
106 Willoughby Street	146/23
116 Willoughby Street	146/29
402 Albee Square	146/34
404 Albee Square	146/35
406 Albee Square	146/36
414 Albee Square	146/37
416 Albee Square	146/p/o 41

on the tax map of the City ("Disposition Area") which Disposition Area is identified as Sites 19, 19A and n/o 19B in the Plan

Under the proposed project, the City will lease the Disposition Area to Sponsor pursuant to a lease ("Lease") for the development of approximately 50,000 square feet of public open space. The Disposition Area currently consists of a vacant lot and vacant buildings that will be demolished by Sponsor. Sponsor will thereafter develop the Disposition Area as public open space consisting of an outdoor plaza and recreation space which may include food vendors, other recreation related amenities and other uses allowed by the Plan ("Project"). The Lease will have a term ending twenty (20) years following the completion of the Project. The base rent will be One Dollar (\$1.00) per year. Upon completion of the development of the Disposition Area as public open space, Sponsor will assign the Lease to MetroTech Area District Management Association, Inc., which will operate and maintain the public open space. In a related pro-ject, Sponsor will develop the subsurface of the Disposition Area as an underground parking facility with up to 694 public parking spaces pursuant to a separate long-term lease with the City

The appraisal and the proposed Lease Agreement and the Plan are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on October 7, 2015 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar, at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed leasing of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 507(2)(d) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services. Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.



Bill de Blasio, Mayor Vicki Been, Commissioner, HPD

#### **PUBLIC NOTICE**

Pursuant to Article 15 of the General Municipal Law ("GML") and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter, notice is hereby given that the Department of Housing Preservation and Development ("HPD") of the City of New York ("City") has proposed the long-term lease of the subsurface of certain real property in the Brooklyn Center Urban Renewal Area ("Area") to The Willoughby Garage, LLC, the sponsor designated by HPD ("Sponsor"), for redevelopment in accordance with the Fifth Amended Urban Renewal Plan ("Plan").

The properties below, the subsurface of which are to be leased, are located in the Borough of Brooklyn, City and State of New York, and known as:

Address	Block/Lot
225 Duffield Street	146/16
223 Duffield Street	146/17
213 Duffield Street	146/18
106 Willoughby Street	146/23
116 Willoughby Street	146/29
402 Albee Square	146/34
404 Albee Square	146/35
406 Albee Square	146/36
414 Albee Square	146/37
416 Albee Square	146/p/o 41

on the tax map of the City (such subsurface shall be known as the "Disposition Area") which properties (the "Land") are identified as Sites 19, 19A and p/o 19B in the Plan

Under the proposed project, the City will lease the Disposition Area to Sponsor for an initial term of forty-nine (49) years with options to renew the lease for three ten (10) year extension terms up to seventy-nine (79) years. Spon sor will then develop an approximately 50,000-square foot public underground parking garage containing up to 694 parking spaces. In addition, at Sponsor's option, the garage may contain a car rental dealership, a carwash and, for an area of the garage that would otherwise have been used for up to eight (8%) percent of the maximum number of parking spaces, for other uses allowed under the Plan.

The Land currently consists of vacant space and vacant buildings. In a related project, Sponsor will demolish the vacant buildings and develop 50,000 square feet of public open space on the Land.

The base rent for the initial lease term will be \$75,000 per year during construction and then up to approximately \$231,000 per year thereafter, subject to a 3% annually compounding escalation. The base rent is calculated based on the final number of parking spaces built, and is subject to a rent abatement of \$50,000 in each of the first two years. The entire base rent will be adjusted every ten years to the greater of (i) the Consumer Price Index growth for that period or (ii) the base rent subject to the 3% annually compounding escalation. The base rent for the extension terms will be the higher of fair market value or the previous year's base rent. The Sponsor will also be responsible for making an annual payment in lieu of taxes.

The appraisal and the proposed Lease Agreement and the Plan are available for public examination at the office of HPD, 100 Gold Street, Room 5-A1, New York, New York on business days during business hours.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held on October 7, 2015 at Second Floor Conference Room, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan at 10:00 a.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be reached on the calendar at which time and place those wishing to be heard will be given an opportunity to be heard concerning the proposed leasing of the Disposition Area pursuant to Section 507(2)(d) of the General Municipal Law and Section 1802(6)(j) of the Charter.

Individuals requesting sign language interpreters should contact the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Public Hearings Unit, 253 Broadway, Room 915, New York, New York 10007, (212) 788-7490, no later than five (5) business days prior to the public hearing. TDD users should call Verizon relay services.



Bill de Blasio, Mayor Vicki Been, Commissioner, HPD

М



#### **BY HARRY MACCORMACK**

At this Fort Greene cafe, you don't just pick up the tab — you can also pick up a tabby.

An animal rescue group has opened a "cat cafe" at Myrtle Avenue and Adelphi Street, where feline fanciers can cuddle kitties while drinking their lattes or get a new pet pussy to-go and the concept is catnip for local residents, said one patron.

"People just go gaga over it," said Jerry Pura, who volunteers with the Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition, which is running the venue it has dubbed the Cat's Meow. "It's a great way for a neighborhood to get together and just hang out in a comfortable space.'

An actual pet store will open in the storefront in five weeks, but until then, its owners are allowing the coalition to use the space as a pop-up petting zoo. The rescue cats have free rein of the room, and customers pay five bucks to hang out with them for half an hour. If a visitor falls in love with one of the residents, they can adopt the mouser and take it home.

The animal welfare outfit will use the cash it collects to cover the costs of caring for the cats is saves, as well as trapping and neutering feral strays, said the group's leader.

"Not everyone who comes in is going to want to adopt, and that's fine, they're subsidizing the adoption process for the people who will," said Anne Levin, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition. "Nobody is going to adopt a cat for \$2,000, which is what it would cost considering all the costs that go into doing this kind of thing.'

The cafe sells bottled water and



PICTURE PURFECT: Jerry Pura cuddles with a fuzzy feline at the opening of Cat's Meow, Brooklyn's first cat cafe.

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

packaged snacks, but can't actually serve the hot beverages its name implies due to city regulations, Levin said. But visitors can bring in coffee and pastries from nearby bakery Brooklyn Sweet Spot or bicycle-storecum-coffee-shop Red Lantern Bicycles.

In weeks to come, the organizers plan on hosting events in the cafe, including movie screenings, yoga classes, and date nights.

And if the venture is a success, Levin hopes to find a forever home for the Cat's Meow in the future.

The Cat's Meow (354 Myrtle Ave. at Adelphi Street in Fort Greene, www. catcafebk.com). Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 11 am to 5 pm, and Fridays from 11 am to 8 pm through Oct. 24. \$5 per half hour.



WITH PURRPOSE: Anne Levin, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Animal Welfare Coalition, celebrates the opening with one of her charges Photo by Stefano Giovannini

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# **Preemie party in Coney**

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

There was nothing premature about this party.

Coney Island Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit hosted its third-annual reunion party on Sept. 16, getting together with children their lives in the care of the unit's nurses. The unit's head nurse said reuniting with the former patients and their families was a heartwarming experience for everyone involved.

"It's about celebrating life," said Kathleen Marino, who organized the event. "We remember when they were

and the mothers needed so much of our support. We just wanted to do something nice for them to show them that we still care about them and are thinking about them."

About two dozen kids, who spent the first part of ranging in age from infants to teens, returned to the hospital with their families to enjoy lunch, clowns, games, and prizes. But the best part was simply bonding with the caregivers.

"Some of the mothers are very emotional," Marino said. "They can't wait to see us, and the nurses couldn't wait to see them. And the older children

so sick and barely breathing love listening to the stories about themselves as babies."

Most of the babies admitted into the unit are born prematurely and struggle with respiratory problems until the unit's 14 nurses and specialist neonatologists nurse them back to health. Marino said that all four of her own children were born at Coney Island Hospital, and each spent time in the unit. She said she wants the community to know that Coney Island Hospital is a good location to give birth.

"Come and deliver here, because we are going to take good care of you," she said.



HONORED GUESTS: (Above) Dr. Ram Raju, president of the Health and Hospitals Corporation, addresses guests at Coney Island Hospital's neonatal ward reunion on Sept. 16. (Center) Dr. Cherbrel Hickman shares a moment - and good taste in hats - with Akira Tarpley. (Left) Even Olaf from "Frozen" attended - actually mom Eileen Hudson, with her 5-yearold daughter Hope. Photos by Steve Schnibbe



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# Schack attacked

### Critics say Bay Ridge pol 'sold out' neighborhood

#### **BY MAX JAEGER**

They say she shacked up with the wrong candidate.

Local political insiders accuse Bay Ridge political leader Dilia Schack of selling out her own neighborhood by orchestrating an 11th-hour deal to install a Coney Islander as the Democratic candidate for an upcoming special election in the 46th Assembly District, which covers portions of Bay Ridge and all of Coney Island.

The Kings County Democratic Committee nominated former Department of Corrections worker and Coney Islander Pam Harris to run to fill the seat Assemblyman Alec Brook-Krasny vacated earlier this year during a vote at Dyker Heights caterer Sirico's on Sept. 15.

Insiders accuse Schack of pulling strings to get Harris the nomination over two Bay Ridge candidates in order to gain Coney Island's support when she runs for reelection as district leader — an unpaid. low-level elected official who



ENDANGERED PANDER: Critics say Democratic district leader Dilia Schack orchestrated a last-minute coup to nominate Pam Harris in a ploy for votes from Coney Island for when she seeks her own reelection next year. Facebook

acts as a local organizer for the party. The alleged move to cement her own position came at a critical cost to the Ridge, said one critic in a dramatic apparently pseudonyand mous e-mail.

"The people of Bay Ridge will not forget September 15, 2015: The day Dilia Schack threw us all under the bus and sold out Bay Ridge to save herself," according to an e-mail circulating in Ridge political circles the day after the meeting, purportedly written by someone named Kris English.

That name is not listed in the white pages, and two messages sent to the e-mail address that supposedly generated the missive were returned because the address "does not exist." But several Democratic Party operatives who were at the nomination meeting told this paper they shared the e-mail's sentiment, even if they didn't know who initially sent it.

In the case of special elections, the voters do not chose candidates through a primary. Instead, party committees select the candidates to run on their ticket.

Going into the committee vote, Ridgite and former Brook-Krasny chief of staff Kate Cucco had the most support — followed by Harris and then Ridge lawyer Cody Mc-Cone, sources said.



GOT THE NOD: Coney Island resident Pam Harris got the county Democratic committee's nomination to run in a special election for the Bay Ridge-to-Coney Island assembly seat in November.

File photo by Georgine Benvenuto

But several insiders said Schack called McCone and urged him to bow out and have his supporters vote for Harris.

Schack, who missed the meeting while recovering from a blood clot in her lung, said she didn't pull any strings — or even make the phone call.

"I wasn't there," Schack said. "I was called before to change the votes, and I said [McCone] has his own proxies [absentee votes], he has his own votes."

McCone backed up Schack's account, but wouldn't name the person who initiated the call. Continued on page 26

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24 COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015

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AGES 18-35\*

"Knowing God's Will or How to Avoid a devotion to Our Lady of Discernment"

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"Finding Peace, Spreading Joy"



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7:30PM

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COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 25

# Juice cleanse!

Ditmas Park smoothie joint reopens as banh mi shop

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

He's off the juice!

A Ditmas Park restaurateur has shut down his smoothie bar and reopened it as a Vietnamese sandwich shop on Sunday after learning a particularly hard lesson in life — juice doesn't pay.

"Juice wasn't panning out," said Teddy Mui, former owner of Cold Press'd Juice Shop and new owner of Little Miss Saigon on Cortelyou Road between E. Ninth Street and Coney Island Avenue. "I was throwing out a lot of the product."

The big problem with the healthdrink business, according to Mui, is that kale and the other perishable ingredients necessary to make fresh and tasty fruit and vegetable beverages come in bulk shipments — and if you can't turn that juice around fast enough, your investment quickly turns rotten.

"Organics don't come in small batches," Mui said. "By the end I was throwing half of it away, because I'm not going to serve my customers yellow kale."



**BAGUETTE, SET, GO!:** Early Little Miss Saigon customers Mindy Xu and Tommy Chen tuck into their banh mi sandwiches. Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

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So Mui decided to end his career as a drinks specialist and Cold Press'd closed its doors in early August.

He then turned to his wife Macie's expertise in banh mi sandwiches baguettes stuffed with Vietnamese ingredients that are beloved by foodies around the city — and made-over his storefront as a banh mi-tery. Little Miss Saigon also has salad options, bubble teas, summer rolls, and — proof that old habits die hard freshly-made fruit smoothies.

Little Miss Saigon [921 Cortelyou Rd. between E. Ninth Street and Coney Island Avenue in Ditmas Park, (347) 350–9747].

### **SCHACK**

#### Continued from page 24

"A former elected called her and handed me the phone," he said.

McCone said that Schack did not ask him to throw his support behind Harris and he ultimately told his backers to follow their hearts.

"[Schack] said 'Cody, you worked for this and it's completely your decision," McCone said. "So my voters, I told them that they should follow their conscious and choose the best rep they believed for the district."

Schack doubts she'll even run for re-election as district leader due to her declining health, she said.

"With my health the way it is, I doubt it very much — I'm wiped," Schack said.

Harris said she never had Schack's support and said Schack could easily face a challenger if she runs again.

"As far as I am concerned, Dilia wasn't backing me," Harris said. "No one's seat is sacred. Dilia has been challenged before for her seat — this is not anything new. It can sometimes be a game of musical chairs — if you get up and you don't catch the music at the right time, you can lose."

Harris will face Republican district leader and perennial also-ran Lucretia Regina-Potter in the November special election.



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## Going for the gold

Coney Island's famed Parachute Jump shone gold on Sept. 18 for local Councilman Mark Treyger's second-annual event for Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month. The tradition began a year ago, when the Empire State Building turned down anti-cancer advocates' request to "go gold" and the Coney Island icon stepped up instead. At this year's event Treyger, local officials, and parents whose children are battling the disease spoke to a crowd of local residents about the need to raise awareness in order to make advancements in the treatment of childhood cancer. Cancer ranks as the deadliest disease in the United States among children past infancy. An American Cancer Society report released a year ago estimated that more than 15,000 children across the nation were diagnosed with cancer in 2014.



Photo by Steve Schnibbe

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Protecting your eyesight should be a priority, and it's important to exercise caution at work, at home or during play to protect you and your children's eyes from injury.

# How to prevent eye injuries

**S** ight is something many people take for granted. Powerful organs, the eyes absorb imagery and the brain converts that information into data the body uses to maneuver through the world.

Risks of eye injury present themselves every day. Free-flying particles are everywhere, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention note that dust, metal particles, falling or shifting debris, smoke, and chemicals are some of the most common eye hazards on the job and at home. Injuries can run the gamut from corneal abrasions and irritation to loss of vision.

Millions of eye injuries that impair vision occur each year. Prevention is a person's best defense again eye injury. Wearing safety glasses or goggles is the easiest way to protect the eyes and can prevent 90 percent of eye injuries. In addition, Prevent Blindness suggests these methods to reduce your risk of suffering eye trauma:

•Provide lights and handrails to improve safety on walkways and stairs, as well as to make surroundings more visible.

•Inspect and remove debris from lawns before mowing.

•Address potential eye hazards, such as overhanging branches or sharp corners, before they can do any damage.

•Wear appropriate eye protection when particles of any kind are falling, flying,

ight is something many or moving through the air.

•Keep tools in good condition so they do not kick up unnecessary debris or cause injuries.

•Always use chemical safety goggles when handling hazardous solvents and detergents.

•Read and follow all instructions and warnings on manufacturer labels.

•Understand that regular eyeglasses do not provide adequate protection.

•Keep kids away from flying toys or any that use projectiles.

•Never mix chemicals, as mixed chemicals can damage your eyes and cause additional injuries.

•Wear adequate eye protection to prevent overexposure to UV rays when outside. Sunglasses that guard against UV-A and UV-B rays are recommended.

•Keep dangerous household products, like detergents, paints, glues, and solvents, stored out of reach or behind locked doors.

•Exercise caution with everyday items or tools. For example, do not run with pointy items in hand.

•Store loose belongings in the trunk of a car or cargo bed, as loose objects can become projectiles in an automobile accident.

Protecting your eyesight should be a priority, and it's important to exercise caution at work, at home or during play to protect you and your children's eyes from injury.

# Vision and aging

### Are eyesight changes age-related or not?

s a person gets older certain bodily changes are to be expected. For example, muscle tone may diminish and bones can become more fragile as we age. Exercise and healthy eating may be able to stave off some of the effects of aging, but avoiding vision problems may require some additional effort.

Vision naturally diminishes as we age, but not all vision changes are related to aging. Many natural changes are not severe and may only require a minor adjustment in prescription glasses or contact lenses. Improved lighting or bigger print may help remedy other issues, including blurry text.

However, certain conditions that people blame on getting older really may be hereditary or a byproduct of an illness. There's a difference between changes that are the result of aging and those that are not. Recognizing the differences can help individuals get the treatment necessary to prevent permanent eye damage.

#### Age-related changes

Difficulty seeing clearly for reading and close work is one of the most common agerelated vision issues. This condition can begin as early as age 40 and worsen as a person gets older. Variation in the eyes' ability to focus properly is called presbyopia, and it will worsen over time.

Other normal signs of aging include problems with glare from headlights or the sun. Lens changes in the eye can cause light to be scattered rather than focused on the retina. This leads to more glare. In dim conditions, a person may find he or she needs more light to see well. That's because muscles that control pupil size and reaction to light lose some strength.

Changes in color perception also may begin. The normally clear lens of the eye can discolor, making it difficult to distinguish between certain hues.

### Changes not directly tied to aging

Certain eye disorders may



Not all vision problems are directly correlated to aging. Adults should speak with their eye doctors about any problems they may be having.

become more prevalent as a person gets older, but that does not mean they are a byproduct of aging. Macular degeneration, which causes spotty loss of detail or sudden and severe loss of central vision, may occur. This condition is a result of damage to the macula, the central part of the retina responsible for detail, color and daylight vision.

Risk factors for macular degeneration include high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, and untreated high blood pressure. Poor circulation to the retina is the most common cause of macular degeneration.

Glaucoma is another condition linked to aging. Glaucoma is caused by damage to the optic nerve by fluid pressure inside the eye. Patients with glaucoma typically do not exhibit early symptoms. Glaucoma is only detectable through routine vision examinations.

According to the Mayo successful.

Clinic, about half of all 65-year-old Americans have some degree of cataract formation in their eyes. People who have cataracts may think they're an unavoidable part of getting older.

While aging may increase the risk of getting cataracts, according to Lighthouse International its true cause is unknown. Other risks include long-term exposure to the sun's rays, high cholesterol, diabetes, smoking, and eye injury.

Illnesses like diabetes can affect eyesight in many different ways. Proper treatment for diabetes and management of the condition can prevent a number of eye disorders.

Adults should not assume all vision changes are a direct result of getting older. Annual vision examinations by qualified eye doctors can pinpoint the cause of problems and find treatment options that are successful

COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 29

# **New York Methodist Hospital** recognizes its surgical techs

NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL From Sept. 20 to 26, New York Methodist Hospital celebrated its 53 certified surgical technologists during National Surgical Technologists Week. Surgical technologists are an important part of surgical teams in hospitals across the country; when time is tight and a patient's life is on the line, an outstanding "tech" can make all the difference.

"Everyone has that image from television shows or movies of a surgeon calling, 'scalpel!' and the instrument automatically appearing in the surgeon's hand. At the other end of that exchange is a surgical technologist," said registered nurse John Jacobs, vice president for surgical services at the hospital. "But in actuality, the job goes well beyond 'call and response.' In fact, many interactions between surgeon and surgical technologist are entirely unonly knows thousands of surgical instruments on sight, but also what an individual surgeon's preferences are, as well as the preparations and requirements for specific procedures. He or she can anticipate what will most likely be needed and when. In an emergency situation, this seamless coordination between surgeon and technologist can be life-saving."

Just as physicians and nurses have to keep pace with the latest advances in medicine, New York Methodist's surgical technologists need to continuously update their knowledge of the equipment used for the procedures where they assist, including table types, cautery tools, microscopes, endoscopes, suction and irrigation devices, and more. In addition to their work during an operation, which is performed under the supervision of the surgeon,

spoken, because a tech not surgical technologists arrange operating rooms in advance of procedures and help ensure that they remain sterile environments throughout. All surgical techs have training in a wide range of procedures, but they may also specialize in areas such as cardiac surgery, orthopedics, or neurosurgery.

"I know all the instruments, I always pay attention to the progress of the procedure; I want to be able to anticipate everything the surgeon does before he or she does it," said surgical technologist Lorraine Tantuccio. She regularly assists at neurosurgical procedures at the hospital, such as aneurysm clippings and craniotomies. "A good tech is always learning — it's a very exciting job, and that's what I like about it.'

"I gravitated toward otolaryngology — ear, nose and throat — procedures over time," said surgical technolo-



Nahama Narcisse, a resident of Canarsie, is one of more than 50 certified surgical technologists who work at New York Methodist Hospital. The hospital will celebrate its surgical technologists during National Surgical Technologists Week. New York Methodist Hospital

gist David Satriano, who has worked at New York Methodist Hospital for three years. "Many of my family members are in medicine, and my sister talked me into doing the training to become a certified tech. She told me it was a fast-paced field that I would enjoy. I've now been a tech for almost 20 years — it looks like she was right!"

"A great technologist is one who thinks of the patient even when that patient isn't in the room," noted surgical technologist Nahama Narcisse.

"We treat our surgical instrument table like there is a force field around it. Those instruments need to stay sterile not just for the surgeons, but for the patient undergoing the operation."

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30 COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015

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COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 31

# Helping kids adapt to glasses

hildren's vision problems often become apparent when youngsters first enter school. Poor performance in the classroom may have little to do with a learning disability or a stubborn student, and a lot to do with poor vision.

Vision problems can often be traced to genetics. A family history of various vision troubles increase the likelihood that a child will one day require corrective glasses. In addition, a growing reliance on digital devices may increase a child's risk of computer eye strain, which may compound already present vision deficits.

Understanding that she needs to wear glasses does not always translate into a child's willingness to actually wear those glasses, as peer pressure remains an obstacle when encouraging kids to embrace their eyeglasses. Younger children may find it difficult to understand why they need glasses or they may forget to put nology has transformed the late their elders.

them on or how to care for look and feel of eyeglasses. find it challenging to acclimate a child to eyeglasses, but there are a few strategies to help make that transition go more smoothly:

#### Shop together

Children may be more receptive to eyeglasses if they get to choose those glasses. Glasses are personal and should be sized according to the wearer's face. Kids should select various pairs of glasses they like and try them on. Narrow down the pairs based on comfort, look and price. If your child likes a particular pair of glasses, it may be worth spending a few extra dollars for those frames, as kids are more likely to wear glasses they like.

#### Don't choose 'coke bottle lenses'

The eyeglasses of the past are much different from the eyeglasses of the present. Lens and frame tech-

them properly. Parents may Lenses may be thinner and less apparent than ever before

> Eyeglass manufacturers have developed frames that are bendable or almost entirely invisible thanks to frameless lenses. Some lenses reduce glare, and others tint when touched by sunlight. So it's unlikely your son will end up looking like Mr. Mag00.

#### **Present positive** role models

Kids may be quicker to warm to eyeglasses if parents showcase a few of the many worthy role models who wear glasses, and do so with style. In addition to many celebrities, such as Tina Fey, Elle Fanning, Justin Timberlake, Joe Jonas, and Anne Hathaway, who frequently don eyeglasses, there are likely many people in your family or group of friends who wear glasses, and kids often want to emu-



The transition to wearing eyeglasses is not always easy for kids, but many adjust rather quickly.

#### Choose the right time

Make sure a child is well rested and happy before she dons eyeglasses for the first

time. Start with a few minutes per day and build up to wearing the glasses for the prescribed duration. Use positive rein-Continued on page 39



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# Recognizing cancers inside the eye

uncontrolled division of abnormal cells in a particular part of the body. Cancer begins in one area, but it can invade or spread to other parts of the body if it goes undetected or untreated.

Certain cancers are more familiar to the general public than others, thanks in part to awareness campaigns and charity fundraisers. But no area of the body, including the eyes and eyelids, is immune to cancer.

According to the American Cancer Society, the most common type of eye cancer that affects adults is ocular melanoma, while children are more likely to experience retinoblastoma.

Cancer can affect the field of vision three main parts of the eye, which include the eyeball, orbit and adnexal structures. The eyeball includes the sclera, uvea and retina. The orbit is the tissue surrounding the eyeball and the muscles that move the eye in different directions. Adnexal structures include the evelids and the tear glands. Cancer that be-

ancer involves the gins in the eyeball is improve prognosis. The known as intraocular cancer. Many cases of adnexal cancer, or cancer that affects the eyelid, may actually be skin cancer. In fact, MD Anderson Cancer center says more than 90 percent of eyelid cancers are basal cell carcinomas of the skin.

Eye cancer may or may not produce symptoms, and any symptoms it does produce may be different based on the type of cancer present. Symptoms in adults may include:

•A red or painful eye •Blurred vision in one eve

•Change in iris color or dark spots on the iris

•Bulging of the eye

•"Floaters" in the

·Loss of peripheral vision

Early signs of eye cancer are most often discovered by an eye doctor during routine eye examinations. A person who has any unusual changes in vision will want to visit an ophthalmologist promptly. Many cancers can be easily diagnosed by a trained physician, and early detection can

American Cancer Society estimates that, in 2015, there will be 2,580 new cancers (mainly melanomas) of the eve and orbit — 1,360 in men and 1,220 in women.

Treatments for eye cancers are similar to the options for cancers that begin elsewhere.

Surgery, radiation therapy, laser therapy, chemotherapy, and other targeted therapies may be used alone or in conjunction with another depending on the type of eye cancer present. Every step will be taken to improve health and reduce the effects of treatment on vision.



Eve cancers can often be diagnosed early during routine exams.

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### **GLASSES**

Continued from page 36

forcement and rewards for wearing and taking good care of the glasses.

### Point out the benefits

Highlight activities that will be improved by better vision as they relate to your kids' interests. Perhaps glasses will make gaming easier. Point out to kids who love to read how much more comfortable they are now that they can see the words on the page more easily. When it comes to the family athlete, discuss how much easier it is to see the ball now that your budding athlete is wearing eyeglasses.

### Modify daily routines

You will have to work with your children to make some changes to facilitate wearing eyeglasses. Store the glasses in the same place each night before bed so that kids can find them in the morning. Emphasize wearing eyeglasses as much as you emphasize everyday activities like brushing teeth or making the bed. Explain to teachers the prescribed wearing schedule so that they are aware of when your son or daughter needs to wear his or her eyeglasses.

The transition to wearing eyeglasses is not always easy for kids, but many adjust rather quickly.

# Sports eyewear tips What athletes should look for in eye protection

sands of sports-related injuries affect children and adults each year. Prevent Blindness® estimates that water and pool activities, followed by basketball and then baseball and softball account for more sports-related eye injuries than any others. Men are twice as likely to suffer from sports-related eye injuries than women, but all athletes should prioritize protecting their eyes during competition.

eyewear can Protective help prevent sports-related eye injuries. Many professional athletes don safety eyewear, a trend that has caught on in amateur athletics as well. Many sports feature fastmoving balls or other equipment that pose a potential risk for injury. Should balls strike the eye, considerable trauma can occur.

Choosing protective eye-

housands upon thou- wear or sports goggles is an important safety step. Many types of protective eyewear can guard against the following conditions:

Corneal abrasions: Damage to the front surface of the eve.

Blunt trauma: Damage that occurs when the eye is compressed through sudden impact.

Penetrating injuries: Occurs when the eye is poked or foreign objects get pressed into the eye. This can cause long-term damage to vision.

UV exposure: UV radiation can damage the cornea and other components of the eye, which can lead to cataracts, cancer, macular degeneration, or sunburn of the retina.

It is best to work with an eye professional to find the right type of protective lenses for a particular sport. Sport goggles may be stronger than sports glasses at resisting impact. Polycarbonate lenses may be recommended for other sports. Eye centers can properly select and fit the eyewear so that it is comfortable for a child or an adult. Also, staff at such centers can recommend styles that will flatter the wearer's face. Those who already wear prescription lenses often can have the prescription added to sports eyewear as well.

Eyewear retailers are great places to find sports eyewear, but sporting goods retailers also may have relationships with protective eyewear specialists or even have a kiosk in their stores.

For those shopping online, be sure to get recommendations on eyewear type and measure correctly for a perfect fit. For children, do not buy a size up to get another year out of the goggles or glasses. This can compromise the fit and



Protective sports eyewear safeguards vision and helps prevent injuries. Goggles and glasses are worn for everything from skiing to baseball to swimming.

level of protection. If you are concerned about buying online but your budget is tight,

ask a brick-and-mortar store to price match an online retailer.

# **Helping Patients with Hereditary Risk for Breast Cancer**

#### **NEW YORK METHODIST HOSPITAL**

While women and men can develop breast cancer whether or not they have a family history of the disease, heredity can play a role in determining their risk. Changes in more than 25 genes are currently associated with breast cancer, and recently, increased public awareness about the link between inherited genetic mutations and breast cancer has put a spotlight on the potential value of genetic screenings.

Not all women with a familv history of breast cancer are recommended to undergo genetic screenings. However, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends screenings for women whose family history may be associated with potentially harmful mutations in the 34 COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015

BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, which are linked with increased risk for developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer. These family history factors include: breast cancer diagnosis before the age of 50; bilateral breast cancer; family history of breast and ovarian cancer; presence of breast cancer in one or more male family members; multiple cases of breast cancer in the family; one or more family members with two primary types of BRCA-related cancer; and Ashkenazi Jewish ethnicity.

Genetic screening for breast cancer may include genetic counseling and saliva or blood tests and laboratory analysis of the chromosomes on which genes linked to breast cancer are located. For a woman who tests positive for a mutation, there is a patient's odds of beating the

no set course of action, because "increased risk" is not the same thing as "certainty." The most aggressive step a patient could take would be bilateral prophylactic mastectomy—the removal of both breasts-which has been shown to reduce the risk of developing breast cancer by 90 to 95 percent. However, there are other ways for women at increased risk to respond, including chemoprevention-the use of natural or synthetic substances which may reduce the risk of developing cancer by up to 50 percent—and/ or surveillance through regular breast cancer screenings, which involve clinical breast exams and regular radiologic imaging tests.

"If breast cancer is identified at its earliest stages, before it has spread to other parts of the body, disease are excellent, and also allow for less invasive surgeries.," said Steven Garner, M.D., chairman of radiology at New York Methodist Hospital. "The digital mammography technology that we offer allows us to quickly evaluate test results, and we can also incorporate imaging techniques which do not require exposure to radiation, such as breast ultrasound and breast magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). We want to make sure that, if a woman is at increased risk for breast cancer as a result of a genetic mutation, the course of action will be her choice, and she has many options that will increase the chances of a good outcome."

To make an appointment for a mammogram at NYM's Women's Diagnostic Center, call 718-780-5029 or 718-780-5030.

# TAKE A SMALL STEP TOWARDS HEALTHIER LIVING

### SEPTEMBER IS ALL ABOUT SAVORING THE LAST OF THE WARM WEATHER, CELEBRATING THE CHANGE OF SEASON AND ENJOYING ALL THE FUN WAYS TO LIVE HEALTHIER IN NEW YORK CITY.

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As an ophthalmologist (eye MD), I see patients with complaints of headaches everyday. I'm usually their first stop on a list of rule-out diagnoses. It's such a common symptom that I always work up each patient to assure that the most ominous of diagnoses is not missed, which patients always fear but which is least common: a brain tumor.

Yes, it's the eye MD, looking into the dilated pupil at the optic nerves that can often see if the nerves are swollen or exhibit any ominous signs that something other than stress is causing the headaches.

In the last month two patients who came in with complaints of headaches stand out in my mind. My first patient was an 80 year-old man who complained of a myriad of symptoms including general malaise, headaches, leg pain when walking, chest pains and the tip off for me, difficulty swallowing. He had seen his internist, neurologist, cardiologist and ear, nose and throat specialist, but all tests were normal including an MRI of his head. At our visit, unfortunately along with his headache he also had profound vision loss in one eye. I immediately admitted him to the hospital where diagnostic blood tests were drawn and he was started on intravenous (IV) steroids. The headaches as well as most of his

Millie R. Fell, MD. FACS Clinical Associate Professor, NYU Medical School

symptoms disappeared over the course of a week and the sight in his other eye which was also threatened was preserved. This patient has a condition called Giant Cell Arteritis, a potentially life-threatening condition.

My second patient was a 22-year old woman who just graduated from college and was complaining of terrible, unrelenting headaches. Her vision was totally normal but when examining her optic nerves it was clear that they were very swollen, indicative of high pressure in her head. An MRI of her head was thankfully normal. She gave a history of having to take steroids and gaining a lot of weight during college. Her diagnosis was Pseudotumor cerebri. The treatment was to lose the weight and take some medicine for some time so as to decrease the intracranial pressure.

These are unusual diagnoses. Thankfully, most patients with headaches don't have serious medical problems. However, every patient with unrelenting headaches should see their eye MD immediately to rule out a potentially vision- or life-threatening condition.

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# FOCUS ON Health

# **Common kids'** eye injuries

he active lives that children lead often lead to a few bumps and bruises along the way. While a few bandages and antiseptic creams are par for the course when caring for a child, parents worry about more significant injuries, including eye injuries.

According to the Boston Children's Hospital, any injury to your child's eye should be considered a medical emergency. Unlike the heart, lungs and brain, there is not much natural protection for the eye beyond a thin eyelid. This makes it easy to suffer an eye injury, especially for kids who play sports.

The American Academy of Ophthalmology says that eye injuries are a significant health problem in the United States, second only to cataracts as a cause of visual impairment. Each year, more than 2.5 million eye injuries occur, and 50,000 people permanently lose part or all of their vision. Nearly half (47.6 percent) of all reported eve injuries occur in people between the ages of 18 and 45. Newborns and children up to age 18 experience roughly 25 percent of those injuries.

Projectiles and flying debris account for the vast majority of eye injuries across all age groups. Among children, some of the more common injuries occur when children are participating in various sports, including:

- Hockey
- Archery
- Darts
- •BB guns
- •Bicycling
- Sports that involve rackets
- Baseball
- Boxing
- Basketball

Toys, fingernails and even chemicals are responsible for some eye injuries in children. It is important to note that 90 percent of all eye injuries can be prevented by using protective eyewear. Some sports organizations mandate that children use protective eyewear. But even if it isn't mandatory, parents should urge children to wear safety goggles.

#### Common eye injuries

Certain injuries to the eye are more common than others. Here is a look at the various types of injuries that can occur:

Chemical burns. This is when a child gets any type of chemical into the eye. Chemicals may be household cleaning objects. These injuries require immediate medical attention because they can cause permanent vision loss.

Bruising. Black eyes or ecchymosis occurs from some sort of trauma to off serious injuries.



Eye injuries in children frequently occur but are largely preventable.

the eye. The tissue around the eye becomes bruised, but usually the eye itself is spared. However, only a doctor can determine if the eye is unscathed.

Corneal abrasions. The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped covering at the front of the eye. A foreign item entering the eye, like sand or debris, may scratch the cornea. It also can become scratched by a fingernail or an insect that flies into the eye. A doctor can determine the severity of the abrasion and if any treatment is required.

Hyphema. This is a condition of blood in the anterior chamber of the eye where fluid normally flows in and out to nourish eve tissues. Hyphema is caused by an injury, and blood can be seen in the eyeball. It requires prompt medical attention.

Eyelid lacerations. This is a cut on the eyelid. An eyelid laceration may be paired with bruising or even corneal abrasion, depending on what struck the eve.

Fractures. The orbit is the bony area around the eyeball, and an orbital fracture is when the bones around the eye are broken. This may cause severe eye damage depending on where the eye was struck. It definitely requires immediate medical assistance, and facial reconstruction may be necessary.

Burns: Sunburn not only occurs to the skin but can affect the eyes, too. It is important to wear UV-protective sunglasses outside.

#### **Prevent eye injuries**

Eye injuries are largely preventable. Wearing eyewear during sports is essential. Frequent washing of hands and avoiding touching the eyes can prevent the transfer of debris from fingers to the eye. All chemical products should be kept out of reach. If children use cosmetic products, they should not be applied around the eye.

Knowing the risks to the eye and how to prevent injury can help ward

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# **BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE - ADVERTISEMENT**

# A better mammography at Bay Ridge Medical Imaging

#### **BY CAMILLE SPERRAZZA**

October is National Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

Incredibly, one out of every eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in her lifetime, says Dr. Joseph Abrams of Bay Ridge Medical Imaging.

"It is the second leading cause of cancer death among women, after lung cancer."

Breast Cancer Awareness Month reminds us to go out and get that mammography.

"It's the most effective weapon in the fight against breast cancer," says the doctor.

Now there is a new modality that makes detection even more efficient.

Bay Ridge Medical Imaging is proud to offer this breakthrough technology - the three-dimensional mammography - at its 99th Street office. This revolutionary procedure, also known as tomosynthesis, enables the radiologists there to view the inside of the breast, layer-by-layer, getting a clear image of the tissue.

In the past, if the images seen on the screen were unclear, women might have been asked to undergo ultrasound testing or an MRI, so radiologists would have better images. While such diagnostic tools are still used and may be required, depending upon the circumstances, the 3D mammography images are so much clearer, it often reduces the need for additional testing.

This particular machine the G.E. Senoclare — "has 40 percent less radiation than other 3D-imaging machines on the market," says Dr. Abrams. "We are the only facility in Brooklyn with this specific machine."

Technologist Crimi has been using this technology since Bay Ridge Imaging obtained it in July.

"Women find the machine more comfortable because the panels are slightly more flexible," she says.



(From the top clockwise) The staff of Bay Ridge Medical Imaging. Dr. Joseph Abrams and technologist Jackie Crimi show off the new Senoclare, a machine that can take a three-dimensional mammography. Dr. Abrams checks the results. Photos by Georgine Benvenuto

takes sweeping photos to get the 3D images. Knowing that these images provide doctors with a clearer picture of their breast tissue gives women some extra peace of mind, says Crimi.

The test is covered by many insurance plans, including Medicare and GHI. If women don't participate in a plan that covers it, Bay Jaclyn Ridge Medical Imaging will accept the existing insurance plan, and charge an additional \$75 to use this ground-breaking technology.

The American Cancer Society and the American College of Radiology recommend yearly mammog-The breast is still com- raphy screening after the

pressed, and the machine age of 40, says Dr. Abrams. If there is a family history of breast cancer or ovarian cancer women may want to come in before then.

He notes that too many people wait unit they see a lump or experience discharge coming from the nipple before they decide to get a mammogram.

"By then, the cancer may be more difficult to treat and cure," he says. By making it a point to obtain a mammogram once a year, breast cancer, if it exists, can be detected sooner. As a result, "the vast majority of women are cured," he says.

Should something suspicious be detected, Bay Ridge Medical Imaging does biopsies on the prem-

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ises. Minimally invasive needle biopsies can be performed, using ultrasound guidance and guidance obtained via MRIs, says the doctor. When necessary, a biopsy can be performed on the same day as the mammogram.

Make no mistake about it: having annual mammography saves lives, says Dr. Abrams, who attended medical school and performed his residency at New York University. He completed a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Cancer Center, specializing in breast imaging and the detection and diagnosis of abnormalities.

Women are encouraged to make an appointment, Sundays, 8 am-5 pm.

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and to bring family members and friends who may be remiss about getting there themselves.

About one percent of men will be diagnosed with breast cancer, too.

Bay Ridge Medical Imaging [9920 Fourth Ave. between 99th and 100th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-0333, www.brmi.org]. Additional locations: [7601 Fourth Ave. in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-7000; 7117 13th Ave. in Dyker Heights, (718) 880-3060; 1220 Avenue P in Midwood, (718) 375-1300; 3802 14th Ave. in Boro Park (718) 854-5400; 9020 Fifth Ave. in Bay Ridge, (718) 880-3066]. Open Mondays through Fridays, 6 am-11 pm; Saturdays and

COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 37



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# S'Head streets, tricky lights exasperate reader

To the editor.

Reading the letter from Francis Gerber was like déjà vu ("Reader sounds off to Chaim about Brighton Beach." Sound off to the Editor. Sept. 11).

In the 78 years I have lived in Sheepshead Bay, there are some sidewalks that have never been paved. The broken, cracked, litter-strewn street under the Belt Parkway at Nostrand Avenue and Avenue Z is a prime example of neglect. As for the traffic light system, which changes so rapidly across Nostrand Avenue, it does not give anyone of any age a chance to make it completely across the street.

However, I do disagree with Francis about the wooden Boardwalk. It was, has been, and should always remain a "board" walk.

Judith Heller Braff Sheepshead Bay

# **Tom-terrific**

To the editor.

I agree with Tom Allon (Political Spin Cycle) that we need aggressive police tactics and more police on the streets, especially in high crime areas, and at parades and other public gatherings. We also need stop-andfrisk.

However, we are caught between a rock and a hard place as the saying goes, if the police on the streets are not taught to respect the rights of all individuals of every race, and never to use excessive force. Aren't our police officers taught that all people are presumed innocent until proven guilty by a court of law?

I do not know why the police had to knock down James Blake. Couldn't they just have asked him who he was? Why did they have to choke Eric Gardner just for selling cigarettes? What really scares me is that, when I was growing up, I was taught to respect police officers and turn to them if I was in trouble. Many of today's children have been taught to hate and fear cops. Who can they turn to? It's not surprising that they turn to street gangs.

I think the solution is more carefully selected and properly trained

# 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.

# **SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR** LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

police officers on the street. Every officer should be trained in non-violent methods of searching, and respectful ways of treating suspects, and should be periodically re-evaluated and re-trained if necessary.

One other suggestion, all officers should be trained in suicide prevention and should have safety nets in their cars to catch jumpers. A suicide happened a few days ago in a senior center that could have been prevented had the police used a net.

I am sorry that Gov. Cuomo lost a valuable aide (in the festivities leading up to the West Indian Day Parade), but hope that, maybe now, he and Mayor DeBlasio will do something to improve the protection and the understanding we need from the police department. Elaine Kirsch Gravesend

# Rite and wrong

To the editor.

To the activists who object to the swinging of chickens before Yom Kippur — this is a religious practice, so look away and mind your business.

Instead of being concerned with this, you should be more concerned that our Hasidic children are being denied an academic education due to fears by the Hasidic community that this will lead to assimilation. Education has always been stressed in the Jewish religion and is a basic tenet. It is true that the swinging of the chickens is not exactly the greatest thing to look upon, but we still have to respect the rights of people adhering to religious beliefs. In short, they're not bothering you, so don't bother them.

Your anti-ritual outburst will only further promote anti-Semitism. The best part of all this is that you and your cohorts are probably selfdeprecating Jews. **Ed Greenspan Sheepshead Bay** 

#### **Refugee crisis** To the editor.

I am appalled — but not surprised - that our president has seen fit to accept 10,000 so-called "refugees" from Syria. They were safe in Turkey where, coincidentally, there is a common language and customs. For whatever reason, 850,000 people saw fit to do a mass migration to western and central Europe. Wherever they have gone in the recent weeks, they

have managed to wear out their welcome by rioting and fighting with the police of every country they arrived in. They have insulted their hosts by discarding Red Cross food packages because they were "offended" by the cross. Those countries have now closed their borders. Apparently it can be done, because they did it! What bothers me is that the majority of "refugees" I have seen are military aged young men. I saw very few women, children and old people. They have invaded Italy, Greece, Hungary, Austria and Germany. Not a single one of these "refugees" went to other Arab countries. For instance, in the city of Minna, Saudi Arabia, there is a city of tents which they erected for the annual Haj to Mecca. The rest of the year it is empty. These tents are fireproof and air conditioned. Why haven't the Saudis accepted any of their Muslim brothers? The same with most of the Arab world. Personally, I think they are afraid to allow them entry into their countries. How many of these "refugees" are actually Islamic State terrorists? I would guess that there are probably some real refugees, but how are we to tell? We can't, and therein lies the rub. If we can't separate the real refugees from Islamic State terrorists who would attack us where we live, as they have always said they would do, then as a matter of national security we should not accept any.

The people who know them best other Arabs — want nothing to do with them. Once again our president has shown shockingly bad judgement and is putting us all at risk. The first and most important job of any president is to protect the United States of America from its enemies. This he has utterly failed to do. Now, our neighbor, Mexico, has said they would accept the "refugees" also. Where does anyone suspect that they will wind up eventually, because the most powerful nation on earth can't seem to be able to close its own borders? David F. Podesta Marine Park

# Trumping Bam

# To the editor,

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I sincerely do not understand why the argumentative press and many individuals want The Donald to defend Obama's not being a Muslim.

It's up to the accused (Obama) to speak out against the accusations,

nobody else. He is the only one who really can speak the truth, from his heart. Everybody, get off Donald's back. Joan Applepie Mill Basin

# **Barnes Dance**

To the editor.

Many years ago Brighton Beach, Coney Island and Neptune avenues, and W. Fifth Street had the Barnes Dance. When all the lights were red, seniors and mothers with children could walk in either direction without the fear of getting hit by a car. Now we have a count-down clock which gives the residents 25 seconds to cross. Big deal. Many times I've noticed that even when the light is red some cars continue to make an illegal turn. I do believe that the Barnes Dance should return to this intersection.

Those of us who live in these neighborhoods deserve to be protected from out-of-control drivers who think they can do as they please. Did it take a rocket scientist to build those islands all over the place? My question is how much effort would it take to bring back a needed safety factor, such as the Barnes Dance?

> Jerry Sattler **Brighton Beach**

# Mom-and-pops tops To the editor,

In these difficult economic times, it is especially important to patronize your local fast food eatery, diner, restaurant or steak house. My wife and I don't mind occasionally paying a little more to help our local businesses survive. Don't forget your cook and server at your favorite local neighborhood restaurant. We try to tip 20 percent against the total bill, including taxes. If it is an odd amount, we round up to the next dollar. If we can afford to eat out, we can afford an extra dollar tip. When ordering take out, we always leave a dollar or two for the waiter or cook. It is appreciated.

Remember these people are our neighbors. Our local entrepreneurs have continued to create new employment opportunities without the assistance of federally-funded taxpayers' stimulus dollars. They work long hours, pay taxes and provide local employment. If we don't patronize our local restaurants, they don't Larry Penner eat either.

Great Neck, New York

# Graduation from the school of hard knocks

artygoers at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice on Sunday night nibbled spinach puffs and sipped their wine. Men in suits chatted with ladies in cocktail dresses. College president Jeremy Travis took to the podium, thanked them for attending, and said he had just one word to describe their goal.

"Wimpy."

The entire room erupted in cheers.

"Yes!" Time to dream bigger. Dream huge! Dream of getting even more human beings out of their prison cells and back into glorious, everyday life — just like them.

This was the graduation gala for Just Leadership USA, a company dedicated to teaching formerly incarcerated people the leadership skills they need to change America's love affair with prison. The group's official goal is "half by 2030" (#halfby2030): cutting the prison population by 50 percent in the next 15 years. That's the goal Travis declared "wimpy."

We may not think of ourselves as a vindictive country. but consider his point: Getting



# RHYMES WITH CRAZY Lenore Skenazy

us back to the incarceration rate of 1972 — hardly ancient history — would require an 80 percent reduction in the number of Americans in prison today. That's how overboard we've gone when it comes to putting people in cells.

The 19 Just Leadership fellows who'd just finished the year-long course had been chosen from 117 applicants nationwide, all former prisoners,

been doing since they got out.

Ronald Simpson-Bey spent 27 years behind bars in Michigan until his sentence was reversed for "prosecutorial misconduct" — including using inadmissible evidence and false testimony against him. (Long story short: He was one of four people in an armed robbery. Two testified against him and got out in two years, one is still inside.)

Once released, he started a letter-writing campaign to long-term prisoners, so that if and when they ever get out, they can adjust a little better. But even on the inside, Simpson-Bey had already become a leader. He raised \$5,000 for the Special Olympics. He studied law and helped other prisoners with their appeals. And every year he held a Kwanzaa ceremony where he'd give a copy of the book that changed his life — "Visions for Black Men" by Na'im Akbar — to the youngest prisoner present.

Many of those young men are still in touch with him, as are eight prisoners he helped get out — all on mistrials. But when I ask, "What's the best

on the basis of the good they'd thing you ever did?" those aren't it.

The best thing began on Father's Day, 2001. Simpson-Bey's only son, Ronald Jr., 21, called the prison that morning to say he was coming by to celebrate. The day got later and later

no son.

At last, Simpson-Bey was called to the phone. Ronald Jr. had been shot. He was dead.

The murderer was a 14-year-old boy. Ronald Sr. knew exactly what would happen to him if he got tried as an adult and was found guilty of pre-meditated murder. Life in prison, without parole.

From his cell, he begged for the boy to be tried as a juvenile.

The young man served and still in touch with Simpson-Bey.

It isn't a surprise Simpson-Bey was chosen for the Just Leadership program, because organization believes the that long sentences, "three strikes," and the war on drugs are all squandering the human potential of entire generations.

Glenn E. Martin, the group's founder and president, spent six years in New York State prisons, and insists that "those closest to the problem are closest to the solution." That's why the other fellows included Bill Cobb, a Philadelphia man who lost job after job because of his record, and is now fighting for the employment rights of ex-offenders; and Khalil Cumberbach, a young man from Queens who spent most of his 20s in prison. Now he's 33, a dad, and employed at the Legal Action Center helping others with criminal histories turn their lives around.

The lesson Cumberbach learned through Just Leadership is one that I came home and told my own son: "Understand that everything you do has consequences, and these can be good or bad." The armed robbery Cumberbach committed could have had good consequences - easy money, no issues — but more likely the consequences were going to be bad.

Which they were.

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

Thank you for not driving buzzed and crashing into my car last night.

SAVE A LIFE. DON'T DRIVE HOME BUZZED. BUZZED DRIVING IS DRUNK DRIVING.



BR

В

Kit Krugman

**U.S. Department of** Transportation

# Stan's got his gripes, and yours, as well!

ome time back, after my gripe column was published, I received several letters.

Here are two of them, along with more of my complaints.

I love Stanley Gershbein's column "It's Only My Opinion." A while ago he wrote a column about his gripes can I add a few?

Not-In-My-Back-Yard, people-those who want the neighborhood kept clean, but don't want to have a city-provided trash cans on their corners. One guy even stole a Parks Department sign warning us to clean-up after our dogs.

This neighborhood is big on stealing - lots of Con Edison cones and large barrels often go missing. One man's house has a "please do not block driveway" sign -– he doesn't even own a car!

Dog owners are doing the right thing by cleaning up after their dogs, but there's nowhere to put the doggie bags! This is a valid, good gripe please add it to your collection. Stan.

#### Suzanne M.. Kensington

... This letter came unsigned: Here's a little list of some stuff that gets my goat: People leaving their laundry in washing machines and drvers for God knows how long when other customers need to use the machines. People standing just inside subway doors so people find it hard to enter or leave without having to go around them, when they could just as well stand elsewhere or sit down. People taking up two or more seats when others would like to sit down on the subway. Bike riders having no care how fast they ride, be it in the street or the sidewalk many times going the wrong way on a one-way street, without a care in the world about hitting someone, who in their mind, had no right to be in their way. People bringing a crying baby to a movie. People smoking near me on what otherwise would have been a nice day with fresh air.

••• I hate television commercials for roach killers. They always seem to show live insects running across the screen just about the same time I am biting I into a sandwich. Yeccchhh!

I am not thrilled with those who walk their dogs and as soon as the pooch stops to again real soon.

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**IT'S ONLY** MY **OPINION** Stanley P. Gershbein

do his business they look the other way as if not to notice. Then they walk away without picking it up.

I love children, but not when they are running around in a restaurant while servers are trying their best to work.

I get annoyed at all those pro-immigration big mouths who are constantly talking about the Jewish immigrants like my parents, saying they are "the same as those hard working, needy people who are crossing the southern border of the United States every day." No! No! No! They are not!

My parents made a stop at a place called Ellis Island, were checked for lice and diseases, and were met by sponsors who provided them with shelter and security.

'Your call is important to us. Please wait for the next available representative who will be happy to assist you." Then you listen to one minute of music and the above message is repeated. Then another minute of music, and the message and the music are repeated again and again and again until you shout, "Bull! If my call was important you would hire more representatives."

I don't blame passengers who do not want to pay to check luggage, but must they carry everything they own aboard and take up all the room in the overhead compartments? Whenever possible, I fly on Southwest Airlines where luggage is still free ... so far.

I am StanGershbein@ Bellsouth.net asking you to please send me some of your pet peeves. We can do this

BR

# **CB18 bows to Muslims** over liquor license

uslims and alcohol have a close and tawdry relationship Iran is busy hiding its alcoholics, Pakistan's bootleggers

deliver firewater like pizza, and the Saudis smuggle forbidden hootch — but those inconvenient truths didn't stop a group of preachy Muslim Brooklynites from flogging American morality into the ground or a limp local civic panel from taking the browbeating like a wimp.

'We know people in America. They legalize sodomy, prostitution, and they legalize alcohol, but that does not make these things right," whined a Muslim protestor at a Sept. 20 Community Board 18 hearing over Tasso Bar and Restaurant's right to serve beer and wine next door to a Flatlands mosque, adding, "Our basis is moral and religious."



caved to pressure and rejected the restaurant's application for a license to serve beer and wine which, unlike hard liquor, is legal to sell even right next to a house of worship. At last check Brooklyn was not a shariah zone, New York was not a dry state, and quackery was not a national trait.

Also at last check some Muslims continue to revel privately in the taboos they publicly decry.

A 2013 Pew Research Center poll found that most Muslims surveyed around the world said drinking alcohol, sex outside marriage, homosexuality, and prostitution were morally wrong, but even shariah law can't stop men and women from doing what they want to do:

•The International Wines and Spirits Record, a London-based market-research firm, found alcohol sales in the Muslim-majority Middle East

between 2001 and 2011 leapt by 72 percent, against a global average of 30 percent.

•Premarital sex is so rife in the Muslim world that the hymenoplasty - an operation restoring a women's virginity — is a hot topic on Iranian weblogs.

 The gay lifestyle flourishes in Saudi Arabia, where sodomy is punishable by death.

•Muslims permit sex on the side - misyar, a temporary relationship between men and women for sexual pleasure, is legal prostitution thinly veiled.

CB18 should have shut down the holier-than-thou Islamo-protestors on the grounds that Judeo-Christian laws - not shariah hypocrisies - power America.

Spineless board members

# Emmys had more lectures than laughs

hat a snooze fest! The 67th Emmy Awards show put me to sleep quicker than a cup of Sleepy Time tea and a dose of Lunesta. I had to down two cups of coffee just to make it to the end.

What happened to having award shows just be entertaining?

Emcee Andy Samberg was not funny. He might be great I don't know. I've never seen it — and I really didn't watch "Saturday Night Live" while he was on, so I can't vouch for his funniness then, but as a host, well let's just say, "Andy don't quit your day job.'

Secondly, I don't think I've seen many of the shows nominated. True, my taste generally runs to the Create channel. Discovery and PBS, but how many in television land have Amazon Prime or Netflix to watch "Transparent" or "Orange is the New Black?" By the way, who is Olive Kitteridge?

It's not like either are very mainstream and on everyone's tablet, iPad, television or computer. Heck, many peo-



# **NOT FOR NUTHIN'**

Joanna DelBuono

though it's a lot more likely to have HBO than the other two.

Lastly, I thought we did away with the protest speeches. Either the winners or the presenters were pushing the transgender agenda, the racial agenda, the antisexist agenda or some political agenda. Or they were just rambling on and on with snarky inside jokes that were ple don't even have HBO, al- neither funny nor appropri-

ate. Enough!

Stale presenters, unfunny skits, and long-winded acceptance speeches - even if Jane Lynch didn't ring the bell of shame, it all made for a threehour snooze fest.

We get it, you are important folks, knowledgeable on all things, and your opinions should matter to us more than our own. Not.

I really don't think that these shows are the appropriate forum to express personal opinions on whatever topic happens to be the cause celeb at the moment.

But not all was lost, and enough of my carping. On the positive side, it was nice to see the ever-funny Mel Brooks, the memoriam segment was tasteful, the camera didn't pan the audience searching for the faces of the losers, and the show ended on time.

Not for nuthin,<sup>TM</sup> but I thought it quite ironic that Jeffrey Tambor was the male Emmy winner for Best Lead actor in a comedy series for his portraval of female Maura Pfefferman in "Transparent."

Follow me on Twitter @ JDelBuono.

# Carmine lets us know what's in a name

'm madder than former Olympic swimmer Misty Hyman after her first anatomy lesson as a kid over the fact that we are given names by people we don't even know and then are stuck with them no matter how terrible the consequences!

Look, you all know the ol'Screecher is as much in love with myself — and my name — as I am with my lovely wife Sharon, and even if I wasn't, I have the coolest alter ego this side of Captain Chaos — Diego Vega! Don't believe me? E-mail me at diegovega@aol.com!

But that doesn't mean I don't feel bad for all the people out there who aren't as blessed with a great name like myself. Take, for instance, my old swimming buddy Frank, who told me that when he immigrated here from the old country and the immigration officer asked him his name, he told him what it was: "Franz."

"'Franz?' the guy said. "We don't use that name here in America. Here, you're 'Frank.'"

And that's what he has been ever since, like it or not! I guess those old civil ser-



BIG SCREECHER Carmine Santa Maria

vants weren't so civil after all, and I've been told that Frank wasn't the only guy that happened to. Apparently, there are hundreds of misnamed all across America because of those guys' ignorance.

The name Don Corleone is complete fiction. As is Franz Liszt, who composed of the Hungarian Rhapsody and collaborated with Robert Schumann on many classical pieces including my personal favorite, "Ave Maria."

Heck, for all I know Schumann's name is wrong!

Well, so much for "give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, your wretched refuse from your teeming shores, send these the homeless tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door."

It should end with "Oh, and we'll name them whatever we please!"

That brings me to my latest revelation that I had in the middle of the night while thinking about food.

What would have happened if Pope Francis instead took the name Pope John?

As you and I both know, all Italian people — American or otherwise — refer to the Pope as "Papa." So in the case of the Pope that visited this week, it would be "Papa Francis."

Now, what if his name was Pope John?

You see where I'm going with this yet?

No? Okay, let me break it down for you a little more.

They would call him "Papa John!" And as you all know, the commercial tie-ins with such a name would be great for a certain purveyor of pizza!

Papa John's owner would be richer than The Donald and corner the globe selling pepperoni pizza and breadsticks faster than he could meet the demand, forcing him to contract with UPS and Fed Ex to deliver. Could you imagine him having the Sistine Chapels "Last Supper," repainted with Judas serving Pizza?

There's no end as to what you could accomplish with unlimited millions.

Now, on to some real news. **Councilmen Mark Tryeger** will be hosting the Mermaid Avenue and W. 17th Street Street Naming Ceremony honoring my whistle-blowing colleague and co-page Brooklyn Graphic columnist **Lou Powsner** this Saturday, Sept. 26 at 11 am.

Now I didn't mean the term "whistle-blowing" to be demeaning, because Lou always carried a police whistle like the one the girl used at the end of "Titantic" and was credited with stopping more crimes because of it. His had a penchant for always helping the downtrodden and was a World War II bombardier that served his country proudly and, until a few years ago, always went to every reunion until his buddies were all gone. Lou Powsner, historian, shopkeeper, columnist, loving and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and protector of the communities, borough, and city he served tirelessly.

He was active with the Kings Highway Board of Trade, Bensonhurst West End Community Council, Community Board 13 and a list too numerous to name. The best friend you could ever have or want. Lou spent countless hours speaking up for community causes and battles at many public hearings, and with his memory functioning as a computer, remembered time, date, incident, and the procrastinates involved bucking him. He was not one to match wits or words with you were bound to lose.

Lou loved, worked, and lived in Coney Island, and will always be remembered by those who had the privilege of knowing him.

Miss you, Lou! Screech at you next week!

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# Daddy cool Band creates new hipster market for 'rock dads'

#### **BY ALLEGRA HOBBS**

A Bushwick band is starting an all-ages, day-time replacement for the Brooklyn Night Bazaar — the late-night flea market-style festival and concert series that has been on hiatus since losing its Greenpoint venue earlier this year.

But the organizers of the new hipster market say their fete — which will similarly feature live music alongside an array of craft stalls, tattoo artists, barbers, and food vendors — will cater to a very different kind of cool kid.

"If you're a rock dad, you can get your beard trimmed, get a tattoo, and put your kid in the all-ages room to watch the good music," said Rudy Temiz, guitarist for psychedelic rock band the Bushwick Hotel, which is organizing the market. "It's a great babysitting tactic."

The emporium, dubbed

Rock 'n' Shop, will kick off on Oct. 4 at Williamsburg music venue the Paper Box with around 40 local vendors, including artisanal beef jerky maker Lawless Jerky, coffee roaster City of Saints, tattoo artist Ulyss Blair, and bookseller McMillen and Boyce.

The Bushwick Hotel will also show up in just about every part of the festival — the band will play a set, members will peddle their artworks, and saxophonist Matt La Von will shuttle shoppers between the market and Bedford Avenue every hour in the group's recreational vehicle.

With so many strings to their bows, the band members said creating a market to bring them all together in one place seemed like a logical step.

"We're always kind of walking and chewing gum at the same time," said Greg Ferreira,

the band's vocalist who is also a visual artist. "It was natural after trying on so many hats that we tried to do them at the same time under the same roof."

Ferreira said he also wanted to create an "alternative mall" for local youngsters. Growing up in a rough New Jersey enclave with an overprotective mom, he remembers the urban mall as a onestop wonderland where kids could shop, catch a movie, and skateboard.

ROCK WHILE YOU SHOP: Bandmates Greg Ferreira and Rudy Temiz are kicking off an all-ages, daytime bazaar

in Williamsburg with shopping, live music, beard trimming, and tattooing.

"My reason to get out of bed was that on Saturday my mother would let me chill at the mall," he said. "That culture doesn't really exist in Bushwick."

Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Rock 'n' Shop at The Paper Box [17 Meadow St. between Bogart and Waterbury streets in Bushwick, (718) 383–3815, www.paperboxnyc.com]. Saturdays starting Oct. 4. 9 am to 7 pm. Free.

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**T. 1, 2015** M BR B G







**PUT UP YOUR DUKES:** Soldiers in training from Echo Company, Third Battalion, spar with Pugil sticks during hand-to-hand combat training sessions at Fort Jackson, SC. Sgt. Tybias Buttler, rear, observes from a distance. Robert Timmons

# Boot camp 101 is the same for all!

#### HARBOR WATCH

Whether the drill sergeant is a reservist or active-duty soldier makes no difference to a recruit going through basic combat training, or BCT, on Fort Jackson.

The barracks still carries the scent of weapon-cleaning solution and pine oil cleaner, and the training will remain rigorous despite the status of the instructor.

"For the most part, I don't think they know," said Capt. Thomas Carter, one of more than a dozen reservists training with his active-duty counterparts.

Basic training companies get "new commanders and drill sergeants throughout the cycle, so there's no difference," said Carter, commander of Golf Company, 1st Battalion, 323rd Infantry Regiment, based in Cary, N.C.

Carter's reserve-component unit executed its twoweek Echo mission by providing drill sergeants, a first sergeant, an executive officer and a commander for Echo Company, 3rd Battalion, 60th Infantry Regiment, a BCT company on Fort Jackson. Echo missions also support the 1st Battalion, 13th Infantry Regiment, another 193rd Infantry Brigade unit.

E Company was in the white phase of basic training, during which soldiers in training learn how to fire M-4 carbines accurately; toss hand grenades high, hard, and overhand; confront their fears on the confidence course; and survive pummeling one another during Army combatives.

Active-duty and Reserve drill sergeants are virtually identical, said the unit's senior enlisted leader.

"The only difference is we are Reserve, they are active," Sgt. 1st Class Steven Wood said. "All the schools are the same. All the qualifications are the same. Everyone goes through the same school [U.S. Army Drill Sergeant Academy] here on Fort Jackson."

"We work side-by-side," added Wood, who has participated in numerous Echo missions.

"You could line up all the drill sergeants, and you wouldn't be able to tell who was Reserve and who was active."

Reservists augment active-duty drill sergeants "during the summer months because there is an influx of civilians coming in to be-*Continued on page 46* 

# Honoring the lost Prisoners of War, missing remembered

#### HARBOR WATCH

On the Air Force's 68th anniversary, more than 100 Airmen attended a National POW/ MIA Recognition Day.

"I was beat, starved, and humiliated," said Army Sgt. 1st Class Obie Wickersham, 90, sporting a full head of white hair and wearing a maroon and gold veteran's vest during a breakfast meeting on Sept. 18. "But I survived. I had too much to go home to — family, friends."

Air Force Sergeants Association Chapter 1372 hosted the event at the Recce Point Club. Before Wickersham spoke, a color guard performed a discreet ritual in which its five members encircled a round dining table, placing service caps from each military branch at empty place settings to recognize GIs who remain listed as missing in action.

Wickersham, a resident of Yuba City, California, served 27 months as a prisoner in the Korean War. He was 24 years old at the time, and Korea was his second overseas conflict. He had fought through Europe as a World War II paratrooper before returning to civilian life. The military reservist was recalled to active service in Asia as a platoon sergeant with the 38th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Division. He and several men from his unit were captured by Chinese forces the night of May 17, 1951. Wickersham was immediately concerned for his life because he had read in the military's Stars and Stripes newspaper that the Chinese had executed prisoners.

"They tied my hands behind my back, made me kneel," he said. "I knew I was dead."

Instead, Wickersham said his captors balked and turned their attention to their own survival. In the ensuing months, Wickersham with others endured a forced 500-mile walk to a prison camp in North Korea, subsisting on ground barley



**NOT FORGOTTEN:** Retired US Army Sgt. Obie Wickersham, a World War II vet and Korean War prisoner of war, speaks with airmen during National Prisoner of War-Missing in Action Recognition Day at Beale Air Force Base in California on Sept. 18. Chandresh Bhakta

with the consistency of flour.

"It's what they fed to animals. I guess that's what they considered us, animals."

The men swallowed it with unclean water, leading to widespread dysentery. Of the 500 prisoners who started the trek, 200 survived. Among the dead was Sgt. 1st Class Patrick J. Arthur, who died on July 31, 1951. His comrades called him "Pops" because, at 36, he was old by fighting GI standards. Wickersham and a friend buried Arthur in a shallow grave, hiding one of his dog tags on his body in hopes that his remains would be found one day.

They were held in a camp just across the Yalu River from China.

"I could spit into China, it was right there," Wickersham said.

Prison leaders interrogated the men and forced them to listen to discourses on the attributes of communism. Officers were separated from enlisted men so Wickersham was the only one from his unit at the camp, making it difficult for his captors to determine whether information he gave them was true.

"You had to lie," he said. "I became a pretty good liar."

The prisoners largely ate plain tofu — soybean curd — "When we got rice, it was like eating ice cream. We didn't get it much."

Remaining busy helped with the men's spirits, he said, and the Chinese enjoyment of basketball benefited the prisoners as they had access to an outdoor court and were sometimes directed to play guards.

"You had to be active," he said. "You couldn't sit in a corner of your mud hut and feel sorry for yourself. It wouldn't help."

The prisoners prided themselves in achieving small victories, Wickersham said. Sometimes, when a GI visited *Continued on page 46* 

COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 45

# Unit paved the way into history

# First African-American paratroopers remembered at annual reunion

# HARBOR WATCH

Paying homage to the first African-American Army parachutists, Army Materiel Command's Commander Gen. Dennis Via said they paved the way for integration.

Via was the keynote speaker during the 555th Parachute Infantry Association's 36th annual reunion on Sept. 12. The association celebrates the legacy of the Army's first all-black parachute battalion.

"When I think about the era in which you entered the airborne corps, I am humbled by your strength," Via said. "I am humbled by your tenacity, I am humbled by your persistence and your sheer determination, but I am most humbled by your ability to place so much trust in an organization which, at that time, didn't necessarily place that same trust in you."

Activated in December 1943, the men who volunteered for the first company were airborne-qualified, but were not exempt to society's segrega-



**PAVING THE WAY:** The 555 Parachute Battalion was the first all-black parachute battalion. The men pictured here are waiting for a routine equipment check during training. National Archive Photo

tion, including separate bathrooms, drinking fountains, and living conditions.

Via was introduced by retired Col. Porcher "P.T." Taylor, who was a member of the Triple Nickles and also served as one of Via's ROTC instructors at Virginia State University.

"Thanks to the trail you blazed 70 years ago, there are thousands of soldiers whose services as paratroopers, and whose military careers, were all made possible by the Triple Nickles," Via said.

The 555th was nicknamed

the "Triple Nickles" for its numerical designation and because it was part of the 92nd Infantry Division of "Buffalo Soldiers."

"When you stepped out of that plane so many decades ago, you stepped into more than thin air, you stepped into history," Via said. "Every paratrooper, who followed you out that door in the subsequent decades, including this Soldier, owes you a deep debt of gratitude."

The battalion didn't serve overseas during World War II, instead the members deployed to the Pacific Northwest for a top secret mission, Operation Firefly, in May 1945. The paratroopers earned the nickname of "smoke jumpers" for their actions combating forest fires ignited by Japanese balloons carrying incendiary bombs.

"We will never forget, and I'll certainly never forget, that the discipline, the dedication and the commitment to persevere you displayed gave our Army cause to abandon its segregated units and incorporate the Triple Nickles into the 82nd Airborne Division. Thus, paving the way for true integration in the years ahead," Via said. "You helped lay the foundation that I continue to stand upon today."



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# PRISONERS

# Continued from page

the latrine at night, he'd throw a rock at the guard shack and then sprint for his shelter. The startled sentries would soon appear, demanding to know who threw the stone.

"Of course we weren't going to say so they'd have us stand at attention for an hour," he explained. "We were doing things to harass the guards. We beat them. We survived."

As a signed armistice neared, camp officials fed prisoners better, giving them sugar and bread sometimes to help them gain weight.

# **BOOT CAMP**

#### Continued from page

come soldiers," Wood said. "We provide support to those battalions and companies to get as many [trainees] through as possible."

Command Sgt. Maj. Edwin T. Brooks said that "the mission allows us to produce approximately 1,440 more soldiers, given the additional two companies and manpower.

That's "extremely valuable" to both the 3-60th and the 1-13th because it provides the units with additional drill sergeants, increasing cadre resiliency by allowing for more family time. "They didn't want us to look too bad," he said.

The prisoners were released on Aug. 23, 1953.

In the early 1990s, North Korea gave the U.S. more than 200 boxes of remains believed to contain the remains of 200 to 400 American GIs. Patrick Arthur's dog tag and a denture fragment bearing his name were included. Scientists from the Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command and the Armed Forces DNA Identification Laboratory used mitochondrial DNA and dental comparisons to identify some of the remains as his. On May 1, 2009, the sergeant's remains were buried at Arlington National Cemetery near Washington, D.C.

The unit mixes active and Reserve drill sergeants to keep continuity when the cadre switch every three weeks. This also keeps reserve-component drill sergeants current on their training.

"I think we have the right combination with our reserve-component drill sergeants, and when called upon, they meet the challenge," Brooks said. "Their transition in and out is obvious, yet transparent to the trainee because of the professionalism of the NCO [noncommissioned officer] corps."

Lt. Col. Carol Hayman, commander of the 1st Battalion, 323rd Infantry Regiment, takes pride in the dedication and excitement her troops show.



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# King of the spill

# Company performs 'Macbeth' at recycling center

#### By Claire McCartney

an-fusion now hath made his masterpiece!

A scrambled production of "Macbeth" will bow on Oct. 1 inside of a large shipping container at the Sure We Can bottle and can redemption center in Bushwick. The stripped-down Eastern European take on the Shakespearean classic, now titled "Makbet," struts and frets its hour upon the stage with only three actors playing all the parts — a challenge that resulted from the tight confines of the shipping container stage. The show's director says that creative constraints of the space made the show even better.

"We all agreed that in this setting," said Matt Mitler, "each show became the best it had ever been. 'Makbet,' in the shipping container, becomes incredibly intimate, and there's a wonderful

acoustic that carries the voice even as a whisper and is glorious for the songs and chants, but there's also this feeling of being trapped, or being in hiding. The physical limitations of this space take us into uncharted territory."

Mitler says that the location and the ethos at Sure We Can, a nonprofit for people who make their living collecting and scrapping bottles and cans, has been inspiring for the Dzieci Theater Company.

"Sure We Can fosters such a deep sense of humility, of communion," Mitler said, "that we feel more at home there than anywhere else we've ever performed."

But in this show, it is never clear who will be king hereafter, because the actors can swap roles from scene to scene. Mitler says the creative chaos gives the show a fresh energy. "The rules are roles can be taken and given, embraced or refused. It keeps you on the edge in this very dynamic way," said Mitler.

Audiences can keep track of the characters through the hurly-burly by watching their costumes, he said.

"We do a scene and Macbeth wears a black fedora," said Mitler. "So I might grab the fedora and I'm Macbeth. At the same time, someone might grab the fedora from me and put it on and they're Macbeth. Or no one wants to take the hat and someone just takes it and puts it on someone else and they're Macbeth. So every scene begins with this sort of Russian roulette-type thing."

The role-swapping approach requires each actor to know the entire text of the play, and to approach acting in a new way, said Mitler. "Can I go from being this character to that character, but still be in touch with my inner emotional qualities so that I'm not dropping what I just did?" said Mitler. "I'm letting what I did with the last character infuse and inform what I'm doing with the next characterization."

The production also uses Mitler's experience studying theater in Poland, incorporating gypsy-inspired costumes and Eastern European music into the traditionally Scottish play. Each show also starts with a pre-show celebration of gypsy culture outside the container, says Mitler, including a large bonfire, music, and fortune-telling.

"Makbet" at Sure We Can (219 McKibbin St. between Bushwick Avenue and White Street in Bushwick, www.dziecitheater. org). Oct. 1–4, 8–11, and 15–18. Thu–Sat at 7 pm, Sundays at 4 pm. \$10.

# **24 SEVEN ART OF WAR** Long-empty navy hospital shows conflict photos

#### By Colin Mixson

t's not your typical hospital art. A new exhibit of war photogra-L phy is on display inside of a longdecommissioned, 19th-century hospital at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. The creator of "When We Were Soldiers... once and young," which will be up until Oct. 24, says that the brutal images on display echo the scenes of horror that were once treated on the site.

"My work deals a lot with atrocities of war and I find it problematic that people see these images, but feel no emotions - they feel detached," said Bettina WitteVeen. "So what I do is seek out spaces that convey that what I'm showing happened in this space."

The Brooklyn Navy Yard's hospital was built in 1838 and has treated veterans from every major US conflict from the Civil War to World War II, but it closed amidst the Brooklyn Navy Yard's decommissioning in 1966. This exhibit is the first chance visitors have had to see inside since then - and it's also the last.

"It's the last time this will be seen." said WitteVeen. "After my exhibition it will go back into private use."

It took the German artist five years to secure use of the hospital, which is owned by the Steiner Studios production complex, but she says that the memories contained in the old peeling paint of the surgical rooms and the cracked beams of the treatment center made it all worth it.

the hospital in its ravaged state, the



Reality check: Bettina WitteVeen chose the Brooklyn Navy Yard Hospital for her exhibit of war photographs in order to ground audiences in the reality of the subject. Photo by Jason Speakman

correlates with the images on display," she said.

The Naval Hospital's aging patient rooms play host to horrific images of brutal war wounds, along with pictures of the nurses and doctors who treated them, arranged in visual formations that WitteVeen refers to as "Crosses of Suffering." and in the s hallway, WitteVeen juxtaposes images of combat with landscape imagery of former battlefields in order to express the healing power of nature.

"I tried to photograph former bat-"When you're there and you see tlefields as beautifully as I possibly can," she said. "I'm trying to bring out

visual message of the building itself the healing and redemptive aspect of nature."

WitteVeen is not a war photographer in the traditional sense, instead curating images from wars past and present. She painstakingly restores old photographs using analog methods, which she says gives her images an almost three-dimensional effect.

"When We Were Soldiers... once and young" at the Brooklyn Navy Yard Hospital [off Flatbush Avenue between Reverson Street and Grand Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 907-5992, www. bettinawitteveen.com] Open daily until Oct. 24, noon-6 pm. Free tickets available online.

# **Bushwick is Berning!**

By Harry MacCormack t's a weeknight at Bernie's.

A group of musicians will rock out to raise cash for Brooklyn-born presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on Oct. 8. The fund-raiser at the Paper Box in Bushwick will feature a bevy of Brooklyn musicians and DJs, playing a politically-charged set that the show's founder says will get Brooklynites berning hot for the Democratic candidate.

"These are all very political, strong, passionate songs," said Armand Aviram, who also curated the set list. "We'll be playing John Lennon, Bob Marley, 'Rockin' in the Free World' which is actually Bernie's campaign theme song."

Aviram says his affection for Sanders started in 2010, when the Vermont senator spent almost nine hours filibustering an extension of the Bush-era tax cuts. Once Sanders announced that Bernie' Facebook page, and she just Oct. 8 at 7 pm. \$10.

he was running for president, Aviram realized he could use his experience as a musician to support the socialist candidate from Flatbush, and he put together "Berning Up Brooklyn."

"I was a music teacher for eight or nine years, and I was a show director at School of Rock for three or four years, so the truth is I had a ton of experience doing the exact same thing, but with kids, not professional musicians," said Aviram. "So this kind of thing is very much in my wheelhouse."

The musician cold-called more than 100 artists to get the line-up for 20 performers for the show, and he recruited his mother to provide artwork for the event's posters and flyers.

"I started talking about Bernie as soon as he announced and my family has always been politically minded," said Aviram, "and I had mentioned to my mom there was an 'Artists for



Berning man: Musician Armand Aviram will host a fund-raising concert for presidential candidate Bernie Sanders on Oct. 8.

sent me a sketch of him that she was doing one day and I was just blown away.'

"The campaign has actually seen the artwork and they love it," he added. That sketch, and other art inspired by Sanders, will be on display during the fund-raiser.

"Berning Up Brooklyn" at the Paper Box [17 Meadow St., between Waterbury and Bogart streets, (718) 383-3815, www.paperboxnyc.com].



On the spot: Paola Prestini, executive director of National Sawdust, says that she plans to keep ticket prices down at the new music venue, which opens Oct. 1. Photo by Jason Speakman

# Turn it up! W'burg venue's first night will start soft and end loud

By Max Jaeger This opening night will be all crescendo

National Sawdust, the five-years-in-the-making Williamsburg music venue that aims to support emerging artists, will open Oct. 1 with a series of performances that get louder and louder, the venue's director said.

"The idea was to start the evening with a piece for piano — the space was designed for piano so we want to begin with piano — and then move to the most multi-channeled electronic and live-processed [music]," said executive director Paola Prestini.

That progression will include a solo mandolin performance, Japanese trip-hop, an Inuit throatsinger, and a selection from an opera about a transgender woman's escape from Cuba, Prestini said.

The musical apex slated for Thursday has been building for a long time. Founder Kevin Dolan dreamed up the venue five years ago as a place for up-and-coming artists to build a following, but finding financing took time, and the tempo of construction varied, Prestini said.

The \$16 million venue - financed by Dolan and a group of philanthropic investors — is built in a former sawdust factory (yes, a sawdust factory the building on Wythe Avenue and N. Sixth Street used to grind up scrap wood and sell the shav-

ings). Despite the venue's hefty price tag, the organizers hope to keep tickets cheap — prices will vary from \$15 to \$40, with most ticket prices at \$25, Prestini said.

"If you want people to discover new music, you can't keep the price high — it's about keeping things accessible," she said. "It's maybe a little more than seeing a movie, but it's not going to be something that's prohibitive."

A rotating cast of 12 curators will populate the venue's stage with musicians who are on the cutting edge of cool, she said. Cycling in new curators will keep the selections from getting stale, one taste-maker said.

"You have this rotating staff, and it keeps things really fresh and interesting — there are a handful of people who I think are cool now, but ten years from now I may not know what's cool," said cellist and curator Jeffrey Ziegler, who will perform during the opening night.

Having a dozen people put together shows will also vary the music hosted at the spot, he said.

"Maybe I won't be the one curating the garage band from Bushwick, but other curators may," said Ziegler.

Opening night at National Sawdust [80 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Wiliamsburg, (646) 779-8455, www.nationalsawdust. org]. Oct. 1 at 7:30 pm and 11 pm. \$60 and \$100.



# **GETTING HEAVY**

Comedy writer pens a serious young-adult novel

HUSI

By Allegra Hobbs

He's not kidding. A gay writer and performer known for his flamboyant and explicit monologues will showcase a more serious side this weekend, when he launches his down-to-earth young-adult novel about a Park Slope preteen. The author says that the coming-of-age tale is a deliberately bare-bones account of the labors of adolescence.

"In a very conscious way, I didn't want to write a big book," said Justin Sayre, who will discuss his book "Husky" at Dumbo's Powerhouse Arena on Sept. 26. "There are no dragons, he doesn't have magical powers — he's just a kid experiencing life as you do in that tender age."

Sayre, best known to New Yorkers as the creator of the variety show "The Meeting of the International Order of Sodomites," now lives in Los Angeles and writes for the CBS sitcom "Two Broke Girls," but he called Park Slope home for five years, and spent another two years living in a gay commune in Bushwick. His Brooklyn experience was a jumpingoff point for the new novel, he says.

"I wanted it to be about Brooklyn," he said. "I wanted it to be partially about the life I knew there."

The book is narrated by twelve-year-old Davis, an opera-loving kid who fears he will be haunted by the adjective his peers have stuck him with: husky. Davis tries to reconcile his self-image with the way other people see him, while trying to figure out how to express his identity.

The character is not fully aware of his sexual orientation, which sets the book apart from the wealth of coming-out stories in young adult fiction.

"The thing about gayness in this book is, I wrote him as a gay person but I didn't write him actively



Plot twist: Writer and performer Justin Sayre wrote his first novel "Husky," about a Park Slope preteen uncovering his sexual identity — but it is no coming-out story. Wadley

being gay," said Sayre. "He doesn't come out, but his view on the world is a queer view."

The first in an ongoing series, "Husky" may be a novel about a gay Park Slope kid who loves opera written by a gay, ex-Park Slope writer who loves jazz, but Sayre says the book is not a thinly-disguised memoir. Davis is very much his own person, said Sayre, and the book is better for it.

"Once I really found his voice and found out who he was, I liked him better than I would have liked a story written solely from my perspective," he said.

Justin Sayre discusses "Husky" at Powerhouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. Sept. 26 at 6 pm. Free.



Americans icon: This jersey worn by Brooklyn Americans coach Mervyn "Red" Dutton while the team was still called the New York Americans, is on display at the Brooklyn Historical Society. Photo by Jason Speakman

# **Stick in the past** *Check out BK's hockey history*

By Eric Faynberg t's an ice show.

The puck may be about to drop on the New York Islanders' inaugural season in Brooklyn, but a new exhibit is looking backwards to Brooklyn's first professional hockey team the Brooklyn Americans. The show, open now at the Brooklyn Historical Society, tells the story of the "Amerks," who last took the ice in 1942. The exhibit's organizer says that it makes a perfect pre-show for the borough's new hockey team.

"With the Islanders coming to the Barclays Center, it is the right time to tell a story most people have never heard before," said Marcia Ely. "And this is a great family-friendly exhibit to experience before catching an Islanders game."

"Brooklyn Americans: Hockey's Forgotten Promise" features the team's star-spangled jerseys and equipment, along with rare photos, pamphlets, game programs, and newspaper articles about the team, drawn from the Hockey Hall of Fame and private collectors. And visitors can watch actual game footage from old movie reels, part of a clever display built to look like vintage rink boards. The display is built to evoke the era when the team played, said Ely.

"This is a nostalgic story of a different time," she said. "The American story is woven in and out of this team's history. People who still bemoan the Dodgers leaving Brooklyn will love this exhibit."

Placards in the show explain how a notorious Prohibition-era gangster, Bill Dwyer, bought a bankrupt Canadian hockey team in 1923 and shuttled them to New York like so much bootlegged hooch. Renamed the "New York Americans," the team donned red, white and blue sweaters and played at Madison Square Garden. They proved so successful at the box office that the Garden's owner started his own franchise a year later: the New York Rangers, who quickly overshadowed the Americans.

The exhibit also discusses "Dutton's Curse" agains the Rangers. Player-coach Mervyn "Red" Dutton renamed the team the "Brooklyn Americans" in 1941, with plans to build a new arena in Fort Greene. But the National Hockey League suspended the team after the 1941– 42 season because of World War II, and the team never re-formed, in part because of opposition from the Rangers.

Ely described the League meeting that decided the team's fate: "[Dutton] was ready to reinstate the team, but when he saw it wasn't going that way, he slammed down his stuff and stormed out of the room," Ely said. "The apocryphal part of the story is that he said the Rangers, who had won the Cup in 1940, would never win another Stanley Cup in his lifetime."

The curse worked: Dutton passed away in 1987, and the Rangers did not win another Stanley Cup until 1994.

"Brooklyn Americans: Hockey's Forgotten Promise" at the Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111, www.brooklynhistory.org]. On display Wed–Sun, noon–5 pm until March 27, 2016. \$10 suggested donation.

# Bay Ridge gets high- and low-brow

# By Max Jaeger

The mbrace culture high and low in Bay Ridge this weekend! We will start your weekend off right with junk food and cheap thrills, but before you know it, you'll be hoisting a lorgnette to your face at highfalutin' theatrical productions — that is the range you get from southern Brooklyn's entertainment Mecca.

Comedy and nachos on a Friday night? This is your chance to simulate a low-key evening without the hassle of staying in! Slap on some sweatpants and that shirt with holes in the armpits and get to the Leif Bar (6725 Fifth Ave. between 60th and 61st streets) for the Brooklyn Brew Ha!Ha! comedy show with comics who have been on "Conan," Music Television's "Guy Code," and National Broadcasting Company's "Last Comic Standing." Get there early, because the first 20 people get free nachos. The show starts at 7:30 pm, and it costs \$10 at the door.



Once your schlub suit is sufficiently stained with corn chips and Novelty Cheez Product®, complete the transformation into your mom's weird brother at **Greenhouse Cafe** (7717 Third Ave. between 77th and 78th streets), where rockers Uncle Jack will perform all your real uncle's favorite classic rock tunes by Tom Petty, Bruce Springsteen, and

Credence Clearwater Revival starting at 9 pm.

You have delved to the depths of the low-brow. On Saturday, it is time to soar to the height of sophistication — community theater!

First, go to "Mary Poppins" at the **High School of Telecommunications** (350 67th St. between Third and Fourth avenues). The production by Jeff Samaha Theater will include a live orchestra and flying sequences — fancy! Tickets are \$25 and we suggest going at 2 pm, because — as far as we know — there is nothing classier than a matinee. For a full schedule, go to www.jeffsamaha.com.

Once Mary is done getting those kids to take their meds, fly over to **Trinity Lutheran Church** (9020 Third Ave. between 90th and 91st streets) at 7 pm, where La Forza Dell'Opera Company will present arias, duets, and ensembles from Giacomo Puccini's opera "La Boheme." Tickets are \$20.

#### FRI, SEPT. 25

ART, "CHASHAMA" OPEN STUDIOS: Visit more than 85 painters, sculptors, photographers, and experimental mixed media artists in the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Free. 6–9 pm. The Brooklyn Army Terminal (140 58th St. at Second Avenue in Sunset Park), www. chashama.org.

TALK, "BINGE-WORTHY JOURNALISM": Sarah Koenig and Julie Snyder, co-creators of the hit podcast "Serial," discuss the creation of this media phenomenon. \$35. 8 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

MUSIC, JACKSON BROWNE: \$55. 8 pm. Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush), www.kingstheatre.com. THEATER, "MARY POP-

PINS": This production of the classic children's story feature flying sequences, a live orchestra, and a cast of 50. \$25 (\$15 for children 10 or younger). 8 pm. High School of Telecommunications Arts and Technology [350 67th St. at Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 989–9566], www.ridgechorale.com.

MUSIC, EVAN PARKER/ NED ROTHENBERG DUO MAXIME PETIT/BRAN-DON LOPEZ: \$15.8 pm. Jack (505 Waverly Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill), www.jackny.org. THEATER, "GODSPELL": The Gallery Players perform the religious rock opera. \$18 (\$15 children and seniors), 8 pm, Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-

3101], www.galleryplayers.com. THEATER, "AND THEN THERE WERE NONE": The Heights Players perform Agatha Christie's mystery classic. \$20. 8 pm. [26 Willow Pl. between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 237–2752], www.heightsplayers.org.

- MUSIC, KING AND QUEEN OF POP SING ALONG: A sing-along of Michael Jackson and Madonna music videos with the lyrics on screen. \$10. 9:30 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www. unionhallny.com.
- MUSIC, KENDRA FOSTER: The former member of Parliament-Funkadelic creates a jazz-funk fusion. Free. 10 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org/programs/ bamcafe-live.
- MUSIC, AYO: The German-Nigerian singer performs in Brooklyn for the first time. \$40 (\$30 in advance). 9 pm. Ode to Babel [772 Dean St. between Underhill and Washington Avenues in Prospect Heights, (718) 484–3847]. www. odetobabel.com.





Funk you up: Former member of Parliament-Funkadelic Kendra Foster gives a free show of groovy jazz-funk tunes at BAM Cafe on Sept. 25. Kendra Foster

#### **SAT, SEPT. 26**

- TALK, WALLABOUT HIS-TORIC WALKING TOUR: Discover the history of Fort Greene Park and the Wallabout neighborhood from the early 1600s to today. Free. 11 am. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center [Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 722–3218].
- BREUKELEN COUNTRY FAIR: Celebrate the harvest season with the Wyckoff Farmhouse, featuring games, pony rides, a steel pan orchestra, local food, farming demonstrations, and family-friendly workshops. Free. 1–5 pm. Wyckoff Farmhouse Museum [5816 Clarendon Rd., at Ralph Avenue in East Flatbush, (718) 629–5400],
- wyckoffmuseum.org. **MUSIC, ROLIE POLIE GUA- CAMOLE:** Award-winning kindie musicians Rolie Polie Guacamole celebrate the release of their fifth album, "Chips and Salsa." \$15 (\$12 in advance). 10:30 am. ShapeShifter Labs [18 Whitwell Pl. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (646) 820–9452],
- www.shapeshifterlab.com. MUSIC, "BETWEEN SOUND AND SILENCE": A concert of Zen Buddhist music played on the Japanese bamboo flute. \$15. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Zen Center (505 Carroll St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.brooklynzen.org. MUSIC, COMIC TALES OF
- IUSIC, COMIC TALES OF TRAGIC HEARTBREAK, SUN THIEF, AURICAL:

\$5 suggested donation. 8 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (718) 627–4949],

- www.waystationbk.com. MUSIC, "MR. MYSTERY — THE RETURN OF SUN RA TO SAVE PLANET EARTH!": Eco-Music Big Band presents scenes from a free-jazz opera. Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam. orq.
- MUSIC, SPAGHETTI EAST-ERN MUSIC: The eclectic one-man band alternates between soaring ballads and electronic sound collages. Free. 11 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.
- MUSIC, S-TYPE, OBEY CITY: \$10. 11:59 pm. Palisades [906 Broadway at Stockton Street in Bushwick, (201) 214–7444], www.palisadesbk.com.
- CITYWIDE HIGH SCHOOL FAIR: Parents and children learn all about the new school year, special programs and how to apply for specialty schools. Free. 10 am–3 pm. Brooklyn Technical High School (29 Fort Greene Place in Clinton Hill), www.schools.nyc. gov/choice.
- CHILE PEPPER FESTIVAL: Sample hot sauces, pickles and salsas, as well as artisanal goods from local chile-choclate creators, and live performances

from bands, fire breathers, and sword swallowers. \$20 (\$15 seniors and students; free for children 12 and younger). 11 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden [1000 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623–7220], www.bbg.org.

- ART, "CHASHAMA" OPEN STUDIOS: Noon-5 pm. See Friday, Sept. 25.
- ART, OPEN STUDIOS: New York Artist Residency Studios opens its doors. Shuttle service to Chashama open studios at the Brooklyn Army Terminal. Free. Noon-6 pm. NARS Foundation [201 46th St. at Second Avenue; Fourth Floor in Sunset Park, (718) 768-2765], www.narsfoundation.org.
- "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST": This Puppetworks production, suitable for children 4 years and older, features hand-carved puppets and a live Beast. \$9 (\$10 adults). 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. Puppetworks [338 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965–3391], www.puppetworks.org.
- AMERICANA MUSIC FES-TIVAL: A festival of folk, blues, old time bluegrass and rock. Free. 2–8 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park's Pier 3 Greenway Terrace (Pierrpont Street at Furman Street in Brooklyn Heights), www.nycgovparks.org.
- BROOKLYN POUR: Try fourounce samples from more than 50 breweries at this Village Voice-sponsored beer festival. \$55-\$85. 3-6 pm. Brooklyn Expo Center (72 Noble St. at Franklin Street in Greenpoint). MUSIC, AYO: See Friday,
- Sept. 25. FILM, THE MOTORCYCLE FILM FESTIVAL AWARDS CEREMONY: The third annual Motorcycle Film Festival celebrates the best in movies about the motorcycle. Free with a ticket stub from any screening. 9 pm. Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855–3388], www. littlefieldnyc.com.

#### SUN, SEPT. 27

MUSIC, ANDREW LAMB AND ANDREW DRURY: \$12. 8 pm. Jack (505 Waverly Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill), www. jackny.org. MUSIC, THE SEROTONES: The Long Island alt-

The Long Island altrockers headline, with opening acts Mellowells and Mayve. \$10 (\$7 in advance). 8 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230–5740], www.therockshopny.com.

ATLANTIC ANTIC: The mile-long festival showcases 500 craft and food vendors, 16 stages of live music and dance, and a block-long Kids Zone with pony rides and a bounce house. Free. Noon-6 pm. Atlantic Avenue between Fourth Avenue and Hicks Street in Boerum Hill. *Continued on page 54* 



Swept off his feet: The New York Islanders will clean up at the pre-season game against the Washington Capitals on Sept. 28. Associated Press / Kathy Kmonicek

# COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

# FRI, SEP 25

MUSIC, R. KELLY: \$60.50-\$130.50.8 pm.

# SAT, SEP 26

MUSIC, ARIANA GRANDE: \$35.50-\$695. 7:30 pm.

#### **SUN, SEP 27**

MUSIC, ARIANA GRANDE: \$35.50-\$695. 7:30 pm.

#### **MON, SEP 28**

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS WASH-INGTON CAPITALS: \$20-\$245.7 pm.

# MON, OCT 5

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS FENERBAHCE ISTANBUL: \$25-\$400. 7:30 pm.

#### THU, OCT 8

MUSIC, MARC ANTHONY AND CARLOS VIVES: \$76.50-\$232.50. 8 pm.

#### FRI, OCT 9

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS CHI-CAGO BLACKHAWKS: \$170-\$1,175. 7 pm.

#### **MON, OCT 12**

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS WIN-NIPEG JETS: \$35-\$365. 1 pm.

#### TUE, OCT 13

MUSIC, THE LEGEND OF ZELDA — SYMPHONY OF THE GODDESSES MASTER QUEST: \$44.50-\$97.50. 8 pm.

#### **WED, OCT 14**

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS BOSTON CELTICS: \$28-\$400. 7:30 pm.

# THU, OCT 15 SPORTS, NEW YORK

ISLANDERS VS NASH-VILLE PREDATORS: \$25-\$310.7 pm.

#### FRI, OCT 16

TALK, A NIGHT OF HOPE WITH JOEL OSTEEN: \$15. 7:30 pm.

#### **SAT, OCT 17**

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS SAN JOSE SHARKS: \$50– \$500. 7:30 pm.

#### **SUN, OCT 18**

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS PHILADEL-PHIA 76ERS: \$28-\$400. 1 pm.

# FRI, OCT 22

MUSIC, POWERHOUSE 2015: Featuring Future, Kendrick Lamar, Big Sean, and Fetty Wap. \$20-\$200. 7 pm.

# SAT, OCT 23

SPORTS, NEW YORK IS-LANDERS VS BOSTON BRUINS: \$90-\$800. 7:30 pm.

# SUN, OCT 24

FOOD, TAPPED — THE ULTIMATE CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL: \$39. Noon and 5 pm.

#### MON, OCT 26

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS CAL-GARY FLAMES: \$50-\$1,000. 7 pm.

# **WED, OCT 28**

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS CHICAGO BULLS: \$89-\$4,000. 7:30 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.



# A Night of Entertainment With Stuart Leslie

# Saturday, October 17, 2015 (6:45 PM to 9:45 PM)

Be entertained as Stu sings Doo Wop and beloved standards of the 50's and 60's.

You will also get a chance to show your talent and sing along with the Karaoke.

Light refreshments will be provided

> General admission: \$25.00 / \$20.00 for PTBAS Members For reservations and more info call (718) 436-5082

# 1515 46th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11219

Ptbas@facebook.com • Website: www.ptbas.org • email: ptbas.secretary@verizon.net



24-7





Continued from page 53 www.atlanticave.org.

- NEW YORK TRANSIT MU-SEUM BUS FESTIVAL: Step aboard more than a dozen buses from the Museum's vintage fleet, representing more than 80 years of New York City surface transit history. Part of the Atlantic Antic. Free. 11 am-6 pm. [Atlantic Avenue between State Street and Boerum Place Downtown, (718) 694–1600], www.web. mta.info/mta/museum. "BEAUTY AND THE BEAST":
- 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Saturday, Sept. 26. BREUKELEN COUNTRY
- FAIR: Free. 1–5 pm. See Saturday, Sept. 26. PIZZA IN THE HUT: Shake

PIZZA IN THE HUT: Snake the lulav, smell the etrog, and decorate the Sukkah while eating pizza. Suggested donation. 2 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836– 3103], www.brjc.org.

day, Sept. 25.

# MON, SEPT. 28

- MUSIC, TAUK, SOPHISTA-PUNK: \$10. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963–3369], www. brooklynbowl.com.
- FILM, "CINEMA SEANCE #2": A projection of five short 16mm films tonight that valorize decay and the inexorable passage of time. Free. 7–9 pm. Court Tree Collective [371 Court St. between Carroll Street and First Place in Carroll Gardens, (718) 422–7806], www.courttree.com.
- MUSIC, POP SHOVE IT: Sycamore's punk, skate, garage metal party. Free. 10 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240–5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn. com.

# TUES, SEPT. 29

- ART, TOKYO ARTIST MAR-KET: Nine artists from Tokyo present their work for sale. Free. 7–10 pm. Ouchi Gallery [170 TIllary Suite 105 in Downtown, (347) 987–4606], www. ouchigallery.com.
- BADASS BOARD GAME BAT-TLE: Two-person teams will compete in quick versions of Taboo, Scattegories and Pictionary. The top teams will then compete in a sudden-death version of Jenga. Winning team takes all! Free. 7 pm. Henri on Fifth (279 Fifth Ave. at First Street in Park Slope), www. henrionfifth.com.

# WED, SEPT. 30

DANCE, "TABAC ROUGE": James Thierrée's "choreodrama" pits nine dancers and acrobats against an array of machinery to take the audience deep into the dark world of a decrepit tyrant. \$20. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam.org.

COMEDY, THE BIG TERRIFIC COMEDY SHOW: Standup comedy, hosted by Max Silvestri. Free. 8 pm. Cameo Gallery [93 N. Sixth St. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302–1180], www.cameony.net.

# THURS, OCT. 1

- FILM, "WALLABOUT": This film, about a woman rebuilding her life in Brooklyn, opens the Bushwick Film Festival. A discussion with the director follows. \$15 (\$12 in advance). 6:30 pm. Light Space Studios (1115 Flushing Ave. between Porter and Varick avenues, www.bushwickfilmfestival.com).
- ART, "HERE. THERE. EVERY-WHERE.": Abstract painter Liz Holly's watercolor works represent the landscape from Pennsylvania to Brooklyn. Free. Noon-9 pm. gallery505 (505 Court St. between Huntington and W. 9th streets in Carroll Gardens), www.lizholly. com.
- MUSIC, ST. LUKE'S CHAM-BER ENSEMBLE: Enjoy a fall evening of art, music, and ice cream, with the Grammy-winning St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble. Free. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.
- FUND RAISER, COCKTAIL RECEPTION: Hosted by the Fort Hamilton Citizens Action Committee, the event will honor the Bay Ridge Lawyer's Association, Robert Sabbagh, and William Guarinello. \$100 per person. 7–9 pm. Bay Ridge Manor (476 76th St. at Third Avenue in Bay Ridge), www.fhcac.org.

# FRI, OCT. 2

- ART, "IMPRESSIONISM AND THE CARIBBEAN": An exhibition of celebrated Puerto Rican painter Francisco Oller in transnational context, with paintings and works on paper by Oller, and his contemporaries. \$16. 11 am-6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], www. brooklynmuseum.org.
- MUSIC, AMILTON GODOY AND LÉA FREIRE: The Brazilian jazz musicians perform with quintet Vento em Madeira. \$20. 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267–0363], www.

roulette.org. THEATER, "GODSPELL": 8 pm. See Friday, Sept. 25.

- DANCE, TAP CITY: Enjoy an evening of amazing tap dancing. \$32- \$35.8 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.
- MUSIC, WHITE PRISM: Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), www.bam. org/programs/bamcafelive.
- MUSIC, BIG LAZY: The noir instrumental band plays a First Friday jam session. \$10. 10 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965– 9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.

# SAT, OCT. 3

- DOG SHOW!: The Brooklyn Heights Association hosts a dog show, with categories including Waggiest Tail, Canine Couture, Fang-Tastic Features, and Best Fun-Sized Dog. \$20 to register a dog. 2 pm. Cadman Plaza Park [Cadman Plaza West at Middagh Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858–9193], www.thebha. org.
- MUSIC, ZEDASHE: Georgian roots band tours the US. \$10 suggested donation. 9 pm. Barbes [376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965–9177], www.barbesbrooklyn.com.
- MUSIC, STEW AND THE NEGRO PROBLEM, CHURCH OF BETTY: \$15 (\$13 in advance). 9 pm. The Living Room (134 Metropolitan Ave., between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg), www.livingroomny.com.
- www.livingroomny.com. FUND RAISER, MILES FOR MIDWIVES: This 5K fun run and birth fair is devoted to improving maternity care and supporting the group Choices in Childbirth. Register as an individual or team at milesformidwivesnyc.kintera.org. \$25 (\$10 children). 8:30 am-1 pm. Park Circle Lawn (Prospect Park Southwest at Park Circle in Park Slope).
- CHEERS NEW YORK: A festival of beer, wine, cider, and liquor from across New York state. A ticket gets you unlimited drinks during a three-hour session. \$50. Noon and 5 pm. Factory Floor in Industry City (241 37th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park), www. cheersny.com.
- RIVER SONGS: Jeff Newell's New Trad Quartet presents this new musical revue featuring stories and songs from historic American waterways. Free. 2 pm. Waterfront Museum Barge [290 Conover St. near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 624–4719], www.waterfrontmuseum.org.
- FILM, "THE HOUSE THAT JACK BUILT": A screening, art show, auction, and short films. \$15. 4:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg, (718) 782– 3468], www.videology.info.



UNDER GOD'S WOOF: Pastor EJ Emerson blesses Molly the pitbull at the New Utrecht Reformed Church in Bensonhurst on Sept. 19.

# Photo by Arthur De Gaeta

# **Pastor blesses** four-legged pals

#### BY COLIN MIXSON

but a blessing here and there never hurt.

Bensonhurst's New Utrecht Reformed Church on 84th Street hosted a blessing of the animals on Sept. 19. where Pastor EJ Emmerson invoked the Holy Spirit to ensure that Kings County's four-legged tail waggers live long and happy lives.

"[Our congregants] love their pets so much that they wanted to go the extra mile to have them spiritually blessed in God's eyes," said Pastor Emmerson.

Before the blessing, the pastor gave a brief, pet-centric sermon in which she expounded on the ways in which the love and loyalty we receive from our pets echoes the affection that God holds for all mankind.

"It's so wonderful that our animals love us completely and unconditionally. They're forgiving when we forget them or hurt them without meaning to, and even when they come to play and we where we are."

say, 'go away, there's no time All dogs may go to Heaven, right now,' they come back," she said. "It's such a wonderful example and model of our relationship with God. We forget him sometimes, hurt him sometimes, but God always loves us and is always faithful."

> Saturday's blessing was mostly a dog show, although a few feline congregants were begrudgingly dragged to the sermon.

> In fact, one cat was so reluctant to travel, it had to be blessed by proxy. The kitty's owner wasn't able to fit her feline friend in her cat crate, so she asked to have the blessing conferred upon her, so she could go home and communicate it to her cat.

The pastor was happy to accommodate her and in a somewhat comical but entirely heartfelt scene, she blessed the cat owner as if she were the cat herself.

"I blessed the owner like I would the pet," said Pastor Emmerson. "God blesses from where he is, no matter

# It's on the Mark Former chairman new CB13 district manager



MAN OF THE HOUR: Eddie Mark, a former chairman of Community Board 13, has just been hired as its new district manager. File photo by Steve Solomonson

#### **BY ERIC FAYNBERG**

Community Board 13 finally has a new district manager.

More than eight months after the last district manager resigned, a selection committee for the board that represents Coney Island, Brighton Beach, Gravesend, and Seagate has hired Eddie Mark, a former CB13 chairman, to fill the position

Mark, a sign maker by trade who has lived in Coney Island for more than two decades, said he could hardly contain his excitement about the appointment, because he has big plans to modernize the board and its image.

"I definitely want to get us out there on social media and on the board's website," said Mark. "It's a changing environment. We want to get more young people involved, and people from different ethnic backgrounds. These are our future leaders.

Mark served as chairman for a pair of two-year terms between 2010 and 2014, and said he feels like he is volunteering in various community events "seven days a week." But he thinks he will be able to get more done through his new position — because now he is actually getting paid to do what he is passionate about.

"As a district manager, I have more connections with city agencies and local groups," Mark said. "I

son, but I was a volunteer. I had to go to work all day and then work on that. Now, being in a position where I can get paid to help this community, that's a great advantage for me."

Mark served as chairman during Superstorm Sandy, and believes that dealing with flood resiliency issues and ongoing struggles related to the Build It Back recovery program will be among his biggest challenges.

He also cited the proposed development at the Trump Village Shopping Center and the importance of dealing with the site's contaminated soil as concerns. But Mark said his biggest challenge will be making sure that each neighborhood within the community board's purview gets the equal attention it deserves.

The CB13 district manager position has been empty ever since Chuck Reichenthal retired on Jan. 1 — after 22 years in the job — because of a dispute over the handling of his accrued paid leave. Paying for Reichenthal's unused vacation days when he finally forced the board to delay hiring a replacement.

Mark's time as chairman coincided with the end of Reichenthal's tenure, and Reichenthal said he thinks Mark can do the job well, as long as he understands the toughest parts of the role.

had that access as chairper- and he takes in the advice of lots to do."

the right people, he can be a very good district manager,' said Reichenthal. "He needs to know he's dealing with a constantly shifting city bureaucracy. Nothing exists in a vacuum, and whenever you try to do something, you have to understand how it affects everyone else in the area."

The toughest part of the job for Reichenthal was that the city had practically forgotten that Coney Island existed, according to the former district manager, and that he had to work to repair political divisions in the community.

Mark said the community owed Reichenthal a lot for his decades of work, but he hopes to build on that success and start his own legacy rather than just follow in his predecessor's footsteps.

"I think it's big shoes to fill, but I hope I'll be making my own shoes to fill," said Mark. "It's good to know what happened before and appreciate it, because without him none of it would have been possible."

The gap between district managers has left the community board somewhat isolated from local government, according to Mark, and that is something he plans to work on as soon as he starts in a few weeks.

"We need to reconnect with these city agencies and community organizations," said Mark. "We've been on our own "I think if he works at it for a few months now. There is

COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25-OCT. 1, 2015 55

# BY GIVING JUST A FEW HOURS OF MY DAY I HELP CHILDREN PREPARE FOR A LIFETIME OF LEARNING BECAUSE I DON'T JUST WEAR THE SHIRT, I LIVE IT. GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER. LIVE UNITED\*

UNITH



Ruth Rusie is part of United Way's ongoing work to improve the education, income, and health of our communities. To find out how you can help create opportunities for a better life for all, visit **LIVEUNITED.ORG**.



# **Brooklyn's Biggest Booster** by Joanna DelBuono

# Here from the land Down Under

# **MARINE PARK**

Crikey mates! Australian Exchange students from St. Aidan's School in Brisbane were welcomed by their host families, staff and students at St. Edmund Preparatory High School with a breakfast at the school earlier this month.



Members of the student council including Alain Pasquis, president; Anthony Romano, veep; Kelli Diodato; Alissa Diodato; Matthew Cullen; Matthew Maniglia; and Jaida Alexander prepared a good ol' fashioned American breakfast, including bacon and eggs, to treat the students on their arrival.

The girls from the land Down Under, Lily Prowse, Gemma Kirkwood, and Harriet Sawyer will be staying here with host families in our fair berg until the first week in October when they return home.

While here, the girls will visit the United Nations, see a Broadway show, go shopping — is there anything better? - and go sightseeing to many New York landmarks, as well as enjoying the best Brooklyn hospitality there is.

Standing O says "G'day!" and hopes the girls have a *bonza* (good) time here.

St. Edmund Preparatory High School [2474 Ocean Ave. at Avenue T in Marine Park, (718) 743-6100].

# MIDWOOD

# Save the date

It's not too late! Registration is still open for the best thing to ever happen in Brooklyn. It's monumental, it's the greatest - it's the Midwood Fall Food tour on Oct. 18.

Have a stroll and a nosh with Ethno-foodie Rich Sanders on this culinary exploration of the neighborhood's markets and eateries.

The 90-minute walking tour, hosted by Midwood Development ticipants receive a shopping tote to fill



HERE'S TO YOU, SIS: Siblings Helen Guzzone, 100, and Anna Del Priore, 103, celebrated their same-day birthdays on Sept. 5. Photo by Georgine Benvenuto

# Never such devoted sisters

# **BOROUGH WIDE**

Helen Guzzone and Anna Del Priore share more than a set of parents and four siblings — they share the same birthday of Sept. 5. Helen celebrated 100 years young and Anna celebrated 103 years young. Who would have thunk it?

Helen's son Nick Guzzone hosted the party at Chadwick's Restaurant in Bay Ridge, where grandchildren Nicole Swenson, David Guzzone, Darlene Jasmine, Michael Maccaro, and Todd LaLima, along with great grandchildren and a host of friends gathered to honor the sisterly centenarians. The celebrating siblings, born and bred in Brooklyn, have not seen each other in quite some time, so Nick thought it would be really great for them to share this birthday together.

"I didn't make it a surprise," said Nick. "I didn't want to give them too much of a shock. Because of where they live, my mom, Helen in Ozanam Hall in Queens, and Aunt Anna, near granddaughter Darlene in New Jersey, they have not

seen each other for a long time, so it was really special for them to be together again and celebrate their birthdays."

Helen has two sons Nick and Paul, and Anna has four children Pablo, Maria, Ruth and Craig.

When Standing O asked Nick why his mom and aunt were so longlived, he said, "Neither my aunt nor mom ever drank and my aunt stayed away from dairy products. My mom exercised every day and did leg raises well into her 80s." Nick said. "When mom was on vacation in Rome, way back in the 70s, she happened to meet the sitting pope's doctor," he explained. "This doctor was an advocate for exercise and told my mother the importance of doing leg raises. She was a firm believer ever since," Nick said.

He added: "my mom still walks on her own and even though she has a walker, she rarely uses it. She sort of walks the walker," he ioked.

Standing O wishes Helen and Anna a very happy birthday and offers an Italian toast, C'ent anni.

Corporation, highlights some of the community's unique treasures.

It's just 15 buckaroos, and all par-

to the brim with goodies, and a copy of "The Food Lovers Guide to Midwood." And what a bargain it is!

Space is limited so get a move on.

BR



MIDWOOD

# L'chaim!

Three cheers and a huzzah to Fay Grits. The strong-as-grits centenarian-plus turned 103 wonderful years young on Sept. 14 and celebrated with cake, cards, and balloons at Ateret Avot Senior Home, where she has resided for the past 14 years. Born in Hungry in 1912, our gal Fay emigrated to the U.S.A. in the mid 1920s, according to Alan Magill, the home's director of recreation. She has one son, Harold, who lives out-of-state, and a host of grandchildren.

Fellow residents and friends Muriel Rubin and Sylvia Reiler, along with staff members Miryam Netanel, Badana Gertz. and Alan were all on hand for the festivities. "It was a great party," Magill said. "It energized us all."

Alan added, "I've known Fay ever since she arrived and I have to say, she is an inspiration to all of us.'

When asked to speak a few words on her important day, Fay said, "The love I get from all over, I wish that for all my friends. From the bottom of my heart you should reach my age and go above it."

Fay added, "I never thought I would reach this age, but I gotta tell you, it's great."

Standing O thinks it's great too!

In closing, Alan told Standing O, "Fay is one of a kind. She is not selfish and has the biggest heart. She is always thinking about the feelings of others. Recently when we were handing out awards, Fay said to me 'What about so-and-so, she deserves one too.' That is the type of giving person she is.'

Standing O wishes Fay many more happy birthdays and looks forward to visiting with her for her 104th.

Mazel tov!

Ateret Avot Senior Home [1410 E 10th St., between Avenues Mand N in Midwood, (718) 998–5400].

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# 'We are extremely motivated to win states.'

- Fontbonne volleyball's Emily Greenstein on her team's determination to win the state tournament after placing third last year

# 'We showed that we could fight back.'

- Poly Prep soccer's Dayo Adeosun on his team's late rally, which ultimately failed, against Riverdale

# FOUL CALL! Alums, students say St. Joseph's College dropped the ball in firing athletic director

**BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI** 

Long-serving St. Joseph's College coach and athletic directorFrank Carbone was abruptly fired from his position at the Clinton Hill school last week, leaving many alumni angry and petitioning for his return.

The news of the beloved coach's ouster came on Sept. 15 in a mass e-mail to students from assistant vice president and senior director of athletics Shantey Hill, who offered no explanation for the shocking move.

The school later issued a statement saying only that after a lengthy assessment it determined that the Bears' athletic programs needed new leadership, and thanked the longtime coach for his service.

"The decision to replace Mr. Frank Carbone as athletics director was not an easy one, and in no way diminishes the significant contributions he made to the College and its athletic programs in Brooklyn over the past 18 years," said school spokeswoman Jessica McAleer Decatur in a statement.

Carbone, a Greenpoint native, began coaching at the school in 1997 when he was hired to lead the women's basketball team. He was also the coach of the softball program that he started, as well as the tennis teams. Under his watch. the Bears' athletic program grew from three varsity sports to 13, and he was the driving force behind its attainment of full NCAA Division III membership in 2011. The Bears began competing in the Skyline conference this fall.

The court at the newly opened Hill Center - St. Jo-



BAD NEWS BEARS: Longtime St. Joseph's College athletic director Frank Carbone was abruptly fired last week with no explanation, leaving many alumni angry and confused.

File photo by Elizabeth Graham

ics venue for the men's and women's basketball and vollevball teams — is even named in Carbone's honor.

While the College has come a long way over the past few years with the creation of The Hill Center and admission into the Skyline Conference, we see [Carbone's replacement] as only a step toward continued growth, development and excellence," McAleer Decatur said.

Carbone gave up his coaching positions last month, saying he wanted to focus on his duties as athletic director. The school has already filled the basketball and tennis coaching positions.

Hill's e-mail said that associate athletic director Alex Winnicker, who was hired in June, will take over on an interim basis until further notice. The school has not posted the news on its athletics webseph's first on-campus athlet- site, but Carbone was removed

from the staff directory. Carbone has not responded

to requests for comment. The iconic and transformative coach is many loyal Bears' main connection to the school, and his unceremonious firing has clearly strained those bonds.

'It makes it very difficult now for us to want to support and represent the school we all loved," said Cassandra Molinari, a senior on last year's softball team. "Whenever you mentioned St. Joe's, you immediately thought of Frank Carbone, and now that he's not there, it'll never be the same."

More than 1.000 students and alumni have formed a Facebook group, "We Support & Love Frank Carbone" and flooded Hill and school president Dr. Jack Calareso with emails voicing their outrage and demanding Carbone's return.

"He has made such drastic and amazing changes to that program and had a beautiful facility built and they fire him," said Kristin Healy Haufmann, a 2006 graduate who was coached by Carbone in three sports. "I mean his name is on the court!"

Comedian Chris Distefano, a former men's hoops standout and star of MTV's Guy Code, said: "I think it's a travesty and he was always the best when I was there. Think people who fired him should realize that you want an AD who makes their job their life."

In an e-mail response to а post from former softball player Christina Quintana on the Facebook page, Calareso said he could not discus the details of a personal assessment that took place over the last year, but it was determined Continued on page 64



GETTING AHEAD: Poly Prep's Austin Sansone attempts to head the ball before Riverdale's goalie, Jeremy Kasdin, can get to it. Photo by Robert Cole

# Late Riverdale goal does in Poly Prep

# **BY JACLYN MARR**

A late goal by Riverdale freshman Julian Burden killed Poly Prep's hope of a comeback last Friday.

The tally in the 75th minute proved to be the winner for the host Falcons in a 2–1 victory in Ivy League boys' soccer on Sept. 18. The Blue Devils (2–1) finally broke through with a Ben Miles goal with about eight minutes left in the game. But Riverdale quickly responded with Burden's winning goal.

"We showed that we could come back from being down 1–0," said Poly co-captain Dayo Adeosun. "We showed that we could fight back."

Two minutes into the game, sophomore Drew Dworkin scored to give the Falcons a 1–0 lead. Poly Prep then saw a corner kick blocked by Riverdale senior Edward Her- a striker and he scored the mann. It was a back-and-forth

game after that.

Poly got a big save from goalkeeper Michael Wirtz on a shot by Dworkin in the 27th minute to help keep the Falcons, the defending NY-SAISAA champion, up just 1-0 at the half. Early after the break, Poly had a chance to tie it on a corner kick, but Jack Hurkman's shot went high before Miles finally got the equalizer.

The Falcons added 10 players this year, half of them freshmen, to replace the seniors lost to graduation. They are also preparing for the future, knowing that they are going to lose a lot of seniors after this season. One of the freshman, Burden, paid big dividends against Poly. He was brought up from the junior varsity for the game.

"We were able to bring up Continued on page 64

# Midwood holds off Utes to remain unbeaten

#### BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The Hornets continue to sting opponents.

Midwood picked up its third-straight win by holding off visiting New Utrecht 14– 12 in Public School Athletic League football last Saturday. It sets up one of the biggest games in recent years for Midwood (3–0) when it hosts Erasmus Hall at 4 pm on Sept. 26.

Darryl Robinson carried the ball three times for 86 yards — including a 54-yard touchdown in the third quarter that proved to be the winner. Carl Colas (91) and Matthew Boateng combined for 170 yards on the ground. Casey Boston completed five of eight passes for 72 yards and a touchdown pass to Silas Burch. Kevin Belgrave led New Utrecht (2–1) with 73 rushing yards and two scores on 14 carries.

**Grand Street 34, Kennedy 0:** Sharif Harris-Legree completed 12 of 17 passes for 205 yards and three touchdowns in his first game in a Grand Street (3–0) uniform. Rutgers-bound receiver Taysir Mack caught four passes for 104 yards and two touchdowns. Rahmel Ashby carried the ball 16 times for 155 yards and two scores. Angel Baez added a touchdown grab and Randy Lewis made 10 tackles.

**Tottenville 35, Abraham Lincoln 21:** Jordan compiled 245 yards of total offense and two scores for Abraham Lincoln (2–1), including a 16-yard touchdown pass to DeQuan Dunham. Kevin Medy had eight catches for 78 yards.

South Shore 32, New Dorp 6: Jason Martin ran for 115 yards and a touchdown and completed 12 of 14 passes for 253 yards, including touchdowns to Rahyeem Gardine and Willerm Greffin. Omar Jarrett carried the ball six times for 34 yards and two touchdowns for South Shore (3–0)

**Fort Hamilton 38, Canarsie 0:** Troy Booker rushed for 92 yards and three touchdowns on 13 carries for Fort Hamilton (2–1). Seba Nekhet carried the ball three times for 132 yards and a score. Jayson Magnani recovered a fumble for a touchdown. Russell Bourne made six tackles, recovered a fumble and intercepted a pass.

PolyPrep14,Peddie106 yards and a score and Amoron the ground. JosSchool 9:Fara'ad McCombsMcCoy chipped in a rushingmade eight tackles.62COURIER LIFE, SEPT. 25,- OCT. 1, 2015MBRBG



MR. ROBINSON: Midwood's Darryl Robinson rushed for 86 yards and a touchdown. Photo by Steven Scnibbe

had three catches for 48 yards and touchdown from Salim Turner-Muhammad for Poly Prep (2–0). Tegha Egbiri carried the ball 10 times for 52 yards and Ray Marten added a one-yard score. Abdoulaye Konate made seven tackles and collected two interceptions and Elias Reynolds (seven tackles) recovered a blocked kick.

James Madison 38, Petrides 8: Shamar Logan posted 235 yards of total offense and four touchdowns, including three on the ground for James Madison (2–1). Keenan Sylvester carried the ball nine times for 171 yards and two touchdowns and caught a 37yard touchdown pass. Naahman Gumbs rushed for 130 yards on seven carries. Jamal Clark made 10 tackles.

**Bayside 26, Franklin Roosevelt 20:** Nadir Hassan compiled 224 yards of total offense and a touchdown pass to Re John Williams (three catches, 89 yards) for FDR (2– 1). Rashaun Coleman rushed for 125 yards and a touchdown on 10 carries.

**Tilden 20, Sheepshead Bay** 14: Jordan Woodard threw a 25yard touchdown pass to Juan Garcia and Avery McAlpin-Wilson added a score on the ground for Tilden (3–0). Kyle Sutton carried the ball nine times for 130 yards. Shavon Clarke ran for 106 yards and a score and Amor McCoy chipped in a rushing touchdown for Sheepshead Bay (1–2).

**Eagle Academy II 38, Eagle Academy III 0:** Ramell Redd carried the ball 12 times for 173 yards and three touchdowns for Eagle Academy II (3–0). Du Sean Barnett completed three of seven passes for 78 yards and a touchdown to Marcus Martial Jr.

**St. Joseph by the Sea 32, Xaverian 8:** Brandon Peterson rushed for 106 yards on 24 carries for Xaverian (1–1). Phil DePaulis added a rushing score.

**Port Richmond 32, Brooklyn Tech 12:** Adeola Oni carried the ball four times for 132 yards and two touchdowns for Brooklyn Tech (1–2).

**Grady 40, Automotive 14:** Maxene Jeudy complied 121 yards of total offense and three touchdowns for Grady (2–1). Rohan Matthews and Everett Darlington combined for 266 yards rushing and a touchdown each on the ground. Jashawn Joyner went five-for-15 passes for 107 yards and a 25-yard touchdown to Jawaun Dominick for Automotive (0–3). Jamal Martin chipped in a rushing score.

Lafayette 28, Mott Haven 20: Isaiah Barnaby carried the ball 19 times for 141 yards and two touchdowns for Lafayette (1–2). Marcus Vernet and Jordan Love each added scores on the ground. Joshua Joseph made eight tackles.

# Bonnies adjust to championship win pressure

ontbonne Hall is still getting used to life at the top.

Gone are the days of the Bonnies chasing the Brooklyn-Queens girls' volleyball league's juggernaut St. Francis Prep.

The Bay Ridge school beat the Terriers in three of its four meetings last year and ended the Queens school's seven-year reign as regular season and diocesan champions.

Fontbonne easily beat the rebuilding Terriers again in straight sets last Wednesday.

Fontbonne coach Linda Strong remembers how programs around the league were excited just to take a set off of the league's top dogs.

That type of satisfaction now applied to opponents of her team.

"We use to say Prep is the bull's-eye and everybody wants Prep," Strong said. "Now everybody wants us. They want to beat us, so they can say 'we beat Fontbonne.'"

The Bonnies only lost one starter from last season's team that finished third in the Catholic state tournament. While experience is great, Strong understands the need to keep her kids from putting too much pressure on themselves to live up to the high expectations they have. The players know the stakes as well.

"I think there is a little more pressure," said Francesca Castellano, a Molloy College-bound outside hitter. "Everyone is looking at us now. We have to get it because we made it last year, and I think everyone expects us to make it again."

The Bonnies certainly have the tools, with one of the city's best hitting duos in Castellano and fellow senior Emily Greenstein. Juliana DiSilvia and sophomore Katie McDonough are at middle hitter and Gab Breen and Bryn Nagel share the setting duties.



# **JOE KNOWS** by Joe Staszewski

Caroline Good and Christina Villarin also return.

Another diocesan title is there for taking — as well as a run for a state crown.

"I feel like we have eyes watching us now," Greenstein said. "For the most part now I think we will be fine. We have been playing pretty well."

It will come down to how the Bonnies handle all that comes with being on top of the mountain with everyone trying to knock you off. Strong has booked the team in a number of tournaments to keep them playing against some of the top teams New York City and Long Island have to offer. But she said her players have to have faith in each other to meet the challenge.

"They have to trust each other," Strong said.

And not just trust each other, but trust the team's talent as whole, something Strong felt they didn't do at states last season. One of the reasons that dynasties and repeats happen is because that team believes without a shadow of a doubt that it is going to win while its opponent just isn't quite sure it can measure up.

Fontbonne knows what the other side of that feels like all too well. It knows the expectations it carries now. It should embrace them and let the talent do the rest.

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AXED: St. Joseph's College Athletic Director Frank Carbone, seen here coaching softball, was fired as athletic director last week.

# **CARBONE**

#### Continued from page 61

that moving the athletics program to full Division III activity and into the Skyline conference required new leadership. He said he has heard the alumni's concerns and is working on a resolution to the issue. Calareso, who took over in July 2014, is the first non-religious leader of the Catholic college since its founding in 1916.

The outpouring of support does appear to have the school rethinking it decision to remove Carbone from a role with the school all together. McAleer Decatur said that Calareso has attempted to reach out to Carbone to

St. Joseph's College Athletics

talk. No discussions have yet taken place and she said no decision can be made on whether or not Carbrone will return in a different capacity until the two talk.

Carbone's former players are optimistic he will return.

"I hope that after the president of St. Joseph's sees how many lives Frank has touched and impacted, he will realize that he made a mistake," said former basketball player Stephanie Quick. "So I'm very hopeful that Frank will be brought back."



**COMING THROUGH:** Poly Prep's Jake Barry dribbles past Riverdale's Casey Schnell. Photo by Robert Cole

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# **Switched hitter**

# Greenstein adapting to position change

# **BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI**

Emily Greenstein has been a middle hitter since she was 11 years old, and always wondered what life on the outside was like.

Fontbonne Hall coach Linda Strong played her there sparingly last season as the Bonnies won the school's first Brooklyn-Queens diocesan girls' volleyball title, but she was mainly a middle hitter out of necessity.

"There was just this lack of middles on the team," Greenstein said. "I was the middle for the sake of there not being one."

That has changed this season as Fontbonne looks to repeat. Strong decided when last season ended that she would move Greenstein exclusively to outside hitter — both for the betterment of the team, and to increase the attention the senior is getting from college coaches.

The transition is off to a good start after Greenstein turned in a good performance in Fontbonne's, 25-9, 25-15, 25-7, victory over host St. Francis Prep in its league opener on Wednesday. But there is still work to do.

"I wouldn't say easy," Greenstein said. "I'm still working and transitioning to a new position. I need a little bit of work, but I think I am solid so far."

The biggest adjustment is learning to be more patient at the net, waiting for the ball to come her way instead of going after it as aggressively as she used to. Greenstein is also learning the position while getting used to two different setters in seniors Bryn Nagel and Gab Breen, who each have their own style.

"She knows that Bryn is going to get her higher and towards the net," Strong said. "When Gabby is setting her, Gabby is going to come off the net. It is that transition. She wants them both to set her the same, but it's not going to."



OUTSIDER: Fontbonne's Emily Greenstein is moving from middle hitter to outside as the Bonnies bid for a state title. Photo by Robert Cole

Greenstein's teammates also had to adjust to playing with her a different spot. Her responsibilities have changed and they have to get her the ball in a different spot on the court since sophomore Katie McDonough and Juliana DiSilvia replaced her in the middle. Having Greenstein on the outside long with fellow captain Francesco Castellano creates new problems for opponents.

"It has been hard because she has been playing middle for so long, but I think it is a good transition," Castellano said. "I'm an outside too so we

have two solid hitters on the outside."

Fontbonne hopes the switch enhances its chances at winning another diocesan title and making a push for a state crown. The Bonnies finished third last year and felt the team could have given more.

"At states we did not show our true selves," Strong said. "They were upset with themselves not doing well at states." It left them hungry to erase

that feeling.

"We are extremely motivated to win states," Greenstein said. "Definitely the primary goal of the team."

# **POLY PREP**

Continued from page 61

game winner," Riverdale coach Andrew Fitzgerald said. "It's pretty unheard of."

the team with seven attempts in the game, including a combined effort with Adeosun in the second half that was blocked by Riverdale senior Sam Barovick. Adeosun had two additional shots of his Poly senior co-captain own and a crucial block on Austin Sansone helped lead a Riverdale corner kick. Co- the championship."

captain Jake Barry also had two shots in the game.

Despite a tough defeat, Poly played right with one of the league's best teams. The seniors still have high hopes for this year.

"This is our last season," Barry said. "We're winning





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