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CNG

TEEN KILLED ON BIKE

Driver collides with 14-year-old cyclist in high-speed Fifth Avenue crash

BY COLIN MIXSON

A motorist struck and killed a 14-year-old boy as he rode his bike in Greenwood Heights on Nov. 25, police said.

Edwin Ajacalon was crossing Fifth Avenue along 23rd Street at 6 pm, when the driver of a gray sedan collided with him as he traveled towards Sunset Park, according to cops.

A surveillance camera mounted outside a Fifth Avenue eatery recorded the lethal impact, and shows the motorist's vehicle cruising at a high speed before hitting and dragging the boy down the block towards 24th Street.

Paramedics who arrived at the scene found the teen unconscious, and rushed him to Methodist Hospital on Seventh Avenue, where he was pronounced dead, according to authorities.

The force of the crash tore Ajacalon's battery-powered bike in half, the scattered pieces of which were found strewn



STRUCK DEAD: A driver struck and killed a 14-year-old boy riding his bike in Park Slope last Saturday night.

Photo by Paul Martinka

Continued on page 21

Pol flips stance on armory

C'Heights Councilwoman now calls changes to development scheme 'revolutionary'

BY COLIN MIXSON

It's an armory armistice.

A Crown Heights pol who for months opposed the city's plan to redevelop the nabe's Bedford-Union Armory announced newfound support for the scheme at a Nov. 21 Council hearing, after officials and developers agreed to axe luxury condos and include more affordable housing in the proposal to earn her endorsement.

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Crown Heights) declared her change of heart in front of colleagues on a Council subcommittee, describing the revised plan for the military structure at 1579 Bedford Ave. as a historic victory for local residents before the legislators voted

unanimously to approve it.

"This is revolutionary in the sense we have not seen this level of affordable housing come to the Crown Heights community in decades," she proclaimed at a meeting of the Council Subcommittee on Planning, Dispositions, and Concessions.

The new version of the scheme does not include 48 swanky condominiums, which the head of the city's Economic Development Corporation told Council members on Nov. 14 were necessary to fund the plan's proposed affordable housing and a new community center that developer BFC Partners is required to construct as part of the deal in exchange for a 99-year lease on the publicly owned armory.

The city and developer also agreed to expand the project's so-called affordable housing component from 166 to 250 units, and reduced the prices of those apartments — which originally ran as high as around \$2,300 per month — to between approximately \$640 and \$1,280 per month.

But BFC Partners will still be allowed to build 149 market-rate rentals on the site as part of the revised proposal.

Following the subcommittee's vote, members of the Council's Committee on Land Use also approved the project.

The results of a Nov. 30 full Council vote on the plan — its final hurdle in a months-long ap-

Continued on page 21



First tree lighting!

John Soster and Susan Russell Smith toted their son Will to Park Slope's Nov. 25 tree lighting to kick-off the holiday season. For more, **see page 2.** Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Slope gets lit for season

Thousands gather on Fifth Avenue for neighborhood's tree-lighting

BY COLIN MIXSON

It was a pine way to spend an evening.

A massive crowd gathered on Fifth Avenue to inaugurate this year's holiday season with a tree-lighting ceremony just two days after Thanksgiving, but folks were more than happy to forget about their in-laws and embrace their extended Park Slope family, according to one local.

"It was a very sweet and wonderful outpouring of community," said Park Slope resident Susan Fox, who dressed as a snow lady for the Nov. 25 event. "Anybody that was there could feel they were part of something beyond just their family, which is sometimes the focus of Thanksgiving."

About 1,500 people turned out by the time organizers flipped the switch on the 22-foot pine at around 6:40 pm, which the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District had shipped fresh from Vermont to J.J. Byrne Park near Fourth Street in order to ring in the holidays, according to Mark Caserta, who heads the business-advocacy group.

Leading up to the lighting, locals were treated to farm fresh apple cider — and apple-cider donuts — courtesy of Down to Earth Markets, which will return to the green space on Sundays through Dec. 24 to hawk produce culled from nearby farms.

Bubble Dad — a Park Slope guy who entertains at kids' parties by blowing really big bubbles — brought his act to the bash, along with the team from Puppetry Arts, a local theater company that produced a holiday-themed show featuring its number-one star, Tuffy Tiger.

Musical acts included the Urban Choir Project, which sang Christmas songs and — to shake things up — the Foo Fighters' tune "Learn to Fly," along with some famed chil-



HO, HO, HO!: (Top) Santa Claus and one of his elves made the trip down from the North Pole to ring in the holidays at Park Slope's tree-lighting ceremony on Nov. 25. Some 1,500 people gathered along Fifth Avenue (bottom left) to watch the event's organizers flip the switch on a 22-foot pine (bottom right) that was shipped in from Vermont for the occasion.

Photos by Stefano Giovannini

dren's music songwriters from the neighborhood, including Emilia Robinson, Suzi Shelton, and Katie Ha Ha Ha, who played for the crowd.

And of course Santa showed up along with one of his elven helpers, and the pair greeted kids in the first of numerous appearances the North

Pole residents are expected to make in the nabe from now until Christmas.

The business improvement district's honchos organized the event to coincide with Small Business Saturday — a holiday invented by American Express in 2010 — in order to promote the commercial

thoroughfare's more than 500 mom-and-pop shops, although scheduling the tree lighting in tandem with the credit-card company's gimmick came with another added benefit, Caserta said.

"It's basically the first tree lighting in the city," the business advocate said.



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HOW TO REACH US

Mail:
 Courier Life Publications, Inc.,
 1 Metrotech Center North
 10th Floor, Brooklyn,
 N.Y. 11201

General Phone:
 (718) 260-2500

News Fax:
 (718) 260-2592

News E-Mail:
 editorial@cnglocal.com

Display Ad Phone:
 (718) 260-8302

Display Ad E-Mail:
 jstern@cnglocal.com

Display Ad Fax:
 (718) 260-2579

Classified Phone:
 (718) 260-2555

Classified Fax:
 (718) 260-2549

Classified E-Mail:
 classified@cnglocal.com



CEO: Les Goodstein
PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER: Jennifer Goodstein

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IN OTHER NEWS: Entrepreneur Cosmo Lee is offering journalists space at his co-working business, Park Slope Desk, for \$1 per month in response to sweeping layoffs that left reporters at Gothamist and DNA Info looking for jobs — and a place to work. Community News Group / Colin Mixson

A new home for local journalists

Slope co-working space's honcho offers one-buck desks

BY COLIN MIXSON

Now all they need is a job!

The owner of a Park Slope co-working facility is providing shelter for journalists once employed by this newspaper's competitors for the price of a \$1-per-month subscription fee from now until the end of March.

The bargain-basement rate is being marketed to former employees of Gothamist and DNA Info — whom billionaire Joe Ricketts fired earlier this month following their vote to unionize — but the shared-office space's proprietor described the deal as benefitting all local reporters.

"Whether they're covering holiday festivities or breaking news about local crime or construction, it would make me happy to help journalists get the story out," said Cosmo Lee, the self-described "chief co-worker" at Park Slope Desk at 501 11th St. between Seventh

and Eighth avenues.

Journalists who cash in on the offer receive desk space and use of the facility's conference room — perks that otherwise go for between \$100 and \$350 a month — and also have access to amenities that include high-speed Internet, "ergonomic" chairs, and printing, scanning, and laminating services, according to Lee.

More importantly, however, the entrepreneur said the professional atmosphere at his venue offers workers an oasis of calm from the nuisances that can plague coffee-shop and at-home reporting.

"Like our members, journalists need a place to focus," he said. "Their apartments are full of distractions, and cafes on their beat are too noisy for them to work effectively."

Gothamist employees generally crafted their sometimes snarky posts from desks at the company's Manhattan office,

but DNA Info's journalists typically worked in the field, according to the website's former Park Slope reporter — an alum of this newspaper — who said the real problem with writing in coffee shops was not the hustle and bustle, but the readily available supply of java.

"The noise didn't bother me," said Caroline Spivack, "But I would feel hopped up on caffeine going between cafes."

But Spivack, who lives in Bay Ridge, said she probably won't take Lee up on his offer because of the distance between his facility and her home.

The newswoman appreciated his act of kindness nonetheless, however, noting how fellow reporters who live closer to Park Slope could benefit from the invitation.

"It's a nice gesture," she said. "I think it's good for people in the area."

It's a Greene Apple!

Tech giant's second 'Store' opens in boro

BY JULIANNE CUBA

It's finally ready for a byte!

The long-awaited Apple Store in Fort Greene will have its grand opening this Saturday. The high-end technology giant's shop on the bottom floor of the luxury 300 Ashland tower is now the second in the borough — the first opened on Bedford Avenue in Williamsburg last summer.

Rumors of an Apple Store moving into America's Downtown had been ripening for years, back when former Beep Marty Markowitz penned an electronic missive to the firm's late founder Steve Jobs on his fancy iPad asking him to open an outpost of the California-based company in Kings County in 2010. The first — as this newspaper brilliantly predicted in 2012 — moved into Williamsburg in July 2016, and then in November 2016, Apple honchos signed a 10-year lease for space in developer Two Trees 32-story high-rise, ac-



BAM! The new Apple Store occupies retail space a high-rise adjacent to BAM. Two Trees

ording to the Real Deal.

The Flatbush Avenue store will join a mini Whole Foods Market that's set to open in 2018, a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, a home for the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, a Brooklyn Academy of Music cinema, and 379 apartments in the tower near Ashland Place and Lafayette Avenue.

Apple Downtown Brooklyn (123 Flatbush Avenue near Hanson Place in Fort Greene). Grand opening Dec. 2 at 10 am.



OPEN FOR BUSINESS: The futuristic Flatbush Avenue outpost follows the 2016 arrival of Apple's first Brooklyn store in Williamsburg.

Photo by Caleb Caldwell

Man touches himself in front of barista before trying to rob café

BY ANTHONY ROTUNNO

Some creep tried to rob a Greenpoint coffee stand after pleasuring himself in front of a female barista on Nov. 21, cops said.

The skeezy suspect approached the java counter at The Lot Radio headquarters

on Nassau Avenue between Banker and N. 15th streets around 10:50 am, where he stood outside and masturbated while staring at the 20-year-old employee through a window, according to a report.

The worker then sought shelter in a back room of the

facility, police said, and the lowlife walked into the building and attempted to open the cash register, but he fled the scene after two employees entered the room and caught him in the act.

Authorities described the suspect as sporting a beard,



THE WRONG TOUCH: The suspect.

and said he was last seen wearing a black jacket with red stripes on its arms.

Anyone with information regarding the incident is asked to call Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-8477. The public can also text tips to 274637 (CRIMES), using TIP577 in the message.

Monument mayhem!

Locals spar over Columbus effigies at hearing on boro statues

BY ADAM LUCENTE

It was a Columbus kerfuffle!

The city must tear down all statues of Christopher Columbus because the Italian explorer is not an American hero but a brutal colonizer who showed little regard for native life, some residents demanded at a Nov. 21 public hearing on city monuments at Borough Hall, where one outdoor effigy of the voyager stands nearby a park bearing his name.

"The Columbus discovery narrative is an objective lie. If you come up here defending the lie, you either did not do your homework or you truly do not care — and I hope to God for the love of all black and brown people it's the first one," said Glenn Cantave, the head honcho of Movers and Shakers NYC, a group advocating for the removal of all of the explorer's likenesses from the city. "Italians, you have every right to celebrate your heritage, but not at the expense of black and brown lives."

Around 100 people packed into a meeting room for the

hearing held by officials from the Mayoral Advisory Commission on City Art, Monuments, and Markers, which Mayor DeBlasio created after the fatal August riots in Charlottesville, Va. over the removal a statue of Confederate General Robert E. Lee from a local park.

The agency is charged with proposing guidelines for how to deal with effigies on municipal property not consistent with the city's values, according to the Department of Cultural Affairs's head Tom Finkelpearl, who oversees it.

There are four Columbus statues across the city in addition to the one in Borough Hall plaza, including two on the distant isle of Manhattan and one in each of the outer boroughs of the Bronx and Queens, according to the Department of Parks and Recreation's monument catalogue.

And they all should go, said another opponent, who likened the explorer to a murderer.

"He would kill indigenous people in the dozens," said Wil-

liamsburg resident Javier Enriquez. "We keep saying he is not perfect — he is extremely far from perfect."

Other attendees preached a more measured approach to dealing with the statues, however, acknowledging that Columbus had his problems but that he also achieved great things, some of which deserve to be commemorated.

"The pain that has surfaced in this area has to be addressed, but it doesn't have to be addressed by removing statues," said native Brooklynite Dianne Stillman. "This is what he was about primarily: exploration and never giving up. He was a skilled navigator who started sailing at 10 on commercial vessels."

And some supporters of the adventurer rebuked the accusations that he is a stain on Italian culture, arguing that many locals with roots in the European country still revere its native son.

"Christopher Columbus was of Italian descent, and as such there is a significant cul-



HERO OR VILLAIN?: A statue of Christopher Columbus in front of the Kings County Surrogates Court in Borough Hall plaza.

Photo by Adam Lucente

tural element of importance to New York City, as well as its Italian-American citizens," said Steven Bamundo, a member of the Italian-heritage legal organization, Columbian Lawyers Association of Brooklyn and Staten Island.

Officials on Hizzoner's statues commission, who are holding similar hearings in each borough, will conclude their review of city monuments on Dec. 7, according to a rep from the mayor's office, who said the survey's findings will be revealed later that month.

Any structures that agency officials deem worthy of more debate will then be discussed by local community boards

and the city's Public Design Commission, which has the final say on whether they should be changed or replaced, according to Finkelpearl.

Memorials of Columbus aren't the borough's only controversial monuments. In August, leaders at a Bay Ridge church removed a plaque commemorating a tree that General Lee planted there when he was stationed at nearby Fort Hamilton army base — the site of streets also named for the Confederate leader and his contemporary General Stonewall Jackson, which a Brooklyn congresswoman unsuccessfully petitioned the U.S. Army to change earlier this year.

But whatever is decided, tearing down statues will not rewrite history, according to a hearing attendee, who argued that all memorials should remain because they serve as powerful reminders of the past — whether good or bad.

"Regardless of what has happened, we can't change it," said South Dakota native and member of the Native American Sioux Nation Cheryl Dupris while fighting back tears. "I love the statues because I can walk by that man who did what he did in the past, and I can educate friends."

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WHO'S IN CHARGE?: A new request for proposal to develop a site within Brooklyn Bridge Park originally listed a state agency as in charge of the project's environmental review — not the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, which meadow attorneys told a judge had the authority over that term of development at Pier 6. Oliver's Realty Group

BUTTING HEADS

Critics: Park flip-flop on leadership discredits Pier 6 case

BY JULIANNE CUBA

They've got an authority problem.

Brooklyn Bridge Park bigwigs are flip-flopping on which government agency is responsible for mandating terms of development within the green space, discrediting one of their main arguments in the legal battle over two controversial towers planned for Pier 6, according to opponents of the high-rises.

Lawyers for the park and the towers' developer argued repeatedly that the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation — a semi-private group that oversees the lawn in conjunction with the city — was in charge of green-lighting the project, not the state-run Empire State Development Corporation, claiming the settlement terms of a 2015 lawsuit only required the group to "seek" the state agency's approval for the scheme, not actually get it.

But a September request for proposal that meadow honchos issued for another development inside it listed the Empire State Development Corporation as the project's lead agency — a designation that park leaders later changed to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, which implied they were blowing smoke the whole time, according to critics.

"The park has an incredible record of lying, just out and out lies," said Judi Francis, president of Brooklyn Bridge Park Defense Fund. "You can't keep changing the rules in the middle of the case."

One of the main unanswered questions in the ongoing suit is whether a new environmental study should have been required before the development project began — a decision that falls to the lead agency — because the previous one happened in 2005.

The meadow's attorneys claimed its honchos were in charge, giving them the authority to decide a second review wasn't necessary, a point they argued tirelessly in their final appearances before Justice Carmen Victoria St. George, who will now decide the towers' fate.

"There was no legal basis for ESD

to act as the lead agency when this project was approved," said David Paget during the last day of testimony on Nov. 15. "The law could not be more plain and clear, ESD was not the lead agency, Brooklyn Bridge Park was the lead agency."

But opponents and the lawyer representing civic group the Brooklyn Heights Association, which filed suit against the Pier 6 high-rises in 2016, contended that decision fell to the state, which should have conducted a second survey because the area changed so much over those 11 years.

And the green-space honchos' recent request for proposal to develop a three-story Furman Street building within the meadow corroborates that argument because it named the state's development corporation as the agency in charge — and is akin to a smoking gun, according to a legal eagle following the case, who noted that all development in Brooklyn Bridge Park is subject to the same rules set forth in its 2006 operating agreement, the General Park Plan.

Two days after the attorney representing the Heights Association pointed out the contradiction before the judge, park officials changed the lead agency on the Furman Street request for proposal to the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, which supports the crux of their case for building the high-rises.

"That description was in error. As the sole agency with discretionary authority over the 334 Furman Street project, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation, not the ESD, is the lead agency for that project's environmental review," Paget, the park's lawyer, wrote in a Nov. 17 letter to St. George that was shared with this newspaper.

Meadow honchos claimed the edit was merely due to a typo that was quickly corrected, according to a park spokeswoman.

"The original RFP had a simple error and when it was brought to our attention, it was corrected," said Sarah Krauss. "RFP respondents were then notified of the change."

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Locals: So much for preservation

Residents blast landmarks agency for okaying Ft. Greene Park plan with 'meaningless' changes

BY JULIANNE CUBA

They Greene-lit the project and locals are seeing red!

Some Fort Greeners are fuming after the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission voted on Nov. 21 to approve a controversial redesign of one entrance to the neighborhood's eponymous park, arguing the plan barely changed after landmarks honchos criticized its disregard for the meadow's creators' vision and told Department of Parks and Recreation officials to take it back to the drawing board months ago.

"It's a tragedy," said Enid Braun, who lives nearby Fort Greene Park. "They pretty much doubled down on their original design and provided more historical arguments for why it's appropriate, which we completely disagree with."

Commission members — who must approve the \$10.5-million project because the meadow sits within the nabe's historic district — tabled their September vote on

it, instead asking parks honchos to rethink their plan that proposes transforming the green space's entry at Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street into a grand corner entrance leading to the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument by leveling some hilly mounds near that corner of the lawn, chopping down trees, and creating a wider, paved walkway to the memorial.

Changes in the new plan, which landmarks honchos unanimously voted to approve, included slightly downsizing the pedestrian pathway, putting in more plants — including a peculiar 17-percent increase in shrubbery, and creating a smaller entrance with rounded Belgian-block corners to make the park more welcoming, which green-space honchos claim is their main goal for the project.

But critics of the redesign, who objected to replacing the grassy mounds with the walkway, removing trees, and moving the entry to a corner of the



SAME OLD PLAN: Locals Ling Hsu, left, and Enid Braun claim the revised Fort Greene Park redesign that the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission approved on Nov. 21 hardly differs from the original proposal the agency rejected in September. Photo by Caleb Caldwell

meadow, blasted its revisions, claiming neither the parks department nor the commission took their objections to heart proposing and approving them.

"They are meaningless — one was 17 percent more plantings, which is just flowers, that's not trees," said Michael Gruen, an attorney representing Friends of Fort Greene Park, a group that opposes the project. "I don't think that anything was done since September that added to the at-

tractiveness of the design. This park will be ugly compared to what it is today."

The landmarks agency's vote followed that of Community Board 2, which approved the redesign in September after months of debate over whether it catered more to gentrifiers or longtime locals who often visit the meadow.

But some opponents are not giving up their fight against the project, according to the lawyer, who said he and fellow critics are considering

how they might halt it after the landmarks commission blocked their attempt to delay the makeover by demanding an environmental study on the impacts of its provision to cut down healthy trees.

"We have to consider the options available," said Gruen, who is also the president of the City Club of New York, another group advocating against the redesign. "There are definitely possibilities, and like any party who just failed, we will typically spend a few days thinking about it."

The Fort Greene Park overhaul also calls for installing a water feature, resurfacing the meadow's basketball courts, repairing sidewalks, adding more lighting, and expanding the barbecue-pit area.

Construction is expected to begin in 2019, according to a parks department rep, who said work will take place in phases in order to keep the Myrtle Avenue entrance open to park-goers throughout the process.

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88TH PRECINCT

FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

Eatery invader

Police cuffed a guy for breaking into a DeKalb Avenue restaurant on Nov. 25.

Police found the 24-year-old suspect hiding in the meat refrigerator inside the eatery between Adelphi Street and Clermont Avenue around 5:30 am with burglar's tools and receipts from the restaurant in his pants pocket. Earlier that night, the same suspect broke into a closed restaurant on Lafayette Avenue between Adelphi Street and Clermont Avenue just after midnight and swiped cash and an iPad, cops said.

Package theft

A trio of nogoodniks broke into a Washington Avenue apartment and swiped several packages on Nov. 25, police said.

The three baddies used a tire iron to break into the apartment between Gates Avenue and Fulton Street around 5 am and ran off with the packages, authorities said.

Bling grab

Some sneak broke into a woman's Clifton Place apartment and swiped her jewelry while she was away from Nov. 22 through Nov. 26, authorities said.

The 27-year-old woman told police when she returned to her home between Grand and Classon avenues after Thanksgiving she noticed the rear window was broken and that her two gold rings and three pairs of earrings worth a total of \$820 were gone. And the malefactor left blood on a bag in her lingerie drawer, officials said.

Tool-ish move

A goniff stole a bunch of tools from a Fleet Place construction site sometime overnight on Nov. 17, cops said.

The victim told police that he left the location near Myrtle Avenue at night and when he returned the next morning around 9 am, he realized the sneak stole a circular saw, an impact gun, a Dewalt laser, and two batteries worth \$1,570 from two locked boxes at the site, cops said.

Subway snatch

A goon grabbed a woman's purse as she was heading to the subway on Fulton Street on Nov. 21, police said.

The 50-year-old victim told cops she was walking down the stairs to board a Euclid Avenue-bound C train near Washington Avenue when the creep approached her from behind around 1 pm and snatched her purse from her arm. The villain ran off with her bag containing lipstick, her social security card, and



POLICE BLOTTER

some medication, all worth a total of \$105, authorities said.

Cycle steal

Some jerk stole a guy's motorcycle parked on Clinton Avenue sometime overnight on Nov. 20, police said.

The 28-year-old parked his 1994 Honda two-wheeler between Gates Avenue and Fulton Street at 9 pm, and when he went to pick it up the next morning around 10 am, it was gone, cops said.

76TH PRECINCT

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL-RED HOOK

Purse pilfer

A punk threatened to kill a guy before stealing thousands of dollars worth of bags from his home-goods store on Warren Street on Nov. 26, police said.

The 60-year-old victim told cops the lout came into the shop between Court and Smith streets around 10:30 am and said, "You know I will kill you right now." He then ran off with five handbags worth a total of \$3,000, authorities said.

Battered up

Cops are looking for a goon who swung a bat at a guy on Columbia Street on Nov. 26, police said.

The 27-year-old victim told authorities he and the snake got into an argument near Bush Street around 5 am, when the villain struck him in the arm with a wooden baseball bat, leaving a cut and welt. The victim said he knows the attacker from around the neighborhood, officials said.

Thanks for nothing!

Cops cuffed a guy for swiping a handful of energy drinks from a store on Smith Street on Nov. 23.

The 53-year-old suspect took \$66 worth of the caffeinated drinks off the shelves of the store between Union and President streets on Thanksgiving day at 9:40 pm, but police caught him in the act and arrested him.

She fought, and won

A baddie tried to grab a woman's purse on Kane Street on Nov. 23, police said.

The victim told officials that the malefactor approached her from

behind between Henry and Clinton streets around 10 pm and tried to snatch her bag, but the woman fought back and the good-for-nothing ran off empty-handed.

— *Julianne Cuba*

84TH PRECINCT

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DUMBO-BOERUM HILL-DOWNTOWN

Dance off

A sticky-fingered jitterbug snatched a cellphone from a strap-hanger after finishing his dance routine aboard an A train at Jay Street on Nov. 13.

The victim told police he was aboard the subway as it pulled into the station near Willoughby Street at around 4 pm, when the crook, who was dancing for cash aboard the Manhattan-bound train, suddenly snatched his cell and waltzed away towards parts unknown.

Cash bag

Someone stole a man's bag containing more than \$4,000 that he left unguarded inside a Fulton Street department store on Nov. 24.

The victim told police he forgot the bag inside a changing room within the big-box store between Smith and Hoyt streets at 1:44 pm, and rushed back about five minutes later after realizing it was missing, only to find his satchel and the huge sum of cash it held were gone.

Four-wheeled crook

A thief stole two bikes a man left locked on DeKalb Avenue on Nov. 20, cops said.

The victim told police he chained his rides to a rack near Flatbush Avenue Extension at 12:45 pm, and returned later to find the bicycles — together worth nearly \$1,700, he said — were stolen.

Tee'd off

Cops busted a shoplifter who allegedly fought his way out of an Albee Square West department store with \$20 worth of shirts on Nov. 22.

An employee told authorities he was inside the store near Willoughby Street at 2:22 pm, when he spotted the suspect walk past the register with a \$20 package of undershirts and tried to stop him. But in lieu of handing over the shirts, the suspect grabbed the worker by the throat and attempted to force his way out of

the store. He didn't get far, however, and police booked him on a robbery charge later that day.

Bad call

A thief beat a woman before stealing her cellphone on Fourth Avenue on Nov. 25.

The victim told police she was smoking a cigarette and looking at her phone near St. Marks Place at 12:58 am, when the goon suddenly punched her in the face and ran off with her device. — *Colin Mixson*

68TH PRECINCT

BAY RIDGE-DYKER HEIGHTS

It's Audi there!

An opportunistic thief stole a 2018 Audi Q7 valued at \$55,670 from the parking lot of its 65th Street dealership some time between Nov. 10 and Nov. 20, according to police.

An employee left the unlocked car with the keys in the ignition in the dealership's lot Sixth and Seventh avenues at noon on Nov. 10, and by 3 pm on Nov. 20, he realized the car was gone, officials said.

Electric feel

A crook swindled a Dyker Heights woman out of nearly \$2,000 when he called her pretending to be a rep from Con Edison on Nov. 22, authorities said.

The perp called the woman while she was inside 13th Avenue business between 80th and 81st streets around 12:30 pm, and told her she owed \$1,925 on her electric bill and that he would cut off her service if she did not pay, police said.

Out of office

A punk stole a woman's wallet from an 85th Street office on Nov. 17, cops said.

The woman realized her wallet containing her driver's license, two credit cards, a debit card, a gift card, and cash was missing from the office between Third and Fourth avenues around 10:15 am, police said. She cancelled all of her credit cards after she discovered it was missing, but the credit-card company told her that the crook had already tried to use them multiple times, according to a report.

Over-the-counter

A nogoodnik distracted an employee at a Fifth Avenue deli on Nov. 24 before reaching over the register and stealing her pricey iPhone, two credit cards, a MetroCard, and a health insurance card, police said.

The victim told cops the miscreant stole the items from the deli between 81st and 82nd streets between 2:20 and 2:35 pm, and that she cancelled her credit cards after he took them. Officials are reviewing area surveillance cameras.

— *Julianne McShane*

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Men in black! Hasidic scholars' class photo

BY COLIN MIXSON

This picture is worth more than a thousand rabbis!

Some 5,600 ultra-Orthodox rabbis belonging to a Brooklyn-based religious organization met in Crown Heights on Nov. 19 to pose for an annual class photo, setting the record for the largest gathering of the conservative Hasidic leaders ever, according to a rep for the faith-based group.

"It was the largest gathering of rabbis — period," said Rabbi Motti Seligson, a spokesman for Chabad Lubavitch, which extols the values of Hasidism to followers and potential converts.

The picture, which Chabad officials promoted as a "Where's Waldo of rabbis" in a press release, was taken outside of the organization's world headquarters on Eastern Parkway between Brooklyn and Kingston avenues.

Only a few of the thousands of spiritual leaders, all of whom are men, are looking at the camera in the panoramic shot — many are gazing into their smart phones, some are talking amongst themselves, and others are



RABBI REUNION: Several thousand ultra-conservative rabbis gathered outside Chabad Lubavitch's Crown Heights world headquarters on Nov. 19 to take a class picture as part of a several-day religious conference in the borough. Photo by Mendel Grossbaum

distractedly glancing elsewhere.

But most of the rabbis wore an identical uniform of black suit and hat, and nearly all sported impressive, flowing beards.

The photo session was part of an annual days-long conference that concluded on Nov. 20, during which the conservative scholars attended dozens of workshops across the borough where they discussed

issues both sacred and secular.

The emissaries then returned to their homes to share the lessons they learned in Brooklyn, Seligson said.

Some rabbis who reside in parts of the United States and other countries recently hit by natural disasters — including hurricane-ravaged locales such as St. Martin, Puerto Rico, Texas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands — used the Kings

County coming together as an opportunity to collect much-needed items for people back home, the spokesman said.

"A lot of them stocked up on supplies and sent things back home to help their communities recover," Seligson said.

And the well-attended conference may sound like a tremendous boon for the borough's hospitality industry, but local hoteliers didn't benefit much from the

event, according to the rabbi, who said most visiting attendees prefer to crash with friends, family, or members of the neighborhood's greater Chabad community.

"Every year the local community in Crown Heights swings their arms wide open, and welcomes thousands of guests and graciously puts them up and takes care of all their hospitality needs," Seligson said.

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PUSHING FOR PROTECTION: Pols and activists including Ritha Pierre, center at lectern, rallied before marching across the Brooklyn Bridge on Nov. 18 to advocate for extending the temporary protective status of Haitian immigrants in the United States, two days before the government said it will end the measure after an 18-month extension. Photo by Caleb Caldwell

BITTER END

Locals blast close of Haitians' protection status

BY ALEXANDRA SIMON

They're in protected-status purgatory.

Haitian immigrants living and working in Brooklyn under temporary protection from the federal government have 18 months before the measure allowing them to do so expires, the Department of Homeland Security's acting secretary announced on Nov. 20. News of the new deadline came two days before the measure would have expired, and two days after a group of Haitian-Americans marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to demand the Feds keep it in place — an effort that organizers said likely affected the government's decree.

"I definitely think that our demonstration made an impact, along with others around the country and the support from elected officials calling for an extension," said Ritha Pierre, the president of the Haitian American Lawyers Association of New York.

Dozens of demonstrators joined local pols including Assemblywoman Rodneyse Bichotte (D-Ditmas Park), Councilman Jumaane Williams (D-Flatbush), Public Advocate Letitia James, and Comptroller Scott Stringer at the Nov. 18 Brooklyn-to-Manhattan march, according to Pierre, who said the crowd united around the need to extend and preserve the temporary protected status for Haitians who were allowed to immigrate to the United States after a hurricane devastated their home country in 2010.

"We had a good amount of people and elected officials turn out in support," she said. "It was great to see that everyone was on the same page, because this is unjust and inhumane and something had to be done."

But the Feds' decision — which pro- longs Haitians' temporary protected

status until no later than July 2019 — is not a win for relocated people, the organizer said, because all it does is send some 60,000 immigrants in the U.S. scrambling to figure out another form of legal asylum or risk deportation.

"This is not a victory because the only thing that can get done is provide people with more time to get their stuff together and exit the country," she said. "We are hoping that within the 18 months there's a change of mind, and that Congress will take some action."

Pierre, who admitted an 18-month extension is better than a six-month one, said that the Haitians living locally since gaining protected status still fear for their futures even though they have some time to come to terms with the latest ruling.

"If this was shorter there would be much more hysteria," she said. "There is still confusion and people don't understand what it really means. People don't really know how to react right now — it's a mixed bag."

Opponents of the government's decree protested it in Manhattan on Nov. 21, demanding a solution that would allow those Haitian immigrants it affects to legally remain in the country.

And this spring, the president of the Caribbean nation wrote to President Trump urging him to maintain the temporary protected status granted to his people — who, if forced to return to Haiti, could overwhelm the island as officials slowly rebuild its infrastructure, which is still damaged from the earthquake and last year's Hurricane Matthew, Pierre said.

"I have no confidence in the Haitian government whatsoever — this would overwhelm it and create a humanitarian crisis because Haiti is still recovering," she said.

FANCY FOOTWORK

Gravesend bootmakers turn leather into gold

BY JULIANNE MCSHANE

These father-son bootmakers are quite a pair.

Ninety-year-old Jose Der and his 45-year-old son Joseph, of high-end bootery Der Dau, make custom footwear for a star-studded client list in their Gravesend workshop, and the son credits their success to his father's boundless energy and creativity.

"He's 90, but he doesn't act it," he said of his father, who speaks limited English.

The elder Der opened his first workshop on Coney Island Avenue in Flatbush eight years after he emigrated to the U.S. from Cuba in 1954, naming the business after his parents, Jose Der and Maria Dau. His first customer at his Flatbush workshop was a Spanish equestrian, he said — a sale that foreshadowed the bread and butter of his brand, which still gets flooded with orders from professional riders for custom boots. But Der soon branched out to create fashion boots — including the Dream

Boot, the company's most popular design — as well as men's dress and golf shoes.

A little more than twenty years after he first opened his Flatbush workshop, Der moved it to its current Gravesend location, on McDonald Avenue, where artisans make about 3,000 pairs of custom shoes per year — in-house and mostly by hand. The father-son duo attributes their success, in part, to the Italian, French, African, and British leathers, as well as exotic skins — including ostrich, alligator, iguana, shark, and stingray — that they use to craft the shoes.

"We use top quality materials. That's what sets us apart," said Joseph, who began helping out in the shop when he was 8-years-old.

But the fancy footwear isn't cheap — Der's boots start at \$2,000. So naturally, celebrities, serious fashionistas, and professional equestrians make up much of their clientele, who buy boots at some prices that

would knock your socks off, according to the Ders.

"The sky's the limit," Joseph said of the price points, adding that they once made a \$35,000 pair of alligator-skin fashion boots for a client he declined to name.

Many shoes wind up on the soles of stars — both on and off stage. The Der Dau artisans created boots for productions of "The Color Purple" and "Spiderman" on Broadway, as well as boots for Jay-Z, Mary-Kate Olsen, Brooke Shields, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Madonna, and Ronald Reagan.

Today, the elder Der divides his time between his Gravesend workshop and a home in Florida, but travels internationally to equestrian shows whenever he has the time — wearing his favorite shoes: a pair of ostrich-hide oxfords.

The younger Der is currently working on a new accessory line, which he said he will launch next year and he expects to be a hit in



MADE TO LAST: Ninety-year-old Gravesend resident and Cuban immigrant Jose Der has been making custom leather riding boots for Brooklynites and equestrians around the world in his Gravesend workshop, Der Dau, for more than 50 years.

Photo by Erin Lefevre

the hip-hop fashion world.

But the opportunity to learn from and work with his father beats any celebrity sales or product launch the company makes, he said.

"I'm always learning something new," Joseph said. "I'm

very fortunate because my dad is my best friend."

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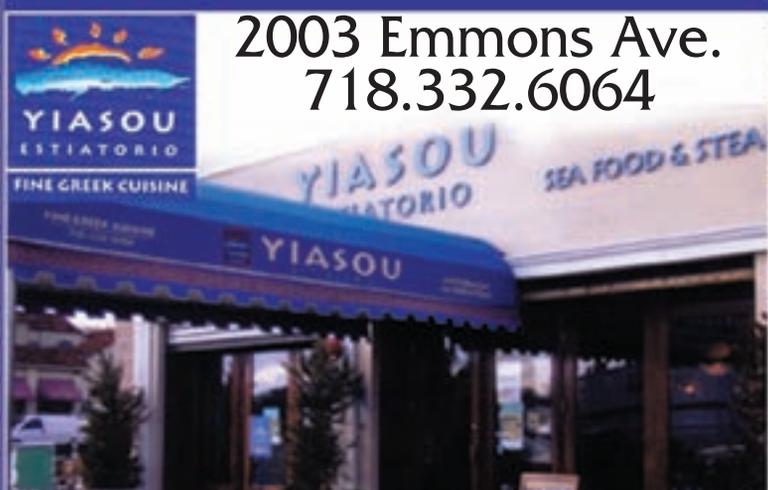
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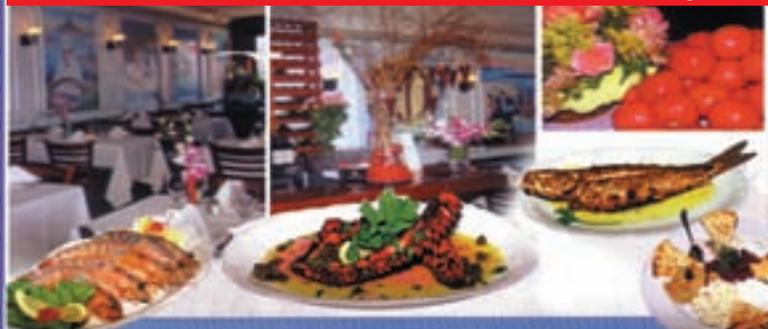
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The state's leading health and environmental advocacy group has once again given Assemblyman **Steven Cymbrowitz** (D-Sheepshead Bay) a perfect legislative rating.

The annual scorecard released by **Environmental Advocates of New York**, placed the assemblyman among the state's 'greenest' legislators.

During the last legislative session, the assemblyman, along with saving the mute swans, supported legislation that would further protect freshwater wetlands; establish take-back programs for prescription medications, batteries and solar panels; reduce toxic mercury in light bulbs; create an affordable green residential building grant program; and align New York's water efficiency standards with federal guidelines.

"I am honored to have this important recognition from Environmental Advocates for the work I've been doing to safeguard the environmental both in my own community and throughout New York State," he said.

Although not noted, the assemblyman sponsored the legislation imposing a moratorium on the state's plan to exterminate the mute swan population, which was signed into law in 2016.

"Legislatively, we will continue to confront issues that force us to take a long, hard look at the potential risks to our environment and residents and to examine how we will ensure that our planet lives on far longer than we do," he said.

District Office [1800 Sheepshead Bay Road, at Shore Road in Sheepshead Bay; (718) 743-4078]

efficient future for the utility industry. Ten awards were presented in two categories — Innovators in Regulatory Policy and Utility Industry Innovators. National Grid is the first recipient of the Utility Industry Innovation in Gas Award.

"National Grid is honored to be the first recipient of NARUC's 'Utility Industry Innovation In Gas Award,'" said **Ken Daly**, president, National Grid New York.

Standing O sends its O too!
National Grid [1 Metro Tech Center at Jay Street in Downtown (718) 643-4050]

She is Standing O Hero of the Year

COBBLE HILL

Kudos and heartfelt thanks go out to **Patricia Gordon**. This Borough daughter and dialysis nurse at **Fresenius Medical Center** in Cobble Hill left her home and family and volunteered for a two-week relief effort in Puerto Rico.

Over 3.4 million American citizens in Puerto Rico living in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria were in need of help.

For those thousands of Puerto Rico residents living with kidney disease, access to dialysis and the nurses who provide treatment was a matter of life or death.

But it's not just the patients who needed assistance, the nurses did too. Many angels of mercy put their personal needs aside to care for patients around-the-clock since the hurricane hit.

Patricia and her colleagues traveled there to provide much-needed relief to nurses in Puerto Rico, ensuring that dialysis patients continued to receive the care they needed to stay alive.

Standing O is awarding Patricia Gordon the Standing O of the year for her dedication, caring, and volunteering.

Fresenius Kidney Care Hemodialysis Center [380 Henry St., in Cobble Hill; (800) 881-5101]

BOERUM HILL

I Max-imus

Get that Oscar ready for **Digital Arts & Cinema Technology High School**. The school is one of only five U.S. high school film programs that received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from **IMAX**. As the company kicked off its second annual student-made documentary challenge, students in film programs were challenged to create inspiring documentaries to further IMAX's commitment to drive awareness of the global issues outlined in the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Students created an eight-minute documentary and related social media content on one of the United Nations 17 goals, which range from eradicating poverty and promoting gender equality to ensuring universal access to clean water and modern energy.

"We are honored to work with another group of talented and deserving student filmmakers to help them unlock their creative abilities and see, first-hand, the power that the big screen can have in promoting positive change," said **Rich Gelfond**, IMAX chief executive officer. Adding "We're proud to continue and expand the In Focus program, and fulfill IMAX's



INNOVATIVE WINNERS!: From left, Deborah Schwartz, president, Brooklyn Historical Society; Assemblyman Joseph Lentol; Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez; David Ehrenberg, president and CEO, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp., and Emma Bannister, Teen Innovator. Idris Solomon

Innovators at B'klyn Navy Yard

VINEGAR HILL

Three cheers to **Brooklyn Historical Society** and **Brooklyn Navy Yard's Teen Innovators**. The group was recognized as one of the Best Youth Programs in the Country with a **2017 National Arts and Humanities Youth Program Award**.

Elected officials, Teen Innovators, local business owners, and educators joined **Deborah Schwartz**, president Brooklyn Historical Society; Assemblyman **Joseph Lentol** (D-Williamsburg); Congresswoman **Nydia Velázquez**, (D-Vinegar Hill); **David Ehrenberg**, president and chief executive officer, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corporation; **Tracy Cook Person**, co-founder, Teen Innovators; **Emily Potter-Ndiaye**, co-founder, Teen Innovators and director of education, Brooklyn Historical Society;

commitment to empowering the next generation of filmmakers."

Digital Arts & Cinema Technology High School [284 Baltic St., in Boerum Hill; (718) 694-9741]

DOWNTOWN

Hooray, hoorah!

Cheers to **National Grid** for re-

Shirley Brown Alleyne, manager of Teaching and Learning Pre K-to-5, Brooklyn Historical Society; and **Emma Bannister**, Teen Innovator, to celebrate this auspicious moment on Nov. 20 at Bldg. 92.

Teen Innovators is an after school program and was one of 12 organizations nationwide to receive the award — the highest honor of its sort in the country.

Through a year-long humanities curriculum that focuses on the history of work in the Brooklyn Navy Yard, Teen Innovators teaches job readiness skills such as interview techniques and resume writing. The program culminates in paid internships with businesses operating in the Navy Yard. Students hail from Title I schools and live in communities surrounding the Yard.

Brooklyn Navy Yard [63 Flushing Ave. in Vinegar Hill; (718) 907-5932 www.brooklynnavyyard.org]

ceiving the first-ever **National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners' "Utility Industry Innovation In Gas Award"** for its Natural Gas Demand Response Program.

The award recognizes both state and utility innovators for paving the way to a more customer-focused, resilient, reliable, cost-effective, and ef-

FEATURED LISTINGS



Canarsie

Big 2 fam brk 8.5 duplex over 4.5 W.I. features: 4 BR over 2 BR, FDR, 3 full baths, full bsmt, pvt drvwy & 2 car garage. Won't Last! \$735,000

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Mill Basin

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Tracey Real Estate
718-376-4994



Old Mill Basin

3 Bdr Attached Brick Duplex, Large LR, Formal DR, EIK, Full Basement with separate entrance, Hardwood Floors, Private Drive, Yard, Garage. PL1746 \$569K

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TRACEY REAL ESTATE

In a bustling, congested city, habitats that offer a feeling of openness can sometimes be hard to find. our House of the Week — a Marine Park gem — is one such abode.

This quaint, semi-detached, three-bedroom duplex is equipped with some attractive amenities in a neighborhood sought out for its tree-lined streets, and tranquil lifestyle, and small-town charm.

Everywhere you'll walk will lead to another well-appointed room, and all of them have a move-right-in feel. Out front, there's a neat yard; in the rear, a spacious backyard.

Listed at \$659,000, our featured property has plenty of other stand-alone qualities, including:

- Large living room
- Formal dining room
- Open-into kitchen
- Half-bath on first floor
- Large rear yard
- Full finished basement with bath
- Private driveway

Then there's the neighborhood. Our House of the Week is conveniently lo-



It looks small on the outside, but this well-kept Marine Park property offers would-be home buyers lots of bedrooms and living space inside, a private parking space out front, and a large yard in the back.

TRACEY REAL ESTATE

cated in an area that has emerged as a magnet for upward mobile families that's close to shopping, public transportation, houses of worship, quality educational institutions such as James Madison and Edward R. Murrow High Schools, and, of course, the massive green expanse known as — what else? — Marine Park.

One of Brooklyn's largest green spaces, the park is an ecological haven, with 530 acres of grassland and precious salt marsh, protected as a Forever Wild preserve. Recreational features include a golf course, bocce courts, and baseball diamonds, in addition to playgrounds, bicycle greenways, and a launch and landing site for canoes and kayaks at Gerritsen Inlet. The nearby Salt Marsh Nature Center is an outdoor sanctuary with trails that are unique observatories for the flora and fauna that flourish in the area.

Realty experts say Kings County is the destination of choice for discerning buyers, and our designated dwelling is an awesome example of why our enduring neighborhoods continue to rule today's market. It could be yours, if you're willing to make the call.

Tracey Real Estate (718) 376-4994.

REAL ESTATE PROFESSIONALS



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Email: traceyrel@aol.com



JOHN TURIS

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Office: Marine Park
4713 Ave N, Brooklyn, NY 11234
Office: (718) 692-4020
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SUN. 12/03, 1-3PM
1647 E. 36th St.

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PL1747. \$649K



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PL1739. \$739K



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PL1749. \$569K



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PL1746. \$569K



MARINE PARK
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PL1742. \$849K

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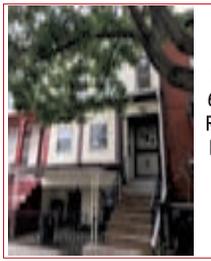
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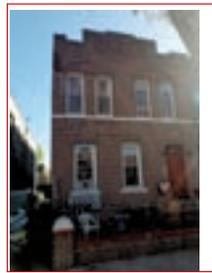
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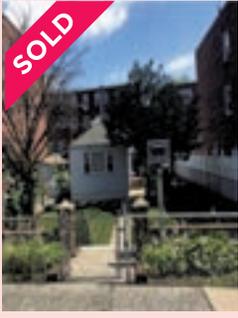


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Portabella presents the holiday collection



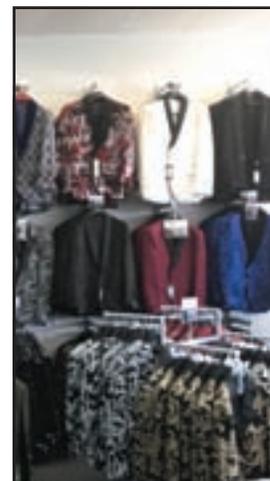
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CYCLIST

Continued from cover

along the block between 23rd and 24th streets, along with the boy's shoes and red hat.

The driver remained at the scene following the wreck, and police declined to press charges pending the results of an ongoing investigation, officials said.

An eye-witness who said she was working at a nearby eatery and saw the collision described the driver as rushing to make a changing traffic signal when he struck the boy.

"The kid was standing over there and ready to cross when the car sped up trying to make the light," said Diana Popoca, who spoke through a translator.

The motorist first tried to flee the scene after the collision, Popoca said, but the driver of another car maneuvered that vehicle to block him from leaving. The witness claimed that four people then spilled out of the cornered sedan, one of whom managed to escape on foot despite a crowd of bystanders that detained the other three.

"When he tried to run there was some other car close by that drove in front of it, so he couldn't," she said.

Ajacalon emigrated from Guatemala last year, and delivered food for a local restaurant to support his parents, who stayed in the Central American country when the boy moved to Brooklyn, according to his uncle, Estuardo Vicente.

The family is soliciting donations in order cover the cost of transporting the teen's body to his parents' village, according to an assistant for Borough President Adams.

"They just want to be able to send their son's body back," said Denise Felipe-Adams, who has worked with the family since Ajacalon's death. "If there's anything possible to help that, please extend yourselves to them."

The beep rallied with other pols including councilmen Carlos Menchaca (D-Sunset Park) and Brad Lander (D-Park Slope), and state Sen. Jesse Hamilton (D-Prospect Lefferts Gardens) on Nov. 27, advocating installation of speed cameras throughout Brooklyn in the wake of the boy's death.

ARMORY

Continued from cover

proval process in which Community Board 9 and Borough President Adams opposed earlier iterations of it — were not available by press time, but members all but certainly voted in line with Cumbo as the building is in her district.

Critics of the city-backed redevelopment scheme argued its inclusion of market-rate housing in any form was a giveaway to the developer, and slammed Cumbo for failing to abide by her 2017 re-election campaign promise to fight any proposal that did not include 100-percent affordable units.

"Laurie Cumbo ran her whole election saying she would vote no unless it was 100-percent affordable, and then she comes back with a deal that's not even close to that, and calls it revolutionary," said Cea Weaver, who works for housing-advocacy group New York Communities for Change.

Some pro-Cumbo fliers allegedly circulated during her primary campaign

stated the legislator "stands against the Bedford-Union Armory project until 100 percent of units are made affordable." But when this newspaper provided a digital copy of one leaflet to the pol's spokeswoman, Kristia Beaubrun, she said she could not comment without knowing its source.

Cumbo's biggest Democratic primary challenger, who lost to the incumbent by less than 3,000 votes, expressed her frustration with the lawmaker for so quickly changing her tune on a project that she said still lacks in affordability.

"I'm disappointed, though not surprised, that Cumbo flip-flopped again on the armory. She promised she would only support a project that included 100-percent affordable housing in all her mailers during the campaign, yet just two months later is set to approve a project that still includes market-rate housing on public land," said Ede Fox. "At a time when public trust of politicians is at an all-time low, we need elected officials that will represent the people, not say anything they have to in order to get elected."

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Publication date 11/24/2017. Offers expire 24 hours after publication.

Ugly scene over park in Fort Greene

Some Fort Greeners are fuming after the city's Landmarks Preservation Commission voted on Nov. 21 to approve a controversial redesign of one entrance to the neighborhood's eponymous park, arguing the plan barely changed after landmarks honchos criticized its disregard for the meadow's creators' vision and told Department of Parks and Recreation officials to take it back to the drawing board months ago ("So much for preservation: Residents blast landmarks agency for okaying Ft. Greene Park plan with 'meaningless' changes," by Julianne Cuba, online Nov. 24).

Commission members voted unanimously to approve a plan they chose not to vote on in September, after parks officials made some changes to it. But critics of the revised redesign blasted its revisions, claiming neither the parks department nor the commission took their objections to the makeover to heart. And some locals felt very strongly about the changes to their beloved green space, too:

Parks intends to spend over \$10 million to tear down stone walls and mature trees.

This is an insulting waste of money but doesn't bother our elected officials. Actually they all lined up for it, every single one of them: Eric Adams, Velmanette Montgomery, Walter Moseley, Laurie Cumbo, Olaneke Alabi.

Joseph
from Fort Greene

Why can't we have anything nice? The redesign is well overdue! I don't understand why people are objecting to taking down the ugly mounds that look like the base of Mayan ruins without the pyramids. No one uses them and frankly they are just plain ugly, they look like an afterthought.

I'm glad this was approved.
ElFortGreenero from Fort Greene

Shameful removal of 54 mature shade trees that provide homes to animals, clean the toxic air, and give shade to children, picnickers and athletes. The Parks Department re-

SOUND OFF TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS AND COMMENTS FROM OUR READERS

peatedly lied at meetings and tours, saying the trees were unhealthy and at the end of their life cycle, but their own report shows the trees are being removed for design, not condition.

Where are the city agencies that are seeking a sustainable future in the face of global warming to prevent this arborcide? New saplings do not replace mature healthy trees. The mounds are used all the time and provide more green and earth. Now nothing but a big hardscape plaza.

Ten million dollars doesn't even improve the bathroom for the people in the park. LK from Fort Greene

A Crown Heights pol who for months opposed the city's plan to redevelop the nabe's Bedford-Union Armory announced newfound support for the scheme at a Nov. 21 Council hearing, after officials and developers agreed to axe luxury condos and include more affordable housing in the proposal to earn her endorsement (Armed with a new backer: Crown Heights pol declares newfound support for city's armory scheme before Council, by Colin Mixson, online Nov. 22).

Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Crown Heights) declared her change of heart in front of her colleagues on a Council subcommittee, describing the revised plan for the military structure at 1579 Bedford Ave. as a historic victory for local residents before the legislators voted unanimously to approve it.

The new version of the scheme does not include 48 swanky condominiums, which the head of the city's Economic Development Corporation told Council members on Nov. 14 were necessary to fund the plan's proposed affordable housing, and a new community center that developer BFC Partners is required to construct as part of the deal in exchange for a 99-year lease on the publicly owned armory. The city and developer also agreed to expand the project's so-called affordable housing component from 166 to 250 units, and reduced the prices of those apartments to between approximately \$640 and \$1,280 per month.

There never seems to be a shortage of opinions about the fate of the massive structure, and once again some of our readers spoke up:

This is not historic. This is customary negotiating

Dennis sinneD from Williamsburg

Cumbo is a liar. Everyone knows she was lying during the campaign and she would change after she won.

Developers put Cumbo in office and she has made it worth their investment. She's also a shameless race baiter. Darrell from Crown Heights

Time to find out what money from the developer, or their affiliates, this Councilwoman received to change her position.

Looks like she was paid to let the developers play. And we wonder why no one trusts politicians anymore. Charles from Bklyn

A motorist struck and killed a 14-year-old boy as he rode his bike in Greenwood Heights on Nov. 25, police said.

Edwin Ajacalon was crossing Fifth Avenue along 23rd Street at 6 pm when the driver collided with him from behind the wheel of his grey sedan as he traveled along Fifth Avenue heading towards Sunset Park, according to police. ("Driver hits, kills 14-year-old bicyclist on Greenwood Heights street," by Colin Mixson, online Nov. 28).

A surveillance camera mounted outside a Fifth Avenue eatery captured footage of the lethal impact, and shows the driver's vehicle cruising at a high speed before hitting and dragging the bicyclist down the block towards 24th Street. Paramedics who arrived at the scene found the teen unconscious, and rushed him to Methodist Hospital on Seventh Avenue, where he was pronounced dead, cops said. Every tragic bicycle-vehicle accident spurs renewed conversation about how the two conveyances can safely co-exist on the city's streets:

We will see people die from the dreaded plight of bicycles onto the streets.

It's reckless and irresponsible and no one's more to blame than New York City. They knew they were putting people into harm's way without any means of protection, and they did it anyway. Sadly, New York City chose to do this in their efforts to overpopulate the city in their thirst to increase tax revenues. Bike paths were the cheapest alternative to costly transportation infrastructure.

So there you have it — folks, children dying for the NYC balance sheet!

more and more from Brooklyn

I saw the vigil that was held last night on 5th Ave in front of the ConEd substation. Well more than 100 folks from the community as well as the local Pols.

This is an ongoing issue on 5th Ave, where the bike lanes stop several blocks away. I'm not saying this would have been prevented by having a proper bike lane (though it may have), but I do know why I voted against the "sharrows" on 5th Ave when I was on CB7. Aaron B.

from Greenwood Heights

Brooklyn Bridge Park honchos are flip-flopping on which government agency is responsible for mandating terms of development within the green space, discrediting one of their main arguments in the legal battle over two controversial towers planned for Pier 6, according to opponents of the high-rises (Bridge Park heads name state as lead on new project, compromising claims in Pier 6 case, critics say," by Julianne Cuba, online Nov. 27). Lawyers for the park and the towers' developer argued repeatedly that the Brooklyn Bridge Park Corporation was in charge of green-lighting the project, not the state-run Empire State Development Corporation, claiming the settlement terms of a 2015 lawsuit only required the group to "seek" the state agency's approval for the scheme, not actually get it. But a September request for proposal that meadow bosses issued for another development inside it listed the Empire State Development Corporation as the project's lead agency. Response to this ongoing saga was brief, but passionate:

Good reporting for sure. Judi Francis and friends have Brooklyn Bridge Park on the ropes, looks like. Brava, Judi!

Blogger Bill
from Boerum Hill

What a travesty ... which is made worse by the fact the State and City are facilitating the developer's taking of public land for private use.

Classic setup of pay to play. Follow the money, and fight this land grab. Charles from Bklyn

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

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This exhibit makes sense of our senses

Birds do it, bees do it — but we don't. See exceptionally well, that is. When bees look at a flower, they see it almost as a neon sign pointing "This way to the nectar!" The petals that look so pretty to us are dark to a bee, while the nectar-and-pollen gathering spot at the center is blazingly bright, like a target. Finding food becomes easy.

Meantime, birds — well, eagles, anyway — can see mice and other prey from so far away, they can swoop in for the kill before their dinner knows what hit them. Or bit them. Whatever.

We are surrounded by animals with far better developed senses of all sorts, from smell to taste to touch. Some can even see things invisible to humans. Snakes, for instance, see infrared heat waves radiating from animals, then slither over to swallow them, waves and all. And yet, we humans are no slouches ourselves when it comes to sensing the world, as I learned at the wondrous new American Museum of Natural History exhibit: "Our Senses: An Im-



RHYMES WITH CRAZY

Lenore Skenazy

mersive Experience."

Even single cell organisms — the kind that first existed three-and-a-half billion years ago — have a basic sense of touch, says Rob Desalle, the exhibit's curator.

Walk around the exhibit and you get to experience the way different animals sense (and fool) the world. For instance, three butterflies appear identical. Beautiful! But

when you see them under ultraviolet light, two of them have shiny stripes that make them look completely different from the other one. In normal light, our eyes can't tell the difference, but that's the point: They all look alike — and disgustingly unpalatable — to the animals that would otherwise eat them. But the butterflies themselves need to know who to breed with. And to them, finding one of "their own kind" is obvious, thanks to their unique sense of sight.

In another room, the nose is front and center. For your sniffing pleasure, you are encouraged to smell scent after weird scent and determine whether you think it is one of the 600 chemicals that make up the smell of chocolate.

In another room, you can listen to the sounds animals hear that we can't, including the calls of a fin whale and house mouse. You can also grow jealous of the birds and reptiles whose hearing does not decline with age, because, unlike humans, the little hairs in their ears regenerate, while ours die off, making it harder for some old people to hear

high pitched sounds.

To understand why different animals developed their senses differently, you have to think about evolution — species adapting to their environments. So bats have extraordinary hearing (and big ears) because they fly around in the dark. But seals and whales have a terrible sense of taste. All that they can sense is salt. (I sometimes feel the same.) Why can't seals or whales taste sweet or bitter? "Because they gulp their food," explains Desalle. With so little to do, their taste buds actually devolved.

While most of the exhibit is a yin-yang of animals versus humans, at the end, we people pull way out in front.

That's because however well a snake sees, or bat hears, they don't have technology on their side — and we do. So even though it is impossible to be as eagle-eyed as an actual eagle, microscopes let us see even the details of a mosquito's foot. Satellites let us see the entire earth. Slo-mo photography lets us watch what is too fast in real life to see, like what happens when a drop of water hits a puddle. Mean-

time, time-lapse photography shows us what's too slow for anyone to watch unfold: The metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly.

But perhaps most amazing of all is the fact that this exhibit is in a modern-day science museum, and it actually ends on a high note, celebrating mankind's inventions. So many exhibits (and documentaries, and magazine articles) end with the exact opposite message: "Nature is great but man has screwed it up forever. Thanks a lot, manglers."

The Senses exhibit ends with a cheer for humanity, learning from nature and sometimes surpassing it.

Take that, snakes.

Our Senses: An Immersive Experience through Jan. 6, 2018 at the American Museum of Natural History [Central Park West at 79th Street in Manhattan, (212) 769-5100, www.amnh.org] adults, \$28; children 2-12, \$16.50; seniors and students \$22.50.

Lenore Skenazy is president of *Let Grow*, founder of *Free-Range Kids* and author of "Has the World Gone Skenazy?"

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Using mobile phones

Leading the list of the top distractions behind the wheel are mobile phones. Phones now do more than just place calls, and drivers often cannot pull away from their phones, even when driving. According to the California Department of Motor Vehicles, studies have shown that driving performance is lowered and the level of distraction is higher for drivers who are heavily engaged in cell

phone conversations. The use of a hands-free device does not lower distraction levels. The percentage of vehicle crashes and near-crashes attributed to dialing is nearly identical to the number associated with talking or listening.

Daydreaming

Many people will admit to daydreaming behind the wheel or looking at a person or object outside of the car for too long. Per-

haps they're checking out a house in a new neighborhood or thought they saw someone they knew on the street corner. It can be easy to veer into the direction your eyes are focused, causing an accident. In addition to trying to stay focused on the road, some drivers prefer the help of lane departure warning systems.

Eating

Those who haven't quite mastered walking and

chewing gum at the same time may want to avoid eating while driving. The majority of foods require a person's hands to be taken off of the wheel and their eyes to be diverted from the road. Reaching in the back seat to share some French fries with the kids is also distracting.

Try to eat meals before getting in the car. For those who must snack while en route, take a moment to pull over at

a rest area and spend 10 minutes snacking there before resuming the trip.

Reading

Glancing at an advertisement, updating a Facebook status or reading a book are all activities that should be avoided when driving. Even pouring over a traffic map or consulting the digital display of a GPS system can be distracting.

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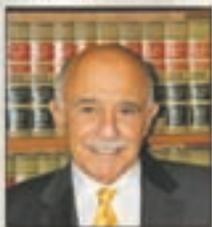
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Eldercare

TODAY



With lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. iStock

Gift ideas for the special seniors in your life

With lifetimes of experiences and seemingly everything they could ever want or need in life already at their disposal, seniors can be difficult to shop for come the holiday season. Many even insist that their family members save their money and not buy them anything for the holidays.

But if the thought of Grandma or Grandpa not having something to open come the holidays is simply unacceptable, consider the following gift ideas:

Activity assistance devices

The realities of getting older often mean the body slows down and activities may not be as easy as they used to be. Many active seniors are not ready to live sedentary lives, nor should they be forced to do so. Plenty of products exist that can make life easier and more comfortable for older adults.

Television-amplifying headphones are one product that can be a great fit for seniors, particularly those having difficulty hearing their

televisions. The headphones amplify the sound of the programming without disturbing others in the room, and many such headphones even allow users to mute their televisions. This feature is perfect for someone who likes to watch TV while a spouse is sleeping or reading in the same room.

Other devices that can make life easier for seniors include magnifying products or bookholders. In addition, gel seat cushions can take pressure off of the spine in the car or at home.

Food

Food is always a handy gift because it doesn't take up much room and can be enjoyed at a recipient's leisure. Perhaps there is something the senior in your life used to enjoy as a child but now finds hard to come by. A search of the Internet may uncover that special treat.

You may be able to ship a specialty soft drink or favorite cookie that is not available in a nearby store. Otherwise, ask a store manager if a particular item that's not in stock in the store

can be a special order.

Photos

What grandparent does not enjoy looking at his or her family members? Computer-savvy men and women can use photo software to design personalized photo books, calendars, mugs, and other photo-related gifts. Just about anything can be emblazoned with a photo, including tote bags and pillows.

Another idea is to collect old photos and compile a memory book. Scan the images so they are preserved digitally and then print out the images in a book that includes the family history.

Time

Seniors who truly do not want or need anything probably will likely jump at the opportunity to spend time with loved ones. Treat a friend or family member to a meal out or simply spend a few hours chatting at his or her home. Sometimes the company of a new face and good conversation is the ideal gift.

What to do when your home care agency closes

BY JOANNA R. LEEFER

One of the greatest fears for a family with a frail parent or spouse is learning their home care provider is withdrawing service. The family is then faced with the formidable task of finding another agency that will offer equivalent hours and service.

This situation is affecting families throughout the country. Many families who receive Medicaid home care are being notified that their plan is closing or withdrawing from their area. New York home care enrollees are currently confronting this new reality. In the last few months, two of the largest Medicaid home care providers announced they are withdrawing service from select areas of Long Island, Westchester County, and New York City. The two providers, Guildnet and Northshore LJJ announced they will cease serving select metro areas by December 31, 2017.

Between these two agencies thousands of home care recipients will be affected. Guildnet is withdrawing home care services from approximately 3,000 families in Nassau, Suffolk and Westchester counties. Northshore LJJ has notified almost 5,500 clients that they are withdrawing service from New York City, Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

These Medicaid home health plans, called Managed Long Term Care plans are private agencies that are approved by Medicaid to administer care to the elderly. Medicaid reimburses them for their service, however the care providers receive the same amount per enrollee, regardless if they receive four hours or twelve hours of care per day. Many plans state that with so many clients requiring more hours, they can no longer afford to stay in business.



The harsh reality of the closing of a home care agency can create hardships for families with elderly relatives.

This is any family's worst nightmare. These families are faced with the task of finding another health care plan that will offer the equivalent time and service.

Fortunately, long-term care advocates in New York have put pressure on the state to take action. In September 2017 the New York State Department of Health passed Managed Long Term Care Policy 17.02, guidelines that Medicaid home care plans must follow before withdrawing service.

A care plan must first submit a closure timeline to the Department of Health. Once the timeline is approved the provider must notify each enrollee by mail

sixty (60) days prior to the closure. The letter must include a list of active Medicaid home care programs that cover the affected area. It must inform enrollees that if they do not select a plan within the allotted time period, the participant will be auto-assigned to a new plan that will provide equivalent home care services for up to 120 days or until the families agree to accept reduced services. This protects clients in the short term by guaranteeing the same number of hours per week for three months.

After the transition period the new plan may propose reducing services but it must offer evidence that the member's condition has improved to the point that services can be reduced. The family will be informed of the decision in writing and must be told how they can appeal this decision if they do not agree.

This is a hard reality for families who expected to provide their aging parents with a good old age. Cuts in Medicaid and Medicare budgets are putting a strain on home care for older adults. This does not mean that good care is not obtainable.

Advocacy groups are making strides in setting guidelines that protect the consumer. It is important for families with frail parents to remain aware of new developments in long term care and take advantage of these protections.

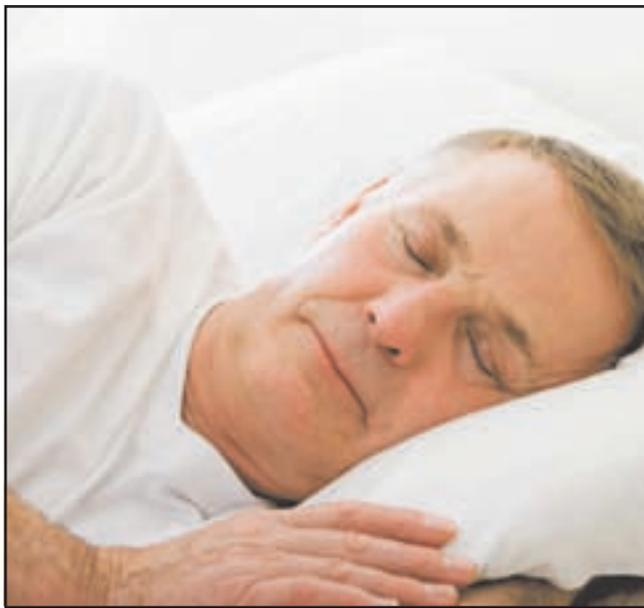
Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor/advocate and founder of ElderCareGiving, a service that helps families make difficult care decision for aging loved ones. She understands the regulations covering long-term care, helps with life transitions, and monitors care through regular visits. She teaches advocacy skills to caregivers and professionals. For more information visit her website www.joannaleefer.com.

Practicing Good Sleep Hygiene as an Older Adult

Ensuring healthy sleep is important for both physical and mental health, especially for adults over the age of 65. Sleep hygiene encompasses a variety of different practices and habits that are necessary for good nighttime sleep quality and full daytime alertness.

There are two basic types of sleep: rapid eye movement (REM) sleep and nonrapid eye movement (NREM) sleep. NREM sleep accounts for approximately 80 percent of a night's sleep, including the deep sleep stage, essential for a quality sleep. "What we experience as restorative sleep—often termed deep or slow-wave sleep—decreases significantly as we age," says Jeremy Weingarten, MD, director of the Center for Sleep Disorders and the Pulmonary Physiology Laboratory at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. "Sometimes slow-wave sleep disappears completely with age, especially in men."

"Even though sleep pat-



terns may change with age, it's important to respect and protect your sleep as you get older," explained Dr. Weingarten. "You're already at a disadvantage when it comes to getting refreshing, quality sleep. Having poor sleep hygiene makes it worse."

The sleep experts at New-

York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital recommend healthy habits — like exercising daily, abstaining from afternoon naps, and waking up at a set time — to improve sleep hygiene and minimize the effects of age-related sleep problems. Other good practices include not

drinking alcohol or caffeine after 7 p.m., reserving your bed for sleep, and avoiding reading, watching television or checking your smartphone while trying to fall asleep.

Unfortunately, many patients turn to medication rather than changing sleep habits. "Before I prescribe a new medication, I always encourage my older patients to look at their sleep hygiene," says Louis Mudannayake, MD, chief of geriatrics and palliative care at NYP Brooklyn Methodist. "Most drugs for sleeplessness or anxiety diminish productivity during the day and increase the risk of falls. They may not correct the underlying sleep issues either."

Another practice of good sleep hygiene is finding the amount of sleep that works for you. "The guideline for adults is to sleep seven to nine hours, but there's no one-size fits-all recommendation," Dr. Weingarten says. "It's all based on how functional you are during the daytime in relation

to how much sleep you get. If you only sleep five hours but function completely normally, that's fine. If you sleep seven hours and are tired the next day, you might need to sleep more."

If sleep problems interfere with daily life, sleep studies can diagnose potential disorders. Sleep disorders are first identified by a primary care doctor based on a physical exam and medical and family histories. Physicians may suggest a sleep test to determine if a patient has a disorder and how severe it is. NYP Brooklyn Methodist's Center for Sleep Disorders provides the necessary diagnostic and medical care for all sleep problems — including insomnia, sleep apnea, narcolepsy, and restless leg syndrome.

To schedule an appointment with a physician affiliated with NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, please call 718-499-2273 or visit www.nyp.org/brooklyn.

—New York-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital



A consistent sleep routine is beneficial for the continued good health of an elderly person suffering with dementia and the long-term comfort and efficiency of their caregiver.

The importance of schedules and sleep during winter months

The onset of winter brings shorter days and busy schedules as family and friends gather for holidays and events. What many caregivers may not realize is that this is the most critical time of the year for a person with Alzheimer's or a related dementia to maintain a consistent schedule, especially when it comes to sleep.

When daylight ends earlier, there is a disruption of circadian rhythm that may increase the agitation at the end of the day called "sundowning". Sundowning symptoms include agitation, confusion, frustration, mood swings and irritability and are often focused on the caregiver. During sundowning, it's not uncommon for the person with dementia to pace or even wander, increasing the risk of injury.

One way to minimize sundowning is to maintain a consistent daily routine. This includes getting enough sleep. Another helpful strategy is to maximize sunlight exposure during the day. Keeping the home brightly lit and turning on indoor lights late in the afternoon until bedtime can help decrease the confusion or disorientation that comes with early evening darkness. (Caregivers can buy lightbulbs designed for this purpose that simulate natural sunlight.) When appropriate, maintaining physical activity, avoiding alcoholic drinks, caffeine and large meals late in the day also support healthy sleep.

Daily routines are the touchstone of a calmer and more comfortable experience, not only for the person with dementia, but for the caregiver as well. A regular schedule provides a sense of comfort and control. Routines bring a sense of familiarity, safety and security to an individual with dementia. Establishing a predictable schedule may help transfer the daily routine into the



Care Chronicle
Lou-Ellen Barkan

long-term memory portion of the brain, which might contribute to greater independence in some activities for a longer period of time. And as another benefit, these same routines reduce stress and improve quality of life for the caregiver.

Things to consider when creating a routine include the time of day that a person with dementia functions best. At CaringKind, we recommend consistent times for waking up, eating meals, bathing, dressing, receiving visitors, and bedtime. And its key to insure ample time for meals, dressing, bathing and rest as well as time for creative, intellectual, physical, and social activities for both the caregiver and the person with dementia.

Perhaps the most important outcome of a daily routine is the potential to improve sleep quality for the person with dementia. Preventing fatigue is crucial to minimizing stress and minimizing sundowning, particularly in the middle and late stages of the disease. Adequate sleep might also reduce the risk for falls. And for individuals and family members affected by a dementia diagnosis at any stage, obtaining good sleep is a key component to the health of everyone involved in managing the disease and caregiving.

To speak to an expert on how you can create a caregiving schedule and minimize sundowning, and for information on other topics related to Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, call CaringKind's 24-hour Helpline at (646) 744-2900 or visit www.caringkindnyc.org.



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Prevent slips and falls this winter

Winter is right around the corner. That means that most people will be trading in windbreakers and rakes for heavy coats and snow shovels. Winter can be a beautiful time of the year, but the snow and ice that covers the landscape in a pristine sheet of white can present certain hazards as well.

Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly. According to the National Safety Council, slips and falls are the single largest cause of emergency room visits. Slip and fall injuries also are the third largest cause of workplace injuries, says the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Many accidental falls occur from lack of stability or poor physical health. However, come winter, many falls can be attributed to walking on slippery surfaces covered with snow or ice. To avoid falls on ice, you might want to take certain precautions:

Change the way you walk

Adapting to the slippery conditions could help prevent some of the falls caused by snow and ice. When walking on ice, plant feet with toes



Walking on ice can be extremely dangerous, particularly to those people who already may have mobility issues, such as the elderly.

facing outward slightly, and then shuffle along. Hunching over a little and extending arms outward will help to lower your center of gravity and also offer a little more stability.

Take short, flat steps so that the heels and toes of your shoes stay in contact with the ground as much as

possible and offer maximum surface contact.

Switch shoes

Flat shoes with rubber soles are more capable of gripping the ice than other types of shoes. Contrary to popular belief, clunky winter boots may

make walking more difficult. Try rain boots instead, as rain boots typically have flatter soles.

There also are many different types of shoe ice grips on the market that can be added to the soles of shoes. They easily slip on to offer more traction. Whenever possible, try to avoid shoes with already slippery soles or high heels. Carry these shoes with you and change after you are inside.

Remove shoes indoors

Slips and falls can happen inside a home as well. Many people have tile or laminate entryways in their homes, and these entrances can become quite slippery when snow-packed shoes warm up and the snow melts, creating a wet, slick surface.

Avoid falls by placing mats by the front door and removing shoes when you enter. Stash a pair of slippers nearby into which you can change.

Falls on slippery surfaces can be quite dangerous, especially for seniors. Avoid trips to the emergency room for broken bones or abrasions by slowing down, dressing appropriately, and walking on paths that have been cleared of snow and ice.



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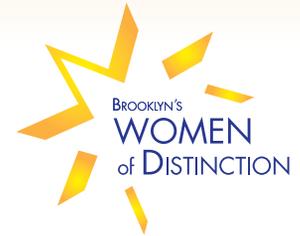
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Att: Jennifer Stern, (718) 260-8302

Or mail this form to: Brooklyn Woman of Distinction, CNG, One Metrotech Center, 10th Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201

WHERE TO GO ■ WHAT TO DO
24 SEVEN
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Butter up

Ready for the spotlight: Windsor Terrace's Butterfunk Kitchen chef and owner Christopher Scott will join the Bravo's cooking competition "Top Chef," debuting on Dec. 7. Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Butterfunk's cook is on 'Top Chef'

By Julianne Cuba

This reality show is getting funky! Brooklyn chef Christopher Scott, of the Windsor Terrace soul food eatery Butterfunk Kitchen, will show off his mastery in the kitchen on the newest season of Bravo's "Top Chef," which starts airing on Dec. 7. Scott joined 14 other chefs for the televised cooking competition show in Colorado, where they whipped up a deconstructed Denver omelet and prepared Rocky Mountain Oysters. Scott has to keep his lips sealed about details until the television debut, but said that he returned home with many new friends.

"I can tell you I had a great time — we're

cool with each other and had a great time, it's long-lasting friendships," said Scott, who co-owns the Prospect Avenue restaurant with his wife.

Scott had applied several times to get on the show in previous seasons, but had never made the final cut. So when the Windsor Terrace chef was invited to apply again this year, he initially turned down the opportunity. But his wife nudged him to try one last time — and it was good she did, he said.

"I said 'Thanks, but no thanks,'" said Scott. "She told me to call them back and tell them 'Yes.' So I went forth with the tasting and Skype interviews and everything about the whole process I hate so much, and

this time I was chosen."

The night of the Thursday evening premiere, it will just be business as usual for Scott, who will be working hard in his kitchen — though he knows all of his family and friends will be eagerly waiting in front of the television, he said.

"I'll be working just like any other day. I know there's a replay at one in the morning, so that's the one that I'll catch," said Scott.

"Of course my entire family is psyched up, probably a bit more excited than I am."

And Scott can't say if he brought back any delicious new recipes for his own restaurant, but he did learn a few lessons

throughout it all, he said.

"I can't specifically talk about dishes, but all the time as a growing chef, I want to be more humble in the way you go about things in your career," said Scott. "And the one thing about this experience, it brings more humility into your craft and more respect, those are things that I picked up along the way."

Christopher Scott on "Top Chef" on Bravo. Dec. 7 at 10 pm. And at Butterfunk Kitchen [1295 Prospect Ave. between Greenwood Avenue and Reeve Place in Windsor Terrace, (917) 909-0421, www.butterfunkkitchen.com]. Open Sun, Tue–Thu; 5:30–10 pm; Fri, Sat, 5:30–11 pm.

CHARMED 'LIFE'

Holiday classic comes to Bay Ridge

By Julianne McShane

It's a wonderful show!
A holiday classic will come to life on stage this weekend, when the Narrows Community Theater presents a musical adaptation of the film "It's a Wonderful Life." The stage show "A Wonderful Life," opening on Dec. 1 at the Fort Hamilton Post Army Theater in Bay Ridge, closely follows the plot of the 1946 Frank Capra movie starring Jimmy Stewart as George Bailey, a man who receives a visit from his guardian angel on Christmas Eve, just when he is on the brink of suicide. The director of the singing, dancing Christmas story said that she had some challenges bringing the musical's 32 short scenes into a cohesive whole on the stage.

"Because each scene is so short, they really tried to focus on telling the story of the six most important days in George Bailey's life that led him to try to commit suicide," said Leah Zepel, who also choreographed the show. "I staged it as a whole piece, so that you're watching people change the scenery even while there's a scene happening. It's told in snippets, so I had to be creative."

The 25-person cast includes a mix of Bay Ridge locals, including professional actors, kids, and adult theater enthusiasts, who have all been rehearsing together four days a week since early October. Dalles Willie portrays George Bailey,



Holiday classic: Sarah Capiello and Dalles Willie and star as Mary and George Bailey in the Narrows Community Theater's production of the musical "A Wonderful Life," opening on Dec. 1.

Jennifer Specht

Sarah Capiello plays his wife, Mary Bailey, and James Martinelli stars as Clarence, the angel-in-training.

The roughly two-hour show features 20 different songs, but otherwise stays true to the movie, which has become an annual television tradition.

Zepel said that the timeless tale is particularly suited to the stressful holiday season of 2017, when everyone could use a reminder that family ties and loving relationships count more than anything else.

"In the times we're living in right now, when there are so many uncertainties, it is truly the story of one

man discovering what makes life worth living — and it's not the money or the prestige, which is what he thinks he wants. It's family, it's love, it's the commitment that you make that changes other peoples' lives that make life worth living," she said.

"A Wonderful Life" at the Fort Hamilton Post Army Theater (enter at 101st Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway in Bay Ridge, www.nctheater.com). Be sure to bring photo ID to the base. Dec. 1, 2, 9 at 8 pm; Dec. 3, 9, 10 at 2 pm. \$25 (\$20 seniors and students; \$15 kids 12 and younger).

Playing with pianos

By Alexandra Simon

Her big show has little keys!
An evening of music created for teeny-tiny pianos will plink its way onto a Boerum Hill stage this month. The Uncaged Toy Piano festival, at Roulette on Dec. 13, will feature five performers tickling the keys of miniature instruments created for kids — and allowing some of the toy pianos to play themselves. The founder of the 10-year-old festival says that this year's theme "Automotoy," recognizes how much tinkering the miniature music makers can take.

"They are more like sound objects than musical instruments," said composer Phyllis Chen. "And I think this year celebrates that idea and really invites the makers and hackers who find toys and decide to turn them into music-making devices."

An old piano redesigned with

robotic elements will take center stage during the night, said Chen.

"One of my longtime collaborators made a robot toy piano out of a smashed one, and refurbished it, and this instrument is going to be featured as a solo instrument alongside other performers playing toy instruments," she said.

The UnCaged Toy Piano event is named after experimental composer John Cage, who wrote "Suite For Toy Piano" in 1947, the first work for the wee instrument. In addition to several original compositions debuting at the Boerum Place show, Chen and other pianists will perform Cage's "Music Amplified for Toy Pianos," as a nod to the composer.

Chen says that people are often drawn to the baby-est of baby grands because of their cute size and association with the pint-sized Beethoven enthusiast from the comic strip "Peanuts," but she thinks that the



Little sounds: Phyllis Chen, founder of the UnCaged Toy Piano festival, will performing John Cage's rarely heard "Music for Amplified Toy Pianos" at Roulette on Dec. 13.

Carrie Schneider

toy piano can stand on its own three legs.

"They are very small and when people see it playing, they say 'Oh it's like Schroeder,'" she said. "But I think its really its own musical instrument. It's not functional like full piano, so it's more playful in that way."

Uncaged Toy Piano "Automotoy" at Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363, www.roulette.org], Dec. 13 at 8 pm. \$20-\$25.



Wrap stars: Employees of Jianbing create the popular Chinese street food of the same name at the new location of the Brooklyn Flea in Industry City.

Photo by Erica Price

Fair weather

Brooklyn Flea winters in Industry City again

By Bill Rounding

Call it flea-ing Manhattan!

The popular Brooklyn Flea market has relocated to an indoor spot in Sunset Park for the winter. During the summer and fall, the usually open-air market split its time between Dumbo and a spot on the distant isle of Manhattan, but it was time for the Brooklyn institution to come home, said one of its co-founders.

"We really felt the Brooklyn Flea needed to be back in Brooklyn," said Eric Demby, who lives in Prospect Heights.

The Winter Flea, as it is dubbed, began welcoming shoppers to its second-floor spot in Industry City on Nov. 25, where it will remain on Saturdays and Sundays until March. On its first day, a healthy crowd pawed over toys from the 1980s, flipped through vintage records, and tried on fur hats. Demby said that he was cheered by the size of the first-day audience.

"I was pleasantly relieved," he said. "It was pretty crowded, considering that we really only announced [the new location] last week."

The winter shopping emporium has a slightly different feel than the usual outdoor market, said Demby, with vendors spreading out and setting up their displays more like traditional shops.

"People have a little more space, so it doesn't feel as cluttered," he said.

This year, the Flea has organized its vendors into sections, with those selling

vintage clothing in one area, furniture in another, and crafts and hand-made jewelry together. The Winter Flea also has a mini-version of the Smorgasburg food market to feed hungry shoppers, with 10 stalls, including returning favorites Ramen Burger and Chinese street food vendor Jianbing, along with some relative newcomers.

"We try to have some balance between the most known vendors, and bringing in some new faces, who might be overlooked," said Demby.

The space also has a bar, serving beer, wine, and a handful of cocktails, and an area of tables and benches where people can enjoy their food and drinks.

In the weeks leading up to Christmas, the Flea will boast a few extra vendors, including a pop-up shop from Greenlight Bookstore, children's clothing retailer Soor Ploom, and a gift-wrapping station with custom-made wrapping papers. And the Winter Flea will be open on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, for those shopping for last-minute gifts and those looking to show off an authentic Brooklyn experience to visiting relatives, said Demby.

"New Year's weekend, there are a lot of people with visitors in town, and those are a lot of our core customers," he said.

Winter Flea (241 37th St., second floor, between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, www.brooklynflea.com). Sat-Sun, 10 am-6 pm until March 27, 2018. Free.

FRI, DEC. 1

ART, "PLEASE DON'T SPIT IN MY GARDEN" OPENING RECEPTION: A solo photo exhibit by Bryan Martello. Free. 6–8 pm. Nars Foundation (201 46th St., fourth floor, at Second Avenue in Sunset Park), www.narsfoundation.org.

ART, SOUP KITCHEN 2017: Every night in December, an artist will provide a free one-pot meal for 15–20 people, and present a one-night exhibit, musical performance, short play, comedy routine, or other event. Free. 7 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279–3969], open-source-gallery.org.

MARKET, SIP AND SHOP HOLIDAY PARTY: Enjoy light refreshments, makeup demos, and drinks while shopping for unique Christmas gifts. Free. 7–9 pm. Ogonewyork [8224 Third Ave. at 83rd Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 333–5773], ogonewyork.com.

MUSIC, KIRAN AHLUWALIA: Blues influenced by the vocal traditions of India and Pakistan. Free. 7:30 pm. BRIC Arts Media House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683–5621], www.bricartsmedia.org.

THEATER, "IT SHOULDA BEEN YOU": A musical farce about a wedding where religions collide, plots are revealed, promises broken, secrets exposed, and hope springs from unlikely places. \$25 (\$20 seniors and students). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], www.galleryplayers.com.

MUSIC, SHILPA RAY: With Bush Tetras and Eszter Balint. \$15. 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

SAT, DEC. 2

ART, BROOKLYN MUSEUM'S TARGET FIRST SATURDAY: Celebrate the legacy of ancient Egyptian culture with a musical tribute to Sun Ra by Burnt Sugar the Arkestra Chamber and deejay sets. Free. 5–11 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], brooklynmuseum.org.

MARKET, BROOKLYN HOLIDAY BOOK FAIR: Featuring vintage, rare, and out-of-print books from Brooklyn area booksellers; activities for kids; and author signings. Free. 10 am. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768–3195], theoldstonehouse.org.

DUTCH SINTERKLAAS CELEBRATION: Enjoy traditional live music, Dutch treats, holiday crafts, and a special visit with St. Nicholas as he arrives on horseback. \$5 (\$3 kids). 1–4 pm. Wyckoff House (5816 Clarendon Rd. at Ralph Avenue in Flatbush), www.wyckoff-museum.org.

WHERE TO GO WHAT TO DO SEVEN 24 EVENTS



Hump day: Camels chow down on a meal of straw and hay in this image from photographer Claire Rosen's "Fantastical Feasts" series, on display to celebrate the release of her book "Imaginarium," at United Photo Industries on Dec. 7.

Claire Rosen

ART, 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION: Celebrate the 10th anniversary of Open Source Gallery with food, drinks, speakers, raffles, and a silent auction. \$60–\$75. 7 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279–3969], open-source-gallery.org.

COMEDY, DEFEND YOUR MOVIE LIVE: Sean Donnelly hosts a live edition of his podcast "Defend Your Movie," in which he invites one of his friends to defend a movie that only they love. \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], www.union-hallnyc.com.

NIGHTLIFE, WASABASSCO 3001: A look at the sci-fi burlesque of the future, hosted by Nasty Canasta with Amuse Bouche, Jezebel Express, Minx Arcana, and the disembodied head of Doc Wasabassco. \$15–\$30. 9 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

SUN, DEC. 3

BLOOD DRIVE: Breakfast and lunch will be served. Free. 9 am to 5 pm. Rabbi Sherer's Shul [2645 Nostrand Ave between Avenues L and M in Midwood, (718) 407–1832].

MAKERS MARKET: Support local artists; handcrafted items; original works of art and more. Free. Noon to 5 pm. Bay Ridge Jewish Center [8025 Fourth Ave. between 80th and 81st streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 836–3103], www.brjc.org.

ART, AFFORDABLE ART SALE AND BENEFIT: All proceeds directly benefit Brooklyn Art Coalition's programs, which serve and support Brooklyn's arts and cultural community. \$30–\$500. 2 pm. AccessArt (336 Flatbush Ave. at Flatbush Ave. and Sterling Pl. in Park Slope).

MUSIC, EIGHT DAYS OF KLEZMER: Kick off Hanukkah with songs from Israeli ensemble 12th Night Klezmer and Yiddish the-

ater star Daniella Rabbani. \$32–\$37. 3 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], www.onstageatkingsborough.org.

MUSIC, ATTACCA QUARTET: Free. 4 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230–2100], www.brooklyn-publiclibrary.org.

MUSIC, MARTIN MCQUADE: The crooner performs favorite Yule time standards, accompanied by Peter Sokolow on piano. Free (Dining and drinks extra). 6–9 pm. Greenhouse Cafe [77 Third Ave. at 77th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 833–8200], www.greenhousecafe.com.

BAY RIDGE TREE LIGHTING AND NATIVITY SCENE: There will be an Advent Mass following the lighting at the Sacred Heart Chapel. Free. 6:30 pm. Sacred Heart Chapel [Ridge Blvd. at 90th St in Bay Ridge, (718) 219–1583].

MON, DEC. 4

COMEDY, BUTTERBOY: A weekly stand-up comedy night hosted by Aparna Nancherla, Maeve Higgins and Jo Firestone. \$8–\$10. 8 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

COMEDY, COMEDY MONDAY: Open mike and stand-up. Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

TUES, DEC. 5

LIGHT UP THE HOLIDAYS AT METROTECH: See the lighting of the borough's largest Christmas tree, along with real reindeer, Santa Claus, and performances from Brooklyn Ballet and Brooklyn Friends School. Free. 4 pm. (2 MetroTech Center between Lawrence and

Bridge streets downtown). **OWL'S HEAD PARK'S CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY:** With free hot cocoa and cookies, Christmas carols from the Guild for Exceptional Children Choir, and Santa giving out gifts. Free. 7 pm. Owl's Head Park [68th Street and Bliss Terrace in Bay Ridge, (718) 748–9522], www.facebook.com/owlsheadvolunteers.

MUSIC, GREY ALONE: The SlamJunk Blues night welcomes the Brooklyn artist Grey McMurray. \$5. 8 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768–0131], www.freddysbar.com.

WED, DEC. 6

MUSIC, ROOTS AND RUCKUS FESTIVAL: This four-day extravaganza of Americana music will feature more than 30 old-timey bands playing on two stages. Free. 6 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395–3214], www.jalopy.biz.

FUND-RAISER, PLANNED PARENTHOOD BENEFIT: With performances from Cindy Wilson of The B-52s, Greenpoint guitarist Kaki King, and singer Amy Rigby. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643–6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

THURS, DEC. 7

DANCE, "THE BROOKLYN NUTCRACKER": Brooklyn Ballet fuses ballet, hip-hop and an array of world dance genres to create a new tradition. \$25. Irondale Center [85 S. Oxford St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246–0146], www.brooklynballet.org.

ART, "IMAGINARIUM" OPENING RECEPTION AND BOOK RELEASE: Claire Rosen collects her photos of fairy tale images and whimsical animals. Free. 6 pm. United Photo Industries Gallery [16 Main St., Gallery B, north of Water St. in Dumbo).

TALK, "CEMETERY AS CULTURAL LANDSCAPE": Part one of a four-part lecture series about landscape design. \$20. 6:30 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 210–3080], www.green-wood.com.

FILM, "THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE" WITH KEN BURNS: Filmmaker Ken Burns screens his newly remastered documentary about the Brooklyn Bridge. A discussion follows. \$16. 7 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000], brooklynmuseum.org.

FRI, DEC. 8

LOTT HOUSE TREE LIGHTING: Celebrate the holidays with the annual tree lighting at the historic Hen-



Back in 'Blackout': Comedian Chris Rock returns to perform in his hometown, bringing his "Blackout Tour" to Barclays Center on Dec. 9.

Associated Press / Chris Pizzello

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, DEC 1

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V OTTOWA SENATORS: \$15–\$143. 7 pm.

SAT, DEC 16

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V LOS ANGELES KINGS: \$18–\$174. 7 pm.

SAT, DEC 2

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V ATLANTA HAWKS: 3 pm.

SUN, DEC 17

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V INDIANA PACERS: \$13–\$175. 6 pm.

WED, DEC 6

MUSIC, TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS CONCERT: \$35–\$260. 8 pm.

TUE, DEC 19

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V DETROIT RED WINGS: \$15–\$149. 7 pm

WED, DEC 20

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V SACRAMENTO KINGS: \$16–\$202. 7:30 pm.

THU, DEC 7

MUSIC, TIM BURTON'S THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS CONCERT: \$35–\$260. 8 pm.

THU, DEC 21

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V ANAHEIM DUCKS: \$15–\$147. 7 pm.

SAT, DEC 9

COMEDY, CHRIS ROCK: \$89–\$256. 8 pm.

FRI, DEC 22

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V WASHINGTON WIZARDS: \$23–\$268. 7:30 pm.

MON, DEC 11

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V WASHINGTON CAPITALS: \$15–\$147. 7 pm.

TUE, DEC 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V WASHINGTON WIZARDS: \$12–\$180. 7:30 pm.

SAT, DEC 23

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V WINNIPEG JETS: \$22–\$205. 1 pm.

TUE, DEC 26

HARLEM GLOBETROTTERS: \$26–\$134. 2 pm and 7 pm.

WED, DEC 13

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V DALLAS STARS: \$15–\$137. 7 pm.

WED, DEC 27

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V BUFFALO SABRES: \$27–\$243. 7 pm.

THU, DEC 14

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V NEW YORK KNICKS: \$44–\$355. 7:30 pm.

MON, JAN 1

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V ORLANDO MAGIC: \$21–\$255. 7:30 pm.

FRI, DEC 15

MUSIC, ODESZA: \$24–\$123. 7:30 pm.

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

AWFULLY FUNNY

Comedian complains about it all

By Julianne McShane

He's a glass half-empty kinda guy. A comedian and former Brooklynite who makes his living by recording his complaints about the world while downing a bottle of wine will deliver a take-down of the Big Apple and its most obnoxious inhabitants at a live show on Dec. 6 at Littlefield in Gowanus. The boozing bellyacher, who lived in Flatbush before decamping for the distant isle of Manhattan, says he will have a few words of scorn for the hippest of the boroughs — but no more than he has for the rest of Gotham.

"I think it's just overhyped," said Matt Bellassai. "But everybody's the same level of a mess in every borough."

The former BuzzFeed staffer started his first weekly online drinking-and-complaining show, "Whine About It," while working at the listicle factory in 2015, taking on topics including the worst kinds of co-workers, texters, and roommates — while drinking a full bottle of wine during each 30- to 45-minute recording session. He left the web giant last year, but continued complaining in the same spirit with the new show "To Be Honest" and on his podcast "The Unhappy Hour."

The irritated inebriate's latest project is the book "Everything is Awful," released last month. Bellassai said that when he put pen to paper, he also changed his focus to a new topic of annoyance: himself.

"The book is more autobiographical — I hate the word memoir for people who are younger than, like, 90 years old, because nobody [that age] should be writing a memoir," he said. "It's funny stories from my life — it's far more about me, mixed in with all the things that I hate."

Over the last few weeks, the pessimistic funny man has taken his show on the road, mixing stories from his own life with his signature criticisms of the world's shortcomings. He has made one change to his normal ranting routine in the process, he said.

"I drank an entire bottle of wine on stage at the first



Wine about it: Comedian and hard-drinking pessimist Matt Bellassai will rant and rave about everything that is awful at a live show at Littlefield in Gowanus on Dec. 6. *Tim Beckford*

show, and I very quickly realized that was not a great idea," he said. "So I've upgraded to whiskey."

Despite his down-and-outlook, Bellassai said that Brooklyn is one of the few places on which he will gladly heap some praise — especially compared to its rival across the river.

"I still think Brooklyn is cooler [than Manhattan]," he said. "I fully admit that it is not cool to live in Manhattan. I'm not Carrie Bradshaw; it's never going to happen for me, it's not going to happen for anyone in Manhattan. Everyone in Brooklyn is in the spot."

"Everything is Awful" with Matt Bellassai at Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, www.littlefieldnyc.com). Dec. 6 at 8 pm. \$40 (includes a copy of the book).



The witch from Bushwitch: Kristen Sollee will talk about the history of witch feminism at the Bust Craftacular event in Greenpoint on Dec. 10. *Photo by Stefano Giovannini*

Witch way!

Writer talks feminism and occult accusations

By Julianne McShane

This author is hex positive!

A Bushwick writer will spell out the historic connection between powerful women and accusations of broom-riding, spellcasting evil at a female-focused festival in Greenpoint this month. The author of "Witches, Sluts, Feminists: Conjuring the Sex Positive," will give a lecture titled "The History of Witch Feminism" on Dec. 10 as part of the Bust Craftacular, exploring how the term "witch" is used to vilify ambitious and successful women, and how the archetype can be used in the hunt for gender parity.

"The witch is an icon of both power and persecution, so it's something to look at and say, 'We've come this far, but there's still a lot more to go,'" said Kristen Sollee. "She's a beacon in black."

In her book, released in June, Sollee explores the similarities between witch hunts of the past and present, and explains how the "witch" figure was both created and co-opted over time.

"It's really the history of how the witch has been culturally inscribed as an icon of evil for the past 500 years," said Sollee. "And also how the witch archetype has been harnessed by women and feminist folks since then."

She wrote the book during the 2016 presidential election, when the reaction to Hillary Clinton exemplified the modern-day "witch hunts" that target women who dare to speak out against misogyny, Sollee said.

"I wanted to really address

the rampant misogyny during the campaign and the return to misogynistic, puritanical, patriarchal values within the government in a really strong way," she said. "It ties back into the same attitudes and behaviors that were prevalent during the witch hunts of the 1480s."

Sollee became fascinated with witchcraft as a child, when her mother dabbled in the magical arts, and she incorporates elements of witchcraft into her own life, including paying attention to moon cycles and using oils, plants, and herbs as sources of empowerment. But women can reclaim the label without practicing magic, Sollee said — and so can men.

"We have to reclaim the witch as an icon of strength — a witch is for everyone," she said. "And absolutely there are men who identify as witches, and non-binary folks, etcetera. I think reclaiming the witch as an archetype and as a symbol of strength only works for folks from oppressed groups, though."

Sollee will be in starry company at her Bust talk: writer Lindy West will present a lecture on "storytelling as activism," and actor and activist Amber Tamblyn will talk about "women and power." The event will also include a craft fair and a musical festival featuring female-fronted bands Haybaby, New Myths, and Parrot Dream, among others.

"The History of Witch Feminism" at the Brooklyn Expo Center (72 Noble St. at Franklin Street in Greenpoint, www.bust.com/talks). Dec. 10 at noon. \$10.

Holidays arrive in the Ridge!

By Julianne McShane

It may only be the first weekend of December, but Bay Ridge is already filled with the Christmas spirit!

Begin your festive weekend with a toe-tapping version of a holiday classic! Stroll to the **Fort Hamilton Post Army Theater** (enter at 101st Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway) for the opening night of "A Wonderful Life," from Narrows Community Theater. The heart-warming musical is based on the 1946 Frank Capra film about a suicidal man who receives a visit from his guardian angel on Christmas Eve. And when you see the show, you can also help bring Christmas magic to a child by bringing a new, unwrapped toy as a lobby donation to Operation Sandy Claus and Toys for Tots. Tickets are \$25 (\$20 for students, \$15 for kids 12 and younger). The Friday show starts



at 8 pm, but if you miss it, you can catch more performances on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10. Visit www.nctheaterny.com for tickets.

On Saturday, avoid a mood swing by heading to the **Fort Hamilton**

Senior Center (9941 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. at 100th Street) to celebrate the center's 50th anniversary with a live swing jazz concert by saxophonist and singer Danny Walsh and his band. The musician — who has played with Aerosmith and Bruce Springsteen, among many others — will play hits from his latest CD, "Entering In." The free show starts at 2 pm.

And on Sunday, you can celebrate Christmas early at the **Danish Club of Brooklyn** (741 65th St. between Seventh and Eighth avenues), which is throwing a Scandinavian Christmas Ball. Enjoy a full-course dinner and dessert, raffles and prizes, and music and entertainment from everyone's favorite accordion band SmörgåsBandet, playing Scandinavian and American tunes. Tickets are \$60 per person (\$20 for teens, free for kids 12 and younger). The party starts at 2 pm.

WHERE TO GO **WHAT TO DO** **24 SEVEN** **EVENTS**

in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195], theoldstonehouse.org.

SAT, DEC. 9

Continued from page 35

drick L. Lott House, hosted by Sen. Marty Golden. With holiday music, cookies, cocoa, and a visit from Sinterklaas. Free. 6 pm. The Lott House (1940 E. 36th St. between Fillmore Ave. and Avenue S in Marine Park).

THEATER, "ELF THE MUSICAL JR.,": St. Ephrem Drama Club presents this fun family musical about an elf looking for his true

identity, featuring more than 30 cast members ages 8 to 14. \$10. 7 pm. St. Ephrem [7415 Fort Hamilton Pkwy at 10th Avenue in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-1440].

DINING, TASTING AMERICAN WHISKEY: Swirl, sip, and sample a selection of American whiskeys from across the nation. \$45. 7 pm. The Old Stone House [336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues

DANCE, "THE NUT-CRACKER": New York Children's Dance Theater presents one of the most popular ballets of all time. \$25-\$55. 2 pm. Master Theater (1029 Brighton Beach Ave. at Brighton 11th Street in Brighton Beach), www.mastertheater.com.

MUSIC, BRAINIAC TRIBUTE SHOW: With Girls Against Boys, The Heist, SAVAK, and others. \$25. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

Start Spreading the News!!!



Join Martin McQuade and Pete Sokolow for the 11th Annual Christmas Show at the Greenhouse Cafe located on 3rd Avenue between 77 and 78 streets.

For your convenience Valet parking is available.

Show date is Sunday, December 3rd from 6-9 pm.

Come sing along to all your Yuletide favorites...Happy Holidays. For reservations, please call (718) 833-8200

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CONDUCTOR **MARK MANGINI**



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LEGAL NOTICE

121 BAY 23rd STREET, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/03/17. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 131 lmlay Street, #2, Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

163 Jackson LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/4/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 163 Jackson St., Brooklyn, NY 11211. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

17 Pine Street LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/10/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to c/o Sydney, Amster, Green & Horowitz, PLLC, 122 E. 42nd St., #720, NY, NY 10168. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

247 DRIGGS AVENUE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/09/17. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, c/o Michael A. Katz, Esq., 107 Cherry Street, Katonah, NY 10536. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

451 Humboldt LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/4/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 451 Humboldt St., Brooklyn, NY 11211. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

605 Liberty Ave NDB Brooklyn LLC, Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 09/110/17. Office Location: Kings County, SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: The

LEGAL NOTICE

LLC, 605 Liberty Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11207. Purpose: to engage in any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

8890 Tompkins Realty LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/2/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 90 Tompkins Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11206. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

AG SEA BREEZE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 08/03/17. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 83 Nicole Loop Staten Island, NY 10301. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

AL-HANNAN LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/27/17. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Corporate Filing Service, 763 Coney Island Ave. Brooklyn, NY 11218. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Belsito Mechanical LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 11/8/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 395 5th Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11215. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Berkoo LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/17/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 381 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11206. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Cactus Plant Flea Market, LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/3/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served &

LEGAL NOTICE

shall mail process to c/o Cynthia Lu, 220 Water St., #206, Brooklyn, NY 11201. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Cydean Ventures LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 8/10/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 396 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11238. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Friedman Kings LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 3/31/2017. Cty: Kings SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to Friedman Kings Trust, 389 Marcy Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11206. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

INTERBORO BEEMERS AND BENZ LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/17/17. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1604 Bushwick Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

IRIDESSA'S LIMOUSINE SERVICE, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 04/28/17. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 486 Classon Ave Brooklyn, NY 11238. The reg. agt. is Mark Clavery at the same address. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

IST GLOBAL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/23/17. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Mustafa Gulter, 2440 East 29th St. Apt. 2U Brooklyn, NY 11235. The reg. agt. is Mustafa Gulter at the same address. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DEVICES FILM LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on

LEGAL NOTICE

JEANNE AND LAMARRE LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/11/17. Off. Loc.: Kings Co. SSNY desig. as agt. upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Jeanne Vilsaint, 1695 Remsen Ave Brooklyn, NY 11236. General Purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

KALLIOPE REALTY OF NY LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/12/17. Office: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 213 20th Street, Suite A, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

MAE 487 LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 5/14/2008. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 1 Main St., Apt. 10G, Brooklyn, NY 11201. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of formation of 9703 LLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/30/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to: 8778 Bay Parkway, Ste. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11214. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF CENTURY WEALTH REALTY, LLC Arts of Org filed with Secretary of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/12/2017. Office location: KINGS County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against LLC to principal business address: 1755 E 35TH ST, BROOKLYN, NY 11234. Purpose: any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of DEVICES FILM LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on

LEGAL NOTICE

10/06/17. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: 385 Argyle Rd., #2C, Brooklyn, NY 11218. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the princ. office of the LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of FELDHER FAMILY LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/20/17. Office location: Kings County. Princ. office of LLC: 1371 E. 23rd St., Brooklyn, NY 11210. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC at the princ. office of the LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of JESSICA SIEGEL DESIGN STUDIO LLC Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/21/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 428 Clinton St., Brooklyn, NY 11231. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FREE I PLAY, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: THE LLC 92 LEFFERTS PLACE, UNIT 1 BROOKLYN, NY 11238-4495. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: AGILITY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/30/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as

LEGAL NOTICE

agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: BARRY JOHNSON 7580 NW 5TH STREET SUITE 17704 PLANTATION, FL 33317. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: 17 MESEROLE DEVELOPMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/15/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: CHANG QING LIN 17 MESEROLE ST. BROOKLYN, NY 11206. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: CHEER AND DEAR LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/25/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: CHEER AND DEAR LLC 570 7TH AVE APARTMENT 3F BROOKLYN, NY 11215. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PERLENEXA LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/09/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: JOSE A PEREZ 5857 79TH AVENUE RIDGEWOOD, NY 11385. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: SANVIC TRIPS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY)

LEGAL NOTICE

on 11/03/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: SANVIC TRIPS LLC 120 41ST STREET 2ND FLOOR BROOKLYN, NY 11232. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: ONYX NYC DRAFTING, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/22/2016. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of EDGE EDTECH 2015 FUND GP LLC Appl. for Auth. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/14/17. Office location: Kings County. LLC formed in Delaware (DE) on 09/18/15. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to c/o Corporation Service Co. (CSC), 80 State St., Albany, NY 12207-2543. DE addr. of LLC: c/o CSC, 251 Little Falls Dr., Wilmington, DE 19808. Cert. of Form. filed with Secy. of State of the State of DE, Div. of Corps., 401 Federal St., Ste. 4, Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Van Santen Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 09/19/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Peter C. Spier, 222 North LaSalle St., Ste. 800, Chicago, IL 60601. Purpose: any lawful activities.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PENCIL OR INK, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/11/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: PENCIL OR INK, LLC 138 PIERREPONT ST., APT. 4C BROOKLYN, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LADY LAZARUS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/02/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: RYAN SELZER 479 10TH STREET BROOKLYN, NY 11215. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PROPECT MUSIC LESSONS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/11/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: BRADEN PALMER 1245 OCEAN AVE. 2 A BROOKLYN, NY 11230. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: CONTINENTAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/03/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to:

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CONTINENTAL BUILDING MANAGEMENT LLC 4916 3RD AVENUE BROOKLYN, NY 11220. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION of limited liability company (LLC). Name: INTANGIBLE VALUE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 07/14/2017. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: CALEB HUNT 184 LEFFERTS PLACE, APT 2 BROOKLYN, NY 11238. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of The Fashionography LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/24/17. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, Attn: Oleksii Botsman, 326 Atlantic Ave., Apt. 3, Brooklyn, NY 11201. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of ETTLE REAL ESTATE LLC Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 07/20/2017. Office location: Kings County. Princ. bus. addr.: 66 ROCKWELL PL, APT. 65, BROOKLYN, NY 11217. LLC formed in NEVADA on 05/09/2017. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to THE LLC 66 ROCKWELL PL APT 65 BROOKLYN, NY 11217. Cert. of Form. filed with Secretary of State Nevada State Capitol Building 101 North Carson Street, Suite 3 Carson City, NV 89701 Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of Narsharab LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 9/27/17. Office location: Kings County. Princ. bus. addr.: 125 N. 10th St., Unit SPHG, Brooklyn, NY 11249. LLC formed in DE on 9/21/17. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. DE addr. of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

LEGAL NOTICE

The Judaica Mall LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 8/4/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 232 Broadway, Ste. 400, Brooklyn, NY 11211. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Wood Hill Stables LLC, Arts of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) 10/19/2017. Cty: Kings. SSNY desig. as agent upon whom process against may be served & shall mail process to 60 Broadway, Apt. 2F, Brooklyn, NY 11249. General Purpose.

LEGAL NOTICE

Greybar Architecture PLLC. Filed 10/24/17 Office: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail to: 593 Vanderbilt Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11238 Purpose: Architecture

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♥ Last two days of our popular Trolley along 5th Avenue Sat., Dec. 16 & Sun., Dec. 17 – from 1pm to 5pm

Look for Santa and Pikachu

Get on and off as often as you like

♥ Final Sidewalk Sales Days of 2017

Sat., Dec. 16, Sun., Dec. 17, Sat., Dec. 23 & Sun., Dec. 24

Look for bargains and gifts at your favorite stores

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, Dec. 16 – Annual Parranda Navideña

Hosted by Fiesta VIP Entertainment

Starting at OLPH Basilica

60th Street and 5th Avenue

Thank you to sponsors

Pollo Campero and Cricket Wireless

Sunset Park BID

5116a 5th Avenue

Brooklyn NY 11220

718-439-7767

info@sunsetparkbid.org
www.sunsetparkbid.nyc

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