

INSIDE



Last-minute gift ideas



Let there be lights

Borough Hall gets into the spirit of the holidays with never-before hung wreaths. The wreaths, as well as the Borough Hall Christmas tree, were lit Monday night during a ceremony headed by Borough President Marty Markowitz.

'We wuz robbed'

Council moans after mayor duped it on FDNY closings

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

City Council members this week accused the mayor of duping them after a top City Hall aide suggested that a lynchpin in their budget negotiations with the mayor, a blue-ribbon panel to decide on Fire Department cuts — which forestalled the closing of eight city firehouses, five in Brooklyn — would still wind up closing the firehouses.

"While we all agree we're still going to have to

do it, we are going to set up a blue-ribbon panel to figure out exactly which ones to do to make sure we do the right thing here," Deputy Mayor Marc Shaw said Saturday at a budget conference sponsored by the Citizens Budget Commission.

"But the truth is that it was also a political punt," Shaw said, suggesting the firehouse closings were never really taken off the chopping block.

Two weeks ago, council members, including David Yassky, of Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn, and Bill DeBlasio, of Park Slope and Carroll Gardens, agreed to a budget modification plan that included an 18.5-percent property tax hike and Sunday parking meter rules on many city streets in exchange for Mayor Michael Bloomberg's promise that the firehouses would be kept open while the commission studied ways in which the Fire Department could cut \$2.5 million from its budget.

"I feel misled," Sunset Park Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez, who also voted for the budget modification, said on the steps of City Hall Monday. "I think that we were misled as a legislative body."

DeBlasio, Yassky and Gonzalez were joined by fellow council members Simcha Felder, of Midwood and Borough Park, and Yvette Clarke, of Kensington and Flatbush, inside City Hall to denounce the administration's indication that the idea of the panel was merely a stall tactic to get the budget modification passed.

"I was never told why these eight, what the impact on response time, what are other alternatives in the department to save money?" Yassky said, explaining why he called for the panel in the first place.

"That was what led me to say, 'Listen this is not being done in a substantive, rational way.' If we need to save money here, and I recognize we do, let's do it in a better way. It's not about politics."

"If the mayor had said, 'Hey, this is just going to be a nice fig leaf, come along in this with us,' we simply would not have voted for the budget," added DeBlasio.

See **DUPED** on page 5

Seeks justice for dead husband

Shot in back by DEA agent

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

An Atlantic Avenue merchant whose husband was shot and killed by a special agent from the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration has retained O.J. Simpson attorney Johnnie Cochran's law firm to take on the federal government.

Along with the family of her slain spouse, Michelle Wagner,

whose husband, Egbert Dewgard, 31, was shot and killed last May by Special Agent Jude Tanella, is preparing to take the Feds to court.

"It's really hard," said Wagner, 30, who owns a children's shoe store on Atlantic Avenue near Boerum Place, of losing her husband. "Very very hard."

Dewgard was shot in the back on May 1 while he was under surveillance in East Flatbush as a suspect in a narcotics investigation.

According to the DEA, Dewgard fled after agents and detectors from the NYPD flashed their sirens and tried to take him into custody. The agency claims Dewgard used his vehicle to ram

police cars, then jumped the curb and took off, narrowly missing a pedestrian and a child.

After abandoning his vehicle at New York Avenue and Farragut Road, a statement from the DEA said, Dewgard went for Tanella's gun and a struggle ensued. Dewgard was shot once and later died at Kings County Hospital.

Three kilograms of cocaine had been carrying, according to the DEA.

District Attorney Charles Hynes' office collected testimony from witnesses and law enforcement over the next two months. On Oct. 31, a Brooklyn grand jury returned an indictment

against Tanella for first-degree manslaughter in Dewgard's death.

The indictment alleged that the agent chased down Dewgard with the intent to cause him serious physical injury. Hynes' office declined to discuss the indictment in detail.

"I'm very happy," Wagner said when asked about the indictment. "Hopefully something good comes out of it."

Wagner met her future husband when they were children in Belize. Their families were next-door neighbors and they rekindled their friendship after she moved to New York.

She has two daughters from another marriage and was married to Dewgard for seven years.

The Cochran firm is now conducting its own investigation into Dewgard's death, said Derek Sells, the attorney for Dewgard's family.

"We fully expect that based upon our investigation there will be a claim for civil rights violation, wrongful death, as well as negligent supervision, hiring and training [by the DEA]," Sells said.

Sells also said that the suit would also name "the particular officer who was involved in the shooting."

The suit has not been filed and Sells would not speculate on

when he expected the civil suit to begin or how much the family would seek.

In the meantime, Tanella is facing manslaughter charges and, last month, defense attorney Lawrence Berger requested that the case be transferred to federal court indicating that his client would not get a fair and impartial trial in Brooklyn. The case remains in state court and under Hynes' prosecutorial jurisdiction, for the time being.

The U.S. Department of Justice agreed to pay Tanella's legal fees and the agent remains free but has been placed on "limited duty," the DEA said in its statement.

East River bridge tolls talk returns

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

The Brooklyn Heights Association convened a meeting of the minds on Dec. 4, to discuss the quarrelsome issue of bridge tolls over the East River.

While the discussion didn't exactly yield a consensus on the matter, proponents of tolling on the bridges did spin some fancy possibilities and perhaps opened a few people up to the discussion.

With a \$6 billion deficit approaching in the next fiscal year, the idea for bridge tolls has found itself back on the drawing board but it has remained a divisive issue between those who believe tolls would constitute an unfair tax on Brooklynites and back up traffic into the neighborhoods at the base of the bridges, and those in favor who argue that tolls reduce traffic.

At the Dec. 4 meeting, at St. Francis College on Remsen Street, those in favor of the tolls were in abundant supply, while the majority of the out-

spoken opponents shouted from the audience.

Dr. Floyd Lapp, of the consulting firm the Sam Schwartz Company, which is owned and operated by Sam "Gridlock Sam" Schwartz, a former traffic director for the New York City Planning Department whose traffic columns ran in the Daily News, argued for "booth-less tolls," as used in Toronto and Hong Kong, among other international cities and which may soon be coming to London.

"Technology eliminates toll booths," Lapp said.

The booth-less transponder tolls could photograph license plates or EZ Pass identification without slowing down traffic, Lapp said. In addition, he asserted that "congestion pricing" hiking the fares during peak hours, adequately compensates "for the space we consume."

Many of Lapp's points were echoed by fellow panelists Peter Samuel, publisher of Toll Roads Newsletter, and Jeff Zupan, a senior transportation fellow at the City of New York.

See **BRIDGES** on page 4



Giving props
This Air Force jet, on display on the 61st anniversary of the Dec. 7, 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor, is being fully restored inside Hanger 6 at Floyd Bennett Field.

Hero lives on

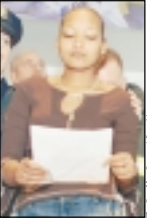
Heights firehouse carries on Cherry's 'Song'

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

On Aug. 7, 2001, three firefighters from Engine 205 and Ladder 118 on Middagh Street in Brooklyn Heights, sang a touching jingle to a 7-year-old girl named Crystal Ann Perez, who was suffering from leukemia.

Perez's leukemia would go into remission, but a month after they sang to her, firefighters Vernon Cherry and Leon Smith perishing trying to save other lives at the World Trade Center.

On Thursday, as sure



Montefiore Hospital patient Ernestine Contreras reads lyrics to firemen's song.

a sign as exists that we live on after death in the hearts and minds of those we touched, the surviving member of the trio, Firefighter John Sorrentino, brought five of his fellow firefighters from the Ladder 118 and Engine 205 firehouse near Henry Street to sing a "Song of Love" to another sick child.

Songs of Love is a non-profit organization that composes personalized recordings for young adults and children suffering from life-threatening illnesses. Since 1996, Songs of Love has composed 3,600 songs for sick children.

See **LADDER** on page 5

Mike's strike remedy: Put 4 in every car

By Neil Sloane and Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

Keep your sneakers handy, because if there is a transit strike, come Monday you're gonna be doing a lot of walking.

The mayor said he would pursue all legal avenues to prevent a

transit strike, which is illegal under state law, the Transport Workers Union Local 100 voted last week to authorize a strike if they don't have a new deal by the time their contract expires Sunday night.

"A strike by the TWU would be illegal and the city will do everything in its power to prevent one,"

Bloomberg said in announcing his plan Monday. "A strike would be more than inconvenient; it would endanger human life and devastate our economy. Although I hope cooler heads prevail, we have to prepare for the worst and New Yorkers may need to once again call upon their resiliency, toughness and ingenuity."

"You can't let a group of irresponsible people bring the city to its knees," the mayor said.

Bloomberg's plan would bar private vehicles carrying less than three passengers and a driver, 24 hours a day weekdays, and one passenger and a driver, from midnight Saturday

See **STRIKE** on page 2

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Senior bail on terror rap

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

An Atlantic Avenue merchant facing federal charges of illegally funneling money to the Middle East, who may be part of an FBI probe into the funding of terror groups, was denied bail this week despite the protest of Yemeni immigrants lobbying for his release.

Yemen-born Mohamed Ali Alriyani, a U.S. citizen for more than 20 years and the proprietor of the Land of Paradise Gift Shop on Atlantic Avenue, was arrested last June during a roundup of alleged illegal money shippers in Downtown Brooklyn.

On Monday, Alriyani was denied bail by Judge John Gleeson as a flight risk.

"I just want to see my family," Alriyani told the judge in the federal court in Downtown Brooklyn.

Alriyani's attorney, Peter Mollo, said his client was unfairly linked to terrorist organizations as the result of an FBI probe.

But he has not been charged with any terror-related activities and the prosecution complained that Mollo had inappropriately disclosed the contents of sealed court documents.

Those court records, according to Mollo, allege that Alriyani passed around a collection plate at the Al Farouq Mosque on Atlantic Avenue and made speeches in support of Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, a lead conspirator in the car-bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993 and in plots to blow up the United Nations, FBI offices and other New York landmarks.

Abdel-Rahman was given a life sentence without possibility of parole in 1996.

Calls to the Al Farouq Mosque were not returned by press time.

The FBI affidavit also alleges that Alriyani got letters of recommendation for citizenship on behalf of relatives from men connected to controversial Muslim charities with links to al Qaeda and Hamas. Mollo told the Daily News, "They're looking for a bigger fish."

STRIKE...

Continued from page 1
(Friday night) through midnight Monday (Sunday night), from the Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges and the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel.

The car-pooling rules would also apply to the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway from the Church Avenue to the Gowanus Expressway to the 42nd Street to the interchange with the BQE (the bus/HOV E2). Pass lane will be for buses and emergency vehicles only; the Prospect Expressway from Church Avenue to the Gowanus Expressway; and the Belt Parkway from Fourth Avenue to the merge with the Gowanus Expressway. The HOV restrictions would apply to all other East River and Hudson River crossings into and out of Manhattan, as well.

People with handicap license plates as well as ambulate and para-transit vehicles would be exempt from the special HOV regulations.

Bloomberg said the four-to-a-car rule would help avert the traffic tie-ups the city faced during the last transit strike, in 1980, when only cars with three passengers were permitted. Defying conventional wisdom with respect to personal safety, he also said that drivers who were short passengers should pick up strangers, if need be. "I know nobody likes to ride in crowded cars, I know nobody likes to ride with strangers. But make no mistake about it — this is an emergency," the mayor said, adding that he believed it would be safe to do so.

"You will be going in a car at a very slow speed with cars on either side of you, in front of you and behind you," Bloomberg said. "I would suggest that's not a significant risk."

The city would set up car-pooling staging areas where commuters could either meet in pre-arranged car pools or pick up additional riders to meet the HOV restrictions. The car-pooling staging areas in Brooklyn would include the Williams Rink in Prospect Park, Parkside and Ocean Avenue (capacity 300 cars) and in Coney Island, at the Abe Stark Rink next to Keyspan Park (Stark Avenue and

West 20th Street, capacity 800), and on Surf Avenue at West 21st Street (capacity 150).

There would also be a park-and-ride facility at the Brooklyn Army Terminal that could hold 1,000 cars and from which commuters could pick up a free New York Waterway ferry at Pier 4 at 58th Street.

Ferry service into Manhattan from existing routes in Brooklyn would be more frequent and New York Waterway said they would add an additional launching point from Sheepshead Bay.

New York Waterway, which currently operates 54 ferries in the five boroughs and New Jersey, said it would charter an additional 30 boats if needed to deal with a transit strike.

New York Waterway's ferry service from the Brooklyn Army Terminal at 58th Street and Second Avenue, would continue to operate free of charge, but would let off at Battery Park in Lower Manhattan rather than at Pier 11 at Wall Street. Service would be every 15 minutes from 5 am to 10 pm.

Shuttle buses are expected to run from 5 am to 10 pm, every 15 minutes, in the event of a strike, although passengers are encouraged to look on New York Waterway's Web site at www.nywaterway.com for details as they evolve.

An additional New York Waterway ferry service would be added from Sheepshead Bay to Pier 17 at South Street Seaport, also free of charge, and departing every 15 minutes. A spokesman for New York Waterway said there were no plans to add a shuttle bus service for that route.

At press time, plans for service ending at Pier 17 and Battery Park did not include connections to bus services to any other routes in Manhattan, but the mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM)

Atlantic Avenue in June allegedly transmitting money illegally to the Middle East, though none have yet resulted in any terrorism-related charges.

Alriyani was reportedly implicated by a former business partner who was caught smuggling \$150,000 to Yemen and who then began working with the FBI.

Mollo pledged to appeal the judge's bail decision.

In addition, most non-emergency roadwork would be suspended. Private buses would continue to run but are expected to be very overcrowded and not able to meet demand. Taxis would be allowed to pick up multiple fares and there would be taxi stands at park-and-ride facilities. The restriction on street hailing of ivory cabs would be lifted and taxis could pick up additional fares when they already have a fare. The Staten Island Railway, as well as New York City Transit's Staten Island and Brooklyn, Queens and Bronx franchise buses will not be affected. They will continue to operate, but commuters should be prepared for significant crowding and delays.

Borough President Markowitz will host a public meeting on Thursday, Dec. 12 at 2 p.m. in the courtroom.

"We're getting the word out to community boards, community organizations, concerned citizens and other elected officials and we've also invited police and fire officials," said Markowitz spokesman Andy Ross.

There will be a presentation by the mayor's Office of Emergency Management (OEM), which is coordinating the strike contingency.

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Plane honor
Norbory Aubuchon, a World War II pilot, with Rep. Anthony Weiner at Floyd Bennett Airfield on Dec. 7, where a plaque was unveiled honoring Brooklyn's squadron of Naval Air Ferry Command.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

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Four shoe shoplifters blacken guard's eye

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A quartet of aggressive holiday shoplifters attacked a shoe store security guard after he interrupted them in their illicit spree.

The women were allegedly seen taking a pair of shoes from a store on Myrtle Avenue at Prince Street, at 1:30 pm on Dec. 6.

When the guard stopped the women, police said, they punched him causing swelling to his left eye.

POLICE BLOTTERS

Police caught up with the four suspects during a canvass of the area and two pairs of sneakers were recovered.

The woman who would not be fingerprinted resulted in a bad day of crime for a young gunman on a bike.

Not scared
A woman who would not be fingerprinted resulted in a bad day of crime for a young gunman on a bike.

The woman, 30, was sitting on a store on Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Hoyt streets shortly before 5 am on Dec. 5, when a man allegedly rode up on a red Mangosoc bicycle and asked her for the time. The suspect then rode off, police said, only to return and say, "Give me your purse, you have to the count of three."

Threatening deadlines did not work and the victim did not comply. The suspect then flashed the butt of a handgun, according to police, but the victim remained unmoved and refused to give up her purse.

The police were called and, as if the humiliation of being armed but not considered dangerous, wasn't enough, the suspect ended up being chased. According to officers the suspect tossed the firearm during the chase but it was recovered along with the 18-year-old suspect.

Stabbed
According to police, a 23-year-old man tried to settle a dispute with a co-worker by stabbing his antagonist in theiceps on Dec. 3.

The pair were arguing on the corner of State and Court streets at around 11:15 pm, when the suspect allegedly committed the assault. The victim, 25, drove himself to the hospital and identified his

Bagged at Tech

A college student lost her bag at New York City College of Technology at Jay and Tillary streets.

The bag was returned to the 26-year-old student at 8 pm on Dec. 2 but it had been emptied of \$110 and credit cards.

Bump and pick
A woman was shopping at a variety store at Hoyt and Livingston streets on Dec. 6 when she was bumped by another pair of shoppers.

As the victim brought her merchandise up to the cashier at around 4 pm she noticed that her wallet was gone along with \$20 and her credit cards.

Trio of thugs
A 17-year-old boy was attacked at Hanover Place and Fulton Street on Dec. 6 by a trio of thugs who kicked and beat him but failed to make off with any of his property.

After setting up him they tried to pull a chain off his neck but failed and then ran away.

Left behind
A woman, 70, forgot her purse in a movie theater on Henry Street at Orange Street on Dec. 1.

She returned to claim her property at 7:30 pm, but it was gone along with \$10, eyeglasses, credit cards and identification.

Foul Air
Michael Jordan's comeback may have been a disappointment but his Air Jordan line of Nike footwear is still the rage, at least if a Dec. 5 incident of

grand larceny is any indication.

According to police, four 40-something-size 46 pairs of Air Jordan basketball shoes off a Federal Express truck parked at 13th Street and Fifth Avenue while it was in the process of making a delivery to a local sneaker store.

The driver told police he was dropping off the items at around 5:15 pm when he briefly turned his back on the booty.

Like so many balls stolen and taken to the rim by the airborne master, the sneakers, worth about \$4,000, were grabbed by the thieves who then left into obscurity on 13th Street. Police officers, seeking to put the bandits in a different kind of court, are investigating.

Robbed
A 65-year-old woman waiting at the Bergen Street 2 train station at Flatbush Avenue was set upon by two thugs who demanded her purse.

At around 6:30 pm, on Dec. 8, the two thugs approached and said, "Give me your purse."

The thieves then threw her to the ground and wrestled away her handbag before they took off with \$20, her identification and credit cards.

Drive-by mug
Somebody's a thief, a malefactor motorist robbed a pedestrian of her jewelry.

The victim, 21, told police that while walking past Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue at 4 am on Dec. 8 she was stopped by a driver, who asked her to get into his car.

She refused and the driver then pulled a gun and demanded her jewelry. The woman handed over a \$400 gold ring and the driver took off.

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Lichee Nut



The staff of Lichee Nut, 162 Montague St., includes (left to right) Lu Quing, chef Su Long, owner Jerry Shen, Shi Feng, Pamela Low and Felix Ho. (The Brooklyn Papers' Tom Cullen)

After eight years at 162 Montague St., Lichee Nut has lots of loyal customers. Some people come for the great, inexpensive lunch specials, a new house special, or the warm, friendly atmosphere or perhaps the healthy vegetarian dishes. Everyone has a yen for this delicious food.

The Lichee Nut menu is filled with all the perennial Chinese favorites. Appetizers include mouthwatering steamed little juicy buns and Szechuan veggie dumplings with hot sesame sauce. There's also a number of soups (bean curd, wonton, egg drop, and more) and several rice and noodle dishes — served with chicken, roast pork, beef, shrimp or vegetables.

Owner Jerry Shen says sliced beef in black pepper sauce, a new house special, is extremely popular. Those who like seafood should try another house special, fried scallops with spicy thick sauce. And for an interesting combination of tastes, crispy chicken with shrimp in lemon sauce is a must-eat.

Vegetarians, who don't want to give up taste when giving up meat, should try wheat gluten with garlic sauce or string beans with dry bean curd in hot black bean sauce. Shen also advises customers to ask about the seasonal fresh Chinese vegetable of the day.

The portions at Lichee Nut are as full-bodied as the taste. And Lichee Nut delivers to a broad section of Brooklyn that extends to Flatbush Avenue and Carroll Gardens. So whether you eat in or eat out, you'll have plenty of those little white containers to set your stomach rumbling in anticipation.

Lichee Nut, between Clinton and Henry streets, accepts MasterCard, Visa and American Express and is open Monday through Thursday 11:30 am to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday 11:30 am to 11 pm and Sunday 2 pm to 10 pm. On Tuesdays after 3:30 pm, senior citizens age 60 and older can enjoy a 15 percent discount when they eat in the dining room (not when ordering take-out). Entrees range in price from \$8 to \$10. For a delivery or more information, call (718) 522-3566.

— Paulanne Simmons

McRae wins 2nd term as CB2 chair

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 Chairman Shirley McRae resoundingly defeated Ken Diamondstone in her first bid for re-election to head the board.

Though differences, both personal and political, have arisen among board members over her leadership style since she took over last February, members supported her re-election by a vote of 32-4 with three absences.

Before a board that has been racked by division ever since the ouster from the board of McRae's predecessor, Bob Evans, by his appointing authority, then-Councilwoman Mary Pinket, on the night of his presumed re-election, McRae spoke of the past year and its challenges.

"The person who is chair is ultimately responsible for what happens in the community board, good, bad or indifferent," she said. "For the last nine months that was me."

In her signature, no-nonsense style, McRae saved her victory speech for the open session at the end of the meeting so as not to disrupt board proceedings.

McRae and board members pleaded for unity after the vote was tallied.

"The only way you're going to work on any of the issues is to stop waving fingers," she said.

"I never saw so much dysfunctionality between 30 many people," said board member Gerry Nuzzi. "We have people saying this, and people saying that, and never really talking to each other ... We're here and we have to be honest with each other."

Irene Janer was re-elected first vice chair, Ernest Augustus was re-elected second vice chair, and Nanneal Blacksheer was re-elected secretary.

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Woman shot by BB gun in Slope

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

A woman was walking home shortly before 6 pm on Dec. 8, when she was felled by a shot from a BB gun at First Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues.

The victim, 27, dropped to the ground as a stinging pain emanated from her lower back, at first thinking the low-caliber low-life had used a higher form of firearm.

When police arrived they diagnosed the wound as a painful welt and the took note that the glass door to the victim's building had also been shot with a BB.

Foul Air

Michael Jordan's comeback may have been a disappointment but his Air Jordan line of Nike footwear is still the rage, at least if a Dec. 5 incident of grand larceny is any indication.

According to police, a quartet of 40-somethings stole 46 pairs of Air Jordan basketball shoes off a Federal Express truck parked at 13th Street and Fifth Avenue while it was in the process of making a delivery to a local sneaker store.

The driver told police he was dropping off the items at around 5:15 pm when he briefly turned his back on the booty. Like so many balls stolen and taken to the rim by the airborne master, the sneakers, worth about \$4,600, were grabbed by the thieves who then leapt into obscurity on 13th Street. Police officers, seeking to put the hands in a different kind of court, are investigating.

Robbed

A 65-year-old woman waiting at the Bergen Street 2 train station at Flatbush Avenue was set upon by two thugs who demanded her purse.

At around 6:30 pm, on Dec. 8, the two thugs approached and said, "Give me your purse." The thieves then threw her to the ground and wrestled away her handbag before they took off with \$20, her identification and credit cards.

Drive-by mug

Spurred as a chauffeur, a malefactor motorist robbed a pedestrian of her jewelry.

The victim, 21, told police that while walking past Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue at 4 am on Dec. 8 she was stopped by a driver, who asked her to get into his car. She refused and the driver then pulled a gun and demanded her jewelry. The woman handed over a \$400 gold ring and the driver took off.

Book worm

While reading to her son at the Barnes & Noble on Seventh Avenue at Sixth Street, a pickpocket allegedly crept up and stole a woman's wallet.

At around 11:30 am, on Dec. 7, the 36-year-old mother was introducing her son to the magic of literature as a thief was practicing the lower

POLICE

forms of cunning, raiding her purse, which she briefly left unattended on a baby stroller.

The crook made off with the victim's wallet, containing credit cards, identification and \$100.

In-house con

A 79-year-old woman was conned out of cash and valuables on Dec. 6 by a pair of grifters who asked if they could drop off a package.

The victim told police that a pair of women showed up at her home on President Street at Sixth Avenue, at around 3 pm claiming to have a package for a girl next door.

The grifters asked if they could drop the package off with the woman and then request a stationery to write a note. As the victim consented, the suspects followed her into her apartment, and one young woman kept the victim distracted while the other allegedly stole jewelry and cash while she was supposed to have been writing the note. After asking for a glass of water, they ran out of the house. In all, \$1,450 and miscellaneous jewelry was reported stolen.

Withdrawal

While a woman filled out deposit slips in a bank on Eighth Street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, a thief made the illicit withdrawal of her wallet.

On Dec. 5, at around 9:30 am, the victim, 52, took the deposit slips to the teller but accidentally forgot her wallet on the counter. After returning to the counter a brief while later, the wallet was gone along with \$14, the victim's identification and credit cards.

Easy access

An apartment on Fourth Avenue between Butler and Douglass streets was robbed on Dec. 2 by a pair of laptop computers, a DVD Player and credit cards, valued at over \$2,000.

One of the residents left for work at 8:30 am and though he closed the window, it remained unlocked, police said. When he returned home at 6:30 pm, the window was open and the property was gone.

Not scared

A woman who would not be threatened resulted in a bad day of crime for a young gunman on a bike.

The woman, 30, was sitting on a stoop on Atlantic Avenue between Bond and Hoyt streets shortly before 5 am on Dec. 5, when a man allegedly rode up on a red Mongoose bicycle and asked her for the time. The suspect then rode off, police said, only to return and say, "Give me your purse. You have to the count of three."

Threatening deadlines did not work and the victim did not comply. The suspect then

flushed the butt of a handgun, according to police, but the victim remained unmoved and refused to give up her purse.

The police were called and, as if the humiliation of being armed but not considered dan-

gerous, wasn't enough, the suspect ended up being chased. According to officers, the suspect tossed the firearm during the chase but it was recovered along with the 18-year-old suspect.

Stab in muscle

According to police, a 23-year-old man tried to settle a dispute with a co-worker by stabbing his antagonist in theiceps on Dec. 3.

The pair were arguing on the corner of State and Court streets at around 11:15 pm, when the suspect allegedly committed the assault. The victim, 25, drove himself to the hospital and identified his alleged attacker to police.

Bagged at Tech

A college student lost her bag at New York City College of Technology at Jay and Tillary streets.

The bag was returned to the 26-year-old student at 8 pm on Dec. 2 but it had been emptied of \$110 and credit cards.

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Kensington tree lights up park

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Vera Stachow said a teary goodbye to her 30-foot blue spruce as she watched it ride away on the back of a truck to its new home at Grand Army Plaza early Saturday morning.

Given as a housewarming gift by a friend visiting from New Jersey, Stachow and her family planted the sapling in 1967. After watching it grow a foot each year, the tree had simply outgrown its home in front of Stachow's two-story house on East Fourth Street in Kensington.

It wasn't easy to watch it go, Stachow said. "This is something you nurture for 35 years. It's a beautiful tree but when it gets too big for its branches, you have to let it go."

After the branches started encroaching on her basement, Stachow knew it was time to say goodbye to her beloved comifer. Instead of hiring a tree surgeon, Stachow contacted the Prospect Park Alliance.

Stachow said she was ecstatic when she learned in November that her towering blue spruce, which she considers a member of the family, would have a new home at Grand Army Plaza as this year's holiday tree. "Now it will be seen in all its glory," Stachow said.

It's no easy task to move a tree, as friends and neighbors learned early Saturday morning when they watched a crew of 12 park workers use a crane to hoist the tree from Stachow's lawn to an open truck. By 9:45 a.m. after almost two hours of cutting, lifting and hauling, the tree — which draped over the cab and hung off the back of the truck — was escorted by a caravan of cars to its new home in Park Slope.

Despite the sadness of letting it go, Stachow said she was pleased with her tree's destination. "Mother nature gave us the tree and mother nature is taking it back," she said, explaining that after the holidays the tree will be chopped up as much for the park.

The tree-lighting ceremony was set for Wednesday, Dec. 11 at 4 p.m. Stachow said she wouldn't miss it for the world.

"We'll see the spruce in all its glory," she said. "It will be a last hurrah for the tree."



A 30-year-old blue spruce gets taken down from the front of 242 E. Fourth Street in Kensington. The tree was trucked to Grand Army Plaza where it will be decorated for the holiday season. At right, Wendy Gibb, tree owner Vera Stachow and Karen Lorenzo pose with the tree before it is chopped down. (By Deborah Kolben)

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Merchants vent over 'Dumpster'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

In an effort both to inform merchants and residents of what to expect when tougher restrictions on commercial trash take effect next month and to let those opposed to the rules vent their rage, the City Council held a hearing this week on Operation Dumpster.

Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty announced that the citywide initiative aimed at regulating commercial trash bins would begin Jan. 27.

Merchants who do not comply with the new Dumpster rules will be slapped with fines ranging from \$50 to \$250.

To address concerns of both merchants and residents, the

city's Sanitation and Solid Waste Management committee and the subcommittee on Small Business hosted an open forum at City Hall on Monday afternoon.

Speaking on behalf of Community Board 11, district manager Howard Feuer said that merely removing the bins from the streets would not improve the quality of life. "If Operation Dumpster is implemented, our communities will be faced with literally thousands of black bags on our streets, blocking our sidewalks."

Designed by the Department of Sanitation to manage excess refuse and trash resulting from overflowing garbage containers, Operation Dumpster prohibits the placement of trash containers on the sidewalk; mandates that refuse be placed out for collection no

more than one hour before closing time; prohibits merchants from leaving refuse out over the weekend; and mandates that containers be properly stored after collection.

Dumpsters are to be kept inside or in the rear of the premises, if feasible. Otherwise, merchants are asked to consider alternative receptacles, such as 65- to 90-gallon containers or heavy-duty plastic bags that can be rolled or carried out on behalf of the plan.

The program is presently in effect in 10 of the city's 59 community boards.

Steve Harrison, chairman of CB10, presented a 22-page survey conducted by his board showing that 30 of the community boards — if the decision was still their's to make — would either vote down or would be unlikely to institute the initiative.

While the city originally presented community boards with Operation Dumpster as an optional plan, in September the Sanitation Department announced that it would be taking the initiative citywide.

The move may have been spurred by travails within CB10, where although the board had already voted down the initiative 35-10, board members Greg Ahl and Joanne Seminara began a petition to lobby on behalf of the plan.

Ahl, owner of Ahl-Tone Communications on Fifth Avenue, said those opposing the initiative "just don't know that there are better options."

He charged that Harrison had bent to the will of Bay Ridge Councilman Murry Golden, owner of the Bay Ridge Manor catering hall, which uses Dumpsters. Ahl and Seminara turned to Golden's then rival in the race for the Bay Ridge state Senate seat, state Sen. Vincent Gentile, who championed the cause. Gentile launched a petition drive in June showing support for the program among Community Board 10 residents, presented Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty with 700 signatures and pressured him relentlessly on the area's need for the program despite the community board's decision.

At the hearing Monday afternoon, Gravesend-Coney Island Councilman Domenic Recchia said small businesses were worried about the added cost. He also asked for an extension to give more time to merchants looking for ways to comply.

Doherty said enough time had already been given and that the Sanitation Department had disseminated fliers to all affected businesses.

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INSIDE

ART PAGE GO 2
Vinoly unveils Children's Museum design
DINING PAGE GO 4
Five Front restaurant opens in DUMBO
CALENDAR: GO 2 PARENTING: GO 6 CLASSIFIEDS: GO 6-8

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • December 16, 2002

Best for last

Now that you've waited until the last minute, take some advice

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

It's too late. Too late for Web sites. Too late for catalogues. You've waited until the last minute to do your holiday shopping. Now, unless you're ready to fork over the Federal Express overnight charges, you need some local gift ideas and you need to know where to go to get 'em.

Shopping guru tip: Members of the Brooklyn Museum of Art get 10 percent off their gift shop purchases, so give some thought to investing in a membership, which has other perks for you, too.

Another gift shop that offers distinctive, one-of-a-kind gifts is Urban Glass in Fort Greene. When you're looking to give a gift that makes a statement ("handmade in Brooklyn") look to Urban Glass to discover bold, chunky glass jewelry, or very collectible perfume bottles, or a substantial glass platter or vase.

The Urban Glass gift shop also offers gifts that say "thinking of you, but I'm no Rockefeller." When in that category, check out the wide variety of Christmas tree ornaments. The Whitfield Designs (\$38-\$40) icicle ornaments—extravaganzas of color—will be treasured keepsakes



for generations.

(Whether you're an admirer, an artist, or a collector, don't miss the Robert Lehman Gallery, where a variety of glass artwork is on display.)

The Urban Glass gift shop happens to have glass windows looking out onto the massive kilns. When I stopped by last week, artist Jamie Harris—dressed in a silver, flame-retardant jacket à la Dr. Evil—and his team were at work. Harris was hand-molding a 2,000-degree vase with wood mitts that ignited every time he

See GIFTS on page GO 6



Where to shop

Aaron's, 627 Fifth Ave., at 17th Street, www.aarons.com, (718) 768-5400.

Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway at Washington Avenue, www.brooklynmuseum.org and www.bmahop.com, (718) 638-5000.

Urban Glass, 57 Rockwell Place, third floor, at DeKalb Avenue, www.urban-glass.com, (718) 425-3685.

Urban Monster, 396 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street, www.urbanmonster.com, (718) 855-6400.



Gifts under \$50: (Top) Urban Glass in Fort Greene offers a variety of handmade glass gift items including fantastic icicles from Whitfield Designs (\$38-\$40). (Above) Aaron's in Park Slope offers Volupsa candles nestled in plush, velour pouches (\$29). (Inset) The Brooklyn Museum of Art offers a game any borough booster will love: Brooklyn-In-A-Box (\$24.95).

ART

You're invited

When making your holiday plans, don't overlook your invitation to this scintillating "dinner party." The Brooklyn Museum's installation of Judy Chicago's "The Dinner Party," on view through Jan. 26, is a triangular table set with 39 place settings, each inspired by women of achievement and the times in which they lived.

Author Emily Dickinson, abolitionist Sojourner Truth and artist Georgia O'Keeffe are among those selected by Chicago to have a place at one of the table's 48-foot-long sides. The 3-D ceramic plates, suggestive of flowers and often female genitalia, are each placed on coordinating, elaborately designed runners along with a lustreware chalice, napkin and lustreware utensils. The table rests on a porcelain surface, the Heritage Floor, inscribed in gold with the names of 999 women.

In a nearby room, many of the 400 volunteers employed by Chicago get credit for their work in assembling the mammoth installation, which incorporates everything from ceramics to embroidery. The controversial historical timeline on display—which includes information about the first woman pope—will certainly give you lots to discuss over dinner.

On Jan. 11, the museum (200 Eastern Parkway) will offer a china-painting workshop for beginner to intermediate levels taught by Rosemarie Ralmsaker, one of the artists who worked with Chicago on "Dinner Party." To pre-register, call (718) 638-5000 ext. 937.

For more information, visit the museum's Web site at www.brooklynmuseum.org. — Lisa J. Curtis



MUSIC

Smell the fun

St. Luke's director sez "Potpourri" is a merry mix of baroque tunes

By Kevin Filipaki
for The Brooklyn Papers

When the St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble kicks off its season on the Cantor Auditorium stage in the Brooklyn Museum of Art on Dec. 15, what else would be on the program but "A Holiday Potpourri" of baroque music by the likes of Handel, Corelli, Telemann, Pachelbel and Bach?

"It's all great music," says violinist Krista Bennion Feeney, the ensemble's director of chamber music, who set the program. "It's quite a mix. Some of it is very familiar, like the Pachelbel 'Canon,' which everybody knows, and the Bach 'Concerto for Two Violins [in D minor]."

"But many people don't know the Telemann Concertos [for Oboe in D minor and for Flute, Oboe d'Amore and Viola d'Amore in E major], which are both gorgeous pieces," says Feeney. "And you really don't get to hear the Handel Concerto Grosso [in G Major] either—it's very festive, a very 'up' piece—but the Corelli 'Christmas Concerto,' of course, is well-known. We try to get a balance in the keys—some in major, some in minor—so it's a festive and uplifting program."

The St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble was founded in 1974, and was followed five years later by the formation of the renowned Orchestra of St. Luke's, which plays an annual three-concert Carnegie Hall series along with many other programs and recordings. What distinguishes the ensemble is its make-up of 21 virtuoso musicians who are in demand all over the world for their musical prowess. Feeney acknowledges that such an abundance of talent is a good problem to have.

"We like to feature our players in the concertos that we program," she explains. "It's quite special to hear a soloist play in the style of the group. Usually, a soloist who plays with an orchestra comes from a different world, so to speak. Here, we have a style we have in common, and when our soloists play within the group, it makes the performance very special and harmonious. Simply, we have such fantastic virtuosi in the group, we like to show them off."

Following its holiday concert—which, like all of its concerts, is repeated at Carnegie Hall in Manhattan the following Wednesday—the ensemble returns to the Brooklyn Museum for "Mendelssohn: The Boy Genius" on Feb. 22 and "A Schubert Sandwich" on April 6. Several of the Orchestra's Carnegie programs this season are taken up by Mendelssohn, so Feeney believes the February concert should reflect that. "Whenever possible, we like to make a mini-festival," Feeney says, "and since we're doing an all-Mendelssohn orchestral concert that week [Feb. 27], we'll do an all-Mendelssohn chamber concert also. The two string symphonies that we're playing were written when he was 12 years old. Then we'll play the octet in the second half, which shows how he matured musically from age 12 to 16."

Most experts agree that Mendelssohn peaked at an early age, as evidenced by the masterpieces he poured forth as a teenager. "I picked those two string symphonies because the slow movements, especially, are very beautiful—the fourth's slow movement almost sounds like Mahler, it's so magical. And the fifth is a kind of song without words, a beautiful song in the first violins," says Feeney.

"I think we're really well-suited to play these pieces because Mendelssohn modeled his symphonies on the works of masters like Bach, Mozart and Beethoven," she says. "They're an inter-

See ST. LUKE'S on page GO 6



Krista Bennion

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New toy box

Brooklyn Children's Museum unveils playful \$39M design

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

The new front entrance to the Brooklyn Children's Museum will be a sunny yellow beacon attracting families to the corner of St. Marks and Brooklyn avenues in Crown Heights when it is completed in 2006. The new entrance and expansion plans were unveiled by architect Rafael Vinoly on Wednesday morning at his design firm on Vandam Street in Manhattan.



"This whole effort to re-energize the building is in a new context," said Vinoly. "We are giving it an image and presence in the community and having the building thought of as a playground for the neighborhood. The shape is like a gigantic toy, because there is nothing better than transforming it into a tool — not just something to contemplate."

The award-winning architect, wearing three pairs of eyeglasses (on his head, his face and around his neck) enthusiastically described how the current building at 145 Brooklyn Ave. will be annexed by his new, boomerang-shaped addition.

The current entrance, flanked by wrought-iron fences on each side, is at the top of a flight of concrete steps and is akin to a subway entrance leading down into the subterranean museum.

The new 400,000-square-foot entrance designed by Vinoly, in the same location, will be at street level and will be flanked by yellow wings that run along St. Marks and Brooklyn avenues, wrapping around the current building on two sides.

The two-story expansion will bring the museum above ground. The top level of the V will be covered with bright yellow tiles "perforated" with porphyrine windows at irregular intervals of the walls to give even small children a view of the outside. The bottom half of the structure will be glass. The cantilevered upper floor will shelter the lower floor



Kids get a facelift: (Top) Architect Rafael Vinoly (far right) looks at the model for the Brooklyn Children's Museum expansion with Museum Team members. The museum's current entrance at St. Marks and Brooklyn avenues (left) will be replaced with a glass-enclosed, street-level lobby (bottom).

from direct sunlight while still allowing people inside to see the surrounding neighborhood and Brower Park.

Vinoly has also won design commissions for the renovation and enlargement of the historic Sing Harbor Cultural Center in the Staten Island Performing Arts Complex, which will be completed next year, and the Bronx Criminal Court Complex, scheduled for 2007. He is also a member of Think, a multidisciplinary international team of architects and engineers that is one of the six teams chosen to develop plans for the World Trade Center site.

His \$39 million renovation will double the size of the Brooklyn Children's Museum.

Children's Museum President Carol Enselki pointed out that the additional 51,000 square feet of space will be used for display and storage of the museum's collection of 27,000 cultural and natural history objects, for science and cultural exhibitions and extended program areas for toddlers. The addition will also include revenue generators like the Kids Shop and Kids Cafe (including access to the rooftop terrace and a birthday party room), as well as a "sun-filled" library and a new 20-seat theater.

The expansion will also provide new workshop space and headquarters for the Museum Team, an education and leadership program run by the muse-

um, which is a free, after-school, weekend and summer program for 800 kids ages 7 to 18.

The new 102,000-square-foot museum will be able to serve as many as 400,000 visitors annually — up from its current capacity of 250,000, said Enselki.

"Five years ago, our Monster Mash Halloween program brought in 1,500 visitors," said Enselki. "This past event brought in 2,500. We sincerely do need

the expansion will allow the museum to take advantage of solar energy and even well water among other cost-saving, eco-friendly ideas. For example, the geothermal heating and air-conditioning system will use water from 300-foot-deep wells, reducing energy use and eliminating noise and emissions of on-site cooling towers.

Enselki also said that sensors will monitor the exhibition spaces for the presence of visitors and will adjust the lighting and ventilation accordingly. These features are expected to save the city, which owns the building, an estimated \$103,000 in energy costs, said Enselki.

The museum will also create exhibits that teach the children about its "green" features. Exhibits in the planning stages include an "Energy Garden," to demonstrate how the museum harvests its solar power, and "Energy Exploration areas," where children can learn how the museum uses water to heat and cool the building. Visitors will learn about renewable resources, such as bamboo, which was chosen for the flooring because it is one of the world's fastest-growing plants.

"Some people say it's not easy being green," said Enselki, "but it's well worth the effort."

Vinoly gave a digital presentation demonstrating how the 103-year-old museum has changed over the years, moving from the Adams Mansion and Smith House to what is now Brower Park in Crown Heights to the museum's current building, designed by Hardy Holzman and Pfeiffer, and built in 1977.

Construction on Vinoly's addition, to be overseen by the city's Department of Design and Construction, is scheduled to begin in the fall and is to be completed in 2006. Funds for the museum expansion came from the city's \$17 million and the state (\$15 million).

Although the museum has already raised \$4 million from private donors, it hopes to raise \$7 million more.

The museum will continue programs and services in the existing building during the construction.

"My boss [Mayor Mike Bloomberg] says good design isn't more expensive, it's just better," said Department of Cultural Affairs Commissioner Harlan Levin at the unveiling. "The Brooklyn Children's Museum has created something truly special for the city."

For more information about the Brooklyn Children's Museum, visit their Web site at www.brooklynkids.org or call (718) 735-4400.

WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

- THURS. DEC 12**
- Street: (718) 768-2488. Free.
- CONCERT: Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra performs Sibelius' Symphony No. 3. \$10 contribution. 8 pm. Walt Whitman Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 333-0172.
- BARRES BAR: presents Joel Forrester and his dance troupe Stephanie Larrere. No cover. 9 pm. 374 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- THEATER: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Scrooge." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- FRI. DEC 13**
- FAMILY PROGRAM: Prospect Park Audubon Center drop-in program for toddlers, ages 3 to 5 years. Storytelling, music, crafts, outdoor play and mini-lessons. 3 pm. Prospect Park. (718) 267-3400. Free.
- SHABRATON: Dinner and lecture featuring Molly Rezend. "From Shabbat to Shabbat." Based in Israel, Rezend came to New York in 1972 and worked as a producer on NBC news. \$30. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. By reservation before noon. Friday Congregation B'nai Avraham. (718) 645-1610. Free.
- RECEPTION: Last East Avenue presents "Brooklyn's 'Brooklyn' Kids." 8 pm. 136 Atlantic Ave. (718) 645-1610. Free.
- WHITE COLLAR BOXING: at Gleason's Gym, 515. Weigh-in at 5:30 pm. Fight at 7:30 pm. 83 Front St. (718) 797-2872.

- Viva Italia**
- The Brooklyn Public Library's Italian heritage author series closes on Dec. 17 at 6 pm with a reading by poet Maria Mazzotti Gillan at the Central Library at Grand Army Plaza.
- Gillan has published several collections of her poetry including "Things My Mother Told Me" (Guernica Editions, 1999). She has also edited several anthologies with her daughter, Jennifer Gillan, including "Growing Up Ethnic in America: Contemporary Prose About Learning to be American" (Penguin/Putnam, 1999). The library reading is free. For more information, visit www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org or call (718) 230-2100.
- BENEFIT CONCERT:** Spoke the Hub hosts its Student and Faculty Benefit Concert. 7:30 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- THEATER:** Waterloo Bridge Theater Company "Scrooge." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Fuddy Meers." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** "Camelot." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
- SAT. DEC 14**
- OUTDOORS AND TOURS**
- OUTDOOR SKATING:** Prospect Park's Kate Wolman Rink is open. \$4 rental fee, \$4 admission fee. 10 am to 1 pm and 2 to 6 pm and 7 to 10 pm. Enter park at Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 287-6431.
- WINTER PHOTO WALK:** Sahn Marsh Nature Center offers a Nature Trail walk. Bring cameras and wear warm clothes. 11 am. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.
- PERFORMANCES**
- MUSIC SHABRATON:** Temple Beth Shalom presents Cantor Mirindy Fliegelman in a special "Shabbat Carols for the Holidays." 12:15 pm. Call for information: 2166 512. 5 pm. Impass Theater. (718) 372-0933.
- BENEFIT CONCERT:** Spoke the

- Hub hosts its second annual Student and Faculty Benefit Concert. \$15. \$5 students and seniors. 5 and 7:30 pm. 295 Douglass St. (718) 857-5158.
- DINNER THEATER:** Bread and Wine Productions presents "The Last Supper," dinner theater at 12 o'clock. Suggested offering for the kitchen. Suggested offering for the kitchen. \$25 to \$40 per person. 7 pm. Reservations: (718) 928-9222. 16th St. (718) 499-7756.
- MUSIC WALK:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Water Avenue After: The Matthew." \$50, \$35, \$20. 7:30 pm. 30 Polytechnic Ave. (718) 636-4111.
- JAZZ:** Soto Voice Lounge presents Sarah Sargent. 7:30 pm. 229 Avenue C. (718) 962-8222.
- HOLIDAY SHOW:** Brooklyn Music School presents "A Brooklyn Nutcracker." \$20. 7:30 pm. St. Felix St. (718) 638-5660.
- BARBERSHOP:** presents a program of works by Beethoven. \$5. 7:30 pm. 16th St. Friday concert at 1 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2063.
- HEIGHTS PLAYERS:** presents "Camelot." \$15. \$12 seniors and children. 8 pm. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.
- THEATER:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College presents "Christmas in Caribbean." The Mighty Sparrow leads an all-star cast. 8 pm. Walt Whitman Hall. (718) 951-5000.
- THEATER:** Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Scrooge," an adaptation of "Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." 8 pm. Impass Theater. 190 Underhill Ave. (917) 842-0104.

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Claire's big adventure

Gallery Players' 'Fuddy Meers' delivers suspense & slapstick

By Paulanne Simmons
of The Brooklyn Papers

Claire wakes up every morning with no memory. Her son, Kenny, is dyslexic. And her mother, Gerie, has suffered a stroke, which makes her speech impossible to decipher. "We're quite a family," she says...



Drive me crazy: Michelle Goltzman (Heidi), Dave Rosenberg (Kenny) and David Keller (Richard) in a scene from the Gallery Players' production of 'Fuddy Meers.'

"Side Man" and "The Sum of Us." Thompson really comes into his own with "Fuddy Meers." This may be because the Gallery is an Equity Showcase, which gave him access to some top talent...

THEATER

The Gallery Players production of 'Fuddy Meers' runs Thursdays through Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 2 pm, at 199 St. George Avenue...

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- BROOKLYN LYCEUM presents '17 Beers' - a story about a doomed love triangle. JAZZ MASS: at St. Savour, 7:30 pm. ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE presents 'Salome: The Reading'...

LIST YOUR EVENT...

- To list your event in Where to GO, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 506, Brooklyn, NY 11242...

- son. 2 pm. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. DANCE: Burg Danco in Repertory hosts a holiday performance...

- CHILDREN TOT SHABBAT: Union Temple invites children ages 3 to 6 to a morning of songs, stories, dance and crafts. TWO BOOTS: presents bluegrass music with Straight Edge Band...

- SUN, Dec 15 OUTDOORS AND TOURS SATURDAY NIGHT FEVER: Brooklyn Historical Society hosts a walk through Bay Ridge...

- PERFORMANCES GOSPEL MUSIC: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Refuge Church of Christ Sanctuary Choir...

- OTHER BRIDGE PARK: Citizens Advisory Council of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation...

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- HIGHLIGHT PLAYERS: "Carnelot." HOLIDAY SHOW: Brooklyn Music School presents "A Brooklyn Nutcracker"...

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Front and center

Five Front is a delicious addition to DUMBO

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

St. Ann's Warehouse is doing more for DUMBO than providing great entertainment. The performance venue is also filling its new neighbor at 5 Front St., the aptly named Five Front restaurant, with celebrities and theatre lovers.

DINING

Five Front is 5 Front St. at Old Fulton Street across from MasterCard American Express, Owners Club and Dior boutiques. For reservations, call (718) 625-5359.

On a recent evening two members of the Kennedy clan sat with friends at a corner table, and actor Diane West flashed a smile as she strolled past my window. While celebrity sightings in Brooklyn are nothing new, finding quiet places in DUMBO to dine on interesting, affordable food is.

Five Front is a lively buzz and it's no wonder Five Front is a hit with the neighborhood. The two dining areas and the bar make an impression setting for Victorian's cooking. The decor is early 1980s SoHo with cream-colored stamped tin ceilings, dark, smoky, green walls and elegant, light-colored wood tables and bar. The casual setting is just right for an area divided between artists who want to eat well without going into hock, and those who can afford the renowned loft spaces but want a good meal in a room that doesn't include a pool table.

Vicino has brought some all-time favorites from his 12th Street repertoire. The Prince Edward Island mussels in a light curly broth have weathered the move; they are just as delicious and

Give me Five: (Top left) Bartender Omar Washington at work at the new Five Front restaurant in DUMBO. (Left) Chef Paul Vicino serves up a wild striped bass entree (above) with roasted yellow beets and pureed cauliflower and topped with a warm beet vinaigrette. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margolis

heavily with curry spices. Ditto for the short rib dumplings — a rich pot roast filling encased in a thin pasta wrapper topped with a concentrated vegetable glaze. His new sea scallops are a successful pairing of the lush with the crisp. The scallops are seared to a crisp crust on the outside and very inside. The velvety scallops and the brittle strands of fried potatoes that the scallops are served with make an addictive combination. Vicino's entrees are hearty and big-flavored yet not heavy. Take his San Vito Di Capri Stew with succulent, inspired by his recent honeymoon in Sicily

with succulent lamb. If you crave a good burger, Five Front's is plump and charbroiled and its accompanying fries are the real thing. Vicino's beautifully plated desserts share Vicino's homespun yet elegant sensibility. Out of the oven comes a puffy, golden square of pumpkin-bread pudding. The dessert has all the aromatic spices that make pumpkin pie so delicious — allspice, cinnamon and nutmeg — in a custardy, richly pumpkin flavored pudding. A scoop of cinnamon ice cream melts over the top of the warm pudding, and a drizzle of maple-laced caramel sauce adds one more luscious element to the dessert.

I loved the cheesiness of a pecan cookie-like tart shell softened by a creamy splash of honey-sweetened mascarpone (a creamy Italian cheese). Adding wedges of honey glazed, roasted pears to the mix gave the dessert a fruit tang. Five Front is already the kind of relaxed, hype-free place that older restaurants aspire to. The service is friendly and accommodating, and the rooms never get too noisy. It's already something special, with or without a Kennedy sighting.

WHERE TO GO...

Continued from previous page...
day to submit applications for tickets the Hub's Local Produce Festival of the Performing Arts 2003. Call: (718) 857-5158.
CHILDREN
BOOK READING: Union Temple of Brooklyn presents journalist and novelist, Jesse Green reading from his memoir "The Volunteer Father." Book discusses what it means to gay people to become parents 10 am to noon, 17 Eastern Parkway (718) 638-7650. Free.
ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum of Art invites kids to "Warm Winter Coat" a storytelling session about an all-important outer garment. 5¢. Children under 12 free. 11 am (log-in/registration pre-12:30 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway) (718) 638-5000.
BARB MASSAGE: Session for infants up to 1 year. \$40 per baby and adult. Noon to 2 pm. Providence Day Spa. Call to register: (718) 596-6774.
KIDS' THEATER: St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church presents "Charlie Brown's Christmas." 11 to 3 pm. Reservation needed. 259 Washington Ave. (718) 622-5612. Free.
BALLET: Creative Art Studio presents segments of "The Nutcracker"

\$10, \$5 children. 2 and 4 pm. 310 Atlantic Ave. (718) 797-6600.
BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents Aylee B. Ballet Workshop, an interactive event. \$4, 2:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.
PUPPETWORKS: "The Sleeping Beauty" 12:30 and 2:30 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
OTHER
OPEN HOUSE: Brooklyn Conservatory of Music invites the public to meet Conservatory's Voice faculty from both the classical and jazz divisions, as well as learn about classes offered. 1 to 3 pm. 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300. Free.
POETRY: Zoe Gorman Lutheran Church presents 18th-century poetry. 7 to 8 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.
MON, Dec 16
BAR COURSE: Brooklyn Bar Association offers a course "Navigating Supreme Court: Civil Term a Walking Tour." Thomas Kelly, Chief Clerk, Kings County Supreme Court, and Edward Volpe, First Deputy Chief Clerk, Kings County Supreme Court, are guest speakers. 3:30, 1 to 2 pm. NYS

and D. Niekas. 6 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.
READING: Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a reading, 6 to 8 pm. The Fall Cafe, 307 Smith St. (718) 639-2310. Free.
OPENING: Red Clay Arts presents the opening of "One Shot," a media arts program featuring both a gallery show and a virtual exhibit showcasing the work of the Jamaican and Brooklyn youth. 6 pm. 384 Grand Ave. (718) 398-1500. Free.
JINGLE BELL JAMBOREE: Park Slope Chamber of Commerce hosts a community sing-along concert. Also, "Oh One will accept unwrapped toys at the concert." 6 pm. Old First Reformed Church, Seventh Avenue and Canal Street. (717) 514-4991. Free.
GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents a French collection of English speaking artists and writers. 5 to 8 pm. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.
Tues, Dec 17
SENIOR DRIVERS: Eldersign offers a series to help improve driving skills and cut insurance costs. Driving course teaches defensive driving. 10 to 12:30 am. Eldersign, 745 44th St. (718) 121-7907.
ITALIAN-AMERICAN AUTHOR: As part of its ongoing series, Brooklyn Public Library Central

branch, hosts author Maria Mazzone Gillan. 6 pm. 22 Linden Boulevard. (718) 230-2200. Free.
LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library Park Slope branch, hosts a "Teen Talent Show." Ages 13 and older welcome. 6 pm. Sixth Avenue near Ninth Street. (718) 832-1854. Free.
AUCTION: Gale Gates of live auctions has a holiday art auction. 5 to 6:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 222-4970.
NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Mark Morris Dance Group and the Brooklyn Philharmonic in "The Hard Nut." \$40, \$40, \$25, 7 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 622-0203.
HOLIDAY SHOW: USO Holiday Show features a patriotic tribute to the Armed Forces. Special guest is Tiffany Walker. Mis New Year. 7 to 9 pm. All invited. Fort Hamilton movie. The Hub has a reception for the current exhibit. 7:30 to 9:30 pm. 745 1st Avenue. (718) 857-5158. Free.
BRIC STUDIO: American Theater News, featuring work by Sam Shepard and Joseph Chaikin. 8:30 am. PS 131, 4205 Fort Ave. (718) 855-7882.
ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "Salome," by Oscar Wilde. 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.

for members. 5 to 6 pm. 5816 Clarendon Road. Reservations needed. (718) 629-5400.
BARGE MUSIC: presents a chamber music program of works by Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Bethoven. 5:35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.
WOMEN'S HEALTH: Park Slope Food Coop discusses eating disorders, diabetes, candida, osteoporosis and depression. 7:30 pm. 782 Union St. (718) 622-0560. Free.
THEATER: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Scrooge." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: presents "The Last Supper" by Oscar Wilde. 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
NEXT WAVE: "The Hard Nut." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
Fri, Dec 20
RAW POTLUCK: Park Slope Food Coop presents a raw food dinner. \$3 donation and bring a raw veggie dish for us to share. 7:30 to 10 pm. 782 Union St. (718) 622-0560.
BARGE MUSIC: presents a chamber music program of works by Debussy and Maurice Ravel. Bethoven. 5:35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.
NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "The Hard Nut." 7:30 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14. Also, present talk with guest TBA. 6:30 pm. Free admission with same-night performance ticket. Brooklyn Music School. 126 St. St. (718) 636-4111.
GOOD COFFEEHOUSE: Concert series features Rhythm-Do-it, a duo of eastern and western percussion and Maria Sagel and The Brooklyn Brander-burgers. 8:30, 8 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 622-0560.
TWO BOOTS: presents highly swing music with Three Penny Spyn. 10 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
DINNER THEATER: Bread and Wine Productions presents "The Last Supper." 7 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
ST. ANN'S WAREHOUSE: "Salome," by Oscar Wilde. 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
HEIGHS PLAYERS: "Carnales." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.
THEATER: Waterloo Bridge Theater Company presents "Scrooge." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 14.



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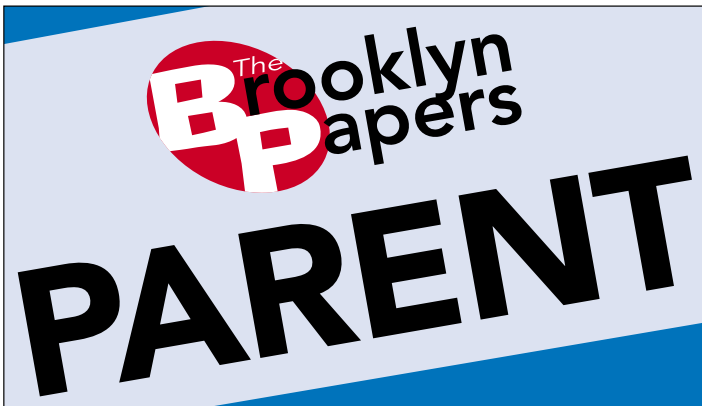
ST. LUKE'S...

Continued from page GO 1
 esting mixture of baroque and classical style with that Mendelssohnian spirit." For the April 6 concert, "A Schubert Sandwich" should be taken literally — a newly discovered Haydn Divertimento will be preceded by a charming Schubert String Trio and followed, after intermission, by Schubert's famously delightful

"Trout" Quintet, which includes the orchestra's new artistic director, Donald Rumnick, on piano. Feeney is coistic about the Haydn Divertimento, a U.S. premiere. "What a treat it will be to play a new Haydn quartet," she says. "The Divertimento" is for viola, viola, cello and bass. I prefer the museum for our group to free up the cello to be more melodic. It's really a beautiful piece." A former Brooklyn resident who lived in Cobble Hill in the late 1980s,

Feeney still has warm feelings for the borough. "I always love going back to Brooklyn," she says. "It's like going back home for me." And the ensemble follows suit. "We've played the museum for eight years now," she says. "It's a very nice hall — we like it very much. I prefer the museum for our group to free up the cello to be more melodic. It's really a beautiful piece." A former Brooklyn resident who lived in Cobble Hill in the late 1980s,

ing in Brooklyn." Who's going to argue with that? The St. Luke's Chamber Ensemble performs "A Holiday Potpourri" Sunday, Dec. 15 at 2 pm in the Cantor Auditorium of the Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. Tickets are \$25 and \$18 for students, seniors and museum members. A series pass — good for all three Museum concerts — is \$50. For more information, call (212) 594-6100 or visit www.orchestraofstlukes.org.



How to deal with twin torment

Q: "My niece is a single mother of 2-year-old twin girls. One twin intimidates the other by running after her while holding something in her hand as if she would hit her. The chased girl runs into a corner and cowers." — an aunt

A: One mother says it took her four months to get one of her 2-year-old sons to stop tormenting the other. Her persistence paid off — now 4, the boys are buddies. "You can't help but root for the underdog," says Patricia Malmstrom, co-author of "The Art of Parenting Twins" (Ballantine, 1999). "The behavior really stops when the underdog faces the other child."

Toddlers run high on energy but low on self-restraint. Unless the minds and hands of toddler twins are kept busy, they're likely to get into double trouble. Their caregivers need to set and reinforce limits — no knocking your sister on the

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

for about four days to see whether it's occurring at certain times of the day," she says. If parents detect a pattern, a tweak in the daily routine often helps change the behavior. Sometimes when a child is hungry, for example, she will take her frustration out on the weaker twin. The addition of a healthy snack breaks the cycle.

"Parents want things to be settled, to have a solution and be done," says Malmstrom. Sometimes when a child is hungry, for example, she will take her frustration out on the weaker twin. The addition of a healthy snack breaks the cycle.

problem and tackle it, she suggests. "I had to accept that of my boys was a bully, and then I could take steps to stop it," Cotten says. "We had short conversations about how it feels to be the victim, and how no one wants to be around someone mean."

"Be patient and hopeful, parents of toddlers. "First-time parents panic that this is a permanent life condition, that the way their children act as toddlers will be how they are forever," says Malmstrom, a consultant, whose Web site is www.twinservices.org.

For support from other parents of twins, contact the National Organization of Mothers of Twins. The organization's Web site is www.nomom.org.

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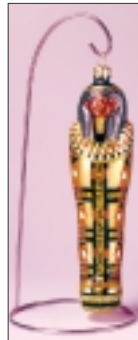
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This handblown glass ornament (\$40) depicts the Cartonnage of Neferneferintep, an object in the Brooklyn Museum's collection. It's available at www.bmaahop.com.

GIFTS...

Continued from page GO 1
 touched the piece. The show was free and unexpected, and the glow from the ovens made for a warm respite from the snow storm. More importantly, it was a fascinating behind-the-scenes glimpse at the skill of the Urban Glass artists, so don't forget to peep before you pay.

Shopping guru tip: *Journeyman members (\$75) of Urban Glass get 10 percent off their Urban Glass store purchases and other perks.*

For your wife, daughter, sister, girlfriend, aunt or mom, Aaron's has gift ideas women of any age not only want — they covet. These discounted designer gifts range from Isabella Fiore's sequined makeup bags and change purses, to scarves, to jewelry.

The North Country travel candles (\$8) are perfect stocking stuffers, and you'll find the big ticket items, from coats to sweaters, are all here. But perhaps the lady in your life is a damsel in distress. If she's got the winter blues, a little aromatherapy might be in order. For \$29, you can offer her a Volupsa candle in rose and grapefruit for a pick me up. When the candle's gone, she still has the plush, velvet handbag — in jewel tones or animal prints — which the candle came in, to remember you by.

Shopping guru tip: *Aaron's maintains a mailing list. Get yourself on it, and get advance notice of their sales — including a hefty birthday discount.*

Urban Monster, a new baby gift shop that opened on Halloween, has gift ideas for tiny tots that their parents will think are very cool. Whether it's the Bob Dylan concert T-shirt onesie or scuffing booties, these items are, for the most part, handmade and one-of-a-kind.

The B.B. Knala coordinating separates appealed to me because they had style and function. The red and black Asian pants (\$32) could be paired with a number of different tops or with a reversible bib (\$14) with matching satin fabric on one side or furry leopard print on the flip side.

Shopping guru tip: *Urban Monster is now hosting a toy drive for needy kids. Bring in a new toy for babies age 0 to 18 months to the store by Dec. 22 and get \$3 off your next purchase of \$45 or more. Yet another tip: Use the 10 percent off coupon in this week's GO Brooklyn section.*

Need still more gift ideas? Gift certificates to a restaurant or spa (for services or products) are always appreciated. For a list of Brooklyn's spas and restaurants, visit our Web site at www.Go-Brooklyn.com. For the zenophile in your life, why not purchase tickets to a wine-tasting class or series? A Perfect Setting (140 Atlantic Ave., (718) 222-1868) offers both. Now go forth shoppers with your newly found knowledge — which was quite costly for me to research — and get your loved ones gifts they will treasure. Happy holidays!

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