



The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper

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BROOKLYN'S REAL NEWSPAPER
The Brooklyn Papers
FOR 25 YEARS

Marty, Vinnie vote for taxes

Both break pre-election vows not to sock it to us

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge has a reputation as an anti-tax neighborhood. So many people were shocked this week when both its state and city elected officials cast votes that allowed the passage of income and sales tax hikes.

The hikes, part of a \$2.7 billion package to help continue services in the cash-strapped city, were passed by the Albany Legislature and the City Council.

Republican State Sen. Marty Golden voted against raising state taxes, but then voted to give the City Council the authority to raise taxes in the city.

And Councilman Vincent Gentile, who voted this week to raise sales and personal income taxes in the city, was blasted by constituents. Gentile detractors said they were not surprised.

"He's not true to his constituency," said Rosemarie O'Keefe, the Republican candidate who lost the election to Gentile in a five-way non-partisan special election in February by just 31 votes.

"He made a big fuss over being a candidate for no new taxes and then on his first vote, he votes to raise taxes. That's not how I would have voted. Shame, shame, shame," said O'Keefe, who also announced that she would not be running against Gentile in the fall. (See story on this page.)

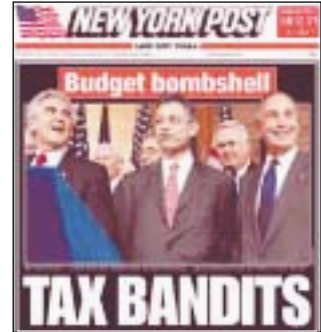
O'Keefe declined to comment on Golden's seemingly contradictory votes.

During the campaign, Gentile decided both the council and Mayor Michael Bloomberg for raising property taxes to help balance the budget. He went so far as to circulate campaign literature featuring a picture of the mayor's Upper East Side townhouse with the caption, "With an \$8 million townhouse, Mayor Bloomberg can afford a property tax hike. We can't. Unlike our billionaire mayor, Vinnie Gentile knows how hard it is to make ends meet right now."

That literature may be coming back to haunt him.

Political consultant Ernie Lendler lambasted Gentile for using the mayor's mansion as an example and then

See **TAX HIKE** on page 6



State Sen. Marty Golden (second from right) joins Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno (left), Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver (center) and Mayor Bloomberg on the cover of the May 3 New York Post.



Children gather around a soldier wearing a gas mask during last year's "Twilight Tattoo" at the Fort Hamilton Army Base. This year's Tattoo is on Saturday.

Fort Ham Tattoo

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Few people know that among Brooklyn's treasures is an early 19th-century Army base that has housed famous Americans, from Robert E. Lee and Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson to Earl Woods, father of golf great Tiger Woods.

At the annual Twilight Tattoo at the Fort Hamilton

Army Base, community members will have the perfect excuse to visit the historic base and stretch a blanket out beneath the stars.

This year's Tattoo, free and open to the public, will be held on Saturday, May 17, at 6 pm on Doubleday Field.

"It's a way the Army can give back to the community," said Fort Hamilton spokesman Ray Aulbue.

The Tattoo, which now takes the form of a military parade, is rooted in the traditional last call of the military bugles dating back to the 1600s. The call signaled to soldiers that it was time to leave the taverns and return to quarters.

According to literature provided by the by the Army, "someone would then 'tap-to' — or hammer — stoppers back into the kegs. Over time, the phrase evolved into 'tattoo,' and has become an Army tradition signifying a day's end."

At this year's Tattoo, the Army Drill Team will wow spectators with their bayonet tossing display and will share the spotlight with the U.S. Army's premier band, also known as "Pershing's Own."

The 3rd U.S. Infantry, the oldest active-duty infantry unit in the nation, founded in 1784, is also scheduled to take part in the event.

Fort Hamilton, an active military base that is currently housing many of the National Guardsmen patrolling the streets of New York, also houses the Harbor Defense Museum, which is now open Monday through Friday, from 10 am to 4 pm, and on Saturdays.

See **TATTOO** on page 5

Rosie: I'm not running

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Republican Rosemarie O'Keefe, who narrowly lost her bid for the Bay Ridge City Council seat to Vincent Gentile, said this week that she would not seek a rematch in November.

O'Keefe was scheduled to make that announcement Wednesday night at the Greenhouse Cafe, on Third Avenue at 77th Street, where the Arm-and-Staircase Republican Club rents space.

"The time is not right for me now. I'm not saying never, I'm just saying not at this particular



Rosemarie O'Keefe

time. But I do want to continue working with the party," O'Keefe told The Bay Ridge Paper.

With strong backing from the

See **O'KEEFE** on page 5



Fireworks light up the Brooklyn Bridge in 1992 during quinquennial celebration of Columbus' discovery of America.

Markowitz's Bridge bash

By Patrick Gallaue
The Brooklyn Papers

It's been more than a year in the making and now Borough President Marty Markowitz will have his grand party to celebrate both the Brooklyn Bridge and his hometown.

Flanked by women dressed as the Statue of Liberty and as Emily Roebling — who served as a deputy to her infirm husband, the master builder of the bridge, Washington Roebling — Markowitz delineated the May 24 celebrations for the 120th birthday of Brooklyn's chief landmark, the Brooklyn Bridge.

"If we do it in Brooklyn, we do it big," Markowitz said on the steps of Borough Hall Wednesday. "We're going to have a huge

See **BRIDGE** on page 5

Valet parking honor system

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Anybody in Bay Ridge who owns a car will probably tell you that one of the biggest problems in the neighborhood is parking — there just isn't enough of it.

And the addition of valet parking, used by local restaurants, beauty parlors and funeral homes can make it nearly impossible for residents to find a spot.

Community Board 10 has been struggling to

address the problem for years and this week suggested putting business owners who use valet parking on an honor system of more neighborly compliance.

The newest round of potential solutions was presented in a report by the valet parking subcommittee at the board's monthly meeting Monday night. It was the result of a study that began last fall.

At the top of that list of recommendations is that CB10 adopt a voluntary code of conduct that all businesses using valet parkers would be re-

quested to adopt.

That code would require businesses providing valet service to maintain adequate insurance, park cars as quickly as possible, not double park, always park legally, never save parking spots, act courteously to both patrons and residents, wear identification badges and comply with all traffic laws.

Lists of businesses agreeing to the regulations would be provided to local elected officials and to the 68th Police Precinct.

See **VALET** on page 5

Police pitch in to help survivors of the shield



A player from the Brooklyn North Narcotics Squad team fires a pitch during Saturday's charity event at KeySpan Park.

By Neil Sloane
The Brooklyn Papers

One thing about cops, when one of their own is in need just try to stop them from helping. That concern extends to their families.

No greater example of that need be provided than a charity softball tournament held at KeySpan Park in Coney Island Saturday.

The event, organized by a trio of NYPD detectives, raised scholarship money for the sons and daughters of two detectives gunned down in a Staten Island buy-and-bust operation that went horribly wrong.

Detectives Rodney Andrews, 34, and James Nemorin, 36, were shot to death during an undercover gun-buying operation on March 10. Police acted swiftly in nabbing the six suspects who have been indicted in the murders, catching two in the Red Hook Houses apartment complex and another, who was dressed as a woman,

on the Staten Island Ferry.

Andrews was the father of two boys, while Nemorin left behind three children, aged 20 months to 7 years old.

At KeySpan Park, home of the Brooklyn Cyclones minor league baseball team, several hundred detectives and officers, their families and the Nemorin and Andrews families gathered to raise money but also to share a lighter moment on the occasionally sunny Saturday afternoon.

"It's easy to put an ad in the paper and ask for donations," said Vic Cipullo, treasurer of the Detectives Endowment Association, who was one of the day's organizers.

"This is a way to show family. That the job doesn't end when you go home."

Those who attended the game were charged \$10 a head, and given wristbands that also entitled them to attend an after-party at Peggy O'Neill's, the bar that is part of the exterior KeySpan Park complex.

Cipullo, along with Detective William LaVasseur and former police officer Chris Scigliano organized the event and the softball tournament, which began on April 26 in Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx with 40 teams.

At least it was supposed to. Because of heavy rain that Saturday, all 45 five-inning games had to be played on

See **SOFTBALL** on page 5



Sarah Nemorin, left, daughter of slain detective James Nemorin. (Above right) Detective Nemorin's sons, Rudolphe and Etienne, surrounded their cousin, Jean-Marc Etienne, at the ballpark on Saturday.



Sarah Nemorin, left, daughter of slain detective James Nemorin. (Above right) Detective Nemorin's sons, Rudolphe and Etienne, surrounded their cousin, Jean-Marc Etienne, at the ballpark on Saturday.

Ed Weintrob / In the news biz, this was the week that was

It's hard to escape the incredible story of Jayson Blair, a Brooklynite who, as a reporter for the New York Times, invented accounts of major news events that were then passed along as fact by his editors at the Times.

We need not give the Times a failing grade for offering a young man a chance. But Blair long ago knew that chance, and his editors appear to have gone out of their way to cover up the young man's assault on truth.

The Times moved to "get ahead of the problem" (to use public relations vernacular), publishing a mas-

sive report in Sunday's edition detailing Blair's lies. For all the specifics cited in the Times account, however, many questions went unanswered.

While the Blair disaster is certainly, as the Times put it, "a low point" in the 152-year history of that newspaper, it's not necessarily the lowest. While many still cling to the notion that the Times is America's "newspaper of record," it's long been a warped one.

Journalism critics this week reminded us of some of the Times' historic blunders—in the 1930s, it



the present—the superficiality of much of the Times' coverage, the outright bias on issues where its editors have a special interest, the preponderance of advertiser-boosting and focus-group satisfying

was telling America that Uncle Joe Stalin was a great guy, and in the early '40s it deliberately buried news of the Holocaust.

I'm more concerned with the Times' present—the superficiality of much of the Times' coverage, the outright bias on issues where its editors have a special interest, the preponderance of advertiser-boosting and focus-group satisfying

cliff in much of the newspaper.

The Times has the right to do what it wants, and if people are willing to spend a buck-a-day on their fix—well, it's arguably safer, and certainly cheaper, than drugs or drink.

But the Times sets the news agenda for the American media. Nonsense that would be enjoyable in the New York Post is potentially dangerous in the Times.

Am I arguing that The Brooklyn Paper is more honest, more competent than the Times? Hardly. But with their resources and reach comes a re-

sponsibility they've failed to honor.

I was privileged this week to accompany Celia, my wife and The Brooklyn Papers publisher, to the Brooklyn Leaders Award Luncheon of the Arthritis Foundation NY Chapter, where she was the community service honoree.

Particularly in a week when the news media is under such heavy criticism in the wake of the Times-Blair affair, it was a delight to hear so many nice words spoken publicly about Celia and our newspaper — by Borough President

Marty Markowitz and luncheon co-chairman Dr. Daniel Ricciardi. I sometimes compare production of our newspaper to the assembly of a jigsaw puzzle—so many pieces, just so much space. The work that leads to the final step, when pages are laid out, belies its simplicity.

The Times referred to Jayson Blair as a "prodigious" reporter who filed nearly 600 stories over four years—by my count, that's about three stories a week, assignments aided by the Times' vast support staff.

Look at today's Brooklyn Paper. If you're reading a Park Slope or

Downtown edition, you'll find 16 stories by Patrick Gallagher in Bay Ridge, Deborah Kolben's byline appears 16 times. Behind every story, there's Editor Neil Slomke—prodding, fine-tuning, listening.

GO Brooklyn, our entertainment section (accurately described as the "essential guide to the Borough of Kings") is not a clipboard of press releases assembled on automatic pilot—it's edited by Lisa Curtis, a professional who vets every story idea. Celia accepted her community service honor—on behalf of her dedicated staff.

CB10 goes back to street and park namings

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

There will be no "Howard's Way" in Bay Ridge, but there will be a Patrick O'Rourke Park.

Community Board 10 on Monday denied a request to have a Bay Ridge street named for a man killed by a drunk driver. But the board did vote to name a Dyker Heights playground for a man who died at the age of 28 after a lifetime battle against brain damage.

The malady was caused by a lack of proper medical equipment during surgery when he was 8 years old.

The decisions marked an end to a self-imposed yearlong moratorium on the renaming of streets and public property.

With an unusual number of proposals to rename streets, parks and other public places

before them, the community board stopped reviewing applications last June until it could agree on a set of guidelines.

Those guidelines were released last month and the six pending applicants were asked to submit new forms.

The sister of Howard Mazariegos, a photographer from Gravesend moved down by a speeding drunk driver last year, had submitted a request to CB10 that the corner of 99th Street and Fourth Avenue be named in honor of her brother.

Mazariegos was killed at that corner after leaving a Bay Ridge nightclub in the early morning hours of April 19. The driver, who was racing his Ferrari, at upwards of 100 miles an hour, was sentenced last month to 7 to 21 years in prison.

The Mazariegos family said they were requesting the street

renaming as a reminder of what can happen when people drink and drive.

But that wasn't good enough for the CB10 Traffic and Transportation committee, which voted down the request on May 8.

Committee chairman Tom McCarthy said that namings are reserved for celebrations of life, not as memorials.

"Our goal is consistency and fairness," Stephen Harrison, chairman of CB10, told The Bay Ridge Paper last month. "The concept is to put a review procedure in place to assure that the person or organization being memorialized truly earned the high honor to be bestowed."

In his committee report at Monday's meeting, McCarthy called the vote against the Mazariegos application a "heart-wrenching experience."

He also said that under the new guidelines the committee was obligated to deny the request.

But according to those guidelines, released on April 3, Mazariegos may have qualified.

"[Public Geographic Areas] may be named for any person who dies under infamous circumstances of crime, accident, disease, social circumstance, or the like such that the death itself leads to a greater awareness within society of the cause of death and a concerted effort to address that problem, and awareness within society of the cause of death and a concerted effort to address that problem and...where the act leading to the death occurred within the district."

One community board member countered that notion, however, saying the street naming is not intended to be a



Howard Mazariegos

vehicle of bringing about awareness. Rather, the street naming honors the awareness brought to light after the honoree's death.

If the committee turns down a request, the applicant has the opportunity to make an appeal to the entire board. But the applicant, Ingrid

Mazariegos, a legal secretary in Downtown Brooklyn, said that after months of trying to petition the board, she had had enough.

"I knew it was going to be denied," said Mazariegos. "They don't think he was contributing anything to the community. What are you going to do?"

"I did it for him. I tried. He knows I tried," said Ingrid Mazariegos, who may look into trying to establish a scholarship fund at the Fashion Institute of Technology in Manhattan, where her brother was a student.

The parents of Patrick O'Rourke attended Monday's meeting to ask the board to approve their application to name the Dyker Heights Junior High School Playground on 81st Street, between 11th and 12th avenues, in honor of their son.

"We wanted to be sure what happened to Patrick did

not happen to anybody else," said Elaine O'Rourke, whose daughter held up a photograph of Patrick smiling.

Patrick entered Lutheran Medical Center in 1978 for a routine operation to cure bed-wetting, but because of a reaction to anesthesia he went into cardiac arrest and sustained brain damage that left him a spastic quadriplegic.

That damage could have been prevented with the proper use of medical monitors, a "20-

20" TV news magazine report revealed in 1981, and because of Patrick's case those finger monitors are now required.

While doctors did not expect him to survive, Patrick lived on for more than 20 years with the constant support of his parents and about 500 volunteers who visited his home until his death at age 31 on Dec. 26, 2001.

The community board unanimously approved the naming of the park.

62/68 POLICE

Thief jumps out of car

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A 19-year-old woman walking along 74th Street at 10th Avenue was attacked by a man who jumped out of a car and demanded her cash.

The incident happened on May 7 at 7:20 pm.

The man grabbed the victim around the waist and told her to hand over her money. When she resisted he pulled her bag off her shoulder and jumped back into the vehicle, his accomplice driving away northbound on 10th Avenue.

The attackers made off with her Coach bag, which she valued at \$208.

Jewel heist

A knife-wielding gem thief grabbed a jeweler walking along 63rd Street at 18th Avenue around 4:15 pm on May 8.

The thief grabbed the victim, pushed him to the ground, and made off with his briefcase, which was reportedly filled with jewelry.

The victim, 57, said his assailant fled in a white minivan.

New Utrecht attack

A student was jumped by a band of four delinquents on New Utrecht Avenue at 79th Street after leaving New Utrecht High School at 1:50 pm on May 6.

The group of attackers beat the boy with a wrench, hammer and pipe, police said.

A 15-year-old was arrested in the incident.

Loss change

A 62-year-old man told police this week that somebody broke into his apartment, at 64th Street and 10th Avenue, and made off with \$12 in assorted change.

The incident occurred on May 10 around 10 am.

Road-rage slash

A Bensonhurst traffic dispute led to a 42-year-old man being slashed on Highlawn Avenue at West 10th Street on May 11.

The two men exited their cars around 8:30 pm. When the argument escalated, the attacker pulled a knife and slashed the victim on the arm and leg.

The attacker fled before the victim, 34, had a chance to contact police.

Trash picks to be halted

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The city's budget is in the dumps.

And even increased sales and income taxes won't be able to save city services.

In the latest round of cuts, the Department of Sanitation announced this week that starting July 1 it will scale back the number of garbage pickups.

Community Boards 10 and 11, which include Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Gravesend will only have trash pickups once a week. Recycling pickups will be scaled back to one day per month.

Calling the cutbacks "outrageous," Councilman Vincent Gentile this week slammed the Sanitation Department's decision.

"My communities will suffer because they are residential neighborhoods which deserve the same level of service as any other residential area in this city," he said, noting that the cutbacks would disproportionately affect Brooklyn, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island.

"I cannot understand why our hard-earned tax dollars in the outer boroughs are not good enough to merit the same level of trash pickup as neighborhoods in Manhattan. It just isn't right," Gentile said.

Trash pickups in most parts of Manhattan will remain at three days per week.

Sanitation Commissioner John Doherty, also announced that the department would be laying off more than 500 employees.

Denise Virga, district manager of CB10, called the cutbacks a "disaster" and encouraged board members to contact the mayor.

Stephen Harrison, the board's chairman, said he didn't see the logic in the cuts. "There's the same tonnage and the same amount of manpower needed," said Harrison, questioning how the scaled back service would help the city save money.

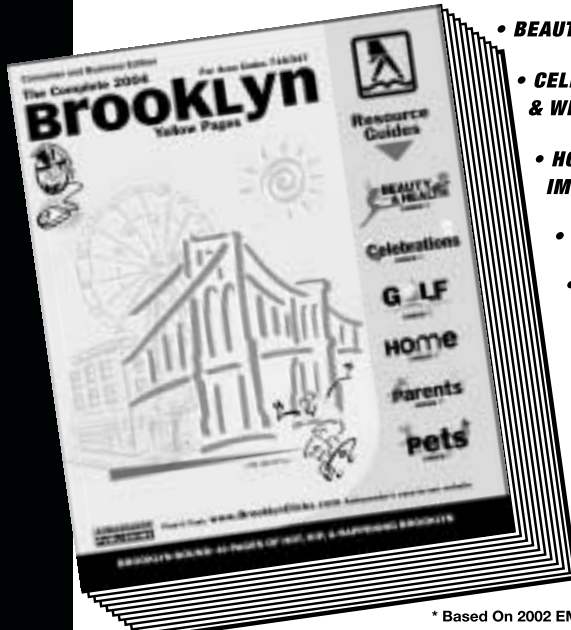
Asked what day trash pickups would be, Sanitation Department spokeswoman Kathy Dawkins said, "Those details are still being worked out."

Added to the cutbacks, Doherty this week announced that effective June 1, the fines for several trash-related violations will double.

Among those is failure to sweep sidewalks and 18 inches into the gutter, which will double to \$100, as will more than a dozen other violations.

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CB10 District Manager Virga steps down

Taking job at Xaverian HS

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

After nearly eight years of service, Community Board 10 District Manager Denise Virga will be stepping down.

In a tear-choked speech at Monday night's community

board meeting, Virga announced that it would be her last.

"I extend my sincerest appreciation to board members of past and present," said Virga, who offered a special thanks to the three chairmen of the board with whom she has worked over the years. She



Denise Virga

said she would never forget the friendships she had forged with state senator and former city councilman, Marty Golden.

While Virga will no longer be a staple in the CB10 office, she will not be moving far.

Starting Monday, Virga will take up a post as executive assistant to Sal Ferrera, the president of Xaverian High School on Shore Road.

As CB10 district manager, Virga ran the community board office, fielded and resolved complaints from community members, acted as a community organizer and mediator and processed permits for community events.

"I will miss the craziness of the office," said Virga, who quickly added that her new boss assured her she would find a similar sense of urgency

at her new job.

Stephen Harrison, chairman of CB10, recounted first meeting Virga at the Bay Ridge Manor, where she was working for former Councilman Sal Albanese.

"It was clear that the path to the councilman was through Denise," said Harrison, praising Virga for her fierce independence and "encyclopedic knowledge" of

city bureaucracy.

"Denise made it easy to be chair of this board," added Harrison, who said he wished Virga could have stayed on until his tenure was up in January.

Over her years of service, Virga said she had the pleasure of working with two state senators, three city councilmen, three chairmen of the board, and five police captains at the

68th Precinct.

As a last order of business, Harrison asked Virga to call together the executive committee to start the selection process for a search committee to find a new district manager.

Interested applicants can apply for the position by sending a resume to the CB10 office at 621 86th St., Brooklyn, NY 11209.

Asian fest at 69th pier



Marty Golden

The Brooklyn Papers

State Sen. Marty Golden will host Bay Ridge's first annual Asian Pacific Heritage Festival this Sunday, May 18, at the Veteran's Memorial Pier at 69th Street.

Channel 11 reporter Pauline Liu will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event, which will feature dance and music performances by Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Pakistani, Burmese and Japanese groups.

An array of booths featuring Asian food and crafts will also be set up along the pier during the festival which will run from 1 pm to 5 pm.

"We spread our hands to welcome the Asian Pacific population," said Golden.

Golden's district, which includes the southern swath of Brooklyn from Bay Ridge to Marine Park, contains the third largest Asian-American population in New York City, according to Golden.

The event is being co-sponsored by the city Department of Parks and Recreation, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Chinese American Partnership, Council of Pakistan, Filipino American Association, Korean American Community Center of Brooklyn and Jade Society for Asian Police Officers. — Deborah Kolben

This weekend celebrates Norse pride

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A large viking ship will be making its way through the streets of Bay Ridge this weekend.

OK, so it's a replica and it's not all that long, but the ship will be travelling by land from its homeport in Philadelphia to join this weekend's annual Viking Fest and Norwegian Constitution Day Parade in Bay Ridge.

In the 1940s and '50s, New York City was so heavily populated with Norwegians and Norwegian-Americans, the majority of them living in Bay Ridge, that Eighth Avenue was known as Lapskaus Boulevard — named for a hearty Norwegian stew of meat, vegetables and potatoes.

While Sunset Park, Bay Ridge and Dyker Heights have served as the main settling grounds for Norwegians for more than 300 years, it's been quite some time since Bay Ridge's streets bustled with women in traditional "bunads."

Much of the Scandinavian community has dispersed to the surrounding suburbs over the years, but the sense of Norwegian pride burns bright in Bay Ridge and many use the parade as an excuse to revisit the neighborhood where they, or their relatives, once lived.

The 17th of May Committee, which has hosted the parade in Bay Ridge for 52



A viking ship in the waters off Bay Ridge in 2000.

years, will kick off its annual parade at 1:30 pm on Sunday, May 18, at the corner of Third and Marine avenues and will continue up to 67th Street and into Leif Ericson Park, where the winners of this year's Miss Norway competition — Lindsey and Kristin Doolittle — will be officially crowned by the Counsel General of Norway Aile Leikvoll.

The parade marks the peaceable creation of Norway's constitutional government in 1814, and is held in Brooklyn on the Sunday as close to May 17, the official day of the signing of the constitution, as possible.

The Viking Fest, which will kick off the weekend of Scandinavian pride on Saturday, May 17, at Owl's Head Park,

will feature the Scandinavian Accordion Club, Norwegian folk dancers, a Viking jewelry maker, two historical re-enactment groups, a wool spinner, and a host of Scandinavian delicacies.

The event will run from

noon to 5 pm, and is sponsored by the Scandinavian East Coast Museum, which is responsible for importing the replica Viking boat that will be traveling by highway instead of by sea because it is illegal for it to dock at the 69th Street Pier.

New digs for Gentile

The Brooklyn Papers

Newly elected city councilman Vincent Gentile will be opening his district office next week.

Gentile has been working out of the Stars and Stripes Democratic Club, on 15th Avenue at 84th Street, ever since his election in February, but starting on Monday, May 19, he will move to new digs at 8703 Third Ave., the former offices of Jabour Realty, which has moved across the street.

Gentile's new phone number will be (718) 748-5200.

— Deborah Kolben

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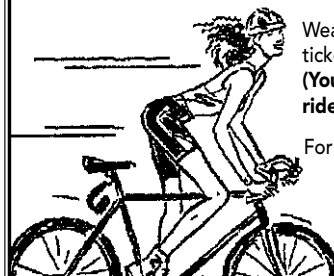
BIKE RIDE ALONG THE NARROWS

Saturday, May 31, 2003 at 9:00 AM

Meet at the Bay Ridge Federal Credit Union at 9000 Fourth Avenue.

Ride up Fourth Avenue to the Bike Path and North to the 69th street pier. We then turn around and ride South to Bay Parkway enjoying the views of the lower harbor.

Continuing we will ride back to the Verrazano Bridge and continue our ride to 9000 Fourth Avenue for refreshments.



Wearing a helmet is the only ticket needed for admission. (You must have a helmet to ride.)

For further information contact:
Bay Ridge Consumer Federation Executive Director Peter Killen at (718) 745-6383

A new book is guide to history of Bay Ridge

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Before there were the Hamptons, there was Bay Ridge.

It was a place where the moneyed class retreated for weekends and summer vacations, a place where polo, lacrosse and yachting races were de rigueur as were strolls along Shore Road by the ladies and gentleman of the Gilded Age.

That was long before John Travolta strutted his stuff at the Odyssey 2001 disco in "Saturday Night Fever." Or even before Robert Moses proposed an expansive bridge, which eventually displaced more than 2,500 households, stretching from Brooklyn to Staten Island.

This is the history chronicled in the Brooklyn Historical Society's new "Bay Ridge-Fort Hamilton Neighborhood History Guide," the fifth in a series of

published guides on Brooklyn's waterfront neighborhoods funded by a grant from the Independence Community Foundation.

The 37-page booklet takes the reader from the community's Dutch beginnings as Yellow Hook all the way through to the present, recounting the neighborhood's cycle of immigrants and change.

Author Marcia Reiss, who also penned the series' earlier guides to Williamsburg, Greenpoint, Red Hook and DUMBO, said it took months to complete the guide, which was officially released at a celebration at Lento's restaurant on Third Avenue at 70th Street, on May 8.

Pointing to the restaurant's rich history — it was opened as a speakeasy during Prohibition and is still owned by members of the same family — Reiss called Bay Ridge "unique" because of the neighborhood's keen sense of its own history. While Bay Ridge earned a



Independence Community Bank employees and Assemblywoman Adele Cohen (lower right) with copies of the Bay Ridge-Fort Hamilton Neighborhood History Guide.

reputation over the years as a largely Italian neighborhood, the guide points to the community's burgeoning ethnic diversity. "On one block, an Irish bar keeps company with an Egyptian travel agency. Nearby, the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, solidly built of stone in 1895, now shares its sanctuary with a Korean congregation. Next door, young Muslim women wearing 'hijabs,' traditional head coverings, bring their children to a day care center. On the side streets, nearly every home has a well-tended front garden and, flying overhead, an American flag."

As opposed to many of the other waterfront neighborhoods included in the series, Bay Ridge began and remains a residential neighborhood. The others, Reiss pointed out, have only recently been transformed from their industrial roots.

Jessie McClintock Kelly, president of the Brooklyn His-

torical Society — which is currently housed in DUMBO until it can return to its Brooklyn Heights headquarters at Clinton and Pierpoint streets following a major renovation — nuzzled the crowd when she proclaimed Bay Ridge one of the most historic neighborhoods in the United States.

State Sen. Marty Golden, Assemblywoman Adele Cohen and Councilman Vincent Gentile, all of who represent Bay Ridge, also attended Thursday night's party along with a host of residents.

Reminiscing about growing up in Bay Ridge, Golden fondly recalled jumping off the 69th Street Pier — now the Veterans Memorial Pier — which closed for active use along with the ferry to Staten Island when the Verazano-Narrows Bridge opened in 1964.

Urging audience members to preserve their own photos of Bay Ridge to include in future guides and history books,

Golden also used the podium to inform the community about a historic house on 80th Street that is in contract to be sold to developers and turned into modern condominiums. "We're losing a lot of historical value," Golden said.

While partygoers perused the buffet, a few noted some of the restaurant's renovations (circa 1970s) and wondered what treasures lurked beneath the wooden wall paneling. Perhaps it's that that same curiosity that will lead them, and others, to the pages of the new "Bay Ridge-Fort Hamilton Neighborhood History Guide."

To purchase a copy of the publication, contact the Brooklyn Historical Society at (718) 222-4111, ext. 44. The guide costs \$6 for historical society members and \$8 for non-members. To learn more about the Brooklyn Historical Society, visit their Web site at www.brooklynhistory.org.

Could be end of the line for Bensonhurst food pantry

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The Reaching Out Food Pantry does not look like much from the outside, a small storefront along a barren strip of Bath Avenue with bars over the windows and a gate over the glass.

But for all the cement and concrete on the outside, the inside is a fortress of goodwill — not to mention canned beans, powdered milk and Raisin Bran.

Operated supermarket-style with small shopping carts, visitors peruse the aisle choosing from a selection of non-perishables. "We think it's more dignified this way," says Executive Director Tom Neve, who started the pantry more than a decade ago because, he says, he likes to help.

The food pantry, at 2334 Bath Ave. between Bay 34th and Bay 35th streets in Bensonhurst, does out food to southern Brooklyn's neediest.

But with rising operating costs, a

growing number of shoppers and a potential rent hike, Neve says that unless he can come up with a creative solution to raise some fast cash, they will be forced to close its doors for good this summer. That would leave more than 600 families who rely on their once-a-month visit, scrambling to find other ways to put food on the table until the next paycheck, unemployment check or food stamps arrive.

Operated with a volunteer staff and donations, Neve says he's trying his best to raise funds, but doesn't know where to go. And with a full-time job — Neve operates a street-cleaning machine in Carroll Gardens for the Department of Sanitation — he hardly has the time for hobnobbing and power lunches.

While the operating budget is \$1,100 a month for the rent, utilities, insurance and gas for their van, which goes out once a week to deliver food to the homeless and inform them of programs and shelters that might be able to help,

Neve says he's not sure the pantry will be able to pull through.

Reaching Out will be out of funds in less than two months.

"I don't know what I'll do," said Sarah, 34, who started "shopping" at the pantry in January after she was let go from her job at Beth Israel Medical Center. She lives in a two-bedroom apartment with her 14-year-old daughter and pays \$1,000 in rent. Her monthly unemployment checks are only \$1,200.

On Monday morning, Sarah stopped by the pantry to pick up cereal, juice, trail mix and several other items that she said would help her get through the month.

"Every day I go out and look for a job and I always think today's the day," Sarah said, while choosing between tomato soup and canned ravioli.

According to Neve, the majority of shoppers, who must register at the pantry and prove sufficient hardship, are the elderly, single parents and the working poor. Growing up in Bensonhurst as one

of six children, Neve says he's always been conscious of people who don't have. But it wasn't until he was hired by the Sanitation Department and was sent out to parts of Brooklyn "where no man had gone before" that he truly understood what "not having" really meant.

"Seeing all those homeless people broke my heart," says Neve. Facing a collage of photos on the pantry wall, Neve points to teenagers who he's been able to help and talks of men and women who he used to see on the van route through Bensonhurst, Coney Island, Brighton Beach and Bay Ridge who have since gotten back on their feet.

Over the past months, Neve has been contacting local elected officials and anybody else he thinks would be able to help. But so far he's hit a brick wall. "I wouldn't even know where to refer people if we close down," said Neve. "Almost all the pantries and shelters in Brooklyn are gone."



Tom Neve at the Reaching Out Food Pantry, at 2334 Bath Ave. in Bensonhurst.

REPORTED IN THE 10/21/02 EDITION OF MODERN HEALTHCARE MAGAZINE
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Chairman, Department of Medicine

Jacob Shani, MD
Interventional Cardiologist
Chairman, The Cardiac Institute

Robert Frankel, MD
Interventional Cardiologist

Sunil Abrol, MD
Cardiothoracic Surgeon

Alvin Greengart, MD
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Mikhail Vaynshteyn, MD
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Yisachar Greenberg, MD
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Jury seeks Dem records

By Patrick Gallahue

The investigation into the Brooklyn Democratic Party heated up this week with reports of grand jury subpoenas of the financial records of top party officials and of the campaign finance disclosures of 21 judges.

In addition, a Queens judge, State Supreme Court Justice Steven Fisher, was named to preside over the case against suspended Judge Gerald Garson, who has yet to be indicted.

Garson's attorneys on May 10 protested the judge's suspension without pay and petitioned the state Court of Appeals in Albany to have him reinstated to the bench. If that motion is denied, the lawyers argued, he should at least be allowed to collect his \$136,700 annual salary. "A loss of his salary will impose a substantial hardship on Justice Garson," his attorney, Ron Fischetti, wrote to the court.

A spokesman for the Court of Appeals said Wednesday that a determination had not yet been made.

Garson turned himself in on April 23 on charges that he accepted gifts to fix divorce cases.

The charges — he is the second Supreme Court judge in Brooklyn to be charged with a felony in less than 18 months — ignited an investigation by District Attorney Charles Hynes into the judicial selection process in Brooklyn, which he called "a sham."

On Saturday, the New York Post reported that Hynes subpoenaed campaign finance records of 21 judges, apparently as part of the grand jury probe. Those records are public information.

Lee Daghliah, a spokesman for the state Board of Elections, told The Brooklyn Papers on Tuesday that his office did receive a subpoena but declined to discuss what information was being sought.

Then on Tuesday, the Daily News reported that sources said Hynes had subpoenaed internal financial records of the Kings County Democratic Committee, the county party.

Jeffrey Feldman, the executive director of the party, said

he was unaware of documents being subpoenaed by Hynes but added, "From what I read in the newspaper I would think that it's likely to happen."

Hynes' investigation into the Kings County Democratic Committee began after Garson, a former treasurer of the county party, was charged with two counts of receiving a reward for official misconduct, a Class E felony.

According to Hynes, Garson fixed divorce cases with six alleged accomplices including court clerks who improperly routed cases to his courtroom, a lawyer who bought off the judge on behalf

of clients, and litigants who paid for a desired outcome.

Also charged in the case were: Nissim Elmann, who prosecutors say brokered Garson's verdict; Paul Siminovsky, an attorney who allegedly bribed the judge on behalf of clients; Abraham Levi, a litigant who allegedly agreed to pay over \$10,000 to Elmann to secure the desired outcome of his divorce case; court officer Louis Salerno, who allegedly routed cases to Garson; and Rabbi Ezra Zalfani who with his daughter, Esther Weizner, allegedly planned to bribe the judge to secure custody for Weizner of her child.

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The great American smoke in Legion hall provides haven from drag of smoking ban

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Things aren't easy these days.

The city is cutting back on services from trash pickups to firehouses. The subway fares went up. Taxes are going up. And to top it all off, the good old days of blowing off steam by blowing off smoke while downing a stiff drink have fallen by the wayside thanks to the mayor's smoking ban.

But all is not lost.

There still remains a place where like-minded folk can gather around a mahogany bar, listen to Tony Bennett on the jukebox, enjoy 50-cent draught beers, and, yes, partake in the now prohibitively expensive pleasure of drawing smoke from rolled tobacco.

That place is called the American Legion hall.

While bars have reported a loss of sales, some as much as 50 percent, private clubs have become the newest haven for smokers, many of whom abandoned their bar stools once the smoking ban went into effect last month.

On a rainy Friday afternoon, about a dozen men were lined up along the bar in the American Legion Post on 78th Street between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge.

With a pool table in front and a television in back, the members-only club for veterans looks like any other bar (albeit one where the average age hovers around a youthful 65).

Only at this locale, customers can legally light up.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg's ban doesn't apply to private clubs.

On a recent afternoon, Gary O'Toole, 44, sat at the end of the bar smoking a cigarette. He was accompanied by his Chihuahua, Chi Chi, who makes frequent appearances at the first-floor club, which despite having a full bar mostly serves 50-cent glasses of Budweiser.

O'Toole, who was born in Bay Ridge and served in the armed forces from 1975 to '79, says he has been smoking since he was 12 and is thinking that he should quit.

"But God gave me the ability to choose between evil and

good and it's my own right to choose," said O'Toole, when asked about the smoking ban in bars. He's against it.

"I think it's disgusting," said Eddie, 83, who has been a club member for more than 50 years. He now lives with his girlfriend (an older woman, he says with a wink) a few blocks from the American Legion.

"They scared us off to war where we got the habit and now they're telling us we can't smoke," Eddie said, fingering his gold pack of True cigarettes resting on the bar.

On the stool next to him, Bill Pattison, 55, kept his pack of Viceroy on the bar. He was frequenting bars less and spending more time at the club.

Bill Keegan, a retired satellite operator for NBC, said he started coming to the club when his favorite bar on Fifth Avenue closed down.

He liked the company and conversation at the American Legion, and now he also likes that he can still smoke.

Even the members who don't smoke said they didn't have a problem with the ones who did.

Jerry, the volunteer bartender, quit smoking 23 years ago but says the smoke in the place doesn't bother him, especially since the club installed a \$3,500 smoke eater.

After 9-11, the members also decided to spruce up the place and O'Toole, a painter, gave the entire place a fresh coat.

While O'Toole said he enjoys being a member because it keeps him busy, he also added, with a shrug, "Where else are you going to get a 50-cent beer?"

And with that he took drag on his cigarette.

While the club is only open to members and their guests, neighbors can join in at the Memorial Day BBQ on Sunday, May 25, from 1 pm to 5 pm. The \$15 entrance fee covers food and drinks. The charge for teens is \$5 and children under 12 get in free.



Joe Garvey enjoys a drink and a smoke at the American Legion Post at 345 78th St. Smoking is legal in private clubs where no bartenders are employed.

Arthritis Foundation honors Paper publisher for community service



Brooklyn Papers Publisher Celia Weintraub was the Community Service Award honoree at the annual Brooklyn Leaders Award Luncheon of the Arthritis Foundation's New York Chapter on Wednesday. The organization presented its Brooklyn Physician Leadership Award to Dr. Peggy Ann Garjan,

chief of rheumatology at both Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge and St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center in Staten Island; its Brooklyn Sports Award to Brooklyn Cyclones Community Relations Manager Gary J. Perone; and its John Wren Corporate Award to Hal M. Rose, chief executive officer of Quentin Medical Laboratory and Micro-Medical Industries.

Borough President Marty Markowitz (pictured with Weintraub at left) praised the publisher's work and said that "The Brooklyn Papers really set the standard for a quality newspaper."

Pictured with Weintraub, at right, are the luncheon co-chairmen — Paul A. Golink (left), a partner in the Brooklyn Heights office of the law firm Cullen and Dykman Bleakley Platt LLP, and Dr. Daniel D. Ricciardi, president of the Long Island College Hospital medical staff, chief of the Division of

Rheumatology, and director of Undergraduate Medical Education. Honorees pictured in the center photos: Dr. Peggy Ann Garjan and Gary J. Perone. The luncheon, which raised more than \$65,000, was held in the Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The Brooklyn Paper photo by Greg Margolis

O'KEEFE...

Continued from page 1

Republican Party, O'Keefe lost the special election in February to Gentile, the neighborhood's former state senator, in a five-way special election in which she was the only non-Democrat.

Due to redistricting the entire council will have to run again in November.

Now that O'Keefe, a former Giuliani commissioner, has stepped out of the race, the door has been left wide open for other Republicans to step up and challenge Gentile.

According to political consultants, Gentile's vote for the sales and income tax hikes might garner favor for a Republican come November.

Stephen Maresca, a financial analyst who made a bid for the same seat against Sal Albanese in 1989, says he plans to run. He lost to Albanese, a write-in candidate who was kicked off the ballot after his petition signatures were successfully challenged.

Maresca ran against, for the 52nd Assembly District seat in 1992, but lost to incumbent Eileen Dugan, who represented the district for 15 years before the fall of cancer in 1996.

Maresca has already got the ball rolling on his campaign for Gentile's seat and will be hosting a fundraiser at Sirico's Catering, 8023 13th Ave., on Thursday, May 15, at 7 pm.

The Dyker Heights resident said he is concerned about the current state of the city.

"With the raising of taxes and fees along with cuts in services, I think we'll be paying more and getting less. And I don't see a lot of other proposals or opposition to this coming from elected officials," said Maresca, adding that he would like to expand the council's three-member Republican minority, which is led by Bensonhurst-Staten Island Councilman James Oddo.

Charles Capetanakis, a former president of School Board 20 who lost the 2000 Republican primary for state Senate by just 259 votes, said he was still looking into it.

But he will have to look quickly as candidates will start collecting signatures as early as the first week of June.

Political consultants have also pointed to Judge Elizabeth Bonina as a potential contender.

Bonina, an administrative judge with the Taxi & Limousine Commission, who was appointed to the state Supreme Court in the Second Judicial District by Gov. George Pataki in June 2002, could not be reached for comment.

TATTOO...

Continued from page 1

undays, from 10 am to 2 pm.

Aalbee said he expected the Twilight Tattoo to attract about 1,500 people and he encouraged visitors to arrive early to allow ample time to get through security checks.

People can enter the base at 101st Street and Fort Hamilton Parkway. There will be minimal parking on the installation, and visitors are encouraged to park their cars at the VA Hospital parking lot.

For further information, call (718) 630-4780.

BRIDGE...

Continued from page 1

celebration."

In an event that seeks to condense all things Brooklyn into a single day, Markowitz announced a massive schedule of events that will include music, poetry and food in multiple locations, for his "Brooklyn Bridge to the World" party.

At Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, on Water Street between Main and New Dock streets, there will be hourly lectures about the Brooklyn Bridge; performances by Brooklyn artists; Houses, Little

Odessa in Brighton Beach and a Brooklyn historic house tour led by Borough Historian Ron Schwinger.

Shuttle loops from Cadman Plaza West and Midhigh Street, between 11 am and 5

pm, will run to the Brooklyn Academy of Music; Coney Island's Surf Avenue, between the amusement parks and the New York Aquarium; Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition's Arts Exhibition on the Red Hook Pier; Grand Army Plaza's ARCH Gallery; and Prospect Park, which will have its own "Heart of Brooklyn" shuttle connection to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Prospect Park Zoo.

Starting at 9 pm, the pop groove band, BeatRoot and other performers will close the show at Empire-Fulton Ferry.

Events will also extend to Brooklyn's cultural attractions with free shuttle buses and tours of Green-Wood Cemetery, the Old Stone House, Wyckoff Houses, Little

Odessa in Brighton Beach and a Brooklyn historic house tour led by Borough Historian Ron Schwinger.

Shuttle loops from Cadman Plaza West and Midhigh Street, between 11 am and 5

VALET...

Continued from page 1

The police would be asked to "periodically examine the establishments involved to ensure that they are keeping their commitments and aggressively examine the service being provided by non-signers to determine if they are violating any laws," the subcommittee reports state.

"The police department doesn't want to crack down too hard because they don't want to put restaurants out of business," said Traffic and Transportation Chairman, Tom McCarthy, adding that the list could be helpful in educating merchants on how to be in compliance.

While the community board passed that resolution unanimously, several board members feared that it didn't go far enough and called for a legislative solution. At least one yawned mockingly.

McCarthy responded by saying that the legislative portion

are affected by this," Honan said. "The community board has been working on this for two years so I'm disappointed that this is all they came up with," he added. "I don't believe the restaurants and businesses will act in the best interest of the community because they already aren't now."

The valet issue was pushed over to the community board two years ago by state Sen. Marty Golden during his tenure as councilman.

Golden owns the Bay Ridge Manor banquet hall, on 76th Street at Fourth Avenue, which operates its own valet parking service. Golden said he took a backstage role to avoid a conflict of interest.

But now that former state Sen. Vincent Gentile is councilman, many wonder what role he will take in addressing the issue.

"Councilman Gentile is exploring all the options and he is viewing some of the reports that have been published, and is looking at alternatives," said Gentile spokesman Scott Gastel.

SOFTBALL...

Continued from page 1

Sunday, and played they were. The detectives set up five makeshift fields so that games could be played simultaneously and the scheduled championship games could still be held for the Keyspan benefit.

In the first championship game on Saturday, the Manhattan Warrants Squad team beat out the Brooklyn North Narcoes Squad team for the Division B title. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly handed out their trophy.

In the Division A game the Detectives Endowment Association bested the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association.

The event was expected to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000, according to Scaglione, between the ticket sales, the sale of special NYPD T-shirts and polo shirts commemorating the slain detectives, the sale of police department merchandise at the park and after-party and the sale of donated Budweiser and so-

on at Peggy O'Neill's. The Brooklyn Baseball Club, which owns the Cyclones, donated use of their ballpark for the roughly three-hour tourney and parking was free. They also provided a concessionaire to sell hot dogs, beer and soda during the games.

After the game, the police and civilians in attendance took the party to Peggy O'Neill's, whose owners donated their indoor and outdoor bar for the event. They also set up a barbecue grill and Anheuser-Busch had a beer stand outside, which was donated to the event. The party fundraiser went on till about 1 am.

The evening featured performances by local bands, Soul Shake, Judy Torres, Core, Stave and Reina, and DJ Big Dave kept the party going.

The TV show "Third Watch" donated merchandise for a raffle, which also included

Mets and Yankees tickets.

All the funds raised by the event and collected subsequently will go to five scholarship funds for the slain officers' children.

Detective Andrews' wife, Maryann Andrews, and Detective Nemom's wife, Rose Nemom, have been active since their husbands' deaths in calling for tougher gun laws.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE DANIELLE AND YVONNE MERRY FOUNDATION for the calendar year ended December 31, 2002 is available at the principal's office located at 3001 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 492-1212, for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within two days thereof. Principal manager of the foundation is David Eickstein. BR02

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE DAVIS AND CHAIRMAN CHARLES FOUNDATION for the calendar year ended December 31, 2002 is available at the principal's office located at 3001 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 492-1212, for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within two days thereof. Principal manager of the foundation is Mark Szyman. BR02

THE ANNUAL RETURN OF THE JACK AND BONNIE EDWARDS CHARITABLE FUND for the calendar year ended December 31, 2002 is available at the principal's office located at 3001 Avenue M, Brooklyn, NY 11210, (718) 492-1212, for inspection during regular business hours by any citizen who requests it within two days thereof. Principal manager of the foundation is David Eickstein. BR02

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On May 9, they were joined by Sen. Charles Schumer in calling for a ban on assault weapons. Detectives Andrews and Nemom had been attempting to purchase TEC-9 assault weapons the night they were murdered.

Those interested in donating to the scholarship fund can send their donation to: DEA Widows and Children's Fund, 26 Thomas St., New York, NY, 10007. Write "March 10 Undeveloped Fund" in the memo line.

Cash-strapped Museum to close for two weeks

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The doors of the Brooklyn Museum of Art will be closed to the public for two weeks in mid-August as a cost-saving measure.

Other institutions are also facing drastic cuts and have once again warned that everything is on the table, from furloughs to eliminating the beluga whale exhibit at the New York Aquarium in Coney Island.

Brooklyn Museum officials announced this week that from Aug. 4 through Aug. 19, the museum will be closed and the entire 300-person staff of union and non-union employees furloughed for one of the two weeks.

The museum's director, Arnold Lehman, said in a statement, "The seriousness of our fiscal situation — primarily due to diminished support from the city as well as from the private sector and from a reduction in the museum's endowment income caused by the economic downturn — now demands that we take this

step, among others."

The museum is facing a \$2.4 million decrease in city support in fiscal year 2004. Its overall budget is \$28 million.

The closing is emblematic of the fiscal shortfalls facing cultural institutions, and telling of how those groups will face them.

The Brooklyn Academy of Music already furloughed its employees last year, costing them three days of vacation time. To trim about \$1 million from its \$27 million budget next year, BAM will cut its opera season from three performances to one, cancel its gospel branches and eliminate its magazine, said Karen Brooks Hopkins, the institution's president.

But there's still more to be done, she said.

"Now we're looking at personnel decisions that we'll need to make in terms of furloughing or laying off," she added.

Carol Enskii, president of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, said she is in discussion with her museum's board over how to deal with a

proposed \$1.4 million reduction in its anticipated \$5.9 million in city support for fiscal year 2004, which starts July 1.

"For all of us, everything has to be on the table," said Enskii. "I think the art museum's announcement reflects what all the institutions are going through. It's not belt tightening any longer."

Furloughs, she added, would be an option to be explored among the actions already taken, such as the elimination of 25 percent of the children's museum's public performances and workshops, and the loss of 18 positions.

Among the living exhibitions, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York Aquarium and Prospect Park Zoo, furloughs are not an option.

"These animals depend on highly filtered water that we treat daily," said the aquarium's director, Dr. Paul Boyle. "In that instance when I'm faced with budget cuts I can't cut the monies from that function."

Over the last year and a half, the aquarium has lost 18 percent of its city funding and in the next fiscal year Bloomberg has proposed cutting 25 percent from the \$3.1 million in the city money the aquarium receives.

Among the host of painful options — including layoffs and truncation in services and external education programs — one of the most agonizing cuts being looked at, Boyle said, was a cancellation of the beluga whale exhibit.

"We might have to say we can't have beluga whales here," he said.

For the first aquarium in North America to host beluga whales — and the first museum anywhere to have a beluga give birth in captivity — to lose that exhibit would be devastating to say the least, Boyle said.

Previous cuts have already forced an across-the-board wage freeze, and increased admission prices and membership fees.

For the Prospect Park Zoo, the outlook is even grimmer. In the latest round of budget cuts, presented

on April 15, Bloomberg proposed locking the gates of the Prospect Park and Queens zoos, which would save the city approximately \$8 million, less than 1 percent of the needed \$1 billion.

The 12-acre Prospect Park Zoo attracts nearly 250,000 visitors each year.

"This is not a budgetary exercise — this is the lives of 211 people, the displacement of thousands of animals, and the dismantling of the world's largest and most distinguished network of urban wildlife parks," Dr. Steven Sanderson said of the cuts. Sanderson is president and chief executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the parent organization to the city's four zoos and the aquarium.

The WCS has mounted a petition drive and they are asking New Yorkers to visit the city's zoos in a show of support.

At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, city funding is set to be slashed by \$1.2 million in the next fiscal year. Since 2001, the Botanic Garden's city allocation has declined from \$4 million to the \$2.4 million proposed for the next fiscal year.

"We will not be closing as the museum did because for us we need our gardening staff," said Judith Zak, the president of the Botanic Garden. "Our plants continue to grow, budget cuts or not."

A high school apprenticeship program has been discontinued as has been a summer junior botanists program.

Staff vacancies have gone unfilled and the garden is considering opening at 10 am rather than 8 am on weekdays.

In March, the Botanic Garden raised its admission fees from \$3 to \$5, on top of an across-the-board wage freeze.

In addition to closing, the Brooklyn Museum of Art will cancel several exhibitions, cut back on programming and maintain a hiring freeze.



Photo by Patrick Gallahue

Endangered habitat

Annalisa Massiah, 11, holds a sign at the Prospect Park Zoo Friday protesting its possible closure due to budget cuts. Monica Franklin, 10 (far right), joins the impassioned plea. All pictured are students at PS 269 on Nostrand Avenue. Rally also drew elected officials and actors John Turturro and Steve Buscemi.

Extend truck route study

The Brooklyn Papers

Is truck traffic clogging your streets, blocking pedestrian traffic in your neighborhood or causing harmful air pollution?

If so, the Department of Transportation (DOT) wants to hear from you.

As the DOT undertakes the redesign of citywide truck routes, they are asking residents to complete a survey about truck traffic in their neighborhoods.

The deadline for survey submissions has been extended to May 23.

The survey's questions range from types of vehicles on neighborhood streets to time of day and type of pollution caused by those vehicles.

The surveys are available at the offices of state Sen. Marty Golden, at 7403 Fifth Ave., and state Sen. Seymour Lachman, at 2429 Croysey Ave. They are also available online at www.ny.gov/dot.

— Deborah Kolben

Students visiting Brooklyn Museum Wednesday view its expanded Egyptian art exhibit. The Museum will close for two weeks this summer.

Senator St. deemed historic

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A block in Bay Ridge has finally been recognized for its historic value.

The stretch of Senator Street from Third to Fourth avenues has been added to the National and State Registers of Historic Places.

In a special ceremony commemorating the first historic district in Bay Ridge, Bernadette Castro, the state commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, will present a certificate of recognition to a very pleased block association.

The ceremony will take place at the High School of Telecommunication Arts and Technology, on Senator Street at Fourth Avenue, on Wednesday, May 21, at 2 p.m.

Getting that historic designation was no easy task, said Eric Rouda, who authored the application along with his neighbor, Ronald Gross.

According to Gross and Rouda's research, the block's 38 brownstones were designed by local architect Fred Eisenla and built between 1906 and 1912 in the neo-Renaissance style. They are all three-story, bow-front brownstones with double-leaf doors

that have retained their original clear, glass doorknobs.

The block is the only one in Bay Ridge with brownstones on both sides on both sides. Rouda said the block association felt it was important to preserve the unique character of the area.

"We felt this was the first step towards saving and pro-

tecting the good and elegant houses of an age gone by. Our

house are notable for the classic rowhouse look and some of the freestanding Victorian houses need to be preserved for their look," said Rouda.

The first historic district even has an historic name, according to Gross and Rouda.

Senator Street derives its

name from Henry Murphy (1810-1882). Murphy was a

major of Brooklyn, a congressman and state Senator from Bay Ridge. He was one

of the Democratic Party loyalists who founded the Brooklyn Eagle in 1841 and was also instrumental in changing the name of Yellow Hook to Bay Ridge to restore the image of

the area following the yellow fever epidemic.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of that name change.

In addition to doing their part to preserve the neighborhood, Rouda said the process brought the neighbors together. "We all feel like curators of a very special block," said Rouda.

Cops nab boastin' bank bandit

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

A homeless bank robber, who may have boasted of his crimes to the wrong person, was arrested April 29 and confessed to 14 bank robberies, including two in Downtown Brooklyn.

The arrest came as police stepped up the pressure to curb a wave of bank robberies citywide.

Police were led to Bryant Brown, 37, by an anonymous tip. According to police, Brown, a homeless man, began his robbery spree in Bedford-Stuyvesant in February, eventually making his way to Downtown Brooklyn on March 1.

According to police sources cited by the New York Post, Brown boasted to the anonymous tipster about a robbery he pulled off at the HSBC Bank right across the street from City Hall.

He was apprehended on Nostrand Avenue between Hancock and Halsey streets in Crown Heights.

On March 1, Brown passed a note demanding cash at a North Fork Bank on Joralemon Street, between Court and Clinton streets, at around 12:30 p.m., police said. The teller complied and handed over \$950 in denominations of \$50, \$20 and \$10 bills before the suspect fled on Joralemon Street.

Four weeks later, Brown returned to Downtown Brooklyn, police said, to hold up a Banco Popolare on Livingston Street, between Smith and Hoyt streets, on March 28 at around 9:15 a.m.

Brown passed a note that said, "Don't move, no one any further will kill or injure body. Don't [mess] with me. Just put 20s and 100s on the counter."

He fled with \$3,290, police said.

Brown also confessed to three other robberies, in the 79th Precinct, which cov-

ers Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Brown's last heist was the City Hall job on April 22.

There were no injuries or weapons displayed in any of the heists. Brown collected more than \$41,000 from the 14 robberies, police said, and according to the Post, when police caught him he had nothing left but a few dollars left on crack cocaine, clothes and jewelry.

Police in the city have struggled to curb bank robberies, which have skyrocketed in recent months.

Many occurred on the "bankers row" along Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn where the city's major banks have taken place in the past six months, mostly by note-passers. There were seven banks along Montague Street.

Brown's case-appointed attorney did not return calls by press time.

TAX HIKE VOTE...



State Sen. Marty Golden

Councilman Vincent Gentile

Continued from page 1

turning around and voting to raise taxes.

"You can't trust him to do what he says he's going to do," said Lendler, noting Gentile's vote as a state senator against gay rights legislation despite earlier vows to vote in favor of it.

"This could hurt him in the election in November," said Lendler, who worked as a campaign advisor for Steve Harrison, one of Gentile's Democratic opponents, in the February council race.

Gentile defended his tax-hike vote saying he campaigned specifically against raising property taxes. He said the income tax hikes were minimal and would affect few people in his district.

"We're talking about very high incomes," said Gentile.

The income tax surcharge would kick in for families earning over \$150,000 per year and singles earning over \$100,000.

The council also approved a sales tax hike of .125 percent. In combination with the state sales tax hike, city residents can expect to pay a sales tax of 8.65 percent, up from 8.25 percent.

Golden cast a vote in Albany against raising state taxes, claiming that state income tax hikes would affect more than 50,000 families in his district and "scores" of singles earning over \$100,000.

Only three Democrats — Liz Krueger and Eric Schneiderman, both of Manhattan, and Kevin Parker, of Flatbush — and one Republican, upstate Raymond Meier, also voted against the tax increase in the state Senate.

State Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno led the push for the tax hike in defiance of Gov. George Pataki.

That put Golden, an ally of both Bruno and Pataki whom both helped get elected, in a tough spot.

But while Golden voted against Bruno's wishes on the state tax hike, he turned around and voted with his senate leader to allow the city of his district to raise taxes.

Golden defended his votes this week claiming that they were not contradictory. "I voted against raising taxes," Golden insisted.

"It's common that legislators vote for home rule. We vote as a majority for the right of the county to do as they see fit," said Golden, explaining that he merely voted to allow the city to decide for itself whether or not to adopt the tax-hike package, a forgone conclusion to most observers and elected officials since it was the mayor and council leaders who had called on Albany to allow the measure.

The council passed the tax package by a vote of 46-3 on May 5. The council's three Republicans, led by Bensonhurst Councilman

James Onda, were the only dissenters.

And in another seemingly contradictory move, Golden cast votes to restore several programs, including Universal Prekindergarten, but his vote against the state tax hike, which passed anyway, was also a vote against funding for those programs.

"Some guys like to have it both ways," said Prof. Alan Chartack, publisher of the Legislative Gazette, a weekly, Albany-based newspaper devoted to state government.

According to Chartack, party leaders will often let new senators from difficult districts off the hook.

"They want to be sure to get their own people elected," said Chartack.

And with \$4 million poured into Golden's campaign the state Republican Party surely wants to secure his seat, one of just four in the city, for re-election.

But Golden may have at least denied his longtime relationship with state Conservative Party Chairman Michael Long, a Bay Ridge liquor store owner who helped get Pataki elected in 1994 and is a staunch supporter of the governor on the tax issue.

While Long, whose party money and support goes a long way toward getting a Republican elected in New York, praised Golden's vote against the state tax hike, he said he was disappointed in his vote to allow the city to raise taxes.

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Chinatown bank founder finds tragedy brings 'wonderful life'

By Larry Neumeister

Associated Press

"It's a Wonderful Life" wasn't set in Chinatown, but a local banker found himself starting in a big-city version of the classic movie when there was a three-day run on his bank.

Recalling the 1946 Frank Capra holiday film, bank customers rushed into Abacus Federal Savings Bank branches in Philadelphia and New York last week.

In an extraordinary over-reaction to news that a bank manager had been accused of embezzlement, Abacus customers withdrew a total of \$30 million.

But as the bank was losing a significant portion of its \$280 million in total deposits, community lenders, other banks and old friends of 68-year-old bank founder Thomas Sung stepped up to offer money and support.

"It makes our heart warm and makes us feel once this is over we will dedicate ourselves even more to community service and projects," Sung said.

Only this week did the amount of

deposits to the bank begin to exceed the value of withdrawals, Sung said. "It's certainly stabilized and we're very heartened by the tone of events," he said.

On April 22, crowds of customers began gathering outside the bank after a Chinese-language newspaper and radio station reported a former branch manager had embezzled at least \$1 million. Analysts noted many of the bank's primarily ethnic Chinese customers are recent immigrants with little understanding of U.S. bank protections.

Three days later, authorities announced they were searching for the former manager, Carol John Mee Lim, who faces a federal charge of embezzlement.

Meanwhile, friends of the bank opened up \$100,000 accounts, told crowds of people making withdrawals that their money was safe, and spoke to local newspapers serving the bank's largely Chinese population.

Government regulators reinforced the message that the bank was sound.

Once reassured their money was safe, many customers reopened their accounts, and others simply returned the bank checks they were handed when they made their withdrawals.

The bank run, a rare phenomenon in recent decades, stunned Sung.

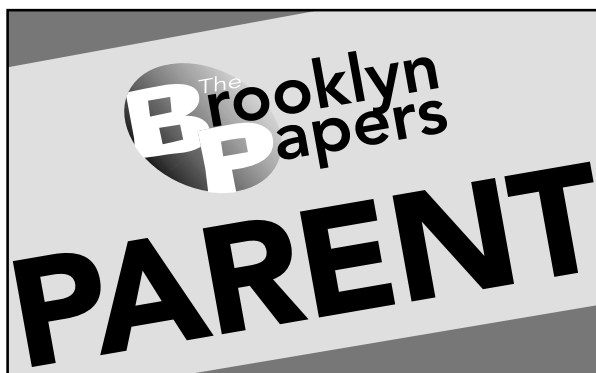
For a time, he had trouble believing what was happening to the bank he founded in 1984 to serve the Chinese community in Manhattan.

"We're not here to make a lot of money for ourselves. We're here because we wanted to serve an underserved community," he said.

Sung said he repeatedly has turned down lucrative offers by large banks that wanted to purchase his bank, which stays open seven days a week in Chinatown.

"But that would change the character of the bank and would lose the purpose for which this bank was formed," he said.

Sung said the bank lost money for the first three months of its operation but has turned a profit ever since, earning roughly \$11 million last year.



A century later, memories of Luna Park still bright

By Larry McShane
Associated Press

It promised — and delivered — “a delirium of something doing.” There were dog sleds and a monkey theater, Japanese gardens and Venetian canals, the world’s largest ballroom and a faux trip to the moon. A newspaper ad promised wondrous acts “gathered from the universe,” along with “strange people from every clime.”

It was all unveiled on May 16, 1903 — opening night at Luna Park, a peerless purveyor of fantasy and family fun opposite the ocean in Coney Island. Fifty-two years before Disneyland debuted, its predecessor was attracting 90,000 daily visitors.

“Coney Island is the place where American mass culture was invented, and then imported around the world,” said Michael Immerso, author of “Coney Island: The People’s Playground.”

“Luna Park took that process to the highest level.”

The trip began 100 years ago, when Ohio-born Fred Thompson brought his vision of an unprecedented new amusement park to Brooklyn. The park’s name came from his partner’s sister; its reputation was made all on its own.

Luna Park, four blocks wide on Coney Island’s Surf Avenue, was spectacular. Hundreds of thousands of lights illuminated the facility; the phrase “it’s lit up like Luna Park” soon entered the vernacular.

In its first year of operation, the park cleared a \$600,000 profit (with a 10 cent admission). It drew nearly 5 million people in the 3 and 1/2 month summer season — about what Disneyland drew per year when it first opened, Immerso said.

Its daily attendance routinely outdrew the city’s baseball teams. An architectural critic hailed the park: “Not only can Coney Island be good, but that goodness pays, and pays handsomely.”

In 1907, more than a million postcards per week were mailed out of the Coney



A 1906 photograph of Luna Park in Coney Island, which would have turned 100 years old this year.

Island post office by visitors boasting to friends about their visits to the sparkling attraction.

Luna Park “changed the amusement rules,” said renowned New York historian Mike Wallace. “They deliberately aimed at expanding audience size — going beyond the largely male working class to include the middle class and entire families.”

The park, walled in from the neighborhood’s seafarer pursuits, was an assembly of fantasy architecture: 1,211 towers, minarets and domes rose up by 1906, giving Coney Island its own improbable skyline.

In glory years covered about a decade, until Thompson left, although Luna Park endured into the 1940s. It eventually disappeared as it debated: in a blaze of glory.

An electrical fire, which started in a ride called the Dragon’s Gorge, burned

down much of the park in August 1944. An estimated 750,000 people stood watching the 10-alarm blaze from the Coney Island beach.

Buildings and concession stands “burned like matches,” according to New York Times. Mayor Fiorello La Guardia rushed to the scene from City Hall.

Twenty rides were destroyed. And so was the park, which briefly reopened before closing for good.

Today, the only signs of the once-mighty park hang above buildings that bear its name: the Luna Park Houses, where master builder Robert Moses presided over the 1958 groundbreaking; the Luna Park Senior Center; and Luna Park Furniture.

Incredibly, there remains an actual Luna Park — a small asphalt playground opened in 1962, tucked beneath the elevated subway tracks.

How to (gently) quiet a chatty child

Q: “My third-grader is an A student but gets low conduct grades because of too much talking. How can her teachers and I stop this?” — a mother

A: Shouting “shut up” and other common mistakes fail to solve the talking problem. Instead of disrupting the class to silence a chatterbox, help the sociable child re-channel her behavior into a benefit.

“Talking in class is more of a social problem, an interaction problem, than a discipline problem,” says Robert DeBruyn, author of “You Can Handle Them All” (The Master Teacher, 2000) and “You Can Handle Them All for Parents” (2003). “Interrupting the class to reprimand the child won’t solve it.”

If you punish or isolate compulsive talkers in class, in the lunchroom or at home, they will be even more needy for attention and relationships — part of what gets them into trouble in the first place, says DeBruyn, owner of The Master Teacher Inc., which produces educational resources.

“Give them a chance to speak out in other ways,” he says. “Meet their needs through productive work in the classroom or doing something for the teacher. These are great kids to make classroom announcements, to help other kids, to give reports.”

Some students are less tempted to chatter if they get to work in groups, get jobs around the classroom and have additional challenging assignments.

First, make the child aware of her talkative behavior — she may not even know she’s talking, DeBruyn suggests. Coordinate with the teacher how the problem will be handled at school and at home. The goal: Improved self-discipline, not punishment.

What undermines the management of a talker at home or in class: Ignoring the behavior one day then overreacting the next.

One mother gave her son a note card to jot down each time he wanted to speak in class but didn’t have a chance to. That helped him gain control without squashing his interest, and he proudly brought home his tallies to mom. The tallies added up to small treats.

One reader’s son responded to keeping score, so his teacher marked on a sticky note on his desk each time he spoke out of turn. His teacher quietly called attention to how

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

often he interrupted class, and he learned that he had to wait to be called on.

DeBruyn, a former teacher, used hand signals to help his students check their chatty behavior without any interruption of the class or embarrassment of the child.

His other tips include: • When the student is talking, don’t stop class or say a word. Walk toward the child’s desk. The closer the teacher moves to a talker, the less she will talk.

• Let the student know you will call on her during class discussion. If you tell her the question you will ask, she can focus on planning her answer instead of talking.

• Make frequent eye contact.

• Seat the talker near quiet and serious students.

Parents can encourage the child to count “1-2-3,” to be sure what she has to say “counts” before she opens her mouth, DeBruyn suggests.

At the dinner table, take turns talking. Ask questions and make eye contact. A child learns social skills in a family-centered home where he has to be courteous, listen and take turns talking, not in a child-centered family where the child is king.

The ability to talk is an asset, DeBruyn says, as long as a child learns appropriate behavior — such as not to interrupt classmates while they are working, to think before speaking and to realize they aren’t learning while they are talking.

Tell the child she has a gift, but she has to use it con-

structively,” he says. “Others will have more respect for you if you use your gift appropriately.”

For information on educational resources published by The Master Teacher, including how to deal with misbehavior in class, call (800) 669-9633.

Can you help?

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teenage daughter and her friends like scares me. The lyrics refer to sex, killing people, drugs and profane words, and supposedly there’s even worse stuff that kids listen to on the bus.” — a mother

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • May 19, 2003



Celebrate 25

Celebrate Brooklyn unveils its 25th season of summer shows

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

For those who enjoy their performing arts al fresco, the Celebrate Brooklyn summer performance schedule has been an annual treat for the last 24 years.

With free admission, and a suggested contribution of \$3, the price is a steal to see veteran performers. And as for performers by emerging artists, Celebrate Brooklyn's low entrance fee has made it possible for audience members to take a gamble and discover new faces, because they literally have nothing to lose.

Co-producer Jack Walsh has labored over Celebrate Brooklyn for the last 21 seasons, and says the summer of 2003, the festival's 25th, promises to contain more hooping helpings of the same recipe for success.

"We were coming off last summer's incredibly strong program, with a really strong lineup," Walsh told GO Brooklyn. "We had set the bar pretty high for ourselves. We came in saying, if we do not match the level of what we did last year, we wanted to exceed it."

The 2002 season attracted more than 200,000 visitors to Prospect Park and included performances by dozens of artists including Dr. John, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, a screening of the Elvis Presley movie "Jailhouse Rock" and new work by choreographers David Neumann and Nicholas Eichler-Dance — commissioned by Celebrate Brooklyn.

Held at the Prospect Park Bandshell at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street, this year's festival will kick off on June 12 with a performance by singer Joan Armatrading. The British vocalist has been performing her blend of rock, reggae, blues and jazz for 30 years. After an eight-year hiatus, she returned this year with her March release "Lover's Speak" (Demon, \$16.98).



Armatrading's concert will be preceded by a 25th birthday gala, a benefit to raise funds for Celebrate Brooklyn. Honorees will be Gordon Davis, former chairman of the city Parks Department, and Fort Greene-based choreographer Mark Morris.

Walsh credits Davis with the creation of Celebrate Brooklyn in 1979. "Davis was the Parks commissioner from 1978 to 1983, and he was instrumental in making Celebrate Brooklyn," said Walsh. "We're honoring him for that initiative. Since then he has gone on to be active in New York City's cultural world."

The world-renowned Mark Morris Dance Group made its Celebrate Brooklyn debut in 1985, and has performed there two additional times. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Fort Greene in 2001.

"We love it, truly love it," said Barry Alterman, general director of the Mark Morris Dance Group. "Mark gets a lot of honors, but to be honored by an organi-

zation that we both esteem and love is just the best. We're hoping to perform every year starting next year — into perpetuity!"

"It's the greatest scene — to have all of those people come to Prospect Park and see great performers in a setting that's beautiful, relaxed and exciting. It's one of the great things that Brooklyn and New York has."

While favorite performers like the Alloy Orchestra and the Mark Morris Dance Group return regularly, the festival is always being tweaked. Last year, Walsh even revamped the Friends of Celebrate Brooklyn membership program with additional perks and added new concessionaire Two Books.

"We were able to get through the renovation of the bandshell in 1998-99 with extraordinarily successful seasons," said Walsh, "resulting in the fabulous facility we have now with enhanced production values and comfort level for the audience and improved sightlines."

When Walsh became director of the festival in 1994, he made a significant change in its programming philosophy.

"Rachel Char-noff, my co-producer, and I made it our mandate at that point to focus on a slightly different program model," explained Walsh. "We paired a local emerging artist of highest quality... with a nationally oriented recognized artist. It took

some time to be able to afford that, but the result was to attract larger audiences and to introduce lesser known but deserving artists to a larger audience."

In 1996, Walsh said, he introduced the concept of live musical accompaniment to silent films.

This summer, the Alloy Orchestra will perform the score to "The Black Pirate," the 1926 film written by and starring Douglas Fairbanks.

This summer's festival is again commissioning new dance works (by Keely Garfield and James Gaines) and will see the return of Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, with Tony Award-winning singer Lillias White; the African Festival, featuring Salif Keita; the Borzua Festival; and the Irish rock group the Saw Doctors.

Walsh has been able to keep Celebrate Brooklyn afloat despite the city's economic highs and lows by creating corporate sponsorships, the Friends of Celebrate Brooklyn membership program, the "Keep it Great" give \$3 at the Gate" campaign and by offering benefit concerts.

"Now I would say it's fair to say that we're feeling the pinch along with everyone else," said Walsh. "We fear

what the future holds if the economy continues to drag along. That said, we're in pretty good shape going into this year, and we have as full a season as we had last year."

MUSIC

The 25th Birthday Gala on June 12 to benefit Celebrate Brooklyn will feature cocktails and dinner at 5:30 pm followed by a performance by Joan Armatrading at 8 pm and post-concert party at 9:30 pm, featuring Clubhouse DJ Collective. Tickets are \$250 and up for VIP seating at the concert, pre-concert dinner and post-concert party.

Admission to the concert is free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$3. For the complete Celebrate Brooklyn schedule, log on to www.brooklyn.org/celebrate.

FAIR

Fairly fabulous

The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Street Fair promises to live up to its name again this year.

The fair — Sunday, May 18, from 11 am to 7 pm, on Fifth Avenue between St. Johns Place and 12th Street — will feature a wide variety of live music at two locations: at Orzic's main stage, on Fifth Avenue between Garfield Place and Carroll Street, and at Moda Cafe, on Fifth Avenue between First and Second streets.

Between Berkeley Place and Second Street, there will be a section of tables offering fine arts and crafts, which attracted national media attention last year. Event organizers anticipate vendors will again offer purses and pillows, handcrafted stationary and greeting cards, jewelry, personalized children's stories and more.

At 718 Gallery, Fifth Avenue at Degraw Street, photographer Ann Rosen will snap individual and family color portraits against a variety of backdrops. Twenty-minute appointments are available between 1 pm and 4:40 pm. While you wait, check out "In the Presence of Family," an exhibit of Rosen's black-and-white portraits of Brooklyn families, on display at the 718 Gallery through May 31.

Brooklyn Papers photographer Greg Mango will also have a table offering signed and numbered single prints and series of prints at Fifth Avenue and Union Street.

And of course, Fifth Avenue is teeming with many restaurants where fair-goers can dine al fresco: Blue Ribbon, Long Tan, Press 195, Los Pollos, Bierkraft, Coco Roco and Mezcal.

Kids can enjoy rides all day throughout the fair, and make free paper bag puppets and hats at the Puppetry Arts table, on Fifth Avenue between Second and Third streets.

— Lisa J. Curtis

FESTIVAL

All for one

'Spring Fever' brings artists together at Brooklyn Lyceum

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Two innovative Park Slope producers have created a "Spring Fever" that may prove to be contagious among fiscally challenged arts groups.

The difficulty of raising money to create and produce new work in the arts is legendary. Undaunted by the hurdles they faced, Tomi Tsunoda and Sharon Eisman, two New York University graduates, formed their own production company in September 2000.

This company, breedingground productions, uses a "time share" concept that allows artists to obtain the resources they need at minimal cost.

"Over the years and after many frustrations, we decided to create a company where poor, smart, passionate artists could do the things they wanted to. We set up an office in our [Park Slope] apartment and founded a company which allows collaborators to trade time for each other's productions," Eisman told GO Brooklyn.

This means, for example, that if a director works the box office in one show, he may collect enough time to get someone else to do the lights on his next show. Their upcoming multimedia arts festival, "Spring Fever" at the Brooklyn Lyceum, is a perfect example of how this system works.

"We wanted to produce our clown show, 'Blue: A Comedy About Death and Loss,' which we had workedshoped at the Westbeth Theatre Center several times," Eisman explained. "We rented the Lyceum theater space for three weeks, and instead of letting it sit dark for those times when we weren't running our show, we decided to give other collaborators a chance to work on and produce projects they'd wanted to do for some time but couldn't due to financial limitations. We would provide the space, lights, publicity and staff. They would provide their brilliance, hard work and dreams."

The project now has 120 collaborators and the financial assistance or donated materials from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, off-off-Broadway's Chashama Theatre and DUM-BO theater company One Arm Red.

"Spring Fever" opens May 21 with an evening of free drinks, free food and a free performance of choreographer Josh Walden's "All is Full of Love" and continues until June 7 with two free art installations, five theatrical performances, three dance pieces and two film events — all going throughout the festival — as well as two live music events.

Walden has based "All is Full of Love" on the musical "On the Town." Only instead of using the music of Leonard Bern-

See SPRING on page GO 6



Dance 'Fever': Choreographer Josh Walden's "All is Full of Love," set to music by Bjork, will open the new "Spring Fever" fest.

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Spiritual visions

Jewish art gallery raises money for 102-year-old Slope synagogue's repairs

By Gena Hymowech
For The Brooklyn Papers

The main sanctuary in Congregation B'nai Jacob is a mess. It's dirty. Pipes use it as a rest stop. And practically everything here, including the frescoes, the balcony and the cupola — which once was made of stained glass — is in disrepair.

But one day, this space will look beautiful again, thanks in part to the efforts of Alex Novack and Fred Polaniecki, the founders of the Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery. Proceeds from this gallery, which is located in the synagogue, will go towards the restoration of the 102-year-old building.

ART

The Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery is located inside Congregation B'nai Jacob, 401 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue. The next group show runs May 15-June 15. An artist's reception will be held May 15, from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 832-1266 or visit the Web site at bjag.org.

and we wanted to look into it," said Polaniecki. "We talked about it with the board. They also thought it could work and told us that we should go ahead and do it."

There were a number of concerns that had to be dealt with before the gallery opened. One worry was that it wouldn't attract a huge audience.

"We weren't sure how large the interest in Jewish art was," said Polaniecki. Another concern was that the art would detract from services. A third worry was that the art wouldn't be modest enough for the modern Orthodox synagogue. But Novack and Polaniecki assured board members that the art wouldn't affect the synagogue negatively.

"People eventually got behind the gallery," Polaniecki said.

Another problem was that there was a limited amount of money to work with.

"We set a reasonable budget and we were able to stay well within it," he said. That was partly due to the fact that they did not spend a lot on promotion. Press coverage and word of mouth helped attract attention.

"We really didn't have too many hurdles to overcome," Polaniecki said. The first show, curated by Cadena, took place March 8-9. The gallery, an approximately 60-foot by 70-foot, well-lit room, exhibited works by a trio of Jewish artists: Ivo Perelman, Rebecca Schweiger and Shoshannah Brombach-Miller. The Klezmmer Mountain Boys, a klezmer and bluegrass ensemble led



Restorative art: (Top) Preparing for the Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery's May 15 opening, gallery co-founder Fred Polaniecki (left) and curator Betzel Cadena hang Cadena's painting, "The Masks for Purim." Proceeds from gallery sales will help restore Congregation B'nai Jacob (bottom right) which needs substantial repairs of its frescoes, stained glass and cupola. Rabbi Shimon Hecht (bottom left) is the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Jacob, located at 401 Ninth St. in Park Slope.

by clarinetist Margot Leverett, played March 8.

The show attracted about 400 attendees, said Novack, who came from all over Brooklyn — and beyond — to see the 52 works on display.

"People enjoyed the art," Novack said. That response, he said, "made us realize we could take this to another level. Not only could we fundraise, but we could also create an appreciation of Jewish art and connect people to the synagogue."

The gallery had another effect as well.

"People told us the art inspired them during prayer services. We're very pleased by that," said Novack, adding that they were not completely surprised

"The art is very spiritual," he said. Novack estimated that the first show raised a few thousand dollars. (The gallery committee's ultimate goal is to raise \$770,000.) The money raised from the show is currently in the restoration fund.

As for the future, some improvements to the gallery space and the main sanctuary will be made shortly. The main sanctuary, in particular, needs to be improved as soon as possible.

"The longer we leave it in this condition, the more hazardous it will become," said Novack. Another reason the main sanctuary needs to be improved is so the gallery can expand to a small area there before the upcoming show. (The space is capable of exhibiting around 25 additional works.) The

original gallery space, on the other hand, requires improvement because the synagogue is trying to encourage more people to rent it out. This is especially important, as those rentals help raise money for the restoration.

While it's encouraging that work continues to be done on the synagogue, some things — like the frescoes and the cupola — simply cost too much for a full restoration right now.

The upcoming art exhibit, featuring works by Cadena, Alex Zwartenstein, Ewa Harabasz, Richard McBee and Shoshannah Golim, opens May 15. The gallery will host two more shows later in the year: one in September and one in November. Further details will be posted on the gallery's Web site, bjag.org, as they become available.

WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, MAY 15	FRI, MAY 16	SAT, MAY 17
ORGANIC MARKET: Park Slope Community Supported Space hosts "100 culture hosts an open house featuring food tastings, fiddle and bagpipe music and information on how to join the CSA and enjoy the benefits of organic produce. 5 to 7 p.m. Garden of Union, Union Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues. (718) 701-0223. Free.	BENEFIT SHOW: Kendler International Dining Space hosts "100 Small Works on Paper." \$100 include one work of art, 6 p.m. 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2068.	OUTDOORS AND TOURS VIKING FEST: Viking Ship, Viking re-enactment and rides on activities offered during this annual event. Noon to 5 p.m. Owl's Head Park, 68th Street and Narrows Avenue. (718) 748-9950. Free.
BASIC JUDAISM: Congregation B'nai Anshin offers a talk, "The Holidays: An Appointment Calendar." 6:30 to 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 996-4800. Free.	RECEPTION: 718 Gallery hosts a reception for exhibit "Color Portraits by Ann Rosen." 6 p.m. 164 Fifth Ave. (718) 636-1103.	WARBLER WALK: Audubon Center offers a bird watching opportunity. 8 to 10 a.m. Meet at Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.
BARGEMUSIC: chamber music by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.	LOW BAR: presents music with the Howard Fishman Quartet. No cover. 10 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.	CRUISING THE GOWANUS: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour about the Gowanus Canal. 9 a.m. to noon. Reservations necessary. Call (718) 788-8500.
BARGEMUSIC: chamber music by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.	SUGARHILL SUPPER CLUB: Live concert of bands and Strangers Youth Jazz Band. 8 p.m. 164 Fifth Ave. Call for time. (718) 622-0492.	BRIGHTON LINE MEMOIRS: New York Transit Museum hosts an excursion to Brighton Beach. \$25. \$20 members. 10 a.m. Reservations and pre-payment necessary. (718) 694-5139.
BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts a discussion group. This month's selection is "Thirteen: My Grandfather" by Mariana Pizarro. 7:30 p.m. 106 Court St. (718) 264-4996. Free.	STARRY NIGHTS: Sukh Marsh Nature Center hosts a night of astronomy and stargazing. 6 p.m. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-5211. Free.	VOLENTIERS NEEDED: Greenwood Cemetery needs volunteers during its Civil War Project. Graves of every Civil War veteran need to be marked with an appropriate insignia. 10 p.m. Meet at entrance, 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (516) 549-4891.
LECTURE: Community is invited to enjoy a Brooklyn film presents its documentary expose "Hidden History of Garbage." 7:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A. 357 Ninth St. (718) 768-1100. Free.	CHAMBER MUSIC: Brooklyn Chamber Music Society presents its first concert. 5:25 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 50 Monrovia Place. (718) 858-0718.	RECYCLE 6/15 Green: Community Garden needs volunteers to help clean up. Also, woody material such as tree limbs, shrub cuttings and left over Christmas trees are accepted. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 15th Street and Sixth Avenue. (718) 623-7200. Free.
HALCYON CAFE: presents a poetry and prose reading. No cover. 7:30 p.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 260-WAXY.	SOUTHPAW: Live music with The Standard. 8:30 p.m. 125 Fifth Ave. (718) 232-0236.	ARTS FEST: Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival returns for its 10th annual celebration. Live music, poetry performances, boat rides and more. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Board Street Pier. (718) 287-2224.
BRIC STUDIO: presents American Theater News, featuring work by Tom X. Chao. \$10. \$8 students. 7:30 p.m. 57 Rockwell Place. (718) 855-7882.	DANCE: One Ave. Red presents an evening of dance. 8 p.m. 45 Main St. Call. (718) 797-0044.	HARBOR TOUR: Working Watercraft Committee of New York and New Jersey hosts a guided boat tour of the harbor. See Brooklyn Navy Yard and more. Boat tour from Pier 11, located at the foot of Wall Street. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Boat parade at 4 p.m. View from Hudson River Park below 23rd Street at 4:20 p.m. or Battery Park at 4:45 p.m. (212) 704-6258. Free.
GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: CD release party for "Birth of George," a chamber opera. \$5. 6 to 9 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.	FLM: Park Slope Films hosts the premiere of its latest production, "York Street." \$10. 9:30 p.m. Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 369-7030.	ART WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour of the Fort Greene art scene. 5:11 p.m. \$9 members, \$8 seniors and students. Noon to 2 p.m. Meet at Lafayette Avenue. (718) 623-7220.
VARIETY SHOW: Theatreworks, New York City College of Technology's resident theater troupe, hosts "Jenertainment." \$5. 51 students. 8 p.m. 186 Jay St. (718) 260-5569.	PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters." 8 p.m. See Sat.	STUDIO STROLL: South of the
SOUTHPAW: Portanti Saters and others perform for a benefit for Project Brooklyn. \$10. 8 p.m. 125 Fifth Ave. (718) 854-9120.	GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 8 p.m. See Sat.	
LOW BAR: presents music with Redgum. No cover. 10 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.	HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "My Fair Lady." 8 p.m. See Sat.	
TLCOW: GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 8 p.m. See Sat.	MICRO MUSEUM: 8 p.m. See Sat.	
	STUDENT CONCERT: dance program. 8 p.m. See Sat.	

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, 28 Court St., Ste. 306, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 634-9276. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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HARBOR TOUR: Working Watercraft Committee of New York and New Jersey hosts a guided

NAVY YARD ARTISTS: hosts its annual self-guided event. Art by over 100 artists at 48 locations. Noon to 6 p.m. 101 Lafayette Ave. at South Oxford Street. (718) 299-2445.

WATER WONDER: Prospect Park Audubon Center offers an interactive exhibit about the park's waterways. Noon to 5 p.m. Prospect Park. (718) 267-3400. Free.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: \$5. \$3 seniors and students. Free for children under 16. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

TWILIGHT TATTOO: Military pageant includes the silent drill team and jazz ambassadors. 6 p.m. Fort Hamilton. (718) 630-4780. Free.

YOU GOTTA HAVE PARK: Annual event celebrates volunteerism in Prospect Park. \$1. All day. Activities include cleaning and greening of park. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discover Nature Tours at 3 p.m. from Audubon Center. Lull-water Nature Trail Self-Guided tour from noon to 5 p.m. pony rides from noon to 5 p.m. carousel is open from noon to 5 p.m. celebration at Flatbush Play Day at 3 p.m. Prospect Park. www.prospectpark.org (718) 965-8960.

PERFORMANCES
PIER SHOW 11: Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition hosts its annual art show. Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival features dance, poetry, food, music and more. Noon to 6 p.m. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

DANCE RECITAL: Brooklyn College presents a year-end director's recital and dance festival. 12:20 p.m. Margot Leverett Recital Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500. Free.

OLD STONE HOUSE: Reception for Anne Alcazar, new executive director, also, rehearsal of the classical jam of *Continued on page GO 4...*

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Merci, Quercy

New French restaurant on Court Street offers authentic Gallic hits and misses

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Patrons may be boycotting French bistros outside of Brooklyn, but in our borough, Gallic dining is tres chic.

On a recent weeknight, Quercy, a French bistro that opened on Court Street in January, was packed with customers gobbling escargot and rabbit stew. Apparently, for unapologetic hedonists (and I count myself as one of them) when the pleasure of a good meal beckons, we leave our politics at home.

Chef Jean-François Frayse and his wife, Melva Max, who also own Manhattan's La Luncheonette, named their eatery after his hometown, located halfway between Toulouse and Bordeaux in Southwest France.

The two revamped the space, which formerly housed Harvest Market, and added their own spin to the ubiquitous "bistro in a box" decor seen so often in our neighborhoods. The room sports persimmon-colored walls that cast a flattering glow on patrons; black-and-white photographs and carefully appointed tables that are close, but not too near other diners. It's an inviting room heady with the aroma of garlic.

Frayse's menu is classic, Old World French bistro fare. No surprises await you. No fusion anything. No Asian touches. Much of our meal, like the special *boeuf bourguignon* and the rustic pear tarte Tatin (a crust is placed over the fruit in a sauté pan, then baked and flipped for serving) were delectable.

However, a few dishes didn't dazzle.

The evening's soup du jour, a creamy potage of cauliflower and roast chestnuts, was like velvet in the mouth, yet tasted like an under-seasoned pea soup. Delicate, nutty-flavored chanterelle mushrooms were



Where's the boeuf? (At right) Quercy Chef Jean-François Frayse with his impossibly tender boeuf bourguignon and cassoulets. (Above) Waitress Mumtaz Ismail offers service with a smile at the Court Street restaurant.

awash in oil and overwhelmed by garlic.

A better choice would be the artichoke vinaigrette. Women at a nearby table were breaking the leaves off a huge artichoke, dipping it into the light dressing and sighing.

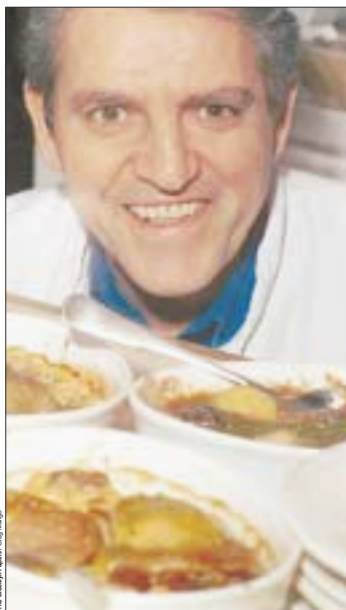
The lackluster first course was redeemed by an uncomplicated endive and Roquefort salad.

Sweet roasted beets sat atop the bitter endive leaves, a wedge of the sharp cheese perched at the edge of the plate. Health-conscious customers can use a little pitcher to drizzle their own greens with the tart, creamy dressing. This salad, with its pleasing harmony of strong and subtle flavors and crunchy and smooth textures, will become a destination dish when the warm weather finally kicks in.

Regardless of the weather, patrons

shouldn't pass on the special *boeuf bourguignon*. The stew is more homey than exciting, yet Frayse's version provides some drama. Served in a large, oval gratin dish, it arrived with its thick, wine-laced sauce bubbling. Meaty, winy and perfumed with garlic, each cube of beef was cooked to optimal tenderness and every carrot and onion caramelized to sweet perfection. Knives are optional.

Another no-big-deal dish (until you try it yourself) is Frayse's faultless roasted chicken. The skin of his bronzed bird is as brittle as the top of a properly made creme brulee, and the moist meat oozes juice. Liberally coated with an assertive mustard sauce, the chicken, and its side of potato and Gruyere cheese gratin, are the dishes upon which bistros base their reputations. An Atkins Diet devotee may want to give the spuds a pass, but the experience of eating that dish is worth every artery-clogging bite. The tender vegetable is en-



scorced in cream and tangy cheese then baked until the top is crisp and brown.

If some justification for indulgence is needed, Frayse thoughtfully adds to the plate crisp *haricots verts* (thin string beans), sautéed with mushrooms.

Desserts at Quercy are well-made bistro classics. The pear tarte Tatin is a triumph: it's crust as crisp as a cracker, and the large wedges of pear caramelized until deep brown. After the pears are baked, they assume a wine-like taste that is nicely complemented by a dollop of tart creme fraiche, which sits on the side of the pastry.

After being fed so many overwrought desserts at other places—a soufflé on top of a cookie, served with two sauces, ice cream and five

varieties of berries—it's a pleasure (and the appropriate way to end a rich meal) to have an unadorned tart, without infusions of herbs or essences.

The flourless, bitter chocolate tart was less successful. Sitting in a pool of thin, slightly sweetened chocolate sauce, the pastry promised a bit of strong chocolate but didn't deliver.

"It tastes like a candle," someone at my table said. They weren't far off. We've all experienced the same traumatic couple of years. This long, dismal winter has left us pining for warm escapes, and our fear of flying, coupled by diminishing paychecks (for those lucky enough to be employed), has kept us homebound. So why be spiteful if saying "oui" affords us some small gratification?



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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from page G2...

THE BROOKLYN BRONX
The Brooklyn Bronx presents a series of live performances by local acts. 8 p.m. Sun. at the Brooklyn Museum. \$10. 10 p.m. Sun. at the Brooklyn Museum. \$10. 10 p.m. Sun. at the Brooklyn Museum. \$10.

THE NEW ST. PETER'S MAUSOLEUM
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Home sweet homes

The Park Slope Civic Council hosts a self-guided walking tour, "Grand Central," featuring nine 19th- and early 20th-century homes, on May 18 from noon to 5 p.m.

This 44th annual walking tour is a fundraiser for the civic council, which returns the funds to the community through scholarships to college-bound students and grants to schools, charities, cultural institutions and other organizations benefiting Park Slope.

Day-of tour tickets and T-shirts are available outside Dizay's restaurant, on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Ninth Street. Ticket holders may also visit the Brooklyn Jewish Art Gallery, newly

opened in Congregation B'nai Jacob, and All Saints Episcopal Church. Built in 1892, the church is a blend of Moorish design and Romanesque architecture.

A highlight of the tour is a look inside Bed and Breakfast on the Park (above), an 1896 Neo-Renaissance bed-and-breakfast with stained-glass windows, gas burning fireplaces, canopy beds and Victorian furnishings.

Tickets are \$20. For more information, call (718) 832-8227 or visit the Web site at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org. The tour will be offered rain or shine. Children younger than 10, photographs and video cameras are not permitted inside the homes.

— Lisa J. Curtis

SUN, MAY 18
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
FIFTH AVENUE FAIR: Event features live music, food, local vendors and more. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Fifth Avenue Fair. \$10.

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WED, MAY 21

BOOK LAUNCH: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents "Storied City," a children's book and walking tour guide to New York City. 4:30 p.m. at Grand Army Plaza. RSVP: (718) 399-9835.

FILM: The Watch Club hosts "Howard's End" (1992). 2 p.m. at 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6950.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "All is Full of Love." 8 p.m. at 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6950.

LEGAL CLINIC: Court Area and answers questions on family law. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6950.

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THURS, MAY 22

HEALTH TALK: New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene presents "New Treatments for Back Pain and Arthritis." 6 p.m. at 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6950.

FLOWER WORKSHOP: The Horticultural Society of New York hosts a talk on how to plant and transform your garden. 7 p.m. at 157 Montague St. (718) 875-6950.

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'Fair' play

Heights Players ends season with the best English lesson in town

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

For their last show of this season, the Heights Players have pulled out all the stops for that most extravagant of extravaganzas, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "My Fair Lady."

Thomas N. Tyler directs a cast of more than 30 actors, that includes doubling, and sometimes tripling up on parts. He's also enlisted the talents of choreographers Gina Healy and James Martelli, costume designer Albert Walsh, musical director Ray Jordan and scenic designer Bill Wood. The result is "lovely."

A smash hit in the 1950s, "My Fair Lady" came into being mostly through the persistence of Hungarian film producer Gabriel Pascal, who devoted the last two years of his life to finding writers who would want to adapt George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play, "Pygmalion," into a musical.

Rogers and Hammerstein didn't want it. Noel Coward rejected it. Finally, a young but talented team, Lerner and Loewe, came up to the plate, and the rest is history.

The musical opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on March 15, 1956, and ran for a then-record-breaking 2,717 performances before closing on Sept. 29, 1962, at the Broadway Theatre. The show won nine Tony Awards including Best Musical, and



‘Lovely’ moment: Jamie Copaken as Freddy Eynford-Hill and Ellen Copaken as Eliza Doolittle in the Heights Players' production of "My Fair Lady."

has remained steady fare both on and off-Broadway. There have been three major Broadway revivals, one in each of the last three decades, and the fa-

mous 1964 movie starring Rex Harrison—who also starred on Broadway—as Henry Higgins and Audrey Hepburn, who replaced Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, despite the fact that she was not a singer and needed the dubbing of Mami

Nixon.) Why is "My Fair Lady" such a classic? Quite simply because it has everything—beautiful costumes, great dance numbers and a score filled with one memorable song after another.

"My Fair Lady" is a fine example of the "integrated musical," in which both song and dance are not embellishments, but actually serve to advance the plot. Much of this is due to witty patter songs such as "I'm an Ordinary Man" and "Hymn to Him," which Lerner and Loewe wrote for Harrison's limited vocal abilities. But one could equally point to the exuberant "Get Me to the Church on Time" and "A Little Bit of Sex" sung by Eliza Doolittle's father, Alfred P. Doolittle.

Almost a half-century after its first opening, "My Fair Lady" is as fresh as one of the newly cut flowers Eliza sells. Its music has not gone out of style, and its humor does not seem out of date.

What a piece of luck that the Heights Players are reviving "My Fair Lady" once again!

Eliza's waltz, "I Could Have Danced All Night"; or the "Ascot Gavotte" sequence—all of which entertain while giving the audience important information.

The Heights Players production owes its success in great part to its leading actors. Ellen Copaken blithely sings and dances her way from the Cockney flower girl to the fair lady. She is believably defiant and dainty, and sometimes both at the same time. Her sweet and powerful voice is always a pleasure to hear.

Jerry Kahn might have been born in tweeds. He is irresistible as the irascible Henry Higgins, and his voice is better than Harrison's.

Ed Healy, as Colonel Hugh Pickering, is a little more Healy than Pickering, but somehow he manages to pull it off admirably.

Steven Benquist returns to the Heights Players as Alfred P. Doolittle after a long absence. Watching him prance across the stage, or going head-to-head with Higgins, one can only hope he won't repeat his long absence.

As for the supporting cast and ensemble, except for a few blunders, such as Leslie Ross, who neither looks nor acts like a convincing Mrs. Higgins and John Bourne, who is neither a singer nor a dancer, they are for the most part an asset to the play.

Healy and Martelli have bent over backward—and every other way, too—to create lively dances that do not overreach the ability of the dancers. And even those who don't get in the movement look fine standing still, dressed in Walsh's array of flowing gowns, feathered hats and fine lines.

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—Lisa J. Curtis

On the waterfront

On May 17, the 10th annual Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival, presented by Martha Bowers Dance Theatre Eclectica, will offer a full day of performing arts on the renovated Beard Street Pier, at the end of Van Brunt Street.

The public is invited to wear costumes and march alongside giant puppets crafted by Flying Brick Community Arts, in the fourth annual Red Hook Earth and Surf Parade, which kicks off at noon on Coffey Park (Dwight and Wolcott streets) and travels a mile to the Beard Street Pier. (Wannabe marchers are invited to gather at the park at 11 a.m.)

From 1 to 5 p.m., there will be an assortment of live music and dance performances at the pier. Bed-Stuy's own hip-hop band Second2last, featuring (clockwise from top) Brian Polite, Johnny Lashley, Aisha Bell and Francis Bae, will perform at 3:30 p.m.

The arts festival also promises free African and salsa dance classes, boat rides, community resource booths and food made by neighborhood vendors.

In addition, the Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition's Pier Show 11, featuring the works of 250 artists in all types of media, will be open from noon to 6 p.m. The exhibit is displayed inside the nearby historic warehouse at 499 Van Brunt St. at Beard Street.

For more information about the pier show, log on to www.bwac.org or call (718) 596-2507. For more information about the festival, visit www.dancetheatreeclectica.org or call (718) 287-2224.

The festival will be held rain or shine.

—Lisa J. Curtis

SPRING...

Continued from page G0 1

stein, Walden choreographed to local pop singer lyrics.

"The music is electronic with lots of instruments," he says. "It's usually optimistic. It has a driving beat. It inspired me to want to choreograph this ballet based on the music."

Walden, who is currently dancing on Broadway in the role of a one-day sailor on a one-day leave trying to find love in New York City before going off to war, but rather about three women who come to the Big Apple looking for fun but find something very different.

"The dance, an hour-long piece, three minutes of music premiered at the Palace Theatre in the Gypsy of the Year competition, which raises money for Broadway Cares/Equity Fights AIDS, deals with difficult themes: infidelity, abuse and rape," said Walden.

"It's really a Gene Kelly, MGM ballet," he said. "Walden has also changed the story considerably. 'All Is Full of Love' is not about three sailors on a one-day leave trying to find love in New York City before going off to war, but rather about three women who come to the Big Apple looking for fun but find something very different."

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formed by an ensemble of acrobats, the home of Noah Peekin, a 2-inch-tall clay character created by Jeremy Bullis.

The installation, 3,000 square feet of space on the lower level of the Lyceum, is called "Noah Knew He Liked Cadmium County for a Reason," an installation about a 2-inch tall clay character named Noah Peekin and his hometown, by artist Jeremy Bullis, will be on display at the Brooklyn Lyceum through June 7.

Peep show: "Noah Knew He Liked Cadmium County for a Reason," an installation about a 2-inch tall clay character named Noah Peekin and his hometown, by artist Jeremy Bullis, will be on display at the Brooklyn Lyceum through June 7.

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formed by an ensemble of acrobats, the home of Noah Peekin, a 2-inch-tall clay character created by Jeremy Bullis.

The installation, 3,000 square feet of space on the lower level of the Lyceum, is called "Noah Knew He Liked Cadmium County for a Reason," an installation about a 2-inch tall clay character named Noah Peekin and his hometown, by artist Jeremy Bullis, will be on display at the Brooklyn Lyceum through June 7.

Peep show: "Noah Knew He Liked Cadmium County for a Reason," an installation about a 2-inch tall clay character named Noah Peekin and his hometown, by artist Jeremy Bullis, will be on display at the Brooklyn Lyceum through June 7.

—with no TV or computers."

Two walls will be covered with his trees, flowers and buildings. All of the clay characters are 2 inches tall and the town, constructed of paper and matte board, is made to scale.

"Noah Peekin is the main character in a series of sculptures I've done in the last year or so," said Bullis. "He's represented as a chicken-like character. He's kind of an outsider in the community he lives in, which is filled with larger-than-life eccentric characters. He's plain-looking and quiet. But he shares similar interests with the others, although he does a lot more observing than participating."

Peepkin is based on a thumbprint drawings Bullis started doing when he was 7. These characters appeared in greeting cards he made, and figured in a sculpture he gave his father for his 60th birthday.

Those who would like to get a preview of the Lyceum County can visit www.jeremybullis.com.

Eisman said she chose the Lyceum to be the home of "Spring Fever" because it is in Park Slope where there are "so many artists traveling out of their own community to produce and seek work."

"Building and creating with one's community is essential to both the arts and the community's development," said Eisman. "We involve the community and let everyone see art, music, dance and theater."

of the Lyceum, is called "Noah Knew He Liked Cadmium County for a Reason," and Bullis said it represents "a typical southern or Midwestern hill town from times past

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