

Walentas condos to replace Board of Ed

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The city only needed to look down Adams Street in order to find a developer for the former Board of Education headquarters at 110 Livingston St.

On Tuesday, Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced that DUMBO developer David Walentas' Two Trees Management submitted the winning proposal to convert the former relic of bloated



David Walentas

school system bureaucracy into a luxury condominium with a ground-floor theater and underground parking.

"For years, this remarkable building was unjustly sentenced to life as the notorious Kremlin of the now-defunct Board of Education," Bloomberg said outside 110 Livingston St. on Tuesday. "Selling it symbolically writes a finish to that chapter in the administration of our city schools."

Walentas' \$95 million proposal — which includes the \$45 million purchase price — will convert the building into 245 condo apartments, which he is expected to sell for around \$500,000 each. Two Trees will also create an underground public parking garage with 225 spaces.

Jed Walentas, the developer's son who is a spokesman for Two Trees, said they anticipate that most of the luxury condos in the 12-story, 335,000-square-foot building on the corner of Livingston Street and Boerum Place

See **WALENTAS** on page 8

CARS FIREBOMBED

Up to 4 torched in Cobble Hill



A burned out car on Henry and Sackett streets Monday, around the corner from the 76th Precinct.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A hot July has brought with it a rash of car fire bombings in Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens, police and fire officials say.

Both departments are investigating the arsons, in which at least three cars — and possibly a fourth — were torched in the middle of the night.

Fire department sources said they were still trying to determine whether a single group or individual was responsible for the three fire bombings for which there was a report.

The arsonist or arsonists seem to have begun their spree on a pair of 2003 Volkswagen Passats, which were torched at the beginning of this month. Police discovered the first vehicle aflame on the corner of Strong Place and Kane Street in Cobble Hill and notified the owners of the car at around 2:30 am on July 1.

On July 3, another 2003 Passat was set on fire on Amity Street, between Henry and Clinton streets, sometime between 2:30 am and 3 am.

In both instances, investigators believe flammable liquids were used to start the fires. Police said that in the Strong Place arson they recovered an empty bottle of lighter fluid in the back seat and in

See **FIREBOMB** on page 8

Park Slope shooting

Fight over drink leaves bystander shot in leg

The Brooklyn Papers

An innocent bystander caught a bullet intended for another man in a rush hour altercation outside a Park Slope deli on July 3.

Two men, John Duane, 48, and Michael Azadian, 51, were arrested in the shooting, which happened on the corner of Fifth Avenue and Sixth

Street Thursday morning. The suspects allegedly attempted to walk out of the Park Slope Deli & Grocery, at 357 Fifth Ave., on the corner of Fifth Street, at 7 a.m. without paying for a bottle of Snapple. Someone outside the store told the suspects to pay for the drink, a witness said. After they settled up, however, the dispute erupted into gunplay.

Azadian, 51, allegedly pulled a gun from a blue 2002 Suzuki Vitara automobile and pointed it at one of the men outside the store threatening to

See **SHOOTING** on page 7

WIENER... AND STILL CHAMP!



Kobayashi retains belt but tiny Thomas, a woman, wows crowd

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

For the third straight year, Takeru Kobayashi established himself as the top dog of competitive eating by devouring 44 and three-quarters frankfurters and buns in just 12 minutes.

On July 4, the best eaters in the world gathered for the 88th Annual Nathan's Famous Fourth of July International Hot Dog Eating Contest. While the man nicknamed "the Tsunami" brought the coveted Mustard Yellow International Belt — the most prestigious prize in competitive eating — back to Japan, the afternoon was not without surprises. A petite unknown, named Sonya Thomas, stepped up to the plate and became a new celebrity in competitive eating by devouring 25 hot dogs and buns. And the Las Vegas Battle of the Buns Champion, Ed "Cookie" Jarvis shattered defending American champion Eric "Badlands" Booker's record of 26 dogs by feasting on 30 winners.

Meanwhile celebrity "jurginator," as competitive eaters are known, and Chicago Bears Super Bowl champion, William "The Refrigerator" Perry, ate a paltry four hot dogs and buns before he quit the competition just under 5 minutes into it.

"I was full," he said later.

And while Kobayashi, who doubled the previous record in 2001, downing 50 hot dogs and buns, and then returned last year to break his own record by half a dog, maintained his gastronomic dominance, some observers wondered if this year's diminished accomplishment signaled that the Tsunami was past his prime.

"A lot of people will say that Kobayashi's 44 and three quarters of a

See **HOT DOG** on page 7



Box labeled "Infectious Waste" at Stillwell Avenue station.

Blood bank in Coney

TA stored blood, needles on Stillwell platform

By Yoav Gonen
for The Brooklyn Papers

Blood and syringes.

That's what tens of thousands of subway riders walked past as they made their way through the Stillwell Avenue station to get to the Coney Island beach, Cyclones games and Nathan's hot dog-eating contest over the July 4 weekend.

And most didn't even notice.

Sitting out in the middle of the outdoor platform, right under a signpost announcing the stop, was a huge, metal box labeled "Infectious Waste."

Many people even leaned on the rusty-looking vessel as

EXCLUSIVE

they slowly made their way through the throngs heading for the stairway down to street level.

But this was neither a terrorist act nor a juvenile prank — the infectious waste container was placed there by the Transit Authority.

"The box is used to store blood," said NYC Transit spokeswoman Marissa Baldel. "They also put syringes into the box, and these go into the box as well."

Subway car cleaners, working for the car equipment divi-

sion of NYC Transit in eight-hour tours, wear special suits and use bleach and rags to clean up blood and discarded syringes occasionally found within a subway car, she explained.

"It's very rare that we have incidents on the train where someone gets hurt and blood is involved, but it does occur," said Baldel.

The cleaning materials are thrown in red plastic bags, which are sealed and then stored in a locked box, like the one on the Stillwell platform,

until the end of the tour. Then a supervisor removes any items from the box and the contents are shipped by truck to the Jamaica Yard train yard in Queens, where an outside contractor, Stericycle, picks up the material for disposal.

Although every subway station has a Knaack box — a roughly 3-foot-long by 2-foot-tall container named for the company that produces it — to store infectious waste material, it usually isn't positioned in the middle of a bustling platform area, Baldel said.

"Because of the construction [at the station], they probably didn't have anywhere else to put it," she said. "It's not like

See **BLOOD** on page 7

Monty gallery to shut doors

By Jotham Sederstrom
for The Brooklyn Papers

An Estee Lauder-owned cosmetics store will replace the Summa Gallery, Brooklyn Heights' oldest art dealer, on Montague Street.

The gallery will close its doors for good when its lease expires in September. The vacancy will be filled by MAC (Makeup Art Cosmetics), a subsidiary of Estee Lauder.

Donald Pandina and Sal Cigna, the owners of the long-time art gallery at 152 Montague St., will merge their Brooklyn Heights collection with their gallery on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Although the pair had worked amicably with their landlord, Robert Levy, Pandina said that the cosmetics company simply outbid them.

See **SHOP** on page 7

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Fort Greene spikes Lee's ball field plan

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Neighbors are calling strike three on filmmaker Spike Lee's pitch to build a Little League baseball field in Fort Greene.

The city's Department of Parks and Recreation has been in quiet discussions with the Brooklyn-born actor and director, who offered to raise \$2 million to build the field. The Brooklyn Papers has learned.

Inspired by the Harlem All-Stars' Cinderella-like trip to the Little League World Series last year, Lee presented plans to the city to build a field for local children in Fort Greene, home of his 40 Acres and a Mule Film Works' company at 124 DeKalb Ave.

"I feel offered to raise private money to build a Little League ball field," Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius Spiegel said.

Spiegel and Kevin Jeffries, Deputy Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, attended a June 29 meeting with about 50 residents at Councilman James Davis' home on Cumberland Street, between Atlantic Avenue and Fulton Street, to discuss the proposal.

The lot — on the block bounded by Atlantic Avenue and South Oxford, Fulton and Cumberland streets — used to house the former South Oxford Tennis Club, which closed in the mid-1990s.



This vacant lot in Fort Greene likely will not be turned into a ball park, as filmmaker Spike Lee had hoped.

Now vacant, the lot, which abuts Davis' backyard, is overgrown with weeds that top 6 feet in some places covering the clay courts and tennis nets. The city took over the field about six years ago and local residents have presented suggestions for reuse such as an intergenerational center of programs for the elderly, teenagers and children, with additional space for a community garden.

After Spiegel informed the neighborhood of discussions with Lee — who was referred to during most of the meeting as "donor" — residents responded that the plans should remain as they are, despite Lee's offer.

Doris Golomb, a member of the Fort Greene Association

board, said there was some resentment that the money was being spent "with strings attached."

"We did not want that \$1 million if it meant having something dictated to us," she said. Adrian Jones, a member of Friends of South Oxford Park suggested Lee "do the right thing" and begin communicating with the community. "If the donor wants to give any money with strings attached then let him come find out what the community wants," she said.

Lee, who this week settled a lawsuit against cable TV network TNN, which will allow them to change their name to Spike TV, did not return calls seeking comment.

Jewels stolen in Heights

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A burglar ransacked a Brooklyn Heights home for \$5,500 in bracelets, necklaces and even toe rings.

According to police, the prowler broke into a home on Pierrepont Street, between Henry Street and Monroe Place, sometime between 1 pm and 2 pm on June 24 and 8:30 am the following day.

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ing day. The victim, 37, told police she returned to discover copious amounts of jewelry missing from apartment.

The building was undergoing renovation and several people had access to the apartment at the time it was burglarized, police said.

Courthouse rob Police in a 1 pm call to Criminal Court for nothing.

POLICE BLOTTER

A woman's purse was stolen off a bench at the Kings County Criminal Courthouse, at 120 Schermerhorn St., on July 1 at 11 am. The victim, 25, told police she briefly took her eyes off her handbag and when she looked back it was gone. The victim lost \$40, credit cards and identification.

Left prints

A home on Hicks Street, between Amity and Congress streets, was burgled on July 3 as the 30-year-old resident slept.

According to police, the victim's landlord discovered the building's entrance was open and looked around to find the burglar's front door was also ajar. When the landlord woke the victim up, at around 12:30 am, she discovered \$100, her cell phone, a video camera and her pocketbook was gone.

The burglar left behind a fingerprint, which police collected from a window, as well as a foot print from the windowsill.

Office job

A thief pilfered an unlocked closet in an office on Rensselaer Street, between Clinton and Court streets, on July 2.

Jeffries said the Parks Department would return for a follow-up meeting to show renderings of the plan before making a decision, although he and Spiegel stated that they would ultimately respect the community's wishes.

"You could get a lot of utility out of a ball field," Jeffries said after the meeting. "But there are a lot of other ideas that you could explore as well."

While funding for the space has been elusive, elected officials were happy to report that they've obtained some cash for the garden's reuse. Davis announced this week that he obtained \$1 million from the city for the garden and Borough President Mary Markowitz secured another \$500,000 in the budget for this fiscal year.

The community's charge now will be to formulate some consensus on a plan that could work.

"Ball field or not, there is a consensus that the community needs to come to," Jeffries said. Past estimates for the intergenerational center plan, which included a pool, were upwards of \$6 million. The community responded with requests for a slightly more modest proposal.

"This is not going to remain as it is," Davis said. "Little League or not."

"[Lee] did us a favor," Jones said. "Because those of us who were sleeping are now awake again."

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where: Fort Greene Park's Washington Park and Dekalb Avenue entrance

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Blaze on 17th St.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Two firefighters suffered minor injuries on June 6 after battling a blaze at 203 17th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

According to a Fire Department spokesman, the fire in the five-story building started

at 11:15 pm and was brought under control by 11:42 pm. Two firefighters were treated for minor injuries. No one else was hurt.

Four engine companies, three ladder companies, one squad and one rescue company responded, including Engine 220, Ladder 122 and Engine 239, all from Park Slope, and Red Hook's Ladder 131.



Ladder 122 was one of the four companies to respond to a fire on 17th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues Sunday.

Woman raped in Windsor Terrace

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A 23-year-old woman was raped outside her Windsor Terrace home early Thursday morning.

According to police, the victim was attacked at 4:30 am, on 16th Street at 10th Avenue, on July 3, while walking home from the F train subway station on 15th Street and Prospect Park West.

He attacked the woman from behind, beat her and then dragged her into a nearby alley where he raped her. The rapist then stole her purse before fleeing the scene.

The victim was taken to New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope and was later released. Police only described the rapist as a black male in his 20s. The victim is a medical intern at a Manhattan hospital who came to New York from Ohio only a year ago, according to a published report.

POLICE BLOTTER

Burglar hits P'Park zoo

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

As if they didn't have enough funding problems at the zoo already, police are on the hunt for a feral prowler who climbed a fence to the Prospect Park Zoo and foraged for cash among the concessions.

The burglar entered the zoo, on Flatbush Avenue between Grand Army Plaza and Empire Boulevard, sometime between 6 pm on July 4 and 10 am the next day.

No cash was reported stolen but the thief took a Casio cash register valued at \$1,000.

Some vacation

A 34-year-old man returned home on July 6 to find a ladder leading to his window and \$4,800 in property stolen.

The victim left his apartment, on 12th Street just off Prospect Park West, on June 27. He returned at 10 pm, eight days later, to discover the thief had taken his laptop, camera and Palm Pilot.

Warren snatch

Without a word, a pair of purse snatchers slashed the strap on a 37-year-old woman's pocketbook, on the corner of Warren Street and Fifth Avenue, grabbed the pocketbook and fled down Fifth.

The incident happened at 2:30 am on Independence Day. The victim lost her credit cards, identification and cell phone.

Mug on 2 train

A 26-year-old man was held up on a Manhattan-bound 2 train at Flatbush Avenue and Bergen Street on June 29.

The victim boarded the train at Bergen Street, at 7:30 am, when one of the muggers shouted, "Turn around or I'll hurt you." The mugger's accomplice then patted the man down and reportedly stole \$865, and a gold chain and bracelet valued at \$800.

Curbside caper

In what appears to be an unrelated incident, a man, 31, perhaps seeking to avoid the perils of public transportation, was mugged on his way from a taxi to his doorstep on July 7.

The victim had just left his cab, at 3 am, on Bergen Street between Flatbush and Fifth avenues, when a man grabbed him from behind and said, "Empty your pockets." The

thief took \$80, a cell phone and the victim's identification.

Drum rolled

A burglar snared a drum set and assorted percussion equipment from the trunk of a 1989 Honda Civic parked on Eighth Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues.

According to the victim, 37, he parked the car at 4:30 [am or pm?] on June 29 and returned to the vehicle at noon the next day. Sometime in between the percussive pirate raided the car for more than \$2,000 in equipment including his tambourine, cymbal stand and 14-inch floor toms.

Nab mugger

A mugger threatened a Manhattan man on a Brooklyn-bound 3 train, police said.

The victim, 21, was sitting on the train at 5 pm on July 1 when the mugger displayed a knife and said, "Give me your money or I'll call my friends over."

After patting the victim down, [did he get anything?] the doors opened at the Grand Army Plaza station and the shifty commuter fled the train without taking anything.

Police nabbed a suspect, 17, a few blocks away and he was positively identified by the victim.

Chain snatched

A 55-year-old man was greeted by a fleet-footed, chain-grabbing reprobate as the doors of a 2 train opened at the Borough Hall subway station on July 4.

According to police, shortly before 8 am, the victim was lining up to exit the southbound train. When the doors opened, the thief yanked a gold chain off his neck from the platform and escaped on either Court or Joralemon street. The victim suffered minor scratches to his neck but refused medical attention.

Turn that down!

An argument over the volume a woman was playing her music amplified to violence this week.

At 9 pm, on July 1, a woman held a man at knifepoint at a welfare hotel on Atlantic Avenue between Nevins Street and Third Avenue, after she complained about how loud she was playing a radio. The suspect, 25, allegedly held a knife to the 75-year-old man's cheek causing a small laceration.

The woman was arrested and charged with assault.



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Pendant could help ID charred Sun'Park body

By Tom Hays
Associated Press

When firefighters discovered the woman's nearly naked body beneath a car in Sunset Park, it was burned beyond recognition.

Two months have passed, and investigators still have no name, no cause of death and no solid leads save one: a silver pendant worn by the victim, adorned with faces of a flaming sun and a crescent moon, made in Mexico. They hope someone will recognize the piece and help identify its owner.

"We'll have more direction once we know who she is," said Detective James McCafferty, who carries a photo of the pendant in his notebook. McCafferty, of the Brooklyn South Homicide Squad, is in-

vestigating the case with detectives from the 72nd Precinct.

The case unfolded shortly after midnight on May 7, when a mechanic, Edwin Negron, reported a fire near his Sunset Park home.

Negron lives in an apartment above the auto repair shop where he works, DLJ Enterprises at 260 39th St., down the block from a locksmith, a welder and a strip club. Graffiti covers the red brick buildings, competing with handmade signs reading, "No Dumping" and "\$1,000 Fine."

The mechanic said he went to church that night and saw nothing amiss when he returned home at 10 pm. But later, he was startled by an alarm at the auto shop. "I saw a fire, and I called 911," Negron said Monday.

He recalled thinking, "That's it."

The fire first appeared to be a burning Oldsmobile, in for repairs, that had been parked overnight in a darkened driveway next to the shop. But firefighters quickly learned the source of the flames was a body that had been doused with gasoline and set ablaze.

The body was clad in panties and was face down, its head underneath the front of the car. The fire was so intense that it melted the car's hard plastic bumper, Negron said.

An autopsy was inconclusive on cause of death. No one came forward to report a missing relative or to claim the body. No suspects emerged. Weeks went by.

Now all police know for

sure is the victim was a well-groomed girl or woman, 5-foot-1, 140 pounds, between the ages of 15 and 30, with no drugs in her system. They have the victim's DNA, dental information and partial fingerprints, but no matches.

Investigators say someone may have sexually assaulted and killed the victim at another location and dumped her body. But that's only theory.

Police are asking anyone with information to call the police department's Crime Stoppers hot line at (800) 577-TIPS (8477). All calls are kept confidential.

The mystery weighs on Negron, who has warned his wife not to walk alone at night. "It's sad," he said. "It could be me. It could be my sister. It could be anyone."

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Gang stabs three in Terrace

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A gang of five men attacked and stabbed three men on a Windsor Terrace street on July 4.

The alleged attackers were arrested and charged with second-degree assault later that night.

The victims were stabbed on Prospect Park Southwest, between Seeley and Vanderbilt streets, at about 6:30 pm, according to police. A motive was not known by press time.

Two of the victims were rushed to Kings County Hospital in East Flatbush in serious condition and the third was taken to Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park in stable condition, police said.

Five men were arrested, but police only identified four, two in their mid- to late-20s and two 17-year-olds.

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Attorney: Candy Factory owner to clear building

By Patrick Galloway
The Brooklyn Papers

Embattled tenants of the 20 Henry St. apartment building — also known as the Candy Factory — suffered an additional blow on June 30 when they were notified by their landlord, Edward Penson, that they will all be evicted and no one will be allowed to remain, even if they can afford the impending rent hikes, a lawyer for the tenants said.

For the past four years, residents have fought the landlord from buying out of the Mitchell-Lama subsidized housing program to prevent the apartments from going to market rate, which could range from \$1,800 to \$2,500 a month depending on the size of the apartment.

Rents are currently around \$600 to \$1,300 per month. "He has stated that he intends to take the apartments off the rental market and not offer any renewal leases at any price," said Carol Ule, an attorney for the tenants. "This is a complete turn-



The former candy factory at 20 Henry St.

around from any of the original discussions," said Karen Zebulun, a 26-year resident of 20 Henry St. who owns Gumbo, a clothing and crafts store on Atlantic Avenue.

In the past, tenants were told that leases would be offered to them at market rate after the buyout from the program.

During a meeting on Feb. 27, Gerald Goldstein, Penson's attorney, said, "The existing leases, until they expire, will be honored with those rents. When those leases expire they will then be offered

leases at the market rates."

This week, Goldstein would not comment on Penson's threat of eviction. Under the Mitchell-Lama program, the owner bought the 42-unit apartment building — which earned its nickname because the building was formerly the Peaks Mason Mints candy plant — from the city in the mid-1970s for \$55,000 provided he rent it to middle-income tenants, primarily artists.

After a period of 20 years, the owner reserved the right to buyout the building by paying off the mortgage to the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the Housing Development Corporation. The mortgage balance amounted to almost \$2 million.

The Penson Company successfully bought out on June 13 but tenants have vowed to keep fighting claiming they were misled by Penson to believe the building was rent stabilized.

They lost the first phase of the legal battle and an appeal is now pending in the Appellate Division.

On June 30, Penson offered \$200,000 to the tenants, averaging about \$5,000 per household, if they would forego any

future legal action. The tenants have until July 14 to unanimously accept the offer.

Should they agree they will be granted an additional three or four months to their leases, Penson has said.

The tenants, meanwhile, held meetings on July 7 and July 8, to discuss the offer, but Zebulun, who is the co-chair of the Tenants Advisory Council, said achieving the required unanimity will be unlikely by the deadline.

"So many people are coming from different perspectives and have placed different values on their lives in that building and neighborhood," Zebulun said. "For some of us, that's our building and that's our neighborhood. Where do we go? Others are young and transient."

Neither Ule nor Goldstein would discuss the settlement offer.

HPD has been attempting to secure federal rent subsidies, known as "sticky vouchers," to help the tenants relocate or possibly afford market rate, which may now be a moot point, in the building.

Carol Abrams, a spokeswoman for HPD, said the agency would continue to try to obtain the subsidies.



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Hip-hop Hall

Rap's founding fathers gathered at Brooklyn Borough Hall on June 25 for a long-overdue tribute where more than 40 artists were honored. Above are Michael, from K.R.S., and the Temple of Hip Hop (left) and Special K. The event was sponsored by Councilwoman Yvette Clarke.

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Macy's dumps Atlantic Center on Burlington

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Macy's will unload a good portion of its leased space at Atlantic Center on Burlington Coat Factory, a spokeswoman for the department store has confirmed.

The move, achieved through a sub-lease to Burlington, will allow Macy's parent company, Federated Department Stores, to close the satellite store it has been contractually obligated to operate in the mall since Federated closed all of its Stern's stores, including one in Atlantic Center.

Macy's will be clearing out of the store to make way for the discount factory outlet that specializes in coats and suits, by next month, said Ronnie Taffet, a Macy's spokeswoman.

A going-out-of-business sale set for the announcement last week that Macy's was leaving Atlantic Center. The store, whose inventory has made in recent months, according to some local residents, will liquidate its stock and move out no later than the end of August.

This was a Stern's store and it was always part of the



The Macy's at Atlantic Center is leaving. Burlington Coat Factory will replace it.

plan that we were not going to be keeping [Macy's] there," said Taffet. "So it was just a matter of finding the appropriate person to take over the space."

Macy's operates a flagship Brooklyn store on Fulton Mall, less than a mile away from Atlantic Center.

Stern's moved into the mall in 1999 in a space left vacant by Caldor. In 2001, Federated announced it would close all Stern's department stores and that it would temporarily fill the space with a Macy's, though the company warned that it

would be a short-lived venture. Federated is bound to maintain its lease agreement with the mall's owner and developer, Forest City Ratner. Spokespersons for both Ratner and Federated declined to specify the length of that lease. Federated will sublease about 100,000 square feet of the more than 130,000-square-foot space to Burlington Taffet said.

The no-frills Burlington Coat Factory currently has 315 stores in 42 states, which sell clothing, shoes, accessories, baby products and home furnishings in a warehouse setting at up to 60 percent off standard department store prices.

Macy's will continue to seek a tenant for the remainder of the space.

Burlington did not return calls for comment by press time.

Taffet declined to comment on how successful the Atlantic Center Macy's had been compared to the Fulton Mall location, but the department store joins a growing list of tenants that have fled Atlantic Center, including Sports Authority.

"I don't think there's any trouble," said Forest City Ratner spokesman Joyce Baumgarten when asked about the turnover at the mall. "They're just trying to find the right mix."

Some of the vacant spaces at Atlantic Center have been converted into office space.

The state Department of Motor Vehicles took over the 44,369-square-foot of space

left vacant when Sports Authority abandoned the retail complex over two years ago.

The agency said it would convert the store into offices.

The DMV was the second state agency to move into the mall. Last summer, the Empire State Development Corporation moved its 2,000-square-foot Community Network Office into the mall, headed by former Flushing Councilwoman Una Clarke.

Forest City Ratner, meanwhile, is advancing plans for the \$114 million mall and office tower called Atlantic Terminal, bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Hanson Place and Fort Greene Place, just across the street from Atlantic Center. Ratner has already taken in a host of tenants such as Chuck E. Cheese, Dally's and Red Lobster. The anchor tenant for the retail space will be a Target department store with Bank of New York anchoring the office space.

Forest City Ratner, meanwhile, is advancing plans for the \$114 million mall and office tower called Atlantic Terminal, bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Flushing Avenue, Hanson Place and Fort Greene Place, just across the street from Atlantic Center. Ratner has already taken in a host of tenants such as Chuck E. Cheese, Dally's and Red Lobster. The anchor tenant for the retail space will be a Target department store with Bank of New York anchoring the office space.

Though most reacted favorably to the new plans they derided Atlantic Center, heer-moaning everything from poorly lit parking lots to the frequency of trash removals.

"If they are going to run [Atlantic Terminal] like Atlantic Center, it's doomed for failure," said Phillip Paul, a resident of Fort Greene.

"They should tear Atlantic Center down and turn it into a parking space," he added.

Double Dutch at Boro Hall



Borough President Marty Markowitz (right) offers a slice of cheesecake to Junior's to Brukeken Mayor Frank Dales.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Mr. Brooklyn, meet Mr. Brukeken.

Frank Dales, the mayor of Brukeken, the Netherlands, paid a visit to his overseas alter ego, Borough President Marty Markowitz Wednesday in what could be described as a summit between egg creams and Gouda, windmills and the Coney Island Wonder Wheel.

"When mighty heads of state such as we meet, it is customary not only to enlighten, entertain, feed and educate each other, but to forge agreements for the benefit of all humankind," Markowitz said. "I declare this a day of great and lasting significance to the developing Brukeken, Netherlands and Brooklyn, USA's beer, cheesecake and egg cream industries."

The first free trade between the two began with an exchange of gifts and trinkets from their respective homelands.

Dales offered Markowitz a pen, a portrait of Brukeken's Town Hall and a spoon. Holland's traditional wedding gift, Markowitz, in turn, handed Dales a cheesecake from Junior's, a case of Brooklyn Lager ("as if you know me already," Dales said) and the book "Brooklyn Then and Now" by Marcia Resnik.

Borrowing a line from Jackie Gleason, Dales simply said, "How sweet it is."

Upon hearing that he was coming to the United States for his daughter's graduation, neighbors urged Dales to visit his town's namesake. He contacted Andrew Ross, Markowitz's director of communications, and arranged a visit with his wife, Marianne, and their daughters Sandra, 17, and Annemiek, 15.

The mayor of Brukeken was actually born in New Jersey, to Dutch immigrants. They returned to the Netherlands when he was 12 and during his years in the United States he had only visited New York City once before, on a class trip to the United Nations.

In addition to leading cities of approximately the same name, Markowitz and Dales also have parallels in their political careers.

They entered public office at around the same time and ascended to comparable

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City dims B'klyn bridge lights

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

New York's sluggish economy is leading to dark times indeed.

The city's Department of Transportation (DOT) will no longer flip the switch on the twinkling lights of the East River bridges in order to save \$75,000 this fiscal year.

DOT spokeswoman Lisi de Bourbon told The Brooklyn Papers that the lights required maintenance from private contractors, which "are highly paid, highly skilled workers."

As a result, DOT pulled the plug on the lights on the Brooklyn, Manhattan, Williamsburg and Queensboro bridges, in March, to cope with cuts to its budget.

"Every little bit counts," de Bourbon said of the cost savings. The Verrazano Narrows bridge will maintain its lighting as it operates under MTA Bridges and Tunnels. Similarly, the George Washington Bridge will keep its lights on. Lighting under the auspices of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

The "necklace lights," as they are known, were installed in the 1970s

and have become part of the landmark vista across the river.

The city rekindled the lights for Borough President Marty Markowitz's "Brooklyn Bridge to the World" festival on Memorial Day. Markowitz was less than thrilled to hear that they would be out for at least the next 12 months.

"I believe, even during these difficult economic times, it is important that we don't forget about one of the world's most significant symbols—the Brooklyn Bridge," Markowitz said. "We recently celebrated her 120th birthday, and it was breathtaking to see her bathed in light throughout the evening."

"We shouldn't have to wait another 120 years to see the world's most famous bridge illuminated," he added. "Given the very small amount of money at stake, it is time for the city to flip the switch and turn the lights back on."

"A lot of movie production companies will ask us to turn them on and we will accommodate their requests," de Bourbon added. "But they have to pay for it."



The fully lit Brooklyn Bridge, with the World Trade Center behind it in the late-1990s.

HOT DOG...

Continued from page 7
dog is a monumental achievement—it is," said New York Post and Brooklyn Papers columnist Gersh Kuntzman, who served as Kobayashi's judge for the past two years.

It is also a drop down from the heights of Olympus for this fine champion."

Kobayashi clearly had trouble digesting the results. After the bell sounded—his cheeks swollen and his stomach distended—Kobayashi struggled to face down the last part of dog shit in his mouth and then knelt to the ground cradling his head in hands.

"I don't think he's ever going to break his own record," Kuntzman said. "He'll be back and he might even win for another two or three years, but he'll never reach his record. I've seen too many of these competitors go year-after-year, higher, higher—peak. And then they're gone."

Kuntzman pointed to former record setters such as '91 and '92 hot dog eating champions Frank "Hollywood" Delloras and Mike DeVito, who held the Mustard Yellow International Belt in '90, '93 and '94. Both men made history then faded into obscurity.

DeVito, however, who now serves as the commissioner of the International Federation of Competitive Eating (IFOCE), still thinks the 25-year-old Kobayashi has years left to

Shea, chairman of the IFOCE. "For every mom, for every daughter and for every grandchild in the world!"

Indeed, in the sweltering crowd of hundreds gathered at the corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues, as many kept their eyes on Thomas as did Kobayashi by around the eight-minute mark. And when the 12 minutes was up and her total of 25 announced audible gasps could be heard. Many peeps, when they weren't exclaiming, "Wow!" could be the next American champ."

"I don't think about the women," Thomas said after the competition. "I want to compete with the man [as an] equal. I'm a little bit disappointed in myself. If I had more time I can eat more."

The Korean-born American citizen said she had the hopes of a nation riding on her appetite.

"I came here to win the Mustard Yellow Belt for America," she said, hanging her head.

This was the first time in its 88-year history that two women competed in the Cone Island competition. The female gurgitator, Carlene LeFevre, 39, of Henderson, Nev., finished with an admirable 21. She weighs 132 pounds.

"I do think that women can be determined, just as determined as a man, just as competitive as a man," said LeFevre, whose husband, Rich, was also in the contest. "And I can't say I'm competitive but I'm an overachiever."

Fridge factor
The Fridge looked more like a cooler as he gave up not even halfway into the competition. After only four hot dogs, masticated like the average Joe on his lunch hour, Perry walked off the stage.

"Why'd I drop out? Because I lost. It's simple," Perry told The Brooklyn Papers after the competition.

His swift departure had some competitors mocking the former football star's effort.

"He's not a real eater," said Rich "the Locust" LeFevre, one half of the LeFevre husband-and-wife team and the World Chili Eating Champion, who downed 1.5 gallons in 10 minutes. "If you're going to be in a world championship you should eat for the 12 minutes. You shouldn't stop three or four in. If the really was serious about competing with these people he would have put up the best number he could put up."

Despite the disappointments of the Fridge and Kobayashi's failure to break his own record, the public set a new record for Nathan's Famous, on the corner of Surf and Stillwell avenues. According to Randy Watts, the senior director of franchise operations for Nathan's, the wiener stand sold more than 20,000 hot dogs on July 4 setting a new record.

"The entire weekend was very good," he said. "But that day was outrageous."

Required reading

Library and borough prez team up to urge young & old to Read Brooklyn!

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Neo-noir detectives made the scene, and so did characters with names like Rory McGuire, Delbert McCoy and, simply, Yablonski. But one of Brooklyn's most colorful characters, tucked in his signature gray suit, may have summed up the event best.

"We all know that Brooklyn has the most fascinating characters. I don't care where I don't care what era," said Borough President Marty Markowitz, standing among more than a dozen local authors in front of Borough Hall.

"I can't think of anything better than for a kid to read about Brooklyn."

Markowitz and 17 authors helped kick off Read Brooklyn last Tuesday, a summer reading program intended to publicize books, both fiction and non-fiction, about what else, Brooklyn. The event commenced with several of the authors reading 8-minute excerpts from published and un-published works.

The Brooklyn Public Library has called 27 of the borough's quintessential books from a list of seemingly hundreds for New Yorkers to read over the summer, particularly, said Markowitz, on the boardwalk at Cone Island.

Throughout the season, kids and adults can submit reviews to the library's Web site for potential favorites like Walt Whitman's "Leaves of Grass" or newer works like Ted Labor Day, the author will post his most read entries.

"Besides the classics, the idea was to include book selections that would speak to the diverse cultural and ethnic interests in Brooklyn," said Vaino, a spokesman for the Brooklyn Public Library.

"We have Esmeralda Santiago's 'When I Was Puerto Rican,' Chaim Potok's 'My Name Is Asher Lev' and 'Big Jimmy's' Kum Kau Chinese 'Take Out.'"

In addition to the library's selection of books, last week's authors included representatives from all corners of the globe. Publicly speaking in English for the first time, the Russian-born author Anna Levina read "Picture of Alla Sapozhnikova," a poem about her newly adopted Brooklyn neighborhood.

"What kind of place is Brighton Beach?" she read, her accent fluttering about the Borough Hall steps. "Plenty of Russians, poor and rich. All kind of fruit, fresh meat and fish, and any products that you wish."

Among genres, however, none were as heavily represented as the hard-boiled crime novel. Timothy Sheard, Gabriel Cohen and Joseph Trigoboff read excerpts from their particular brands of pulp, joining the ranks of other celebrated Brooklynites like Norman Mailer and Herbert Selby Jr., who wrote about the borough's underbelly in the novel "Last Exit to Brooklyn."

A resident of Flatbush, Sheard counts himself among the "Brooklyn Crime Wave," an exclusive group of area crime writers that has tallied more than 30 published novels.

"Brooklyn crime writers write a real gritty story," said Sheard, who read from his unreleased memoir, "The Fire in My Soul," about an unlikely friendship with the real-life Delbert McCoy, a burn victim who he treated as a nurse more than 30 years ago.

If the lunch-hour crowd sitting on the steps of Borough Hall was any indication, the day was a success. Isaac Griffith, said he would likely read several of the library's picks over the summer. First, however, he wanted to read "Spanglish" by Ed Morales, who spoke at the event.

"It's an excellent idea," said Tjani, 46, who had planned for reading James McDonald's "Spellbound," a selection from the library's list, before learning that it wasn't based on the current documentary



Brooklyn Public Library Executive Director Ginny Cooper (left) presents Borough President Marty Markowitz with a rendering of the Central Branch Outside Borough Hall July 1.

film of the same name about the National Spelling Bee. "You get a chance to see what the writers are like. Sometimes it can be a mystery."

As for Markowitz, he hopes to tackle most of the list by the end of the summer. For now, however, he's finishing Michael Shapiro's "The Last Good Season: Brooklyn, the Dodgers and their Final Penant Race Together," about the Bums' last year at Ebbets' Field before heading to Los Angeles.

"He hopes to delve into some of the books on the list," said Andrew Ross, his spokesman. "I don't know if he's picked one yet."

The list of books can be found at your local library branch or online at www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

SHOP...

Continued from page 1

"As soon as a landlord finds out what other landlords in the area are getting, things change," Pandina said, noting that commercial space in Brooklyn Heights runs around \$125 a square foot. "The day of the small retailer is over."

A MAC spokeswoman said the store had a tentative opening set for sometime in December.

Established in Toronto in 1985, MAC was acquired by Esteé Lauder in 1998. Aside from nearly a dozen cosmetics counters scattered across all five boroughs, just four free-standing MAC stores in Lower Manhattan have opened in the city. The Montague Street location will be the cosmetic line's first Brooklyn location. According to its Web site, the company "champions non-traditional beauty and virtues of personal expression."

Summa, which began dealing in artwork at its current location in 1976, made a name for itself by showcasing local artists like Leonard Baskin and Larry Osburn. The gallery first opened on the corner of Pierpoint and Clinton streets in 1968. In 1971, it expanded to the corner of Montague and Clinton streets. Although accustomed to changing addresses in Brooklyn Heights, Pandina said that this time he wouldn't be staying in the neighborhood.

"I'm not optimistic because the stores in Brooklyn Heights aren't catering to residents like they used to," said Pandina, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1964. "They're catering predominantly to the daytime Court Street crowd."

Residents and business owners in the Heights, many of them longtime customers of the gallery, were saddened to hear the news, but most weren't surprised. Over the past decade, chains like Banana Republic, Starbucks and Nike West have displaced smaller businesses along the historical commercial strip. While the Lassen & Hennig deli and Boro Photo, two business establishments more than 50 years ago, still flourish, other small retailers have vanished.

"The problem with the chains, whether it's Starbucks, Cosi, Banana Republic or the Gap, is they don't participate in community life the same way," said Judy Stanton, executive director of the Brooklyn Heights Association. "They don't really interact, and in Brooklyn Heights that's very important."

On Tuesday, Summa kicked off a closeout sale that will last until the gallery closes in August. As longtime customers and bargain hunters spread themselves out among photos and paintings by local artists Jerry Schurr and Fred Mershimer, the business partners appeared busier than ever. While Cigna manned the phone, assuring customers that their \$27 Amsterdam Ave. location would continue where the Montague Street location left off, Pandina ruffled through inventory lists.

Lois Hellund, a Brooklyn Heights resident, made sure to visit the gallery on the first day of its closedout sale. Formerly of Clinton Hill, Hellund said she has shopped at the gallery since it first opened in 1968, the year she moved to Brooklyn Heights. After browsing, Hellund picked out "The Great East River Bridge," a pair of out-of-print photographs of the Brooklyn Bridge, as it was in 1883 and in 1983.

She said the picture had sentimental value, as 1983 was the year her daughter was born. She doubted a cosmetics store could offer her the same satisfaction.

"This problem has been happening on Montague Street for a long time," said Hellund, standing across the street from Banana Republic. "They're forcing the mom-and-pop shops out. How many spas and clothing shops do we really need?"

SHOOTING...

Continued from page 1

"blow his brains out," according to a police report. According to witnesses, a struggle ensued over the gun and the man was able to kick the gun out of the gunman's hands before running away diagonally across Fifth Avenue. As he fled he heard a shot and then turned around to see Azadian holding the gun again, police said.

The shot, however, hit a 29-year-old man who happened to be walking on the other side of the street, where he'd gone to avoid speaking the altercation.

"I think it's fireworks or something," said Mohammed Abee, 23, who was working at the deli during the shooting, of hearing the gun go off.

According to police, the Park Slope man who was shot heard the gun discharge and felt a pain in his leg before realizing he was bleeding. He called 911 on his cell phone and was taken to Lutheran Medical Center in Sunset Park, where he was listed in stable condition.

A custodian at MS 51, across the street from the deli, saw the Suzuki fleeing the scene and also called 911. A description of the vehicle was dispatched and Azadian's car was stopped later that morning.

According to police, Azadian was in possession of a buck knife and a bag of marijuana at the time of his arrest. Duane was arrested later that day and a gun police believe was used to shoot the bystander was recovered at his home, investigators said.

Azadian, an ex-con who has served time for attempted robbery, burglary and drug convictions, was arraigned on July 4 and is being held on Rikers Island. He was charged with attempted murder, assault, criminal possession of a weapon, menacing and harassment.

Duane is being held in a separate facility on Rikers Island and is facing charges of petty larceny and criminal possession of a weapon. His bail was set at \$1,500.

When many of the Fifth Avenue merchants arrived at work on July 3 they were confronted with police barriers and rumors about a robbery gone bad.

Ed Maxwell, who owns Maxwell Carpet Cleaning, at 382 Fifth Ave. at the corner of Sixth Street, said he heard the boogie had been robbed and he thought it was a throwback to the avenue's past.

"A few years back this was a big drug area," he said. "It's been quiet as of late."

— Patrick Gallahue

BLOOD...

Continued from page 1

you can get contaminated touching it or walking past it." The Stillwell Avenue station is currently undergoing a major, three-phase reconstruction project that began in January 2002 and should be completed by January 2005. During this phase, subway service to the station has been limited to the W line.

Baldel said she could not determine when the infectious waste box was placed on the platform.

As for the Knack box, which could be found at the Surf Avenue end of the platform on July 4, it was removed by Tuesday, July 8, following calls from The Brooklyn Papers. The box was placed in an area not accessible to passengers, Baldel said.

Contacted about the incident, Chris Coffey, a spokesman for Mayor Michael Bloomberg, said, "We're gratified to learn that it was an isolated incident and that the situation has been resolved."

Health Department officials could not be reached by press time.

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Clones move to 16-5 on season

By Ed Shakespeare
for The Brooklyn Papers

The Cyclones have only played three weeks of baseball so far, so the season is just starting, right?

Not so fast. On July 6, the Brooklyn reached the end of the first quarter of their short-season schedule. The Clones might ask, as did former New York mayor Ed Koch. "Hey, how'm I dom'g?"

The answer is: Pretty darn good!

This week the Cyclones won five of their six games to turn their season record to 16-5, good for first place in the McNamara Division of the New York-Penn League.

On Thursday, July 3 at KeySpan Park, the Clones started Brian Bamister, the son of former major leaguer Floyd Bamister, against the visiting Aberdeen Ironbirds. The Clones jumped off to a 1-0 lead in the first inning when Jonathan Slack singled, advanced to third on two groundouts and scored on Blake Whealy's single.

Aberdeen tied the game in the top of the fourth when Luis Jimenez scored from third on a balk. The Cyclones

scored two runs in the bottom of the fourth on singles by Ian Bladegreen, Whealy, and Seth Pietsch and an Ironbirds error.

Bamister left the game after five innings, allowing only one hit. Reliever Taylor George was charged with an Ironbirds' run in the seventh, but relievers Steve Correa and Carlos Muniz closed the door and the Cyclones hung on for a 3-2 win as Muniz picked up his fourth save.

On July 4, the Cyclones took their record to 13-4 with a 4-1 home win over Aberdeen.

The Cyclones started things off in the third inning with singles by shortstop Travis Garcia and third baseman Shawn Bowman. Then, second baseman Jesus Linares scored Bowman with a grounder to short.

Aberdeen tied the game in the top of the fifth on a single by Jared Kne.

Brooklyn went ahead 4-1 in the fifth when three errors helped Brooklyn to three runs, two of them unearned. Maldonado picked up the win in relief.

Brooklyn then went 230 miles to Ontario for a three

game series.

Tanner Osberg started on July 5 and Ontario jumped to a 1-0 lead in the third inning when Kelly Hunt got an infield hit and went to second on shortstop Travis Garcia's error on the throw to first. Hunt eventually scored on a single by Danilo Sanchez.

The Tigers picked up another run in the fifth on singles by Vince Blue, Eric Rodland and Nate Doyle.

Brooklyn got within a run in the sixth when Piazza singled and eventually scored on a groundout. That ended the scoring and broke Brooklyn's winning streak at five games.

The next night, Matt Lindstrom (3-0) pitched six innings, allowing only one earned run. Lindstrom has not given up an earned run all season, running his streak to 23 2/3 innings.

Brooklyn started the scoring in the third when Ymir Garcia walked and advanced Corey Coles' triple. Jonathan Slack scored Coles with a groundout.

Bladegreen hit a leadoff triple in the fourth to run his hitting streak to 10 games. Whealy went to first on an er-



Shawn Bowman, the Cyclones' 18-year-old Canadian import, follows through during a 4-1 July 4 win.

ror by the Ontario catcher and Bladegreen scored on a single by Stacy Bennett.

Muniz came in to strike out Cody Kirkland to finish the game for his fifth save.

The next night was a similar scenario when Brooklyn again held on to a lead.

The Cyclones scored when Pietsch reached on an error in the second and later scored on Garcia's bloop double.

The Cyclones scored two more runs in the third with the big hit being Whealy's triple.

Later, Bladegreen's two run, single scored two more runs. Eventually, the Cyclones held on against a late rally to win 7-4.

Back at home for a Wednesday afternoon, game July 8, the third inning was the story of the game.

After Cyclones starter Bamister yielded a run on two hits in the top of the inning, the Clones stormed back, scoring three in an old-fashioned, fast-paced rally.

Slack's RBI double was followed by a Rashad Parker RBI single, which was then followed by Bladegreen RBI single.

Bannister pitched well, striking out four in five innings and a trio of Cyclones relievers closed the door on the pesky Cardinals.

—with Gersh Kuntzman



No blood shed during upstate invasion

Brooklyn invaded Otsego County, N.Y., this past weekend. Patrick Witt played general to his band of 50-plus Brooklyn Cyclones fans who left the county of Kings on Saturday for a bus excursion to Otsego County, N.Y. — population 13,292 — and home of the Tigers.

The other Otsego County venue occupied by Witt's troops was Cooperstown Village — population 2,026 — and home to the National Baseball Hall of Fame. That would come Sunday.

Let's start with Saturday's landing at Demaschke Field in Otsego.

Baseball has been played at the site of Demaschke Field for longer than the age of most fans there Saturday — the first field here was built in 1905.

Most of the 449 Otsego fans were there when the Brooklyn bus arrived. Attired in Cyclones caps and T-shirts and with a large Cyclones' sign, the 51 bus riders and four Cyclones fans who drove in cars entered foreign territory when they got to the main gate — actually the only fan gate at Demaschke Field. Walking through the 4-foot opening in the chain link fence, the Brooklynites were met with smiles from the ticket taker. Perhaps his smile was a ruse.

Now for the fan reaction to the invaders' obvious preference for the visiting team, perhaps it would be shouted invective, a euphemism for "Brooklyn stinks! Brooklyn stinks!" something akin to the mutual greetings of unprintable verbs hurled between Yankee and Red Sox fans.

No. Instead, the Otsego fans chattered quietly with each other or said hello to the Brooklyn arrivals. Where was the angst? Where was the hostility?

The Cyclones fans quickly moved to their seats in the third base stands behind the Brooklyn dugout. No one even stopped for a beer — the game was about to begin and they didn't want to miss the first pitch. Still, if they had sought out one, they'd be out of luck — at Demaschke Field, no beer is sold.

The Cyclones were jammed into their dugout — a dugout about half the size of the one at KeySpan Park. The outfield fences were wooden. The grandstand behind the plate was wood.

In the area behind right field in foul territory — right where the Parachute Jump would be outside KeySpan Park — was an old grain elevator. Beyond leftfield here — about where Nathan's would be on Surf Avenue in Brooklyn, was Hodges Pond, though it is not named after Gil. Beyond left-center field — roughly where Brighton Beach would be — were the foothills of the Catskill Mountains, showcasing a farm and a red barn. Any Cyclones fan, over one devoted to a doctrine in geography, might think that this county was certainly not Kings.

The game began and there was verbal interaction between the Brooklynites and the local supporters. Were those grimaces on these potential combatants' faces? No, they were smiles. What was going on?

Who were these Otsego partisans? One was named Joe Ryan. He lived just outside Otsego now. He sat near the Brooklyn fans.

"I'm from Red Hook, Brooklyn. Third and Smith, right by the Carroll Street station," said Ryan. "I just saw Brooklyn play on TV, last week, on cable. I've been up here 20 years, but I was born and raised in Brooklyn."

He shared some memories. "On a Saturday night, Nathan's would sponsor a contest at the Coney Island bathing cages, and if anyone hit it over the screen, they used to get a salami. I used to see Gil Hodges hit that."

"Last year, I went back to where Ebbets Field used to be, and there's a big apartment house there and on the side of the apartment house was a big sign. You know what it said? 'No ball playing allowed.'"

John DeMarco is another former Brooklynite who now lives in Otsego. He grew up on Fourth Avenue and 59th Street in Sunset Park. He is also a season ticket holder for the Dodgers.

"When they left," says DeMarco, "he was upset." The way DeMarco says it, you know that "upset" is a gross understatement.

DeMarco asks, "There's a lot of people from Brooklyn up here." Later, I visited with Sam Nader, the majority owner of the Otsego Tigers. He looks half a generation younger than his soon to be 84 years. We sat in the team's office. This was a wooden building about the size of a dining room.

"I'm an Otsego native, played some college baseball, and I was involved as a member of the board of directors of our team in the Canadian-American League. But baseball left, and one of my goals as mayor here was to bring back the Otsego baseball. I did and we had a team affiliated with the Red Sox. Then we became affiliated with the New York Yankees — for 32 great years. They asked me if I wanted to move the franchise to Staten Island, but I didn't. I wanted to stay here. We're the only professional baseball team that doesn't sell beer by choice. We've all seen what it does to some people's mouths, and we don't want it."

"A few years ago I was offered three million for the team, but I turned it down. I knew the first thing they'd do is move the team."

On Sunday, the Brooklyn tour was preparing to go to the Hall of Fame, located about a half-hour from Otsego. Andrew Mandelker waited for the bus to leave from the group's hotel. Andrew, along with Patrick Witt and Alec Dattman, drove eight hours from Brooklyn to Jamestown, New York to see the first-ever Cyclones game in 2001.

At the Hall of Fame, the Brooklyn influence was everywhere. Look at the Hall of Fame members. Old timers like Zack Wheat and Casey Stengel played for Brooklyn. So did "Boys of Summer" players Pee Wee Reese, Duke Snider, Jackie Robinson and Roy Campanella. Players who were just starting their careers in Brooklyn are members — Sandy Koufax and Don Drysdale. Brooklyn managers like Leo Durocher, Walter Alston and Uncle Wiltbert Robinson are inductees as are Brooklyn announcers Red Barber, Vin Scully and Ernie Harwell.

Ed Shakespeare's book, "When Baseball Returned to Brooklyn" is available at www.BrooklynPapers.com.



Fireworks light up the lower East River sky on Independence Day, as seen from roof of the Sweeney Building in DUMBO.

WALENTAS...

Continued from page 1 will be one- and two-bedroom apartments ranging from 1,200 to 1,300 square feet. Each would come with much of the "finishes" that are featured in Two Trees' DUMBO properties, such as stainless steel and granite kitchens, marble tile in the bathrooms and mahogany window sills as well as a 24-hour concierge. Walentas added that Two Trees is also looking at putting a health club in the building.

The conversion proposes renovating the 6,000-square-foot Hall of the Board into a theater to be used by a local arts group for a nominal fee.

When Bloomberg originally announced his intention to sell the building, he suggested a "mixed-use" development, with retail or academic uses on the lower floors and 250 upper-level apartments.

Since that time the city revealed its extensive \$100 million plan for Downtown Brooklyn, which includes zoning changes to allow for towering office buildings and residential developments over the next decade. Livingston Street has been identified in the plan as a desirable strip for residential development.

And while Borough President Marty Markowitz had expressed a preference for a corporate headquarters at 110 Livingston St. to offset the removal of so many jobs from Downtown Brooklyn, he took

the announcement in stride. "While I believe that 110 Livingston St. would have been suitable for office and mixed-use development, with the revenue generated for affordable housing from this sale I anticipate another announcement for hundreds of affordable units along Myrtle Avenue as part of the Downtown Brooklyn plan, and additional funds designed for affordable housing in many other Brooklyn neighborhoods," Markowitz said in a prepared statement.

The remaining 250 employees left in the building will be relocated in the next few months to other Department of Education offices.

The disposition of the building will have to pass the city's Uniform Land Review Procedure, requiring the ap-

proval of Community Board 2, the City Planning Commission, Markowitz, the City Council and Bloomberg.

Built in 1926, by the architectural firm McKim, Archard and White — the designers of the Brooklyn Museum of Art and the old Penn Station — 110 Livingston St. was taken over by the Board of Education in 1939.

For years, it served as the embodiment of government bureaucracy and inefficiency.

Bloomberg's predecessor, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, also sought to sell the Board of Ed's administrative buildings and while he got so far as to issue a request-for-proposals, he was never able to take control of the Board of Ed from the state legislature before his term ran out.

FIREBOMB...

Continued from page 1 the second incident they recovered a gasoline can. To add insult to injury, on July 7, an older blue sedan was set afire on Henry Street, between Sackett and Union streets in Carroll Gardens, just around the corner from the 76th Precinct.

A report for that incident was pending at press time. Asked whether the arsonist was a pyromaniac or someone with a particular agenda, 76th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Paul Grudzinski said, "At this point it's difficult to tell. We definitely welcome the public's help if they have any information."

Grudzinski said the case is being examined by the Fire Marshall, as well as the detectives at the 76th Precinct and the police Arson/Explosion Squad, which works in cooperation with the Fire Department Bureau of Fire Investigation.

Residents said they had also heard of a fourth incident, in Boerum Hill, on Dean Street between Boerum Place and Smith Street, though neither the 76th Precinct nor the 84th Precinct could confirm that firebombing by press time.

"It's very unsettling," said one of the victims. "It's unsettling to be a victim and it's unsettling that the Fire Department has been cut back so that it's impossible to have a prompt and comprehensive investigation."

"The victim doubted the attacks were personal but said any additional incidents could lead to greater casualties than a car. "It's a dangerous crime wave that has the possibility of causing fatalities to passersby or neighboring buildings," the victim said.

Chancellor's home for sale On Wednesday, the city also opened the doors of the swanky chancellor's residence at 80 State St. for an open house. That property, at Garden Place, will go up for auction on July 23 at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in Manhattan with the bidding starting at \$1.25 million.

More than 40 people came to the open house to tour the 11-room — about seven of which are bedrooms — two kitchen and two bathroom brick townhouse. In addition to its four stories, the 5,000-square-foot building also has an air-conditioned basement as well as a large backyard.

Retired teacher Nina Hall, of Cobble Hill, whose late husband, Tom Turpin, was a supervisor with School District 13, came to the open house out of curiosity.

"It's got a lot of details and it's a wide building, too," she said. "My problem is that it's just too many rooms and not enough bathrooms."

Real estate advisor Al Santagala echoed her sentiments. "It needs a lot of money to change it into what it can be functional," he said, adding that it would require adding central cooling and at least two more bathrooms.

Bill Ross, a Brooklyn Heights-based real estate broker, came representing a client. "It's a nice house but not a great house," he said.

Some estimate, however, that the bidding could go as high as \$3 million.

"It's the value is about \$1.75 million," Ross said. "But you never know at an auction what's going to happen."

Although the building was reserved as the city schools chancellor's residence, the city's chief financial officer, Roger LaFrancis, opted to stay at his co-op on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In return, the city gave LaFrancis a \$10,000 monthly bonus on top of his \$245,000 salary.

Joel Klein, the current schools chancellor, also chose not to live in the Heights building, although he has done so without a gratuity.

While it was not used by the chancellor, the city rented it for \$8,000 per month to a tenant whose lease expired in April.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

July 14, 2003



Marty leads the bands

Markowitz reflects on 25 years of Seaside concerts; releases lineup of MLK Jr. shows

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

For many Brooklynites, the best parts of summer are Marty Markowitz's two concert series.

This year's schedule — with acts like Earth, Wind and Fire and The Spinners at the 25th Annual Seaside Summer Concert Series, and Donnie McClurkin and Boys II Men at the 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concert Series — will certainly not disappoint the borough president's fans.

Markowitz talked with GO Brooklyn about the concerts — their past and their future. He recalled how, as a junior state senator representing Flatbush, Midwood, Crown Heights and Ocean Parkways, he initiated the concerts. "I was coming home from Albany, and I passed Midwood Field, right opposite Murrow High School, and I thought, 'That's a perfect spot for a concert,'" said Markowitz. "That first summer in 1979, I started four shows at Midwood Field, where we stayed until 1990."

The first entertainers at these summer events were "underpaid musicians," he said — locals who were part of a program under the auspices of the Comprehensive Education and Training Act (CETA).

Markowitz worked with the Brooklyn Arts and Cultural Association, then headed by Charlene Victor. He borrowed a speaker system and bought, with his own money, plywood for a makeshift stage. Then he borrowed a night lamp from "someone on East 17th Street," got an extension cord hooked up to a power source down by the locker rooms — and voila! — the stage was set.

Markowitz's first performers were the Waldo Brass Quintet. Unfortunately, it rained that night, but Markowitz and his in-trench hand moved the concert to Murrow High School — and the show went on.

In 1980, Markowitz started wearing his signature white tux and tails.

"We didn't have enough lighting so I could be seen by the techies," explained Markowitz. "So I decided to wear white. It became a slick. Seniors would say, 'Marty, are you going to wear your white tuxedo?' What started as a slick became a tradition."

But it wasn't until 1981 that Markowitz



Stars come out: (Clockwise from top left) Boyz II Men will perform Aug. 25 at Wingate Field; The Spinners will perform Aug. 21 at Asser Levy Park and India are will perform Aug. 4 at Wingate Field. (Above) Borough President Marty Markowitz, in his signature white tuxedo, rides to the concert in style in 1983.

really "broke into show business" when he booked legendary big band leader Cab Callaway. (Because there were no dressing rooms for stars, Callaway was sent to the nearby home of Markowitz's friends to nap, shower, dress and have a home-cooked meal before the show.)

"It's all very well and good that he is bringing free music to the people of Brooklyn, but one can't help but suspect that Markowitz has a bit of greasepaint in his blood. 'I had dreams of being an Elvis Presley,'" he said of his teenage years. "Then it became clear that I had neither the looks nor the talent for it."

At any rate, these days Markowitz forgoes the tails and just wears a white dinner jacket — and the audience doesn't seem to mind at all.

In 1982, Markowitz raised money from corporations, the state and the city, and he started doing not four, but eight summer shows. That year, Maxene Andrews of the Andrews Sisters,

singer Anna Maria Alberghe, comedians Myron Cohen and Jackie Mason, and the Peter Duchin Orchestra were among the entertainers who appeared at Midwood Field.

The following year had an equally stellar lineup with people like Keely Smith, Jay and the Americans, Rosemary Clooney, Eddie Fisher, Teresa Brewer, Jerry Seinfeld, Little Anthony & The Imperials and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Then in 1991, the city would no longer allow the concerts to take place at Midwood Field because Astroturf had been placed on the field and it was feared that the big crowds would ruin it. So Markowitz moved the concerts to Asser Levy Park in Brighton Beach and opened with Wayne Newton. The concerts have been there ever since.

Markowitz is particularly sensitive to the ethnic makeup of his Brooklyn communities. He always does a show for the religious,

MUSIC

The 25th Annual Seaside Summer Concert Series continues every Thursday night, July 10-Aug. 31, at 7:30 pm at Asser Levy Park, West Fifth Street and Surf Avenue in Brighton Beach. The public can bring their own chairs, or rent them for \$5 a chair in a special designated area (\$10 per chair for special shows on Aug. 7 and Aug. 14). Performers are subject to change without notice.

The 21st Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Concerts are every Monday, July 14-Aug. 25, at 7:30 pm at Wingate Field, on Winthrop Street between Brooklyn and Kingston avenues, opposite Kings County Hospital. There is a concert every Monday night until Aug. 25, with a possible rain date of Tuesday night. The public is encouraged to bring their own chairs becoming a limited-benefit event.

Performing is limited-benefit event without notice. Call the concert hotline for updates at (718) 469-1912 or log on to www.brooklynconcerts.com.

Jewish community and his salsa and merengue concert is the biggest in Brooklyn. For a while he also did a show for the Russian community.

But "now they do their own show," said the borough president. "They don't need Marty Markowitz."

Seaside Concert Series

Over the years, the performers who have appeared at the Seaside concerts form a veritable Hall of Fame of the entertainment world: Andy Williams, Art Garfunkel, The Commodores, Connie Francis, Connie Stevens, Dinah Shore, Debbie Reynolds, Eddie Palmieri, Gladys Knight & The Pips, The Mamas and the Papas, the Righteous Brothers and Brooklyn's own Neil Sedaka (many, many times).

Due to contractual agreements made by those who will also be appearing at nearby venues and charging for tickets, the names of some of the performers for the free Seaside concerts cannot be revealed — yet. The performers scheduled for July 17 are a "classic rock group that defined the music of the '70s," and WAR, a group whose hits include "The World Is a Ghetto," "Cisco Kid," "Low Rider" and "Why Can't We Be Friends?"

July 24 is the Salsa by the Sea concert starring Elvis Crespo, Rey Ruiz and the Spanish Harlem Orchestra.

July 31 features a group whose name will be announced on July 14. This group, "coming back by popular demand," will appear with comedian Steve Stone, and Markowitz promises that this will be "a great night for families — people with children 8, 9 and 10 years old."

Aug. 7 will be an evening with Earth. See **MARTY** on page GO 3

MUSIC

Just Beat it

Politics not only makes strange bedfellows — it also makes for a lively evening concert series.

State Sen. Marty Golden launched his oldies and Motown-themed concerts on June 21 and they will continue through Aug. 27 at various parks in his district — from Shore Road Park to Marine Park — on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

On July 15, at 7:30 pm, The Beats (pictured), a Beatles tribute band in both song and mop tops, will perform at Dyker Park (86th Street and 14th Avenue). On July 16, at 7:30 pm, Richie Levoi will perform a tribute to Billy Joel, at Marine Park's Red Park House (Fillmore Avenue and Marine Parkway).

Bring chairs or blankets. All of these concerts are free. For more information, call (718) 238-6044.

CIRCUS

Groom's a clown

The Clyde Beatty-Cole Bros. Circus comes to Marine Park (Avenue U, west of Flatbush Avenue) July 16-20 with its new "Sallaharab" show, promising exotic animals, aerial daredevils and pirates — including the "Blackbeard Society's Initiation Rites."

The three-ring circus, produced by John and Brigitte Pugh, features golden tabby and rare white Bengal tigers from India, flying trapeze artists, elephants, the "Asian Imperial Hair-Hang," Zarina Sinovat as "The Ukrainian Femme Phenom Human Cannonball" and more.

At 9:15 am on July 16, the animal trainers invite Brooklynites for a free tour of the circus backyard during the tent raising. Animal superintendent Adam Hill and Tina the elephant will conduct an interactive educational program about animal training.

On July 17, at 10:30 am, a clown named "The Wizard of Odd" will ride out with his fiancée on elephants, and then they will wed (really!) under the big top. (That show, however, is sold-out.)

Additional show times are July 16, at 5 pm and 8 pm; July 17, at 8 pm; July 18, at 5 pm and 8 pm; and July 19-20 at 1:30 pm, 5 pm and 8 pm. Tickets are \$22 for VIP Kingside seats; \$16, \$11 children and seniors for reserved seats; and \$14, \$9 children and seniors for general admission seats. For more information, call (718) 252-4137.

— Lisa J. Curtis

NIGHTLIFE



Sake it to me

Donald Peele, Jennifer Kim and Metta Mundaya opened Patio Lounge June 12 on Park Slope's increasingly hip Fifth Avenue, between Lincoln Place and Berkeley Place. Patio's cool ambiance makes for a perfect retreat from the summer heat. Cushioned benches abound, refreshing lime green accents are everywhere, and a Japanese manga (cartoon strips) panel by Daniel Belton made me feel like I had morphed into A-Ha's "Take On Me" video.

Patrons can pull one of the vinyl' barstools up to the retro chic (read: pineapple-topped) bar or take the party outside. The lounge continues onto a rear, graveled patio with many voice-topped tables, a waterfall and chairs filled with lounge lizards.

Although the lounge cannot serve hard liquor, according to Kim, because of its proximity to a church, they do offer 10 beers on tap, bottled beers, scrumptious sangria and \$6 sake-based specialty drinks (pictured) like the mango sake-drifter (sake with combination of mangoes and oranges) and the sakerinha (inspired by the pairinha that has sake, muddled limes and sugar).

Patio accepts MasterCard, Visa, American Express and Discover. For more information, call (718) 857-3477 or visit the Web site at www.patiolounge.com.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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The grass is greener

Director Kate Ross to stage Shakespeare's comic drama 'Henry IV' in Prospect Park

By Ben Winters
for The Brooklyn Papers

This weekend will be something of a homecoming for Park Slope resident Kate Ross as she directs Boomerang Theatre Company's production of "Henry IV, Part One" in Prospect Park's Long Meadow on Saturday and Sunday.

The traveling show opened in Central Park on June 14. "Henry" is Ross' first directing gig for Boomerang, a company known for taking its summer productions from park to park throughout the city. Along the way, the 29-year-old actor-turned-director has learned much. For example, she discovered that even experienced Shakespearean actors like her Falstaff, Ron Sanborn, have to drink plenty of water before donning a fat suit in the blazing city summer heat.

And she learned that machine guns, whatever their virtues on the battlefield, are simply not "dramatically interesting." Although Ross and costumer Sidney J. Shannon decided early on to do the show in contemporary military dress (period clothes are "too expensive, too hot, and get too dirty" for outdoor summer theatre), she quickly discovered that weaponry was no fun to watch. So it's all swordplay for the numerous big battle scenes — with a twist courtesy of fight choreographer Andrew Blasenik.

"The actual weapons of the time would have been broadswords, but those are these big honking things," Ross explains. "So what we decided to do is have different characters have different weapons depending upon their personality and their age. We've got these excursions where there's 10 people on stage fighting with eight different weapons. How do two daggers compete against a broadsword? It's pretty cool."

"Cool" is a word Ross uses often in describing her production, a testament both to her youthful enthusiasm and her unapologetic affection for Shakespeare.

"These plays, these texts are just so incredible," says Ross, who as an actress has appeared regularly with the well-regarded Actors Shakespeare Company in Hoboken, N.J. "You could dive into them and just work on the text of it for a month. Every time I go back to the page I notice something new."

There's plenty to notice in "Henry IV" — a sweeping adventure story about an England wracked by civil war, featuring the young hero, Prince Hal, and his formidable nemesis, Hotspur. It is a violent, fast-paced and plot-driven play, but one that also includes some of Shakespeare's most famous comedic scenes — thanks to the presence of the cowardly but good-natured old Falstaff.

One reason Ross found herself drawn to "Henry IV, Part One" was that



Toast of the town: Prince Hal (Zack Calhoun) and Falstaff (Ron Sanborn) share a drink in Boomerang Theatre Company's "Henry IV, Part One," directed by Kate Ross.

actors and audiences alike are less familiar with the show than with popular favorites like "Romeo & Juliet" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

"We actually get to tell a story," she says. "Ross was also compelled by what she saw as a resonance between the war-torn landscape of 'Henry IV' and our own troubled times."

"The play starts off with a leader who has come to rule by a sort of illegitimate means, questioned by many, and has been besieged by civil wars and dissension in the ranks," Ross says. "So to distract everybody he wants to wage a Holy War in the Middle East." But at the end of the day, there's a simple reason Ross elected to direct this, of all Shakespeare's work: "Because it's good... it's got all of those action-adventure staples — the love story, the comedy, the tension, the arch-enemies."

Ross must be doing something right: the Boomerang version of "Part One" is the first in a rush of "Henry's" on New York stages. On July 15, Liec Schreiber begins a run as Prince Hal's later incarnation, "Henry V," in Central Park. Lincoln Center is staging a combined "Henry IV, Part One" and "Part Two" in

the fall, while closer to home the Brooklyn Academy of Music will host director Richard Maxwell, also doing "Henry IV, Part One" as part of the Next Wave Festival.

Not surprised by the "Henry" fever, Ross notes that these histories "used to be among Shakespeare's most-produced plays" in this country, and that the tavern scenes between Hal and Falstaff were particular audience favorites.

Ross hopes a new generation can be swayed by productions like hers. "A lot of people have this preconceived notion that they hate Shakespeare, that it's just hard, that it's just boring," she says. "I don't believe any of those things, of course. But it's a lot easier to draw someone with scenes like these. They are just rollickingly funny!"

After the Prospect Park performance, "Henry" moves on to Washington Market Park in Tribeca, where Ross and company will encounter a fresh obstacle for their finely tuned fight sequences.

"It has a gazebo in the middle of the stage area," she explains, smiling. "So that'll be something of a challenge for us, how to incorporate a very quaint little gazebo."

THEATER

Boomerang Theatre Company's production of "Henry IV, Part One" will be presented July 12 and July 13 at 2 pm in Prospect Park's Long Meadow. Find them at Prospect Park West. All performances are free. For more information, call (718) 501-6669 or visit the Web site at www.boomerangtheatre.org.

MARTY...

Continued from page G01

Wind and Fire ("I've been after them for 20 years; this year we got lucky," says Markowitz) as well as comedian Phil Tag.

Aug. 14 will be a night of a little Spanish, a little pop, and — so far — a lot of mystery.

"People are gonna love this one. It's a Brooklyn first. After trying for many years — we're thrilled," said Markowitz.

Aug. 21 will present the sounds of Detroit with a mystery artist (to be announced on July 26), and The Spinners, whom Markowitz calls "one of my favorite groups." The

Spinners' hits include "I'll Be Around," "Working My Way Back You" and "Could It Be I'm Falling in Love?"

King concerts

In 1983, Markowitz embarked on a new venture as Brooklyn's impresario — the Martin Luther King, Jr. Concert Series in Wingate Field.

"When I started these shows I'd already had four years experience with concerts. My legislative district had become overwhelmingly communities of color. I decided it was time for me to create a series of concerts that would appeal to the musical tastes of the African-American and Caribbean-American communities," Markowitz said.

The King concerts lean more toward jazz, gospel, Caribbean, soul and funk, but Markowitz said he's noticed that there is no real line of demarcation. In fact, he added, people who attend the Seaside concerts often ask for the entertainers who have appeared at the King concerts in East Flatbush.

The season kicks off on July 14 with The Carlos Lezama Caribbean Music Carnival featuring the Mighty Sparrow Show, plus the reigning solo and calypso monarchs of the Trinidad and Tobago 2003 Carnival, as well as other stars from the islands.

July 21 is the annual Gospel Night, this year featuring Denise McClarkin, best known for

"We Fall Down," and Angela Spryey & Godsons.

July 28 is soul night with a mystery group "back by popular demand" and The Manhattan, whose hits include "Kiss and Say Goodbye," "Shining Star" and "Don't Say Goodbye."

Aug. 4 stars Indiarie, whose debut album, "Acoustic Soul," includes "Ready for Love" and "Video."

Aug. 11 is an "old-school" hip-hop mystery night featuring Kurtis Blow and Big Daddy Kane among others.

Aug. 18 is a Noel Pointer Jazz Tribute, dedicated to the famous jazz violinist who lived in Fort Greene. It will feature jazz violinist Regina Carter, with special guests,

Pieces of a Dream and Angela Boffil. Pieces of a Dream emerged from the Philadelphia music scene in 1976; their hits include "Warm Weather," "Mount Airy Groove" and "Fo Fi Fo." Boffil's music blends jazz fusion and soul; her albums include "Angie" and "Angel of the Night."

The series ends on Aug. 25 with Ladies' Night out starring the harmonizing quartet from Philadelphia, Boyz II Men, and the C & C Music Factory, whose hits include "Here We Go" and "Things That Go Bumpin'."

Thanks to the man in the white jacket, there's going to be lots of humming, singing and playing in Brooklyn this summer.

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July 10 Sleeper July 17 Fargo July 24 Kid Galahad July 31 O Brother, Where Art Thou? August 7 Coming to America August 14 Close Encounters of the Third Kind

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Movies al fresco

Enjoy films under the stars in Brooklyn Heights, Williamsburg and Park Slope

By Marian Mason for The Brooklyn Papers

A generation ago, air conditioning drew folks into movie theaters every summer. Nowadays, it's cool to stay outside and see a film. Out-of-doors movies have gone beyond the suburban drive-in, and there are al fresco film programs all over Brooklyn this summer.

Now in its seventh year, Rooftop Films is presenting weekly screenings of short films atop a new venue, Office Ops. Founding Director Mark Elijah Rosenberg puts together thematic programs of short, independent works — animation, documentaries as well as dramas and comedies.

Films range from the silly — “Don’t Touch the Ground (Pre-School)” has the videomaker walking inside a pre-school without ever touching the floor — to the serious: “Supernax Wisconsin” deals with the many issues that surround the construction of a high-tech maximum-security prison. Both of these films screen on July 11, along with a lovely animated short, “Bike Ride.” Against white-on-black undulating line drawings a guy cycles five hours to impress his girlfriend

only to be dumped upon arrival. The July 18 program includes a short by Rosenberg himself, “Chill,” documenting inner-city kids learning how to snowboard.

And speaking of the interaction between the inner-city and rural life, on Aug. 8, the Sista II Sista benefit program of youth-produced films includes “Rocking the Boat” about Bronx high school students who combine wooden boat building with ecological studies along the Bronx River. The production values may reflect their inexperience, but the kids’ interest and fascination in the work also shines through.

Another great work to look out for is “Kmart Confidential,” on Sept. 5, a witty deadpan homage to the late, great, five-and-dime stores. Rosenberg admits he’s taken these films “out of the back rooms of festivals. We get films to interact with the world. They can be re-contextualized by the skyline, by the clouds, by children’s voices.” But Rosenberg also puts his money (what little there is) where his mouth is. Part of the \$6 admission fee goes into a fund, and at the end of the year, grants are given out to filmmakers as well as put towards equipment that they can use to make more films. At Rooftop

Films, there’s always live music at 8 pm; the films start at 9 pm.

Brooklyn actors

Closer to sea level, the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition presents weekly films at the Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park for the fourth year — all with a Brooklyn theme. This year, their poster advertising films featuring male actors from the borough trumpets: “He Came From Brooklyn!”

Woody Allen’s hysterical sci-fi romp “Sleeper” starts the season on July 10. The Coen Brothers may not be from Brooklyn, but they work with a group of actors that includes borough residents. On July 17, their dark satire “Fargo” has a cast that includes Park Sloper Steve Buscemi, and his neighbor, John Turturro, is featured in their Depression-era take on Homer’s “The Odyssey,” “O Brother, Where Art Thou?” on July 31.

Richard Dreyfuss hails from Brooklyn, and what better place to see his work in Steven Spielberg’s “Close Encounters of the Third Kind” than out of doors? This screening, on Aug. 14, seems a perfect match of film and venue. “Kid Galahad,” on July 24, fea-



Romantic evening: “Vertigo,” starring James Stewart and Kim Novak, will be screened at Celebrate Brooklyn on Aug. 1.

tures Edward G. Robinson, who is buried in the borough. A bit of a stretch, but this classic fight film, also featuring performances by Humphrey Bogart and Bette Davis, is worth it.

According to Sharon Soons, deputy director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Coalition, the evenings are very relaxed. Films start at 8:45 pm, but “people start rolling in around 6 o’clock with picnics,” she told GO Brooklyn. “And our audience is so well behaved. For instance, we don’t allow smoking during the films and everyone re-

spects that.” This year, there will be food available for purchase, as well as chairs to rent.

And don’t come late, because in addition to the Hollywood movies, Soons and her committee of volunteers will be showing shorts made by local talent. Included will be Chase Palmer’s “Neo Noir,” fresh from the Sundance Film Festival, screened before “Fargo.” If you missed the animated “Tunanooda,” by David Zackin at New Directors/New Films, this short will precede “Kid Galahad.”

And on Aug. 7, another animated film, “Nothing at All,” by Candy Kugel and Brooklynite Vincent Cafarelli, will precede “Coming to America,” which stars Bushwick-born Eddie Murphy.

‘Celebrate’ celluloid

Now in its 25th season, Celebrate Brooklyn started showing movies in Prospect Park six years ago. This summer there are four film programs, so these are four opportunities to kick off your shoes, sit on the grass and enjoy Hollywood classics. “The Creature from the Black Lagoon” hails from the days when special effects weren’t so special, but it is fun and campy enough to make for a rollicking evening on July 17. Special 3-D glasses will be provided, and, although the film was made in 1954, the sound will be turned off and the Jazz Passengers will provide music AND voices — a fine example of turning an old film into something new and lively.

Celebrate Brooklyn co-producer Rachel Chanoff told GO Brooklyn that, although the quintet’s leader, Roy Nathanson (a standard bearer for the Downtown jazz scene) is a Celebrate Brooklyn alum, this will be the group’s first appearance.

Meanwhile, the Alloy Orchestra (making their sixth appearance) has created a new score for the Douglas Fairbanks’ swashbucker “The Black Pirate.” Alloy increases the thrill of this 1926 tale of revenge with their original, yet modern, orchestrations. Clearly, Alloy is a festival favorite.

“They have a contemporary sound that captures the spirit of classic films,” Chanoff said. “The Black Pirate” will be screened on July 24. Live music isn’t necessary for “Guys and Dolls” on Aug. 7. Suffice to say that it is a singular experience to watch Marlon Brando, as Sky Masterson, sing.

CINEMA

Rooftop Films screenings take place through Sept. 12 on the roof of OfficeOps, 57 Thompson St., between Morgan and Knickerbocker avenues in Williamsburg. Admission is \$6. In the event of rain, shows are indoors, same location. For more information, call (718) 786-1912 or visit the Web site at www.rooftopfilms.com.

Brooklyn Bridge Summer Film Series screenings take place July 10 through Aug. 7 at Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges at Fulton Ferry. Admission is free. Enter from Water Street at New Dock Street. Shuttle buses are available from the Clark Street (2 train), High Street (A and C) and York Street (F) subway stations. For rain dates and information, call (718) 852-0035 or visit the Web site at www.bbpc.net.

Celebrate Brooklyn screenings take place July 17-Aug. 7 at the Prospect Park Bandshell, entrance at Prospect Park, West and North Street in Park Slope. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$3. Screenings take place rain or shine. For more information, call (718) 855-7882 or visit the Web site at www.celebratebrooklyn.org.

“Vertigo,” Alfred Hitchcock’s thriller with James Stewart and Kim Novak, adds a chill to the air on Aug. 1.

“Guys and Dolls” starts at 8:30 pm; all others begin at 8:00 pm and live concerts begin every program at 7:30.

All of these films are well suited to be seen under the stars, and make for a summer of nights out in the dark.

Marian Mason is the associate director of programming for the Film Society of Lincoln Center and chief curator of the New York Video Festival at Lincoln Center.

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Face time: Singer-songwriter Martha Redbone wants to be the face of "the home of the brave."

Barbes

376 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com. July 11: Peter Stampfel, 9 pm, \$10; July 12: Las Rubias Del Norte, 9 pm, FREE; July 13: Bastille Day street celebration with Bebe, Eiffel, Frodo, and Las Rubias del Norte, all day, FREE; July 15: Mike Fahn Group, 8 pm, FREE; July 16: Alex Harding & Lucian Bain Quartet, 9 pm, \$5; July 17: Rick Toledo, 7:30 pm and Brock Mumford, 9 pm, FREE; July 18: 4th Street Nitewal and River Tobias, 8 pm, FREE.

Celebrate Brooklyn

Prospect Park Bandshell, enter at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 855-7822, ext. 45, www.celebratebrooklyn.org. July 12: Chava Alberstein and Eve's Women, 7:30 pm, FREE; July 17: Film, "Creature from the Black Lagoon," with Guy Kawasaki/Phillip Johnston Duo, 7:30 pm, FREE; July 18: Stephen Malkmus and the Jicks and Shannon McNally, 7:30 pm, FREE.

Five Spot Soul Food Restaurant

459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Street in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.fivespotsoil-food.com. July 10: Serengeti, DJ Crucial and The Art Thugs, 9 pm, \$5; July 11: Noble Society reggae and hip-hop, 9 pm, \$5; July 12: DJ Eddie Sunshine and Latino Torres, 8 pm, \$5; July 14: open burlesque, 8 pm, \$5; July 15: Tracy Jones, Zed Rock and Massai Bay, 9 pm, \$5; July 17: Peace by Force, 9 pm, \$5 and after party with DJ Science.

Frank's Lounge

660 Fulton St. at South Elliott Street in Fort Greene, (718) 625-9339, www.FranksCocktail-Lounge.com. Wednesdays: Karaoke with Davey B., 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Blues with Lonnie Youngblood, 9 pm, FREE; Fridays and Saturdays: DJs Tyrone Samir, 9 pm, \$5; Sundays: Cleave Guyton Quintet, 7 pm, FREE.

Galapagos

70 North Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5108, www.galapagosartspace.com. July 10: McSweeney's reading, 7 pm, \$5, and Sad Little Stars, Sportswear & McWhan and Dolphins Godin, 9 pm, \$10; July 11: Blunt Theater Band Fundraiser, 9 pm, \$10; July 12: Doomsday Polka, 7 pm, \$8, and Gajin A Go-Go, 9:30 pm, \$5; July 13: Edison Woods and guests, 7 pm, \$5; July 14: bluesque, 9:30 pm, FREE; July 16: Citygrass Bluegrass, 8:30 pm, FREE; July 17: Barbez, Shelby Hirsch and more, 8 pm, \$5.

Lamour

1545 63rd St. btwn 15th and 16th avenues in Borough Park, (718) 857-9506, www.lamour-rocks.com. July 11: Early Man, None More Evil, Filth, Pale Horse, Shadows of Davitt, The Downside, Undermind, Badon Hill, 7:30 pm, \$10; July 12: Azma, Mea Cúpa, FTR, Orionis, Wiermouth, Visual, Kinetic, Eight, Gone to Earth, Karma Cycle, Balance, Banned, 7:30 pm, \$10; July 13: 15 Minutes of Handful Mind Ensemble, Off White, Short of Daybreak, Tom Between, Three Soams Theory Perfect Endings, Test of Faith, But I'm with Jimmy, 2 pm, \$10; July 18: Like a Memory, It Fades, The Kinship, Act of Rights, Theory of Mind, Desolate, Without End, Ennure, Deleted, Mutual Lines, Tribe of Anger, Without a Cause, Aurora, 7:30 pm, \$10.

Low Bar

Below Rice restaurant, 81 Washington St. at Front Street in DUMBO, (718) 222-TLOW, www.riceny.com/low. July 10: Denek Richmond and the Joy Division Boys, 10 pm, FREE; July 12: DJ Moose, 9 pm, FREE; July 16: The World Famous Pontani Sisters, 9 pm, FREE; July 17: Abandon Music, 10 pm, FREE; July 18: Gloria Deluxe, 10 pm, FREE.

Luxx

256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1002, www.clubluxe.com. July 10: Aerovos and The Double Negatives, 8 pm, \$5; July 11: Electric Turn to Me, Kill Hannah and Vinyl, 8 pm, \$7; July 12: Gusty Morgan, The Feud and The Horrors, 8 pm, \$5 and DJ Larry Te presents Berlin/Williamsburg, 11 pm, \$10; July 13: Palomar, Octopus Project and Ponce de Leon, 9 pm, \$10; July 14: Dirty on Purpose, 8 pm, \$5; July 16: Actor Day and Dewey Decibel, 8 pm, \$5; July 17: The Black Lips, 9 pm, \$7; July 18: Irving and The Swords Project, 8 pm, \$7.

Magnetic Field

97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 834-0069, www.MagneticBrooklyn.com. July 10: Aerovos and The Double Negatives, 8 pm, \$5; July 11: Electric Turn to Me, Kill Hannah and Vinyl, 8 pm, \$7; July 12: Gusty Morgan, The Feud and The Horrors, 8 pm, \$5 and DJ Larry Te presents Berlin/Williamsburg, 11 pm, \$10; July 13: Palomar, Octopus Project and Ponce de Leon, 9 pm, \$10; July 14: Dirty on Purpose, 8 pm, \$5; July 16: Actor Day and Dewey Decibel, 8 pm, \$5; July 17: The Black Lips, 9 pm, \$7; July 18: Irving and The Swords Project, 8 pm, \$7.

Over Jazz Cafe

351 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 392-5412, www.OverJazz.com. July 10: Robert Glasper Trio, 9 pm and 11 pm, \$10; July 11: Leroy Thomas Quintet, 9 pm, 11 pm and 12:30 pm, \$15; July 12: Leroy Thomas Quintet, 9 pm, 11 pm and 12:30 pm; July 14: Vincent Herring Quartet, 9:30 pm, \$10; July 15: Erno Pasere Trio, 9:30 pm, \$10; July 16: Robert Glasper/Keyon Harold Ensemble, 9 pm and 11 pm, \$10; July 17: Robert Glasper Trio, 9 pm and 11 pm, \$10; July 18: Keyon Harold Ensemble, 9 pm, 11 pm, 12:30 pm, \$15.

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Look that!

Activist singer Martha Redbone to take the stage at Rhythm & Blues Fest

By Paulanne Simmons for The Brooklyn Papers

"I'm a real Brooklyn girl," says Martha Redbone, who was born, raised and still lives in the borough. She's also one of the rising stars on the pop, soul-funk retro horizon.

On July 17, singer-songwriter Redbone will perform on a double bill with vocalist Donnie at BAM's Rhythm & Blues Festival at Metrotech.

Some of the songs Redbone will sing will be on her upcoming (as yet untitled) CD, and some will be from her debut release "Home of the Brave." In a telephone interview from Arizona, where Redbone was on tour, she explained the meaning of her CD's title.

"There is no song with that title," she said. "This is my first record. I want it to be known all over the world that I am an American artist. It's the last line of the national anthem. It was not meant for people that looked like me. It was meant to give the face of the 'home of the brave' a brown face — mine. The face of the 21st century."

As the daughter of mixed-race parents — her father is black, her mother American Indian — Redbone certainly has a valid claim on both the heritage and the future of America. But her mixed roots have also had a profound influence on her music.

Redbone's song "Vineyard" begins with an American Indian drum and sounds reminiscent of a chain gang. The song "Free" has a funky Creole slant blended with hip-hop beats. And the track "Heaven" has a gospel sound.

Redbone grew up in a home filled with music — from her father's favorites (Earth, Wind and Fire; Sly and the Family Stone; and Stevie Wonder) to her mother's choices (The Eagles, Don McLean). But she insists that her own music is something very different.

"I believe songwriting is a craft. I love a melody. I love chord changes. I love movement in a song," she told GO Brooklyn. "I'm a humanistarian," Redbone says. "I write about what I see. I write about life and love, and the pursuit of happiness."

Sometimes Redbone's material brings her into the realm of the controversial.

"My song 'Boyfriend' is about a girl who dates a boy she later finds out is bisexual," Redbone explains. "My publisher said to me, 'This will never make it on the radio. It's too controversial.' When someone says that, it's just a

green light for me."

As someone who has tasted the bitter fruit of prejudice, Redbone has a well-developed social consciousness — which can be seen in her songs "Un-

derdodg" and "Unjust." In fact, her adopted name, Redbone, is black and American Indian ancestry.

"I decided I'm not going to blend in. I am going to be ex-

actly what I am," says the Brooklyn Heights resident.

Redbone also decided she was going to speak her mind. "Unjust! I talk about a lot of the injustices I see in the world between the haves and the have-nots," she says.

Redbone got her "biggest budget" toward professional singing when she was working as an illustrator for Parliament Funkadelic in London.

"During recording sessions, everyone wants to run into the studio and get on the album. I did that one day, and that was it. I knew that was where I belonged," she says.

In London, Redbone teamed up with her co-writer and producer, Aaron Whitty. With the help of Walter "Junior" Morrison of the Ohio Players and Parliament

Funkadelic, Redbone and Whitty produced back in the States and recorded "Home of the Brave." Redbone also started

singing in Brooklyn's "coffee kind of places." One of her goals these days is to appear on the stage of Park Slope's SouthPaw.

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Face time: Singer-songwriter Martha Redbone wants to be the face of "the home of the brave."

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Plenty of room at the inn

Park Slope bed and breakfast at the market for \$2.6 M

With not so much as a sign outside, Liama Paolella has been operating Bed & Breakfast on the Park, at 113 Prospect Park West, for the past 20 years. The eight-bedroom, turn-of-the-century Park Slope mansion has housed everyone from a U.S. Supreme Court Justice to out-of-town grandparents to Manhattan couples seeking clandestine trysts.

But the antique dealer turned innkeeper says she has had enough. Over Memorial Day weekend Paolella placed her palatial, four-story brick mansion on the market for \$2,595,000.

But it will take a buyer of a particular, how shall we say, sensibility to take the plunge into this home.

Adorned with hot-pink walls, oriental rugs, rocco armchairs, gas-burning fireplaces, stained-glass windows and African mahogany panels, visitors to the Victorian inn may feel they have walked into a young girl's fantasy palace, albeit one tinged at times with a funeral sensibility. "It will have to go to the right couple," said James Kerby, a broker with Douglas El-

LOCATION LOCATION LOCATION

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

linian who is handling the sale.

On a recent Sunday morning a young couple strolled through the parlor level during a scheduled appointment. While the wife said she liked the place, the husband, who works on Wall Street, was busy trying to figure out where to put a wet bar and pool table.

Kerby guessed they wouldn't be the takers. In order to attract the "right" buyers, the house has been listed in the Manhattan portion of the Sunday real estate section of the New York Times.

And for buyers used to Manhattan prices, this may seem like a steal—the same 6,000-square-foot townhouse would go for around \$5 million on the Upper East Side.

While a potential buyer could rent out the garden floor (it has three bedrooms, a kitchen and bathroom) to help defray the cost, the tenants and landlord would have to settle who has access to the backyard patio.

But the summer is slow in the real estate business, especially in this price range, when many potential buyers are holed away in the Hamptons sailing, playing polo and sipping martini teas.

With less than a dozen single-family homes left along Prospect Park from "circle to circle," according to Kerby, buyers with deep pockets and a desire to be just feet from the park would be hard pressed to pass up this palace. And that's a point Kerby hopes to drive home.

In addition to the mansion, Paolella is putting most of the furniture up for sale and plans on devising herself fulltime in the antique business and pushing the sale of paintings by her father, William Earl Singer, a portrait artist who spent many years honing his



George, John and Laura Vard were recent guests from South Carolina.

craft in Paris. His paintings of former Israeli prime minister David Ben Gurion, and a Spanish reclining nude, currently adorn the walls of the inn.

News of the potential sale did not go over well with guests sipping coffee and eating a homemade frittata and muffins at breakfast this week. Sitting around the long oval table covered in Irish linens, amid jam served in Waterford jars and sugar in silver servers, guests said they hope the bed and breakfast never closes.

"It reminds me of a small pension where we stayed in Italy," said George Varn, who was visiting from Travelers Rest, S.C., along with his wife, Laura. The couple was staying in the French Cottage Room while visiting their daughter who had moved to Park Slope two years ago.

Midway through breakfast, George stood up to answer his cell phone. Apologizing, the retired Air Force colonel explained that because of alternate side of the street parking he had double parked his car and left a note with his cell number.

The inn, alas, has no parking. "That's OK. I'd rather put up with this than see brownstones knocked down for parking lots," he said before sitting down to prepare some jam on a fresh brioche.

Each of the eight guest rooms comes with its own name. The Grand Victorian on the second floor, which runs \$300 a night, is the mother of them all with a garlanded, canopied bed, French lace, plump pillows, and a fireplace. (The inn is equipped with 10.)

And from Lady Liberty one floor up, guests can enjoy a private balcony and catch a glimpse of the Statue of Liberty from the private commode in the master bathroom.

Upkeep doesn't come cheap. Every few years Paolella has the floors redone by hand and the cost of the utilities equates to rent for some. But for whatever buyer picks up this home, said Paolella, it is clear that it will have to be a labor of love.

If you have a tip about real estate in northern or western Brooklyn or have a property-related question, send an e-mail to RealEstate@BrooklynPapers.com. Be sure to include your name and telephone number.

BUYING AND SELLING

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

B'klyn Heights

A four-story, single-family, brick house at 33 Willow Place, between Joralemon and State streets in Brooklyn Heights is on the market for \$2.5 million.

Dating from the 1840s, the 3,800-square-foot federal-style home boasts a rear, enclosed porch overlooking a landscaped garden with a fish pond and wooden garbos.

The east-facing house is also swash in original details, including wide-plank pine floors, exposed wood beam ceilings, and original onyx mantels.

There are six bedrooms—four of them large—two and a half bathrooms, and a double-room parlor. William B. May is the brokering the sale. The house has been on the market for three weeks.

Dyker Heights

The sellers of a three-bedroom home in Dyker Heights are asking \$629,000.

But one of the main draws of this gray-stone house, according to Ramsdell, may be the one-car parking garage with enough room for an additional car in the driveway.

A similar house on the block sold last year for \$530,000, Ramsdell said.

The house has been on the market for three weeks.

If you are a broker with an interesting property on the market or one that recently sold, e-mail RealEstate@BrooklynPapers.com. Include your name and phone number.



1129 80th St.

"Not too many houses come up for sale in Dyker Heights and they always sell quickly," said Stanley Ramsdell, a broker at Velsor Realty who is handling the sale.

The two-story house at 1129 80th St., between 118th and 124th avenues, has three bedrooms on the second floor, two and a half bathrooms, and a finished basement.

Built in 1924, the house still has its original parquet floors, a wooden deck in the back and an enclosed porch on the front overlooking a small garden.

But one of the main draws of this gray-stone house, according to Ramsdell, may be the one-car parking garage with enough room for an additional car in the driveway.

A similar house on the block sold last year for \$530,000, Ramsdell said.

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