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# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN EDITION

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Patti Hagan with her beloved pooch, Lady Day.

## DOGGONIT!

Friends, foes cheer as Hagan's dog turns up after odd disappearance

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Residents of Prospect Heights — whether they support the Atlantic Yards mega-project or not — were united in their joy at hearing that Patti Hagan had gotten her dog back.

That is, except Bruce Ratner. But more on that later.

Lady Day, the peripatetic Atlantic Yards protester's 12-year-old black Lab, had been stolen last week, setting into motion a com-

munity-wide effort to find the purloined pup that ended thanks to a hunch by a receptionist at a Fort Greene animal hospital.

The drama began on March 6, when Hagan tied up her dog outside New York Natural on Flatbush Avenue near Bergen Street.

Hagan was actually going into a different store, but wanted Lady to be in the sun, not in the cold (remember that, it becomes important later).

Ten minutes later, when Hagan returned from photocopying protest flyers (what else?), Lady was nowhere to be found.

She popped her head into New York Natu-

ral — "It's run by a Bhutanese guy, by the way," Hagan said — and was told that a "strange" woman with gray hair and a dark coat had peeked her head into the shop demanding to know whose dog was tied up outside.

"I went next door and talked to Mike Hussein and he said the same thing about this lady," Hagan said. "And the optometrist said he saw a woman acting strange."

Convinced that Lady had been kidnapped, Hagan made the rounds of the local animal hospitals to get the word out and posted flyers all over the neighborhood ("Lady Day is very sweet and loves to eat ap-

See **DOGGONE** on page 13



Is Hepcat driving off into the California sun?  
See p. 13

## City buys land for Ratner

By Ariella Cohen  
The Brooklyn Paper

Why is Mayor Bloomberg buying land for developer Bruce Ratner?

The City Council was left asking that question when officials from the city's Economic Development Corporation disclosed that almost half of the city's previously announced \$205-million contribution to Atlantic Yards would pay for acquiring land within the mega-development's 22-acre footprint.

And no one knows why. "I said, 'Why are we reimbursing [Ratner] for property that he could purchase on the open market?'" said Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights). "They... avoided the question."

James, a strong opponent of Ratner's \$4-billion arena-and-skyscraper Xanadu, was See **RATNER** on page 5

## 7TH AVE EXPRESS

Report: One-way streets are speedways

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

There is now conclusive proof that cars have turned Park Slope's one-way Eighth Avenue into a mini-speedway, lending credibility to residents' fears about a proposal to turn Sixth and Seventh avenues into one-way streets.

Armed with a radar gun, activists from Transportation Alternatives stood on Seventh and Eighth avenues and measured how fast cars were going on both streets.

On one-way Eighth, cars were clocked at

speeds as high as 40 mph, while on two-way Seventh, cars maxed out at only 20 mph. The speed limit on both streets is 30 mph. The gun-on-the-street survey refutes the De-

See **ONE-WAY** on page 15



Author Jonathan Lethem (right) and his dog, Maisy, in Boerum Hill.

## HOLY WAR

Slope parents protest Arabic school plan

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Park Slope parents exploded at Department of Education officials who hope to squeeze a new Arabic-language middle school into the elementary-level PS 282 building on Sixth Avenue.

The up-and-coming elementary school already houses 600 students, from pre-K through fifth grade, and parents say it can't hold many more.

"We'll lose space, we'll lose services, and we'll lose safety," said Parent Teacher Association President Xiaomara Fraser, whose son is a fourth-grader at PS 282.

"We would rather give us the option of putting our own sixth graders back here... if they think there's enough space," added Fraser. "That creates continuity."

Fraser's concerns were echoed by dozens of parents at the March 12 PTA meeting, where the city unveiled its plan amid widespread indignation that the Khalil Gibran International Academy hadn't been drafted with any consultation from the community.

The day after that raucous meeting, parents Jennifer Bacon Fossati and Filippo Fossati sent Schools Chancellor Joel Klein a letter complaining that the Arabic-language and culture school would "invade" PS 282 with a program that "is an abdication of the basic principle behind public education [by setting] up separate schools to teach unritually one history and one culture."

The letter cited a report published on [MuslimAmerican.org](http://MuslimAmerican.org) that referred to the Gibran Academy as a "Jihad school."

The academy, which would be the city's first dedicated to Arabic language and culture studies, is being run by Debbie Almontaser, a native of Yemen who is a 15-year veteran of the school system.

The Gibran school would have only a sixth-grade class next year, but eventually house 81 students in grades sixth through eight.

The PS 282 PTA has sprung into



Parents at PS 282 in Park Slope are hoping to block a city plan to put an Arabic-language middle school within their elementary school.

action to combat the plan, and was set to rally on Friday.

"[The Department of Education] couldn't answer any questions at all, [like] who decided on this school, and where the security will come from," said Fraser. Her outrage was echoed by Do lores Louison.

"This is totally unacceptable," said Louison. "We fought hard for our science lab, our computer lab, our music room, our art room. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see that this will change things for the worse."

The PTA has found a champion in Councilman David Yassky (D-Park Slope), who told The Brooklyn Paper that the plan was "a mistake and would be very harmful to efforts to help that school grow."

The Department of Education Web site claims that the school is only at 63 percent capacity.

"We wish every new school in the city could have its own building, but we rarely have the luxury of sufficient space and money," said Melody Meyer, an Education Department spokeswoman.

The school is named for Gibran, a beloved Lebanese Christian poet.

## Honor at the court!

Building to be named for Carey

By Gersh Kuntzman  
The Brooklyn Paper

Finally, someone is making a federal case out of honoring Hugh Carey.

On Tuesday, Rep. Ed Towns (D-Fort Greene) pushed through a bill that would rename (or, more accurately, name) the federal courthouse on Cadman Plaza East and Tillary Street "Hugh L. Carey United States Courthouse."

The House overwhelmingly passed Town's bill, which would honor the man who served seven terms in the Congress, the governor who saved New York City from bankruptcy, the Democratic powerbroker who tightened the belt on the state's profligate spending by saying "the days of wine and roses are over," the liberal lion whose greatest regret is that he

See **CAREY** on page 15



The federal courthouse on Tillary Street could be named for Gov. Hugh Carey.

## Love 'em or Lethem

Boerum Hill's prodigal son's new Brooklyn-free novel

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

It could be seen as a betrayal. Jonathan Lethem, patron saint of South Brooklyn's literati, has written a book based in, of all places, Los Angeles.

"I wanted to shake off the responsibility of being 'the Faulkner of Boerum Hill,'" the author told GO Brooklyn last week. He was preparing to go away for the weekend, to rest a bit before he began the tour for

the new book, "You Don't Love Me Yet," which was released on March 13.

"There was something mysterious and really evocative to me about that part of LA — Silver Lake and Echo Park," he said. "I like places that are ill-defined bohemian frontiers, verging on gentrification — disputed terrains. There is a certain Brooklyn-ness to that."

And he can't really be faulted for trying to get away. Lethem lives on the same Boerum Hill block that he grew up on, and

has built his reputation largely on books like "Motherless Brooklyn" and "Fortress of Solitude," both highly praised works that are now standard issue for F train riders. That's quite a burden to bear.

"You Don't Love Me Yet" follows Lucinda Hocke, a young musician who's breaking up with her boyfriend/bandmate and has taken a job at "The Complaint Line," an art project that finds her listening to callers' grievances for hours on end.

See **LETHEM** on page 10



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# HERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY March 17	SUNDAY March 18	TUESDAY March 20	WEDNESDAY March 21	FRIDAY March 23
<b>Brooklyn's new brew</b> The Brooklyn Brewery launched its newest beer, Local 1, which is brewed in a Belgian style not dissimilar to champagne. It's also got a nifty new 750 ml bottle to make your Pabst-swilling friends feel like completely inferior drunks. <i>"Local 1" is available at the Brooklyn Brewery (79 N. 11th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg) and at Bierkraft (191 Fifth Ave. at Berkeley Place in Park Slope). For information call (718) 486-7422.</i>	<b>Go green</b> Work up a thirst for one of Farrell's styrofoam cups full of beer with Park Slope's St. Patrick's Day Parade. The parade starts at Prospect Park West and 16th Street and marches up Seventh Avenue to Union Street and back to the starting point. <i>The parade begins at 1 p.m. Farrell's (215 Prospect Park West at 16th Street) is open from 10 a.m. until 2 a.m. daily. For information call (718) 788-8779.</i>	<b>Solo act</b> As part of the ninth annual MATA festival for young composers, tonight's performance, "Solitary Confinement V," features works by and for the solo performer, including Vincent Ho (pictured). Think of it as what geniuses come up with when they're humming in the shower. <i>8 p.m. at the Brooklyn Lyceum (227 Fourth Ave. at Union Street in Park Slope). Free for children, \$15 for adults. For information call (866) 469-2687.</i>	<b>Gardens' party</b> Sick of being overlooked for the Greenest Block in Brooklyn contest year after year? Now, the Brooklyn Botanic Garden is giving you a chance to cram with "Greening Up Your Street," a class designed to give your block a competitive edge. <i>5 p.m. at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street in Prospect Heights). Free, but reservations are required. For information call (718) 632-7200.</i>	<b>Funky bunch</b> Culling DJs from Chicago, Milwaukee and Brooklyn, "Hot, Funky and Sweaty," is a night of obscure soul and funk, with real records — not the ones behind the decks here. Get ready to dance and work up an appetite for one of the Lucky Cat's famous homemade pizzas. <i>10:30 p.m. at the Lucky Cat (245 Grand St. at Rivington Street in Williamsburg). Free. For information call (718) 782-0437.</i>

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

**SAT, MARCH 17**  
**St. Patrick's Day**  
**OUTDOORS AND TOURS**  
**SALT MARSH:** Urban Park Rangers hosts an early morning birding walk. 8 a.m. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3002 Ave. U. Call 311 for info. Free.  
**BRIDGE WALK:** Big Onion Tours takes a walk over the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. Learn about the history, architecture and people of this neighborhood. \$15, \$12 seniors, \$10 students. 11 a.m. Meet at the southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street, lower Manhattan. (212) 439-1090.  
**FORT GREENE PARK:** In honor of Women's History Month, the Urban Park Rangers host a talk on the significant roles women played in the American Revolution. 11 a.m. Meet at the visitor's center, near the Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park entrance. Call 311 for info. Free.  
**WALKING TOUR:** Mauricio Lorente hosts a tour of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Marriott Hotel, 333 Adams St. (718) 799-0430.

**PERFORMANCE**  
**MUSIC OFF THE SHELVES:** The Brooklyn Philharmonic offers a musical celebration for St. Patrick's Day. Selections include excerpts from "Three Irish Legends," "No on Popular Irish Folk Tunes," and more. First performance at Brooklyn Public Library's New Utrecht branch, 1743 86th St. 1:30 p.m. Additional performance at Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch, Grand Army Plaza. 4 p.m. (718) 230-2100. Free.  
**SALON SERIES:** Brave New World Repertory Theatre presents Brooklyn-based Equity actors performing rehearsed readings of classic performing plays. Tonight, "An Ideal Husband," by Oscar Wilde. \$18. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. reading at 8 p.m. Old Stone House, 336 Third St. (718) 469-5275.  
**SHAKESPEARE:** Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents "Rufus Love or What You Will," a gender-friendly adaptation of "The Taming of the Shrew." \$15, 10 students and seniors. 8 p.m. South Oxford Square, 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-0546.  
**MUSIC:** Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music hosts a new music collective and celebrates David Del Treddich's 70th birthday. Concert features music from "Chacalá," "Chacalá's" and "Three Gymnopédies." Interview with Del Treddich. \$15, 10 students and seniors. 8 p.m. 38 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3000.  
**CBCC:** Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts

works by Sibelius, Sariaho, Ravel and Schumann. \$35, 8 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.  
**BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE:** presents Terry O'Connell's Electric Juniper Garden. Original music is played on invented instruments and objects. \$15, \$15 Paper members, \$8 low-income. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 632-0102.  
**BIG BAND MUSIC:** Ridge Repertory Company presents "Sentimental Journey, Music of the Big Band Era." James Martiniello and Eddie Russo direct this cabaret review. \$18, 8:30 p.m. Bay Ridge Jewish Center, 81st Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 836-3103.  
**CHILDREN**  
**KIDS MUSICAL:** Tuckertory Productions presents "Peter Piper Picks a New Profession." Peter Piper Picks a New Profession.

Let's make 'ideal': Experimental theater group Brave New World Repertory Theatre will perform a rehearsed reading of "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde on March 17, following a 7:30 p.m. dinner at the Old Stone House.

his pickled peppers aren't just tongue-twisters — they're stomach-turners. \$10, \$7 kids, 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. 190 Underhill Ave., (between Sterling and St. Ann's Place, near 125th Street) Brooklyn Museum. (845) 797-1320.  
**INNER CLOWN:** Family workshop takes you through the steps of creating your own clown character and physical comedy skills. Also, learn the basics of juggling. \$20 per adult / child pair, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Brooklyn Arts Exchange, 421 5th Ave. (718) 632-0018.  
**OTHER**  
**FLEA MARKET:** at Flatbush Reformed Church. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Flatbush and Church avenues. (718) 284-5140.  
**GENEALOGY:** Brooklyn Historical Society offers a class with Mrs. B. Ann Moorhouse, author and certified genealogist. \$30, 15 members, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 125 Westport St. Reservations required. (718) 411-2222.  
**BK FASHION WEEKEND:** Collections by local talent. 7:30 p.m. 201 Water St. For info visit [www.bk4fashionweekend.com](http://www.bk4fashionweekend.com)  
**HOLIDAY DINNER:** Scout Troop 20 hosts a St. Patrick's Day dinner. \$15, \$10 kids, 7:30 p.m. Parish House, 18th Avenue and 84th Street. (718) 331-1512.

**SUN, MARCH 18**  
**PERFORMANCE**  
**CBCC:** Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College presents "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat." \$15 to \$35, 2 p.m. Waitman Theater at Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.  
**OPERA:** St. Dominic's Parish presents The Italian Opera Company in "Cavaleria Rusticana." \$10, 4 p.m. 76th Street and 20th Street. St. Reservations required. (718) 259-4636.  
**BARGE MUSIC:** Classical music concert featuring works by Schumann, Beethoven, Verdi and others. \$35, 4 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2063.  
**BAM:** Educated Scissorhands' 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. See Sat, March 17. Also, "Taming of the Shrew." 7:30 p.m. See Sat, March 17.  
**SHAKESPEARE:** "Rufus Love or What You Will." 2 p.m. See Sat, March 17.  
**BIG BAND MUSIC:** at Ridge Repertory Company. 5 p.m. See Sat, March 17.

# CIVIC CALENDAR

Third and Fourth avenues, 7:30 p.m. Call (718) 429-4229 for information.

**MONDAY, MARCH 19**  
**Community Board 6:** Housing and human services committee. Park Slope Armory 1402 Eighth Ave. between 14th and 15th streets, 5:30 p.m. Call (718) 453-3027 for information.  
**TUESDAY, MARCH 20**  
**64th Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting. Phoenix House 50 Jay St., between Plymouth and Water streets, 7 p.m. Call (718) 675-8650 for information.  
**89th Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting. 85 South Oxford St. (at Lafayette Avenue), 7:30 p.m. Call (718) 656-6511 for information.  
**68th Precinct Community Council:** Monthly meeting. 333 65th St. between

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21**  
**Community Board 7:** Monthly board meeting. CB office 4201 Fourth Ave. at 3rd Street, 6:30 p.m. Call (718) 854-0003 for information.  
**Borough Hall Association:** General meeting. On the agenda: Presentation on the green construction at Queens and Pacific streets. Belair Church (401 Atlantic Ave. at Bond Street), 7 p.m. Call (718) 858-3822 for information.  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 22**  
**DUMBO Improvement District:** On the agenda: The future of the Pearl Street Triangle. 111 Front Street (at Washington Street), suite 250, 5:30 p.m. Call (718) 237-8700 for information.  
*To let an event in the Civic Calendar, e-mail [news@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:news@brooklynpaper.com) or fax (718) 634-9378.*

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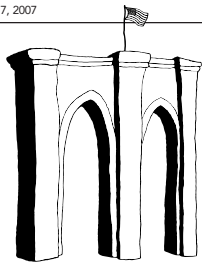
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# THE STORE

BROOKLYN HEIGHTS-DOWNTOWN DUMBO

## Want to end war? End recruiting

This wasn't your typical anti-war march. No one shouted anti-Bush slogans and no one waved signs with pictures of dead Iraqi civilians.

When the Brooklyn Parents for Peace gathered in Downtown Brooklyn on March 10, it wasn't to scream invective at the military recruitment post across the street, but to show teenagers walking around the Fulton Mall that the military isn't their only option when they get out of high school.

The march was completely silent (aside from a samba band, that is), and volunteers handed out "How to go to college without joining the military" pamphlets and "Cost of war" flyers.

So many people asked for pamphlets that volunteers ran out before the march ended.

"Thank you for doing this," said one elderly woman. "My 23-year-old granddaughter just came back from this war, and she hasn't been right in the head since she got home."

Peace, love and education, man. But let's face it, hundreds of protest marches have been held since before the war began haven't made the slightest difference.

Instead, more groups might want to follow Brooklyn Parents' lead and focus on the tactics of military recruiters.

Not only are military recruiters allowed on school grounds — schools are legally obliged to let them, thanks to No Child Left Behind, which requires schools to provide military recruiters with students' contact information without telling students or parents.

Students can opt out, but few know it — and besides, the recruiters are still allowed in.

And where do those recruiters seek the next generation of cannon fodder? Many reports have documented a pattern of aggressive recruiting in communities of color — poor neighborhoods where kids face bleak options and little hope of going to college or getting a good job without a boost from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines.

Councilman Charles Barron (D-Camden) tried to do something about aggressive recruiters in 2005 — but his bill to ban recruiters from public schools didn't go anywhere. Hence, the peace march.

"We're trying to give young people who are targeted by military recruiters information about their choices," said Charlotte Phillips, chairwoman of Brooklyn Parents for Peace. "We want them to come to their own conclusions."

Here's some additional data the kids might want to consider: On March 18, the United States enters its fifth year in Iraq. More than 3,000 American soldiers have been slaughtered since the Bush-league invasion began, and an estimated 200,000 to 650,000 Iraqi civilians are dead.

So if the president won't stop the war, we have to stop it for him, from the ground up. We have to ensure that recruiters stop targeting poor kids and promising them money for college and a trade they can use later in life.

All too often, there is no later in their lives.

As for the march — it was finished barely one hour after it had begun. But despite the short duration, Phillips was pleased.

"As a way of disseminating information, I think we were very successful," she said. "In terms of stopping the war, it's only a small step."

## THE KITCHEN SINK

The US Postal Service has scheduled a "Postal Solutions Day" at the Times Plaza branch on Atlantic Avenue on March 21 to teach people how to use the USPS Web site so you can buy postage and mail packages from home. Just imagine never again having to go postal (literally and figuratively) again. ... We hear that **Two Trees Management** has a new team topping its commercial leasing department. **Louise Ehrmann** and **Caroline Thebaud** are in charge of business leases at Two Trees properties in DUMBO. Seems they're the ones responsible for putting **Bo Concept** down the street from **West Elm**. ... **Borough President Markowitz** entertained some important guests in Brooklyn Heights this week. Marty hosted a swank dinner at Turkish restaurant **Taze** for such luminaries as the **Polytech** President Jerry Halpin and **Brooklyn Historical Society** President Deborah Silver. The roasted eggplant dip was divine. ... Artists and DUMBO go together like hot chocolate and marshmallows, and the **DUMBO Arts Center** wants to keep it that way. The DAC wants artists and curators to submit original proposals for exhibitions in their 3,000-square-foot space in 2008. Go to [www.dumbartoncenter.org](http://www.dumbartoncenter.org) to learn how. Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

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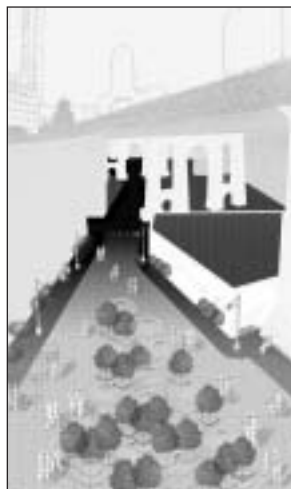
## HEIGHTS LOWDOWN



Christie Rizk



Pratt Institute students see this DUMBO crossroads — currently a parking lot (above) — becoming a Euro-style piazza (see rendering below).



The Brooklyn Paper

The St. Charles Borromeo school saga continued this week as some parents remain convinced that the school will re-open while the Diocese of Brooklyn insists that it is not going to happen.

The Diocese closed the Sidney Place school after a small fire on Feb. 13 — but when the smoke cleared, the Diocese opted for a permanent shut down, citing dwindling enrollment.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Charles Krause, the

pastor of St. Charles Borromeo church next door, continues to tell parents that a reopening might be possible next year.

"We are refitting the school to be reopened," he said.

Really?

"Absolutely," said Krause.

Diocese spokesman Frank De Rosa had told The Stoop that there are no plans to re-open the school, and that the building would be leased or sold.

## Mr. Mayor, tear down this wall!

By Christie Rizk  
The Brooklyn Paper

WEST DUMBO, March 13 — Allied forces announced today that the Wall must come down.

No, there hasn't been a return to the Cold War, but partisans say that the Manhattan Bridge has become a "Berlin"-style wall cutting through the heart of DUMBO.

And two cultures — an East DUMBO and a West DUMBO, if you will — are slowly developing, complete with their "own set services: cleaners, cafes and even their own subway stations," according to the DUMBO Improvement District.

Now the group wants to do something about this Checkpoint Charlie (without the barbed wire and machine guns). The first step, the group believes, is transforming the Pearl Street Triangle — an area bounded by Front, Water and Pearl street — from a neighborhood black hole of haphazard parking, uneven asphalt and partially covered-over cobblestones into a town square complete with a farmer's market and pedestrian-only spaces.

"We need to tackle the mish-mosh of patch work asphalt, failed Belgian blocks and public parking," the group said in a statement. "The area has a great potential to be revitalized into an enchanting public space as DUMBO's town center."

Perhaps the Improvement District is using Berlin — the real one — as an example. The German capital's town square, Potsdamer Platz, was devastated during World War II, and then shut down when the Berlin Wall — the real one — was built through it.

But when the Wall came down, Potsdamer became a hot piece of real estate, and is now one of the busiest shopping, entertainment and tourism areas of Berlin.

Manhattan's reimagined industrial area. A decade ago, the only people to walk down the neighborhood's streets were butchers and deliverymen. Now the area is fashionable, and boasts some of that outer borough's highest rents.

But bringing down DUMBO's wall could be harder than bringing down Communism (after all, we can't simply tear down the Manhattan Bridge).

Much like Ronald Reagan telling Mikhail Gorbachev to "tear down this wall," the Improvement District is also recommending that the Manhattan Bridge arch on Water Street — currently used by the Department of Transportation as a storage space for construction materials and maintenance crews — be re-opened as a pedestrian walkway.

But the Gorbachev in this extended metaphor, DOT spokesman Chris Gilbride, said that the agency has used that space for storage since the 1980s, and had no plans to reopen the arch anytime soon.

Still, Tucker Reed, the Improvement District's executive director is hopeful. After all, Gorbachev turned out to be pretty cooperative in the end.

And in the meantime, the Improvement District wants the neighbors to come to a meeting next week to chime in with their own ideas about how to turn the Pearl Street Triangle from a Bermuda Triangle into a "Plaza san DUMBO."

"We're looking for ideas that will create green space in DUMBO that will be beneficial for both businesses and residents," said the DUMBO Improvement District's president, Tom Cohen. Pearl Street Triangle public forum (111 Front St., suite 258 (at Washington Street), March 22, 5:30 pm. Call (718) 237-8700 for information.

## A saint of confusion in Heights

The Brooklyn Paper

The St. Charles Borromeo school saga continued this week as some parents remain convinced that the school will re-open while the Diocese of Brooklyn insists that it is not going to happen.

The Diocese closed the Sidney Place school after a small fire on Feb. 13 — but when the smoke cleared, the Diocese opted for a permanent shut down, citing dwindling enrollment.

Meanwhile, the Rev. Charles Krause, the

pastor of St. Charles Borromeo church next door, continues to tell parents that a reopening might be possible next year.

"We are refitting the school to be reopened," he said.

Really?

"Absolutely," said Krause.

Diocese spokesman Frank De Rosa had told The Stoop that there are no plans to re-open the school, and that the building would be leased or sold.

Nonetheless, the school's financial committee has already started planning repairs. And St. Charles parents are more than willing to believe in miracles.

"We have been informed by Bishop DiMarzio through our pastor that the school will reopen," said one commenter on [brooklynheightsblog.com](http://brooklynheightsblog.com) calling himself Eric Parish. "Joy."

It's "joy" for now. But if De Rosa is right, it'll be "joy" soon enough.

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# THE stoop

CARROLL GARDENS-COBBLE HILL BORERUM HILL  
RED HOOK

## Bring back dog days on Bond?

The unleashed mutts that once roamed free and fierce on Bond Street are a species extinct, their habitat overtaken by strollers and Heath Ledger on a skateboard.

And while the demise of the so-called wild dogs is one that has been amply noted by pundits and politicians as a sign of progress, some who live in the area aren't so sure that their disappearance is a good thing.

"I'd rather live with the famous Bond Street wild dog packs than people who can spend a million on an apartment," the blogger found in Brooklyn wrote last week.

It's an odd time in a neighborhood's development when seemingly sane people believe they would be better off living next to mongrels with sharp incisors and a habit of defecating in the street than slick traders who probably aren't even home much.

"Dogs don't bother you unless you bother them," the found in Brooklyn blogger (a.k.a. artist Lisann McTernan) told me. McTernan, who has lived on Bond Street for 14 years, sees an occasional scary growl, or bad dream as a necessary tradeoff for affordable housing. It pays to live in a place where people play "Spot the Plancher" (the one who likes to play in the garbage) rather than watch the paparazzi as they chase Australian heartthrobs down Smith Street.

"The dogs kept my rent down," she said. "Soon enough I know I'll be looking for a new Bond Street." I understand wanting to live in a community that is wild, untamed and without any celebrities, but really the whole thing strikes me as psychotic. In the year 2007, one would hope that a city like Brooklyn would be able to maintain affordable housing without relying on wild beasts to control the market.

I raise this issue now for personal reasons. Last week, I read found in Brooklyn's musings on wild dogs while visiting a place where in fact, dogs run wild and let me tell you, it was frightening.

I was visiting my sister in a small town in Israel where dogs, but not leashes, are plentiful. Worse, her town hasn't yet discovered the newfangled breeds so popular in Brooklyn that are engineered to not do beastly things like fight, or chase. In my sister's Israeli town, people raise old-fashioned mutts, beasts that have the stamina and the brain power to actually run down and maybe even bite a person — especially when they don't have a leash.

Needless to say, we spent a good chunk of each afternoon playing crowd control to the collection of animals that enjoyed roaming at us each time we left the house. All the dogs appear to want to kill anyone riding a bike and are not afraid to chase cyclists down very busy streets.

"It gets freaky sometimes," my sister told me, her voice grave as she pushed a stroller down a canine-crowded street, the pet beasts barking madly as passed.

But the biggest irony may be that land values are skyrocketing there. Apparently, the "rustic" is back. Uh-oh, found in Brooklyn. You may not be looking for a new Bond Street after all.

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Red Hook's fave mustachioed civic warrior, **John McGeltrick**, has agreed to judge what could be the city's first ever mustache contest. The "stache pageant will happen on May 12 at a fundraiser for local artist group **Falconworks** and the "Off the Hook" production. Start growing... In March of 2007, **Bond Street** had a first meeting last week. The neighbors are worried about the new **Toll Brothers** condos going up on the block. Email [karl@brooklyn.net](mailto:karl@brooklyn.net) for more info. ... Brooklyn band, the **Nighttime**, rocked out at midnight-hour book release party for **Jonathan Lethem's** latest novel, "You Don't Love Me Yet" at **Book Court** on Monday, playing a champagne-fueled rendition of the song "Monster Eyes" that appears in the novel. ... **Naidra Miller Loughney**, owner of the eponymous **Henry Street** café, has already snapped up three of the 20 paintings by our DUMBO painter pal **Pasquale Azzarello** that are now hanging in her cozy shop. ... Representatives from the carpenters union are asking **Community Board 6** to dissent from a developer's plan to build a non-union **Sheraton Hotel** at Duffield Square in Downtown Brooklyn. **Bruce Renner** had to go union. Why not Sheraton? said union rep **Anthony Pugliese**, who is a member of the CB6. ... The **US Postal Service** has scheduled a "Postal Solutions Day" at the Times Plaza branch on Atlantic Avenue on March 21 to teach people how to use the USPS Web site so you can buy postage and mail packages from home. Just imagine never again having to go postal (literally and figuratively) again. ... The folks at **Flying Saucer**, an excellent coffee bar on Atlantic Avenue, were complaining the other day about the declining quality of the bagees they get from that overrated, Manhattan-based chain, **H&M**. Our response: Buy Brooklyn!

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

### BROOKLYN SOUTH

Ariella Cohen



Mangial Vinny, Rose and James at their new old deli on Degraw and Court Street.

## Now that's Italian! Beloved delimen are back

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

Just when he thought he was out ... they pulled him back in.

Eight months after selling Mastellone Italian Deli to a new owner, Vinny Badala has reclaimed his beloved Court Street gastronomy — and brought in his longtime butcher James Raffaele as a partner in thyme.

The pair bought back the deli amidst allegations that the new owners didn't have the *sfontatezza* — that's Italian for moxie — to run a real Italian grocery store.

"If you're going to run a deli on this street and call it 'Mastellone,' you need to know Italian food," Badala said this week, standing next to a newly restocked deli counter in a clean white apron.

Badala sold the 30-year-old

grocery last July when co-owner Carmello Costantino retired, handing over the business to a family that assured him they "knew a lot of something," as Raffaele recalls, about the store's trademark specialty imports and fresh pasta.

Turned out that they didn't even know a little about something. And not only were the new owners fuzzy on the differences between capicola and sopressa-

ta, they allegedly didn't know the local language of neighborhood commerce: chicken.

"It was a black day in the neighborhood," said Tina Pirelli, a longtime shopper and the author of "Brooklyn Laugha," a collection of vignettes about the neighborhood.

The store was practically empty. They didn't say 'hello' to people who have been shopping there forever. They didn't know the neighborhood. We were all very depressed."

Or as Raffaele put it: "I know people when I don't know people. They didn't have that."

By winter, the shop's new owners had fired three stock-

boys, an assistant butcher and three cashiers, including Rose Russo, who was born two blocks away and worked the checkout line for over a decade.

"I knew it was coming, but that didn't make it right," said Russo, who began asking Raffaele to deliver her groceries when he was still in junior high.

Soon after the new owners axed Russo, the deliman decided that the kitchen had gotten hot enough and called his former boss. The two decided to go in as partners and buy back the store.

"I signed the check, ordered a case of good sausage and called Rose to tell her to come back to work," said Raffaele.

This week, the store was as talky as one of the neighborhood's old social clubs as customers, new, old and temporarily exiled stopped in to say hello to the new old owners.

Jeff Thomas discussed a recipe for meat loaf with Badala. "I had stopped coming," said Thomas. "But now that they are back, I feel like I almost know something about Italian food again."

## C'Hill playground: parent trap

The Brooklyn Paper

The quintessential health care debate — public versus private — has spilled out from Cobble Hill's Long Island College Hospital into its playgrounds.

LICH owns and maintains three colorful public parks within its campus on Henry and Hicks street south of Atlantic Avenue. All three jungle gyms were built in 1993 under an

agreement that allowed the hospital to build an eight-level, 430-car garage on a half-acre of city-owned land once known as Van Vorst Park.

The colorful, animal-themed parks are popular with kids and parents alike. Most users hardly remember that when the parking garage was built, naysayers predicted that the privately owned "public" playground would fail.

But one local dad, Jason

Licht, remains a naysayer. Licht believes that the LICH-maintained park at Henry and Amity streets suffers from a lack of oversight that has created safety hazards that the city Parks Department would never tolerate.

"Things break all the time and no one is accountable," said Licht. "The hospital fails to maintain the park and blames it on their budget."

On Monday at the Henry

Street park, toddlers flew down metal slides and kids climbed wooden jungle gyms. One dad, John Hoitsma, pointed out that a four-foot ladder was missing one of its rope handles. He said that his 3-year-old, Sarah, fell off the ladder a year ago when the rope snapped off.

Luckily, once the tears dried she wasn't injured.

Despite the incident, Hoitsma called the playground "one of the nicest around," but added, "there are certainly repairs that could be made quicker to keep things safer."

Last year, for instance, a spring-loaded ride broke. It took nearly a year to replace the tyke rocker.

Fittingly, it was shaped like a snail.

But not everyone agrees that there is trouble in playland. Community Board 6 District Manager Craig Hammerman said, "When we get complaints, we give them to LICH, and each time, we have seen them act."

Diana Sullivan, the hospital's vice president of operations, told The Stoop that LICH "remains committed to the upkeep of the playgrounds."

After calls from The Brooklyn Paper, the Parks Department set up an inspection of the playgrounds this week. Stay tuned. —Cohen



What's wrong with this playground? Jason Licht says that Long Island College Hospital isn't doing a good job maintaining it. You be the judge.

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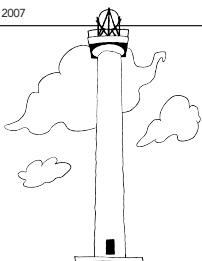
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# THE STOOP

## FORT GREENE-CLINTON HILL

### Inside the beast of the belly

While Americans weigh their sordid desire for Taco Bell taquitos against the video scurrying around the Internet of rats in a Greenwich Village KFC/Taco Bell, I've been wrestling with some culinary demons of my own.

You see, the "Rats Gone Wild" video — filmed in February, broadcast around the world, and reportedly causing a Health Department crackdown on establishments as diverse as Bubby's in DUMBO and the Vegas Diner in Bensonhurst — got me thinking about one of my favorite restaurants, which had its own stomach-plunging fall from grace.

The year was 2005, and the restaurant was Cafe Lafayette, on South Portland Avenue and Fulton Street.

It was my restaurant of choice for those languid Sunday mornings, frosty winter evenings, and all sorts of weather patterns in between. I liked the garden floor's tin-ceilinged coziness, the friendliness of the waitress, and the reliable French fare.

But then, state Sen. Jeff Klein (D-Bronx) issued a report listing my beloved bote as one of the 10 dirtiest in New York City. But before I could accuse the Bronx lawman of throwing stones in his own glass house (I mean, the Bronx? Really, Jeff?), I learned that the Health Department had indeed written up Cafe Lafayette for "inadequate hand-washing facilities," "evidence of live mice," "flying insects in food areas," and "dirty food contact services."

My favorite restaurant was finally shut down on May 30, 2005. I stopped going. Until Monday night, that is.

You see, all that rat hysteria got me thinking about my old haunt. Thinking and clicking around on the Health Department's Web site. There, I discovered that the Cafe's descent into restaurant purgatory had been short-lived. By August 2005, the Cafe — with a new owner — was back in the good graces of the inspector, who found "no violations that present a threat to the public health." Cafe Lafayette's most recent inspection, in October 2006, yielded a few minor offenses, but none warranting a shut-down.

Now, it's important to note I'm a squeamish eater. My brother still thinks it's funny to say that I'm a vegetarian who doesn't like vegetables. So, when I approached my once-beloved storefront this week, my stomach churned (with anxiety).

The restaurant looked much the same as it had two years back, which was oddly reassuring. But the menu had been beefed up. Sure, there were the Cafe staples — the goat cheese salad, the chocolate volcano, the carrot-ginger soup. But there was also a host of more expensive entrees, from an \$18.50 sirloin steak to a \$16.95 seared tuna with soy sauce and asparagus.

I stuck to my guns and ate a veggie burger with fries. I won't bore you foodies with my disappointment in the veggie burger (yes, it is actually possible to distinguish between a good and bad veggie burger), but I will say that my fries were excellent, my waitress lovely, and my glass of Pinot easy to imbibe.

As I sat at my corner table in the surprisingly packed room and toyed with my salad, I heard the sounds of dishes being washed in the back. I grew more comfortable. I drank more wine. And I reconciled with Cafe Lafayette. My self-imposed exile was over.

So, my advice to all you Taco Bell lovers is to stay strong. Your restaurant probably won't get a new owner (but hey, a new CEO might boost confidence), but it, too, will rebound from its days of ignominy. Soon enough, you'll be able to eat your cheesy bean and rice burrito with nary a stray thought about rat feces. (Though, I've gotta say a stray thought about those 1,200 mg of sodium wouldn't kill you.)

### THE KITCHEN SINK

Some eyebrows were dancing recently, when the **Jelani Lounge**, on Waverly Avenue and Fulton Street, announced a new drink called the "Pecan Martini." Turns out, the drink — an apple martini in a miniature glass — is owner **Guy Seley**'s tribute to his son, Jelani, who was born premature, but has since grown up into a healthy and strong lad. That made the "preemie" joke fair game, Seley told us. ... Hair of the dog, anyone? In a tacit acknowledgement that nothing beats a good hangover like more drinking, the **Greene Grape** is now open at 10 a.m. on Saturdays. L'chaim! ... Myrtle Avenue eatery **Ave Turkey** is the latest New York food shop to deliver delivery-filled cure packages to wounded New York veterans recuperating in Texas. "Hopefully we are sending the message that New Yorkers are thinking about them, and hoping for their speedy recovery," said **Artika Westbrooks** of Ave Turkey. ... Hot for teachers? **State Sen. Hakeem Jeffries** wants your kid to have more face time with his teacher, so he's proposing that at least one-quarter of an expected \$2-billion windfall in state education funding go toward reducing class size.

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### GREENE ACRES

Dana Rubinstein



### Cold dog

Our photographer's shivering pup, Mallow, finishes out the winter on Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene.

## Protect 'hood? Wait months

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

Weren't Fort Greene and Clinton Hill supposed to be downzoned by now?

That's what some residents are muttering, claiming that it's been a full year since a city official told the neighborhood that the downzoning plan would be certified by fall, 2006.

In the bureaucratic headache that is the downzoning process, "certification" of the plan is required before it can enter the formal public-review phase, called the Uniform Area Review Procedure or ULURP. Once the seven-month ULURP is complete,

the rezoning is enacted.

But that ULURP would have been completed around now if city officials were doing their jobs, activists said.

"This just allows more and more developers to get foundations in the ground [before the downzoning goes into effect]," said Sharon Barnes, the head of the Society for Clinton Hill.

Rob Parris, the district manager of Community Board 2, echoed Barnes's concern: "The Community Board is disappointed that this has taken three years." But at least one foe of overdevelopment isn't concerned with the delay — indeed, Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Fort Greene)

thinks the damage is already done.

"The developments I have serious concerns are already going up: the 'Fort' towers, the Williamsburgh Bank conversion, the 'Greene' on Carlton and Greene. None have affordable housing, all are luxury towers [subsidized by the city], and all are totally out of context with the neighborhood."

City Planning spokeswoman Jennifer Torres told The Brooklyn Paper that the certification plan is "on schedule" and would be happening "in the coming months." Preservationists are no longer holding their breath.

## Step right up, fall right down

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

You don't want to be a klutz in Fort Greene Park.

The staircases leading into, and out of, the venerable park — particularly the entrance at Willoughby Avenue and Washington Park — seem designed to trip up the clumsy of foot.

But now, another entrance is gaining, er, ground in the complaints arena.

Take a gander at the entrance on DeKalb Avenue next to the Brooklyn Hospital, and you'll see why.

The earth between steps leading into the park has washed away, causing the steps themselves to shift apart. The result is that some steps are close together, while others require a running leap to traverse.

"It's not in the best condition," said Andrew Simon, a magazine editor who lives in the neighborhood. "On rainy or icy days, it's ultra-treacherous."

The Parks Department told The Stoop that the problem is the fault of a higher power: Mother Nature.

"It appears that sand erosion

has caused some of the steps to rise about two inches in certain places," said Phil Abramson, a spokesman for the department.

"Resetting the stairs would

likely require capital funds and no funds are currently in our budget for this purpose."

In other words, watch your



The dangerous steps of Fort Greene Park are due to erosion of the earth below, according to the Parks Department.

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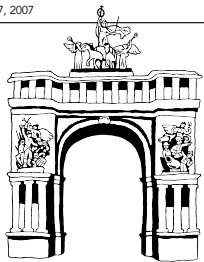
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# THE STOOP

PARK SLOPE PROSPECT HEIGHTS, SUNSET PARK  
WINDSOR TERRACE, KENSINGTON

## Writer's block? Writer's shock!

A long-awaited box arrived last week via UPS, medium-sized and heavy. I knew what it was immediately by the return address: Ten advance copies of my first book, "Nothing: Something to Believe In."

I sat down and looked at the object in my hands, felt the pages, perused the back cover, examined the author photo (yep, that tiny postage stamp-sized image is me!), but only then did it really hit me: What had I done?

Not only was this a book, it was a book about me! The decision to write a memoir suddenly came into question. This was worse than buyer's remorse. This was writer's remorse.

I had no problem telling my story about my struggle with religion — but I'd gone and included plenty of other people, from my family to my friends to even my in-laws. It was one thing when those same friends and family read about themselves when the book was just a pile of papers, but now I was exposing them to anyone who buys my book (\$17 in hardcover, available wherever books are sold; bulk discounts are available; makes a great gift).

I had long imagined what it would be like to see the book in actual book form for the first time, to hold it in my hands, turn it over and flip through pages and pages of my own words, words about myself. Even if not all the words make me look good.

Yes, I lied to my teacher about an alleged stomachache so I could get sent home. Yes, I once got so drunk that I threw up all night in my freshman dorm room. And yes, I'm still a bit neurotic over not believing in God.

That's my story to tell. But did I really have to go to drag in my in-laws, with whom I have had a five-year "Jose to Jesus" struggle? Did I have to include my husband's sister (and those juicy details about her wedding night)?

Wouldn't it have been easier to just sit on a park bench with no clothes on? Nica asked.

When I wrote, rewrote, edited and re-edited the book, I never thought about it actually being out there, all on its own, without me to explain it and present it. But now it is (and, as I mentioned, available for purchase!), so the time has come for me to be ready for it to be separate from me.

Like a child growing up and becoming her own person, the book must stand on its own as well. People will read it and will take what they want from it. They will like it or hate it, identify with the story or think that I am odd. In any case, they will know me, and they will understand what it is like to live without religion.

But, alas, they'll also know what a wacky, f---ed up family I have!

**THE KITCHEN SINK**

It is almost spring, when a Park Slope block's fancy turns to... the Brooklyn Botanic Garden annual **Greenest Block in Brooklyn** contest, of course! To learn the secrets of winning this cut-throat contest, head for the BBG's master class featuring past winners sharing secrets and giving advice. It's at the Garden on March 21 at 5 p.m. Call (718) 623-7220 to reserve your free space...

...We love **Colson Porcellanese** in Ninth Street, especially for the Danesi Italian coffee they serve and those great baguettes, but what's with those chocolate chip cookies? Too crispy!... **PS 107's** "art day" was a big hit with workshops on making ancient Egyptian ornaments, collages and, in true Brooklyn fashion, paper bag brownstones... OK, we're intrigued. As we went to press, we received an email from **Well Lounge**, a new bar that told us it was "opening its doors for the first time to the social public of New York" on March 15. We're social. And we're public, and we live in New York, but we have no idea what they mean. But given that drinks were free at the opening night soiree, we promise to have a full, burp report next week... Pass the mustard! Just in time for summer. **Willies Dawgs**, on Fifth Avenue between Fourth and Fifth Streets, is serving up a variety of hot dogs on house-made buns. No need to wait for the ballpark when you have this little spot to satisfy the dog craving that hits as spring training gets into high gear. They also sell fries, knishes and desserts... It's **National Nutrition Month** (who knew?), so **New York Methodist Hospital** will host, "100 Percent Fat Free Health," a free information fair on March 22 at 9:30 a.m. Hospital dieticians will be on hand to suggest that you get off the couch and put down that postprandial sandwich. For information, call (718) 780-3344.

Email us at [Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com](mailto:Stoop@BrooklynPaper.com)

**By Dana Rubinstein**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Developer Shaya Boynegreen says he's going to stop building luxury condos in Brooklyn (see story, page 5). But in the present tense, his high-end units are selling like hotcakes at a balmage.

Apartments in Boynegreen's NOVO condo tower — the first Fourth Avenue luxury condos to go on the market since the neighborhood was rezoned in 2004 — went on sale last Monday and are being snapped up faster than you can say, "Is that a granite counter-top?"

Nearly 300 visitors flocked to the grand opening of the building's marketing office on March 5, and 13 of the tower's 113 units sold that same day.

Roslyn Huebner, of Aguy and Huebner Realty, which is not part of the NOVO sales effort, called the sales rate "excellent."

The 12-story building, on



The spending money has started showing up on Vanderbilt Avenue, but not as quickly, or as widely, as many had hoped. Here is a scene from a recent brunch at Beast on Vanderbilt and Bergen.

## Hungry for Vanderbilt's future

**By Lilo H. Stainton**  
The Brooklyn Paper

When Noo Na opened on Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights in November, it became one of just a handful of Korean restaurants in the borough. But it remains unclear whether this once-hungry stretch will realize its dream of becoming the next Smith Street.

Years ago, there was George's — and little else. Now George's is a classic Greek diner, is the Usual, and Bob Law's Seafood Café is next door. Le Gamin serves French food, just up the street, Alison Osteria del Borgo offers Italian, and the Beast is making plenty of upscale noise.

"And it's all within a short stretch," added Steve Commender, president of the

local merchant's association and the owner of the Forest Floor, near Prospect Place. "And more are on the way."

Or are they? One key to the foodie future of Vanderbilt Avenue may be Half, a win-bar business for sale. If it remains a restaurant or bar, the neighborhood could keep the momentum. If it becomes a dry cleaner or real-estate office, the drive to make Vanderbilt a foodie destination could lose steam.

The changes on Vanderbilt Avenue may not be attracting the buzz that followed the revival of Fifth Avenue, for example, but the wider epicurean selection seems to satisfy local palates. Prospect Heights residents no longer have to haul themselves into the city to satisfy their gastronomic cravings.

Even the Los Viejos Amigos, the Dominican lunch counter by Dean Street, has

been drawing attention. The Village Voice voted the restaurant the "Best Durable Dominican" in 2006, calling it a "throwback to the older, less glamorous Prospect Heights, though the new awning and renovated interior give it a bit of new glamour."

But the full extent of the transition remains unclear.

"Brooklyn isn't Manhattan yet," mused Mike Halkias, who took over George's diner in 1992, with his brother John. But it sure has changed since the days when the Canadian-born brothers fought off drug dealers with their hockey sticks, right outside the restaurant's door.

"The neighborhood was a little different," Halkias recalled recently. "It's a nice melting pot right now."

## 4th Avenue starts to bear fruit

**By Dana Rubinstein**  
The Brooklyn Paper

Fourth Avenue and Third Street, boasts a private landscaped garden, "gracious" kitchen, "luxurious" bathrooms, concierge service, a residents' lounge, a playground, and a fitness center (below). Prices for studios start at

a whopping \$310,000. The name of the building itself, NOVO (from the Latin "de novo"), is meant to suggest a new life for a traffic-filled corridor long known for its flat fix shops and abandoned lots, the flat fix developer said.

"We can make it Park Avenue, with trees and flowers, and it will be beautiful," Boynegreen added.

Huebner agreed. "You're going to have slightly taller buildings with larger populations, and the entire action on Fourth Avenue will change," she said. "The McDonald's might not be McDonald's. The car repair sites won't be car repair sites."

But some of the neighborhood's existing residents aren't as eager to see the avenue bloom.

"Twelve stories is way too high for Fourth Avenue," said Jerry Speier, an 11th Street resident and member of Fourth Avenue Neighborhood Preservation.

City officials beg to differ. Fourth Avenue was upzoned in 2004 to encourage exactly the kind of development that is now turning the boulevard into a mini-canyon of high-rise condos between Union and 15th streets.

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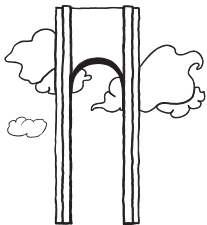
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# THE stoop

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## A Golden city on the hill?

**Y**ellow Hooker has a tendency to daydream. He's not the only one, apparently.

"Many community leaders have suggested that I run for mayor," state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) was saying the other day.

"Whenever so many people of so many different backgrounds urge you to do something, you have to give it some thought."

From police officer to Councilman to state Senator to ... Mayor of New York City?

Inspired by the Senator's words — and the lofty dreams behind them — I countered with some lofty day-dreaming of my own. In fact, I took the liberty of writing Golden's 2014 inauguration speech — you know, for when he wins re-election.

I had the words Brooklyn Conservative Party Chairman Jerry Kasar fresh in my mind.

"Marty Golden would make a great mayor," Kasar said. "He is a smart, hard-working, common-sense conservative who knows that lowering taxes is the key to economic development and keeping crime low is crucial if we are to improve our neighborhoods."

Drafting the speech wasn't hard. Golden told me that his two political heroes were Ronald Reagan and Rudy Giuliani, so all I needed to do was put in all that "morning in America" and "crime doesn't pay" rhetoric. Here goes:

"Thank you, Bishop Sharpton, for that touching benediction. Friends, clergy, elected officials, honored guests, President Spitzer, and my fellow citizens: I am honored and humbled to begin my second term as the 109th mayor of New York City.

"Over the past four years, I have met with New Yorkers who share the common belief that possibility and opportunity is the essence of New York — and the promise of tomorrow.

"But let us not forget, four years ago, that optimism seemed in jeopardy. We worked together to divert a major fiscal crisis in 2011 by using the new tax revenue generated by Turtle Bay Casino, built over the space where the United Nations used to stand.

"My fellow citizens, let history say of us, 'These were Golden years — when freedom gained new life, and when New York City reached for her best.' I look forward to working with Gov. Gentile to see the realization of what is uniquely, our own, New York destiny."

I thought I'd done a pretty good job, so I sent the copy over to Golden's chief of staff, John Quaglione.

"I liked 'Golden years,' but we are not commenting," Quaglione said. (I considered that a victory.)

I also emailed a copy to Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who didn't mind trying on the term "Mayor Golden" for size (most likely because the term "Gov. Gentile" was still ringing in his ears).

"New York City is an important part of the empire state," Gentile said. "I will do everything in my power as governor to help Mayor Golden succeed."

Could it happen? Could Marty Golden someday be Mayor Golden? If he runs, at least we know one thing: Yellow Hooker isn't the only one with a fancy for daydreaming.

### YELLOW HOOKER

Matthew Lysiak



Four World War II vets participated in a thank-the-vets assembly at St. Anselm School.

## Vets to Ridge: War is hell

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

With the war in Iraq on their minds, a group of patriots at St. Anselm School students honored four World War II veterans at the other day, but it was the graying soldiers who offered the most important words: War is hell.

Teacher Cary Anne Fitzgerald said the March 8 assembly began with the best intentions: to honor the service of the

"Greatest Generation" — especially given the students' support for the troops in Iraq.

But the soldiers turned the event on its head, telling the students that war should be avoided at all costs.

"I just hope and pray that you kids don't have to ever go to war," said veteran Tom Lancia. "No matter what you might believe, war is war, and war is nothing you want a piece of."

Another vet, Bernie Hogan, said he'd be happy if he

never heard the word "war" again.

"Whenever anyone starts talking about war, I immediately feel negative about the whole thing," he said.

Fellow comrades Martin O'Reilly and Fred Schwally participated in assembly, handing each student a "Certificate of Americanism."

At least one student equated the certificate with a requirement to serve her country on the battlefield, despite the veter-

an's words to the contrary.

"These veterans were brave guys," said eighth-grader Sarah Allen. "I hope I would be able to do the same if the time comes."

## Victory finds partner

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

Victory Memorial Hospital — at least part of it — has been saved. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

Local officials will announce next week that the beleaguered medical center — which filed for bankruptcy and was recommended for closure by a state committee last year — has found a partner to keep its busy emergency room, nursing home and birthing center open.

"The community is in for a big surprise," said Bill Guarino, now acting chair of the Dyker Heights hospital's board of trustees. "People are going to be real pleased when they discover what is in store."

The identity of the new partners is being kept under wraps, but neither Lutheran Hospital in Bay Ridge nor New York Methodist in Park Slope are involved, a source told The Brooklyn Paper.

Details of the plan, which is still being finalized, will show a reduced, but viable, role for the hospital.

"There are still some hurdles to overcome, but it will be finalized soon," said Guarino, who is also the chair of CB1.



In this classic 2004 file photo, Rep. Vito Fossella presents a check to now-disgraced former Victory Memorial Hospital President Donald DiCurto (center).

The partnership means that Victory will retain its emergency room with holding beds, its diagnostic center, its nursing home, and its birth center, which handles over 2,000 newborns a year, Guarino added.

Despite a state recommendation to close, Victory is still a vital cog in the neighborhood's emergency medical machine. The center's emergency room is at 104 percent capacity.

The 254-bed hospital declared bankruptcy last November amid scrutiny of the hospital's compensation practices, which included a \$1.1-million severance package for departing CEO Donald DiCurto.

Guarino believes that the presence of a new administration sealed the still-to-be-announced deal.

"Let's be honest, there was mismanagement under the previous administration," Guarino said.

"I look forward to continuing to work with them and community leaders to ensure important medical care remains available in our community," he said.

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# Bomb-wielding bank robber

**By Lilo H. Stainton**  
The Brooklyn Paper

## 84th Precinct

A bank robber got away with nearly \$3,000, but things could have been a lot worse during the March 9 heist.

The masked man told bank workers that he had a bomb when he held up the Montague Street branch at 1:40 p.m. police said.

The thief wandered into the branch, near Clinton Street, and headed straight for a teller. He handed her a note and, when she hesitated, he reiterated his demand for cash and threatened to blow the bank sky-high with the device hidden in a metal box at his side.

After reconsidering the situation, the 38-year-old teller passed over \$2,559, and the man fled with the cash.

## Hell and withdrawal

A pair of thieves armed with a gun forced a woman to withdraw \$9,000 from a Flatbush Avenue bank, kidnapped her briefly and stole her jewelry all before lunch on March 11, police said.

The 59-year-old victim withdrew the big bankroll around 11 a.m. from a bank branch near Tillary Street. Perhaps the sun attracted attention, because the gun-toting strangers were suddenly behind her, forcing her outside. Once on the street, the pair hustled her into a waiting car and pinned her by her wrists inside the blue sedan.

The thugs told the victim they were taking her to a second bank, on Seventh Avenue so she could make another withdrawal. But instead, the thieves stole her necklace and earrings, pocketed the cash she had withdrawn earlier, and dropped her off in the middle of Park Slope shortly before noon.

## Bridge heist

A man was robbed by a pair of gun-toting thieves as he walked across the Manhattan Bridge on March 10, police said.

The 25-year-old was starting across the span, heading toward Manhattan, around 3:30 p.m. when two thugs, walking toward Brooklyn, stopped him and demanded he turn over his camera. When he hesitated, one of the robbers pulled out a handgun and raked the slide to load the weapon and emphasize his point. "Don't look, man," the armed man told him.

The victim handed over his digital Canon and the thieves took off down the footpath, toward Jay Street.

## Smackdown

A young woman suffered a brutal attack when she was robbed by a trio of women on Water Street on March 10, police said.

The thieves surrounded the 20-year-old victim as she neared Bridge Street, just after 4:30 p.m. One smacked her in the face, another knelt her to the ground and the third brute beat her body.

The victim wasn't seriously hurt, but the robbers ran off with her wallet, which held a Metrocard, bank card, other ID and \$70, police said.

She described her attackers as black Hispanic women, all 5-foot-5 and about 130 pounds; one had red hair, another had long hair tied back in a ponytail, and the third had dark hair.

## McBust

Police arrested a man who tried to swipe a wallet from a customer at a Fulton Street burger franchise on March 1.

The 19-year-old victim was at the counter of the fast-food joint near Smith Street, placing her dinner order just before 9 p.m. When she took out her wallet and placed it on the counter, the suspect moved in and tried to shield the billfold from the victim's view with his own body.

As she focused on her food, the thief snatched up her wallet and slipped it into his bag. The man bolted before the young woman realized she had been robbed.

But police later arrested the 34-year-old man as he tried to use one of the victim's credit cards to buy a Metrocard at a nearby subway station about 90 minutes later.

## Cabbie slugged

A trio of thieves targeted a car-service driver and escaped with a good chunk of his daily wages and the keys to his future earnings.

The 59-year-old victim withdrew the big bankroll around 11 a.m. from a bank branch near Tillary Street. Perhaps the sun attracted attention, because the gun-toting strangers were suddenly behind her, forcing her outside. Once on the street, the pair hustled her into a waiting car and pinned her by her wrists inside the blue sedan.

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## POLICE BLOTTER

Trouble began when the three thugs, driving a 16-year-old Jeep Cherokee, pulled up alongside the 32-year-old victim on Flatbush Avenue and Gold Street — just a block from the 84th Precinct headquarters — shortly before 4 a.m. on March 11.

They ordered him to pull over and, when the driver complied, the trio got out and walked up to the man's car.

When they reached the widow, one robber pulled out a knife and snatched the victim's car keys from the ignition. The second thug punched the driver in the face and swiped \$100 he had tucked into the visor above his seat. The third brute smashed the passenger-side window before the trio raced back to the Jeep and sped away.

## Phones to go

A sticky-fingered thief armed with a wire cutter managed

to steal three cellphones from a Court Street store before the clerk realized what was going on, police said.

The robber wandered into the store, near Livingston Street, just before 7 p.m. The 30-year-old clerk was busy elsewhere when he realized the man was taking apart a display. He yelled at the man to stop, but the thief grabbed the phone and ran off. When the clerk managed to catch up, he realized the display, he realized one Sidekick and two Nokia brand mobiles were missing.

## 76th Precinct

## Meat mugging

Calling all units: the turkey and the ham are on the lam.

A trio of gun-toting thieves made off with cold cuts instead of cold cash when they took a delivery truck on March 9, police said.

The perps raided the deli meat truck when it was idling

on Bond Street, near Baltic Street, around 5:20 a.m. and pulled a gun on the driver.

"Do you have any money?" one of the muggers inquired.

When the victim told them, "No, it's my first delivery," the thieves became resourceful.

"Then we're going to take meat," one announced before loading up on three turkey rolls, three beef rolls and a trio of salamis.

In addition to the deli meats, police are now looking for three black men, all 5-foot-5, and ranging between 160 and 260 pounds. More if they actually consumed the meat.

## Cabbie robbed

This was one passenger that probably wasn't worth the fare.

A 35-year-old cab driver was attacked near a Red Hook deli in a robbery that may have been staged by a passenger he had picked up in Manhattan on March 10, police said.

The driver arrived in Red Hook with his fare around 3 a.m., and the man asked if he could borrow the cabbie's cellphone to make a call. The driver agreed, and the passenger asked to be dropped off at a bodega on Wolcott and Richards streets.

When the driver pulled up, the passenger jumped out and ran into the store. And then, three strangers dashed out of the store and ran up to the driver's window and began to knock on the glass, insisting he give them money.

The thugs reached inside and struggled briefly with the driver. The thieves — all described as white Hispanic men, 5-foot-6 and 150-pounds, and in their early 20s — managed to snatch two cellphones from the driver and then ran off. The passenger also fled.

## Mystery shooting

A gunshot wound to the hip wasn't the only thing that really hurt one Brooklyn man on March 11.

Police were called to the corner of Baltic and Bond streets after reports of a shooting around 1:30 p.m. When they arrived, they found the victim bleeding from a single bullet wound on his right leg.

A search produced several 22-caliber shells, but little information about the shooter. But a review of police records yielded an interesting tip: several warrants with the victim's name on them. Police placed him under arrest on charges unrelated to the shooting.

while he was getting treated at Bellevue Hospital.

Now that really hurts.

"Talk about a nightmare. A man claimed two armed robbers tried to rob him while he was sleeping in a Sackett Street basement on March 9, police said.

The victim was in bed around 1 a.m. when the attackers appeared in his room, in a building near Henry Street. One mugger pulled out a black gun and pointed it at the sleeping man, while the other beat him with a stick. Both demanded that he give them money.

The brutes tried in vain to search his pockets and eventually ran off, empty-handed. The victim got a free trip to Lutheran Medical Center, but told police he cannot identify his attackers.

## Red Hook burg

A thief struck a commercial building on Beard Street and made off with a pair of iPads, a camera and \$500, police said.

The burglar broke into the multi-business building at the base of Van Brunt Street, between 10:30 p.m. on March 7 and 8:15 a.m. the following day. Once the thief snuck through the ground-floor entrance and busted the door on a second-floor office door, he swiped the valuables and disappeared.

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By Lilo H. Stainton  
The Brooklyn Paper

### 78th Precinct

The story was filled with violence, but at least it came to a satisfying conclusion.

Police arrested the woman who brutally beat and slashed an employee at the Brooklyn Public Library's main branch on March 8.

The 53-year-old worker was on duty at the Grand Army Plaza location around 12:30 pm when the woman attacked — without any warning or apparent reason. The brute bashed

## POLICE BLOTTER

her on the head with a metal box and the blade-like edge sliced open the left side of the victim's face.

The attack earned the library worker a trip to New York Methodist Hospital, on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope. Police arrested the 22-year-old attacker on felony assault charges.

**Mystery attack**  
Maybe it was all the sugar and caffeine.

Whatever the reason, a thug

brutally beat a 25-year-old man inside a donut shop on Fifth Avenue on March 3, police said.

The brute jumped the victim, a Harlem resident, inside the coffee and pastry franchise at Ninth Street moments before 4 a.m. He punched him several times in the face, leaving him with a broken nose and eye socket.

The victim was treated to a trip to Kings County Hospital while police searched for the attacker, a 5-foot-11, 220-pound

white man, dressed in blue jeans and a black tank top.

### Cleaned out

The problem wasn't that the maid went above and beyond the call of duty. But while she dusted and swept, a burglar paid a visit to the Fourth Street home, police said.

The 63-year-old cleaning woman arrived for work around 11:30 a.m. on March 7, police said. It never occurred to her to check the locks on the back doors before she went upstairs and began her duties.

But when she came down again, at around 2 p.m., the back door was open and footprints led from the door into the living room. The room was also ransacked and \$57 was missing, according to the homeowner, a 47-year-old woman.

### Beer bust

How much is your job worth?

One victim had to mull that over when he was forced to chase after a thief who stole two cellphones from a beer company truck — and buy one of them back from the robber for \$50 police said.

The 35-year-old victim was making his rounds at 11:30 a.m. on March 2, when he left his truck parked on Third Avenue, near Warren Street. The vehicle was not locked and, when he emerged from a store, he saw a man in a torn, dirty clothes dash from the truck.

The worker gave chase and caught up with the thief. But the man wouldn't return either cellphone until he had \$50 instead.

The victim paid out the money — for his own phone — but didn't have the cash (or the desire, frankly) to buy back the company phone.

### Cell snatch

A youngster lost his cellphone to a thief who accosted him on Prospect Place on March 5, police said.

The 11-year-old victim was on his way home from school around 3:30 p.m. when he was robbed, between Fifth and Sixth avenues. A 6-foot-1 black man, weighing 140 pounds and wearing a skullcap, demanded

he turn over the phone. The boy did so, and the thief walked off with his property.

### Petty crime 101

Call it the school of vandalism and minor theft.

That was the lesson learned at a parochial school near Union Street and an Eighth Avenue last week. Sometime between 7:45 p.m. on March 5 and 7:30 a.m. the following day, a burglar sneaked into the facility, ripped two motion-detectors off the wall and stole a safe, valued at \$50, a stack of bills and receipts and \$15 in singles.

### Hospital heist

It may offer fine medical care, but apparently it isn't safe from thieves.

An employee at a Seventh Avenue hospital learned that the hard way on March 7, according to police. The woman left her bag under her desk on the third floor of the facility, at Sixth Street, at 8 a.m. When she went to reach for the bag at quitting time, around 4 p.m., the purse was gone.

The contents included various charge cards, her driver's license, a school ID, a cellphone and \$140.

### Bodega bust


Someone swiped \$520 from a grocery store on Fourth Avenue and Union Street, police said.

Thieves clipped the locks and stole \$100 from the register and another \$420 from a lockbox between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. on March 6. When a 32-year-old clerk arrived for work that morning, he found the security gates down, but the locks missing, and the cash register on the floor behind the counter.

### Quick hit

A burglar stole two iPods, a wallet with ID, plus makeup and clothes worth over \$100 from an SUV parked on Fifth Avenue for less than an hour, police said.

The 19-year-old driver parked the 2004 Nissan Pathfinder near Atlantic Avenue at 8:30 p.m. on March 4. When the woman, a Staten Island resident, returned at 9 p.m., the passenger-side window was smashed and her bag was gone.



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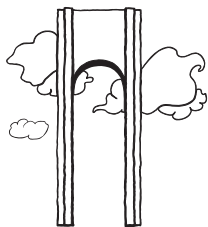
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## A Golden city on the hill?

**Yellow Hooker** has a tendency to daydream. He's not the only one, apparently.

"Many community leaders have suggested that I run for mayor," state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) was saying the other day. "Whenever so many people of so many different backgrounds urge you to do something, you have to give it some thought."

From police officer to Councilman to state Senator to ... Mayor of New York City?

Inspired by the Senator's words — and the lofty dreams behind them — I countered with some lofty day-dreaming of my own. In fact, I took the liberty of writing Golden's 2014 inauguration speech — you know, for when he wins re-election.

I had the words Brooklyn Conservative Party Chairman Jerry Kasar fresh in my mind.

"Marty Golden would make a great mayor," Kasar said. "He is a smart, hard-working, common-sense conservative who knows that lowering taxes is the key to economic development and keeping crime low is crucial if we are to improve our neighborhoods."

Drafting the speech wasn't hard. Golden told me that his two political heroes were Ronald Reagan and Rudy Giuliani, so all I needed to do was put in all that "morning in America" and "crime doesn't pay" rhetoric. Here goes:

"Thank you, Bishop Sharpton, for that touching benediction. Friends, clergy, elected officials, honored guests, President Spitzer, and my fellow citizens: I am honored and humbled to begin my second term as the 109th mayor of New York City."

"Over the past four years, I have met with New Yorkers who share the common belief that possibility and opportunity is the essence of New York — and the promise of tomorrow."

"But let us not forget, four years ago, that optimism seemed in jeopardy. We worked together to divert a major fiscal crisis in 2011 by using the new tax revenue generated by Turtle Bay Casino, built over the space where the United Nations used to stand."

"My fellow citizens, let history say of us, 'These were Golden years — when freedom gained new life, and when New York City reached for her best.' I look forward to working with Gov. Gentile to see the realization of what is uniquely, our own, New York destiny."

I thought I'd done a pretty good job, so I sent the copy over to Golden's chief aide, John Quaglione.

"I liked 'Golden years,' but we are not commenting," Quaglione said. (I considered that a victory.)

I also emailed a copy to Councilman Vince Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who didn't mind trying on the term "Mayor Golden" for size (most likely because the term "Gov. Gentile" was still ringing in his ears).

"New York City is an important part of the empire state," Gentile said. "I will do everything in my power as governor to help Mayor Golden succeed."

Could it happen? Could Mayor Golden someday be Mayor Golden? If he runs, at least we know one thing: Yellow Hooker isn't the only one with a fancy for daydreaming.

### YELLOW HOOKER

Matthew Lysiak



Four World War II vets participated in a thank-the-vets assembly at St. Anselm School.

## Vets to Ridge: War is hell

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

With the war in Iraq on their minds, a group of patriotic St. Anselm School students honored four World War II veterans at the other day, but it was the graying soldiers who offered up the most important words: War is hell.

Teacher Cary Anne Fitzgerald said the March 8 assembly began with the best intentions: to honor the service of the

"Greatest Generation" — especially given the students' support for the troops in Iraq.

But the soldiers turned the event on its head, telling the students that war should be avoided at all costs.

"I just hope and pray that you kids don't have to ever go to war," said veteran Tom Lancia. "No matter what you might believe, war is war, and war is nothing you want a piece of."

Another vet, Bernie Hogan, said he'd be happy if he

never heard the word "war" again.

"Whenever anyone starts talking about war, I immediately feel negative about the whole thing," he said.

Fellow comrades Martin O'Reilly and Fred Schwally participated in assembly, handing each student a "Certificate of Americanism."

At least one student equated the certificate with a requirement to serve her country on the battlefield, despite the veter-

an's words to the contrary.

"These veterans were brave guys," said eighth-grader Sarah Allen. "I hope I would be able to do the same if the time comes."

## Victory finds partner

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

Victory Memorial Hospital — at least part of it — has been saved. The Brooklyn Paper has learned.

Local officials will announce next week that the beleaguered medical center — which filed for bankruptcy and was recommended for closure by a state committee last year — has found a partner to keep its busy emergency room, nursing home and birthing center open.

"The community is in for a big surprise," said Bill Guarino, new acting chair of the Dyker Heights hospital's board of trustees. "People are going to be real pleased when they discover what is in store."

The identity of the new partners is being kept under wraps, but neither Lutheran Hospital in Bay Ridge nor New York Methodist in Park Slope are involved, a source told The Brooklyn Paper.

Details of the plan, which is still being finalized, will show a reduced, but viable, role for the hospital.

"There are still some hurdles to overcome, but it will be finalized soon," said Guarino, who is also the chair of CB11.



In this classic 2004 file photo, Rep. Vito Fossella presents a check to now-disgraced former Victory Memorial Hospital President Donald DiCunto (center).

The partnership means that Victory will retain its emergency room with holding beds, its diagnostic center, its nursing home, and its birth center, which handles over 2,000 newborns a year, Guarino added.

Despite a state recommendation to close, Victory is still a vital cog in the neighborhood's emergency medical machine. The center's emergency room is at 104 percent capacity.

The 254-bed hospital declared bankruptcy last November amid scrutiny of the hospital's compensation practices, which included a \$1.1-million severance package for departing CEO Donald DiCunto.

Guarino believes that the presence of a new administration sealed the still-to-be-announced deal.

"Let's be honest, there was mismanagement under the pre-

vious administration," Guarino said. "We are now looking forward to having a clean slate."

Guarino disagrees with the state's recommendation that Victory should close and believes that time will prove the Berger Commission wrong.

"During the next five years, they will realize that the community needs these facilities," Guarino said.

Rep. Vito Fossella (R-Bay Ridge) fought for Victory, claiming that the Berger Commission used outdated statistics to underestimate the importance of the facility.

This week, he hailed Victory's victory as one for the community.

"I look forward to continuing to work with them and community leaders to ensure important medical care remains available in our community," he said.

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Judith Lindbergh  
Thrall's Tale  
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## EXCLUSIVE: BROOKLYN REAL ESTATE MAGNATE TALKS TO THE PAPER

## Boymelgreen quits B'klyn — for now

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's luxury condo boom is petering out — at least according to one of the borough's biggest developers.

Real-estate tycoon Shaya Boymelgreen told The Brooklyn Paper last week that won't start any new Brooklyn projects until the glut in luxury condos dissipates.

"We are more finishing and continuing [our current projects]," said Boymelgreen. "The high-lever of condominiums and real estate is slowing down."

"[But] when [my] properties [are] absorbed and sold, I'm coming in again."

This bearish assessment comes from the man who made the face of Brooklyn, adding 1,500 apartments across the borough in just 13 years, from smaller developments like the Park Slope Estates on Second Street to large-scale projects like the Beacon Tower, the 23-story, 79-unit skyscraper in DUMBO.

Meanwhile, the 12-story MOV'O Park Slope, on Fourth Avenue and Fourth Street, just went on the market, and the apartment is selling briskly. Another 70 Boymelgreen condos, on Fourth Avenue and Second Street, will enter the fray in a few months.

With Brooklyn on the back burner, the developer has plenty of other cities laying claim to his attention. His \$8-billion portfolio spans the globe, from the Punjab to Tel Aviv.

Fellow developers said Boymelgreen's pullout made sense, especially for a kingpin who specializes in mammoth, "cookie-cutter," projects.

Real-estate broker Roslyn Huebner said she wasn't surprised that Boymelgreen would sit



Unlike Bruce Ratner, developer Shaya Boymelgreen had the guts to sit down with The Brooklyn Paper and share his vision.

it out for a while.

"Boymelgreen is just being cautious, and he can afford to be," said Huebner, of Aguayo and Huebner Realty. "Other young upstarts are anxious to get in, and they will probably do well."

In a wide-ranging, hour-long interview with The Brooklyn Paper, Boymelgreen also said:

• That Fourth Avenue will become a new "Park Avenue." "It depends on the city [to rezone] the Gowanus Canal area to residential. Four years ago, we started buying property [in the Gowanus Canal area]. ... All this area was empty. And so I said, 'Look at the canal. It [could] be a beautiful place.' And the city said, 'Yes, Shaya. We would like to see something come. That's why I brought it."

• That he supports Atlantic Yards:

"Shaya Boymelgreen is a developer. I believe developers are building cities, building neighborhoods. ... Of course we have to build them to make sure it's not just about the dollar. ... I think that Ratner took a very, very special architect who will give Brooklyn a very special flavor. If you ask me, can you improve it, I'd say, yes, you can improve anything, anywhere, endlessly. I'm sure you get up in the morning and look at the mirror and you could work on your face and then you can go on and on and not go to work. ... When I heard Ratner was going to build here, I said, 'Wow, jobs, new parking, new stores.' It's all prosperity."

• That opposition from unions and neighborhood groups doesn't

bother him, although sometimes his finished products do: "If you are going to use union labor, you will lose your shirt. It costs you 40 percent more. And who will buy a house at 40 percent more? ... If you show a bunch of people anything, from a woman to a building to clothes, they'll all have a different opinion. Sometimes, I see something in my head that I think will be beautiful. But at the end of the day, it doesn't come out like I want, because of the zoning, because of the architect, because of the finishing. You're not 100 percent in control. ... Sometimes I see something that's finished, and I can't quite change it."

Read the full interview at [www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)



Shaya Boymelgreen's Beacon Tower in DUMBO.

## Prices are up, just not as much

The Brooklyn Paper

Property prices did continue to rise in Brooklyn last year, but at a rate that's decreased substantially from the year before, according to the report put out last week by the Real Estate Board of New York.

For example, in 2006, the median sale price for a Brooklyn apartment grew only 15 percent, in contrast to a 38 percent increase from 2004 to 2005.

DUMBO continued to be the hottest condo market in

2006, with apartment prices growing 2 percent to a median of \$998,000 each. But last year's report showed a 27-percent increase.

"The rate of increase for 2006 was not as large as the rate of increase for 2005," said Mike Slattery, a senior vice president at REBNY. "There was a perception in the market that things were slowing, and interest rates had risen a bit."

The market might not be returning as quickly as last year, but Slattery was hardly

bearish about Brooklyn real estate.

Here are some highlights of the report (or lowlights, as the case may be):

• Greenpoint prices skyrocketed, with the median price of an apartment rising 65 percent, from \$388,000 in 2005 to \$641,000 in 2006.

• Clinton Hill and the Columbia Street waterfront also made impressive gains, with median prices growing 30 percent and 36 percent, respectively. The median price for an apartment in Clinton

Hill is now \$384,000, while a Columbia Street apartment costs about \$596,000.

In order of decreasing value, the most expensive neighborhoods are DUMBO, Carroll Gardens, Greenpoint, Cobble Hill, and Vinegar Hill.

• In Prospect Heights, one-, two-, and three-family home prices also gained impressive ground, with the median price growing a jaw-dropping 50 percent, from \$800,000 in 2005 to \$1.2 million in 2006.

## Boom goes bust

Apartment prices in many Brooklyn neighborhoods are up, but not as up as they were a year ago, according to a new report from the Real Estate Board of New York.

—Dana Rubinstein

Neighborhood	Change in median value of apt 2005-2006	2004-2005
Borough Hill	-1 percent	+23 percent
Brooklyn Heights	+1 percent	-5 percent
Carroll Gardens	+28 percent	-1 percent
Cobble Hill	-14 percent	+40 percent
Fort Greene	+26 percent	+158 percent
Park Slope	+2 percent	+22 percent
Vinegar Hill	0 percent	+61 percent

**MORE ONLINE: INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT** [www.BrooklynPaper.com](http://www.BrooklynPaper.com)

TRUCK YOU  
Unwelcome wagon for Shaya

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

They've tried inflatable rats. They've tried lawsuits. But now opponents of developer Shaya Boymelgreen are using a rolling art group to get their message out.

Last week, a group of labor activists rolled through the Gowanus Canal zone in a truck covered in a four-foot banner proclaiming "Brooklyn Beware!" and directing people to their Web site, [shayacoming.org](http://shayacoming.org).

Shayacoming.org is a coalition between the Laborers' Union and the affordable housing advocacy group ACORN, which opposes the developer's use of the city's controversial 421-a tax break for luxury developments.

Only 73 of the 1,317 housing units the developer has built in the city are priced at below-market levels, according to ACORN spokesman Jonathan Rosen.

Union leaders said the big-wheel truck was rolling through Brooklyn regularly to highlight Boymelgreen's record, which they claim includes using non-union workers and failing to pay them overtime wages (the state attorney general is looking into that charge).

The timing of the new anti-Boymelgreen campaign is not a coincidence: the city is currently moving forward with its rezoning of the gritty area — a decision that will shape Boymelgreen's "Gowanus Village" development.

Boymelgreen's spokeswoman Rebecca Regal said the truck "disorders our position and mischaracterizes our achievements." She added that the developer's "Gowanus Village" plan includes affordable housing.

## RATNER...

Continued from page 1 joined by Councilman David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) in decriing the city land buy.

"There is no reason for the government to directly subsidize a private construction project," said Yassky.

A spokesperson for the EDC said the land would eventually be owned by the city, which would then give the developer a long-term lease so he could build the arena, public open space and residential buildings on it.

This sort of land transfer is a common way that governments lower a developer's building costs while maintaining some control over the site's future, planning experts said.

But a veteran city planner said the deal reminded him of an earlier — and dirtier — era in New York's history when the city would buy land and then sell it at reduced rates to developers.

"The difference in this case is that the project is not the city's plan, it is part of a private developer's plan," said Ron Shiffman, a former New York City planning commissioner and a critic of Atlantic Yards.

He likened the \$100-million allocation amounted to a free land coupon.

"They're giving it away," Shiffman said. "The city's budget office decided to comment on the so-called coupon."

Earlier this year, a spokesman for Mayor Bloomberg defended the \$205-million contribution — double what the city had originally promised to contribute — as a small price to pay for the largest development project in the history of Brooklyn.

"This project will create jobs, provide affordable housing and generate billions of dollars in tax revenue," said the spokesman, John Gallagher.

But while the city contribution to Atlantic Yards has gone up, the tax revenue that the project is expected to generate has gone down.

Over the summer, state officials said the project would generate \$1.5 billion over 30 years. It is now projected to generate \$944 million over the same time period — or just \$15 million per year for the city and state.

In light of those numbers, local lawmakers questioned why the city is spending its limited funds to boost a private developer.

"The first job of government should be to make sure that the neighborhoods surrounding Atlantic Yards are protected from harmful impacts and that itself will require significant investment," Yassky said.

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## OUR OPINION

# The Ratter ripoff

THIS NEWSPAPER ASKED ANOTHER in a series of very reasonable questions about the public financing of the Atlantic Yards project this week and was told, yet again, that we don't have a right to know the full extent of the way taxpayers are underwriting Bruce Ratner's risk-free, \$4-billion Xanadu.

This week, we asked city officials why they will spend \$100 million to buy land within Ratner's Atlantic Yards footprint.

It's a reasonable question, given that Ratner has already bought up most of the land — some of it at a reduced price, courtesy of his state lackeys. Those same supposed stewards of our tax dollars have promised to condemn whatever land Ratner was unable to buy and turn it over to him.

So why is the city — which has already pledged \$105 million towards "infrastructure improvements" around Atlantic Yards — buying

\$100 million in land?

The city officials won't tell us. And when they won't tell us, they aren't telling you — the people whom they are hired to serve.

People who do real estate for a living, however, were happy to tell us what is going on. Such big land acquisitions, a former City Planning commissioner told us, are a shell game in which the city purchases land, transfers it to the state, which then leases it back to a big developer for 99 years at a cost of \$1 a year.

The result, the former official told our reporter Ariella Cohen, is a huge savings for the developer.

Now, this newspaper has no problem with the city doing the necessary infrastructure work — laying sewer lines, installing lights, etc. — to encourage private development.

But we don't understand why it is the taxpayers' job to cut costs for Ratner's land acquisition.

In vague terms, the Bloomberg Administration has said that Atlantic Yards will generate so much tax revenue that the city is justified in spending these relatively minor expenditures of taxpayer money — \$205 million (and counting, the mayor has said).

But the city taxpayer contribution towards making Bruce Ratner a billionaire is increasingly looking like a sucker deal for us: In less than one year, the city has already allocated \$205 million to Ratner (not counting other tax breaks and the cost of mitigating the project's massive environmental impact) — yet Atlantic Yards will only generate \$472 million in tax revenue for the city over the next 30 years, according to Ratner's own figures.

And they won't tell us why.

The reason? They're using your money to save Bruce Ratner his — and they'd prefer that you didn't know that.

## ALL DRAWN OUT



Chris Fleming

## LETTERS

# Whole Food's 'green' answers aren't kosher

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

To the editor,

Whole Foods' response to our request that they make a few environmentally friendly design modifications to their planned inaugural Brooklyn store is both disappointing and surprising, given that the company's own "Declaration of Interdependence" states that Whole Foods measures its success in part by "improvement in the state of the environment, and local and larger community support" ("Whole Foods to neighbors: Drive on over," Feb. 24).

It's also quite disappointing that Whole Foods chose to respond to our offer of a "constructive, ongoing dialogue" with a flat "no can do" — not even to us, but to your reporter. That from a company that claims "better communication equals better understanding and more trust."

Whole Foods' statement to The Brooklyn Paper that its parking plan features the "appropriate" number of spaces, and that a green roof would not be "feasible," just don't hold water.

At approximately 6.5 spaces per 1,000 square feet of building space, their parking plan is much more suited to a suburban location. In fact, the National Parking Association recommends just 4.5 spaces per 1,000 square feet to meet peak parking demand for shopping centers under 600,000 square feet in size. That would translate to just 288 spaces for Whole Foods.

Whole Foods could also learn from the Fairway store in Red Hook. Fairway is nearly as large as the planned Whole Foods, and the vast majority of shoppers drive. Yet Fairway's parking lot has only 300 spaces, and on a recent Sat-

urday afternoon, the lot was only two-thirds full.

For a comparison closer to home, a total of just 405 Park Slope Food Co-op members used the Co-op's discounted parking at the Union Street Garage during the entire month of December. Though the Food Co-op has more than 12,000 members, fewer shoppers utilize off-street parking in a month than Whole Foods would have parking spaces.

And like the Co-op, the Whole Foods site is less than half a mile from three subway stops.

It's also a shock to realize that, according to Whole Foods' own projections of 1,500 daily car trips, the store would generate about as many car trips annually — more than half a million — as the basketball arena planned for the Atlantic Yards project. Yet the public has had no official opportunity to weigh in on the store's plan.

As for the green roof, we're not quite sure what Whole Foods means by "not feasible." The store they're planning to build in Madison, Wisconsin will feature a green roof. And they've installed solar roofs in several other locations, including Edgewater, New Jersey. Given the ecological fragility of the Gowanus basin, such building features should be a given. Yet Whole Foods doesn't appear to feel that Brooklyn deserves the same consideration — and environmentally friendly measures — as other places.

Furthermore, Whole Foods makes no mention of any transportation-management plan, other than the large parking lot. Since 60 percent of the households in the neighborhoods surrounding the planned store do not own cars, it would seem to be in Whole Foods' interest to

take steps to cater to the non-driving majority of potential customers. Yet to our knowledge, they have no plans to implement anything like jitney service to transit hubs or delivery vans (which could be electric), substantial bike parking or any other alternative mode of transport.

The Manhattan Rickschaw Co. has said it would be thrilled to develop a pedicab service for Whole Foods — if Whole Foods is interested.

Park Slope Neighbors intends to continue to gather signatures, and if Whole Foods won't respond, we will take up our cause with our elected officials. We intend to continue our campaign until Whole Foods agrees to take steps to — in the words of their own company philosophy — "promote environmental stewardship."

Editor's note: This letter, officially from the Park Slope Neighbors group, was signed by David Ainslie, Michael Carl, Paul Heller, Marni Horowitz, David Kenny, Eric McClure, Aaron Naparsich, Kimberly Neuhaus, Steven O'Neill, Jeff Piant, Lami Rolly and Geoff Zink.

## One thumb up

To the editor,

I usually write to you about the events and the work of the day, but I am writing to tell you about the movie, "Bamako."

This may be the best film I've seen during this decade. I strongly urge you to find a way to break away for a few hours to see it. Set in Mali, it depicts a gripping examination of globalization and poverty as it is a very human and poetic glimpse of the lives of everyday people in the developing world.

It will be at the Film Forum on Houston Street through Tuesday. Whenever you are, try to find it. It will really help you think about where the world is going and what we can do about it.

Editor's note: The writer is a member of the City Council. While we admire his service to his constituents, should he wish to apply for the coveted job of movie critic at The Brooklyn Paper, we'll have to see some references.

## B'klyn's on the move

To the editor,

I can sympathize with concerns about the development of the BAM Cultural District, but Dana Rubenstein's piece was reflective, knee-jerk Brooklyn boosterism ("Manhattan dancers in Brooklyn? Fuhgeddaboutit!" March 3).

Dance Project is not a "dance troupe." Urban Bush Women is a great dance troupe that tours and has offices right here in Fort Greene. MACADA is a museum with a space right here in Fort Greene.

Of these three, only Dance Project would seem to be the organization to run a performance space year round. And if Councilwoman Letitia James and the Rev. Clinton Miller bothered to research Dance Project, they might have discovered that many of the choreographers and dance companies that have performed in that East Village space were either from Brooklyn or had members who reside here.

My point? Dance Project is a great addition to the Brooklyn community that does not reflect Manhat-

tan, but reflects the world and the diversity that exists right here in Brooklyn.

Don Palmer, Fort Greene  
Editor's note: Dana Rubenstein's article was indeed "reflective" — it reflected local concerns about the inclusion of a Manhattan-based company in the BAM Cultural District. If the story was perceived as "Brooklyn boosterism," so be it; we will not apologize for boosting this borough or its residents' concerns.

## Blame Long Island

To the editor,

So, Transportation Alternatives thinks it has solved the mystery of the lack of parking in Park Slope ("Park Choke," March 3).

But everyone seems to forget the large amount of commuters who enter the neighborhood in the wee hours to take the spots vacated by those residents of the Park Slope who leave for work.

These commuters who arrive on my block are only parking here for the convenience of free space to hop on the subway to their jobs in Manhattan. Many of these commuters are from the outer suburbs and Long Island.

A residential parking program may free up these spaces for the use of other residents and in turn free up the traffic and meter parking.

There was a time in the mid-to-late-1990s when my Park Slope block always had empty spaces in which to park — and it was because all those commuters were too afraid to leave their newer model cars sitting all day waiting for a break in.

Don Doe, Park Slope

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March 17, 2007

# Public 'Issue'

Issue Project Room brings the avant-garde to Carroll Gardens

By Emily Farris  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Conventional wisdom says that the Gowanus Canal is a not-so-scenic and sometimes-fragrant breeding ground for mosquitoes and luxury developments. A new group of Brooklyn artists sees it as a breeding ground for culture.

Tucked behind a gate and a rather swampy yard on Carroll Street and housed in a renovated industrial building, Suzanne Fiol's Issue Project Room represents a strong new force in Brooklyn's arts scene.

"There really is no line between the artists and the audience — no stage that elevates anybody," Fiol told GO Brooklyn. "Both the artists and audience appreciate that aspect and it makes it feel very warm in here."

Originally located in Manhattan, the Issue Project Room relocated to Carroll Gardens after losing its home in 2005. Fiol admitted she was originally hesitant to leave Manhattan, but is now glad that she did — and even said that if her group ever outgrows its current space, she will stay in Brooklyn.

"The surrounding community is wonderful," she said. "They've really embraced us."

Like many avant-garde spaces, however, Fiol's is having trouble keeping afloat. Despite a board of directors with members like Park Slope powerhouse Steve Bascanti, the space is still actively looking for funding — but Fiol won't compromise her integrity to find it.

"We are interested in artists who are trying to create new ways of seeing, new ways of hearing," she said. "This is the kind of art that pushes culture forward — not the kind of art that necessarily brings in the big bucks."



Fiol-ed again: Above, the Issue Project Room's Executive Director Suzanne Fiol gets sultry in front of Ray Rapp's "Boy with Skateboard." Left, Fiol with patrons at the space.

## ART

The Issue Project Room (400 Carroll St. at Bond Street in Carroll Gardens) is open daily. Hours vary. For information, call (718) 330-0313 or visit [www.issueprojectroom.org](http://www.issueprojectroom.org).

Fiol's openness toward innovation and knack for creative programming have made her much-loved among the performers she works with.

"I think what Suzanne's doing is really great," said musician Audrey Chen, currently the Issue Project Room's artist-in-residence. "The space is amazing, it has great acoustics and is great for the city in terms of the music scene. Suzanne has such creative programming and is very open to new artists."

And, despite the great acoustics, music is only part of the programming that Fiol produces. This month, she and photographer Kevin Ryan have put together "Sensorium," a month-long series of performances, installations, film and art that are "shattering the distinctions of music, art and performance and all the interrelated media."

The venue has caught the attention of Brooklyn's cultural tastemakers. "They're very active and have very good ideas," said music promoter Todd ("Todd P") Patrick. "I really like them [and] I'm planning to work with them in the future."

Record producer Martin Bisi, who has lived in the neighborhood since 1979, added, "There was never anything to do in Park Slope. It's good to know there's something right down the block. It helps me to connect with other people in the area."

In February, Fiol (who works full-time without a salary) launched the Literal Experimental Writer Series, a collaboration between New York-based musicians and writers. The monthly event will return in April featuring the Wingdale Community Singers, an all-star musical project founded in 2002 by novelist Rick Moody.

A team of volunteers and eager interns helps keep the admission prices at \$10. It's not hard to see the Issue Project Room as a space where artists and musicians would constantly buzz in and out. Collaborations would form organically on a Tuesday afternoon over coffee in the kitchen while someone invents the next multi-sensory musical instrument upstairs. It could be the center of the creative Brooklyn bohemia that seems to be on everyone's lips.

Until then, Fiol is working to increase the organization's membership, especially among community members. "In this political and economic climate, it's important that individuals step up and support culture," she said.

# Rock stars

Chris Rock talks to GO Brooklyn about his new, grown-up movie

By Karen Butler  
for The Brooklyn Paper

With his sophisticated new comedy, "I Think I Love My Wife," coming out this weekend, Brooklyn-born comedian and filmmaker Chris Rock had a chat with GO Brooklyn about what it was like writing, directing and starring in the remake of a 35-year-old French drama, a definite departure from what he is best known for. Rock dished about casting his film, the importance of getting serious and what his own spouse thinks of him making a film about a happily married man who considers chucking it all for a sexy new friend.

**GO Brooklyn:** How do you think this film will be received by the people back home in Bed-Stuy?

**Chris Rock:** Hey, man, I saw "Hannah and Her Sisters" and "Annie Hall" when I lived in Bed-Stuy. People see all sorts of movies, no matter where they're from.

## CINEMA

"I Think I Love My Wife" is playing at Cobble Hill Cinemas (265 Court St. at Butler Street in Cobble Hill, United Artists Court Street Stadium 12 (106 Court St. at State Street in Brooklyn Heights) and elsewhere. For information, call (718) 777-FILM.

**GO:** Why is it important to you to make this film now?

**CR:** You have a finite amount of time in front of the camera, especially in movies. It's very important for me that I had a movie that existed that I felt represented what I do and fit me. I don't think I had a movie that was at the level of my standup.

**GO:** How did your wife handle you doing this film?

**CR:** My wife's fine with it. The fact that it's a remake of the Eric Rohmer film, I'm sure helps. But we have an agreement; I have a real

wife who's lovely, a lovely woman and the mother of my children, and then I have this "comedy wife" who's just this bitch that you just assume the movie is going to be mediocre. So, I absolutely refused to cast any of those people. I call them "the usual black suspects." Yes, I know I'm a hater. So what? When I did "Head of State," I cast for comedic ability. This time, I was determined for dramatic ability and made sure the drama was right. I just trusted that the comedy would come out of dramatic situations, as opposed to moments when people just turn it on, like a sitcom. Kerry Washington is the finest young actress we have and Gina Torres is beautiful. They both can act.

**GO:** How did you cast this film?

**CR:** First of all, there are some people that when you see their face or hear their name you just assume the movie is going to be mediocre. So, I absolutely refused to cast any of those people. I call them "the usual black suspects." Yes, I know I'm a hater. So what? When I did "Head of State," I cast for comedic ability. This time, I was determined for dramatic ability and made sure the drama was right. I just trusted that the comedy would come out of dramatic situations, as opposed to moments when people just turn it on, like a sitcom. Kerry Washington is the finest young actress we have and Gina Torres is beautiful. They both can act.

**GO:** You are a politically astute guy. Would you say your film is political?

**CR:** It's more political than "Head of State." I'm not here to spit on anybody's movies, but most of the time the portrayal of the black middle class is just clownish, totally out of touch with everything that's going on, and you need somebody from the hood to show you what's really going on.



Wife's goes on: Chris Rock plays a man whose encounter with a seductress (Kerry Washington) puts his picture-perfect marriage in jeopardy.

## FASHION

# Haute stuff

Purveyors of the hip and fabulous beware: Brooklyn's Fashion Week(end) is coming to town. Presented by the BK Style Foundation, this year's festivities in DUMBO will premiere fashions from local and international designers, like Nina Boutang and Sena. This year marks the second installment of the event, where new and fresh designers are showcased, eschewing the same old names that fill the tents at Bryant Park.

The goal of the non-profit BK Style Foundation is to expose the talent of the borough's hottest designers. Indeed, Brooklyn's color, from Greenpoint to Red Hook, definitely comes through in each collection.

Tickets are available by the night, and purchasing one gets you membership in the BK Style Council. Fifty dollars might seem a bit steep, but last year's shows brought Busta Rhymes' Flimptone Squad and Mya to the runway, so you never know who might show up.

"BK Fashion Week(end)" will take place from March 16-18 at various locations. Tickets for each night are \$50. For information, go to [www.bkstyleweekend.com](http://www.bkstyleweekend.com). — Jessica Maher

## BOOKS

# Dandy 'Candy'

It's no surprise to find a writer hanging out at a gin distillery, but in Emily Burton's case, the research actually made it into print.

The Brooklyn Heights resident, whose novel, "Brooklynland," has just been released in paperback, based part of her book on the distillery at the foot of Joralemon Street.

"In Brooklyn Heights, it's easy to imagine a different world of cobblestone streets and horse-drawn carriages," said Burton, who leads a double life as a yoga instructor. She's taken this different world and brought it to life with her tale of 18th-century Brooklyn and the bridge that will connect it to Manhattan.

Taking seven years to write, the novel is of heroic proportions and pays loving homage to the borough she calls home. On March 22, Burton will read from her novel at Pete's Candy Store as part of their biweekly series. She's obviously a committed Brooklynite, both writing about and reading in the borough. Just don't keep her away from the gin.

Emily Burton will read from "Brooklynland" at Pete's Candy Store (709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg) on March 22 at 7:30 p.m. For information, call (718) 302-3770. — Young Lee

## CINEMA

# Big screen

People are generally impressed by movie stars. But Kati Penn, who starred in "Harold and Kumar Go to White Castle," and did a stint this season on "24," gets worked up about writers.

"I am so in awe of Jhumpa, it's ridiculous," gushed Penn. He was speaking about Jhumpa Lahiri (pictured), the Fort

Greene resident whose novel, "The Namesake," has just been made into the film in which Penn stars.

For Lahiri, whose collection "Interpreter of Maladies" won a Pulitzer Prize in 2000, the film wasn't just a chance to see her story on the big screen, but also to see herself. At director Mira Nair's request, Lahiri and her family took roles in the production.

"Mira wanted to pepper the scenes with people from my life," she told GO Brooklyn.

Despite being a best-selling author and newly minted movie star, Lahiri insisted she leads a quiet Brooklyn life. "I don't get out much but there are some great restaurants [in Fort Greene]. Smooch has the best coffee I've ever had outside of Europe. I spend an awful lot of my time indoors just working and taking care of my kids." She also said she's working on a new novel (gotta pay the bills).

But has she been bitten by the movie bug? Would she trade her Pulitzer for an Oscar? "I'm sure it would be utterly thrilling, but it doesn't matter to me," she said. "It's already a beautiful film and that's what's important."

"The Namesake" is currently playing at BAM Rose Cinemas. Tickets are \$10. For information call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.brooklynlight.com/thenamesake](http://www.brooklynlight.com/thenamesake). — Adam Rathe

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## Dealing with Wine Leftovers

By Darrin Siegfried

There are so many reasons why we all end up with a half bottle of unfinished wine, aren't there? Dinner for one, and the wine that you want doesn't come in half bottles; One bottle (or two) wasn't enough for the dinner party, so another one was opened and not finished. Sometimes just a glass or two is enough. So, what to do with the wine that's left over?

We have to remember that the main reason for opened bottles of wine going bad is that the wine comes into contact with oxygen. A bit of aeration is a good thing with a young or "closed" wine, but too much oxygen spoils wine in anywhere from a few hours to a few days, depending on the wine. If we want to save our wine, we have to keep it away from air to keep it from oxidizing.

There have been many attempts at solving the problem of dealing with wine leftovers over the years. Many simply didn't work, while some are awkward or require too much effort. One of these was the idea of filling the bottle with glass marbles until the level of the wine came up almost to the top of the bottle, and then replacing the cork. Can you imagine how many wine glasses must have gotten shattered by the marbles rolling out of the bottle when someone went to pour a glass?

Let's look at some of the more practical ways of saving your wine.

If you know that you are sometimes only going to drink half of a bottle, save a few empty half bottles and corks in good condition. When you open a full bottle, carefully pour half of the wine into the half bottle, filling it almost to the top. Insert the cork. You want to make sure that there's as small an amount of airspace as possible. Pour your glasses from the original bottle and save the half bottle for tomorrow's dinner. I find that this system works well at keeping your wine fresh for a few days, and it costs nothing.

For years, I've used the Vac-U-Vin, a system that uses a rubber stopper that has a one-way valve molded into it, and a small hand pump. The stopper goes into the bottle, like a cork, and you place the pump over it. Give it a few pumps and the air is pulled out of the bottle. When you want

to drink the wine, you squeeze the stopper to break the vacuum and let air back in. Remove the stopper and pour your wine. Simple to use and, since the stoppers are reusable, very inexpensive over time. I've been using the same pump for 15 years.

The problem with the old Vac-U-Vin was that you could over pump. When someone got overzealous in their pumping some of the oxygen that was suspended in the wine came out and you ended up with flat tasting wine. One telltale sign of over pumping was seeing a ring of tiny bubbles forming around the edge of the wine... but when the bubbles appeared, it was too late.

Vac-U-Vin overcame this problem with their Concerto line, which has stoppers that make an audible "click" when the ideal amount of air has been pumped out. If you have the older pump, you can simply buy the Concerto stoppers, since the pumps work with both the older and the newer stoppers.

I first tried Private Preserve when my friend, Claudine Pepin, gave me a can to try. Private Preserve is an aerosol containing a mix of Argon, Nitrogen and Carbon Dioxide. These inert gases are heavier than the atmosphere and, once you spray the gas into the opened bottle, displace the air to form an invisible blanket over the wine that keeps oxygen from coming into contact with it. These gases do not bond with the wine and form compounds, as does oxygen, so your wine is protected, with no change of taste. When you want to finish off that bottle, simply remove the cork and pour. After you've used it on two decent bottles of wine, it has more that it's paid for itself... and a single can is claimed to be good for about 120 "blasts".

Private Preserve works beautifully with fortified wines such as Port, aged Sherry and Madeira. Just give a quick blast of the gas, as the instructions direct, after every sitting.

Now... don't laugh at this one, OK? If I have a glass of wine left, I'll sometimes pour it into a zip lock plastic bag and put it into the freezer. The next time that I'm cooking and I need some wine for the stew or sauce, I take it from the freezer and add it to the pan. It doesn't go to waste!



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# To market

## Le Petit Marche teaches the Heights fluent French

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Paper

"I like this place. We can be adults here," said my sister, who has endured too many noisy, everytable's-a-party places. She's right: Le Petit Marche, a French bistro in Brooklyn Heights, is meant for a serene meal. Husband-and-wife partners Daniella Silone and Igor Tsan's classic bistro, which opened in late December, possesses the lived-in appeal of a place that has been serving customers for years.

To give the long narrow room the patina of age, the couple painted the space a rich egg yolk, and set tables in an intimate row. There's a wooden bar with a few seats, French prints adorn one wall at the end of the room and there's a banquet covered in a soft red striped fabric. The setting provides a backdrop for a relaxed experience, but there's a sparkle in the air too, that comes from the pleasure of easy conversation. Not to mention a kitchen with an executive chef who turns out lusty, soul-satisfying food.

The man at the stove is Robert Weiner, who has cooked at Maurice in Le Parker Meridien with the renowned Christian Delouvier, at Les Celestines (at Nikko House and Restaurant Raphael. Weiner's menu offers every-

**DINING**

Le Petit Marche (46 Henry St. between Court Street and Midland streets in Brooklyn Heights) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. Entrees: \$15-\$25. The restaurant serves dinner daily. Subway: A, C to High Street, Brooklyn Bridge; 2, 3 to Court Street. For information, call (718) 858-9605.

thing you'd expect from a classic French bistro: escargot, bouillabaisse, steak frites and dessert tarts. The "soupe a l'oignon gratinee" (French onion soup) makes you immediately think, "Ah, this is how it should be! This is why people love it so."

That soup arrives in a deep ceramic crock with a thick crust of pungent, tangy Swiss cheese baked over the top, its edges singed black here and there. Breaking through the crisp crown releases a fragrance of thyme, rosemary, caramelized onions and veal so heady that my sister and I said, "Ahhhh..." at the same time.

"It's good, yes?" asked our waiter. "Better than good," I said.

We loved the "jumbo lump crabmeat salad," too, its lightly chilled ingredients a refreshing counterpart to the bold soup. Weiner tops diced mango, crunchy red onion and a bit of jalapeno



See food: Above, chef Robert Weiner shows off one his classic French dishes. At left, the crowd that the Brooklyn Heights bistro draws.

pepper with plump pieces of the crustacean. The bright chive oil dressing and the cinnamon-like quality of the fruit accentuate the saline freshness of the fish. Our waiter smiled when he cleared away the bare plate.

There's one dish on the menu that lamb lovers shouldn't miss. It's a shank the size of a man's forearm with that bit of gaminess and funky aroma that sheep aficionados swoon over. The outside is crusty and the flesh is soft with pockets of silky fat. Almost upstaging the shank was a pillow of white beans: Weiner cooks them in veal demi-glace, red wine and garlic, then mixes in Parmesan. They hold their shape but are creamy centered and perfumed with rosemary. I doubt there are better beans being served anywhere.

And there's a showstopper of a bouillabaisse that is more than a collection of good-looking fish in a bowl.

Pearly mussels in their shells, tender clams, silken sliced cod, sweet shrimp and plump sea scallops serve as a base for half of a lobster tail in its shell, the claw meat nestled beside it. The works are sauced lightly with a pink, saffron-tinted fish fumé, accented with a touch of anise-flavored Pernod.

The satisfaction from a perfect meal comes through in dish after dish — until dessert, at least.

Alas, despite the impressive prelude, the desserts are disappointing. Apples in the "tarte Tatin" are richly spiced, but mushy; and the crust around an apricot tart filled with a lush almond cream is limp.

As we left, the room is abuzz with conversation. We walked down Henry Street in the cold, smiling, a little tipsy and too talked out to say more than, "Yeah, great meal," my sister said.

# Come-ta Sutra

"The word sutra means 'teaching' in India, and people come here to learn about coffee," said Chandira Wilson, who owns Café Sutra with her husband Lars Winkelbauer.

Lesson one: Use great beans (Wilson uses java from Intelligencia).

"They're well known for great coffee and espresso beans," she said.

Lesson two: Involve the community.

Each month, local artists exhibit their work at the cafe (photographer Lauren Sutra's work is on the walls right now) so you can study art while you down your espresso, latte or tea.

Lesson three: Don't deny the sweet tooth.

Wilson stocks great desserts, from a "Moon Mountain Torte" (chocolate truffle cream, hazelnut, Oreos and chocolate cake, pictured) to those amazing cupcakes from Two Little Red Hens and equally astounding muffins from Blue Sky, both in Park Slope. There are also sandwiches and cold pasta dishes to eat in-house or take out as well.

Lesson four: Don't forget the Yuppie flypaper.

The earth-colored room with its comfortable sofas has the most important feature, as far as cafés are concerned: free wireless Internet. But if



you just need a real break from your coffee break, Sutra has a small patio that makes a lovely setting for sipping wine or beer.

Café Sutra Espresso and Dessert Lounge (639A Fifth Ave. at 18th Street in Park Slope) accepts MasterCard and Visa. Coffee and espresso: \$2.95-

\$3.50; Sandwiches and pastas: \$4.95; Desserts: \$2.95-\$3.95; pastries: \$1.75-\$2.00. The café is open from 8 am to 10 pm on weekdays and 10 am to 10 pm on weekends. Subway: R to Prospect Avenue. For information call (718) 499-0279 or visit www.mycasutra.com.

— Tina Barry



# At Maimonides, we've learned to say "goo-goo" in 68 different languages.



Brooklyn is home to many cultures and traditions. It's also home to one of only four children's hospitals in all of New York City: Maimonides Infants and Children's Hospital.

As a result, we speak perfect "goo-goo" in everything from Arabic to Cantonese to Russian to Spanish to Zapotec. Which translates into

loving, comforting words for children of every background.

Of course, at Maimonides when it comes to children we do more than just speak their language. We also offer them the very best in medical care.

Maimonides is a complete children's hospital within a hospital. In fact, we are the only Brooklyn hospital to be accredited by the

National Association of Children's Hospitals.

Not only that, in a recent survey\* conducted among households in Brooklyn, Maimonides was ranked first as the parents' choice for their children's care.

Maimonides Infants and Children's Hospital. We are simply the best. And we can make that statement in 68 languages.

\*2006/07 NRC Healthcare Market Guide Survey



**Maimonides**  
Medical Center  
Passionate about medicine.  
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For more information, visit [www.maimonidesmed.org](http://www.maimonidesmed.org). To find the right doctor for you, call (888) MMC-DOCS (662-3627).



## Mani-Gotti

Victoria Gotti is known for many things, but cooking is not one of them. Until now.

Gotti, who has previously written columns for Star Magazine and the New York Post, in addition to a number of novels, has released a cookbook, "Hot Italian Dish," check full of family recipes.

"It was not something I did consciously," Gotti told GO Brooklyn of her decision to write the book. "In Italy, cooking is a prerequisite for womanhood. You have to cook for your family, or you're considered inferior or inept."

Gotti hopes that her own book will serve as an example of the importance of families dining together. Since age 8, she has spent hours in the kitchen daily, learning how to cook from her mother and grandmother. Now she regularly hosts dinner parties, cooks six days a week and has successfully instilled a love of food and cooking into her children. Her youngest, Frank, has become a food author in his own right, penning "The Gotti Diet: How I Took Control of My Body, Lost 80 Pounds, and Discovered How to Stay Fit Forever."

Readers of her book will discover recipes for quintessential Italian meals like Chicken Rollatini, Rigatoni in Sunday Gravy and Italian Wine Pudding. While the latter is "not for the weak-stomached," most of the recipes are easy to prepare and enjoy.

This isn't to say that Gotti doesn't occasionally give other chefs a chance to compete with her kitchen skills. She admits, "There is nothing like Brooklyn pizza. It is a class all by itself."

Victoria Gotti will be signing copies of "Hot Italian Dish" on March 17 at 3 p.m. at BookMarket Shoppe (8415 Third Ave. in Bay Ridge). Subway: R train to 86th Street. For information, call (718) 680-3680. —Grace Labatt

# Dine on the Divine

## 'Dine in Brooklyn': Champagne, knishes and caviar dreams

By Rob M. Errera & Giacomo Maniscalco  
for The Brooklyn Paper

As the saying goes, "You've got to spend money to make money" — but can you lose money to make it?

That's the question that Brooklyn restaurateurs are asking themselves as they get ready for 2007's "Dine in Brooklyn."

The four-year-old program, which goes from March 19 through 30, is spearheaded by Borough President Markowitz and will feature more than 150 restaurants, all serving three-course meals for \$21.12 — a price that makes it impossible for many restaurants to turn a profit.

The River Cafe, which will only be serving lunch for the fixed price, clearly doesn't need the attention, so that restaurant's participation is mostly a civic gesture.

But other eateries need the exposure that comes from participating in the program. Thanks to Markowitz's full-page ad in the New York Times, smaller businesses are getting coverage in the door — even if it means losing money in the short term.

"Sure we're taking a bit of a financial hit, but the exposure is worth it," Ben Grossman owner of the Smoke Joint in Fort Greene, told GO Brooklyn this week. "The idea is to get people to Brooklyn, people from other boroughs who otherwise wouldn't come."

Grossman admitted that the two-for-\$12.12 price, which the Smoke Joint and a few others are offering, was a real hardship. "You couldn't spend less at a fast food place," he said, but promised a free Smoke Joint experience (some great food, though the portions will be a bit smaller).

From newcomers like Park Slope's Alchemy to classics like Junior's, all of the spots are hoping to increase their foot traffic and celebrate being a part of what Markowitz called "a foodie's paradise."

"The more restaurants that open,

"Dine in Brooklyn" will take place from March 19 through 30. Three-course meals are \$21.12 per person unless otherwise noted. Call each restaurant individually for reservations. For information, visit [www.dineinbrooklyn.org](http://www.dineinbrooklyn.org).

**Pete's Downtown 2** Water St. at Old Fulton Street in DUMBO is open Tuesday through Thursday from noon until 3 p.m., Friday from noon until 11 p.m., Saturday from 3 p.m. until 11 p.m. and Sunday from 2 p.m. until 10 p.m. For information, call (718) 688-5510.

**The River Cafe** 1 Water St. at Old Fulton Street in DUMBO serves lunch Monday through Saturday from noon until 3 p.m., and dinner beginning at 5:30 p.m. For information, call (718) 522-5000.

**The Smoke Joint** 87 1/2 East St. at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene is open from Tuesday through Sunday from 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call (718) 797-1011.

the more people want to come to Brooklyn," said Joseph Chinco, president of the Brooklyn Restaurant Association and owner of the Carroll Gardens eatery Marco Polo.

Given the number of choices, any restaurant that opens has to be great in order to survive, said Chinco, who counts the Borough President as a loyal customer. But no matter how great a restaurant is, it could use a little attention. Dine in Brooklyn gives people an easy way to learn about restaurants they might have otherwise

The Smoke Joint in Fort Greene will feature their "Hacked and Stuffed" pork sandwich on their "Dine in Brooklyn" prix fixe menu.

missed, he said. Pete Thriston, owner of Pete's Downtown in DUMBO, has had such success with "Dine in Brooklyn" in 2006 that his kitchen now offers a prix fixe menu year-round — and, at \$20.17, it's the cheapest of the restaurant week bunch.

"We do fantastic business with 'Dine in Brooklyn,'" Thriston said. "It's not as profitable as I'd like, but you can't buy this kind of exposure."

He added that many diners opt for cocktails and coffee, which are not included in the fixed price. And even if each diner is spending less on their meal, Thriston said, "I can't make money on a couple of."

With 12 days to hit as many of the restaurants as you can, a good planner will start making reservations now. A great planner will not only make reservations, but also pick up a bigger part of pants.

## LET THEM...

Continued from page 1

"I [worked] in retail for more than 10 years before I was able to make a living as a writer," said Lethem. "Working at a cash register, no matter what you're supposed to be doing, one thing you're inevitably doing is collecting complaints."

These days, Lethem is not only making a living writing, but has Hollywood calling as well — actor Edward Norton is rumored to be fast-tracking a production of "Motherless Brooklyn," and director Josh Marston ("Maria Full of Grace") is working on "Fortress of Solitude," the screenplay for which Lethem and his wife Amy co-wrote. "I'm not in charge of film projects," he told us. "It's more that I take a check and give over the book to a filmmaker who has his own concept."

Along these lines, Lethem posted a message on his Web site this week stating that he would sell the film rights to "You Don't Love Me Yet" for just two percent of whatever the shooting budget becomes. His only other requirement is that after five years, the film's ancillary rights must be released so they can enter the public domain.

"I realized that sometimes giving things away — things that are usually seen to have an important and intrinsic 'value,' like a film option — already felt like a meaningful part of what I do. I wanted to do more of it," Lethem wrote on the site.

Finding meaning is definitely not the big issue for the restless young characters in "You Don't Love Me Yet," twenty-somethings who jump from job to job and just happen to make music on the side.

"I wanted to remind myself of that weird, transitive, sketchy period in your 20s when everyone's calling his own bluff," Lethem said. For inspiration, he looked at bands like Talking Heads, the Go-Betweens and Fleetwood Mac — "bands with exes and complicated histories."

Lethem himself is no stranger to the job-hopping hopelessness of a young would-be artist. The worst job he ever had? "I once had to clean up after the elephants in a parade, [following] behind them in a clown suit and gathering up elephant turds."

How does one even find a job like that? "They needed a clown with a shovel, and I needed a job," Luckily,

that was just a one-afternoon gig. Perhaps that experience led the writer to sympathize with Matthew, Lucinda's sometimes-ex and a vigilante zowkeeper who takes his problems at work — in addition to one of the animals — home with him.

"By the time I wrote 'Fortress of Solitude,' which I am immensely proud of," said Lethem, "that book had a quality of being a collected oral history of the neighborhood, so I was having a certain responsibility. This book is characterized by shucking that. That's one reason why ignoring Brooklyn became important. It made me into a pretender and that's what these characters are."

In his day-to-day life, however, ignoring Brooklyn isn't something he can seem to do. Lethem is currently the Chairman of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's "Friends of BAM" program and also serves on the board of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. Even protectors of the neighborhood flame, however, can find themselves with begrudging respect for some of Yippiedom's advantage — Lethem and his wife have a crush on Lunetta, a new restaurant on Smith Street featuring pasta dishes with double-digit price tags.

But still has the fire in his belly about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards development project, which he calls "a super encouraging time."

he said. "The project is a big mistake. It's not a great sports [arena] and some housing — it's this incredibly dense development of towers. To oppose that is not to be against development, but to say that this is really a bad idea."

And to question why it's been forced down the gullet of the borough instead of being built from the neighborhood's interests up.

And this is a guy who knows his neighborhood. "There are a lot of writers [in Brooklyn], so it's not special to be getting to have a place and eat it too because I've participated in this recent boom but also got to trump everyone with my street credibility card. I grew up on this block, I have lived here and to old neighbors who have been here for ever. They don't think of me as anything but that Lethem kid."

"You Don't Love Me Yet" is available at BookCourt (163 Court St. at Dean Street in Cobble Hill) for \$24.95. For information, call (718) 675-3677.

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2

**FASHION SHOW:** hosted by RC Church of St. Fabian, 500 in-cludes meal, wine, fashion show, music and dancing. Noon. Rex Manor, 60th Street and 11th Avenue. (718) 226-3132.

**DANCE WORKSHOP:** Brooklyn Public Library's Grand Army Plaza branch offers a workshop with traditional dance masters from India, Israel and Mexico. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 625-0880. Free.

**ADOPTION TALK:** Science-Chance Adoption Resource Center hosts "Young Adult Adoptees Share Their Experiences." 5:30, \$30 per person. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Congregation Beth El, 274 Garfield Pl. (718) 360-0259.

**ENJOYING EVERYONE:** Lucky Lotus Yoga offers a class "The Creative Power of Love." 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. 184 DeKalb Ave. Call for info. (718) 496-5514.

**CAFE STEINHOFF:** Presents the movie "King of Comedy" (1983). 10:30 p.m. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

**FLEA MARKET:** at Fishkill, reformed Church. 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. See Sat. March 24.

**BOOK MARKET:** at Fishkill, reformed Church. 12:30 p.m. to 3 p.m. See Sat. March 24.

**HOMEWORKER WORKSHOP:** Pratt Area Community Council offers a workshop for first time home buyers. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. 8515 Ridge Blvd. Call for info. (718) 495-6144.

**RESTAURANT WEEK:** Dine in Brooklyn restaurant week begins. 200 restaurants throughout Brooklyn take part, offering 2 to 3 meals and fixed price meals. Through Friday, March 30. For information about participating restaurants, visit [www.dineinbrooklyn.org](http://www.dineinbrooklyn.org) or [www.brooklyninfo.us](http://www.brooklyninfo.us). Call (718) 802-3866.

**SHAKESPEARE:** Kings County Shakespeare Co. presents "Ruff Love or What You Will," a gender-friendly adaptation of "The Taming of the Shrew." 8 p.m., \$18.

students and seniors. 8 p.m. South Oxford Space, 158 S. Oxford St. (718) 398-0546.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Edward Scissorhands," based on Tim Burton's film. \$30 to \$80. 7:30 p.m. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

**UNCOVERING CHASSIDIM:** Congregation B'nei Avraham hosts "The David Ben-Gurion Lecture Series" with a talk about Rabbi Shalom Doviner Schenker, the "Rabbi Rabbah." 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. 117 Fernside St. (718) 596-4840. Free.

**FUP AND TUCK:** Beginning tumbler are invited to develop strength, flexibility and body awareness to perform basic acrobatic tricks. \$15 per class. 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Steeple at SJAM. \$11 N First St. (718) 384-6491.

**TASTING NIGHT:** Jolie Restaurant offers a \$25 four-course chef tasting menu. 200 Atlantic Ave. Call for info. (718) 488-0777.

**TUES, MARCH 20**

**WORKSHOP:** CAMBA Small Business Services offers a talk "Surviving the Brooklyn Retail Jungle." 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 284 Flatbush Ave. (718) 282-2500. Free.

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## WEDS, MARCH 21

**MAIN MANAGEMENT:** CNL Long Term Home Health Care offers a talk "Managing Pain: A Hands-On Approach." Experts discuss and present topics such as pain management, physical therapy, relaxation, meditation and music therapy. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 200 Prospect Pl. (718) 362-1450, ext. 3027. Free.

**LUNCH AND LEARN:** at Congregation Beth El, 274 Garfield Pl. (718) 362-1450, ext. 3027. Free.

**LECTURE:** Learn more about Margaret Sanger, the birth control pioneer. The Old Stone House hosts NYU professor Esther Katz who recently edited "The Selected Papers of Margaret Sanger." 7 p.m. 85. Refreshments will be served. (718) 768-5195.

**TANGO CLASS:** Class at 7 p.m. Dancing from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. \$12. Night and Day, 230 Fifth Ave. (718) 526-3998.

**SPECIAL NEEDS:** Families First offers a talk "Special Needs: What's a Parent to Do?" Disability rights attorney Jo Anne Simon is guest speaker. Learn how to sort through the maze and receive educational and therapeutic services for children with special needs. 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. 250 Balto St. Call to reserve. (718) 227-1862.

**COURAGE THROUGH COMPASSION:** Adolph Academy offers a course. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. 8515 Ridge Blvd. Call for info. (718) 495-6144.

**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Edward Scissorhands," based on Tim Burton's film. \$30 to \$80. 7:30 p.m. Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

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**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents





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**Our Camp**

- Variety of programs for campers age 3 1/2 to 15
- Safe, fun, stimulating environment
- Very flexible registration; accommodating 9 week season
- Free morning transportation from most Bay Ridge and Brownstone Brooklyn areas
- Established 1992

**Spring Mini-Camp**  
April 2 - 6, 9 - 10  
7 days of trips & activities based in Park Slope

**Open House for Summer Camp**  
Sunday, March 25  
presentations at 12 and 1pm  
339 8 St. just below 6 Ave.

**718-788-PSCD (7732)**  
[www.parkslopedaycamp.com](http://www.parkslopedaycamp.com)

**Berkeley Carroll School**

JUNE 25 - JULY 26, 2007

**Children's DAY CAMP**  
at Berkeley Carroll  
'summer in the City'



**Our campers will explore their interests, stretch their imaginations, and nurture their talents by participating in a wide array of camp activities.**

**Information:**  
jvaldez@berkeleycarroll.org  
or 718-789-6060 x6620

**JEWISH SPORTS ACADEMY**

Ages: 5-9

**BRAND NEW LOCATION!**  
The Hannah Senesh School  
341 Smith Street and First Place

**Specialists in Supervised & Instructional: SWIMMING, SOCCER & TENNIS**

Dramatics • Ballet • Dance • Pony Riding • Trips • Crafts  
Judaic Study • Karate • Computers & Much, Much More!!!  
**Delicious & Nutritious Lunch Provided**

**Dates:** 4 Two-Week Sessions. Hours 9am-3pm. Cost \$500 per session.  
**Extended Session** 8am-6pm. Extra \$300 per session

**Contact: Michael Goldin (718) 928-4192 • michaelgoldin@yahoo.com**  
Checks made payable to Camp Gan Israel, 117 Remsen Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201.  
Administration fee of \$100 per child. Camp is closed July 4th and July 24 (Tu B'Shvat)

# The Brooklyn Paper's 2007 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE

## Kim's Kid's Camp

PS 321, 7th Ave. Park Slope  
Director: Dan Monister  
(718) 768-6419  
Ages: 5-11  
July 2 - Aug. 10  
Full day 9 am - 4 pm  
Extended hours 8 am - 6 pm  
Flex weeks and number of days available.  
**Activities:** Lots of physical and outdoors activity. Daily trips, including swimming (lake, pool and beach), hikes, museums, zoos, playgrounds, NY Aquarium, Liberty Science Center, bowling, climbing, exploring, Sesame Place.

## Park Slope Day Camp

Locations in Windsor Terrace, Park Slope, Kensington, Bay Ridge  
(718) 788-7732  
[www.parkslopedaycamp.com](http://www.parkslopedaycamp.com)  
e-mail: [camp@parkslopedaycamp.com](mailto:camp@parkslopedaycamp.com)

**Director:** Ronny Schindler  
**Ages:** entering P K - 9th grades  
July 2 - Aug. 31  
Full day (8 am - 4 pm), early dismissal optional for young kids; Extended hours (until 6:30 pm) available.  
**Transportation:** free morning shuttle from all Brownstone Brooklyn neighborhoods and Bay Ridge.  
**Activities:** outdoor camp with sports, trips, gymnastics, drama, nature, Olympics, sports academy, travel camp (featuring overnight trips).

**OPEN HOUSES:** Sunday, March 25, noon and 1 pm

## Beth Elohim Summer Day Camp

274 Garfield Place, Park Slope  
(718) 788-3814, ext. 210  
[www.congregationbethelohim.org](http://www.congregationbethelohim.org)

### Preschool Division

Ages: 3 to 4-1/2  
**Director:** Maura Lorenzen and Jaci Israel  
June 18 through July 27  
Full Day (9 am - 3 pm) and Half Day (9 am - 12:30 pm)

**Activities:** swimming, weekly trip for 4- and 5-year-olds, fully equipped nursery school classrooms.

### Elementary Division

July 2 through Aug 17  
**Ages:** entering Kindergarten - 4th grades  
Full day (9 am - 5 pm)

Extended hours (8 am - 6 pm) available

**Activities:** swimming (instructional and recreational), arts and crafts, music, nature, sports, gymnastics, trips 2 days per week.

### Movin' On Travel Camp

**Director:** Bobbie Finkelstein  
July 2 through Aug 17  
**Ages:** entering 5th - 9th grades  
Full day (9 am - 5 pm)

Extended hours (8 am - 6 pm) available.

**Activities:** Daily trips, swimming, two overnights, leadership development program for kids entering.

## Plymouth Day Camp

75 Hicks St., Brooklyn Heights  
718-624-4743  
**Director:** Dana Rosenbloom  
[plymouthcamp.org](http://plymouthcamp.org)  
[www.plymouthchurch.org](http://www.plymouthchurch.org)

**Ages:** 2 - 5  
June 18-July 27  
Full day: 9am - 3pm

**Activities:** Arts & crafts, swimming on-site in above-ground swimming pool, games & sports, tumbling, music, nature & science learning, water play, field trips, air-conditioned classrooms

## Poly Prep Summer 2007

9216 Seventh Ave., Bay Ridge  
718-836-9800, ext. 322  
[www.polyprep.org](http://www.polyprep.org)

**Director:** Michael Junsch  
Bus available (extra fee)

### Summer Experience Day Camp

July 2 - August 10, 2007  
**Ages:** Pre-K through Grade 10  
Full day: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Activities:** Arts, dance, sports, swimming, and special events on our 25-acre grounds

### Performing Arts Camp

July 2 - August 3, 2007  
**Ages:** For students entering Grades 4-9  
Full day: 8:30 am - 3:30 pm

**Activities:** Professional faculty guide young actors, dancers,

singers, and musicians. Culminates in a musical theater production.

### Summer Academic Programs

July 2 - August 3, 2007  
**Ages:** For students entering Grades 3-12  
Full day: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Activities:** Enrichment and remedial courses. Can be combined with Day Camp at a reduced price.

### Sports Camps

Several one week sessions  
**Ages:** 6 - 16  
Full day: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

**Activities:** Each week focuses on a different sport (soccer, squash, basketball, and baseball)

### Computer Camp

Several one week sessions  
**Ages:** 5 - 12

See **CAMPS** on page 13

**Park Explorers**

**summer day camp**

**Healthy Outdoor Fun in Park Slope Brooklyn!**

**Different activities daily**  
**Experienced staff**  
**weekly & monthly sessions**

**Ages 4-14**  
**718-788-3620**  
[www.parkexplorers.com](http://www.parkexplorers.com)

**Beth Elohim Day Camps**

**Summer 2007**



**2 Year Olds TERRIFIC TWOS CLASSES**  
Our popular pre-nursery program for your toddler, accompanied by a parent or caregiver.

**3 Years to Kindergarten LOWER DAY CAMP**  
Full & Half Day programs, Professional Staff, Fully equipped classrooms, Swimming in Temple pool, Weekly Trips for full day 4 & 5 yr. olds

**Entering Kindergarten through 4th Grade ELEMENTARY DAY CAMP**  
Full day program. Recreational & Instructional swim daily in Temple pool, Active outdoor sports, arts & crafts, nature, gymnastics and music. Trips twice a week in & around NYC

**Entering 5th through 9th Grade MOVIN' ON TRAVEL CAMP**  
Five days of trips Swimming in Temple Pool Two (3 day) overnights. Mature, qualified staff  
**LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** for youth entering 9th grade **NEW**

**For Tots & Lower Camp**  
call Maura Lorenzen or Jaci Israel at: 499-6208

**For Elementary & Travel Camp**  
call Bobbie Finkelstein at: 768-3814 x210

**Congregation Beth Elohim**  
Garfield Temple בית אלהים  
8th Ave. & Garfield Pl. - Park Slope  
Children of all faiths and ethnic backgrounds are welcome!  
[www.congregationbethelohim.org](http://www.congregationbethelohim.org)

**Physically Active, NATURE ORIENTED, OUTDOOR, TRAVELING DAY CAMP**

**Daily Trips to:** Swimming at a lake, pool and the beach. Weekly hikes and trips to Museums, Zoos, Playgrounds, The Aquarium, Liberty Science Center, Bowling and a special trip to Sesame Place



**KIM'S KIDS SUMMER CAMP**

- Experienced, Carefully Chosen, Adult Staff
- Flexible Schedule: 3, 4, 5 or 6 weeks, 3, 4 or 5 days a week
- Early drop-off (8am) and late pick up (6pm) available
- Ages 5 to 11 years

**Park Slope • (718) 768-6419**  
27 years of operation

**Spend The Summer With Friends**

**Summer Programs For Kids ages 2-14**

Brooklyn Friends School summer programs take the best of the school year experience and make that light shine ever brighter!

Our three programs—Summer Camp for 2 to 8 year olds, Summer Arts for 9 to 11 year olds, and summer intensives for 12 to 14 year olds—are distinguished by their outstanding faculty and favorable student-teacher ratio.

Sessions available from June 20 to July 27

**Things to Learn at Friends**  
Hip-Hop, Rock 'n' Roll, Hands-on Science, Tennis, Dance, Swimming, Gardening, Woodwork, Fiber Arts, Shadow Puppets, Giant Masks, Music Videos, Animation, Theater, Painted, Drawings, Printmaking, and Juggling.

**BROOKLYN FRIENDS SCHOOL • 375 PEARL STREET • DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN**  
718-852-1029 • [WWW.BROOKLYNFRIENDS.COM](http://WWW.BROOKLYNFRIENDS.COM)



## The Brooklyn Paper 2007 SUMMER CAMP GUIDE



### SUMMER ENRICHMENT CAMP

academic enrichment + gymnastics + dance + art + rock climbing + horse back riding + bowling +

**= A FUN LEARNING EXPERIENCE FOR CHILDREN** FROM 4 TO 15 YEARS OLD!

**OUR SESSIONS**

- Session 1 — July 2-13
- Session 2 — July 14-27
- Session 3 — July 28-Aug 10
- Session 4 — Aug 13-24

Financial Assistance is Available  
FEE: \$400-\$600  
Scholarships Available

**WE PROVIDE:**

- Academic enrichment through exciting activities and fun
- Pick-up and drop-off location in Manhattan/Brooklyn
- Outdoor pool/instructional swimming
- Daily lunches and snacks
- Daily laundry and towels
- Licensed staff who enjoy working with children.

**718-624-1992**  
www.bkccenter.org

## CAMPS...

Continued from page 12

Full day: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Activities: Digital imaging and photography software, exploration of new technology, and create your own website.

### Park Explorers

611 Eighth Avenue, Park Slope  
(718) 785-5620

Director: Chris Altman  
www.parkexplorers.com

Ages: 4 to 14

June 28 through August 31

Full day: 8:30 am–3:30 pm

Extended hours till 4:30 pm

Early drop off: 8:00 am

Bus transportation in many

brooklyn areas

Activities: different activities

daily: sports of all kinds, nature

walks, hiking, arts & crafts, pool,

beach, gymnastics, tennis, drama,

canoeing, singing, different trip each

week and in around NYC. Special

programs in sports (6 weeks)

and theater (two week in-

crements, led by professionals).

### Berkeley Carroll

Creative Arts Program

181 Lincoln Place, Park Slope

(718) 789-6060 • 6540

www.berkeleycarroll.org

Director: Marlene Clay

Ages: 8 to 14

July 2 to August 2

Full day: 9 am–4 pm

Extended hours: 8 am–4 pm

Activities: music, dance, paint,

arts, ceramics, media and graph-

ics, all in air conditioned

classrooms, daily noontime

performances, plus performances

and exhibitions at the end of

camp. Swimming also offered.

### Children's Day Camp

701, 712 Carroll Street, Park Slope

## KIDS THE TEENS SCHOOL Brooklyn Paper STYLE PARENT CAMPS MUSIC

# Are Smartmom and Hepcat in Spitsville?



By Louise Crawford

THESE DAYS, Smartmom and Hepcat are like

ships passing in the night. In recent weeks

they've spent more time apart than to-

gether and people are getting suspicious.

"Everything okay between you two?" Groovy Grandpa asked the

other day on the phone when Smartmom told him that Hepcat

was in California.

He's just visiting his mother

in California, she told her nosy

dad. Besides he needed to check

on The Little Orange Car, the

Porsche he inherited from his

beloved uncle, which he keeps

in a container behind his mother's

house.

"But you went away last week

with Oh So Foxy One," Groovy

Grandpa reminded her, ob-

viously building a case that Smart-

mom and Hepcat are on their own.

Well, they're not and Smart-

mom wants to make that abun-

dantly clear. When you've got

two kids in different schools and

different schedules you've got to

divide and conquer in order to

make things happen.

Everyone knows that (doesn't

he?)

And more to the point, when

you're as busy as Smartmom

and Hepcat are — with different

work schedules and deadlines

— you've got to grab any down-

time you can get.

So Groovy Grandpa did

make Smartmom wonder

if it was normal for a married

couple to take short trips inde-

pendent of one another.

Normal schmormal! Who cares

about normal? Smartmom may

not be Marlo Thomas, but she be-

lieves that the freedom to be you

and me is essential for a good mar-

riage. And it's a major tenet of her

relationship with Hepcat.

Still, Hepcat and Smartmom

have been going solo quite a bit

late. So what's up with that?

Well, last month, Smartmom

decided on a whim to take OSFO

to the Minerals Inn at Crystal

Springs Spa in Vernon, New Jer-

sey for a quick getaway during the

seemingly endless winter break.

Before making the reservations,

she asked Hepcat if he wanted to

join them. But he had too much

going on at the office. Besides, it

didn't sound like Hepcat's kind of

vacation. Too curly. Too comfort-

able. Too bourgeois.

Hepcat grew up on a farm and

is a rugged kind of guy. He still

keeps about his three days alone

in the woods with Outward Bound

## SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

like it was three nights at the Ritz.

Hepcat's idea of a vacation is an

itinerary-free drive cross-country

in the Little Orange Car, staying

in Indian-owned motels.

But Smartmom and OSFO

crave some R&R (or, technically,

P&P — pampering and pillows)

every now and again.

So Smartmom, OSFO and the

Kravitzes went off for a fun and

sporty weekend at the New Jersey

Spa. That Street goes on vacation.

What's not to like? Seven in-

terconnecting pools, including

an outdoor heated pool for win-

ter swimming under the stars, hot

tubs, a steam room, sauna, an in-

door track, an indoor basketball

court, tennis, Pilates classes, a sa-

loon for massages and facials.

The kids had a first-class

vacation and so did

Smartmom and Mr. and

Mrs. Kravitz (who picked up

three bottles of wine at the lo-

cal mall). Plus, it was fun for

them to hang out with good

friends somewhere other than

their identical dining rooms.

Once they got home, Smart-

mom told Hepcat all about the

refill trip, but he still wasn't con-

vinced it was his kind of thing.

And then Spirit, well, he was per-

fectly hanging out with friends

and practicing his guitar

(too loudly some would say).

A few weeks later, Smartmom

went on an overnight to Boston

with Best and Oldest, her best

friend since fifth grade, to see

Open Dns, her high school best

friend, the lead in "Rise and Fall

of the City of Mahagonny."

Well, Smartmom couldn't ex-

actly pick hearing her friend

the lead in this rarely performed

opera by Kurt Weill and Bertolt

Brecht.

But Hepcat couldn't come

— someone needed to stay home

to police Teen Spirit and OSFO.

Plus, it meant being away on a

Tuesday, and that's Important

Staff Meeting Day at the Edgy

Startup where he works.

So Smartmom went solo. Af-

ter the show, which was terrific,

she and her high school pals

drank martinis until 2 am with

the cast and crew. It was the most

fun the three old friends have had

together since they each turned

30 in 19 — (we're not telling).

Once home, Smartmom and

Hepcat barely got a chance to

chitchat before he was getting

on a Jet Blue flight for Oakland.

Because it was the week of the

fourth grade test, it was out of

the question for Smartmom and

family to join him.

Besides, he likes to visit the

family farm and see his fam-

ily himself from time to time. He

has lots of things to take care of

out there and there's always The

Little Orange Car.

Yes, The Little Orange Car.

Okay, so Smartmom is a tad

jealous of The Little Orange Car.

It's just that, Hepcat pays so

much attention to HER. She's

his screen savor, for Buddha's

sake! When they're together, he

takes her for long scenic drives,

buys her expensive gifts like pi-

ston rings, seat belts, and a

\$2,000 car stereo.

When was the last time Hep-

cat bought Smartmom a \$2,000

car stereo? The Little Orange

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## HELP WANTED

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5th Ave in Bay Ridge, 2nd stop off  
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didates who have sales, but no media  
experience. The Brooklyn Paper  
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years experience, including Excel  
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**The Brooklyn Paper**

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ext. 109

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## APARTMENTS FOR RENT

### NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SENIOR CITIZEN APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty is pleased to announce that applications are now  
being accepted for 22 affordable housing rental apartments near Union Station at 91  
Carroll Avenue in the Fort Greene section of Brooklyn. This building is being constructed  
through the Inclusionary Affordable Housing Program of the City of New York Department  
of Housing Preservation and Development. The size, rent and apartment distribution for  
the 22 apartments are as follows:

Apartments Available	Apartment Size	Household Size	Monthly Rent*	Total Annual** Income Range - Maximum
22	1 Bedroom	1	\$750	\$31,800 - \$38,304
		2	\$750	\$31,800 - \$38,304

The age eligibility requirement is 62 years of age at the time of application for rent.  
Two persons: the applicant must be at least 62 and the co-applicant be at least 65 years  
of age at the time of application.  
\* Monthly rent includes gas for cooking.  
\*\* Income guidelines subject to change.

Seniors will be required to meet income guidelines and additional selection criteria to  
qualify. Applications may be requested by mail from: Met Council/Jewish Poverty, 91  
Carroll Avenue, 8th Floor, New York, NY 10003. Please include a self-addressed  
envelope with your application. Applications will not be returned. Applications will be  
accepted only by priority, certified, registered, express or overnight mail will be  
accepted to a post office box number, or its equivalent, that will be listed with the  
application, and must be postmarked by April 30, 2007. Applications submitted after  
April 30, 2007 will not be set aside for possible future consideration. Applications will be selected  
randomly, applicants who submit more than one application will be disqualified. Preference  
will be given to New York City seniors. Current, eligible residents of Brooklyn Community  
Board 5 will receive preference for 50% of the eligible senior citizens. Applicants  
with mobility impairments will receive preference for 5% of the eligible households that  
include persons with visual and/or hearing impairments will receive preference for 2% of the  
units, and eligible City of New York Municipal Employees will receive a 5% preference.

No Broker Fee. No Application Fee.  
MICHAEL R. BLOOMBERG, Mayor  
The City of New York  
Department of Housing Preservation and Development  
SHALIN DONOVAN, Commissioner  
www.nyc.gov/hpd

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## APARTMENT FOR RENT

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\*\*\*

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•East Williamsburg/Bushwick.

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All Points Real Estate

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## Florida Agents

had enough winter yet?

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Fran Rizzuto, Realtor

Prudential Florida WCI Realty

Westling/West Palm Beach

(561) 307-0471

email: nyfranflorida@aol.com

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Brooklyn, New York 11220

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## APARTMENTS

For Rent

Asheville & Best Just in West

BROWSE & LIST FREE!

All Cities & Areas!

Studios: 1-2 Bdrms; \$800-2000

1-177-FOR-RENT

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misrepresentation, the advertiser must provide the following information: (1) the name of the

advertiser, (2) the address of the advertiser, (3) the telephone number of the advertiser, (4) the

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# BROOKLYN BRIEFS

## Railroad homes derailed again

By Christie Ritzk

The Brooklyn Paper

A new city report has again cast doubt on claims by residents of Duffield Street that their Downtown Brooklyn houses were part of the Underground Railroad.

A city-hired consulting firm revealed this week that there is no conclusive evidence that seven houses on Duffield and Gold streets were part of the fabled fugitive slave network.

"It [the Duffield houses] ... does not have a significant association with a national figure of the Underground Railroad and his/her Underground Railroad activity," the report concluded.

The report by AKRF, a consulting firm that researches historic claims, also refuted residents' contention that the buildings were connected to known abolitionists.

"Of course they're going to say that," said Joy Chate, the owner of 227 Duffield St. "They're trying to whitewash the truth — that my house was part of the Underground Railroad, and that it was owned by known abolitionists."

Chate's house was indeed owned by the Trussell family, which is known to have helped fugitive slaves. But the AKRF report claims that there is no evidence that the Trussells did any of their abolitionist work in the house.

The report could be the final blow against efforts to save the Duffield Street buildings from a city plan to bulldoze them to build a parking lot for a proposed hotel.

The new report, while still controversial, corrects several key mistakes in a 2005 version.

When the first report came out, Chate and her neighbor, Lewis Greenstein, said their testimony was altered.

The first report also claimed that the Trussell family was not even involved in the anti-slavery movement. That has since been proven to be wrong.

Around the same time, a city official was also caught lying to the City Council when he claimed that dozens of historical research agencies had told him that Duffield Street had never been part of the railroad. The agencies he cited quickly refuted that claim, saying the official had never even spoken to them.

Chate used the past as reason enough to distrust AKRF and the city.

"They were caught lying before, so they're not above lying again," she said. "It incenses me that they have the audacity to say there's no proof."

There will be a City Council hearing on March 20 at 11 a.m. at City Hall.



Despite a new report, Joy Chate believes her Duffield Street home housed fugitive slaves.



Wendy Leventer — out!

## Mayor Marty? Golden not ready to say

By Matthew Lysiak

The Brooklyn Paper

State Senator Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) will run for mayor on a platform of low taxes, affordable housing and expanding economic opportunity into the boroughs.

That is, if he runs, of course. As we reported last week, Golden has dipped his toe in the Republican-lean mayoral waters, but he hasn't fully jumped in.

"Many community leaders from throughout the city have suggested that I run," Golden said. "Whenever so many people urge you to do something, you have to give it some thought."

What would a Golden Administration mean for New York City? Clues could be found in the styles of the men whom he says are his political influences: Ronald Reagan and Rudy Giuliani.

"I admire them, and, like me, they were former Democrats who found that the party's extreme liberal message difficult for them."

Opponents would be quick to point out Golden's lack of experience — he's been in politics, first as a Councilman and later as a state Senator, only since 1998 — but Golden believes that his prior

experience as a civic leader and small business owner shouldn't be underestimated.

"I have been able to see the challenges that people face in finding a job, paying their taxes and bills, in trying to educate their children as well as they can, and in keeping their homes and neighborhoods safe," said Golden, who once owned the Bay Ridge Manor catering hall.

Golden is considered a shoe-in to win his Senate district next year, a race that isn't expected to put much of a dent in his \$425,000 campaign war chest.

He'd need much, much more to run for mayor, but raising big cash would be easy — if (and it's a big if) he remains the only Republican in the race to succeed Mayor Mike.

"I would look to expand the economic growth of the last few years to all areas of the city," he said. "I have been a strong supporter of the Atlantic Yards project, the development of the biotech industry in the New York City, the development of the Brooklyn Army Terminal, the cruise industry."

Spoken like a true (sort of) candidate.

## Big shakeup at Brooklyn Bridge 'Park'

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Paper

State development officials fired the chief planner of its Brooklyn Bridge Park project last week — as experts admitted that the controversial housing and open-space development would cost twice as much as anticipated.

The dismissal of Wendy Leventer, president of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, came after a costly legal battle with opponents of the project, a 1.3-mile parkland, luxury condo, retail and hotel development on the publicly owned water-front between Atlantic Avenue and the

foot of the Manhattan Bridge.

Leventer took over the \$130-million project in 2004, after a long and hospital public planning process that had local leaders anticipating a vast Prospect Park-style greenspace on the Brooklyn waterfront.

But soon after she came on board, that all changed.

Instead of a traditional, taxpayer-funded city park, the so-called "Brooklyn Bridge Park" would be maintained with revenue generated from commercial development within its footprint, Leventer told residents in a contentious meeting in 2004.

"We basically blew up her," said Roy Sloane, a Cobble Hill activist

who attended the meeting.

And that anger never waned. This week, opponents of the development project weren't said to see Leventer go.

"Wendy Leventer has provided no transparency," said Judi Francis, a critic of the project who sued to block the development.

Francis said Leventer oversaw a "sham process," but last week, the New York Post linked her ouster to the \$16.5 million that Leventer's agency has already spent on a park that doesn't exist.

ESDC spokesman Emel Cockfield told The Brooklyn Paper that firing Leventer was part of larger changes

by the Spitzer administration, which is still projecting that the park will be done by the spring of 2010.

The Leventer firing comes just as experts said last week that soaring construction costs citywide could double the price of the park — and that the state will have to figure out how to pay without adding more private development.

"It's clearly going to cost more than we've estimated and we intend to [lobby public officials] for the additional funding," said Marianna Koval, executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Conservancy, a non-profit that has raised \$5.6 million for programming in the park since 1999.



This hospital building on Amity Street in Cobble Hill will become condos.

## Hospital is set to become condos

The Brooklyn Paper

A 105-year-old Cobble Hill landmark is on its way to condoville.

This week, Long Island College Hospital sold its grandest property: a limestone and brick home of the Lamm Institute, a child neurology clinic. Sources told The Stoop that the buyer intends to convert the two-story medical building — on the corner of Henry and Amity streets — into fancy apartments.

LICH spokeswoman Zippi Dvash said the sale came after hospital administrators realized that the 1902-built landmark was not up to today's hospital safety codes.

"In the main hospital, wheelchair access is much easier," she said.

Dvash declined to comment on economic factors that may have contributed to the sale. The sale, however, certainly made the hospital a brickfall.

One area broker said condos in the building could go for as much as \$1,000 a square foot.

"A developer will do very well at that location," said Roslyn Huebner of Agunyo & Huebner.

But before any luxury condos are built, the city's Landmark Preservation Commission must approve renovation plans. The developer will be required to maintain the building's Greek-revival facade and obey the landmark district's 60-foot building height limit.

—Cohen

## CAREY...

Continued from page 1

didn't run for president in 1976, the savvy marketer who put the term "I love New York" on every tourist's lips.

It's expected to sail through the Senate.

"Of course it should be named after him — a lot of things should be named after him," said Ed Koch, the former congressman and mayor who watched Carey's leadership from a front-row seat.

"He was simply one of the greatest governors the state ever had, and certainly the greatest in the modern era," Hizoner continued. "Yet he has not been sufficiently appreciated. He saved both the city and the

state from bankruptcy. I don't think anyone else could have done it."

Yeah, but naming a federal courthouse after a man who was up after Ford sold the city to drop dead — isn't that like naming an airport after a president who fired the air-traffic controllers?

"No, it's a perfect place because it will have his name in big letters, as he deserves," Koch said. "The building doesn't matter. After all, Carey built the convention center on the West Side and it was named after Javits, who had nothing to do with it."

If it makes his desk, President Bush is expected to sign it. And why not? Late in life, Carey started acting more like a Republican than the Democratic standardbearer he was since his earliest days in politics, saving brownstones in Park Slope from the wrecking ball.

He endorsed Rudy Giuliani (and attended his wedding — the one to Judi Nathan, not the one to Donna Hanover or the subsequently annulled one to Regina Peruggi). And Carey was a bigwig in Democrats for Bloomberg, which helped get a Republican elected mayor.

The former governor, who could not be reached for comment, was last seen endorsing then-gubernatorial candidate Eliot Spitzer around Park Slope last year, showing off the very brownstones that he saved.

Carey will turn 88 on April 11.

In a related story, the House passed Town's other bill, this one to rename the Bankruptcy court on Cadman Plaza East after Conrad Dubenstein, a Brooklyn College graduate and longtime chief judge of the federal bankruptcy court.

Dubenstein died in 2005.

## LEGAL NOTICES

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF KINGS

INDEX NO. 44285/0

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE

Washington Mutual Bank, FA, Plaintiff, —against—  
William Obay, Viola Alston, City of New York Transit Authority, Transit Adjudication Bureau, City of New York Department of Transportation Parking Violations Bureau, City of New York Environmental Control Board, Bevan Romano, Crystal V. Albert, Individually and as Administrators of Estate of Shirley Alston, Any unknown heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of the late Shirley Alston, If they be living and/or if they be dead, their spouses, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff, State of New York, Defendants.

PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1327 E 88TH ST, Brooklyn, NY 11236

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or a notice of appearance on the papers for the Plaintiff, within 30 (thirty) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may appear within 90 (ninety) days of service hereof, in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure \$167,650.00 and interest, recorded in the Kings County Office of the City Register of January 27, 1999, in Real Estate Mortgage, Page 1946 covering premises known as 1327 E 88th Street, Brooklyn, NY 11236.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

Plaintiff designates Kings County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises is situated.

Dated: October 20, 2006

Shapiro & DiCaro, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff  
250 Mile Croising Boulevard, Suite One, Rochester, New York 14624  
(585) 247-6000  
Our File No. 00-371998

LEGAL DESCRIPTION

All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn, County of Kings, City and State of New York, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of East 88th Street, distant 126 feet 8 inches northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the easterly side of East 88th Street with the northerly side of Avenue M.

RUNNING THENCE Northerly along the easterly side of East 88th Street 26 feet 8 inches;

THENCE Easterly parallel with Avenue M, 100 feet;

THENCE Southerly parallel with East 88th Street, 26th feet, 8 inches;

THENCE Westerly parallel with Avenue M, 100 feet to the easterly side of East 88th Street at the point of BEGINNING.

TOGETHER with an easement and right of way for purpose of a driveway, in, to and over a strip of land 2 feet 8 inches in width by 60 feet in depth fronting on the easterly side of East 88th Street immediately adjoining premises herein described on the southerly side thereof.

SUBJECT however to a similar easement and right of way for purpose of right of way in, to and over a strip of land 4 feet 3 1/2 inches in width by 80 feet in depth fronting on the easterly side of East 88th Street being the southerly 4 feet 3 1/2 inches in width by 80 feet in depth of the premises herein described.

3/15/13

## LEGAL NOTICE / LLC

251 4th Avenue, LLC, Notice of formation of Ltd. Liability Co. Name: 251 4th Avenue, LLC, Art of Org. filed Sec of State of NY 7/5/06, Off. loc.: Kings Co. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to LLC, 251 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Owner: Brooke Webster for purpose of 24-hour diner.

3/15/13

## ONE-WAY...

Continued from page 1

partment of Transportation's claim that pedestrian and driver safety will improve if Sixth and Seventh avenues are converted to one-way thoroughfares, activists say.

The DOT proposal, unveiled two weeks ago, has brought about a swift and overwhelmingly negative reaction from Park Slope residents.

"People don't want to see two more avenues turned into mini-highways," said activist Aaron Naparstek, who led the radar-gun-toting brigade.

Indeed, when the Park Slope Civic Council held a transportation forum last year, the biggest concern was the speeding on Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West, Naparstek said.

A DOT spokesperson did not care to comment on the activists' radar gun study. Agency officials were on hand at a community meeting on Thursday, after this paper went to press, where they were expected to hear a legion of boos (for an update, go to www.BrooklynPaper.com).

"People are really concerned about this," said Naparstek. His group, the Park Slope Neighbors, notched 1,100 signatures on a petition against the plan in just two days, he said.

Councilman David Vasyk (D-Park Slope), who was briefed by DOT in advance of Thursday's meeting, has strongly opposed the proposal. "Nothing he's heard from the DOT has changed his mind," said Vasyk's spokesman.

Speeding cars are only one concern for Park Slopes. The other issue pushing residents' pedals is the belief that this plan is an attempt by the city to solve the coming congestion from the still-unbuilt Atlantic Yards megadevelopment by sacrificing Park Slope's residential quality of life.

"People don't want their streets turned into arena access roads," said Naparstek, referring to the Nets arena that is part of the project.

"If Atlantic Yards is going to happen, we need a comprehensive, multi-modal transportation plan that includes bikes and trains and buses," he continued. "Otherwise, the surrounding neighborhoods will shut down."

Transportation Alternatives spokeswoman Amy Pfeiffer agreed.

"The [proposal] doesn't make any sense as it is right now," she said. "If this is an Atlantic Yards solution, other transit options need to be developed much more thoroughly."

Go to www.BrooklynPaper.com for an update.

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PROSPECT PARK 17 EASTERN PARKWAY 718 789-4600  
TRIBECA 80 LEONARD STREET 212 966-5432  
BLUE POINT DIX HILLS MELVILLE

# Wild meeting on fate of Green Church



## Perpetual beauty

Our Lady of Perpetual Help cathedral, located at 60th Street and Fifth Avenue, as seen from Owls Head Park.

By Matthew Lysiak  
The Brooklyn Paper

Everyone in Bay Ridge believes the Green Church should be saved — everyone except the parishioners at this century-old house of worship, that is.

Church officials and preservationists squared off with parishioners on Monday night at an "emergency meeting" over the fate of the cherished church.

And parishioners of the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church weren't happy.

"This whole meeting is an ambush," said Raquel Cortizo, "Councilman Vince Gentile is pitting this community against the church, and I don't think it is right."

The trouble began after reports of the sale of the Methodist cathedral, which has graced the corner of Fourth Avenue and Ovington for more than a hundred years and is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

The news came as a shock to Gentile and other officials, who said church elders had assured them that there was still time to save the church from being torn down to make room for condos.

Gentile is still pushing for a deal that he, the Bay Ridge Conservancy, and Con Ed worked out that would create 87 units of subsidized housing on the church campus while generating \$300,000 in annual revenue annually to pay for upkeep of the church building itself.

The church would also have complete control over the property as part of a 99-year lease, said the optimistic Gentile.

But the mood changed when Gentile invited questions from parishioners, who accused him of not inviting church members to the meeting.



Preservationists tangled with parishioners at a meeting this week to save the 100-year-old Bay Ridge United Methodist Church from demolition.

"No one had any idea about this," said Cortizo. "They were trying to keep us shut out of this meeting. Everyone is forgetting that this is our property and we can sell it if we want. These people should just mind their own business."

Fellow parishioner Ed Smith added that the pastor, Reverend Robert Emerick, has been very open with the congregation about plans to sell the church.

"We are tired of fighting it," Smith said. "The renovations would cost our congregation \$3 million a year and we have an offer on the table for \$12 million or Gentile's proposal of \$300,000 a year. Which would you take?"

Smith said the congregation is fully behind Emerick and the sale.

"It is a private property matter and the

Landmarks Preservation Commission won't even discuss the issue," Smith added. "Do you really think [spending] \$3 million for renovations is what Jesus would want us to do with everything else going on in the world today?"

Still, Gentile is pushing his plan, handing out an "Action Sheet" that offered the "names, addresses, and telephone numbers of people who can stop the destruction," Gentile said.

The list included church elders; the Landmarks Preservation Commission, which has the power to declare a building a landmark even without the owner's permission; and Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, who must approve the sale of all religious property to private developers.

## Fourth Ave is sprouting

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Developer Shaya Boymel-green says he's going to stop building luxury condos in Brooklyn (see story, page 5). But in the present tense, his high-end units are selling like hotdogs at a ballgame.

Apartments in Boymel-green's NOVO condo tower — the first Fourth Avenue luxury condos to go on the market since the neighborhood was rezoned in 2004 — went on sale last Monday and are being snapped up faster than you can say, "Is that a granite countertop?"

Nearly 300 visitors flocked to the grand opening of the building's marketing office on March 5, and 13 of the tower's 113 units sold that same day.

Roslyn Huebener, of Aguyao and Huebener Realty, which is not part of the NOVO sales effort, called the sales rate "excellent."

The 12-story building, on Fourth Avenue and Third Street, boasts a private landscaped garden, "gracious" kitchens, "sumptuous" bathrooms, concierge service, a residents' lounge, a playground, and a fitness center. Prices for studios start at a whopping \$310,000.

## ONE-WAY...

Continued from page 1  
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## A Banker who Keeps in Touch.



Ray Barcia  
Manager  
Boro Park Branch

Heshy Leitman  
Co-owner  
Landmark Builders

Josh Rubinstein  
Co-owner  
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