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The Brooklyn Paper

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DOWNTOWN, PARK SLOPE & BAY RIDGE EDITIONS

AWP/16 pages • Vol. 32, No. 40 • Friday, October 9, 2009 • FREE



Antics on Atlantic!

Everyone from Mayor Bloomberg to the staff of The Brooklyn Paper enjoyed the city's best street fair on Sunday, as the 35th Atlantic Ave. stretched out from Hicks Street all the way to Fourth Avenue. Our photographer Tom Callan picked his way through the crowd and caught all the action, including this dancer at Clinton Street.

Stein's way

Rx reopens — for a day

By Kristen V. Brown
for The Brooklyn Paper

For one day, at least, a peculiar piece of Cobble Hill history came back to life on Saturday, when the Vermont Market and Pharmacy — the victim of a decade of time capsule-like existence at the corner of Henry and Sackett streets — reopened with old-fashioned street party with Maine lobster dinners, face painting, and craft beer from a yet-to-be-named new Brooklyn brewery.

But the market, rechristened Brooklyn Pharmacy, did not open the next day — or the next — leading neighbors to wonder whether they had actually participated in the auspicious rebirth of the 1920s-era pharmacy once known as Longo's.

The shop is owned by the reclusive Mark Stein, who had inherited the building from his father in 1992 and ran the pharmacy for a year before closing it, citing poor business. He later rented it to a trio from Vermont and one Brooklynite who sold homespun Green Mountain State products. But that business failed, too.

Over the years, passers-by would peer through the dingy windows and see Stein pertering around as if ready to reopen, but the piles and piles of items from a pharmacological golden age — Pine Bros. cough drops, 26-year-old condoms, bouffant hair tonics — remained behind closed doors.

"Every time I walked my dog I would look in here and think 'What is going on with this place?'" said Eva Kriz, 35, who was among the many who stopped by on Saturday to browse the strange collection

of objects. "This place was trashed, but it was just so full of interesting stuff."

Stein prefers not to talk about why he let the storefront remain in such shuttered decay.

"I don't really know why I kept it closed for so long. I can't really say," said the elusive landlord.

Stein finally relented to reopening thanks to his residential tenants.

See STEIN on page 11



OPEN AND SHUT: The Vermont Market on the corner of Henry and Sackett streets in Cobble Hill opened on Saturday, ending more than a decade out of business. But will it open again?

Dogged South Slopers seek pooch patch

By Sabrina Jaszi
for The Brooklyn Paper

Dog owners in the canine no man's land of the South Slope want their own dog run — but if past attempts are any indication, they are barking up the wrong tree.

"Most groups fail," said Matthew Parker, vice president of the Hillside Dog Run in Brooklyn Heights. "These groups are formed blissfully unaware of the four- to five-year process that lies before them. People move away, dogs get old. Most get frustrated and give up."

Brooklyn's landscape is littered with the sites of would-be dog runs. One group attempted an exercise ground at Mount Prospect Park near Grand Army Plaza, another in Boerum Hill failed because it couldn't find an appropriate site, and several sunken efforts

in the South Slope made neighbors hot under the collar.

In all of Brooklyn — with nearly three million residents, many of them dogs — there are just 11 enclosed runs.

Pam Brown, president of the South Slope Dog Owners Association, says that her organization is a different breed. For one thing, unlike some other groups that have no site in mind, hers has marked its territory: the west-pocket park adjacent to the Prospect Expressway.

These sites, located on 18th Street near Sixth and Seventh avenues, have been neglected by the Parks Department, which owns them, and because of their location next to the highway, they're not ideal places to sit and enjoy the air.

Nonetheless, in order to get one of them officially repurposed



Dog-owners use a small park near the Prospect Expressway as a dog run. Now, they hope to make it official.

as a dog run, Brown's group will need the Parks Department and the community board to lap up the idea.

"We'd need to hear from neighbors and see a clear proposal of how the group will maintain the space," said Jeremy Laufer, district manager of Community Board 7. Usually a community board will not support a bid for a dog run until it sees a petition with several hundred signatures.

Financing a dog run — which could incur several hundreds of thousands of dollars in lighting, fencing, plumbing and resurfacing costs — is another problem with no one-size-fits-all solution. In the past, money has come from local councilmembers' discretionary funds, and even from local real-estate companies planning to drive up home values.

But in most cases it's up to Fido and Fluffy's best friends. "The group should be prepared to raise money towards installation and maintenance of the dog run," said Parks Department spokesman Phil Abramson.

Brown's organization — whose petition for a dog run is currently 150 signatures strong — is still in the beginning stages of the process. Before even drafting an official proposal, it must get the community board to back it up. And that involves educating the public about the need for happy pets.

"Dogs who get exercise and are properly socialized are better, more compliant pets, that make less of an impact on the areas they inhabit," said Brown, adding that drug dealing around the west-pocket park has been inhibited by increased four-legged traffic to the area.

Suzanne Fiol, 49

Nurturer of talent is dead

By Gersh Kuntzman
for The Brooklyn Paper

Suzanne Fiol, the visionary behind the Issue Project Room, a world-renowned hub for experimental music that was based in Gowanus, died on Monday after a battle with cancer. She was 49.

"We are grief-stricken by Suzanne's passing... and will devote ourselves to fulfilling her vision with the strength we draw from our memories of her," the six-year-old arts center said in a statement on Tuesday.

Such memories will no doubt include nights when Tom Verlaine of the band Television performed solo, or last year's "Week of Noise" curated by Thurston Moore of Sonic Youth, among other triumphs.

"Suzanne provided a space for creative art that challenged and pushed the limits," Sonic Youth co-founder Lee Ranaldo told The Brooklyn Paper. "She was an incredibly dynamic and creative mover and shaker."

But Ranaldo said the vibe at Issue Project Room went beyond the music. "They'd cook a meal, everyone would eat together," he said. "It was very European the way she cultivated community."

Fiol, who was not a musician, got her start in the business side of the art world at galleries in Manhattan. Issue Project Room started in 2003 in that other borough, but Fiol engineered the move to Gowanus, first to Car-



Burger king on a roll

The Brooklyn Paper

The world gets to take a bite out of Kyle Hueb's tonight in DUMBO.

The real-estate broker, whose hamburger was named the best in the borough by The Brooklyn Paper earlier this summer — will get 400 pounds of beef and a griddle at tonight's New York Wine and Food Festival's sold out Burger Bash.

Hueb's exemplary mound of meat, which featured a nifty horseradish sauce, impressed our judges — and will hopefully excite the public as Hueb takes on the likes of Polo Dobbins of DuMont Burger, Zac

Pelaccio of Fatty Crab, Greg and Mark Sherry of the Old Homestead and Al "Hack on Ice" Roker.

"I've got my Portuguese miffins lined up from Greene Grape Productions," Hueb said about his other secret ingredient. "And I have gone over how it's going to go."

Since winning our contest, Hueb's had offers to return to his first line of work: cooking. As such, Havens is worried.

"He's going to win," Havens said. "And then I'll never see him again."

— Gersh Kuntzman

Dems betrayed!

Boro's top donkeys are Party poopers

By Ben Muessig
for The Brooklyn Paper

Are they Democrats in name only?

The head of the Brooklyn Democratic Party and the party's highest-ranking elected official both turned against their party's nominees for the Nov. 3 general election when they threw their endorsements to non-Democratic candidates.

Democratic Party boss, Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick), endorsed Working Families Party candidate Maritza Davila in her race against incumbent Councilwoman Diana Reyna (D-Bushwick) — and given Reyna's razor-thin margin over Davila in the Democratic primary last month, Lopez's support for Davila in the rematch could tip the scale.

That news came just one day after Borough President Marty Markowitz endorsed his party last Thursday to endorse Republican Mike Bloomberg for mayor.

can Mayor Bloomberg.

Unsurprisingly, Dems across the borough were agitated at both pacts. Councilmember Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) accused Markowitz of making the decision for the financial "benefit of his office," while her colleague Charles Barron (D-East New York) called Markowitz "a traitor" for backing Bloomberg.

"How on God's Earth does Marty Markowitz endorse the Mayor," rhetorically asked Barron.

Democratic voters were equally


See BETRAY on page 11



Borough President Markowitz abandoned his party last Thursday to endorse Republican Mike Bloomberg for mayor.

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WHERE CAN TECHNOLOGY TAKE YOU?



68TH PRECINCT
Bay Ridge
A 25-year-old was killed and two other young men were wounded following a bloody knife fight in an Internet cafe on 61st Street on Oct. 4. Police said that they have arrested a 19-year-old in connection with the murder that began inside the Hot Game Network at around 10:30 pm. Witnesses told cops that the suspect was inside the gaming cafe, which is near Seventh Avenue, when he began arguing with the three victims. As the fight spilled outside, the suspect allegedly pulled a knife and started slashing and stabbing his opponents. The 25-year-old who died had been stabbed in the arm, but the knife blade hit a major vein, and the bleeding was too severe to staunch. The other two men, 24 and 18, suffered stab wounds to the arms and back. Both were listed in stable condition.

Jewelry jack
Thieves broke into at least three area homes last week, taking an assortment of pricey baubles and gems. Officials said that over \$1,500 in jewelry, including a gold watch and a pair of gold earrings, was removed from an apartment on Livingston Avenue near 12th Avenue overnight on Sept. 28. The following morning, someone broke into a home on 89th Street near Ridge Boulevard and swiped a jewelry box containing \$500 in necklaces and rings. A bottle of Vicodin pills were also removed, police said. The week ended when a 45-year-old woman reported that over \$57,000 in jewelry was removed from her home on 71st Street near 11th Avenue. — **Thomas Tracy**

78TH PRECINCT
Park Slope
Car thieves and break-in artists were running wild last week in Park Slope, where car crime is often common, but not in numbers like this. • Two cars were busted into in what has become known as Car Thief Alley — the quiet stretch of Flatbush Avenue between Empire Boulevard and Eastern Parkway. In the first case, the victim told cops that he'd parked there at 7 am on Aug. 31 and returned six hours later to find his window broken and his center console ripped out and expensive flog lamps taken. A similar crime occurred on Sept. 28, when a Queens steelworker parked his company truck at the same location at around 10 am and returned three hours later to find that \$1,150 in tools had been taken. • A thief got that most desired of wheels — a 12-year-old Honda Civic — from 13th Street between Sept. 26 and Oct. 1. The owner told cops that she'd parked the car between Eighth Avenue and Prospect Park West at around 10 pm and returned five days later to find it gone. • A thief stole a navigation system out of a Chevy SUV that had been parked on Carroll Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues on Sept. 30. The owner discovered the dastardly deed when he returned to the oversized vehicle on Oct. 2. • An Econoline van was stolen off Sackett Street on Sept. 29 — an hour after its owner checked on it. The 61-year-old victim told cops that he'd last seen the truck at around 3 pm on the corner of Fifth Avenue. An hour later, he didn't. • A thief broke into a South Carolina man's Ford Explorer on Ninth Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues on Sept. 29, getting fancy camera equipment and a laptop. The victim told cops that he'd left the large truck-like car on the block at 4 pm and returned to it four hours later.

Report this
A court reporter had her stenograph and other work-related equipment stolen from her Pacific Street apartment on Sept. 29. Cops said that the thief entered through an open door in the unit, which is at Fourth Avenue, between 530 and 730 pm. Once inside, he helped himself to a fancy Elan stenograph, plus a tripod, extra keyboard and various cables. The entire haul was worth more than \$4,000. — **Gersh Kuntzman**

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO
Brooklyn Hill—Downtown
Prom perp
A scammer snatched a 41-year-old's wallet as he walked on the fabled Brooklyn Heights Promenade on Oct. 1. The thief confronted the victim near Clark Street at around 11:20 am and asked the victim for a quarter. When the victim pulled out his wallet — which contained a debit card, a Metrocard, NY Transit Card, ID and \$11 — the crook grabbed it and fled.

Bags snagged!
Downtown crooks took advantage of shoppers last week, heisting at least three unattended purses from patios of shops and eateries. Here are the horrifying details: • The Fulton Mall department store Convey lived up to its name on Oct. 2 when a crook heisted a 35-year-old woman's purse. The thief snatched the bag off — which held \$200 — the victim's stroller between 10:50 am and noon inside the store, which is near the corner of Bond Street. • A perp snatched a 45-year-old woman's purse from the New Street pier area on Sept. 30, grabbing the pocketbook after the victim accidentally left it behind at around 6:45 pm. She returned to the eatery, which is near Livingston Street, moments later, but the dark green handbag — which contained keys, IDs, credit cards, a paycheck, paperwork and \$940 — was gone. • A thief heisted a 45-year-old woman's wallet from a boutique on Fulton Street between Bridge and Lawrence streets on Sept. 30, striking at around 4:45 pm, when the victim was in a changing room. When she returned, she spotted a stranger dashing out of the dressing room — with her credit cards and \$300. • **Shack attacked!** Five hoodlums ransacked a Wiltoughby Street Radio Shack on Sept. 22 — and were pretty threatening about it, too. The wrong-doers entered the electronics store near Jay Street at around 6:35 pm and grabbed an iPod, four iPod Nanos, and an HP laptop. When an employee tried to stop the criminal team from snatching out the store, one of the crooks told him, "Don't follow me or I'll kill you." • **News blues** A crook stole a newspaper vendor's bag — filled with something black and white and green all over — from his Montague Street stand on Sept. 29. The lawbreaker grabbed the satchel — which contained \$6,000 — while the victim unpacked papers near Henry Street between 9:10 am and 9:35 am.

Worked out
Yet another gym rat was at work last week, breaking into a locker in a Boorum Place health club on Sept. 30 — a crime that makes frequent appearances in these pages. The thief deftly accessed a combination lock inside the New York Sports Club near the corner of Pacific Street and snatched the victim's credit card, debit card, Metrocard and \$20 from his pockets. After raiding the locker between 4 and 5:45 pm, the hoodlum used the victim's credit card to purchase \$1,200 of goods at Target, police reports indicate. — **Ben Muessig**

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens
Cobble Hill—Red Hook
Coach flied
A thief grabbed a 25-year-old woman's Coach bag on Warren Street on Oct. 2. The crook grabbed the designer purse — which contained an iPhone — at around 11:45 pm and fled from the block between Smith and Court streets.

Kane crime
A gun-toting mugger held up a 27-year-old woman on Kane Street on Oct. 3. The perp pulled a black

Knife murder at Web café

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POLICE BLOTTER
Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

90TH PRECINCT
Williamsburg—Bushwick
Caps for sale
A thief stole the victim's hoodie hat off a Hispanic man's head on Oct. 2. The victim was near Wal-

about Street and Throop Avenue at around 9:30 pm when two young men approached him from behind. One of them lifted the man's shirt, and a fur hat with a \$1,200 price tag, then both ran off.

Sad fates
A thief turned a smile upside down when he robbed Happy Faces flower store on Grand Street.

The store was doing business as usual on Oct. 3 when the felon entered at 7:30 pm. See **BLOTTER** on page 13

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–Raymond Lazzara



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–Carolyn Corney



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–Choi King Fu



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–Winston Farrell



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–Kathryn Moore



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The Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings

October 9, 2009

Beer bars!

It's 'Oktober,' so here's a tribute to boro suds

By Ben Muessig and Will Yakowicz
The Brooklyn Paper

Beer is no longer just the drink of frat boys and old guys. A number of Brooklyn bars have elevated the quintessential pub quaff to new heights, celebrating the yeasty beverage the way that gourmands cheer a fine wine or a superb whisky.

And with Oktoberfest upon us, The Brooklyn Paper has compiled this comprehensive guide to help you a bar where ordering anything other than a beer would be a tragic mistake.

Cheers!

Williamsburg
Spuytten Duyvil

You've heard of bottle service, but have you heard of beer bottle service? That's the name of the game at the this Williamsburg staple, where the solid selection of tap and cask beers are dwarfed by an epic menu of more than 100 bottled beers, many of them Belgian microbrews. It's OK to ask the bartender for help choosing your next beer because the chalkboard menu can get a little hard to read after two or three of those Flemish lagers.

Spuytten Duyvil 159 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street, (718) 963-4140.

Radeagast Hall & Biergarten

Every day is Oktoberfest at Radeagast, where the bartenders fill steins the size of your head with 13 draft imports from Germany, Slovakia, the Czech Republic, and Belgium. Find a spot in the old-country-styled main room or settle down at a picnic table in the heated Biergarten and enjoy bratwurst and a pitcher of Gaffel Kölsch or Weihenstephaner Vitus with your friends — or members of the lederhosen-clad polka band that just finished its set.

Radeagast Hall & Biergarten 113 N. Third St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3973.

Boerum Hill
Brazen Head

Connoisseurs flock to this tiny Atlantic Avenue tavern to sample rare cask ales. The hand-pumped brews — which are served 12 degrees warmer than other tap beers — come unfiltered and unpasteurized, meaning they pack a more nuanced flavor. Though the Brazen Head is known around the borough for its craft beers and its two cask offerings (currently Bluepoint Oatmeal Stout and River and River Horse Hop Hazard Dry-Hopped Pale Ale), the brew maestros also serve reasonably priced tap beers and \$2 cans of PBR.

Brazen Head 1228 Atlantic Ave. between Boerum Place and Court Street, (718) 488-0430.

Park Slope
Fourth Avenue Pub

Ever hear of decapophobia? It's the fear of making decisions — and it's an illness that affects many beer lov-



Prost! It's time to celebrate the harvest — and beer. To help, head for the Brazen Head on Atlantic Avenue, where Greg Samothrakakis (top) pulls pints of cask-conditioned stout. Or you could choose from more than 100 varieties of bottled beer at Draft Barn (above), or head to Radeagast Hall (left) to enjoy two of man's best friends (we're talking about the beer!)

ers when they peruse the extensive beer list at this tavern. With more than two-dozen beers on tap and more in bottles, it can be hard to make a choice, but Fourth Avenue Pub's friendly bartenders are always willing to pour samples to help you make up your mind. Plus there's a backyard garden, cozy wooden booths, and an endless supply of free popcorn.

Fourth Avenue Pub 176 Fourth Ave. between Bergen Street and St. Marks Place, (718) 443-2273.

Beer Table

The carefully curated beers at Beer Table have turned this Seventh Avenue nook into a Mecca for suds lovers. Grab a seat at one of the three communal tables and order from the ever-changing bottle and draft selections, which at the time of publication included Victory Prima Pils, cask-aged Sierra Nevada Celebration Ale, and bottles of Birra del Borgo 25 Docci. The venue also serves a three-course supper on Tuesdays with beer pairings for \$40. The prices ain't cheap, but neither is a fine bottle of wine.

Beer Table 627 Seventh Ave. between 14th and 15th streets, (718) 965-1796.

DUMBO
ReBar

This swank DUMBO watering hole is as elegant as a beer bar can get. The spacious second-floor loft is outfitted with the kind of classy décor that some might think is a better match for cocktails than pale ales — but beer drinkers will feel at home once they see the 15 taps and the lengthy bottled beer list. The menu favors Belgian brews and Trappist ales, but ReBar patrons will also find a healthy sprinkling of German drinks like Samichlaus,

English offerings from Samuel Smith, and American samplings like cave-aged Omnegeang.

ReBar 147 Front St. between Jay and Pearl streets, (718) 766-9110.

Bay Ridge
Bean Post Pub

For years, Bay Ridge's unpretentious Bean Post Pub has been quietly keeping beer lovers hydrated with 21 draft beers and 60 bottled brews. Considering that a fine beer tastes best when paired with fried food and sports, the bar has 11 TVs tuned to the action and a kitchen that churns out solid pub grub.

Bean Post Pub 7525 Fifth Ave. at 76th Street, (718) 745-9413.

Gowanus
Draft Barn

Draft Barn hung its Habsburg-inspired flag on Third Avenue last November and if you drank a different beer every day, you might not have gotten through the collection yet.

Owner George Mitelman offers 250 varieties in an ever-changing menu of bottles and tap brews, including Thomas Hardy's Ale, a vintage brew from Devon, England; and Goose Island Matilda, a strong, Trappist-inspired Chicago ale. In the comfort of its all-wood sitting area, customers can drink while watching all the major sporting events — even pay-per-view fights! — while the kitchen offers Hungarian fare. Try the goulash or the hand-made sausages.

Draft Barn Third Avenue between 12th and 13th streets, (718) 768-0515.

FESTIVAL

Music city

Twice this month, Park Slope's portion of Fifth Avenue will become a sprawling, open-air music festival.

From Dean Street to 18th Street on Oct. 22 and 29, musicians will perform New Orleans jazz, classical music, folk and, in one case, the Balkan flute. The 32 performers, including Hasan Bakr (pictured), will be spaced far enough apart so that the chamber music doesn't become world music, or vice-versa.

The night of street music is one of a growing list of conferences, readings, concerts and other events put on by the Fifth Avenue Business Improvement District, which is hoping to give a boost to the local Mom and Pop stores.

The better news is that the music will actually be good, said Irene LaRe, executive director of the BID. The musicians are faculty members of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, which is, dare we say it, based on Seventh Avenue.

"These are accomplished musicians," said LaRe. "It won't be like a bad karaoke night where you have to order a drink to dull the sound of the music."

"Music on the Streets," Oct. 22 and 29, 6:30-8 p.m. on Fifth Avenue between Dean and 18th streets in Park Slope. For info, call (718) 768-0001.

—Sabrina Jaszi

MUSIC

Dodos live

When your band is named The Dodos and your new album is called "Time to Die," expect extinction jokes. But for Meric Long, lead singer and guitarist of the San Francisco band that will headline the Music Hall of Williamsburg on Oct. 13, it's no joke.

"It started as a dumb catchphrase," said Long. "But [now] means committing to something, which is representative of getting older." Older and wiser, perhaps. After last year's breakthrough LP "Visage," the band needed to diffuse the pressure when it headed into the studio this time around.

"With all the expectations, we had to have an attitude of, 'Well, f— it, we're going to make this record, we're going to do what we want, and we're just going to commit to it whether we're doing the right thing or not.'"

So far, no worries there. "Time to Die," which is just out on Frenchkiss Records, has been compared favorably to the Shins, Fleet Foxes and Bands of Horses.

The Dodos at the Music Hall of Williamsburg 160 N. Sixth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues, (718) 486-5400, Oct. 13 at 9 p.m. Tickets are \$17.

—Meredith Deliso

DRINKING

Up a Kriek

A Clinton Hill brewery has released a new beer named for a feid Brooklyn waterway. The good news is you can drink it.

Last year, we kicked off our "Putrid" series with our St. Gowanus Belgian pale ale," said Kelso of Brooklyn brewmaster Kelly Taylor. "And since 'kriek' is a Belgian name for a beer flavored with sour cherries, we thought it was only fitting to name our new beer after the Newtown Creek."

A hastily arranged tasting in The Brooklyn Paper's newsroom offered mixed results (see video at BrooklynPaper.com), but Taylor insists that such sour beers are growing in popularity.

"Lambic beers are the new India Pale Ale," said Taylor referring to the hoppy staple of microbreweries and beer bars.

More than a year of fermentation, aging and flavoring went into the new microbrew, which will be available only in limited quantities in specialty beer bars.

And with the filthy estuary in the news more than ever for its recently proposed Superfund designation, Kelly thinks the small supply will be cleaned up quickly.

Newtown Kriek is on tap at Bar Great Harry (280 Smith St. at Sackett Street in Cobble Hill, (718) 222-1102) and Spuyten Duyvil (389 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 963-4140).

—Sabrina Jaszi

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

SATURDAY
October 10

Bauhaus around
The lead role in the multimedia performance "Bauhaus" is a century-old school of design that unified fine arts, crafts and architecture. Since Bauhaus was extremely influential — it formed many modern ideas art and mass production — we say you couldn't ask for a better protagonist.

Skills a plenty
In this economy, fancy cheese is one luxury you may have had to do without. But if you attend a Brooklyn Skillshare workshop, you'll have homemade ricotta forever. You can also learn other recession-survival skills like how to create balloon animals, brew your own kombucha or make your own electronics.

SUNDAY
October 11

Hungarian Hollywood
What do "Gilda," "Paper Moon," and "Blow Out" have in common? Big stars, and critical acclaim, sure, but more than that, they were all produced with help from Hungarians. "Gilda" (pictured) which is being screened today as part of the Hungarians in Hollywood retrospective at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, was directed by Hungarian great, Charles Vidor.

TUESDAY
October 13

He takes Manhattan
Jonathan Lethem is Brooklyn's son, but his new novel, "Chronic City," is set in Manhattan (of all places). The good news is that it's about the delusions of Manhattanites as they chase their money, fame and sex, a trio of things that we in Brooklyn don't care about, as you know. The book hits stores today, with a Brooklyn reading next week.

WEDNESDAY
October 14

Jagged little Jill
Irony songstress Jill Sobule has had a career's worth of songs that sound like novelty hits, including "I Kissed a Girl" and "Supermodel," from the soundtrack of "Clueless." But she's no gimmick — she's the real deal. Tonight, you'll probably get the hits, but also so many of the Sobule gems that never made the top 20.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, OCT. 9
TALK, PANEL DISCUSSION ABOUT THE MANHATTAN BRIDGE. Featuring Robert Olen Butler, Manhattan Borough Historian Michael Micone, "Gridlock" Sam Schwartz, and Jim Rasenberger, author. Moderated by Sewell Chan of another newspaper. 6:30 pm, NYU Polytechnic University 6 Metrotech Center (at Jay Street between Wiloughby and Johnson streets) in Downtown Brooklyn, www.nycbridges100.org.

READING: LOU MANFRED: Author of "Rizzo's War." Free. 7 pm. Book Mark Shoppe (8415 Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115; www.bookmarkshoppe.com).

THEATER, "SCRIBBLIN' AT THE AUTOMAT": A look at the friendship between author James Baldwin and photographer Richard Avedon. \$25-\$35. 7:30 pm. Kumble Theater, Long Island University (University Plaza at Wiloughby Street in Downtown, (718) 488-1620; www.brooklyn-lu.edu/kumbletheater).

THEATER, "SAVAGE IN LIMBO": John Patrick Shanley's play. \$15. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts at Brooklyn College (2900 Campus Rd. at Hill Place in Flatbush, (718) 951-4500; www.brooklyncenteronline.org).

SUPER-8 FILM FESTIVAL: \$7.30. 3 pm. Brooklyn Lyrical (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816; www.brooklynlyrical.org).

DANCE, "DECORATION": William Forsythe's modern dance touches on love, jealousy and God. \$20. 7:30 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100; www.bam.org).

EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN UTOPIAS": Three-month exhibition on the search for a utopia in Brooklyn. 8 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society (129 Thompson St. at Clinton Street in Downtown Brooklyn, (718) 222-4111; www.brooklynhistory.org).

THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE BAUHAUS": Play about a 100-year-old architectural movement. 8 pm. Brooklyn Lyrical (227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816; www.brooklynlyrical.org).

THEATER, "TITUS ANDRONICUS": Retold version of Shakespeare's mini-classic. \$18. 8 pm. Brick Theater (575 Metropolitan Ave. at Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907-6189; www.bricktheater.com).

MUSIC, ROSANNE CASH: Singer performs songs from her new LP. \$42-\$65. 8 pm. St. Ann's Warehouse (38 Water St. at Dock Street in DUMBO, (718) 254-8779; www.ovationbox.com/ba/pa/748925).

SAT, OCT. 10
OUTDOORS AND TOURS
BIKE IT: Transportation Alternatives leads a bike ride starting in Brooklyn and going through Queens, Manhattan and the Bronx. Free. 8:30 am-moon. Grand Army Plaza (Under the Soldiers' and Sailors' Arch in Park Slope, www.transit).

90th Precinct Community Council: Monthly meeting. 7:30 pm. Lindsay House (30 Montrose Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 963-5299).

THURS, OCT. 15
Windsor Terrace Alliance: Monthly meeting with all three candidates for the 39th Council District seat will speak. Free. 6:30 pm. Holy Name Church (245 Prospect Park West between Windsor Place and Prospect Avenue in Windsor Terrace).

FRI, OCT. 16
Candidates Forum: Bay Ridge Councilman Vince Gentile will meet his Republican challenger, Bob Caprono. Free. 9:30 am-12:30 pm. Fort Hamilton Senior Center (1941 Fort Hamilton Place, at 100th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 921-5949).

To list an event in the City Calendar, e-mail Newsroom@cnglobal.com.

CIVIC CALENDAR

MON, OCT. 12
Free flu shots. 10:15-11:30 am and 1:30-3:30 pm. Prospect Park Residents (1 Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 622-8400).

TUES, OCT. 13
Free marriage. Appointment is necessary. Noon-6 pm. Office of Councilwoman Letitia James (67 Hanson Pl. in Fort Greene, (800) 453-8378 X1; www.aicnline.org).

Dyker Heights Civic Association: Monthly meeting. Free. 8 pm. St. Philip's Church (17th Avenue and 80th Street in Dyker Heights, (718) 748-1797).

WED, OCT. 14
Community Board 1. Monthly full board meeting. 6:30 pm. Swinging

62nd Senior Center (211 Annie St. at Manhattan Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 389-0009).

Community Board 6: Monthly full board meeting. 6:30 pm. PS 32 (317 Hoyt St. between Union and President streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 643-3071; www.brooklyninfo.org).

Panel discussion: "Can New York State Government Be Reformed?" Featuring Tom Suozzi, Frank Marchioro, E.J. McMahon, Gerald Benjamin and Fred Spitzer. 6:30 pm. St. Francis College (180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489-5337).

Community Board 7: Public hearing on the board's priorities for the year. 6:30 pm. Community Board 7 office (4201 Fourth Ave. at 43rd Street in Sunset Park, (718) 854-0003).

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Published weekly at 1 Metrotech Center North, Suite 1001, Brooklyn NY 11201 (718) 260-2500

PUBLISHER
Celia Weintraub (718) 260-4503

EDITOR
Gersh Kuntzman (718) 260-4504

SENIOR EDITOR/PROD MGR
Vince DiMichele (718) 260-4508

EDITORIAL STAFF
STAFF REPORTER
Ben Muesing (718) 260-4505
Will Yakowicz (718) 260-4506

INTERNS
Bea Adler, Sabrina Jaxi

ART DIRECTOR
Leah Misch (718) 260-4510

WEB DESIGNER
Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weintraub

ADVERTISING STAFF
DISPLAY ADVERTISING SALES
Eric Ross (718) 260-4502
Hank Rooney (718) 260-2580
Jay Pelc (718) 260-2570
Andrew Mark (718) 260-2578
Homer Stewart (718) 260-4501

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES
Michael Fisher (718) 260-4501

FRONT OFFICE
Lisa Malwitz (718) 260-2594

PRODUCTION STAFF
ART DIRECTOR
Leah Misch (718) 260-4510

WEB DESIGNER
Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weintraub

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Meat and eat!

Is this sandwich the best in the borough?

By Ben Muessig
The Brooklyn Paper

It's the best thing on sliced bread.
Bay Ridge foodie Sarah Zorn's high-end panini won top honors in the hotly contested Robicelli's Gourmet Market sandwich tourney on Oct. 4, crafting an ethereal mound of imported prosciutto, roasted eggplant, roasted grape tomatoes, Brie, and balsamic reduction atop a pressed ciabatta that earned itself a permanent spot on the Third Avenue eatery's menu and, perhaps, the Brooklyn's sandwich Pantheon.

The 74th Street resident — who named her sandwich "The Main Ingredient" after her food podcast site — beat out about 20 other sandwich creators.

And she did it by putting vegetarianism where it belongs — in the culinary dustbin.

Zorn's original version of the delectable Dagwood featured heirloom tomatoes in place of the prosciutto — but she adapted her recipe after learning that Robicelli's doesn't waste time with the substandard fruit except during the height of harvest in the late summer.

"Robicelli's very rightly doesn't use tomatoes unless they're perfect and prime," Zorn said. "I understood where



Sarah Zorn with her winning sandwich stuffed with prosciutto, eggplant, grape tomatoes and Brie.

they stood regarding tomatoes, so I substituted prosciutto — and it tastes gorgeous.

Deli owner Matt Robicelli — himself a cupcake genius — said Zorn's sandwich surpassed runners-up, which included Asian-style and pub-influenced sandwiches, citing the saltiness of the prosciutto and its contrast to the warm Brie and the savory veggies.

"It was a great melody of flavors — hers was very unique," said Robicelli, who told The Brooklyn Paper he has already sold five of Zorn's sandwiches.

Not only will "The Main Ingredient" be available on the menu at Robicelli's for good, but Zorn will also receive one free sandwich from the Third Avenue eatery each week. (That's worth real money, considering that the Zorn costs \$8.99 each.)

Ever the foodie, Zorn promised to use the award to sample the entire menu, instead of just nosing on her own creation.

"Maybe I'll order the first time I go in there, but then I'll just order it every once in a while to make sure that it's still quality," said Zorn, who also won a cool \$100 in the contest.

Robicelli's (851 Third Ave., between 85th and 86th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 748-6804).

We taste for ourselves

Everyone in Bay Ridge is talking about food blogger Sarah Zorn's renowned panini, which took home the grand prize the Robicelli's Gourmet Market sandwich contest at the Third Avenue Festival on Sunday — but what do the minds and mouths of the Fourth Estate have to say?

After downing a few Zorns, The Brooklyn Paper's elite team of food journalists concurred that concoction — which comprises prosciutto, roasted tomato and eggplant, Brie, and a balsamic reduction atop ciabatta — earned its praise.

"This is exceptional — don't change a thing!" said Senior Reporter Ben Muessig. "It takes a special sandwich to carry a \$9 price tag, but this sandwich is just that special."

Newly anointed Brooklyn Paper reporter Will Yakowicz called the sand-



See the video on BrooklynPaper.com

wich "harmonious and balanced," and later suggested that the combination of interplay between the roasted eggplant, warm Brie, and salty prosciutto was "historic."

But Brooklyn Paper naysayer and editor Gersh Kuntzman deemed the

Brie too "gummy — gummy" and the eggplant too chunky, suggesting instead an aged provolone and a more thinly sliced vegetable medley.

"I don't use chunks of eggplant — I just don't do it," Kuntzman said.

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OCTOBER RECOMMENDATIONS



Our Best Buys for October!

Bove Montepulciano D'Abruzzo

This is a delightfully fruity red wine with a big nose, quick burst of cherry and berries, a few faint chocolate and tobacco notes are evident in the rush of flavors with a soft finish. Serve this one with pasta, pizza or a roast beef.



Terranoble Merlot

The philosophy of Vinedos Terranoble is to produce elegant, noble and pleasant drinking wines, with fruit-bearing flavors and aromas that maintain the characteristics of each variety. The wines are young, attractively priced wines, perfect for every day drinking. This Merlot is an attractive wine with a reddish purple color. It has fruity aromas and flavors of strawberry, cherry and spicy notes. In the mouth, the wine presents smooth tannins, chocolate flavors and an elegant finish on the palate.

Thomas Henry Sangiovese

A classic Italian Chianti style, plum and dark cherry aromatics with a body that follows, a hint of minerality from its Napa Valley Terroir. Serve this red with pasta bolognese. Limited production, pick this one up don't miss out!



Monarchia Pinot Grigio

100% Pinot Grigio, handcrafted by Monarchia Cellars in the Buda region of Hungary, near Budapest. This delicious white offers a bouquet of citrus, grapefruit, green apples, and forest notes characteristic of the Buda terroir. Clean with bright acidity and no tannins, this wine offers flavors of lemon, grapefruit, green apples, and melon with absolutely no oak. Versatile and food-friendly, it is crisp and clean on the finish. Serve all on its own and with fish, white meat, veal, pork, Asian dishes, and other spicy fare.



Our October Discovery Wines!

Dorigo Ribolla Gialla

The Dorigo Ribolla Gialla is a fine, acidic white wine made from the ancient Ribolla Gialla grape that is native to the Friuli region of North East Italy and to neighboring Slovenia. It displays a golden-yellow color, bursts with lemon flavors and is bound with a mineral-steel backbone. Floral nose predominates, complemented by background notes of tropical fruit. Very savoury, with pronounced yet well-balanced acidity. Inner-mouth florality leads into a fresh, minerally finish. A lovely wine to accompany seafood, but is worth seeking out for the ancient grape variety used in the production of this wine.



La Mondianese Grignolino

Made of 100% Grignolino. Located in the hills of Castagnole Monferrato and Montemagno ("big hill") in the province of Asti, the La Mondianese farm covers 6 acres with a cellar having the state of the art modern enology. Named for the large percentage of pips, or "grignole," as they are called in the Piedmontese dialect, Grignolino vines yield very few bunches of grapes, but grapes that make an extraordinary wine! Light in color, delicate in style, it demands your attention, rather than hitting in you the face with big, blowsy aromas and flavors. UNIQUE, delicious and very interesting! That's what makes it our October Discovery Wine! Pair this with any pasta with tomato sauce, pizza, grilled sausage or simply serve with your starters (delish with salami).

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October Spirit of the Month

Death's Door Whisky

It's time to get back to simple in-your-face, throat-burning basics. Introducing Wisconsin's best-kept secret: Death's Door Whiskey, a white lightning that falls somewhere past "hair on your chest" but nowhere near "blind you for life" in terms of its strength. Only 360 hand-numbered bottles of the first batch were produced and meted out to a handful of Chicago and Wisconsin bars and retailers—so what you're getting your hands on isn't just strong, it's RARE. Like the faded porch-still stuff, this whiskey goes from barrel to bottle in a matter of days, retaining a clear-as-Evian color. It's not fear of the revenuers that drives the speedy production, either; these distillers are all about capturing the full-on flavor of their pesticide-free Washington Island wheat. And don't let the fancy artisanal heritage fool you, Death's Door is 80 proof, and packs razor-in-your-mouth immediacy. Drink this one on the rocks we dare you!



October Cellar Selection

Termes 2006

Dark as midnight, with huge black-fruit aromas, toasty oak, chocolate and balsamic notes, but isn't hot or fiery. A bonus is that it's almost ready to drink, although we suggest holding it until the winter when it will offset cooler seasonal temperatures by warming your palate and insides with the essence of Tinta de Toro (a clone of Tempranillo). Spicy, oak-inflected aromas of cherry, licorice and roasted coffee. Medium-bodied and firm, the cherry flavor braced by fresh acids and supported by gentle, dusty tannins. Finishes youthfully taut and with impressive persistence, a note of tobacco sneaking in on the back. Best from 2010 through 2020.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

OCTOBERFEST: A weekly

8800, 2-4 pm, Sycamore

11184 Conley Rd. in Ditmars

Park, (347) 260-5850, www.

sgamesbrooklyn.com

FILM, "LUSTOMANIA": Part

of the Hungarians in Hol-

lywood retrospective, \$11,

6:50 and 9:15 pm, Brooklyn

Academy of Music [30

Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix

Street in Fort Greene, (718)

636-4100, www.bam.org

FILM, "THE CAT AND THE

CANARY": Silent film with

live piano accompaniment,

\$10, 7 pm, Brooklyn Baptist

Temple [360 Schermer-

horn St. at Third Avenue

in Downtown Brooklyn,

www.brooklynbaptist.org

EXHIBITION, "BROOKLYN

UTOPIAS": See Friday, Oct. 9

FILM, TRIBUTE TO

THELONEOUS MONK:

Screening of the film,

"Straight, No Chaser,"

\$5, 9:30 pm, Brooklyn

Lycium [227 Fourth Ave.

at President Street in Park

Slope, (718) 657-4816,

www.brooklynlyceum.com

SUN, OCT. 11

PERFORMANCE

MEGA ART SHOW: See Sat-

urday, Oct. 10

THEATER, "SAVAGE IN

LIMBO": 2 pm. See Friday,

Oct. 9

THEATER, "SCRIBBLIN' AT

THE AUTOMAT": 3 pm.

See Friday, Oct. 9

THEATER, "BAUHAUS THE

BAUHAUS": 7 pm. See Fri-

day, Oct. 9

THEATER, RADIO MYSTERY:

Private Ear Audio Theater

performs a live radio drama,

\$10, 7:30 pm, Brooklyn

Lycium [227 Fourth Ave.

at President Street in Park

Slope, (718) 657-4816,

www.brooklynlyceum.com

ATLANTIC YARDS OPPO-

SITION WALKATHON: An-

ual march to raise money

to fight Bruce Ratner's

megaproject, Free, 2 pm,

Brooklyn Borough Hall [209

Joralemon St., between

Adams and Court streets in

Downtown Brooklyn, (718)

362-4784, www.cdb.net/

walkathon

THEATER, "TITUS ANDRON-

CUS": See Friday, Oct. 9

MUSIC, TIGER LILIES: See

Friday, Oct. 16

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: See

Saturday, Oct. 10

BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:

See Saturday, Oct. 10

BROOKLYN FLEA: See Satur-

day, Oct. 10

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See

Saturday, Oct. 10

PRE-HOLIDAY SHOPPING

PARTY: There will be jew-

elry makers, beauty prod-

uct vendors, and craftspeople,

plus a raffle, a DJ, and

drinks \$15, 3-8 pm, Denim

Lounge [223 Bedford Ave.

at Halsey Street in Bedford-

Stuyvesant, (917) 386-7747

OTHER

MEGA ART SHOW: See Sat-

urday, Oct. 10

OCTOBERFEST: See Satur-



The '59 Sound: The Gaslight Anthem will rock Brooklyn Bowl on Oct. 16. Our senior editor, Vince DiMiceli, will be there.

at President Street in Park

Slope, (718) 657-4816, www.

brooklynlyceum.com

THEATER, "TITUS ANDRON-

CUS": See Friday, Oct. 9

SALES AND MARKETS

PS 321 FLEA MARKET: See

Saturday, Oct. 10

BROOKLYN FLEA MARKET:

See Saturday, Oct. 10

FULTON FLEA: Weather per-

mitting, 10 am, Brooklyn

Plaza Medical Center (650

Fulton St. near Lafayette

Avenue in Fort Greene),

www.fultonflea.com

ARTISTS AND FLEAS: See

Saturday, Oct. 10

FARMERS MARKET: Free, 11

am-5 pm, J.J. Byrne Park

Fifth Avenue and Fourth

Street in Park Slope

OTHER

MEGA ART SHOW: See Sat-

urday, Oct. 10

KICKBALLS: World Adult Kick

ball Association begins its

season, \$8/week, 2 pm,

McCarren Park Field [1780

Lorimer St. in Greenpoint,

kickball.com/nyempire.

FILM, "THE UNTOUCH-

ABLES": Outdoor movie

screening, Free, 8 pm, Ha-

bit Free, 7-9 pm, Title's

688 Delaun Ave. at Van-

derbilt Avenue in Fort

Greene, (718) 783-6180,

www.titlesofbrooklyn.com

READING, VICTOR LOATO

AND MATHIEA SAVITCH:

7 pm, BookCourt [163

Court St. between Pacific

and Dean streets in Cobble

Hill, (718) 675-3071, www.

bookcourt.org

THEATER, "IMAGINARY

CITY": A multimedia work

that explores the perspec-

tives of urban environ-

ments, \$20-\$35, 7:30 pm,

BAM Harvey Theater [651

Julien St. at Rockwell Place

in Fort Greene, (718) 636-

4100, www.bam.org

READING, ADAM RAPP AND

GEORGE O'CONNOR:

Authors of "Ball Room Ham-

mer," 7 pm, BookCourt

[163 Court St. between

Pacific and Dean streets

in Cobble Hill, (718) 675-

3071, www.bookcourt.org

SECRET SCIENCE CLUB:

This month's show is about

black holes, Free, 8 pm,

The Bell House [400 Sev-

enth St. at Third Avenue in

Gowanus, (718) 643-6103,

www.thebellhouse.org

WED, OCT. 14

AUTO AUCTION: Monthly

city car sale, 8:30 am,

Brooklyn Navy Yard [370

Kent Ave. in Williamsburg,

3115, www.nyc.gov/html/

dcas/html/auctions/au-

ctions.html

FILM, "MAN IN THE SAD-

DLE": Part of the Hungar-

ians in Hollywood retros-

pective, \$11, 6:50 and 9:30

pm, Brooklyn

Academy of Music [30

Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix

Street in Fort Greene, (718)

636-4100, www.bam.org

TUES, OCT. 13

READING, ADAM RAPP AND

GEORGE O'CONNOR:

Authors of "Ball Room Ham-

mer," 7 pm, BookCourt

[163 Court St. between

Pacific and Dean streets

in Cobble Hill, (718) 675-

3071, www.bookcourt.org

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pm, Brooklyn

Academy of Music [30

Lafayette Ave. near St. Felix

Street in Fort Greene, (718)

636-4100, www.bam.org

FREE WINE: A weekly wine-

tasting event featuring com-

plementary wine flights, 7

pm, Enoteca on Court [347

Court St. in Carroll Gar-

ettes, (718) 243-1000,

www.enoteca.com

ART OPENING: Bill Kontar's

"Portrait of a Brooklyn

Cafe" photographic ex-

hibit, Free, 7-9 pm, Title's

688 Delaun Ave. at Van-

derbilt Avenue in Fort

Greene, (718) 783-6180,

www.titlesofbrooklyn.com

READING, VICTOR LOATO

AND MATHIEA SAVITCH:

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READING, ADAM RAPP AND

GEORGE O'CONNOR:

Authors of "Ball Room Ham-

mer," 7 pm, BookCourt

[163 Court St. between

</

The Brooklyn Paper PARENT

KIDS • SCHOOL • STYLE • TEENS • CAMPS • MUSIC

Couch is Smartmom's divan right

Smartmom is still stressing about the green leather couch. The problem isn't just that Hepcat doesn't want a new couch. It's that he doesn't want to do the thing that would give Smartmom pleasure.

In fact, this saga about the couch isn't really about the couch at all. It's about something that is at the very center of any marriage that makes it past the 10-year mark. Sometimes you not only have to do what your spouse wants — and not just to make him or her happy, but fully and without reservations.

That's a good trick. In other words, marriage can be Machiavellian; the ends (a happy spouse) do justify the means (doing something that you don't want to do only because it makes your spouse happy).

Maybe that's why Smartmom's couch troubles have resonated with many of her readers and friends. Over red wine at Bussaco, Best and Oldest shared the story of buying her couch. She wanted a "shabby chic" style couch, but her husband is into black leather Modernist furniture. It took them two



By Louise Crawford

years to pick out a couch that both of them liked. And guess what? That couch didn't wear well and now — 10 years later — it's time to shop for a new couch. Fun. Church Rabbi, Smartmom's friend who is pastor at Old First Church, e-mailed to say that he wanted to come and sit on her couch.

"By the way, our Ikea couch is 18 years old. And it's in great shape. No springs." Why was his couch in such good shape, Smartmom wondered? Must have something to do with God, she decided.

Even Divorce Diva had some helpful ideas for Smartmom. "I just finished watching an 'I Love Lucy' episode on DVD and will now put myself into Lucy scheming mode and figure out how to get rid of

your couch," she teased. "You and I could dress up as burglars and steal it."

Smartmom loved the idea of the two of them masquerading as burglars sneaking into the apartment and taking the couch down three flights of stairs.

But where would they put the couch? They'd probably have to walk it a few blocks away and leave it in someone else's garage. Buddha knows that if Hepcat found it in their garage, he'd just bring it back upstairs.

Divorce Diva had another Lucy-style idea: have Diaper Diva — who happens to be a set decorator for movies and commercials — rent the green leather couch for a set and just let it fall off of a truck. Accidentally.

Smartmom thought that was a great idea. Too bad she wasn't sure if Diaper Diva would want to get into the middle of Smartmom's living room woes.

Still, Divorce Diva's ideas got Smartmom thinking. Why didn't she just get the couch on fire or have Housing Works thrift shop take it away?

Smartmom appreciated all the feedback from her friends. It helped to put things in perspective. Indeed, thanks to Best and Oldest, she learned that she and Hepcat weren't the only couple who've ever had trouble agreeing on a new couch.

And thanks to Church Rabbi, she learned that they weren't the only people who



18 AND GOING STRONG: Here it is, folks — the Ikea couch that Smartmom is desperate to replace.

had an Ikea couch that lasted 18 years. She also learned that she wasn't the only one who secretly fantasizes about disappearing furniture — books, Hepcat's clothing, old magazines, you name it — from the apartment.

But disappearing the couch isn't really the point. Truth is, Smartmom knows she could probably twist Hepcat's arm and get a new couch, even the Andre, the mid-century modern one she picked out at Room & Board.

So, what is the point? Easy. Smartmom wants Hepcat to give her what she wants. She wants him to head over backwards — and even buy a couch he doesn't love — just because it would bring her pleasure.

It's not enough to get what she wants. She wants Hepcat to understand how much what she wants means to her. And to do so without having to be told what it means to her.

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FAMILY CALENDAR



"Harold and the Purple Crayon" will be at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts on Oct. 11.

FRI, OCT. 9
11 am: Dirk Wittenborn, author of "HARMAION... or The Story of a Happy Family" \$15. Gumbo 1493 Atlantic Ave. in Boerum Hill, (718-855-7808).
2:30 pm: Learn about fire. See Saturday, Oct. 10.

SAT, OCT. 10
10 am-4 pm: Pumpkin festival. Maxine Hardware's annual pre-Halloween event with pumpkin carving tips and treats for the kids.
Free: Maxine Hardware 1470 Court St. in Downtown Brooklyn, (347-248-1077).
1-4 pm: Star Wars costume party. Contests, games and other activities. Little Things 145 Seventh Ave. in Park Slope, (718) 783-4733.
2:30 pm: Learn about fire. It's more than "stop, drop and roll." Brooklyn Children's Museum 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org.

FRI, OCT. 16
11 am and 1 pm: "The Legend of Shalika Crane" Literally adapted from the Washington living story and performed by Dan Kirose. \$10. Brooklyn Lyceum 227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4516, www.brooklynlyceum.com.
11:30 am: Hindu Divali festival. Learn about other people's holidays for a charged Brooklyn Children's Museum 145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 735-4400, www.brooklynkids.org.

SUN, OCT. 11
12:30 and 2:30 pm: Puppet show: "Peter and the Wolf" and "The Frog Prince" \$8 (kids, \$7). Paperworks 138 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope, (718) 945-1391, www.puppetworks.org.
2 pm: "Harold and the Purple Crayon" Crockett

To list your event, visit BrooklynPaper.com/events/submit

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Free Dance Party 8pm-8:30pm, Saturday October 31st
Decorate Free Trick-or-Treat Bags during the week

FREE FAMILY DISCO PARTY! THIS SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10TH, 6PM
BEATLES ROCKBAND! NEXT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17TH, 7PM

CONDOS... STEIN...

Continued from page 1
indoor lap pool, and basketball, and racquetball courts — might start a trend among Brooklyn condo towers.

"Oro is really leading the way and others will follow, it's happening all over the borough," Havens said. "But when people see 25 percent off, they come in. It's attracting attention."

But despite all the negative talk, Paris is offering deals, deals.

The developer marked down a two-bedroom, two-bathroom unit on the 36th floor from \$1.1 million to \$875,000, while a three-bedroom, three-bath dropped from \$1.5 million to \$1.2 million.

Studios, originally priced at \$357,000, dropped to \$295,000.

The developers claim they have no intention of turning the 40-story tower into a rental building — a common strategy to get vacant condo units on the plus side of the ledger.

"A cat cannot become a dog," said a woman involved in the Oro sales effort. "It's a condominium building and it will always be a condominium building."

The move to cut prices follows other efforts by developers to garner attention in a down market. Last month, the developers of One Brooklyn Bridge Park offered new apartment buyers an Audi.

And the owners of the Bell-Ted Lofts building on Bridge Street offered mortgages for a bank-beating four percent last year. Curbed reported.

Continued from page 1
who have done most of the prep work.

"When I first saw this place, it was completely trashed," said Pete Freeman, one of Stein's tenants and a proprietor in the new operation. Freeman, a landscaper, moved into Stein's building last spring and immediately began pestering his landlord to do something about it.

Freeman and the other three tenants cleaned up the store and put most of Stein's stash of oddities in the basement (though they couldn't resist keeping on display a 1950s Bunsen burner, Freeman chomping gum laxatives and original Longo's brand ointments with 1924 expiration dates).

It it reopens for good, the trio of tenants say the store will boast organic, local produce, a soda fountain and a sweater apothecary that will sell Stein-made drinks to cure everything from jet lag to impotence.

Eventually, it will be part hang-out, part retail space specializing in home-healing remedies and local produce, and part museum of weird pharmaceutical odds and ends.

Or not. "This place is cool, I guess," said Eva Perez, 24, a resident of nearby Clinton Hill who also attended the (not so grand) re-opening. "But what is it?" Even Stein isn't sure. "I don't really know what's going to happen," said Stein. "But whatever it is, it will be good."



Brooklyn Democratic Party's boss, Assemblyman Vito Lopez, is still backing Maritza Davila, even though she lost his party's primary last month.

BETRAY...

Continued from page 1
dismayed. "I feel really disappointed with Marty," said former Independent Neighborhood Democrats President Kenm Lowy. "Everybody assumes that Bloomberg is going to win, so no one wants to piss him off."

Markowitz told a Brooklyn Paper reporter that his decision to endorse Bloomberg was "the easiest thing to do — but the right thing to do."

"I was doing this for my political career. I wouldn't think of supporting anyone but Billy Thompson," said the Beep, who also endorsed Bloomberg four years ago. "But I think [Bloomberg] merits a third term in office."

Meanwhile in Bushwick, Dem claim that Lopez's feud

with his one-time protégé Reyna over the city's controversial, Lopez-backed plan to allow residential development in the so-called Broadway Triangle played a role in his decision to endorse Davila on the Working Families line.

He's not acting as the official head of the Democratic Party," said Democratic District Leader Alan Fleishman. "It's not the way it should be."

We had a Democratic primary [and] he ran a candidate against the councilmember. His candidate lost. Now we have a Democratic nominee. He's the head of the Democratic Party. He should be supporting that nominee."

Calls to Lopez's office were not returned by The Brooklyn Paper's stringent deadlines.

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OUR OPINION

Help Downtown rise

This week's news of a price slash at one of Downtown Brooklyn's new luxury towers has been greeted by some as evidence that the city's dream of creating an exciting, 24-7 residential neighborhood along Flatbush Avenue between Fulton Street and the Manhattan Bridge is a failure.

Sorry, cynics, but it is just a temporary setback. Price adjustments are common when reality finally catches up with an initial Boomtown mentality — and some developers certainly were guilty of over-hyping the area after the 2005 up-zoning encouraged high-rise construction along the Flatbush Avenue corridor. Some cookie-cutter units were priced too high, but the market has taken care of that, forcing price cuts.

The developers will still make their profits, and the units will soon be occupied by eager young Brooklyn families who have been priced out of Manhattan.

As a result, the naysayers are wrong: Downtown will rise again. But there's one big "if."

Luxury condos will thrive — but developers need to foster retail life on the street level.

The main problem with the urban planners' dream of a thriving residential community is that there's nothing to do Downtown — nothing for the buyers of these thousand or so new luxury units to do with their cash.

All of the new buildings on the strip include retail storefronts, but to date, none of the developers have done enough to create a lively community where it's needed most: on the street level.

Every retail space along Flatbush Avenue is critical, largely because of dead ends created by the empty lot where the Albee Square Mall used to stand; the campus-like Flatbush Avenue side of Long Island University; and, most glaringly, the Metrotech office complex, whose Flatbush Avenue side is fronted by unused storefronts that could house

a variety of attractions that draw pedestrians to the area.

Worse, the city's heavily fortified 911 call center, at the corner of Tillary Street and Flatbush Avenue, destroys any possibility of having a true gateway to Brooklyn. That center must be moved to a more secure, less socially deadening area. Why an emergency call center needs to be on the ground floor of a building in a burgeoning residential community is beyond us.

For now, though, developers have taken a "build it and they will come" approach, believing that merely constructing their derelict apartments in the sky will be enough to foster a community in Downtown. But a true community isn't only a function of how many people bed down at night on the 33rd floor — it's a reflection of the shopkeepers, the bar owners, the restaurant managers and the service providers who bring their entrepreneurial spirit and vitality to the neighborhood.

Developers neglect them at their own peril.

ALL DRAWN OUT



WEB CHATTER

Readers react to Bloomy endorsement

Our endorsement of Mayor Bloomberg for a third term ("Our pick: Mike Bloomberg for mayor," online, Sept. 30) and a subsequent article about Borough President Markowitz's endorsement of the Republican mayor over Democratic rival Bill Thompson ("Marty — a loyal Dem — backs Bloomy for mayor" online, Oct. 1) created a firestorm of comments on our Web site and our voicemail system. Here are the choicest of the choice words:

I just read your endorsement of Mayor Bloomberg. I have to tell you that I will never read your paper again. I'm a Baby Boomer and I was brought up to believe that my vote counted. What a disgrace that you would endorse somebody that threw my vote down the toilet. Just down the toilet — and that's how he got in. Shame shame shame on your paper. What happened to democracy

in this country? How could a paper like yours back somebody like him? If that's your values, there are plenty of Baby Boomers who are not happy who will stop reading your paper. And rightfully so. Shame on you and your paper.

No name given
What a bunch of brown-nosing clap trap. Way to go, Rupert!

Send a letter

By e-mail: newsroom@cnglocal.com

By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, One Metrotech Center, Suite 1001, Brooklyn, NY 11201. 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.

Sam, Downtown
This line said it all for me: "When faced with the obstacle of New York City's two-term limit, he spent a considerable sum of money to over-

turn the inconvenient law. For many voters, that disqualifies Bloomberg from further service."

Count me as one of them. Bloomberg has done what I would call an excellent job as mayor. That said, he only got the job because of term limits, and to spend his personal fortune to overturn the law that not only brought him his first and only public office, but has served New Yorkers well in many other instances, is pure cynicism and evidence of faltering competence.

Your editorial stated that "in a head-to-head race against Comptroller Bill Thompson, there is no question who will serve the city better." Well, that statement is demonstrably false. There is a very real question, and that is due to nothing else than Bloomberg's strong performance as mayor.

Using your logic, you would have to make the same statement about [Rudy] Giuliani if he were running against Bloomberg. Now, there is no question in my New Yorker's mind that Bloomberg has been far superior to Rudy Rudy, but the only reason we know that is that he got the chance to show us. Bill Thompson has not had that chance, but judging by the way political newcomers have outperformed their predecessors, I'd say it's a very strong

possibility that he would be a much better mayor than Bloomberg. And even if he isn't, we'd be better off with a new mayor every eight years than letting billionaires buy the office over and over again or voting in divisive narcissists like Giuliani simply because we recognize their name.

Big V, Park Slope
This endorsement says it all. Most eloquently, Mayor Bloomberg is the kind of public servant that inspires confidence in our city, state and nation. We all need people like Mayor Bloomberg to lead us!

John, former Dutchess County
This endorsement says it all. New York has forgotten what it used to stand for at the core: justice and freedom above the convenience of authority.

The new people in this city don't know it, and the old people born here don't show it. It is truly a sad day when we find ourselves deciding our fate by the lesser of two evils.

Charles
Not only will I never vote for Bloomberg, now I will never vote for Markowitz again. Shame on him.

Elyn, Gerritsen Beach
"Party Hearty" Marty Markowitz is a sell-out to all of Brooklyn. Who else could be more Brooklyn than Bill Thompson: born and

raised in Brooklyn, a former deputy Brooklyn borough president.

Shame on you, Marty!

This is a very sad day for all Brooklynites.

Joe, Brighton Beach
I'm very disappointed in the Brooklyn Paper. I started reading your paper a few years ago when your coverage of Atlantic Yards was fresh and incisive. With this endorsement, I can only guess that corporate pressure from above has caused you to jettison all pretense at journalistic integrity. Sad.

R, Fort Greene
Brooklyn Paper, you know your print edition makes excellent filler for a hamster cage.

Having said that, your "endorsement" means nothing to me. In the voting booth, not only will I not vote for chesecake man, I won't vote for King Bloomberg either.

Al Gore endorsed Bloomberg on the environment? Well, sorry, Al, but your political credentials went to zero during the 2000 election when you backed down for "the good of the nation."

Al, perhaps you need to ask those who live near the Gowanus Canal about Bloomberg's record on the environment.

Fourth Estate, DUMBO

LETTERS

The Atlantic Yards talk continues

To the editor,

For the last six years, architects and planners have sat idly as our craft has been reduced to window-dressing for Forest City Ratner's Atlantic Yards urban renewal scheme ("A new ballgame," Sept. 1). We have watched silently as design has been used as bait by Mr. Ratner, who has wrought physical destruction and sown false social divisions among the great neighborhoods of Brooklyn.

For the last half-decade, most of us have confused cynicism with realism as we have accepted Ratner's collusion with certain public officials. We sat still as they circumvented the city's Uniform Land Use Review Procedure, thus effectively disenfranchising every New Yorker. And our continued silence equals complicity in their ongoing attempt to abuse eminent domain laws for their undeniably private benefit.

For the last month, we have spent too much time debating aesthetics, when the important Atlantic Yards issues have always been questions of urbanism. There is real tragedy in the fact that some of our best design talent, first Frank Gehry and now SHoP Architects, have been enlisted by Ratner in his efforts to run roughshod over the people of New York.

Our time is up. Those on all sides of the debate agree that the rail yards should be developed, but our challenge as architects and planners is to work for smart growth that benefits the city physically, environmentally, and socially. On this Brooklyn site, it is possible for our profession to play a strong role in shaping a better urban future. We should be leaders in the complex negotiations between developers and communities, rather than hiding behind simplistic claims of realism that create a false choice between resistance to and engagement with the market.

These challenges go beyond ethics to questions of our collective ambition — the ambition to be stewards of, and advocates for, the built environment. In the case of the Atlantic Yards, there is still time, but architects, planners, and critics must collectively commit to redirecting and reopening this debate toward the big issues of urbanism, the environment, politics, and civic life.

For architects, Atlantic Yards is about leadership, accountability, responsibility, and societal obligations.

Atlantic Yards is not, and has never been, about the arena.

Marshall Brown and Ronald Shiffman

The writers are, respectively, director of the Yards Development Workshop and a professor at the Pratt Graduate Center for Planning and the Environment.

To the editor,

I saw your cover story on the Russian billionaire who bought the Nets ("Shooting Tsur," Sept. 25) and thought this. The class war continues — billionaire developer, billionaire mayor, and billionaire oligarch against the poor and middle class of Brownstone Brooklyn.

Robert Ohlerking, Park Slope

To the editor,

So this tall Russian has theoretically bought into the Flatbush Avenue failure. The interesting thing is that once again, Ratner is playing with other people's money. This moneybags however, may prove to be more glib than substance. Just because he is living large, doesn't mean he is a legitimate investor. Have we forgotten how respectable Bernie Madoff looked just two years ago?

And the bottom line is that this is still a stunningly ugly project that, if built, would bring unmanageable crowds to an already constipated traffic grid. How this overblown nonsense is supposed to help Brooklyn's economy needs much explanation.

Barbara Charton, Brooklyn Heights



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SPEAKER SMASHING

Three would-be Councilmen weigh in on Council Speaker Christine Quinn

Is the City Council a big fish that stinks from the head down — or is Speaker Christine Quinn a force for good? Would-be Councilman David Pechefsky, a Green Party candidate challenging Democratic front-runner Brad Lander to represent

Park Slope, Windsor Terrace, Carroll Gardens and parts of Cobble Hill and Gowanus, says the former. So this week, we asked Pechefsky, Lander and Republican candidate Joe Nardiello about Quinn.

Joe Nardiello
Republican

"I was angered about the vote against term-limits referendum, but would need a clear review of other candidates' credentials vying for this significant office. Speaker Quinn's decision to side with our mayor on the public smoking ban, calorie counting, and reducing the Public Advocate's budget actually showed good sense for our city... Backlash from councilmembers should be avoided, as reckless partisanship undermines the public trust. With our future at stake, the city needs all the expertise it can summon with next year's budget. Both Mayor Bloomberg and Council Speaker Quinn have proven aptitude and non-partisan judgment."



David Pechefsky
Green

"I will not support a Speaker who voted to overturn term limits. And without the reforms I have advocated, including reform of the committee structure and reform of the member item system and budget process as a whole, the Council will continue to inadequately fulfill its responsibility as a counterweight to the mayor. A councilmember who votes for Speaker Quinn has little credibility on the term limits issue and therefore on commitment to reform more generally. It would also call into question that Councilmember's commitment and ability to stand up to the mayor on such issues as Atlantic Yards and the Gowanus Canal."



Brad Lander
Democrat

"I have, in the past, criticized Speaker Quinn and Mayor Bloomberg when I thought they were wrong (such as on the term limit extension), and several rezoning and development actions, and I won't hesitate to do so again. But I have also worked with them (such as on affordable housing and sustainability initiatives). To address the needs and aspirations of so many people in our neighborhoods, the next councilman will need to be able both to work with the Council leadership and the next mayoral administration, and to hold them accountable. I also plan to work for an ambitious array of reforms."



Photo by Peter Papp for The Brooklyn Paper

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BLOTTER...

Continued from page 4

88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Campus crime

Two thieves found easy targets on Fort Greene institutions of higher learning: "The first victim, a student at Long Island University, was picking up his belongings at 6 pm on Sept. 30 when he discovered that a thief had cleaned out his locker and taken his backpack and phone."

Trophy Bar thief

A mugger emptied a man's pockets outside of Trophy Bar on Oct. 4. The victim was walking away from the Broadway bar at around 2:35 am, after a night of drinking when a thug with braided hair came up to him near Keap Street, as though to start a conversation. "I don't know who you're with, but give me what you got or I'm gonna shoot you," said the perp. The victim handed over \$20, all that was left after a night filled with \$5 PBKs. The crook also got the man's iPhone. — Sabrina Jazsi

94TH PRECINCT
Greenpoint-Williamsburg Don't tase me!

A stun-gun-toting purse snatcher checked a victim on Bayard Street on Oct. 2 before running off. The woman was walking home from a bar at around 3 am on Oct. 2 when she sensed a presence behind her. She turned to find a man standing near the intersection of Graham Avenue eyeing her with interest, so she quickened her pace. But the man matched his pace behind her, and by the time she had reached her door, he was close enough to zap her with an electric stun device similar to a Taser. She collapsed onto the ground, at which point he struck the stunned victim in the face and grabbed her bag, which contained cash and a cellphone. **Slap 'n' snatch**

A purse snatcher felt the need to use violence on Have-meyer Street on Sept. 30. The victim was near N. Fifth Street at around 6:45 pm when a man grabbed her around the neck and slapped her, catching her totally unaware. He ran off with her purse, which contained just \$40. — Sabrina Jazsi

Chains that bind

Bike thieves were gashing all over the neighborhood last week: "The first victim locked up his bike at Habana Outpost at around 1 pm on Oct. 1. While he was behind the famed Fulton Street bar, a thief broke through his lock and took the \$3,500 bike. Around 10 pm, the barman was ready to pedal home, but his cycle, and its new owner, were long gone. "Another man left an Atlantic Avenue supermarket with two armfuls of groceries at around 5:30 pm on Oct. 4 to find his bicycle chain in

the mouth of a thief's bolt-cutter. The thief fled from the crime scene, near Sixth Avenue, without getting the bike, valued at \$2,000. Cops responded quickly and picked up the would-be thief, who was caught with the bolt-cutter in hand, police said. — Sabrina Jazsi

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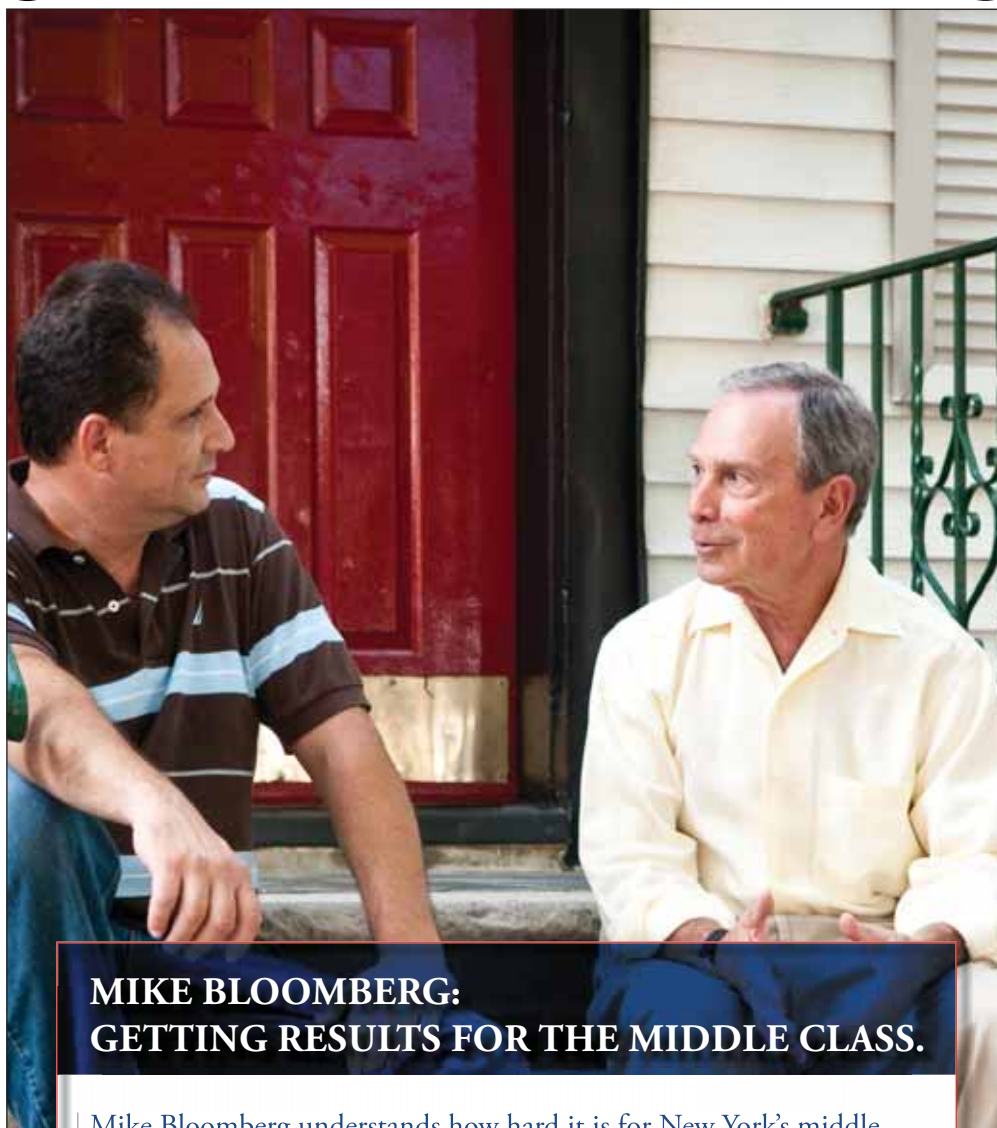
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