

The Brooklyn Paper

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Kids christened the LeFrak Center rinks at the ribbon-cutting ceremony on Dec. 17.

ICE, ICE, BABY

Prospect Park's new skating complex is now open

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Shake the dust off those skates and tape up your hockey sticks.

Workers are putting the final touches on Prospect Park's long-awaited ice skating complex and we got a sneak peek at the regal rinks that await. Outgoing Mayor Bloomberg stopped by Tuesday's ribbon cutting as part of a citywide legacy-cementing tour and touted

the virtues of the shred center.

"This 26-acre restoration of Lakeside builds on the park's natural beauty — and helps restore the park's original vision — while also including modern amenities and green infrastructure that will help sustain the park for years to come," Bloomberg said.

The Samuel J. and Ethel LeFrak Center at Lakeside will boast two 450-capacity rinks, one equipped for hockey under a starry-night-

adorned overhang, and the other, connected rink out in the open.

A cafe will serve burgers, milk-shakes, and salads. But however exciting the eatery's menu is, it will not help when it comes to getting a health department certification in time for the opening. Without it, the cafe may be shuttered on the big day and the park may call in food trucks for reinforcements.

See **RINK** on page 9

Whole new shopping 'tude

First-day megastore shoppers say they'll buy less at local supermarkets

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

Whole Foods is bringing a whole lot of competition to Brooklyn grocers.

The long-awaited Gowanus Whole Foods Market, Brooklyn's first, opened its doors at 8 on Tuesday morning, letting in a crush of hungry kale seekers, some of whom said they will be trading trips to their old standby stores for the one-stop-organic-shopping experience of the spanking new chain outlet alongside the fetid Gowanus Canal.

"I've been hoping for Whole Foods since we moved here three years ago," said Windsor Terrace resident Deb Lynch, who is planning to spend less time at Fairway Market in Red Hook now that the green machine is open. "I think I'll still go to Fairway, but maybe there will be a few



Borough President Markowitz, center, and Assemblywoman Joan Millman, far left, were on hand to break bread with Whole Foods Market honchos at the store's Dec. 17 opening.

things less than I buy there that I'll buy here now."

Some 300 shoppers gathered outside the gleaming edifice on Third Avenue at Third Street for a first look. Out front, ample bike parking is overtaken by Christmas tree sellers. Inside, the rooftop greenhouse was still off-limits, but first-wave shoppers got to browse records and jewelry along with their heirloom tomatoes.

The prices that earned the retailer the nickname "Whole Pocketbook" were in full effect, but the huge selection, including 100 special-to-the-store products by local brands, is too tantalizing to ignore, said attendees. Some shoppers worried that other outlets will suffer — but only to a point.

"I'm concerned about Fairway, but I think the price point

See **WHOLE** on page 10



Mike Tyson signing books in Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Face time

Mike Tyson gets a hero's welcome at Bed-Stuy event

By Ruth Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Mike Tyson has come home for the holidays.

The Brooklyn-born boxer was back in Bedford-Stuyvesant last Friday to sign copies of his new memoir, "Undisputed Truth: My Autobiography," in a knockout event at Fulton Street's Resto-

ration Plaza.

"I'm just happy to be here," the former heavyweight champ said. "I can't find the words for it. This feels like home. This is who I am."

Tyson is well known for causing controversy both in and outside of the ropes — just last week

See **TYSON** on page 10

Subway fall scare

Crowd rushes to rescue at Atlantic Ave. stop

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

Dozens of commuters rallied to save a woman who fell onto the subway tracks from being crushed by a train pulling into the Atlantic Avenue-Barclays Center station Wednesday afternoon.

The lady passed out on the platform and then fell onto the tracks at about 12:40 pm, when the B and Q platform was nearly deserted, according to witnesses.

"I heard her plop," said Gary Gaynor, a health department inspector who was on his way to

lunch in Flatbush when the near-tragedy occurred.

The handful of straphangers waiting for their trains began screaming and leaped into action, according to witnesses. Two men jumped down onto the tracks but

See **FALL** on page 9



A paramedic with a woman saved by good Samaritans.



Snow stoppers

Many Brooklynites spent Tuesday huddled indoors, away from the snowstorm, but not these guys. These two fixed-gear-bicycle-riding ninjas were spotted tearing through Williamsburg without a care for the drenching they were getting, the lack of friction on the road, or, apparently, the red light directly up ahead.

Blotter blackout

Week two of police nondisclosure

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

The police department's blotter blackout has continued into a second week, but a few cracks are starting to show.

The department's public information office has doubled-down on claims that it has not changed any policies regarding reporters' requests for crime reports that are the basis of our weekly police blotters despite the ongoing, citywide refusal to provide them. Three of the 13 precincts this paper and its sister papers cover have come up with new info-sharing arrangements, but the rest are either unresponsive or defer to the public information office, which in turn says the responsibility for rebooting media relations lies with the precincts.

"We're obviously having a commu-

nication issue here," said Det. Kelly Ort of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner of Public Information after repeatedly insisting that the blotter blockade does not represent a change in policy and that it is up to neighborhood commanding officers to address it.

POLICE BLOTTER

Station house commanders and the rank-and-file cops who traditionally provide crime reports had different ideas.

"I have to follow the orders of DCPI," said Capt. James Ryan of Greenpoint's 94th Precinct, suggesting that a reporter look at the recently-launched police crime map in lieu of access.

The map only shows felony violent crimes by month and by precinct, with

See **BLOTTER** on page 4

Passing the buck on LICH's future

State challenges DeBlasio: You want a failing hospital? You can have it

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The state is willing to hand over the keys to Long Island College Hospital to the city rather than turning it into condos, State University of New York officials announced at a Tuesday meeting.

University board members were scheduled to vote on whether to consider a bid to convert the hospital that sits on land valued at \$500-million into a luxury condominium complex with an urgent care center, but delayed the decision, offering to let mayor-elect Bill DeBlasio's city government take over the hospital instead. Advocates for keeping the 155-year-old institution open say the move is a big win.



Bill DeBlasio ran on saving Long Island College Hospital. Will he have the city take it over as mayor?

"We are stunned," said Jeff Strabone, a member of the Cobble Hill Association and anti-closure activist. "This is a victory."

Members of the board of trustees for the state university, which runs the hospital and has been trying to shutter it since February, said at Tues-

day's meeting that they were uneasy about the actions the state had taken to close the hospital despite court orders barring such maneuvers. One said he went along with the moves, but only because he did not want to make waves, and that now he is having second thoughts.

"I'm not exceedingly confident with the direction we've taken at many points, and at many points I feel I had supported this for the greater sake of SUNY — which is, of course, our greater allegiance," a board member said at the meeting. "I really need to be confident that the advice and council we're getting is the right one, and right now I don't see enough to say that."

In an about-face from the state's strategy up to this point,

the board now says it wants to see if DeBlasio will order the city's Health and Hospitals Corporation to take over before it continues talks with a private buyer. DeBlasio backed the anti-closure effort as public advocate during his mayoral campaign, going so far as to get arrested for the cause. Hospital lovers say that the state's proposal for a city takeover is a viable solution and all it would take is the mayor-to-be acting on his commitment.

"Bill DeBlasio ran on the hospital, he wants a moratorium on hospital closures, and we look forward to him fulfilling his promise," Strabone said.

The bid that was being considered came from the devel-

See **LICH** on page 9



One of seven proposals that the Brooklyn Public Library is considering adopting for its new branch building in Brooklyn Heights. This pitch features a glass rotunda and shops.

Turning the page

Library redo pitches include stores, rooftop parks, Smorgasburg, more

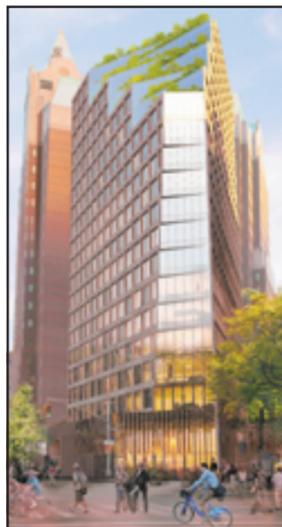
By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The Brooklyn Public Library has picked seven possible designs for the new building that will house the Brooklyn Heights branch as part of a controversial redevelopment plan forcing the book repository to share space with apartments and possibly retail outlets, library honchos announced last Thursday.

The proposals all include about a third of a football field for a library but otherwise range wildly, including buildings from 20 to 40 stories and featuring touches such as a rooftop park (in two designs) and a permanent branch of the hipster foodie bazaar Smorgasburg (in one). As for the reading rooms, they will be modern and built to last, according to library higher-ups.

"The basic goal of this project is to create a spectacular new library to be used for the next 100 years," said library system spokesman Joshua Nachowitz.

See **LIBRARY** on page 2



This close-to-30-story design includes retail space and a rooftop park, and would preserve the library's iconic entrance.

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Wild card

We run the numbers on Markowitz's Xmas note

By Nathan Tempey
The Brooklyn Paper

Don't look down, but do look back.

That is what Borough President Markowitz, who leaves Borough Hall in less than two weeks, seems to be saying from his perch in a

reindeer-drawn sleigh in his Christmas card this year.

Each of the Beep's past holiday dispatches have highlighted and made light of the year's biggest borough stories from his perspective, as rendered by Portland cartoonist Dennis Adler. But this winter's takes the kitchen-sink approach to the past 12 years, cramming the geographically footloose card with references to big borough changes old and new. For instance, the Nets spin basketballs alongside a film crew, a stone's throw from a massive thoroughfare that is a mishmash of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, Flatbush Avenue, and Cadman Plaza, but bearing two bike lanes. Markowitz lampooned the Prospect Park West bike lane in his 2010 Christmas card, but generalized his disdain in this year's, writing, as part of a song sung to the tune but not the rhyme scheme of "The Twelve Days of Christmas," "too many bike lanes" in the place of "eight maids-a-milking."

But more on that ditty in a moment.

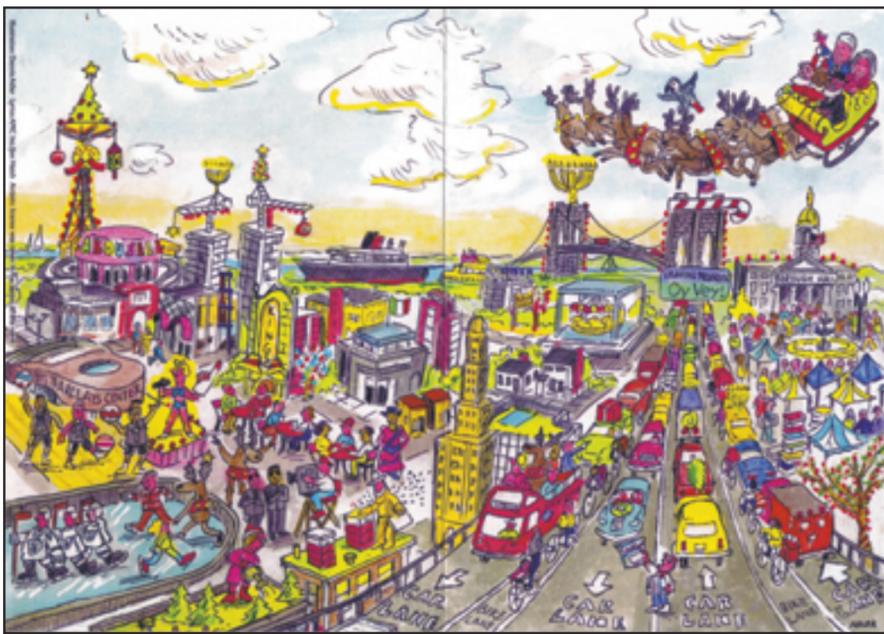
It is clear that Markowitz wants us card recipients to do some accounting of his time in office, so let us run the numbers on this year's missive.

Number of Christmas trees: Seven, including four growing on a roof and one strapped to the back of a car.

Menorahs: Three, but the one atop the Manhattan-side arches of the Brooklyn Bridge gets prime placement.

Sports teams: Two. There are the Nets, which Markowitz takes credit for bringing to Brooklyn, and the Islanders, which he advocated for moving to the Barclays Center and which is slated to begin playing there in 2015.

Number of carousels: Two. The geography is screwy — since when is the Navy Yard on the way to Red Hook from the Brook-



SWAN SONG: Marty Markowitz's last Christmas card as Borough President.

FULL INSIDE TEXT:

The Twelve Years of Marty

Sung to the last verse of "The Twelve Days of Christmas"

In the twelve years of Marty who would have thought we'd see ...

MTV in Brooklyn
Barclays is booming
Nets playing Downtown
GO said we're way cool
Too many bike lanes
Donna Summer singing
Cruise ships in Red Hook
Tourist destination
FUH - GEDD - A - BOUD - IT
Coney came alive
Foodies all rejoiced
Leaving Brooklyn ... Oy Vey!
And the hippest zip is one ... one ... two ... !
How Sweet It Was!

lyn Bridge? — but we get the picture. Navy Yard-side there is Jane's Carousel, perhaps relocated inland to save it from the next Hurricane Sandy, and Coney Island's B&B Carousell, reopened this summer after its Sandy-provided saltwater dunk.

Miley Cyrus appearances: One. You can tell it is her because of the giant foam finger, but apparently flesh-colored underwear and twerking were details too

far for the Beep, who once ended his State of the Borough speech at a high school with a performance from a pole dancer.

Boats in the harbor: Two. A cruise ship, apparently in or headed for Red Hook, where Markowitz hailed the arrival of luxury liners in 2005, and a ferry in the East River. Interestingly, the boat is a New York Water Taxi and not an East River Ferry operated by Billybey Ferry Com-

pany. The latter receives public subsidies and just scored a five-year service extension and a pat on the back from Mayor Bloomberg.

Awkward uses of Photoshopped: Three, all involving media organization logos. We could see the BAM sign, but are the BRIC logo and the Steiner Studios entrance placard really more iconic or hard to draw than, say, the Nets insignia?

Newspapers that matter in Brooklyn: One. The Brooklyn Paper, of course. Here it is, front and center, being hawked by a seller precariously positioned in the median-less middle of the six-lane road. Adler may not have been able to fit the paper's whole name on the fingernail-sized front page, but its royal blue banner gives it away.

And for those hungry for a non-numerical holiday card factoid, here you go.

Noticeably absent: The Orthodox Jewish man who has appeared prominently in the card for at least six of the last eight Christmas cards. Is that him headed toward the Brooklyn Bridge (which sports a signature Markowitz "Leaving Brooklyn Oy Vey!" sign by the way) in a menorah car? Oh, wait, there he is, piloting the sleigh along with two diminutive Santas, one white and one black, while Markowitz and wife Jamie ride in the passenger seat.

Say, Markowitz looks an awful lot like Bill Clinton in this drawing. Is he gearing up for a Country President run?

Or have we just spent too much time looking at this thing?

LIBRARY...

Continued from page 1
the branch sits, build a high-rise on the site, and allocate space for a new branch on the ground floor, minus the current business library, which would move to the

Central Library at Grand Army Plaza.

The biblio-big-wigs received the proposals on Sept. 20 but kept them secret until last week, when they were unveiled at a public meeting.

One pitch changes the building entrance from Cadman Plaza West to Tillary Street. Another includes a permanent home for Smorgasburg, culinary counterpart to the Brooklyn Flea, a party room, and a cafe attached to the library.

Some designs have retail stores sharing the ground floor with the library. Others employ large glass walls, which Nachowitz said would be equipped with big shades to keep books from getting damaged.

Several of the proposals incorporate the original bas-relief art that currently graces the library's entrance and is a favorite of patrons.

Library officials did not disclose who the developer-suitors are, though Nachowitz said a controversial company with the initials "F.C." was not involved, a likely reference to Forrester City Ratner. The spokesman would also not reveal the plans' price-tags, saying only that they were "competitive."

The process has been open, said Nachowitz, countering criticism from opponents of the redevelopment who say the proceedings have been opaque from start to finish.

"We don't want to do what the city usually does — which is going to a community board meeting with a contract in hand," he said.

The library plans to sign a contract with one of the seven developers within the first three months of 2014, at which point it will hire an architect to take community input and design an interior for the space, Nachowitz said. Under the library's scheme, the library will own its section of the building the way a condominium owner does.

The library claims it is replacing the existing branch building because of a broken air conditioning system it says would cost \$9-million to fix.

The complex will be the first in Brooklyn to include both a library and housing, Nachowitz said. The library says it is aiming to keep the new branch open seven days a week, but the extra day would be contingent on money from an ever-shrinking citywide library budget.

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BROOKLYN NETS COVERAGE

Finally, Nets are relevant

FRONT COURT
By Tom Lafe



the league run the pick-and-roll more effectively than Williams and Lopez.

Where has the energy been? Deron Williams and Brook Lopez might be the answer to that one, too. The Nets really had little room for error with such high expectations entering their second season at the Barclays Center. And really, that was all they did through 20 games. But with their stars returning to the floor and Jason Kidd taking control as a head coach, the players seem a little looser than they had through the first 20 games.

What about the ridiculous shooting from suddenly above-average Joe Johnson?

It would be easy to brush it off and say the Sixers have a dreadful defense. They do, but Joe Johnson has

been much more aggressive offensively this year, oftentimes making himself the go-to-guy with the ball in his hands.

Whatever the reasons, as winners of four of the last five, the Nets finally have a pulse.

However, just as we implored Brooklynites to not panic about the woeful start, let us not get too carried away with wins over the last-place Milwaukee Bucks and the Michael Carter Williams-less Philadelphia 76ers. It is a nice start on the road to recovery, but there are still a lot more questions that need to be answered.

Tom Lafe is a 6-foot-5 sports-world insider with a middling high school basketball career who believes the Nets will be driven by the success of the team's big men.

It is an obvious question, and one that this column has been getting at all season: where has this Nets team been?

Where has the three-straight 20-plus point games from Andray Blatche been?

He looks like he is once again becoming the sixth man that was so valuable to this Nets team last season.

Where has the pick-and-roll been?

The obvious answer is the return of Deron Williams and Brook Lopez from injury. When two All-Stars return from prolonged absences, it will no doubt make any team better. And not too many in

Andray Blatche put up back-to-back 20-point games this week.

Johnson's sinking baskets

BACK COURT
By Matt Spolar



season high.

But everyone getting in on the assist action is a sign of a good team. It is no surprise the five squads with the most assists per game this year reads like a list of the NBA's elite: San Antonio, Atlanta, Miami, Portland, and the Los Angeles Clippers.

And the fact that so many of those assists on Monday went to Johnson, specifically, is an encouraging sign. Johnson's tendency to take defenders one-on-one has earned him the derisive "Iso Joe" nickname among fans, and can grind an already-slow Nets offense to a standstill.

Feeding Joe the ball with open looks, instead of relying on him to create his shot, will get him in a catch-and-shoot rhythm on a nightly basis.

Then it is up to him to prove that Monday's eruption wasn't a one-off fluke.

Matt Spolar is a nearly 6-foot-1 journalist with a middling high school basketball career who is sure the Nets win thanks to team's top-tier guards.

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Band-it absconds with music gear

76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill-Red Hook
Cell or door

Cops stuck a prisoner with even more jail time for supposedly breaking the glass door of his cell at the Red Hook Community Court on Visitation Place on Dec. 11.

The 25-year-old angry man was awaiting arraignment in the human cage between Richards and Van Brunt streets when he smashed the door, cops said. He was promptly re-arrested, per police.

Vanished Volvo

A crook drove a Volvo away from its Strong Place parking space sometime between Dec. 14 and 16, cops said.

The 66-year-old victim said he left his green car near Degraw Street at 3:30 pm on Dec. 14 and, when he returned at 9:15 am on Dec. 16, his ride was gone.

Saw gone

A bunch of tools stole a

table saw from a storage facility on Coffey Street sometime between Nov. 28 and Dec. 11, cops said.

The 44-year-old victim said the burglars busted into the warehouse between Richard and Dwight streets through the front metal gate and took out the saw.

Crooks Bros.

A quick-handed bandit snatched up a woman's wallet on Van Brunt Street on Dec. 14, police said.

The 52-year-old woman said she was walking from her parked car near Verona Street at 1 pm when she noticed that her Gucci wallet, containing seven credit and debit cards, a MetroCard, and \$100 in cash, was missing. The woman got an email from Brooks Brothers stating that four items were charged to her account, she said.

— Megan Riesz

68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights
Wrong song

A crook broke into a car

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at BrooklynPaper.com/blotter

parked on 87th Street and stole thousands of dollars worth of musical equipment sometime between Dec. 10 and Dec. 12, cops said.

The victim told police that she left the vehicle near Fourth Avenue at 5 pm on Tuesday and returned at 7:30 pm on Thursday to find her

back windshield shattered. A compact disc player, a mixer, and other studio gadgets were gone from inside, cops said.

Rob the builder

A lowlife lifted hundreds of dollars in power tools from a 68th Street construction site overnight on Dec. 9, accord-

ing to a police report. The contractor reported closing up the job-site between Eighth and Ninth avenues at 5:30 pm. When workers came back at 8:30 the next morning, they found their equipment missing, according to cops.

Tooled again

A villain invaded a 94th Street basement overnight on Dec. 8 and stole several hand tools, authorities allege.

The victims said they shut the cellar of their home between Marine Avenue and

Shore Road at 11 pm and, at 7 am the following day, found the entrance broken open and their hardware gone.

Came up dry

A gunman held up a Seventh Avenue dry cleaner for \$60 on Dec. 12, police said. The clerk told cops that the perp barged into his shop between 84th and 85th streets at 5:20 pm brandishing a silver handgun.

The cashier handed over \$20, but the fiend grabbed \$40 more from the register, then scrambled, cops said.

Want your blotter?

How to let police know you need crime info

The long-standing tradition of station houses providing local reporters access to incident reports in order to compile blotters came to an end suddenly two weeks back, reportedly due to pressure from NYPD headquarters. If you would like your local precinct to re-

sume cooperating with the reporters who compile your weekly police blotter, you can contact the precinct's community affairs officer or attend its next community council meeting. Some precincts' community councils do not hold a regularly scheduled meeting in December, but may hold a hol-

iday party instead. Contact community affairs to verify when the next meeting will be.

78th Precinct

Commanding Officer: Deputy Inspector Michael Ameri

Community Affairs: (718) 636-6410

The council meets on the last Tuesday of every month at 7:30 pm in the 78th Precinct station house at 65 Sixth Ave.

84th Precinct

Commanding Officer: Captain Maximo Tolentino

Community Affairs:

(718) 875-6850

The council meets the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm. The location varies, so contact the precinct's community affairs officer to find out where the next one will be.

88th Precinct

Commanding Officer: Deputy Inspector Scott M. Henderson

Community Affairs: (718) 636-6526

The council meets every third Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm. The location varies, so contact the precinct's community affairs officer for the location.

90th Precinct

Commanding Officer: Deputy Inspector Mark DiPaolo

Community Affairs: (718) 963-5309

The council meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm at 30 Montrose Ave., in the Community Room. But the date of each meeting is subject to change so contact community affairs.

94th Precinct

Commanding Officer: Captain James B. Ryan

Community Affairs: (718) 383-5298

The council meets the first Wednesday of the month at 7 pm in the Church of the Ascension at 122 Java St. (auditorium entrance). There is no meeting in December.

BUSINESS, BROOKLYN STYLE



Miss New York Crowns Future Beauty Queens At The Brooklyn Hospital Center

Miss New York Amanda Mason visited the Children's Health Center, the Pediatric inpatient unit, and the Pediatric Hematology/Oncology unit at The Brooklyn Hospital Center last week. Ms. Mason signed autographs, posed for pictures and gave away crowns and bracelets to young pediatric patients. An accomplished opera singer, Ms. Mason reigns as Miss New York until May 2014.

BLOTTER...

Continued from page 1

none of the who, what, when, where, or how that is the meat of the police blotter.

Another officer, this one with the Community Affairs department of Williamsburg's 90th Precinct, was more blunt.

"That's not our problem," Det. Juan Roman said when told that this paper needs to inform the public of crimes as it has for more than 30 years.

That precinct's commanding officer, Deputy Inspector Mark DiPaolo, would only be willing to meet to go over the public records once a month, but was not available to talk this week because he was preparing the monthly CompStat data, Roman said. Nor was Roman optimistic about the amount of

information that might come out of such meetings.

"You might ask [DiPaolo] the questions," he said. "He might give you some of the answers."

A crime analysis officer with Brooklyn Heights' 84th Precinct said that he would like to restart the weekly meetings but that he would first need the okay of his boss, who would first need approval from his bosses at One Police Plaza.

In Fort Greene, commanding officer Scott Henderson is out of the office and no new protocol for the long-standing relationship with community media outlets will be made until he returns on Thursday, after press time, according to Community Affairs Officer

Varlos Brathwaite.

Three station houses bucked the blackout, including the 62nd, 68th, and 76th precincts in Bensonhurst, Bay Ridge, and Carroll Gardens, respectively.

Crime analysis officers at the Carroll Gardens cop shop never stopped reading the crime reports over the phone, but one said this week that his outfit only provides crime report information to community newspapers and not to the citywide dailies.

"The only way anyone would find out [information about specific crimes] is if they went to a public meeting," said 76th Precinct Community Affairs Officer Vincent Marrone.

Speaking of which, your local precinct's monthly community council meeting is probably the best place to go to let police know that you

want your weekly police blotter back (see above).

Lawyer Chris Dunn of the New York Civil Liberties Union insists that the blackout is a product of outgoing police chief Ray Kelly's low opinion the media and will be rectified with a change of leadership at One Police Plaza come January.

Calls to the commanding officers and Community Affairs departments at the 60th, 61st, 63rd, and 70th precincts, as well as to Deputy Commissioner of Public Information John McCarthy, and Deputy Chief of Public Information Kim Royster were not returned, nor was a call to the crime analysis unit of Park Slope's 78th Precinct.

— with Bill Egbert, Will Bredderman, Megan Riesz, Danielle Furfaro, and Jaime Lutz

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GO BROOKLYN

DANCE

Kwanzaa!

Come one, come Kwanzaa-ally! The Center for African and Diaspora Dance will lead a song-and-dance Kwanzaa jubilee on Dec. 29 for long-time observers—as well as people of all backgrounds who want to learn more about the week-long holiday.



Photo by James Petrozello

“It’s meant to be a celebration for families who know about Kwanzaa, but it is also meant to take both beginners and people who are familiar with it and walk them through the principles,” said Jimena Martinez, the center’s co-director. “We think this culture is so beautiful that we want to share it with everyone.”

Participants will learn the history and seven principles of Kwanzaa—unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity, and faith—through song, dance, and percussion.

The ceremony will be led by artist and dancer Iris Wilson, who performed in the original 2010 Broadway cast of “Fela!”

Celebrate Kwanzaa at *Cumbe Dance Center* [558 Fulton St. near Flatbush Avenue Extension in Fort Greene, (718) 935-9700, www.cumbedance.com]. Dec. 29 at 11:30 am. \$10 for family of five. —Megan Riesz

CARTOONS

The reel deal

Projectionist and extreme cartoon collector Tom Stathes will show off his horde of ancient holiday-themed cartoons at Crown Heights arts community center LaunchPad on Dec. 21.

The animation celebration will include “Christmas Night,” a Little King cartoon from 1933 that will be projected in 16-mm film, and a bevy of other material from the 1920s to the 1940s.

“Tom puts together really unique programs that will make you smile uncontrollably,” said LaunchPad spokesman Zane Van Dusen. “The cartoons that he presents are beautiful works of art but also incredibly funny and entertaining.”

The show will also include “Race Night Comedies,” a series of short live-action films featuring silent-era comedians running races with numbers on their backs. Each audience member will get a ticket with a number, and the person with the winning racer’s number will receive a prize.

“Cartoon Carnival” at *LaunchPad* [721 Franklin Ave. between Sterling and Park places in Crown Heights, (646) 494-7211, www.brooklynlaunchpad.org]. Dec. 21 at 8 pm, \$10 suggested donation. —Megan Riesz



Photo by Stefania Giovannini

PARADE

Marching on

Get ready to make some noise! On Dec. 21, Make Music New York will host a series of parades across Brooklyn that will get people from all walks of life creating music—even if they cannot play a single note.

Prospect Park will be the setting for “Blink,” a new piece for bicycle bells that is making its debut. The work begins at Grand Army Plaza, from which point cyclists will wind their way through the park, ringing bicycle bells at different pitches.

The event will also see a return of past works. “Peregrine” by Phil Kline is a take on the composer’s famous “Unsilent Night” parade through the East Village. In the same spirit, a parade of boom boxes will begin in front of BAM and travel through Fort Greene. “Winterize” also returns to the grounds of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden this year. In it, baritone Christopher Dylan will perform his version of Schubert’s 1828 song cycle, “Winterreise,” while audience members carrying hand-held radios provide the accompaniment.

And in “Thru-Line,” string players will set up at each of the Brooklyn-bound G train subway platforms and perform the prelude from Bach’s “Cello Suite No. 1 in G Major” every time a train stops.

Make Music Winter is at various locations around Brooklyn on Dec. 21. For the full schedule and to sign up for parades, visit www.makemusicny.org. —Meredith Deliso



Photo by Stefania Giovannini

(718) 260-2500 The Brooklyn Paper's essential Borough of Kings December 20-26, 2013



Music for muggles: Wizard rock icons Harry and the Potters throws its annual Yule Ball at the Bell House on Dec. 21.

MUSIC
“Yule Ball” at the Bell House [149 Seventh St., between Second and Third avenues in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, www.thebell-house.com]. Dec. 21 at 5 pm. \$18.

A magical evening

‘Wizard rock’ band throws Harry Potter holiday party

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about holiday magic! Harry and the Potters are the creators of a musical genre known as “wizard rock”—an entire subculture of Harry Potter fans who write and perform songs from the perspective of their favorite characters. For nine years, the Norwood, Mass., band has been hosting an annual “Yule Ball” around the East Coast, and the spellbinding event returns to Brooklyn this year on Dec. 21.

“The atmosphere is for everyone to celebrate and get dressed up because they love these stories,” said Joe DeGeorge, one-half of the band. “Essentially, by the end of the night everyone is screaming about a book. It’s really, really cool.”

DeGeorge started Harry and the Potters with his brother Paul in 2002, when he was just 14. Now the band has been around longer than the Beatles, releasing three albums and six EPs. And though it has been six years since the final Harry Potter book, and two years since the film series ended, the musical magicians continue to tour the globe, playing libraries, bars, book stores, and coffee houses.

The Yule Ball—inspired by the Christmas school dance that Harry, Ron, Hermione and the rest of the Hogwarts gang go to in “Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire”—is the celebratory concert of the year for wizard rock fans, who will also get to see heroes like the Potter Puppet Pals and Lauren Fairweather (formerly of the Moaning Myrtles) in one place. And though many Potter fans are now all grown-up—the DeGeorge brothers themselves are now 26 and 34—a number of them are still quite active in the community.

“Our audience, I feel like you can tell some of them have grown up a bit,” De-

George said. “But there are always new people reading these books. There are always new people seeing us play, even bringing their kids to these shows. With a book that has that much cultural impact, I don’t expect it to really fade away.”

It is also surprisingly punk rock, said DeGeorge—or at least as punk rock as a band can be with songs such as “Cornelius Fudge is an Ass,” “My Teacher is a Werewolf,” and “Voldemort Can’t Stop the Rock” can be.

“It’s very much a DIY band,” DeGeorge said. “We’d go around the country, hauling our PA system into libraries.”



The sweetest thing: The Sweetback Sisters will play its annual “Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular” at Red Hook’s Japoly Theatre on Dec. 22.

The final countdown

’Twas the five nights before Christmas

By Ruth Brown
The Brooklyn Paper

Christmas comes but once a year—so milk it for all it is worth.

Brooklyn has been tree-lighting, Nutcracker-ing, caroling, toy driving, and ugly sweater-partying all December long, but there are still five days left in which to cram as much festive cheer as you can handle. Forget lords a-leaping and maids a-milking—there are far better things to do and see on the final few days of Christmas.

Dec. 20: Peanuts

It would not be Christmas without at least one rendition of “A Charlie Brown Christmas.” This year, skip the small-screen version, and head to the Brooklyn Lyceum, where the Pig Brooch Theatre Company is once again teaching Charlie Brown what Christmas is all about, accompanied by a live jazz trio.

7 pm at *Brooklyn Lyceum* (227 Fourth Ave. between Union and President streets in Park Slope, www.brooklynlyceum.ploud.com). \$10.

Dec. 21: Soul season

There is nothing very Christmas-y about most of the tunes being performed at the Brooklyn Center for Performing Arts’ “An R&B Christmas,” but what would you really rather listen to—another gloomy rendition of “Little Drummer Boy” or an actual member of the Drifters performing “Under the Boardwalk”? Other stars on the bill include Blue Magic, with original lead singer Ted Wizard Mills, and Shirley Alston Reeves.

See **NIGHTS** on page 8

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY

December 20



Sway away

Sick of Christmas carols? The Sway Machinery could be the perfect antidote. The stalwart borough band brings its Jewish cantorial indie rock fusion, big horns, and raucous rhythms to the Brooklyn Academy of Music for a blow-out night at BAM-cafe.

9 pm at BAMcafe, BAM Peter Jay Sharp Building, 30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100, www.bam.org. Free.

SATURDAY

December 21

Double play

For those who have wondered what happens when you combine Aristotle and Gertrude Stein (and haven't we all?), five-time Obie Award-winning actor David Greenspan is performing "the Argument" — based on the famous philosopher's "Poetics" and the essays of Gerald F. Else — and Stein's lecture "Plays" in one show at the Bushwick Starr.

8 pm at the Bushwick Starr (207 Starr St. between Irving and Wyckoff avenues in Bushwick, www.thebushwickstarr.org), \$18.



SUNDAY

December 22



Beasts of Bourbon St.

Know what it means to miss New Orleans when the Big Easy's renowned Preservation Hall Jazz Band visits the Brooklyn Bowl. The French Quarter legends will make Wythe Avenue feel like Frenchmen Street, blowing tunes such as "Go To The Mardi Gras" and "Bourbon Street Parade."

8 pm at Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. at North 12th Street in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369, www.brooklynbowl.com] \$20.

MONDAY

December 23

Flame on

For those who like their Christmas a little on the weird side, bar-theater Videology is screening the Flaming Lips' 2008 sci-fi film, "Christmas on Mars," followed by the band's 1997 album, "Zaireeka," which requires four different CDs to be played simultaneously.

8 pm at Videology [308 Bedford Ave. between South First and South Second streets in Williamsburg, (718) 782-3468, www.videology.info]. Free.



WEDNESDAY

December 25



Mix master

Cap off your Christmas celebrations — or avoid them altogether — at Lulu's in Greenpoint, where ukulele-strumming crooner Patsy Monteleone will be playing Christmas tunes while his daughter Ani serves holiday cocktails, including the "Cousin Vince," made with brandy, cream, and nutmeg, and the "Uncle Charlie," which is really just a shot of Wild Turkey.

8 pm at Lulu's [113 Franklin St. at Greenpoint Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-6000, www.lulusbargreenpoint.com]. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, DEC. 20

ART, "A TIMELESS JOURNEY": Exhibition of paintings by Leokadia Makarska-Cermak. Free. Fort Hamilton Dental Studio [7523 Fort Hamilton Pkwy. at 76th Street in Fort Hamilton, (718) 238-4133], www.makarska-cermak.com.

ART, "10 LAWS": Exhibition by Al Pal-drok, aka Anonymous Boh of Non Grata Group. Free. Grace Exhibition Space [840 Broadway Ave. at Park Street in Bushwick, (646) 578-3402], grace-exhibition-space.com.

ART, "THE CAR POOLERS": Work by Alejandro Cartagena, whose projects employ landscape and portraiture as a means to examine social, urban, and environmental issues. Free. Noon–6 pm. United Photo Industries Gallery [111 Front St. between Washington and Adams streets, Suite 226 in Dumbo], unit-edphotoindustries.com.

ANIMAL ENCOUNTER: Meet Snappy the turtle and learn about the animals at the park. Free. 2–2:30 pm. Prospect Park Audubon Center [Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 287-3400], www.prospect-park.org/audubon.

ART, "SMALL WORKS": Each of the 80 pieces of artwork in the gallery are no larger than 12 inches. Free. 4–7 pm. 440 Gallery [440 Sixth Ave. between Ninth and 10th streets in Park Slope, (718) 499-3844], www.440gallery.com.

MUSIC, MILTON STREET REVIVAL BAND: Release concert for "Christmas in Brooklyn," a holiday album to benefit the Greenpoint Church's soup kitchen. Preceded by a Christmas carol sing-along. \$10. 6 pm. Brooklyn Rod & Gun Club [59 Kent Ave. between N. 10th and N. 11th streets in Williamsburg, (917) 671-8673], https://www.facebook.com/events/735340786493386.

THEATER, "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS": Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, and Snoopy are all on board in this adaptation of the classic Charles Schulz comic strip. \$10 (\$35 for 4). 7 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com.

DANCE, "THE NUTCRACKER": The American Ballet Theatre performs the holiday classic. \$15–\$150. 7 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

MUSIC, NADYA MEYKSON AND VICTORIA SCHWARTZMAN: CD release party. \$15 (suggested). 7–8:30 pm. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music [58 Seventh Ave. between Lincoln Place and Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300], www.bqcm.org.

"THE ORIGINAL STORY OF CHRISTMAS: A Christmas to Believe In": So many myths and stories have been created and written about Christmas. Which ones are real? Free. 7 pm. First Evangelical Free Church



Nuts about ballet: American Ballet Theatre's performance of "The Nutcracker" will be onstage at BAM through Dec. 22.

[6501 Sixth Ave. at Erik Place in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-7775].

THEATER, "BEYOND THE PALE": Target Margin Theater culminates their journey into the exploration of Yiddish theater with a double bill of "Day? Night? F---" and "Outside/In." \$15. 7:30 pm, 9:30 pm. Jack [505 1/2 Waverly Ave. between Fulton and Atlantic avenues in Clinton Hill], www.jackny.org.

THEATER, "THE NUTCRACKER CIRCUS SUITE": Performance combining circus, dance, and theater to create an immersive and magical experience, presented by Vertical Aerial Arts. \$20–\$35. 8 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

MUSIC, TRISHA IVY, BAREFOOT AND BANKSIDE, THE ALEX MALLET BAND: \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

ART, "MEMORY WITHHOLDINGS": Featuring works by Tamu Favorite, Kimberly Mayhorn, and Paloma McGregor that explore "woman-ness." \$8–\$15. 8 pm. BAX — Brooklyn Arts Exchange [421 Fifth Ave. in South Slope, (718) 832-0018], www.bax.org.

MUSIC, THE SLACKERS ANNUAL HOLIDAY SHOW: With Uzimon, Shivering Brigade, DJ 100DBS, and DJ Grace Of Spades. \$22 (\$18 in advance). 9 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-houseny.com.

MUSIC, MATT MUNISTERI AND NOAM PIKELNY: With the Everitese Brass Band. \$15. 9 pm. Jalopy [315 Columbia St. between Hamil-

ton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Columbia Street Waterfront, (718) 395-3214], www.jalopy.biz.

SAT, DEC. 21

PERFORMANCE

WINTER SOLSTICE: Urban Shaman celebrates the birth of the sun. The public is encouraged to wear white, silver, and day-glo and bring drums, percussion instruments, kids, and lots of energy. Free. 11:30 am. Grand Army Plaza [Union Street between Flatbush Avenue and Prospect Park West in Park Slope, (718) 857-1343].

THEATER, "UNCLE MONEY BAGS": A Christmas special presentation written by Gloria Cartwright-Hunter and directed by jewel Mendoza. \$25 (\$20 seniors; \$15 kids). 2 pm. St. Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church [259 Washington Ave. between Dekalb and Willoughby Avenues in Clinton Hill, (917) 751-6202].

DANCE, "THE NUTCRACKER": Abridged version performed by the Brighton Ballet Theater. \$20–\$50. 6:30 pm. Kingsborough Community College [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368-5000], www.onstageat-kingsborough.org.

MUSIC, THE PURSLAINES, THE BLOODSHOTS, THE PESTS: \$8. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, TAMARRAQS WINTER SOLSTICE HAFLA: As part of BAMcafe Life. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718)

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Find lots more listings online at
BrooklynPaper.com/Events

636-4100], www.bam.org.

SALES AND MARKETS

ARTISTS & FLEAS: New designers come in each weekend. Free admission. 10 am–7 pm. Artists & Fleas (70 N. Seventh St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg), www.artistsandfleas.com.

HOLIDAY ARTISAN MARKET: Featuring 20 hand-picked artisans, designers, and creators selling clothing, jewelry, home decor accessories, perfume, and gourmet food products. Free admission. 10 am–7 pm. Invisible Dog [51 Bergen St. between Smith Street and Boerum Place in Cobble Hill], their-visible.org.

CRAFT FAIR: Fine arts by local artisans. Free admission. 11 am–4 pm. Carmine Carro Community Center [3000 Fillmore Ave. and Marine Parkway in Marine Park, (646) 552-6640].

HOLIDAY MARKET: Free admission. 11 am–7 pm. Brooklyn Lyceum [227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 857-4816], www.brooklynlyceum.com.

ARTISAN HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE: Presenting innovative artisanal designs to the Brooklyn community. 2–8 pm. The Art Cafe [884 Pacific St. in Prospect Heights, (718) 857-2522], www.facebook.com/OfHand-dandSpit.

FESTIVE FIFTH: Hundreds of the boutiques and restaurants on Fifth Avenue between Dean and 18th streets will stay open late for shoppers and offer holiday specials. 6:30–9 pm. (Fifth Avenue and Dean Street in Park Slope).

OTHER

"A CHRISTMAS STORY": Will leg lamps ever be the same? This classic is directed by Bob Clark. \$7 (\$9 adults). 11 am. BAM Kids [30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4129], www.bam.org.

HO, HO, HO: Children hear holiday stories. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

OPEN ICE SKATING: Break out the blades and start practicing your jumps. \$9 (\$5 skate rental). 1–3:30 pm. Abe Stark Ice Skating Rink [West 19th Street and the Boardwalk in Coney Island, (718) 946-6536].

ART, "A SIDE/B-SIDE": Exhibition examining the trend of artists extending their creativity outside the realm of a traditional studio practice and

See 9 DAYS on page 8

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PUBLISHER

Celia Weintrob (718) 260-4503

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR

Vince DiMiceli (718) 260-4508

DEPUTY EDITOR

Nathan Tempney (718) 260-4504

ARTS EDITOR

Ruth Brown (718) 260-8309

STAFF REPORTERS

Danielle Furfaro (718) 260-2511

Jaime Lutz (718) 260-8310

Colin Mixson (718) 260-4514

Megan Riesz (718) 260-4504

ADVERTISING STAFF

DISPLAY ADVERTISING SALES

Jay Pelc (718) 260-2570

Andrew Mark (718) 260-2578

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING SALES

Michael Filippi (718) 260-4501

OFFICE MANAGER

Lisa Malwitz (718) 260-2594

PRODUCTION STAFF

ART DIRECTOR
Leah Mitch (718) 260-4510

WEB DESIGNER

Sylvan Migdal (718) 260-4509

PRODUCTION ARTIST

Earl Ferrer (718) 260-2528

PUBLISHER EMERITUS Ed Weintrob

HOW TO CONTACT THE PAPER

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Listed:
SRDS

Funny photo booth

Greenpoint photographer's new book captures famed comedians in the act

By Meredith Deliso
for The Brooklyn Paper

The funny business must be booming. When Greenpoint photographer Seth Olenick first envisioned making a photography book featuring his favorite funny people, he figured it would take about six months to a year and that he would capture

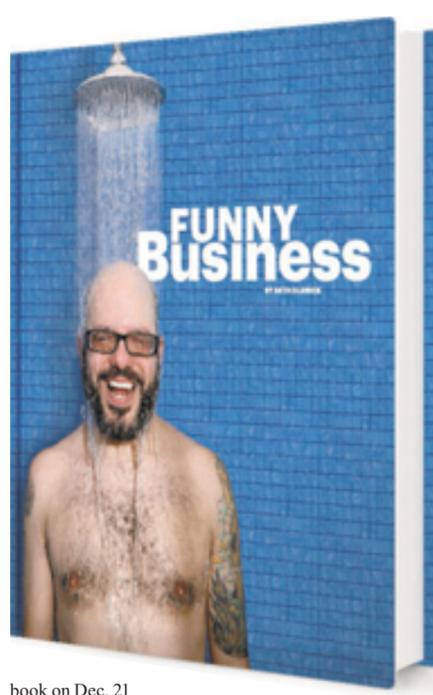
around 30 comics. In the end, the book, "Funny Business," which is out now, took seven years from start to finish, clocks in at 200 people, and weighs nearly five pounds. "One person just led to another," said Olenick, who met many of the comedians in the book when he was working as the photo editor for "Heeb" magazine. "Once I

started getting some of the really big names, then I realized that I could potentially get more." The end result is a mix of the field's stalwarts, up-and-comers, and comics who were up-and-comers at the start of Olenick's project and have since gained more fame. In this sprawling contemporary comic cross-section, you will find Weird Al Yank-

ovic peering out from behind his hair, Judd Apatow making a funny face, and Brooklyn regulars, such as Eugene Mirman and Max Silvestri, just generally being silly. There is also a large swath of comedians who have made their way to TV shows such as "30 Rock," "Parks and Recreation," and "Saturday Night Live."

This is not just a book of stand-ups, either. There are also photos of writers and directors, as well as actors who are better known for their dramatic work but have shown comedic range, such as Jon Hamm and Christopher Meloni.

"For me, it was more about getting people who have contributed to the comedy landscape, rather than just being stand-ups," said Olenick, who celebrates the release of his

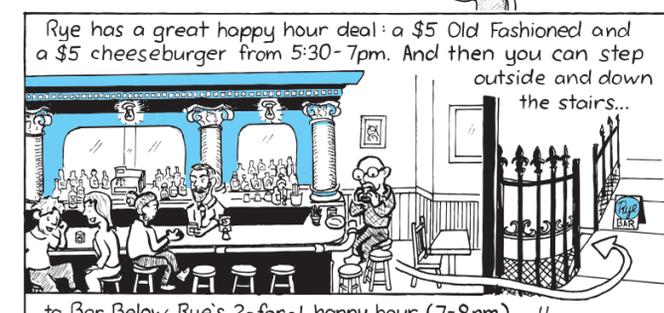


Bacon you laugh: Comedian Jim Gaffigan is one of the 200 comedians featured in Seth Olenick's new book, "Funny Business."

kis standing with a giant can of spray paint in front of graffiti on Banker Street in Greenpoint. They were mostly improvised with whatever was lying around, Olenick explained. "I wanted something that didn't look terribly forced," he said. "I wanted it to evoke

some sort of feeling — hopefully laughter." Seth Olenick celebrates the release of "Funny Business" at Union Hall [702 Union St. near Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, www.unionhallny.com], Dec. 21 at 8 pm. \$8.

BAR SCRAWL By Bill Roundy



Rye has a great happy hour deal: a \$5 Old Fashioned and a \$5 cheeseburger from 5:30-7pm. And then you can step outside and down the stairs...



...to Bar Below Rye's 2-for-1 happy hour (7-8pm).

But: this happy hour only applies to beer, wine, and well drinks. And the beer selection isn't very good.

Instead, you should spring for one of their delicious \$11 cocktails, like: 'Stirred Rye' (basically a really good Manhattan) or 'Diablero' w/ tequila, lemon, + fresh raspberries

Or you can invest in a bottle of Old Fashioneds for \$50 (serves 6). I don't know why more people don't order it!

Bar Below Rye [247 South First St., between Roebling and Havermeyer streets in Williamsburg. (718) 218-8047, www.barbelowrye.com]. Open Mon-Thu, 7 pm-2 am; Fri, Sat, 7 pm-4 am; Sun, closed.

A kick starter at Tony Roma's

Chain's first Brooklyn restaurant kicks it off right

By Bill Egbert
The Brooklyn Paper

Everybody knows that Tony Roma's has amazing ribs. But when you visit the upscale eatery's first Brooklyn location in Fort Greene, the dish you cannot miss is the Kickin' Shrimp. The lightly breaded, bite-sized crustaceans bite back with a bit of zing that sneaks up behind your taste buds, without overpowering the flavor. The secret to the Kickin' Shrimp's kick is a touch of chili power in the flour used to coat the shrimp before they're fried up in butter with another dash of peppers. Served in an oversized martini glass with a dusting of sesame seeds, the dish makes a perfect starter for a meal of red meat.

Look for the Kickin' Shrimp in the appetizers before you move on to the serious business of gnawing



The Best Thing We Ate This Week

on the eatery's signature ribs, which come in a mouth-watering variety of beef or pork, baby back or St. Louis style, and are baked in a choice of honey, smoky, hot, or original barbecue sauces. Tony Roma's has restaurants around the globe, but opened its first Brooklyn restaurant just this month, on Atlantic Avenue at South Portland Avenue, across from the Barclays Center. But the new Atlantic Avenue Tony Roma's is not actually the first location the famed family restaurant has staked out in the borough — Tony's daughter Sarina has lived in [neighborhood] since [year]. Tony Roma's Brooklyn [673 Atlantic Ave. at South Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 623-8669, tonyoromasny.com].

Get your kicks: The Kickin' Shrimp at Brooklyn's first Tony Roma's is a dish that hits back.

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Three top shelf weekend reads

Booksellers give their best recommendations for new releases

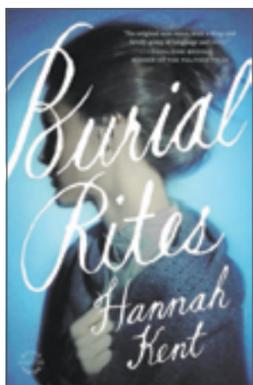
WORD'S PICK

"27: A History of the 27 Club" by Howard Sounes: I am a fan of their music, but I did not know much about the artists themselves before digging into this comprehensive (but not overwhelming) history of the members of the "27 Club"—musicians including Kurt Cobain, Amy Winehouse, and Jimi Hendrix who died at the age of 27. Sounes writes of their lives realistically, pointing out numerous similarities in their upbringings, relationships, and behaviors that link them in their tragically early deaths. Also, there is no glorifying of the rock star life or the ones who lived it, which makes this an especially intriguing study. Separated into two parts, "Life" and "Death," this is a great read for any music fan or curious mind.
— *CJ Schmidt, WORD* [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Prospect Heights, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbrooklyn.com].

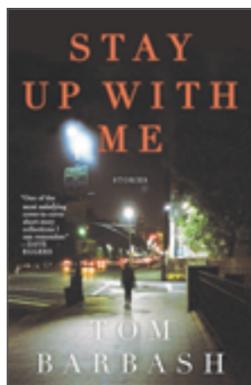


BookMark's pick

"Burial Rites" by Hannah Kent: Truth inspires fiction. Set in 19th-century Iceland and inspired by true life events, "Burial Rites" brings readers on a journey of the last months



of a condemned woman. Agnes Magnúsdóttir was found guilty of murdering her master. Political intrigue brings her to live out her final days on a peasant's farm. First shunning her, the family there finally understands Agnes, learning there are only half-



truths in gossip, even at the expense of a life. Take note of the pronunciation guide in the beginning and journey through the story of the last public execution in Iceland.
— *Bina Valenzano, co-owner, The BookMark Shoppe* [8415

Third Ave. between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge, (718) 833-5115, www.bookmarkshoppe.com].
Greenlight's pick
"Stay Up With Me" by Tom Barbash: After Alice Munro's Nobel Prize in Literature win this fall, the short story is finally making a comeback. Tom Barbash's newest short story collection, "Stay Up With Me," stands as testament to this, offering a round of stories that will appeal to both new readers of the genre as well as seasoned veterans. Exploring the deep, though frayed, nature of close relationships, Barbash draws us into a diverse set of characters and their neuroses and love for one another.
— *Grace Ecton, Greenlight Bookstore* [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

into the everyday world. info@rhombusspace.com. 1–5 pm. Rhombus Space (183 Lorraine St. between Clinton and Court streets, Third Floor in Red Hook), www.rhombusspace.com.

FILM, CARTOON CARNIVAL

#21: Santa's Surprise: Tom Stathes has hand-selected a group of weird, wacky, funny and jolly 16mm cartoons from the 1920s thru the 1940s full of snowmen, ice skating fun, Santa's surprises and more. \$10 (suggested). 8 pm. Brooklyn Launchpad [721 Franklin Ave. near Park Place in Prospect Heights, (646) 494-7211], brooklynlaunchpad.org.

PARTY LIKE IT'S 1999: A

Titanic December Edition: Dance party celebrating the film by playing the best mix of pop, rock, hip-hop, and R&B from the '90s. Free. 10 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

FLOATING KABARETTE:

Featuring aerial and acrobatic feats, a late-night dance party, and more. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 10:30 pm. Galapagos Art Space [16 Main St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 222-8500], www.galapagosartspace.com.

CRAZY SINCE DA 90S: DJs

Stefonix, BBeats, and Bianca play all the '90s hits. \$5 before midnight, \$8 after. 10:30 pm. Union

SUN, DEC. 22

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, BEYONCÉ: \$49.50–\$254.50. 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

SALES AND MARKETS

HAPPY HOUR HOLIDAY

SALE: Brooklyn designers and artists will be on hand for all those last-minute shoppers. Free. 11 am–7 pm. Halyards [406 Third Ave. at Sixth Street in Prospect Heights, (646) 494-7211], www.barhalyards.com.

UNDERGROUND THRIFT

STORE: Browse a curated collection of upscale and designer clothing and accessories as well as collectibles for the home. A percentage of proceeds benefits organizations that fight human trafficking. Free. 12:30–4:30 pm. Plymouth Church [65 Hicks St. between Orange and Cranberry streets in Brooklyn Heights, (212) 829-4923]

MON, DEC. 23

CHARLES H. TALLY HOLIDAY MONDAY FAMILY PROGRAMS:

Take a day to play at the Met and enjoy fun discussion and sketching! For families with children ages 5–12. Free with museum admission. 11 am. Noon, 1:15 pm, 2:30 pm. Metropolitan Museum of Art [1000 Fifth Ave. at

Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

COMEDY, WRESTLING

MANIA: The Best of the Worst of Pro Wrestling: Wrestlers and comedians watch and lampoon the best of the worst of 1980s and '90s pro wrestling. \$6. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, THE HUMANAUTS,

URBZ, HOUSE LIGHTS, STUDDUED OUT ENT, SYKEZ: \$13. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

THEATER, "THE PERFECT

PLAY": A version of the Nativity Play with some of downtown theater's biggest stars. \$10. 8 pm. Jack [505 1/2 Waverly Ave. between Fulton and Atlantic avenues in Clinton Hill, (718) 643-6510], www.jackny.org.

TUES, DEC. 24

BUG OUT!

Children of all ages meet grasshoppers, worms, and Madagascar hissing cockroaches. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am–12:30 pm and 2:30–3:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

JINGLE BELLS:

Get into the holiday spirit by singing carols and hearing cherished stories. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks



On bended knee: Beyoncé is back at the Barclays Center, Dec. 22.

Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

WED, DEC. 25

ART, "TOO ART FOR TV 7":

Fine art exhibition of 20 artists in the animation industry. Free. 2–8 pm. Bunncutlet Gallery [158 Roebling St. near Fillmore Place in Williamsburg, (917) 584-7420], www.bunncutlet.com.

SPORTS, NETS VS. BULLS:

NBA basketball. \$120–\$5,000. Noon. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, DAR WILLIAMS:

With Lucy Wainwright Roche. \$25. 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

MUSIC, V.A.P., GUSTO, JOEY FLAW:

\$7. 9 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

TWIN PEAKS BINGO:

Gather with fellow Twin Peaks lovers, gorge on doughnuts and Agent Cooper cocktails, and play bingo! Free. 8:30 pm. Videology [308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg], www.videology.info.

THURS, DEC. 26

ICE CARVING:

Professional ice carvers demonstrate the art and make wildlife-themed sculptures, interactive play area and a ice-carving contest. Free with zoo admission. 10 am–4 pm. Bronx Zoo [2300 Southern Blvd. at Boston Road in University Heights, (718) 220-5103], www.bronxzoo.com.

JOYOUS KWANZAA:

Explore the popular cultural holiday and make a banner to take home. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

MUSIC, PITBULL:

\$40–\$130. 7:30 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

MUSIC, DAR WILLIAMS:

With Lucy Wainwright Roche. \$25. 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

MUSIC, V.A.P., GUSTO, JOEY FLAW:

\$7. 9 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

NIGHTS...

Continued from page 5

the original lead singer of the Shirelles.

8 pm at Brooklyn College, Walt Whitman Theatre (2900 Avenue H, between Campus Road and Hillel Place in Midwood, www.brooklyncenteronline.org). \$36–\$45.

Dec. 22: Country

Brooklyn-based country band the Sweetback Sisters has been throwing its "Country Christmas Singalong Spectacular" every year since 2009, and now tours the show all over the East Coast. See it where it all began at Red Hook's Jalopy Theatre, where the band will perform its country-fried covers of classic Christmas tunes.

8 pm at the Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Redhook, (718) 395-3214, www.jalopy.biz]. \$18–\$20.

Dec. 23: Comedy

The special Christmas

edition of funny-man Wyatt Cenac's monthly comedy night "Night Train" also happens to be the final show of the year. The all-star line-up includes Todd Barry ("Louie," "The Wrestler") and Janeane Garofalo (every single comedy movie made in the '90s).

8 pm at Littlefield [622 Degraw St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388, www.littlefieldnyc.com]. \$5–\$8.

Dec. 24: Feast

If you have been meaning to check out chef Saul Bolton's beloved self-titled restaurant Saul since it relocated from Boerum Hill to the Brooklyn Museum in October, this is the perfect opportunity. The digs may be new, but the eatery is still cooking up its traditional Christmas Eve "Feast of the Seven Fishes." Fishy dishes include fried anchovies, roasted monkfish, and charred Spanish octopus.

From 5:30 pm at Saul, the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Parkway near Washington Avenue, (718) 935-9842, www.saulrestaurant.com]. \$125.

FRI, DEC. 27

LEARN ABOUT KWANZAA:

Children performance and learn the seven principals of the holiday. Free with museum admission. 1 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [Flatbush Ave. at Eastern Parkway in Grand Army Plaza in Park Slope, (718) 230-2100], www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org/branch_library_detail.jsp?branchpageid=265.

COMPETITIVE EROTIC FAN

FICTION: NYC Championship Edition: Featuring all past NYC winners. Hosted by Bryan Cook. \$10. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

MUSIC, VON WILDER, CO-

RALEENA ELLIS, BOSKO SUBARA, T HEART, J-SYNDROME: \$13. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, CHARANGA SOLEIL:

As part of BAMcfe Life. Free. 9 pm. Brooklyn Academy of Music [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], www.bam.org.

HEAD ON: 2013 vs. 2003:

Monthly dance battle where you pick the winner (by dancing). With DJ Brian Blackout. Free. 10 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

KARAOKE KILLED THE CAT:

Karaoke dance party for people who never thought they'd like karaoke. Free. Midnight. Union Hall [702

Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallny.com.

SAT, DEC. 28

PERFORMANCE

MUSIC, BLINDMAN, TEC-HUNKA, NEWBORN, HEAVYFLOW: \$8. 8 pm. Trash Bar [256 Grand St. at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 599-1000], www.thetrashbar.com.

MUSIC, DEAD POP STARS

SOCIETY: 10 pm. The Flat [308 Hooper St. between S. Fifth Street and Broadway in Williamsburg], www.the-flatbknyc.com.

OTHER

KWANZAA CRAFTING:

Children learn about the holiday and make fun project to take home. Free with museum admission. 11:30 am and 2:30 pm. Brooklyn Children's Museum [145 Brooklyn Ave. at St. Marks Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 735-4400], www.brooklynkids.org.

SPORTS, BROOKLYN

HOOPS WINTER FESTIVAL:

College basketball. St. John's vs. Columbia, Kansas State vs. Tulane, and Boston College vs. VCU. \$26–\$206. 3 pm, 5:30 pm, 8 pm. Barclays Center [620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights, (917) 618-6100], www.barclayscenter.com.

WEARABLE ART:

Children use recycled materials to create fun fashions. Free. 6 pm. Salt Marsh Nature Center [3302 Avenue U in Marine Park, (718) 421-2021].

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Swing would be missed

Landlord jacks up rent, threatens to oust kids, seniors

By Danielle Furfaro
The Brooklyn Paper

An embattled Williamsburg senior center and daycare got another batch of bad news last week in the form of a huge rent hike and a threat of eviction, according to the center's manager.

The Swinging Sixties Center has been hanging on by a thread since 2012, when the city revoked funding

for both its senior and toddler programs. Pols later restored the money under pressure from residents, but the Ainslie Street hub is bracing for another fight for its life after workers say they received a letter from the building's new owner detailing a \$10,000-a-month rent increase and a list of harsh demands.

"This is an emotional

thing, and now we need to fight all over again," said Community Board 1 member Jan Peterson, who spent the late 1960s and early 1970s working to open the center.

John Pelle, who runs the senior center, says he got the note from new owner Victor Einhorn on Tuesday. The rent is being raised to \$40,000 per month and the tenants are now responsible for all upkeep and repairs, Pelle said the letter states. And if they cannot meet the new terms? Einhorn will padlock the building with no notice, according to Pelle.

The facility has hosted bingo games and the like for elderly people, daycare and after-school programs for kids, and community board meetings since 1974.

Peterson said she is disgusted with the city's lack of oversight, given that it has spent millions on the building in the decades since the senior center opened, and suggested a government takeover as the solution to the center's landlord battle.

"With all of the public money that has gone into this building over the year, why doesn't the city take it under eminent domain?" said



Photo by Selene Giovannini

The Swinging Sixties Center, where Mike Liantonio plays bingo, is threatened by a new landlord who has jacked up the rent.

Peterson.

Peterson said she and others are trying to set up a meeting with city officials to see if a landlord can legally kick out a tenant that is running a

city-funded program.

In the meantime, the community board meeting that holds its meetings at the center, is looking for new digs.

LIBERTYchurch
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January 19, 2014
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RINK...

Continued from page 1

a spokesman said. When we stopped by on Wednesday, workers were still landscaping, bolting tables into place, shaping up an entrance path, and installing lights. But the rinks were ready to go.

The center's two rinks will be used for ice-skating, skate school, and hockey practice from November to March and the covered rink will be re-purposed for roller-skating from April to October.

The overhaul also came with pedestrian pathways, pic-

nic areas, a lake-shore dock, a 15,000-gallon cistern to catch rainwater and use it for irrigation, and a revamping of Music Island, which once hosted concerts but will now be an animal refuge.

A spokeswoman for the center said the workers completed the entire project on time and within budget, but it had a little help from the accountants who raised the spending cap to \$74-million in 2008 from an estimate of \$50-million in 2007.

Ice skating admission will be \$6 on weekdays and \$8 on weekends and holidays, but entry to the LeFrak Center event space will be free.

FALL...

Continued from page 1

struggled to lift the woman as a train approached the station. Others ran to the upper level and, within moments, dozens more people materialized downstairs, with several helping to hoist the woman onto the platform and 20 to 30 others rushing to the end to try to halt the train, a witness said.

"It was about to come, but they stopped it," said Jasmine Valle, an aspiring medical technician. "It took eight peo-

ple to lift her up because she was dead weight."

The good Samaritans vanished into the station once the woman was out of harm's way, leaving her alone, still unconscious and bleeding on the platform, according to Valle. The bystander said she performed CPR while awaiting first responders, or, in this case, second responders.

The woman was taken to Brooklyn Hospital, but her condition was unknown a fire department spokeswoman said. The incident was illness-related, she said.

LICH...

Continued from page 1

oper Fortis Property Group, which pitched a plan to tear down the hospital and build a condo complex that would include a so-called "medical mall," featuring an urgent care center, dentists offices, and surgery facilities, but no emergency room. It was one of the state's favored proposals among a still-secret num-

ber of others. A sale would not erase the debt the state has racked up while running Long Island College Hospital, the state said.

No takeover proposals came from in-state hospitals, according to the university board.

The state is still facing a court contempt hearing on Jan. 21 for its repeated moves to close the hospital despite judges' orders demanding that it not.

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Happy & Healthy
Holiday Season*



Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney
(Manhattan, Queens, Brooklyn)

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No green light for Red Hook school

By Megan Riesz
The Brooklyn Paper

A charter school chain's bid to build a pricey private school in Red Hook is an out-of-nowhere, elitist moneymaking scheme that has no place in the working-class neighborhood, said a local panel that voted to block its bid last Wednesday night.

Community Board 6 voted against Arizona-based Basis Independent School's application to build a five-story private school on Columbia Street where tuition would run \$23,500 per year, saying that it would be a terrible fit in the industrial area between the Red Hook Houses, the borough's



biggest public housing development, and furniture retailer Ikea. Not only that, but Basis filed the application for a special building permit without telling neighbors, according to board members who said that raised red flags.

"My sense is that either this is a blatant attempt by [Basis] to fly under the radar — or, in the best case, they are incredibly naïve," said board member Elizabeth Shipley. "They should spend some more time building up support and building up relationships."

The board's land use committee approved Basis' plan for a school between Bay and

Sigourney streets at a Nov. 14 meeting, but the board then recommended the company go back to the drawing board because the high-priced learning center would be out-of-place and because the company did bupkis to hear out Red Hookers about their concerns.

The school chain stuck to its original application to the city's Board of Standards and Appeals, which did nothing to endear it to the already-suspicious board.

"There's something in this that's not right," said board member Roger Rigolli. "This is nothing but a façade." Some Red Hook residents

at the meeting said they were blindsided by Basis' application because the company did not do its due diligence in telling neighbors about the school plan as required by Community Board 6, but the company maintains it did what it was told.

"It's like a disrespect," said Lillie Marshall, president of a Red Hook Houses tenants association. "They are coming into the community, and they are not saying anything to anybody. The location is wrong."

Basis is hoping to open the school in the fall of 2014. The company did not respond to a request for comment.

TYSON...

Continued from page 1

he was banned from entering the UK for a planned book tour due to his rape conviction — but the pugilist once dubbed "the baddest man on the planet" looked the model statesman as he greeted the long line of fans snaking its way through the building. He also made time to help light the plaza's Christmas tree, and then proceeded to lead the crowd in a rousing rendition of "Jingle Bells."

The event was a collaboration between Fort Green's Greenlight Bookstore and the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation. The two have held a number of celebrity book-signings together before — both NBA hall-of-famer Earl "The Pearl" Monroe and "CSI: NY" star Hill Harper made appearances earlier this year — but the visit from hometown hero Tyson held particular significance.

"It's very special to have Mike Tyson, because he is one of Bedford-Stuyvesant's own," said Tracey Capers, Restoration's program director. Tyson, who was born in the neighborhood but moved to Brownsville at age 10, said the feeling was mutual.

"I'm from Bedford-Stuyvesant," he declared. "I just had to move to Brownsville because my parents fell

on hard times. It's funny how life repeats itself and I'm back here again — life just goes around in circles."

The borough-bred bruiser now lives in Las Vegas and noted that his old stomping grounds had changed significantly since he was a kid — for the better.

"I like to see the prospering of the neighborhood," Tyson said. "It looks so much better than it did when I lived here in the '70s."

The boxer's homecoming also held meaning for many locals who emerged from the building clutching autographed books and gossiping about their brush with the star slugger. Passing groups of teenagers shouted, "Oh my god, it's Iron Mike!" and crowded around the windows to take snap-shots on their cellphones.

"It's a beautiful thing," said George Hobbs, a former boxer who knows Tyson personally from back when they were both training in Brooklyn gyms. "I'm glad he made this book to make people aware of the person he really is."

"He is a champ," said William Lim, a self-proclaimed "huge fan" who came from Clinton Hill to meet Tyson for the first time. "He has a different life now. He is not that bad man people knew."

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WHOLE...

Continued from page 1

levels it out for people," said Bedford-Stuyvesant resident Chana Wells, who travels to Long Island to shop at Fairway Market and Trader Joe's and said she will work Whole Foods into the mix.

Whole Foods spokesman Michael Sinatra said the company, which has seven locations in Manhattan, is used to battling competition from neighborhood mom-and-pops and other chains, but added that he does not yet know how the new food store will affect Brooklyn's supermarket landscape.

The chain's 2005 announcement that it would build its first Brooklyn outpost in Gowanus was met with protest from some locals who argued that the store would kill small stores and cause nightmarish traffic.

But after Whole Foods helped clean up the canal-side site, downsized its original building plan, and assured

the city that it would not further pollute the canal, construction kicked off in July 2012.

The store still has to earn its goodwill in the neighborhood, said one local leader.

"We can only hope that this business serves as the catalyst for future investment in the area and provides essential goods and jobs for the community," said Community Board 6 District Manager Craig Hammerman. "[It is] a question of how it can blend into the surrounding environment and support industrial businesses."

One of the biggest surprises the natural food monger had in store was not actually in the store — Whole Foods is offering borough-wide delivery.

But party-crashers hoping to gorge themselves on free samples were likely disappointed by the sole table of watermelon slices and other hors d'oeuvres.

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Flatbush tower gets tweaked

By Jaime Lutz
The Brooklyn Paper

The city gave the okay for mega-developers to start work that would turn a Flatbush Avenue parking lot into an apartment tower with a movie theater and public library on the ground floors and a triangular plaza on a platform at its base, building records show.

The so-called "Brooklyn Academy of Music South" building will sit across Ashland Place from the Brooklyn Academy of Music's cinema, but, though the city has signed off on foundation work, no construction is currently under way at the site. The developer of the complex on the triangular lot bounded by Flatbush Avenue, Lafayette Avenue, and Ashland and Hanson places says the tower will knit the Barclays Center to Downtown, which is rapidly becoming a dense residential center.

"By partnering with the city and some of Brooklyn's most innovative cultural institutions, we'll be able to provide permanent community amenities and an iconic new public plaza that helps to connect Downtown Brooklyn to the new arena," said Jed Valentas, head of mega-developer Two Trees Management Company.

The 32-story apartment tower is now slated to include 286 apartments space for the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which will use the building in part to make its archives public and to house a new branch of the Brooklyn Public Library. The Council approved a zoning variance for the project, which includes twice as much housing as building rules allow, in July. The vote to give the high-rise the go-ahead came over the objections of neighbors who complained that the apartment-heavy plan is an unwelcome switch from an earlier pitch that included office space and that the tall structure will obscure the iconic Williamsburgh Savings Bank tower.

"It's a pity, because it's a beautiful landmark," said Frederick M., a subletter in the landmark building a stone's throw away who asked that his last name not be used. "They shouldn't obstruct it in any way."

Records show that the developer is still tinkering with the design. Previously, the building was designed for 32 stories and between 300 and 400 apartments.

The building is rumored to be one of two in the running to house Brooklyn's first Apple store, according to The Real Deal, a real estate news website.

say, I'm on board. Or at least I'm getting on board.

Why, just the other day I was in such a good frame of mind that my son didn't think I should drive.

"You're drunk," Eli said. I'd had a glass of wine at a pizza joint, but certainly not enough to surpass the legal limit.

"I'm not," I protested. "Why do you say that?"

He looked at me then, straight in the eyes.

"You're just acting much happier than usual," he said. I laughed, because it was true that I felt happy, but not true that it had anything to do with alcohol, or at least not everything. I don't know exactly what it was, but I wish it came so easily in a bottle.

I think it was because I'd worked hard all day on a project I believe in. I'd spent time with people who believe in that project with me. And I'd committed to spending quality time with my family outside the home because the previous night had been a horror show, with me acting out my favorite early scenes from "The Taming of the Shrew." Or maybe I had been channeling "Mommie Dearest."

Either way, I'd vowed to work on getting everybody out from in front of screens to sit face-to-face and interact. And it had worked, swimmingly.

Despite the cold and the dismissing of the idea to see

the lights in Dyker Heights because they were too far away, we'd gotten in the car and taken a little adventure to a different neighborhood. The food was mediocre, but the service was nice and the company was spectacular, my little men, their bright and shining selves.

And so it was noted, that I was "happier than usual," which didn't even put a damper on things and make me think what a miserable sow I must be normally to elicit this response to my near-giddiness.

I took the opportunity to say instead, "I like spending time with you," and he said it right back, my 12-year-old, without skipping a beat, "I like spending time with you too."

And I just took it in, breathed in the wondrous moment instead of running to put it on Facebook or take a photo of us to put in the Christmas card I'm never going to send. And I realized. It is a law of averages. It is what good gamblers know, that you win some and you lose some, you're dealt good hands and bad. Sometimes you have to switch tables to change the energy and find your sweet spot.

And it is with this thought that I'm moving forward into the holidays, to appreciate the moments when joy makes a beautiful surprise appearance and everyone feels it.

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Happy, fearless for holidays

The faces smile out at me from other people's Christmas cards. They're so happy, I think, and I vow to take more pictures, maybe even to get it together to send cards, albeit late ones since it is already well into December.

And then I remember: moments captured in time do not tell the whole story. I know these people, the ones who send me cards. And while they are wonderful, often joyous people, Christmas card senders—like all people—have their difficulties.



Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

Not too many people spill the darker deeper grapple-in-the-night moments in their Christmas cards. They don't say "Little Tommy was in size four tennis shoes for months before we realized he was a six." They don't say, "Most mornings I am in a panic just trying to find my keys," or "I'm so tired of my job," or "The husband and I rarely have sex."

No. We get nothing from holiday cards except good tidings and cheer. And, I have to

say, I'm on board. Or at least I'm getting on board.

Why, just the other day I was in such a good frame of mind that my son didn't think I should drive.

"You're drunk," Eli said. I'd had a glass of wine at a pizza joint, but certainly not enough to surpass the legal limit.

"I'm not," I protested. "Why do you say that?"

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"You're just acting much happier than usual," he said. I laughed, because it was true that I felt happy, but not true that it had anything to do with alcohol, or at least not everything. I don't know exactly what it was, but I wish it came so easily in a bottle.

I think it was because I'd worked hard all day on a project I believe in. I'd spent time with people who believe in that project with me. And I'd committed to spending quality time with my family outside the home because the previous night had been a horror show, with me acting out my favorite early scenes from "The Taming of the Shrew." Or maybe I had been channeling "Mommie Dearest."

Either way, I'd vowed to work on getting everybody out from in front of screens to sit face-to-face and interact. And it had worked, swimmingly.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/12/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001372-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Juliana (Last) Goldstein. My present name is (First) Juliana (Last) Burimi. My present address is 9110 3rd Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11209. My place of birth is Albania. My date of birth is March 06, 1979.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT: Kings County Panagiota Diamantakis, Harry Lambrakis and Stylianos Kapolas, Plaintiffs vs. Anthony Giammarino a/k/a Joseph Giammarino and Jennifer Laudisio, NYC Environmental Control Board, NYS Department of Taxation & Finance, The City of New York, New York City Parking Violations Bureau, United States of America and John Doe #s 1 through #10, Defendants, Index No. 16517-2009. Attorney for Plaintiffs: ERIC NELSON, ESQ., 54 Florence St., Staten Island, NY 10308, 718.356.5066 Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale granted on September 25, 2012, I will sell at Public Auction to the highest bidder at Kings County Supreme Court located at 360 Adams Street, Room 224, Brooklyn, New York on Thursday, January 9th, 2014 at 2:30 pm in the afternoon, premises known as 279 3rd Avenue, Brooklyn, New York Block #448 Lot 6. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of Brooklyn County of Kings, City and State of New York as more particularly described in the judgment of foreclosure and sale. Sold subject to all of the terms and conditions contained in said judgment and terms of sale. Approximate amount of judgment \$890,286.58 plus interest and costs. INDEX NO. 16517/2009 Helene Blank, Esq., REFEREE

CT TAX LIENS 4, LLC VS. MAURICE WISELER, ET NOTICE TO: MAURICE WISELER, formerly of Brooklyn, NY Upon the complaint of the Plaintiff in the above-entitled action, praying for reasons therein set forth, for a foreclosure of tax liens on the property known as 53-55 Fremont Street, Bridgeport, CT and possession of said premises, returnable to the above court on the 4th Tuesday of September, 2013, and upon a motion in the said action for an order of notice, it appearing to and being found by the subscribing authority, that the identities and residences of the Defendant named above are unknown to the Plaintiff, and that notice of the institution of this action most likely to come to their attention is that hereinafter ordered: it is ORDERED.

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NOTICE IS HEREBY given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 12/16/2013, bearing Index Number NC-001386-13/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Jared (Middle) Seth (Last) Moore (infant). My present address is 379 6th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL. My date of birth is February 02, 2002.

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Open enrollment for the 2014-2015 academic school year ends on 4/1/2014 at 5:00 pm. Applications are available for the indicated grades and can be obtained at the school, at www.NHASchools.com or by calling 866-NHA-ENROLL. Should the number of applications received during open enrollment exceed available seats, a random-selection drawing will be necessary. The drawing, if needed, will be held at the respective school on the following date: • Brooklyn Dreams - 4/04/2014 at 5:00 PM • Brooklyn Excelsior - 4/09/2014 at 10:00 AM • Brooklyn Scholars - 4/30/2014 at 6:00 PM Applications received after open enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis for remaining open seats. Waiting lists will be formed accordingly. NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY AS TO STUDENTS National Heritage Academies admits students of any race, color, and nationality or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of intellectual or athletic abilities, measures of achievement or aptitude, disability, status as a handicapped person, homeless status, English proficiency, religion, creed, race, sex, color, or national origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies and athletic or other school-administered programs.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application with Remedial Action Work Plan (RAWP) from 555 Grand Units LLC for a site known as the 555 Grand Street, site ID #C224185. This site is located in the City of Brooklyn, within the County of Kings, and is located at 555 Grand Street 11211. Comments regarding this application & RAWP must be submitted no later than February 7, 2014. Information regarding the site, the application, and how to submit comments can be found at: http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html or send comments to Sadique Ahmed, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Division of Environmental Remediation, Remedial Bureau B, 625 Broadway, 12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-7016, 518-402-9767 sxahmed@gw.dec.state.ny.us To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html

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DEADLINE NOTICE Due to the holidays, the deadline for Classified ads will be Monday, December 23 at 12PM for the December 27 issue. To avoid missing deadline, try to place your ads by Friday, December 20. Have a safe & enjoyable holiday! CNG Community Newspaper Group