

# The Brooklyn Paper

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AWP/16 pages • Vol. 38, No. 14 • April 3-9, 2015 • FREE

## THE BABY BLUES

### Red Hook tenants say building unsafe for their new kids

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about a baby boom!  
A Red Hook landlord who leased cheap apartments in a less-than-perfect building is putting the lives of toddlers in danger as he jacks up rents and disregards necessary repairs, claim some long-time tenants who have procreated since moving in — and now expect a better living environment.

"People who have been living here for a long time have gone through major life changes," said Kelsey Knight Mohr, who has resided in the former Monarch Luggage factory on Delavan Street between Dwight and Richards Streets with her fiancé since 2011. "When you have to lug a stroller up four flights of stairs instead of just your own drunk a--, your priorities change."

Residents claim many of the 98 units in the three buildings that make up the former factory lack a modern plumbing system, are not accessible to people with disabilities, and contain railings a small child could easily fall through. In 2012, owners Harbor Tech L.L.C. began spiking rents on renewed leases — sometimes as much as 35 percent — with no corresponding increase in living conditions, the group said.

Now, residents from 30 units in the former Monarch Luggage factory — who sued the landlord when rents started rising — are pressing the Department of Buildings to conduct a new inspection of the property in a bid to retroactively designate the building as rent-stabilized.

The former factory was built



Iris Follett sits near the stairwell's open rail, which residents say children could fall through.

in 1920 and remained commercial until 2005, when the Department of Buildings approved it for residences, three years after a 2002 inspection. Building plans submitted in that application show a working elevator, accessibility ramps, and other features that residents say never existed. But the building passed inspection, and in 2014 a judge ruled against the tenants' bid for rent stabilization, arguing that the city's certificate of occupancy meant the building had been sufficiently modernized.

The tenants say that the buildings should never have been issued a certificate of occupancy in the first place. And what was okay when residents just wanted a place off the beaten path where

they could live on the cheap and throw parties is no longer acceptable as they've grown up.

"When you have a kid you suddenly start paying attention to that unsafe railing," Mohr said.

Still, Mohr insisted if the buildings were made more livable, the residents wouldn't mind an increase in rent.

"Everybody is willing to pay predictable reasonable rent increases for a place that is maintained in a safe way," Mohr said. "We're not just looking for a sweet deal anymore."

New York's rent stabilization law mandates that landlords can only charge market rent on a building constructed before 1974 if it has undergone a complete infrastructure overhaul. The tenants hired

their own architect to inspect the building, who reported that 14 out of 17 of the building's systems — including plumbing, bathrooms, and roofs — have not been "substantially rehabilitated." A lawyer for the group said the discrepancy casts doubt on the legitimacy of the 2002 inspection.

"The owner submitted drawings that show the building qualified, but the drawings don't reflect what is at the premises," said attorney Jack Lester. "Either they didn't look at all or they were paid not to look."

The inspector who examined the building no longer works at the Department of Buildings, a spokesman said.

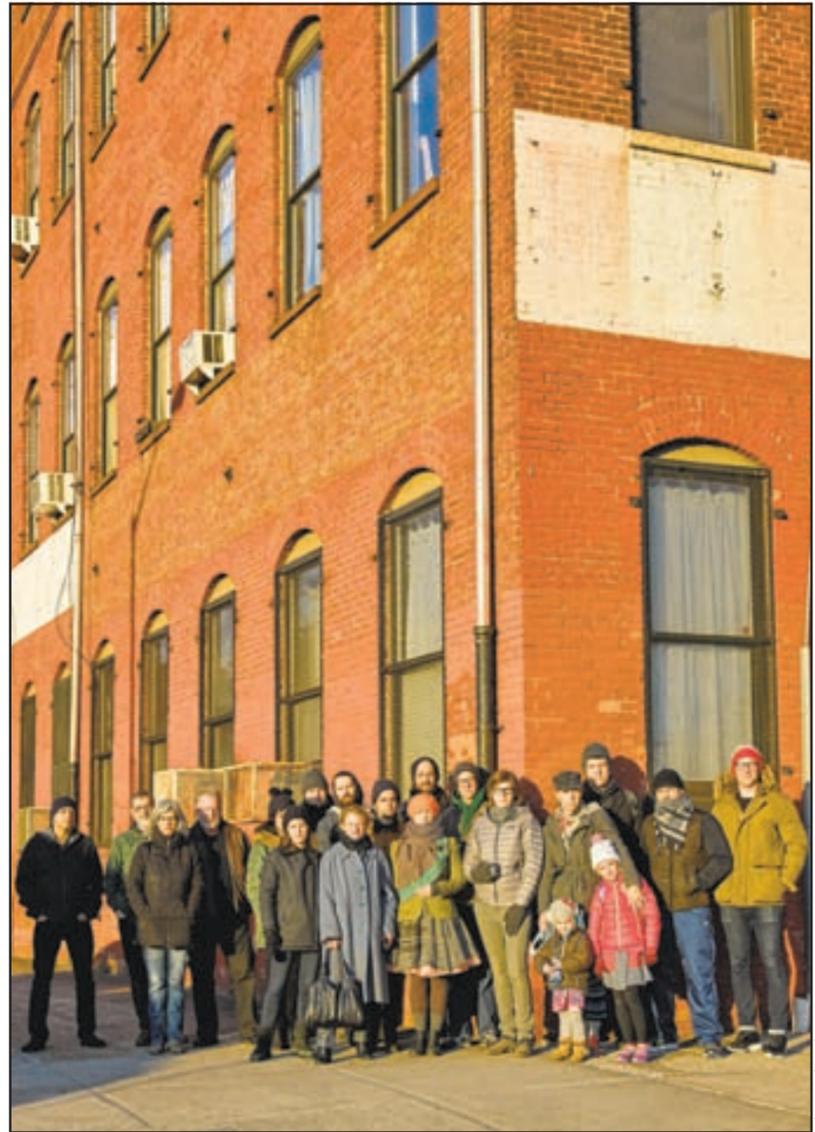
In December, after almost two years of litigation — and shortly after the ruling in favor of the landlord — tenants involved in the lawsuit began receiving eviction notices. Since then the notices have come in waves, Mohr said, and now Harbor Tech has begun proceedings against all but three units involved in the suit.

Mohr and her fiancé, who do not have children, received a termination notice in February, and in March, she said, her rent check was returned un-cashed.

"It feels like they're trying to pick us off one by one," she said.

Following repeated inquiries by The Brooklyn Paper, a Department of Buildings spokesman said the agency is preparing to conduct a new inspection and to audit the certificate of occupancy issued in 2005.

Management did not respond to requests for comment.



Members of the tenant group from the former Monarch Luggage factory stand outside their building, which they say is unsafe for kids.



Brooklyn Kitchen owner Taylor Erkkinen says halting weekend L train services will cost her business.

## Railing against the L shutdown

### Williamsburg businesses demand MTA keep train running on weekends

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

They are raising L.  
The Metropolitan Transportation Authority must suspend its plan to halt L train service between Brooklyn and Manhattan for five consecutive weekends in April and May even though the agency claims it can't, says a cohort of Williamsburg and Greenpoint business owners who fear the closure will cost them big bucks.

"I have 500 people scheduled for

classes during those weekends, and I am going to have to let them know that they will not be able to reach us," said Taylor Erkkinen, owner of the Brooklyn Kitchen, a store at Frost Street and Meeker Avenue in Williamsburg that also offers cooking classes. "It will clearly be thousands of dollars worth of lost business for me."

The L train will run only between the Lorimer Street station in Williamsburg and the Canarsie-Rockaway Parkway stop from

Friday night to Monday morning for five weekends between April 18 and May 18.

The authority says it will provide a shuttle bus from the Lorimer Street station to the Marcy Avenue stop, and also beef up bus services in Manhattan.

More than 300 people have signed an online petition, which asks the authority to change the dates until later in the year, when business is slower.

"Why couldn't they do this back

in January or plan something else?" said Tyler Boss, a clerk at Desert Island Comics on Metropolitan Avenue. "This sounds like mismanagement."

The transit authority has acquiesced to the neighborhood businesses on service suspension before. The Northside Merchants Association convinced the agency to switch a weekend L train closure that was set to take place during the annual Northside music festival in 2013. And the agency has worked with

the merchants association on a few other occasions to make sure track work did not conflict with important neighborhood events, according to Northside Merchants Association manager Caitlin Dourmashkin.

But the authority says it won't be moved this time.

"Unfortunately, it cannot be rescheduled later in the year because it cannot coincide with other scheduled work on the J-Z and G lines," said spokeswoman Marisa Baldeo.

## Rock 'n' roll junior high school

### Kids in Williamsburg are teaching each other guitar

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

The first rule of the Guitar Club is to tell everyone about the Guitar Club.

The second rule is to teach them how to play guitar.

A group of Williamsburg middle schoolers have been inspired to teach fellow students how to handle an axe after a school parent and a teacher took the time to teach them how to play a six-string.

Guitar-playing parent Beau Friedlander teamed with MS 577 guitar-playing teacher Tom MacDonald to teach kids songs such as the Lumineer's "Ho Hey," and after they rocked out at a holiday show, demand for the duo's services outweighed their supply of time.

And that's when their first students stepped in.

"When a kid finally gets it, it gives me the feeling that I have done something good," said 13-year-old student Matthew Fitzpatrick, a seventh grader who has already begun passing down his knowledge



Beau Friedlander works with student Lesly Lara, part of an ever-expanding guitar club at MS 577.

to kids even more wet behind the ears than he, even though he only started playing six months ago and knows a handful of chords. "It is really fun."

Fitzpatrick and other older kids picked up the slack by starting to teach each other, and as soon as they would learn a new chord or song, they would seek out younger kids to show them how it is done. Friedlander and MacDonald started asking their students to promise to pass on what they learned.

"We are creating this weird little nation of guitar players," said Friedlander.

And the kids all turn out to be all right as teachers.

"Kids are sometimes better at showing each other how to do things than adults are," said Friedlander. "They speak the same language."

And according to the kids, explaining how something is done to another student benefits both the student and the teacher.

"Teaching helps you understand the instruments better," said Ella Friedlander. "You are getting a deeper understanding of what you are playing."

The kids have already learned several popular songs, including "Fire-

## Honors for Paper

The Brooklyn Paper

It's official: The Brooklyn Paper is the best of the better.

Your beloved weekly broadsheet took home two top prizes at the New York Press Association's prestigious Better Newspaper Contest, earning the gold for our beautifully designed front pages, and getting an A-plus as a tutor to the journalists of tomorrow with a "Rookie Reporter of the Year" award.

Cheers, high-fives, and handshakes were shared across our MetroTech newsroom as the word spread of the honors.

"I've always said that nothing can capture a moment in time better than the front page of a newspaper," Brook-

lyn Paper editor Vince DiMiceli told his gathered staff Monday morning.

"And these awards show that there aren't many better at finding and delivering the news than our team."

That team used to include Rookie Reporter of the Year Matthew Perlman (who sadly left The Paper shortly before earning the award), a former computer programmer and skilled City University of New York Graduate School of Journalism alum whose technical know-how infused his work with the kind of

gee-whiz razzle-dazzle that makes the kids today pick up newspapers and read neighborhood news online.

See PAPER on page 4



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# American idle!

## Mayor's cars run while he jogs in Slope

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

He is burning calories while his cars burn fossil fuels!

Mayor DeBlasio routinely travels 11 miles in a two-car motorcade to workout in his beloved Park Slope YMCA, and leaves his security force in idling cars outside as he breaks a sweat inside.

The mayor, who has positioned himself as an environmentalist by backing bans on in-home wood-burning fireplaces and single-use Styrofoam containers, and is considering a fee for the use of plastic bags at stores, is thumbing his nose at the environment by allowing his motorcade — generally made up of two Chevrolet Suburbans — to idle for up to an hour while he works out, opponents say.

"It is unconscionable for him to do that," said Gloria Mattera, a Park Slope resident, co-chair of the state Green Party, and former challenger to DeBlasio's Council seat. "I think these career politicians have two faces. Eventually something has to be compromised."

Curbside idling is a threat to every New Yorker's health, according to a 2009 study by the Environmental Defense Fund, a group of more than 500 scientists, economists, and other professionals dedicated to preserving the natural systems on which all life depends.

The group claims that each year, unnecessary idling in New York City causes as much smog-forming pollution as 9 million large trucks driving from Hunts Point in the Bronx to bucolic Staten Island.

Leaving a car idling is also against the law. New York state law prohibits cars other than licensed emergency vehicles from idling for more than three



Photo by Elizabeth Graham



Photo by Noah Hurowitz

(Top) Mayor DeBlasio leaves the Prospect Park YMCA, where he regularly exercises as his motorcade idles outside. (Above) One of the mayor's Chevrolet Suburbans idles as his drivers await his honor's return from the Park Slope Y.

minutes at a time — a law some say is rarely enforced by police.

In fact, a pair of lawmakers recently introduced city legislation that would pay residents willing to report idling automobiles with the funds coming from increased penalties for law breakers.

But it is not just the idling that irks neighbors. Residents say that the amount of miles added to the mayor's schedule by his trips to Park Slope put even more pollutants in the air.

On one occasion, DeBlasio was inside the Y from about 8:30 to 9:30 am before he drove another 18 miles to Lehman College in the Bronx where he was scheduled to address a graduation ceremony for corrections officers.

The drive from Gracie Mansion to Lehman is just eight and a half miles, so the trip to the Slope adding more than 20 miles to DeBlasio's drive that day.

DeBlasio also ducked into the Y on the morning of the State of the City address at Baruch College, which is just a three-mile drive from Gracie Mansion, but seven miles from the gym.

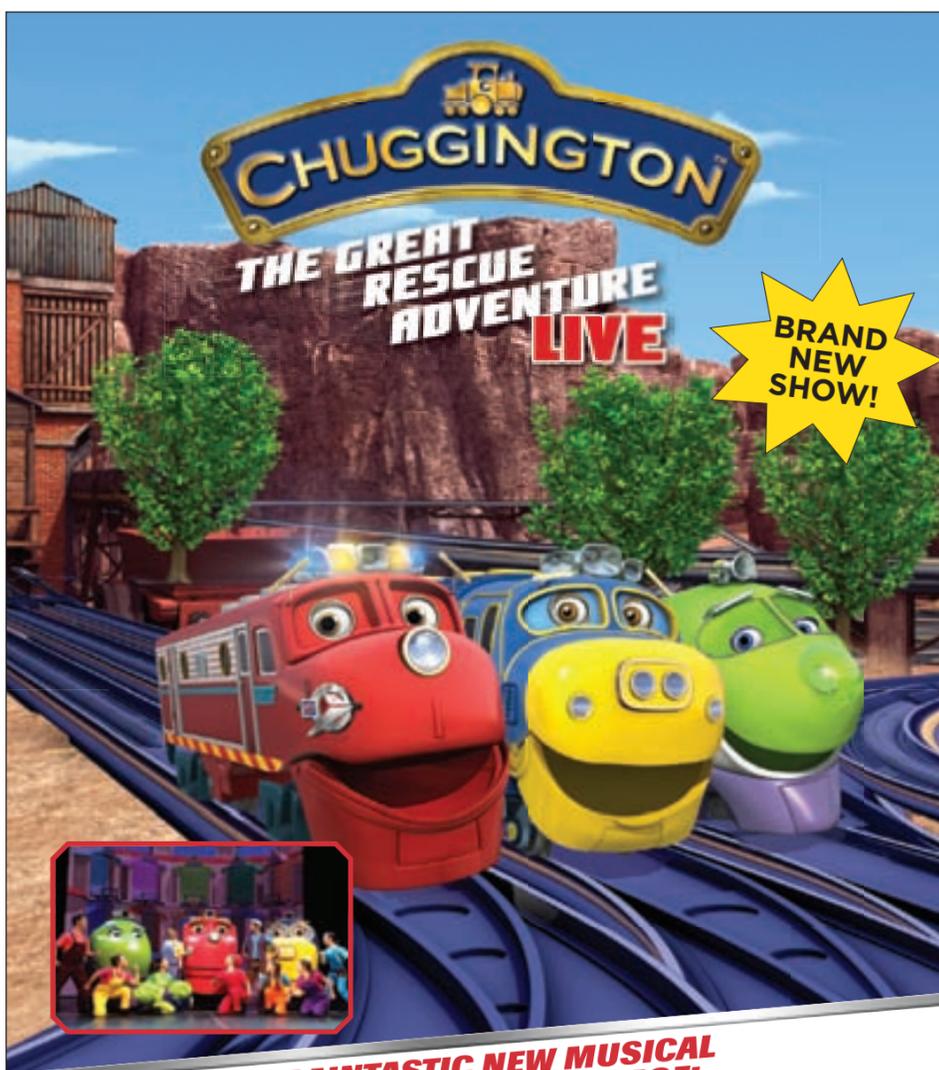
In 10 visits to the Prospect Park Y, we saw the mayor five times, stretching on a yoga mat before hopping on an exercise bike, where he generally spends about half an hour at a leisurely pace.

Nothing, in other words, that he can't do at home, said Mattera, who often used to work out side by side with her former opponent.

"He may need to cut his workout short, or get an exercise bike at his house," she said.

A representative of the mayor refused to discuss the idling motorcade — which he labelled a matter of security — but said his boss likes to use his old Y because that's where he has worked out for a long time.

"He is staying close to the community where he raised his family and where he has lived for 20 years," said spokesman Wiley Norvell.



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# Bandit swipes purple bike on Court Street

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights—DUMBO—Boerum Hill—Downtown

A gang of six teenage brutes attacked a man as he tried to safely usher home a pair of steaming pizza pies on Jay Street on March 26, according to a report.

The victim was between Tillary Street and Tech Place holding his precious cargo when one of the young bruisers, all estimated to be between 14 and 16, smacked the bottom pizza box, knocking it to the ground, cops said.

Another ruffian knocked the victim to the ground with a punch to the face and the rest of the group set upon him, punching and kicking him and smashing his glasses, police said. The maniacs grabbed his wallet, \$10 in cash, and a Casio watch before tearing off in an unknown direction, according to a report.

## Up and over

An inventive thief stole a well-secured and pricey bike from its post on Jay Street sometime between March 13 and 14, according to a report.

The victim left his Parlee Z5 Ultegra bicycle, a fancy racing bike made from carbon fiber estimated at \$4,100, locked to a street sign at York Street, securing it with two

separate locks, at 5 pm on March 13, cops said.

When he returned at 10 pm the next day, a thief had lifted off the top of the street sign and slipped the bike, along with its locks, over the top of the sign, according to a report.

## Brooklyn heist

A fiend with an eye for jewels snagged more than \$15,000 in jewelry and camera equipment from a Monroe Place brownstone on March 16, according to a report.

Slipping through the front door of the home between Pierrepont and Clark streets at about 5:30 pm, the burglar proceeded to load up on valuables before beating a hasty retreat, cops said.

The sneak made off with a necklace, a pair of earrings, a pair of bracelets, a Nikon camera, a heap of equipment including flashes and lenses, and a MacBook Pro, according to police.

All told the bandit made off with an estimated \$15,177 in jewels and equipment, according to a report.

## Candy caper

A burglar with a sweet tooth for moola bashed into a Livingston Street candy store and made off with a safe full of cash in the early morning hours of March 17, cops said.

The lowlife busted into the sweets shop between Nevins and Bond streets using a crowbar, and managed to walk off with a safe containing \$10,000 in cash, according to a report.

The expert thief was wearing gloves, and left behind no traces, police said.

## Pizza pay

Two knife-wielding maniacs held up a Smith Street pizza shop franchise and viciously slashed a customer in the process on March 18, cops said.

The two brutes entered the pizza chain at Bergen Street at 5:45 pm and flashed a blade at a customer who was there to pick up a pie, according to a report.

After the louts swiped the man's wallet, containing \$200, and iPhone 6, one of the ruffians attacked the man, knocking him into a wall and stabbing him repeatedly in the leg and back, severely injuring him before taking off, cops said.

## He is no gem

A thief looted an Atlantic Avenue jewelry store on March 22, according to cops.

The fiend entered the store between Smith and Hoyt streets at 2 pm and proceeded to snatch a total of \$10,780 in diamond rings and other precious gems from a display case, a report said.

## Cable crook

A contractor walked off the job at a MetroTech Center office building with a big, illegal bonus on March 25,

## POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at [BrooklynPaper.com/blotter](http://BrooklynPaper.com/blotter)

cops said.

The worker, who was licensed to work on a secure data center in the building, vanished with a fiber-optic cable valued at \$10,000, according to a report.

— Noah Hurowitz

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene—Clinton Hill Swashbuckler

Police arrested a man who they said attacked his neighbor with a sword on Carlton Avenue on March 28.

The victim told police he was at his home between Myrtle and Park avenues at 7:40 pm when his neighbor knocked on his door.

The victim opened the door and the alleged assailant hit the victim in the face with a sword.

The attack left the man's eye and forehead cut, according to the police report. Police charged the swordsman with assault.

## Friend indeed

A homeless woman was arrested for assaulting an elderly man who was letting her stay in his Fleet Walk house on March 23.

The 71-year-old victim told police that he let a homeless friend stay at his apartment between Prince and Navy streets for three days. On the third day, he tried to kick her out at about 9:10 am.

The woman started to argue, grabbed the victim from behind, choked him, and threw him on the bed, officials reported. Police arrested the woman and charged her with assault.

## Bad romance

Cops cuffed a man who they said punched his girlfriend in the face, breaking her nasal bone, on Washington Avenue on March 18.

The victim told police that she got into an argument with her sweetie at near Fulton Street at 8:30 pm.

The man punched her with a closed fist, breaking her nose, according to the police report. Police charged the man with assault.

## Not a game

A robber threatened a victim with a knife on Fulton Street on March 24 and then ran off with his property.

The victim told police that he was coming out of a bodega near Clinton Avenue at 4:45 pm when the robber put a knife in his face.

"Run your pockets," the robber said. "This is not a game."

The victim handed over his property and the robber ran off.

## Big money

A robber took \$6,500 from a victim at knife point on Monument Walk on March 26.

The victim told police he was near Monument Walk at 2 pm when a man he knew confronted him, pointed a knife at him, brought him into a hallway of a building on Monument Walk, and took \$6,500 from him.

— Danielle Furfaro

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens—Cobble Hill—Red Hook Naptime swipe

Cops collared a man who they said swiped a cellphone from a sleepy straphanger on an early morning F train on March 29, according to a report.

The victim fell asleep while riding a Coney Island-bound F train around 4:30 am, and snoozed long enough to reach the end of the line and turn around, police said. When the man finally awoke at the Carroll Street stop in Carroll Gardens, he found his black Motorola cellphone was missing from his pocket, a report said.

Using a cellphone-tracking app the man managed to locate his phone in the pocket of a man hanging out in a chain doughnut shop at the corner of Stillwell and Surf avenues in Coney Island, police said. Transit cops entered the shop, called the victim's phone, and arrested a 26-year-old man holding the phone after it started ringing, cops said.

## Riding dirty

Narcotics patrol cops arrested a driver who they found strapped with a pistol on Richard Street on March 27, according to a report.

Cops pulled a woman and two passengers over at Walcot Street at 7:30 pm after they were spotted idling in a red sedan in a designated bus spot. When the officers sidled up to the window they huffed a strong whiff of weed, a report said.

Police searched the three women and found the driver allegedly toting an unloaded .22 caliber Phoenix Arms semi-automatic pistol and several stolen credit cards, cops said.

Police arrested the driver for firearm possession but let her pals go, according to a report.

## Creepy-crawler

A cat burglar crept into an open window while a Clinton Street woman was gone for a half-an-hour stroll around the neighborhood on March 26, according to a report.

The victim took a walk

from 6 to 7:30 pm, and when she returned to her apartment between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street, she found that someone had used a fire escape to creep into an open window and steal a MacBook Pro she had left on her bed along with a charger, cops said.

— Noah Hurowitz

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights Cash heist

A ne'er-do-well stole \$24,800 in cash and jewelry from a 92nd Street home sometime between March 6 and 27.

The burglar broke the lock on the front door of the home between Third and Fourth avenues in Bay Ridge and made off with \$23,000 in cash and an estimated \$1,800 worth of jewelry, a police report states.

## Door-buster

A brute bashed in the door to a Bay Ridge Parkway home and took a bunch of jewelry on March 27.

The goon burglarized the home between Colonial Road and Ridge Boulevard in Bay Ridge sometime between 9 am and 6 pm, police said.

## Goon grabs bag

A galoot demanded a woman's cash and then grabbed her purse on 68th Street on March 25.

The victim was between Fort Hamilton Parkway and 10th Avenue in Dyker Heights at 10:25 pm when a guy came up behind her, told her to give him her money, and snatched her purse, police said.

## Purse pinched

A no-goodnik nicked a lady's purse on 72nd Street on March 29.

The thief was wearing a gray hoodie when he came up behind a woman between 10th and 11th avenues in Dyker Heights and ripped her bag away before fleeing in a gray Bavarian Motor Works sedan, officials said.

## An old con

Two tricksters conned a Shore Road man out of cash on March 27.

One grifter called the victim's apartment between Bay Ridge Avenue and Mackay Place in Bay Ridge at 10 am, posing as the man's grandson — and then a second man called pretending to be the grandson's attorney, police said.

Both villains said the grandson had been in a car accident, was arrested for drunk driving, and needed cash for bail, a police report states.

The mark wired \$1,800 to Lebanon before realizing the calls were a ruse, officials said. Police confirmed the real grandson is safe and living in Michigan, a police report states.

— Max Jaeger

## 94TH PRECINCT

Greenpoint—Northside Circling vultures

A pair of ruffians robbed a

couple at gunpoint on Woodpoint Road on March 28.

The victims told police that they were between Kingsland Avenue and Frost Street at 12:05 am when two menaces started circling them on bicycles. One of the guys came up behind the couple and struck a hard object against the back of the male victim's head.

"Do not move or I will shoot," he said to the victim. The other robber rode up behind the woman. "Where is your stuff?" he asked them.

The male victim told the robbers that his stuff was in his back pocket. They pulled his wallet and phone out and then asked him for his phone's unlock code. The man gave it to them and the robbers rode away.

## Wild roads

A jeep full of punks chased another driver, smashed his windows with a baseball bat, and stole his phone on McGuinness Boulevard on March 29.

The victim told police that he was driving on McGuinness at 5 am when a Jeep started following him and kept cutting him off. The victim turned onto Driggs Avenue and tried to get away from the Jeep.

At the corner of Driggs and Graham avenues, the jeep stopped in front of the victim's car, forcing him to stop.

The robbers jumped out of the car and one of them broke the victim's car windows with a baseball bat.

"You think you are tough," one of the punks said to him. The victim handed over his cellphone, and the guys jumped back in the Jeep and drove away.

## School blowout

Cops cuffed a 15-year-old boy who they said punched a rival in the face several times at a N. Sixth Street school on March 26.

The victim told police that he got into an argument in the gym of the school between Roebling and Havemeyer streets at 1:05 pm. His alleged attacker was wearing a ring when he punched a victim in the face several times, according to the police report.

Police arrested the teen and charged him with assault. The victim's grandmother took the injured boy to Methodist Hospital, where doctors gave him three stitches above his right eye and four stitches above his left.

## Rock and roll

Police are searching for a man who attacked another man with a rock on Norman Avenue on March 28.

The victim told police that he was collecting cans between Diamond and Jewel streets at 10:05 am when a guy came up to him and hit him over the head with a rock, cutting the victim's head.

Emergency personnel took him to Bellevue Medical Center, according to the police report.

— Danielle Furfaro

## PAPER...

Continued from page 1

Perlman was singled out for his work on a story and graphic about the dangers of walking and driving down Atlantic Avenue, his dogged reporting on the mysterious death of a young runner tackling the Brooklyn Half-Marathon, and his weekly column focusing on the technology industry in Brooklyn, "Circuit Lord."

"The young reporter demonstrates his versatility in the broad range of stories submitted," the judges wrote. "He is comfortable with big data and investigative pieces, and shows his mettle as an imbedded beat reporter."

DiMiceli used the opportunity to pitch the latest job opening for the next rookie reporter at The Paper — an award his staffers have won before.

"It's great to produce the next generation of journalists right here in Brooklyn," he said. "Past winners, such as Michael McLaughlin, have gone on to great things, and I expect the same from Matthew."

Multiple award-winning art director Leah Mitch was yet again honored for her work putting together The Paper's front pages each week — an award she shared with DiMiceli back in 2009.

The three covers entered in the contest showed off Mitch's skill mixing photos, fonts, imagery, and words to produce a front page that, week after week, keeps readers coming back.

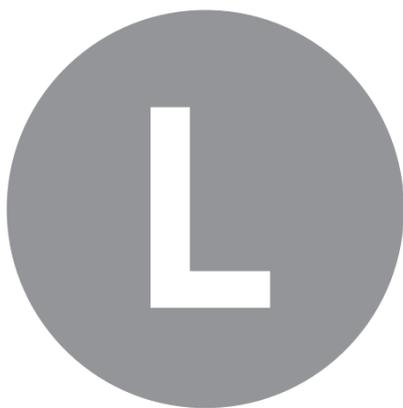
"Love the bold typography and colors," wrote the judges. "Pages drive readers inside for more. Great look."

The Paper's staff also took home two second-place awards — one to photographer Paul Martinka for best spot-news photo ("It's a sneaky kind of photo," wrote the judges), and one for headline writing, including the classic "It's raining mensh" ("We think you had a little too much fun," wrote the judges).

Meanwhile, our sister Brooklyn publication, the Bay News, won a second-place award for Coverage of Local Government thanks to a series of stories by Max Jaeger about the "Build it Back" Superstorm Sandy recovery program, and Colin Mixson, Bill Ebert, Vanessa Ogle, and Jaeger brought home a third-place award for Coverage of the Environment with their series on the planned elimination of mute swans in Sheepshead Bay that the judges called "as entertaining as it is important."



# Planned Service Changes



**Mar 23 – 27, Mar 30 – Apr 3, Apr 6 – 10**  
**Mon to Fri**  
**11:30 PM to 5 AM**

No **L** service between 8 Av and Lorimer St

**A F J**, M14 and free shuttle buses provide alternate service

**L** service operates between Rockaway Pkwy and Lorimer St only

## Travel Alternatives:

- M14 buses provide alternate service between 8 Av and 1 Av.
- Free shuttle buses operate between Lorimer St and the Marcy Av **J** station, stopping at Bedford Av.
- Transfer between free shuttle buses and **J** at Marcy Av.
- Consider using the **A** or **J** to/from Manhattan, via transfer at Broadway Junction.

## Stay Informed

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# Kitty pity!

## Councilman rescues shot, pregnant cat from BQE

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

Me-ouch! A Williamsburg councilman was repeatedly bitten by a pregnant and bullet-ridden cat when he tried to rescue it from Brooklyn's own circle of hell, the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway.

Now, the terrified kitty is recovering — and preparing to bring a litter into the world — at a rescue center where vets say they'll remove the bullet after they remove the kittens.

It all started last Friday night when Councilman Steve Levin (D-Williamsburg) says he was driving toward Greenpoint on the highway when he saw the cat on the other side of the median limping toward Downtown. He then did what any Good Samaritan would do in that situation: call 911. But the 911 operator he reached did what any good 911 operator would do in that situation: told him it wasn't an emergency.

That's when Levin took things into his own hands. First, he asked his significant other to verify that it would be a good idea to double-back and save the cat.

"My girlfriend told me 'This will bother you if you do not do it,'" he said.

So he exited the highway and got back on the other side where he stopped and picked up the cat as a police officer, who happened to be on the road, waited behind him to

make sure Levin did not get hit by a car. But the officer could not stop the terrified animal from biting Levin hard on both hands as he wrangle the ferocious feline into his Ford Focus hatchback, which he apparently bought to replace his legendary Honda Civic.

Levin brought the cat to the nearby Brooklyn Animal Resource Coalition where he asked an employee to get the still-freaking-out animal out of his Ford.

As soon as the staffers saw the frightened feline, they realized that she was pregnant and that she had been abused, said Vinny Spinola, the group's vice president.

They X-rayed the animal and found a bullet lodged in her hip, along with many other puncture wounds, cuts, and bruises that had all happened at different times, and the pads of its feet ripped off.

"This poor animal was abused over a long period of time," said Spinola.

The staff named the cat "Loretta" and has been keeping a close eye on her. She is due to give birth in about a week, and the staff plans to perform surgery to remove the bullet after the kittens come out.

Levin got to his scheduled meeting only a half an hour late, and later took himself to Methodist Hospital, where doctors gave him a tetanus shot and some antibiotics for his bite wounds.



(Top) Councilman Steve Levin saw this cat wandering on the Brooklyn Queens Expressway, so he captured it and took it to the Brooklyn Animal Resource Coalition. (Above) The pregnant cat that the staff at Brooklyn Animal Resource Coalition has named Loretta suffered at the hands of an abusive person.

# Cops seek attempted rapist

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

Cops are looking for a man who beat and attempted to rape a woman after following her into her Williamsburg apartment building.

The fiend followed the

36-year-old victim into her S. Third Street and Bedford Avenue apartment at 11:55 pm on March 25, police said. He stalked her up the stairs to the third floor, punched her, and then tried to rape her, but the woman fought back and the

attacker ran away, authorities said.

Police describe the suspect as a black male between 25 and 35 years old who is 6-foot-2 tall and 180 pounds. He was wearing a blue jacket that said "Lincoln St. Mary's

Council 112" in yellow lettering, cops said.

Law enforcement officials are asking people with information about the man's identity to call (800) 577-8477, submit tips at [www.nypd-crimestoppers.com](http://www.nypd-crimestoppers.com).

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# Axe women

Move over guitar heroes — it is time for some guitar heroines. Brooklyn bands with female guitar and bass players will melt faces at the Knitting Factory in Williamsburg on April 3 in a showcase organized by She Shreds, a magazine dedicated to axe-wielding women. Even decades after Lilith Fair and the riot grrrrl movement, shows that shine a spotlight on women's string-slinging skills are still necessary, one performer said.

"Seeing women kick ass on stage is really important," said Maia MacDonald, who plays guitar, bass, and drum machine in a band with singer Mirah (pictured), who will headline the gig. "It is important to see a variety of faces up there all the time."

Grunge-blues outfit Slothrust, melodic punk collective Worriers, queer pop-punks Aye Nako, singer-songwriter and guitarist Mal Blum, and Sadie Dupuis — who is the frontwoman of indie rock band Speedy Ortiz — will also play the gig.

The founder of She Shreds said she created the tri-annual magazine after attending a rock camp for women and realizing ladies who shred were still struggling for respect and recognition.

"Every woman who plays music has the same stories of not being treated equally and getting harassed," said editor-in-chief Fabi Reyna, who has been playing guitar since age nine and lives in Portland, Ore. "It is exhausting and I thought it was time for a change."

Reyna said she also felt that the traditional guitar magazines on mainstream shelves had become stale, churning out the same type of content year after year.

"Even beyond just covering women, a new aesthetic needed to happen," she said.

Reyna published the first edition of She Shreds in 2012, which she funded with the first of what would become many She Shreds concerts. The magazine organizes an annual festival called Shred Fest, which has taken place in Austin, D.C., and Chicago, and has featured big-name bands and artists including Ex Hex, White Mystery, and Cassie Ramone of Vivian Girls.

She Shreds at the Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havermeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696, bk.knittingfactory.com]. April 3 at 8:30 pm. \$12-\$14.

— Danielle Furfaro

BOOKS

# No filter

Take a look inside. A group of kids from housing projects in Red Hook spent months taking photos with disposable cameras for a new book that documents the lives of New Yorkers residing in public housing, as seen through their own eyes.

One youngster involved in the book, "Projects Lives," said he enjoyed learning the mechanics and language of photography, which allowed him to tell his story.

"I like taking pictures because it makes you feel free," said 13-year-old Jared Wellington, a former Red Hook Houses resident. "Everyone can have fun and express themselves."

"Project Lives," which will launch at PowerHouse Arena in Dumbo on April 8, is the culmination of a photography program called Developing Lives, which ran at various New York City Housing Authority buildings from 2010 to 2013. Budding shutterbugs participated in a 12-week workshop, and used single-use cameras and the techniques they learned to snap photos between classes. The idea was to encourage people in public housing to look at their own lives in a new way, challenging common stereotypes and biases, one of the book's co-creators said.

"It is unfair that they are so misrepresented," said activist and photographer Chelsea Davis, who edited the book with Developing Lives founder George Carrano and administrator Jonathan Fisher. "They come up with so many positive images and stories, and this is a way for them to share their stories."

Davis said the stories that especially touched her were the children who took pictures of their friends and families, and talked about how integral they are to their lives.

"They were constantly talking about their sense of neighborhood and community," she said.

"Project Lives" book launch at PowerHouse Arena [37 Main St. between Water and Front streets in Dumbo, (718) 666-3049, www.powerhousearena.com]. April 8 at 7 pm. Free.

— Danielle Furfaro

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

April 3-9, 2015

# Read 'em and eat

Foodieodicals fest celebrates food mags of all flavors

By Trupti Rami  
for The Brooklyn Paper

Get 'em while they're hot — and still in print! An indie food magazine festival will serve up a smorgasbord of lip-smacking serials and juicy journals at the Wythe Hotel in Williamsburg on April 11. Foodieodicals, which is part of the larger Food Book Fair taking place at the hotel April 10-12, is a micro 'zine fest showcasing 21 publications from Brooklyn and beyond. Putting pictures of food on paper might seem antiquated in the age of Instagram and food blogs, but print offers an experience that still can't be replicated with a screen, according to the creator of one provender-centric publication.

"Print is an object — it stays. It doesn't get lost in the blog roll," said Anna Dunn, editor-in-chief of the Williamsburg-published Diner Journal, which is participating in the fest. "You spill wine on us while you read a recipe. You mark a page you want to return to. You rip a page out and tack it on the wall."

But food magazines — like most magazines — aren't the cash cows they once were. Gourmet famously stopped printing in 2009, while much-hyped hipster periodical Modern Farmer temporarily ceased publication this year following financial struggles and a mass staff exodus.

Diner Journal, a hole-punched food, art, and literature magazine from the owners of Williamsburg restaurants Diner and Reynard, has an even tougher challenge on its plate — it relies on subscriptions to stay afloat, because it doesn't print advertisements, said Dunn.

"Funding an endeavor like this is certainly a challenge," said Dunn, who lives in Crown Heights.

The menu for this year's Foodieodicals includes smaller do-it-yourself prints such as Put a Egg On It, a quirky lit-



Good enough to eat: Food Book Fair managing director Kimberly Chou with an assortment of food books and magazines.

erary magazine featuring personal and photo essays about food, alongside big-name glossy publications such as Lucky Peach, founded by Momofuku impresario David Chang.

Most of the magazines featured are made in New York, but others hail from Boston, Chicago, and D.C., and a few are from even further afield, such as Revista HojaSanta from Mexico City and the Cleaver Quarterly from Beijing. Some are printed quarterly, others are annuals, and some just come out whenever the creators can find the time, said an organizer.

"A lot of people do this as their passion project," said Kimberly Chou, managing director of Food Book Fair. "It's really beautiful to see all the different sizes and shapes and colors and textures."

Each magazine at Foodieodicals will have a separate table topped with stacks of issues and merchandise for sale, and some will also offer activities. Last year, Chinese food magazine the Cleaver Quarterly raffled off a cake. This year, "food and fantasy" 'zine the Runcible Spoon is asking attendees to contribute their own hand-drawn food art to go in a giant wooden iPhone. The images will manually scroll around, replicating an Instagram feed, said Chou.

Beyond Foodieodicals, the three-day Food Book Fair will include panel discussions, tastings, and signings with chefs and cookbook authors, said Chou. The event, which has been running since 2012, is open to food industry folk and amateur foodies alike, she said.

"Anyone and everyone who is invested in eating and drinking, and talking about eating and drinking, is welcome to come," she said.

Foodieodicals at the Food Book Fair at the Wythe Hotel [80 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12 streets in Williamsburg, (718) 460-8000, www.foodieodicals.com]. April 11 at noon-4 pm. \$5.

# Bread and circuses

A Passover variety show in B'wick

By Max Jaeger  
The Brooklyn Paper

Pharaoh, let my people show!

A bevy of Brooklyn acrobats, burlesque dancers, and magicians will perform acts inspired by the 10 Biblical plagues in Exodus at a Passover-themed variety show at Bushwick circus training facility the Muse on April 10 and 11.

The irreverent take on the holiday, which commemorates a series of afflictions God wrought on Egypt to deliver the Jews from slavery, is actually very much in line with the spirit of Passover, organizers said.

"It's a very over-the-top

holiday — everything about the story is more than necessary, so it seemed like a really good fit for the spectacle of a circus show," said organizer Ellia Bisker, who lives in Bushwick and will co-emcee the show with her brother Josh Bisker. "Passover is one of our very favorite holidays, and this show comes from a genuine place."

Audience members will also take part in an interactive reading of the Passover story — and a few lucky guests will get to dress up as foods from the Seder plate.

The sibling duo said they conceived "The Super Fun Passover Seder" in the tradition of Jewish vaudeville. The

Passover tradition of families reading the liberation tale aloud also lends itself to audience participation, they said.

"That's one of the things that's essential to the tradition is the people at the table help to retell the story," said Josh Bisker, who lives in Park Slope.

A high-flying acrobat will team up with a pair of radio storytellers to present the first affliction — God turning Egypt's water to blood. Aerialist Rebecca Heinegg choreographed her routine to a voice-and-music collage arranged by Soundsmith Radio — a show that sets listener-recorded missives to tunes.

"It's an aerial act that cap-

tures the transformation from water to blood and conveys the experience of that — that is, not all transformations are cheerful and positive, but they can instead have meaning and terror in them," Josh Bisker said.

After the show, guests can dance off some of that Manischewitz to an "all-star pick-up Klezmer band" featuring members from Topsy Oxcart, Veveritise, and Riot Jazz Brass Band, Ellia Bisker said.

Passover is typically a family affair, but the brother-sister duo said their variety show will be the next best thing to a Bisker family meal.

"We would invite everybody to our family seder..." Ellia Bisker said.

"But it's really hard on our mom," Josh Bisker said.

"The Super Fun Passover Seder" at the Muse [338 Mott St. between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues in Bushwick, www.superfunvariety.wordpress.com]. 8 pm on April 10 and 11. \$15.



Pass it on: Sibling vaudevillians Josh and Ellia Bisker are putting on a Passover variety show at the Muse on April 10 and 11.

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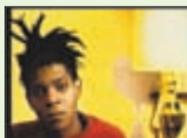
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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

April 3



#### Noted

It is a sketch of the artist as a young man. One hundred and sixty pages of the late, great Park Slope-born artist Jean-Michel Basquiat's personal notebooks are going on display to the public for the first time at the Brooklyn Museum. The notebooks date from 1980 to 1987, and are filled with notes, poems, and sketches from the painter.

11 am at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. between Washington and Flatbush avenues in Prospect Heights, (718)638-5000, www.brooklynmuseum.org]. \$16 suggested.

### SATURDAY

April 4

#### Dances with fools

The annual Silly Dance Contest is exactly what it sounds like. Bring your most ludicrous moves to the dance floor for your chance to win gift certificates and free shots. Or just come along to watch, laugh, and eat Vietnamese bar food at this year's venue, Bia.

Midnight at Bia (67 S. Sixth between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 388-0908, www.facebook.com/sillydance). Free.



### SUNDAY

April 5



#### Just eat it

Spring has sprung, which means Brooklyn Flea is back. More excitingly, so is its food fair offshoot Smorgasburg, which returns April 4 in Williamsburg, and today in Brooklyn Heights. Some of the more interesting new dishes on offer this year include deep-fried cheese curds, duck confit, Scotch eggs, and Indian-Mexican tacos.

11 am-6 pm at Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier 5 (Jorelamm Street at Furman Street in Brooklyn Heights, www.smorgasburg.com). Free.

### WEDNESDAY

April 8

#### Bird words

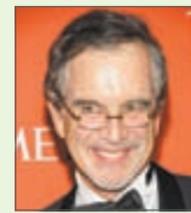
The literary world is in a flap over author Helen Macdonald's new memoir "H is for Hawk." The acclaimed tome tells the story of the British author's adventures in falconry, which you can hear all about when she flies in to Fort Greene.

7:30 pm at Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. at S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlight-bookstore.com]. Free.



### THURSDAY

April 9



#### Sketch comic

Pencil this one in. "Doonesbury" creator Garry Trudeau just became the first cartoonist to win a George Polk Award for journalism. To celebrate, he will join fellow cartoonist Jules Feiffer, illustrator Molly Crabapple, and Onion writer Django Gold in a discussion about the role of satire in public discourse.

6:30 pm at LIU Kumble Theater [DeKalb Avenue at Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (718) 488-1624, www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater]. Free.

## BIG MONEY & POLITICS: CAN YOUR VOICE COUNT?

A Community Town Hall  
Wednesday, April 8, 7-9PM



IMAGE: EXPLANATION.COM

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BRIC is pleased to announce that, as part of its Brooklyn Independent Media initiative, it will present *Big Money & Politics*, a live-broadcast, town hall-style discussion examining the inequality created when wealth holds power to make policies that affect us all.

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- o Letitia James, Public Advocate for New York City
- o Zephyr Teachout, Fordham Law Professor and former NYS Gubernatorial Candidate
- o Dick Dadey, Executive Director of Citizens Union
- o Al Vann, former NY State Assemblyman and City Councilman
- o Doug Henwood, Economic Journalist and Author
- o Ted Alexandro, Comedian / Political Activist



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# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, APRIL 3

MUSIC, NUDE BEACH, WHITE HILLS: \$15 (\$12 in advance). 2015. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouse.com.

THEATER, "LUCREZIA BORGIA": LoftOpera performs Donizetti's melodrama, with a 29-piece orchestra and a full cast and chorus. \$30. 8 pm. LightSpace [1115 Flushing Ave. at Thames Street in Bushwick, (212) 202-0372], www.lightspace.tv.

TALK, DIFFERENT GAMES: Conference on diversity and inclusivity in games, with presentations from designers, activists, researchers, journalists, and others. \$20 (sliding scale price available for those in need). 5 pm. NYU Magnet Center (2 MetroTech Center, eighth floor, between Lawrence and Bridge streets Downtown), www.2015.different-games.org.

ART, "YOON LEE — RECENT WORKS" OPENING RECEPTION: The exhibition features large-scale paintings, made between 2013 and 2015, which reflect the complexity of Lee's process and composition. Free. 7-9 pm. Pierogi Gallery [177 N. Ninth St. between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599-2144], www.pierogi2000.com.

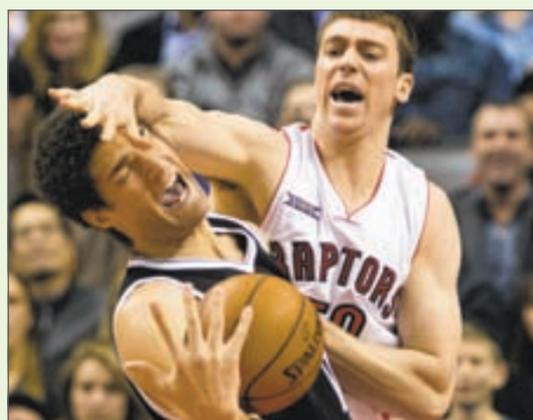
### SAT, APRIL 4

MUSIC, THE STRIVE, TRON & DVD, NORASTONE, CHECK YOUR MORAL: \$10 (\$7 in advance). 8 pm. Rock Shop [249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740], www.therockshopny.com.

PARADE AND EGG HUNT: Children search for eggs and have fun with crafts, face painting, and an Easter bonnet parade. \$10 to join the hunt; activities extra. Noon-3 pm. Central Pavilion in McGolrick Park [Russell St. and Driggs Avenue in Greenpoint, (347) 559-1410], www.nycgovparks.org.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Easter bonnet contest for children 12 and under. Free. 2 pm to 4 pm. Shore Road Park [Shore Road at 79th Street in Bay Ridge, (718) 238-6044].

FREEDOM'S FEAST — AN INTER-FAITH CELEBRATION OF HOPE:



You bred Raptors?: The Nets face Canada's premier dinosaur-themed basketball team at Barclays Center on April 3.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

### FRI, APRIL 3

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. TORONTO RAPTORS: \$30-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

### FRI, APRIL 10

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. WASHINGTON WIZARDS: \$30-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

### MON, APRIL 6

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. PORTLAND TRAIL BLAZER: \$30-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

### SAT, APRIL 11

SPORTS, BROOKLYN BOXING: Danny Garcia vs. Lamont Peterson, Andy Lee vs. Peter Quillin. \$57-\$307. 7:30 pm.

### MON, APRIL 8

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS VS. ATLANTA HAWKS: \$22-\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

### SUN, APRIL 12

MUSIC, STEVIE WONDER: \$49.50-\$165. 8 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618-6100, www.barclayscenter.com.

## http://

Find lots more listings online at [BrooklynPaper.com/Events](http://BrooklynPaper.com/Events)

Led by Christian, Jewish, and Muslim faith leaders, civil rights activists, and performing artists. \$65-\$500. 7 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), labshul.org/freedom-feast-registration.

### SUN, APRIL 5

NATURE PLAYTIME: Families explore nature through nature inspired arts and crafts, insect observation, and more. Free with zoo admission. 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Prospect Park Zoo [450 Flatbush Ave. at Ocean Avenue in Prospect Park, (718) 399-7339], www.prospectparkzoo.com.

COMEDY, COMEDY NIGHT AT THE FRONT BAR: Weekly Sunday funnies with Hannibal Bures and friends. Free. 9 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.

### MON, APRIL 6

MUSIC, LES NUBIANS: \$12. 6 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

THE WILLIAMSBURG SPELLING BEE: An adults-only spelling bee. Winners receive nerdy prizes and a spot in the annual finals. Signup begins at 7 pm and are limited to first 16 contestants. Free. 7:30 pm. Pete's Candy Store [709 Lorimer St. at Richardson Street in Williamsburg, (718) 302-3770], www.petescandystore.com.

DOWNTOWN LOCAL TRIVIA: Ppub quiz with five rounds of New York City-inspired questions and a \$35 bar tab prize. Hosted by Casey de Pont and Meredith Heil. Free. 8 pm. Livingston Manor [42 Hoyt St. between Livingston and Schermerhorn

See 9 DAYS on page 10



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# A change of focus

Photographer captures vanishing Bklyn

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

Take a look now — before it is gone.

A Brooklyn photographer will show off images of a borough that is fading in front of his lens at Bushwick's Art 3 gallery on April 8. The exhibit "In Brooklyn: Architectures of Disappearance" is an attempt to create a portrait of the changing cityscape, the roving camera-man said.

"I'm interested in how we lose things," said Sergio Purtell, who lives in Cobble Hill. "I'm interested in levels of reality, things that we see every day or have to live with every day."

Many the black and white images in "In Brooklyn" catch fleeting glimpses of scenes that are already lost. In one, canoers traverse the murky waters of the Gowanus Canal while the late, great Kentile Floors sign looms large in the distance. Another shows the historic Coignet Building standing alone before the Gowanus Whole Foods rose on the empty lot behind it. Purtell said he is not an anti-development zealot — he just sees value in documenting a changing city.

"It's not like I'm walking around with a cross trying to tell people that the end of the world is coming, but it is good to be reminded of beautiful things around us that lasted so long," he said. "When they're gone they're gone. I'm not judging, but it is sad."

Purtell was born in Chile, and fled for the United States in the wake of the 1973 military coup, eventually landing in New York in the 1980s. His Manhattan apartment and studio were damaged in the aftermath of 9-11, so Purtell and his wife moved to Brooklyn in 2002, and the shutter-bug said he has not looked back since. He praised the block of Ingraham Street in Bushwick where his studio



Not how it once was: (Clockwise from top) Sergio Purtell's photos of the Coignet Building in Gowanus, before a Whole Foods sprang up in the lot behind it. Digester eggs in Greenpoint. And the man himself.

is located, and where he was able to turn to a hyper-local economy of metalworkers and furniture builders to furnish his workspace.

He said he often starts his photo-snapping at the door of his studio and works outwards, so the majority of his images are from the blocks around Ingraham Street and extend out-

ward in waning frequency. Purtell said the creative scene in Bushwick reminds him of Manhattan in 1985.

"Brooklyn is just more alive," said Purtell, who has been working on "In Brooklyn" since 2008. "Manhattan is a great place to visit, but it has sort of lost its character. There are a lot more people

in Brooklyn actually making things."

"In Brooklyn: Architectures of Disappearance," at Art 3 (109 Ingraham St. between Porter and Knickerbocker avenues in Bushwick, www.art-3gallery.com). Opening reception April 8 at 7 pm. Free. Exhibit runs through May 17.

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Photo by Stefano Giovannini

**Bar method:** Cast and crew from Brooklyn Theatre Club ham it up at Muchmore's in Williamsburg, where they will perform "Urinetown: The Musical."

# Pay to play rules!

## Musical casts its audience members

By **Trupti Rami**  
for The Brooklyn Paper

This show has a casting call and a last call.

A Brooklyn theater company is staging "Urinetown: The Musical" in a Williamsburg bar on April 1 and 8, and will pluck many of its performers straight from the peanut gallery. By putting would-be spectators on stage alongside real thespians, the Brooklyn Theatre Club is able to offer its audience members a unique theater-going experience, said an organizer.

"We want to create an environment where everyone feels they have the chance to perform — professionals, amateurs, and drunk warblers alike," said Mara Frankel, co-founder of Brooklyn Theatre Club. "The goal of our performances is to bring together new friends of all performing back-

grounds — even those who only shine in the shower."

To translate the Broadway comedy into an audience-interactive show, Frankel said she and company co-founder Stephen Schapero combed through the script for roles that patrons could jump into without practice, and moments where the whole audience can join in.

"We make sure everyone can perform without being embarrassed or caught off-guard by their part," said Frankel.

Audience members don't have to step into the spotlight, said Frankel. Those interested in treading the bar-room boards will perform one of 12 speaking roles or 10 nonspeaking roles, but the stage-shy can opt to hold signs and provide background noises.

And don't worry about memorizing your lines. The entire two-hour performance is treated as a staged read-

ing, Frankel said, with both company actors and audience amateurs holding scripts on stage.

The spontaneous, participatory nature of the show makes the experience more exciting for everyone involved, said one Brooklyn Theatre Club player.

"Audience interaction takes an experience that it is traditionally pretty passive and turns it into the exact opposite," said Greenpoint actor Lauren Drapek, who plays Penelope Pennywise in the show. "The audience sees the actors up close, gets to touch sets and costumes, and has the spotlight turned on them."

Brooklyn Theatre Club presents "Urinetown: The Musical!" at Muchmore's (2 Havemeyer St. at N. Ninth Street in Williamsburg, [www.brooklyntheatreclub.com](http://www.brooklyntheatreclub.com)). April 1 and 8 at 9 pm. \$15.

# Recommended reading!

## Booksellers tell us what to read this week

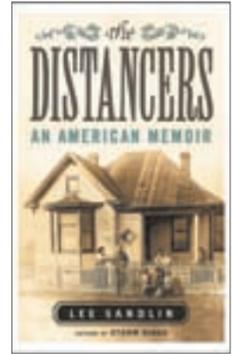
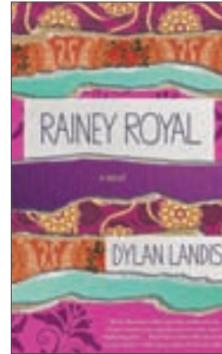
### Word's pick

**"After Claude" by Iris Owens:** At the edges of every capital-letter milieu of '70s New York, there are fissures inhabited by characters with lives as dramatic and storied as an Andy Warhol or a Patti Smith. Enter Harriett, the pseudonymous heroine of Iris Owens's "After Claude." As anxious as she is adamant to be heard, to be seen and acknowledged and given a place, Harriett eventually runs out of money, patience, and unlocked apartments in the brutal late-summer heat. She ends up at the Chelsea Hotel, amid the haze of pot smoke and self-liberation plabum of wolves in sheep's sideburns. It's an exhausting story, like Spalding Gray off-script and reeling on Dexedrine, but you're with Harriett all the way — even if there's no air conditioner.

— **Jaye Bartell**, *Word* [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, [www.wordbrooklyn.com](http://www.wordbrooklyn.com)].

### Greenlight's pick

**"Rainey Royal" by Dylan Landis:** In '70s Green-



wich Village, Rainey Royal is a teenager moving into adulthood alongside her best friend and her aging jazz-musician father. What author Dylan Landis does best is examine the closeness and distance we keep from other people. Or how we navigate the world around each other, what it means to be angry, and what it means to have a best friend. This book is beautifully eerie.

— **Jess Pane**, *Greenlight Bookstore* [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and

S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, [www.greenlightbookstore.com](http://www.greenlightbookstore.com)].

### Community's pick

**"The Distancers" by Lee Sandlin:** Peter and Elizabeth Sehnert made the trip from Germany to America in 1850. They settled in downstate Illinois and started a farm and a family. Then history caught up with them. In "The Distancers," Lee Sandlin turns his family's story into the story of the American century, ranging from the

Gilded Age through the Great Depression, the World Wars, and beyond. Filled with lovers and drifters, traditions and secrets, Sandlin's memoir is a loving exploration of the American heartland, carved out of lyrical, concise, and hypnotic prose that turns this Midwestern tableau into a kind of dream.

— **Hal Hlavinka**, *Community Bookstore* [43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, [www.communitybookstore.net](http://www.communitybookstore.net)].

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8  
streets Downtown, (347) 987-3292], [www.livingstonmanorbk.com](http://www.livingstonmanorbk.com).

### TUES, APRIL 7

**FILM, AN EVENING WITH BILL PLYMPTON:** Filmmaker Bill Plympton screens his animated feature film "Cheatin'" followed by a Q&A. Plympton will also do an original sketch for every attendee. **Free**, RSVP required. 7 pm. Kickstarter (58 Kent St. between West and Franklin streets in Greenpoint), [www.kickstarter.com/about/comics](http://www.kickstarter.com/about/comics).

**MOVIE TRIVIA:** Six rounds, including famous movie quotes, not so famous movie quotes, and Nicolas Cage quotes. **Free**. 8:30 pm. Videology (308 Bedford Ave. at S. First Street in Williamsburg), [www.videology.info](http://www.videology.info).

### WED, APRIL 8

**TALK, CATHERINE OPIE:** Catherine Opie discusses her work. **Free**. 6:15 pm. Higgins Hall Auditorium, Pratt Institute (61 St. James Pl. between Classon Avenue and Clifton Pl. in Clinton Hill, (718) 687-5639), [www.pratt.edu/photo](http://www.pratt.edu/photo).

**TALK, BIG MONEY AND POLITICS — CAN YOUR VOICE COUNT?:** A panel with Letitia James, Zaphyr Teachout, and Ted Alexandro. **Free**. 7–9 pm. BRIC Arts Media House (647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5621), [www.bricartsmedia.org](http://www.bricartsmedia.org).

**THEATER, "JULES VERNE — FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON":** Ensemble of the Romantic Century presents the face-to-face meeting between the French writer Jules Verne and young American journalist Nelly Bly. \$70. 7:30 pm. BAM Fisher (321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort

Greene), [www.bam.org/visit/buildings/bam-fisher](http://www.bam.org/visit/buildings/bam-fisher).

### THURS, APRIL 9

**ART, "PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE — PHOTOGRAPHY AND LETTER WRITING IN CIVIL WAR BROOKLYN":** \$10. Noon–5 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society (128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111), [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

**COMEDY, MORTIFIED:** Storytelling night explores teen angst artifacts. \$15 (\$10 in advance). 7 pm. Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388), [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com).

### FRI, APRIL 10

**ART, "NEW WORK, NEW YORK" OPENING RECEPTION:** The first biennial survey of work by New York City MFA students and recent graduates. **Free**. 6–9 pm. (695 Grand St. between Manhattan and Graham av-

enues in Williamsburg). **MUSIC, AFROSKULL, THE SOMETIME BOYS, LITTLE MAKER:** \$10. 8 pm. Rock Shop (249 Fourth Ave. between Carroll and President streets in Park Slope, (718) 230-5740), [www.therockshopny.com](http://www.therockshopny.com).

### SAT, APRIL 11

**SPORTS, PURPLE STRIDE 5K:** Run or walk to raise money for the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network. \$30 for timed run, \$25 to walk. 9:15 am. Prospect Park Band Shell (Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-8900), [www.purplestride.org](http://www.purplestride.org).

**MUSIC, THE BROOKLYN RHYTHM BAND, RESIDENTS DJ HONKY AND MR. ROBINSON:** \$20 (\$15 in advance). 9 pm. Littlefield (622 Degraw St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 855-3388), [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com).

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# Safer creek crossings

## Construction to begin on Pulaski Bridge bike lane

By Danielle Furfaro  
The Brooklyn Paper

It will protect and serve — bicyclists traveling from Queens to Greenpoint.

The city will finally begin construction on the long-delayed Pulaski Bridge protected bike lane in late April, which will give cyclists and pedestrians a safer route between the counties of Kings and Queens a year after the Department of Transportation originally planned to start work.

City officials refused to say why the project had been pushed back for so long, but local pols said they were happy construction is finally getting underway on the bridge that connects McGuinness Boulevard to some other road on the other side of the water.

"It is better late than never," said Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Greenpoint), who pushed to get the city to agree to the bike lane in 2013. "It was hard enough to get them to do it at all."



Photo by Jason Spakman

The Pulaski Bridge has seen a huge increase in traffic over the past decade, especially bicycle and pedestrian traffic.

The lane was sorely needed as bike traffic on the bridge increased dramatically during the last few years and bicyclists and pedestrians were dangerously vying for space on the bridge's sidewalk, riders and politicians said. Daily

bicycle traffic on the bridge more than doubled between 2009 and 2013, shooting from 487 to 1,004 bikes per day, according to city stats.

The city said it expects to open the bike lane by the end of the year.

The Pulaski Bridge isn't the only Brooklyn bridge to get a new, protected bicycle lane. City and state agencies are also planning a lane for the Greenpoint Avenue Bridge and on the new Kosciuszko Bridge.

# Hopes high, thanks to Lopez

It has been a long time comin', but it looks like spring is here. Like most pigeons around Barclays Center, I've started sprucing up the nest, working out a little bit, and generally trying to appreciate life's simple pleasures without the weight of winter crushing my soul.

And, at the time I sat down to peck out this column, the Brooklyn Nets were helping to buoy the optimism in ol' Crummy's outlook. After beating the Pacers on Tuesday, the Nets have squeaked into position to claim the final playoff spot.

Normally, I'd look at any surge by the Nets as fool's gold, a glint of hope that only exists to make the eventual disappointment more profound. But maybe it's the chirps of our more foppish fellow fowl each morning, or the fact that we're starting to see the sun with some regularity, but I'm starting to believe this Brooklyn team has it in them to at least hold on to the eighth spot in the East.

"And then what?" you're probably thinking. "The Nets make the playoffs just to get steamrolled by Atlanta in the first round?"

Well, again, normally I'd agree. But in this case there's an actual basketball reason that gives me some hope should the Nets end up in a playoff series with the East's best team: Brook "Big Lug" Lopez.

For the entire month of March, Lopez averaged 20.9 points, 9.1 boards and 2.1 blocks on 55 percent shooting. He was just named Eastern Conference Player of the Week. He's hotter than my buddy Stubby's sister Carla right now. (Stubby, if you were wondering, is one of the unfortunates who lost a foot landing on those damned bird-maiming spikes above the letters on the Futon King sign on Flat-



Associated Press / Kathy Wilens

The Nets' Brook Lopez is an ostrich compared to the competition's emus, according to our bird columnist.

## Flagrant Fowl

with Crummy the Pigeon

bush Avenue. How would you like it if pigeons put thumbtacks on your toilet seats?)"

Anyway, the key in the context of playing Atlanta: Lopez is a legit 7-foot tall. And my bird-brain spies in Atlanta say the Hawks play great defense, but Al Horford, their main guy in the low block, only measures 6-foot-10. His partner in crime at power forward Paul Millsap is 6-foot-8 — in bird terms, they are just emus compared to our ostrich.

If Brook keeps bringing it like this every night and the Nets make the playoffs, he'll find himself with a lot of air space up top.

It's been a rough year for Big Lug. At one point, even when he was healthy, coach Lionel Hollins was bringing him off the bench behind young'n Mason Plumlee, and implying Lopez was too soft in the press. But Hollins' tough love appears to have paid off: Lopez hasn't averaged more than nine rebounds a game for an entire month since 2009. (If you ask me, tough love always works: it is how I got Stubby back in the air after the surgery. Sure, his landings are painful to watch, but would you respect a pigeon who couldn't fly?)

Looking beyond the playoffs, Lopez has a decision to make this summer about whether he opts in for the last year of his contract with the Nets, or decides to sign with another team. Whether he credits Hollins with making him a better player, or holds

a grudge for the way they butted heads early on, could play a role in which way the Big Lug goes.

For the Nets, if Lopez does decide to test the waters of free agency, the decision on whether to entice the injury-prone big guy back with the promise of a longer deal will be a tough call. But if Brooklyn's brass feels the now-27-year-old has only scratched the surface of his trajectory in this first year under Hollins, it will be hard not to pony up. Plus, the marketing opportunity when the player who is arguably your team's best is named Brook and your team is from Brooklyn?

I don't have a Pigeon MBA, but I'm pretty sure that's what the industry calls a "slam dunk."

By the way, you gonna smoke the rest of that cigarette?

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# Special feature

## Famed director visits his Coney school

By Max Jaeger  
The Brooklyn Paper

Talk about a cameo! An acclaimed filmmaker visited his old stomping grounds in Coney Island on March 26.

Director Darren Aronofsky dropped by Mark Twain IS 239 to receive the school's 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame award. The Manhattan Beach-raised director — best known for 2000's "Requiem for a Dream" and 2010's "Black Swan" — told students at the Neptune Avenue school that it was the first time he felt comfortable in the auditorium's limelight.

"The last time I was on this stage, the lovely Mrs. [Vera] Fried — my seventh-grade teacher — had us dress up as a historical figure, and we all had to come up on stage and introduce ourselves ... and completely humiliate ourselves in front of all our classmates, and it was terrible," Aronofsky said. "So it's nice not being humiliated up here on stage."

The Academy Award-nominated filmmaker said Fried



Staff at the Mark Twain school in Coney Island gave alumnus Darren Aronofsky an award and a jersey.

helped him discover a passion for creative writing during a poetry assignment. Aronofsky's composition, "The Dove," later inspired his 2014 film, "Noah," he said. The octogenarian educator played the "one-eyed crone" in the Biblical epic.

Aronofsky, now a Manhattanite, said growing up in and around Coney Island had a

profound effect on his creative process.

"It's definitely been in a lot of my movies because I grew up around it, and the aesthetic and the people here are just a big part of who I am, and I definitely draw on stuff from my youth to tell stories," said Aronofsky, who set his movie adaptation of "Requiem for a Dream" in Coney Island rather

than the novel's Bronx locale because he was familiar with Sodom by the Sea.

Eighth-grader Frederic Minzberg performed "Lux Aeterna" — "Requiem for a Dream"'s leitmotif — arranged for solo piano. The performance was serendipitous, because Minzberg learned the tune before finding out the movie's director would visit his school, the student said.

Aronofsky joins actor Louis Gossett Jr. as the school's second alumni hall-of-famer, and suggested administrators reach outside the humanities when selecting the 2016 inductee.

"Now it's Lou Gossett and it's me on the wall, but I'm sure there are a lot of great people. Maybe next year you could find someone who works in math or the sciences or one of the other great talents," he said.

The director attended the school for gifted kids as a math student, and his first feature film — a bizarre psychological thriller called "Pi" — was steeped in number theory and computer science.

The school's principal praised Aronofsky for his humility and dedication to his alma mater.

"His path began here, and he never forgot where he came from, or his experiences at Mark Twain," said principal Karen Ditolla.

## CLUB...

Continued from page 1  
work" by Katy Perry, "Maps" by Maroon 5, and "Rude" by Magic. They have also taken on some stalwart classics, including "You've Got to Hide Your Love Away" by the Beatles and "Sweet Home Alabama" by Lynyrd Skynyrd.

The kids are now raising money to build a website where they will post their own homemade instructional videos, and are hoping to raise enough money to buy guitars for 50 more kids.

Friedlander and MacDonald also hope to expand the club to at least two more schools and eventually the entire city.

"I just want kids to be enriched with music and the arts and learn a skill that goes with you beyond test taking," said MacDonald.



Members of the Guitar Club in a hallway at MS 577 in Williamsburg.

## Long Island University is Pleased to Announce and Congratulate the 2014 George Polk Award Winners

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Ransom for Hostages  
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*The Post and Courier (South Carolina)*

### Television Reporting

Marisa Venegas, John Carlos Frey, and Solly Granatstein  
"Muriendo por Cruzar"  
("The Real Death Valley")  
Telemundo, The Weather Channel, Efran Films and The Investigative Fund (Melvin McCray)

### Commentary

Ta-Nehisi Coates  
"The Case for Reparations"  
*The Atlantic*

### Career Award

Garry Trudeau



Long Island University  
polkawards.org



Photo by Stefano Giovannini  
Ryan Miller takes his son Carter for a ride on the Prospect Park Carousel on March 29, two days after it opened for the season.

# Cyclone stalls mid-ride

By Max Jaeger  
The Brooklyn Paper

It's enough to make your stomach drop. When Luna Park's Cyclone roller coaster stalled near the top of its first hill during the second ride of the season on March 29, trapping a dozen riders 85 feet above Coney Island, nobody at the amusement park bothered to contact the police or fire department. A longtime fan of the gut-churner who was trapped said the safety oversight was too much for her to stomach.

"I was very grateful for workers who helped us get down to the ground, but then I find out that they never even called 911, which really bothered me, because God forbid if somebody fell," said Diana Elsener, who drove from Poughkeepsie to ride the iconic coaster on opening day. No one called the fire department or the police when the coaster stalled, spokesmen from both agencies said. Elsener didn't see any ambulances before climbing down from her 85-foot-high vantage point, she said.



Photo by Georgine Benvenuto  
Riders make their way back down after the Cyclone got stuck on the first hill during Luna Park's opening day on March 29.

Representatives from Luna Park did not return a call for comment.

About a dozen riders sat at the top of the towering thrill ride for about 20 minutes when coaster cars locked up just before cresting the ride's first hill at noon on Sunday, witnesses said. At first, riders thought the pause was planned to add to the thrill, but soon the gravity of the situation sank in, one stranded thrill-

seeker said.

"I thought 'maybe they just needed to hit a button,' but then I look down, and I see all of Luna Park has stopped, and the staff comes running, and I know we're stuck," said David Zubin of Bensonhurst, who has been riding the Cy-

clone every opening day for the past decade.

Luna Park staff climbed the coaster and escorted stranded riders down a series of wooden steps to terra firma with no injuries reported. The thrill was there, but the spills came the next day, Elsener said.

"I woke up this morning and collapsed," she said. "Every muscle in my legs just cramped, so I'm actually having a lot of trouble walking. People keep saying 'steps,' but they're not steps — it's a little strip of wood that you have to brace yourself on. I'm not gonna lie — it was terrifying."

The iconic ride opened in 1927, and operator Astroland Amusement Park refurbished the ride in 1974. Luna Park took over management of the coaster in 2011 and began another round of refurbishment. Hurricane Sandy delayed the work but didn't cause any lasting damage to the ride, operators said.

But Sunday's technical glitch, and Luna Park's failure to alert the authorities are not enough to dissuade Elsener from taking another go-around on the coaster, she said.

"Our family has been riding the cyclone since 1939," said Elsner, who got to Luna Park at 7:30 am to get in line. "At this point, I would ride again because it's a family tradition."

## Out for a spin

By Noah Hurowitz  
The Brooklyn Paper

Time for another go around! The Prospect Park carousel took a second spin at its opening day on Sunday, making up for a rainy start to the ride season on Friday. The circling steeds failed to draw

people out into the cold spring air on its official March 26 opening day, but when the sun came out two days later, so too did parents and tots eager to take the wooden stallions for a whirl.

"It was a beautiful day, and she loved it," said Jason Roberts, who brought

his daughter Maya, 1, from Sunset Park to ride the vintage carousel. "She gets really excited whenever she sees it."

The rotating amusement was originally carved in 1912 by renowned carousel-builder Charles Carmel, and the Prospect Park Alliance restored the ride in 1990. It features 53 horses, two dragon-pulled chariots, a giraffe, a lion, and a deer.

## The Dad assesses his value

What is it about spring that brings parenting advice from all quarters? In print, on television, radio, and the web I feel barraged by experts touting the newest research on topics such as how to handle technology, bedtime, and chores so my children will grow up with positive, healthy habits, become good citizens, wonderful friends, and achieve their greatest potential as human beings.

On one hand, I'm thankful for all this well-intentioned guidance, but with a 17 and a 19-year-old, it makes me feel like I'm too late, the ship has sailed, and there is nothing more I can do to impact my girls and their futures. All these expert suggestions

only point out the things I should have done and my failures as a parent.

Just as my parents undoubtedly felt, I'm conscious that the world is constantly changing and how things that impact my kids' lives like technology, the workplace, and even religion have shifted since the time they were born.

Take cellphones. Today it would be laughable to consider the amount of thought I put into when to get my daughters their first cheap, plastic flip phones that were like flint and steel is to a blowtorch when compared to the smartphones



### The Dad

By Scott Sager

they have now.

Now, the impact texting, Snapchat, Facebook, pinning, posting, and privacy have had on their lives has changed so rapidly, the rules and customs I created five years ago no longer seem adequate.

Our understanding of childhood continuously evolves leading to suggestions about how to help kids sleep better, eat better, even dress better.

Not only are my daughters' habits already set, our family patterns are not very flexible anymore. I think my girl in high school would blow a gasket if I suddenly tried to exert more control over her computer usage or to make her get up earlier on school days in order to eat breakfast. Even though she's not fully formed as an adult, there is less and less room in our relationship for forceful guidance and rule-based direction.

I see the value in this next generation of parenting advice. But there is little I can do with it which makes me feel defeated.

Then an e-mail comes in from my older daughter asking for help with her resume

and the cover e-mail for a summer internship. Not only can I offer my editing skills, but we talk about how to handle an interview, thinking about spending the summer somewhere she doesn't know people, how this might influence the classes she takes next year, how to manage her laundry that is piling up. Suddenly, I feel valuable again, that being her parent has real meaning.

When my girls were much younger, every day I could see how I made a difference in their lives. Now, the immediacy of being a parent has changed, the sense of impact on my children's lives is less.

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# Verizon's Tuition Assistance Program Helps Employees Pursue Their Dreams

Aura Delgado was only 19 years old when she began her career with Verizon in the Corporate Service Department in December, 1999. It was a small team, but one with a lot of experience.

"The department consisted of approximately 12 employees, all of whom had 25 or more years of service," said Aura. "But it was while working in this department with such a great group of people, that I learned about the Tuition Assistance Program as well as the other great benefits Verizon had to offer."

Verizon's Tuition Assistance Program offers all employees across the company up to \$8,000 per year to continue their education. It's a big part of how Verizon attracts and retains employees, but the company also looks at it as an investment in its business. "Much more than a retention tool, tuition assistance is one of the ways we support and encourage employee development,



Aura Delgado, a member of Verizon's workforce administration team.

which is critical to the success of our business," said Amy Hirsch, director of leadership development in Verizon's Human Resources department.

"Employees who participate in the Tuition Assistance Program are developing academic credentials and critical skills that can help them grow in their current roles and perhaps take on new roles that accomplish their career goals," she added.

Aura began using the program in 2003, and over the last 11 years she has completed four degrees and two certifications — an Associate's Degree in business administration (2005), a tax consultant certification for federal and state returns (2006) and then corporate returns (2007), a Bachelor of Science in marketing (2007), a Master of Business Administration (2010) and a Master of Science in accounting (2014).

"I am proud to say that I am an employee who has taken full advantage

of the Tuition Assistance Program," says Aura. "The program afforded me the opportunity to pursue my dreams by assisting with my tuition needs and proved that anything is possible if given the right tools to succeed."

Aura's utilization of tuition assistance is a common use by Verizon employees who typically work towards associates, bachelors and masters degrees that they feel will be useful in their current roles or future ones they hope to one day move into.

"Academic degrees can make an employee a stronger candidate for new job opportunities," says Amy. "We find that employees who take advantage of educational programs are more likely to move laterally or upward to new roles in the company, and they tend to stay longer at Verizon."

Aura Delgado counts herself as one of them. "By far this is not the end of my educational experience."

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Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on 03/25/2015, bearing Index Number NC-000307-15/KI, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, grants (me/us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Shamila (Last) Shahzad. My present name is (First) Shamila (Last) Shahzad AKA Shamaila. My present address is 8792 21st Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11214. My place of birth is Pakistan. My date of birth is April 17, 1994.

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SUPREME COURT: KINGS COUNTY. NYCTL 2008-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plff. vs. BEDFORD PLACE, LLC, et al, Defts. Index #32159/09. Pursuant to judgment entered: 12/26/2012 and Order of the Hon. Robin S. Garson, J.S. C. entered 12/30/2014, I will sell at public auction in Room 224 of the Kings County Supreme Court, 360 Adams St., Brooklyn, NY on Apr. 16, 2015 at 2:30 p.m. prem. k/a 727 Bedford Ave., Unit S1, Brooklyn, NY a/k/a Section 3, Block 01715, Lot 1002. Approx. amt. of judgment is \$6,720.51 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale and the right of the United States of America to redeem within 120 days from the date of sale as provided by law. DAVID J. HERNANDEZ, Referee. SHAPIRO, DICARO & BARAK, LLC, Attys. For Plff., 105 Maxess Rd., Ste. N109, Melville, NY. File No. 09-081024 - #85576

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Photo by Brigitte Stelzer.

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