



# Brooklyn Paper

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# FENCES MAKE BAD NEIGHBORS

## Residents war over Cobble Hill Park enclosures

By Lauren Gill

Brooklyn Paper

Mr. DeBlasio, tear down that fence!

Wire fences in Cobble Hill Park are dividing more than just plants and park-goers' feet — they're driving a wedge between local volunteer gardeners who insist they're vital for protecting baby shrubs from dog poop and people's boots, and residents who are demanding the city rip out the unsightly railings so they can enjoy more of the verdant green space.

"It's really ugly and it makes me angry every time I see it — it makes me feel alienated from my local park," said Nancie Katz, who started a petition that has amassed 100 signatures demanding that the city remove the fences. "I understand they want to protect certain flowered areas, but even so, are people really going to trample in there? Please, it's Cobble Hill."

The Parks Department first started installing knee- and shoulder-high fences in the park at Clinton and Congress streets to protect newly-planted vegetation from feet, feces, and vandals about five years ago, when the garden was in dire need of a makeover, according to the leader of the park's advocacy group.

"The fences are there because the last few years we've been working really hard to restore the vegetation," said Barbara Krongel of Friends of Cobble Hill Park, a collective of local green thumbs that has tended the small park for almost 30 years. "There wasn't much grass, bushes were dead and the plantings weren't protected. The sprinkler



Some Cobble Hill residents want the Parks Department to tear down the wire fences protecting plantings in Cobble Hill Park so it's more accessible to the public.

system was getting vandalized, so that needed protection too."

But now the rampant enclosure erections are out of control, the critics charge, and are effectively blocking off most of the park from visitors and their dogs. The Friends of Cobble Hill Park have gone power-mad planting and protecting new posies, they claim, and are using the public park as their own garden.

"People want to treat it as a botanic garden — and this ain't no botanic garden," said local Aaron Raskin.

But Parks Department officials are ultimately the ones who decide whether to install the fences or not, the stewards say, and besides — the meadow was never designed to entertain large numbers of humans and animals, because the city has designated it as a "passive sitting park."

If residents have a problem with the barricades, one member said, they should get their hands dirty and experience firsthand just how hard it is keeping the park looking pretty without them.



Nancie Katz is leading the charge to nix the fences, which she thinks are ugly and unnecessary in a considerate community like Cobble Hill.

"It's easy to point fingers and say you're doing this wrong," said June Negrycz, who ran the Friends group before Krongel, during which time she

claims she spent up to 40 hours a week watering plants there. "Why don't those people come in and work in the dog s--- and plant the plants if they're so visu-

ally upset with these fences?" A Parks spokeswoman would not say if the agency would entertain the demands to take the fences down.



Francine Darko scored a second-hand typewriter at the Atlantic Antic street fair on Sept. 25, which she plans to use to type up her teenage love letters.

## The Antic road show

### Bargains and bingeing at Atlantic Avenue fair

By Ruth Brown

Brooklyn Paper

This street festival was just her type!

Hundreds of thousands of revellers mined the treasure trove of food, games, and entertainment on offer at the Atlantic Antic fair on Sunday, but one bargain hunter really hit the jackpot when she stumbled upon a vintage typewriter at one of the strip's famed antique stores after weeks of scouring the city for just such a writing device.

"It's not like I go to a fair to get an antique, but I saw an old leather bag and I picked it up and the typewriter fell out," said Francine



Sweethearts Ian Leidner and Rachel Trenchard share a sandwich from Atlantic Avenue eatery French Louis.

## BKLYN SAYS NIMBY TO CITI BIKE

### Hook: Don't tell us what we need

By Lauren Gill

Brooklyn Paper

New Citi Bike stations outside the Red Hook Houses are stealing much-needed parking spaces from residents who rely on their cars to get to and from the transit-starved nabe, claim tenant leaders — and it's just the latest example of the city telling public-housing residents what they need instead of listening to what they actually want, they say.

"I don't see how the stations benefit people who live in public housing," said Frances Brown, president of the Red Hook East Houses Tenant Association. "We're tired of all these Citi Bikes and people making decisions for us like we're little children."

The Department of Transportation recently installed four stations around the 2,891-unit public housing complex — at W. Ninth and Columbia streets, Lorraine and Columbia streets, Clinton and Centre streets, and Wolcott and Dwight streets — as part of a broader rollout of the blue-bike bays around Community Board 6 over the past month.

The agency held several public workshops during the planning period and met with Brown twice, but she said the pow-wows seemed pointless and she got the impression transportation honchos had already decided where it was placing the docks before they spoke to her.

"When they came to me and spoke to me they had already made up their minds," she said.

The city has made an effort to get New York City Housing Authority residents on the bikes — tenants only have to pay \$5 per month to rent them, versus \$15 for other citizens.

Meanwhile, Red Hook Houses residents are only renting out 47 of the 116 spaces in the complex's private parking lot, which costs \$60–\$75 a year, according to a New York City Housing Authority spokeswoman.

But another tenant leader says there is a dearth of free parking options for the 98 percent of residents who she claims own cars, and the few who cycle already own their own bikes.

"We don't have enough space to park as is," said Red Hook West Houses Tenant Association president Lillie Marshall, who says the city didn't even bother to engage her in the discussion. "People in the community have cars and their children have bikes so what are we going to do with all these bikes? Nobody is renting these bikes, they're just parked there."

Mayor DeBlasio also singled out the Red Hook Houses residents as the lucky recipients of a new neighborhood ferry stop and his forthcoming streetcar.

A Department of Transportation spokeswoman refused to answer specific questions about its meetings with Red Hook Houses leaders, saying only that it takes community input seriously when deciding on rack locations.



Boerum Hill resident Bill Harris is outraged that the city installed new Citi Bike racks in the nabe without telling locals first.

## DOT to Boerum Hill: Sorry, but they stay

By Lauren Gill

Brooklyn Paper

We made our bed — and now you have to bike in it!

The Department of Transportation messed up by not consulting Boerum Hill residents about where to install new Citi Bike stations in their neighborhood, officials admitted last Tuesday, but they said the agency has no plans to take locals' advice now by relocating the hated docks to sites they'd prefer, as it could just make things worse.

"There is a challenge to moving stations around," said agency spokesman John Frost. "The station that's on the ground right now, people know what they don't like about it, but don't know what they don't like about the hypothetical one

that doesn't exist yet."

The city quietly rolled out five of the bike-rental berths in the nabe over the past month, augmenting the ones it added in 2013 to Community Board 2's district — which encompasses Brooklyn Heights, Dumbo, Downtown, and Fort Greene — and were also met with protests.

The agency held public workshops and consulted locals about the locations back then, but this time around it made the unorthodox move of going straight to the board's district manager and asking only him which sites he thought the community would prefer — enraging residents who say it is just typical of the way officials so often ignore the tiny

See **BIKES** on page 3

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# FORMULA EEK!

## Red Hook leader: No one told us about massive car race coming here next year

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

The cars aren't the only things keeping quiet in this race!

The city made the surprise announcement last week that Red Hook's Brooklyn Cruise Terminal will host a leg of international electric-car racing series Formula E Championship on July 29 and 30 next year, but it was an unwelcome shock for one local leader,

who says city and race officials should have consulted residents about bringing the massive event to their sleepy burg before making the decision.

"There's been no outreach to us directly, nor as we could tell, any outreach to the Red Hook community," said Community Board 6 district manager Craig Hammerman. "Frankly, for them to assume the event is happening before these conversations take place shows a certain degree of ignorance or arrogance."

To add insult to injury, Hammerman claims the Economic Development Corporation—the city agency working with Formula E on the event—called him the day before the announcement and invited him to publicly support the race, even though it couldn't give him any details about it.

"The day before the press conference, EDC called to let us know as a courtesy and asked us if we could be there as supporters," said Hammerman. "It wouldn't make sense to be seen as supporting the event when we had no information about it."

The battery-powered cars

are far quieter than their gas-guzzling Formula 1 counterparts and will not be racing on any public streets—they will zoom along a route that snakes past the Cruise Terminal and hooks around Atlantic Basin, going to the edge of Pioneer and Conover streets, then running parallel to Imlay Street.

Still, Formula E events typically draw tens of thousands of spectators, and Hammerman said the organization and city honchos really should sit down with community members to work out how they can minimize the impact on the area.

At least one local business owner is thrilled to have big crowds headed to the neighborhood, though.

"It would be insane to think it's not fantastic because it will bring people here," said Triciana Botta, who owns Italian wine store Botta di Vino on Van Brunt Street. "It would be great if somehow they knew that I have their celebratory champagne over here."

Economic Development Corporation spokesman Anthony Hogrebe claimed the agency *did* have conversations about the race with the com-



Photo by Paul Martinko



Formula E

Battery-powered racers like this one will hit the waterfront track when Formula E comes to Red Hook next July.

claimed, though details of exactly where those entrances will be haven't been decided yet. The agency will discuss them with community leaders before making any final decisions, he pledged.

The waterfront hamlet is notoriously subway-free, though the city is opening a new ferry stop right inside Atlantic Basin next year, and Hogrebe said Formula E honchos are interested in using the boats to transport as many people as possible to and from the race.

munity board—though the panel's Transportation Committee co-chair Eric McClure confirmed he also hadn't heard a thing—as well as with local pols, and said the commission and Formula E plan to work with them all

over the next 10 months of planning.

The city will only have to close a few nearby blocks for attendee entrances because the race will be contained inside the Cruise Terminal and an adjacent lot, he

## Guilty verdict

### Man convicted of beating gay, black man in W'burg

By Duncan Osborne  
for Brooklyn Paper

A judge on Sept. 23 convicted Williamsburg man Mayer Herskovic of bashing a gay, black man in the neighborhood's Hasidic area in 2013, as part of a brutal group assault that left the victim blind in one eye.

Herskovic was part of a group of roughly 20 men—a

neighborhood patrol organized by the Hasidic Jewish Satmar community, involved in the attack on Taj Patterson. The men pursued Patterson, now 25, along Flushing Avenue in cars and on foot, and once they caught him, the brutes punched and kicked him and jammed a thumb in his eye.

No witness in the trial identified Herskovic as the ringleader, but police found his



Taj Patterson after the 2013 beating in Williamsburg.

DNA on Patterson's sneaker—which they recovered from the roof of a nearby building—and Patterson testified that

the man who punched him in the face, jabbed a thumb in his eye, and kicked him in the face as he lay on the ground was the same man who pulled off his sneaker and tossed it onto the building.

Herskovic now faces a minimum sentence of three-and-a-half years and up to 15 years in prison.

Police originally charged five men with the beating, but Herskovic is the only one facing jail time—two others, Pinchas Braver and Abraham Winkler, agreed to plead guilty to unlawful imprisonment in exchange for three years of probation and 150 hours of community service, while charges against two others were dropped. Herskovic re-

fused to take a plea deal.

In June of this year, Patterson also filed a federal civil rights suit against the city, three of the police officers who were involved in the initial investigation, the five men who were charged, a sixth alleged attacker, the Williamsburg Safety Patrol, and the Shmira Volunteer Patrol.

In the lawsuit, Patterson charges that the city and the police department have long privileged these patrols and the Hasidic community. Police records show the 90th Precinct initially closed its investigation just an hour after the attack. The department reopened the case a week later when its Hate Crimes Task Force took over.

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# Now that's a bad sign

## Ooops! City posts 'Meserole Ave.' on Meserole Street

By Sarah Dougan  
The Brooklyn Paper

What a mess-erole!  
The Department of Transportation installed a street sign bearing the name of Greenpoint's Meserole Avenue on Williamsburg's Meserole Street this month, confounding locals who say commuters are already confused enough by the two thoroughfares' similar names and close proximity.

"It's always been such a mess," said Daniel Perez, who has been living in the neighborhood for 35 years. "It's just so confusing."

The agency installed the sign at Graham Avenue "earlier this month," according to a department spokeswoman, and a worker finally replaced it with a correct post last Friday afternoon — shortly after this paper started asking questions about it.

But it doesn't really fix the underlying confusion between the two streets, said one longtime neighbor — and he doesn't think the city cares enough to change it.

"The city doesn't give a s---," said a worker at a nearby bike shop, who identified himself only as "Mike on a Bike." "I've lived here 50 years, nothing has changed. The confusion is the same."



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Workers installed a "Meserole Avenue" sign on Meserole Street, then took it down last week.

Meserole Street — which runs between Union and Scott avenues in Williamsburg — and the avenue in Greenpoint — bookended by Franklin and N. Henry streets — are both named for the Meserole family, one of Greenpoint's founding families, which moved to the area in 1663.

## BIKES...

Continued from page 1

neighborhood. "A great deal of space and time and frustration has been spent on these new locations dropped miraculously into Boerum Hill without any process," said committee member Bill Harris. "For parts of Community Board 2 below Atlantic Avenue, we're sort of like the red-headed stepchildren."

Following a presentation by a Citi Bike rep that Harris characterized as "glib salesmen's talk," a transportation honcho said the agency typ-

ically doesn't bring smaller rollouts to the community for consultation, but acknowledged the lack of outreach was a mistake and promised to consult the committee in the future.

"There has been some miscommunication and some lapses here on DOT's part so we have to own that a little bit," said Borough Planner Abigail Ikner at Community Board 2's Transportation Committee meeting.

The majority of the committee members said they support Citi Bike, but they are sick of

losing parking spaces within a community board that typically votes in favor of bike infrastructure over car storage. Four of the five new racks took the place of parking on Boerum Hill streets, where they say space is already at a premium since Downtown workers often nab free spots.

"I support the Citi Bike program but it has to lie with the rest of the community and the rest of the community is losing parking," said Boerum Hill resident Sidney Meyer.

Members suggested the city move one recently installed dock on the pavement of narrow Dean and Hoyt streets to the wide sidewalk outside PS

261 on Pacific Street between Smith and Hoyt streets.

Ikner promised she would talk to Citi Bike officials about the alternative site, but claimed stations outside of schools are often troublesome — though didn't expand on why.

The city installed the surprise Boerum Hill docks around the same time it launched the program in neighboring Community Board 6 — which includes Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, and Red Hook. Those were presented to and approved by that panel last year, though it has hardly stopped discontent there, either.



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# Thieving trio lifts 30 pairs of pants

## 84TH PRECINCT

Brooklyn Heights–  
Dumbo–Boerum Hill–  
Downtown

A trio of thieves stole 30 pairs of pants from a Fulton Street store on Sept. 14.

An employee of the clothing shop near Hoyt Street told police the three bad-dies entered the store at 5:11 pm, lifted the trousers, and fled.

### Bad sport

A filcher swiped a man's bag while the victim was spiking points at the volleyball court in Brooklyn Bridge Park on Sept. 20.

The athlete told cops he left his bag containing his wedding ring, MacBook Pro, phone, pants, shoes, pocketknife, headphones, and \$200 on the ground and went to play volleyball near Furman Street at 7 pm. But when he returned he discovered his belongings had vanished, cops said.

### Morning bash

Two goons attacked a guy and attempted to rob him on Fulton Street on Sept. 21, but he got away before the punks could snatch his bag.

The victim was strolling to work by Gellatin Place at 5:20 am when the jerks came up from behind and punched him in the head, said a report.

One of the crooks flashed a knife and attempted to take the worker's backpack, but he managed to get away, authorities said.

### Airball

Some worm stole a 13-year-old boy's cellphone and \$45 by threatening to shoot him as he played basketball in McLaughlin Park on Jay Street on Sept. 23.

The kid told cops he was shooting hoops in the park near Tillary Street at 5:10 pm when a brute showed his gun and snarled, "If you say anything, I'm gonna blast you." The teenager then handed over his iPhone and money, according to a report.

### Cut

A rogue ripped off razors and over-the-counter medications from a Henry Street store on Sept. 25.

The lout entered the shop near Love Lane at 1:47 pm empty-handed, according to the employee on duty at the time. But minutes later, he walked out with a bag containing the shaving utensils, Prevacid, and Nexium, according to a report.

## 88TH PRECINCT

Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

### Trigger happy

Police arrested a guy who they say threatened to shoot

## POLICE BLOTTER

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a man if he didn't hand over his money and phone on N. Elliott Walk on Sept. 22.

The victim told police he was walking with his friend near Park Avenue at 4:45 pm when the suspect walked up to him and said, "Give me your money or I'll shoot you," while simulating a gun in his waistband.

The victim then reached into his backpack and pulled out \$1, and in the process revealing his cellphone to the suspect. The guy then hissed, "Give me your cellphone or I'll shoot," and began to count down from five, according to a report.

### Botched

A villain slashed a man on the forehead in a mugging gone wrong on Lafayette Avenue on Sept. 24.

The victim was near Cumberland Avenue at 12:45 am when the punk approached him and told him to hand over whatever he had on him. But the victim instead walked away, so the baddie tried to attack him from behind, said cops.

The victim began to fight

back, and the lout pulled out a sharp object and slashed him in the middle of the forehead, then fled, according to a report.

### Bad hangover

A pickpocket purloined a drunk guy's wallet while he was passed out on DeKalb Avenue on Sept. 18.

The heavy-swinging victim told police he fell asleep near Ashland Place at 5 am. At some point, he was taken to Brooklyn Hospital, and when he came to, he noticed his wallet was missing from his pants, said authorities.

He checked his bank account and noticed some thief had made three unauthorized charges on his credit card.

### Purse snatching

A snake snatched a woman's purse as she was walking on Willoughby Street on Sept. 19.

The woman was headed home near St. Edwards Street at 9 pm when a nogoodnik walked up and grabbed her pocketbook — containing her phone, keys, cigarettes, and debit card — out of her hand and fled, according to a report.

### Gone missing

A sneaky straphanger stole a man's wallet while he was riding the B55 bus on Myrtle Avenue on Sept. 24.

The victim told cops he got on the bus near Steuben Street at 3:15 pm with his wallet on him, but when he got off, he discovered that it was missing.

— Lauren Gill

## 78TH PRECINCT

Park Slope

### Sharp thief

A knife-wielding shoplifter cut his way out of an Atlantic Avenue supermarket on Sept. 20.

Store security told police they spotted the suspect stuffing goods from the market near Fort Greene Place into his pockets at 9:20 am, so they stopped him and took the items.

But once security officers tried to get the would-be thief into their office, he pulled a knife and shouted, "I don't want to go to jail," causing security to back up a pace or two, and giving the man room to flee, cops said.

### Hog wash

A thief rode off with a man's motorcycle after he parked it on Sterling Place on Sept. 17.

The victim told police he left his 2008 Yamaha between Seventh and Flatbush avenues at 5:30 pm, and returned the next morning to find it had vanished.

There were no security cameras on the scene, and detectives at the 78th Precinct have closed their investigation of the theft, cops said.

### The wrong path

Cops nabbed an alleged Citi Bike thief after a patrolman spotted the suspect riding in the wrong lane on Fort Greene Place on Sept. 10.

The police officer said he saw the suspect cycling near Atlantic Avenue in the wrong lane at 1:20 am and stopped the man.

The patrolman then contacted a Citi Bike employee and discovered the two-wheeler had been stolen, cops said.

### Totally trucked

A bandit looted a speaker from a man's truck parked on Second Street on Sept. 30.

The victim was outside his vehicle parked near Seventh Avenue at 9:30 am when the thief dashed into the unlocked truck and grabbed the speaker, cops said.

### Menace

Police collared a 24-year-old man for allegedly threatening a woman with a knife on Fifth Avenue on Sept. 12.

A witness told a patrolman at the scene between Eighth and Ninth streets that the suspect had threatened a passerby with the black serrated blade at 4:20 pm.

The arresting officer reportedly didn't find the blade on the suspect, but did find him in possession of a bag of weed, and promptly arrested the man on charges of "men-

acing," cops said.

— Colin Mixson

## 76TH PRECINCT

Carroll Gardens–  
Cobble Hill–Red Hook

### Schoolyard fight

Cops arrested a 19-year-old guy who they say kicked a teenage girl in the head when an argument turned violent at school on Baltic Street on Sept. 26.

The 17-year-old victim told police she and the suspect got into a verbal argument in the school between Smith and Hoyt streets at 12:30 pm and then he kicked her in the head, causing her face to swell, according to authorities.

### Sweet-tooth

A cur tried to steal a cartful of candies and other goods from a Court Street store on Sept. 24, police said.

The sweet-toothed scofflaw almost left the store between W. Ninth and Garnet streets at 10:11 am with seven bottles of shampoo, two boxes of Pop Tarts, six Colgate toothpastes, four bars of soap, three bottles of mouthwash, two packages of Sour Patch kids, one packet of Swedish Fish, Reese's Pieces, and M and M's, and one bar of Hershey's milk chocolate — but he dropped it all and ran off when a guy stopped him, according to a police report.

### Bye, bye, bike

A nogoodnik stole a guy's motorcycle after he left it parked on Hoyt Street sometime between Sept. 21 and 22, police said.

The victim told police he chained his 2016 gray Yamaha YZFR6 to a light post between Baltic and Douglass streets at 11 pm and when he returned the next day at 6 pm to get it, the chain was severed and his ride was gone, according to authorities.

### Night thief

A crook stole a boy's bicycle from outside of his Henry Street house sometime overnight on Sept. 25, police said.

The father told police his son's bike — a cherry red Mongoose BMX bike with a black seat — was left outside between W. Ninth and Huntington streets from 7:30 pm to 8 am the next day, and when he went to get it, it was gone.

### Guitar blues

A pirate plundered a guy's guitar after he left it in the hallway of a building on Baltic Street on Sept. 22, police said.

The guy told police he left his mini Spreiter six string in its black case in the hallway of the building between Clinton and Court streets at 1:45 pm while he went to get coffee and when he got back, it was gone, officials said.

— Julianne Cuba

## 68TH PRECINCT

Bay Ridge–Dyker Heights

### Busting in

A thief busted through a front door and swiped \$2,000 from a Third Avenue home on Sept. 22, said police.

The burglar broke down the front door of the apartment between Ovington Avenue and 72nd Street at 1:30 pm, ransacked several rooms, swiped the cash, and fled on foot, said authorities.

### Crafty bandit

A bandit stole clothes, books, and toiletries from a woman's car parked on Ridge Boulevard on Sept. 21, said police.

The victim told police she left the items inside her silver Hyundai at 81st Street, and when she returned at 10 pm the items were gone.

When officers found the stolen belongings and thief that night, the man stated, "I took it from a silver car, I needed the money," before he fled on foot, according to a police report.

### Grab and run

A pilferer ran up behind a man, grabbed his iPhone, and sped off in a getaway car on Fifth Avenue on Sept. 28, said police.

The victim told police he was between 86th and 87th streets at 9:30 pm when an unknown woman ran up to him and snatched the phone out of his hand.

The woman ran to a double-parked car and sped off with the goods, cops said.

— Caroline Spivack



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# VICTORY!

## The Prospect Park West bike lane lawsuit is dead

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper



The years-long fight over the world's most controversial bike lane is finally over, after the cadre of politically connected Park Slopers that has been trying to kill the two-way protected pedaling path along Prospect Park West dropped its lawsuit against the lane on Sept. 21.

The high-powered neighbors — whose ranks originally included former Transportation Commissioner and current wife to Sen. Chuck Schumer (D–Park Slope) Iris Weinsahl, former Deputy Mayor Norman Steisel, and former Brooklyn College dean Louise Hainline — balked at what they saw as the city shoving the 19-block bike lane down their throats six years ago, and sued arguing officials installed the passage on a trial basis then cherry-picked crash and safety data to justify making it permanent.

But as the case dragged on for years, several of the backers backed off — one, Lois Carswell of Seniors for Safety, died — and the lane became a fixture of the neighborhood, as documented by a candid 2012 photo of Schumer riding down the pathway with apparent glee. Now, the remaining critics say they have to accept that it is just not practical to get rid of the bikeway at this point.

“We acknowledge that, for better or worse, and despite the disingenuous means

by which we believe it was installed, the Prospect Park West bike lane is here to stay,” the litigants said in a statement.

The litigious locals did find some vindication when city data released as part of the suit showed the number of car-on-car crashes actually increased slightly in the two years after the lane's installation, though it also found drivers hit few cyclists even as bike traffic tripled, speeding went down, and bikers stopped riding on sidewalks.

While it lasted, the court battle was huge news, with former Department of Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, former Borough President Marty Markowitz, and Councilman Brad Lander (D–Park Slope) all testifying, media outlets across the city spilling plenty of ink on coverage and editorials, and bike activists rallying to show their support for the lane.

At the height of the drama, this paper's then-editor Gersh Kuntzman famously dressed as the bike lane for the Park Slope Civic Council Halloween Parade, while Markowitz — who didn't support the lane — rode into his 2011 State of the Borough address on a tricycle to mock the path and



Photo by Stefano Giovannini

Bike lover Eric McClure is delighted that the powerful Park Slope residents have finally ended their five-year crusade to kill the Prospect Park West bike lane — though he kind of wishes they'd lost instead of given up.

the pro-cycling activists supporting it.

As of 2012, the city had spent more than \$140,000 on legal fees fighting the suit.

Still, some local bike lovers are disappointed to see the case fizzle out instead of finish with the bang of a judge's gavel.

“There was a part of me that wanted to see this decided in a court room, because I think their case was without merit,” said Eric McClure, co-chair of Community Board 6's Transportation Commit-

tee and a longtime defender of the lane.

Lander, meanwhile, says he's glad the opponents waved the white flag — and he hopes the Citi Bike haters he is currently battling after the blue bike rental stations rolled out across his district last month follow suit.

“Thrilled that PPW bike lane opponents have voluntarily withdrawn their lawsuit!” he tweeted after the announcement. “Hoping opposition to Citi Bike abates a little more quickly.”

## CHECKIN' IN WITH...

# New York's first female Hasidic civil court judge

Lawyer and Borough Park community activist Rachel “Ruchie” Freier is about to become the first female Hasidic Jewish judge in state history, after voters on Sept. 13 elected her to the bench of the Fifth Judicial district civil court, which includes Kensington, Windsor Terrace, Sunset Park, and Bay Ridge. The mother of six and Brooklyn Law School graduate is the founder of two charities as well as the all-female Hasidic emergency medical technician response group Ezras Nashim — Hebrew for “helping women.” Reporter Colin Mixson spoke to her about her appointment and some challenges she faced along the way.

Colin Mixson: You've got a big first under your belt. How does that feel?

Rachel Freier: I feel like I'm really speaking for many women like myself, who have done good things and worked hard, and that there are many religious women like me out there, but they just haven't come to the public eye. So I feel like I have a mission and I'm an ambassador for so many other orthodox and Hasidic Jewish women.

CM: Why are you the first Hasidic Jewish woman to achieve this position?

RF: The part that sometimes works against women is we have a high priority of raising a family. So when you're raising a family, and that comes first, you can have a second interest, but when it's law or medicine it's very difficult. I think for a woman to go to law school, whether you're Jewish or not, any woman who wants to go to law school and raise a fam-



Photo by Jordan Rattiner

Borough Park native Rachel Freier will be New York state's first Hasidic civil court judge.

ily is going to have the same challenges.

CM: Has becoming a professional success and then achieving this position as a judge put you at odds with anyone in the Hasidic community?

RF: It's just the opposite. There's an overflow

of support. Wherever I go, people are telling me, “Now my daughter thinks differently about the future, and, “My wife thinks differently about the future.” There's an overwhelming amount of support from every aspect of the community. There were people telling me “I never voted

in a primary before, this was the first time.” People are so proud of being a part of making history.

CM: Between your family, legal practice, charity work, and now this appointment, is something going to give when you take your seat on the bench in January?

RF: There are lots of rules, and I'm becoming familiar with what I can and can't do once I take the bench.

CM: So you'll have to stop practicing law outside the court?

RF: That's correct.

CM: And are you still very active with the charities you've created, or are you more hands-off at this point?

RF: Yes I am. I work with other volunteers, but [my charities] are important to me. It was actually my pro-bono work that propelled me into public service. It made me realize that I have such a passion for fairness and justice and that public service is really where I belong.

CM: On average, how many hours of sleep do you get a night?

RF: [Laughs] About five.

CM: When was the last time you were able to sleep in?

RF: I'm Hasidic, which means I'm observant and we observe the Sabbath, which is a day of rest, and, trust me, I rest that day. No cellphones, no beepers, no computers — it's complete family and rest and prayer. I recharge my battery that day.

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ENTRIES AND VOTING CLOSES OCTOBER 14, 2016

## Runners are guests of honor

Athletes from abroad hail 9-11 heroes at Tunnel to Towers

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

Runners from around the world paid tribute to the first responders who died in the 9-11 terror attacks by sprinting from Red Hook to Manhattan via the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel at the 15th annual Tunnel to Towers run on Sept. 25.

The event traces the route that Park Slope firefighter Stephen Siller ran in 2001 when he dashed through the tunnel to the falling Twin Towers wearing 60 pounds of gear, and the international turnout showed the world is still thinking about heroes like Siller who died that day, said one of his relatives.

"Our takeaway is that not only is our mission 'Never forget,' but that's a sentiment shared by people all over the world," said his cousin Catherine Christman.

This year's run was the largest turnout yet, with more than 30,000 people retracing Siller's steps — many of them firefighters in their heavy gear — according to Christman.

Together, they raised \$2 million dollars for the Siller



More than 30,000 participated in this year's Tunnel to Towers run.

Foundation that will go towards programs designed to help those who protect the country, such as Building for America's Bravest, a program that constructs high-tech homes for soldiers returning from war with serious injuries.

The record turnout included families of the men

and women who died in the attack, showing how important the annual run is to people who are working through losing their loved ones, said Christman.

"It's very humbling because we realize that this run means so much to so many people and gives them an outlet for their grief," she said.

Just 2,500 people showed up to the first run 15 years ago, but Christman said that she and her family had always dreamed that it would grow to be a major event that would benefit so many people.

"It's visible proof that his life was meaningful, and the lives of other first responders were meaningful too," she said.

## ANTIC...

Continued from page 1

Darko, a former Park Sloper who chanced across the massive annual al fresco fete while checking out her old stomping ground. "It was so meant to be, everything worked out so well it's crazy."

Darko scored the typewriter — which she plans to use to document some old love letters she wrote as a teenager — for just \$20, and the vendor also kicked in an old iron whistle when she pointed out the retro gadget was a little damaged.

Then to cap off a day of unexpected good fortune, she also stumbled across a new gym that was celebrating its grand opening, and the owner's mother shared a bottle of

Prosecco with her to mark the occasion.

All in all, Darko said she couldn't have planned a better afternoon out on Atlantic Avenue — and she didn't!

"I really had a great day in Brooklyn, it was such an effortless, really cool afternoon," she said.

At a mile long, the street fest is the longest in the city and fair-goers say it's also the best, because there is so much on offer to visitors along the lengthy route.

"It's my favorite, it's definitely the largest," said Downtown resident Rachel Trenchard, who came with boyfriend Ian Leidner. "It has the most diverse activities and vendors."



These two apparently had a great time.

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Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Borough of Kings September 30–October 6, 2016

# Lawful image

## Williamsburg painter shows off brush with the police

By Caroline Spivack  
Brooklyn Paper

**B**ushwick Open Studios is burning! A selection of eerie paintings of riots, burning cars, and heavily armed police will get a moment in the helicopter spotlight this weekend, as part of the 11th annual Bushwick Open Studios festival. The creator of the series "I Love A Man In A Uniform," showing at Brooklyn Fire Proof Stages on Oct. 1–2, hopes that her brightly colored oil paintings can call attention to the way that police have recently been militarized.

"The way that the cops are heavily armored, particularly in New York City, I think this is a thing that can easily slip into the background and is something we don't really think about," said Sharilyn Neidhardt (pictured far right). "And with these paintings I'm hoping to bring it back up to the surface."

Her paintings are stylized depictions of actual conflicts captured by photojournalists across the country. It is crucial to Neidhardt's work that the images are anchored in reality, she said.

"I want to be specific and show something that's really happening—it's maybe a photojournalistic impulse," she said. "I want to talk about something that I'm not imagining, it's a bit more of a documentary."

The East Williamsburg artist was inspired to create the project while sifting through wire service images during her day job as a photo editor, said Neidhardt.

"I started stopping on these images of the police being so heavily armored," said Neidhardt. "I think that's striking, they're



**A brush with the law:** Sharilyn Neidhardt will show her painting series "I Love A Man In A Uniform" during Bushwick Open Studios.

often wearing heavy riot gear. Why are cops in Times Square with what appear to be AK-47s? What are they waiting for?"

She first planned to include images of

police across the globe, but during the Occupy Wall Street movement, she began hearing tales of police harassment from photographers covering the protest movement.



Photos by Stefano Giovannini

The stories made her want to focus her art closer to home.

"I guess I was naïve, but I was really shocked at the police being violent towards people who were obviously non-violent protesters," said Neidhardt. "I said, 'Wait a minute, this is not something that happens all over the world, this is happening to people I know. In my city.'"

Neidhardt's show is one of hundreds of events at Bushwick Open Studios—a weekend-long art crawl during which creative types in the nabe open their doors to visitors and fill the streets with their work.

"I Love a Man in a Uniform" at Brooklyn Fire Proof Stages [119 Ingraham St. at Porter Avenue in Bushwick, (718) 456-7571, [www.artsinbushwick.org](http://www.artsinbushwick.org)]. Oct. 1–2, noon–6 pm. Free.

# Not coming up roses

## Do not let this 'Gypsy' entertain you

**The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension**



As the song says, "you gotta get a gimmick, if you want to get ahead," and the production of "Gypsy," running through Oct. 9 at the Gallery Players in Park Slope, really needs a gimmick of its own.

The beloved 1959 musical, with a book by Arthur Laurents and music and lyrics from Jule Styne and Stephen Sondheim, tells the story of Rose's desperate effort to get her daughter Baby June into show business. When Rose's initial attempt fails, she forces her less-charis-

matic child Baby Louise into the entertainment industry. Ultimately, Louise's career takes an unexpected turn when she finds success in burlesque.

The musical is larger-than-life, but the Gallery Players theater is small, and the creative team's ambitious but unfitting decision to use Broadway-styled set designs and ornate costuming just makes the show seem overstuffed. The production's orchestrations similarly try too hard—the show could easily have functioned with merely a pianist and drummer, and the additional karaoke track playing alongside the orchestra is only another ludicrous element in this tacky production.

Despite the design and music sna-

fus, the production is redeemed by strong performances from Victoria Bundonis as Rose and Dave Konig as Herbie. Their chemistry is apparent throughout the show, especially during their tender and romantic scenes. Bundonis's acting chops are remarkable, but her singing skills cannot soar to the same level, and the show's powerhouse ballads, such as "Everything's Coming Up Roses" and "Rose's Turn" fall flat. Ironically enough, Emma Berardelli's performance of the timid Baby Louise that stands out. Her transition from a pathetic young girl to a tantalizing seductress is remarkable.

This "Gypsy" may hit the notes, but it doesn't dazzle, and for a three-three-hour



Bella Muccari

**A Rose is a rose is a rose:** In the Gallery Players production of "Gypsy," the strong performances by Victoria Bundonis as Rose and Dave Konig at Herbie are the best thing about the show.

long production, you need more than that. You can keep moving along.

"Gypsy" at the Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth av-

enues in Park Slope, (718) 595-0597, [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com)]. Playing through Oct. 9, Thu–Sat at 8 pm; Sat–Sun at various times. \$20–\$25.

### MUSIC

## Bow wonder

Call him Yo Yo Shaw!  
Nine-year-old cellist Shaw Edwards will take a bow in Red Hook this weekend, playing a short solo show of Baroque tunes at the Brooklyn Waterfront Arts Coalition on Oct. 2. The pint-size performer from Sunset Park—who has already played Carnegie Hall three times—will play Johann Bach's four cello suites during his half-hour performance. The fifth-grader says that he loves the smooth, deep sounds of his instrument, and being able to perform for an audience.

"I like playing the cello because I love the sound that it makes, and it rings a lot," said Shaw Edwards. "People smile when I play."

A student at PS 230 in Kensington, Shaw picked up a bow for the first time about five years ago, when instructors at the Brooklyn College Conservatory let him pluck the strings of a few different instruments. The larger string instrument had him at "cello," according to his father.

"They shoved an instrument in his hand—a violin and a cello," said TJ Edwards. "He tried the cello and that was it—we started cello lessons there. He took to it right away."

See BOW on page 10

### BOOKS

## Reading picks

**Word's pick** — "The Lesser Bohemians" by Eimear McBride

How Eimear McBride wrote a love story that is both believable and defies reason is beyond me. I read this book in two sittings; enthralled both by her prose and by the mind of its heroine, a young college student who falls for an older man. McBride spares you neither the pain nor the joy of learning and loving another person while discovering yourself.

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

**Community Bookstore's pick** — "Cassandra at the Wedding" by Dorothy Baker

This 1962 novel masterfully depicts the complicated relationship between twin sisters Cassandra and Judith. Author Dorothy Baker portrays the California setting in vivid and beautiful fashion, but the writing really shines in her deft characterization of the Edwards clan. In no more than a page or two she creates characters so real and complex that you'd swear they were in your own family. The novel is consistently hilarious and entertaining, which

is especially impressive considering the anxiety and tribulations the characters (and the reader) are put through. Highly recommended.

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

**Greenlight Bookstore's pick** — "The Ballad of Black Tom" by Victor LaValle

Literary genre wiz Victor LaValle is deeply engaged with the legacy of H. P. Lovecraft, one of the 20th century's foundational horror writers. In this reworking of Lovecraft's short story "The Horror at Red Hook" (set in Brooklyn's own waterfront nabe), LaValle takes on the insidious and vile racism present in Lovecraft's work, which turns out to be intertwined with the nasty eldritch forces pushing for the end of the world, in often surprising ways. Read it and be entertained, disturbed, and educated.

— Jessica Stockton Bagnulo, 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)].



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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

Sept. 30



#### Drink & drawings

Kick off Bushwick Open Studios at the "Brooklyn Comics and Illustrators" opening, featuring borough-centric comics including Jermy Nguyen's "Stranger Than Bushwick," Tony Wolf's "Greenpoint of View," and Lucio Zago's "Williamsburg Shorts" (pictured), among others, along with an open bar from Lagunitas.

6:30–10 pm at Kave Event Space [1087 Flushing Ave. between Knickerbocker and Porter avenues in Bushwick, [www.artsin-bushwick.org](http://www.artsin-bushwick.org)]. Free.

### SUNDAY

Oct. 2

#### Beer in space

In the future, we won't mess with malt and hops — instead we'll sip the smooth blue beverage Roman Ale! Learn about the weird world of fantasy intoxicants in the lecture "Star Trek — Space Juice," by professor Lucy Hunter, hosted by mead tasting room Honey's. Before the talk, you can get a tour of the adjoining meadery and a sample of its products, starting at 6 pm.

7 pm at Honey's (93 Scott Ave. at Randolph Street in Bushwick, [www.enlightenmentwines.com](http://www.enlightenmentwines.com)). One drink minimum.



### TUESDAY

Oct. 4



#### Brew crew

Ever wanted to make your own beer? Get the inside scoop on home-brewing from a panel of local beer experts at "It's Brewing in Brooklyn," including Jason Sahler (pictured) of Strong Rope Brewery, Justin Israelson from Threes Brewing, and John La Polla of the Bitter & Esters brew shop. There will also be a beer tasting a food pairings.

7 pm at BRIC Arts Media House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5621], [www.bricartsmedia.org](http://www.bricartsmedia.org). Free.

### WEDNESDAY

Oct. 5

#### Deutsche dishes

You may have noticed a theme to the listings this week. Yes, Oktoberfest has turned our thoughts to beer, but the German festival is about more than that! Learn to cook traditional dishes like schnitzel, bratwurst, and sauerkraut at the talk "How to Prepare a German Feast" at the Brooklyn Brewery — where you can also sip the brewery's Oktoberfest pilsner.

8 pm at Brooklyn Brewery (79 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg), [www.brooklynbrewery.com](http://www.brooklynbrewery.com). \$10.



### THURSDAY

Oct. 6



#### Gold medal

Brooklyn's biggest brewery was once Rheingold, which hosted a wildly popular "Miss Rheingold Beauty Contest" from 1941–1964 to select a face for its ads. Learn all about it at "Beauty and the Beer," a documentary about the annual competition, directed and produced by a former contestant.

7 pm at the Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org). Free.

# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, SEPT. 30

**MUSIC, BREAK OF REALITY CELLO ROCK:** \$20–\$30. 6 pm. The Hall at MP [470 Driggs Ave. between N. 10th and N. 11th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387-4001], [www.thehall-brooklyn.com](http://www.thehall-brooklyn.com).

**MUSIC, "SONGS OF LEAR":** A dramatic song-cycle that distills the plot, characters, and themes of King Lear into a non-linear musical journey. \$25. 7:30 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**THEATER, "BATTLEFIELD":** Director Peter Brook revisits Indian epic the Mahabharata to tell a story of warriors grappling with a Pyrrhic victory. \$30–\$110. 7:30 pm. BAM Harvey Theater [651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 636-4100], [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

**CONTRASHOCK!** A night of contra dancing, with live music from the Mean Lids and Barefoot. All are welcome, no experience or partner necessary. \$20. 7:30 pm. Camp Friendship [339 Eighth St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 965-3695], [campfriendship-brooklyn.com](http://campfriendship-brooklyn.com).

**THEATER, "OLD SCHOOL ANIMATION":** A theater performance about a harrowing night out in Brooklyn, presented by Peter Mills Weiss and Julia Mounsey. 8 pm. Jack [505 Waverly Ave. between Fulton Street and Atlantic Avenue in Clinton Hill], [www.jackny.org](http://www.jackny.org).

**MUSIC, RYAN O'NEIL:** The singer-songwriter premieres the video for his song "Sunday Morning." Mama Juke and Billy Conahan also perform. \$5. 9 pm. Unit J [338 Moffat St. between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues; Unit J in Bushwick], [www.unitjbushwick.com](http://www.unitjbushwick.com).

### SAT, OCT. 1

**THEATER, "ALICE IN WONDERLAND":** The Brooklyn Theatre Club casts the audience as Alice in its interactive adaptation of the Lewis Carroll classic. \$18 (\$15 in advance). 6 pm. Muchmore's (2 Havemeyer St. at N. Ninth Street in Williamsburg), [tinyurl.com/drinkmeBTC](http://tinyurl.com/drinkmeBTC).

**MUSIC, BLACK ROCK COALITION**



Associated Press / Kathy Willians

Get thee behind me!: The New York Islanders will do battle with the fiendish New Jersey Devils at Barclays Center on Oct. 3.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

### SAT, OCT 1

**SPORTS, ESL ONE NEW YORK:** E-sports tournament. \$49. 11 am.

### SUN, OCT 2

**SPORTS, ESL ONE NEW YORK:** E-sports tournament. \$49. 11 am.

### MON, OCT 3

**SPORTS, PRE-SEASON, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS NEW JERSEY DEVILS:** \$15–\$700. 7 pm.

### TUE, OCT 4

**SPORTS, PRE-SEASON, NEW YORK ISLANDERS VS NEW YORK RANGERS:** \$15–\$700. 7 pm.

### WED, OCT 5

**MUSIC, EROS RAMAZZOTTI:** \$104–\$200. 8 pm.

### THU, OCT 6

**SPORTS, PRE-SEASON, BROOKLYN NETS VS DETROIT PISTONS:** \$25–\$275. 7 pm.

620 Atlantic Ave. at Pacific Street in Prospect Heights (917) 618–6100, [www.barclayscenter.com](http://www.barclayscenter.com).

<http://>

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

**ORCHESTRA:** The group performs A Tribe Called Quest retrospective. Free. 9 pm. BAM Cafe (30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene), [www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live](http://www.bam.org/programs/bamcafe-live).

**EVENT, CHILE PEPPER FESTIVAL:** New York's hottest fall tradition features blazing bands, burning hot sauces, chile-chocolaters, and performances by fire breathers, sword swallowers, and more. \$20 (\$15 students and seniors). 10 am–6 pm. Brooklyn Botanic Garden [1000 Washington Ave., at Eastern Parkway in Crown Heights, (718) 623-7220], [www.bbg.org](http://www.bbg.org).

**FAMILY, I AM ART NYC KIDS PAVILION:** A two-day event with instructor-led arts and crafts activities, creative storytelling, canvas free-paint, face and finger painting, and a performance from metal band Unlocking the Truth on Oct. 1. \$20 (\$11 teens, kids free). Noon–4 pm. Industry City [220 36th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 965-6540], [www.industrycity.com](http://www.industrycity.com).

**OKTOBERFEST!** The church celebrates German culture with food, live music, dancing, children's activities and more! Free (dinner \$20). 3:30–8 pm. Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church [125 Henry St. between Clark and Pierrepont streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 852-2453], [www.ziongelc.org](http://www.ziongelc.org).

**FUNDRAISER, NEW HEIGHTS GALA:** An evening benefiting St. Ann & the Holy Trinity Church, featuring food, drink, a silent auction, a performance by the All University Gospel Choir from NYU, and the presentation of the "Spirit and Service" awards. \$100–\$500. 6 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

See 9 DAYS on page 10



# Brooklyn Paper

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# Those Teutonic nights

Where to celebrate Oktoberfest in Brooklyn!

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

We're keeping you prost-ed! Oktoberfest, Germany's annual celebration of beer and gluttony, just wrapped up in the Fatherland, and now it's Brooklyn's turn! Here are five places to don your dirndl or lederhosen, hoist your stein, and say "Prost!" — that's German for "cheers!" — across Kings County.

## Dream day

Enjoy the last of the warm weather at Grand Prospect Hall's lush outdoor Bavarian Biergarten, which will make your Oktoberfest dreams come true through games, giveaways, Deutschland delicacies, and plenty of German beer on tap.

*Bavarian Biergarten (265 Prospect Ave. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, www.brooklynbavarianbiergarten.com). Now through Oct. 3 from noon to 1 am. Free.*

## Play to gewinnen

The party at Park Slope's Kings Beer Hall — formerly Die Koelner Bierhalle — will culminate with a day-drinking Olympics, in which beer buffs will face off in games of beer pong, boat racing, quarters, and corn hole. And anyone who buys a liter of Oktoberfest beer will receive a complimentary beer boot — the traditional drinking vessel in the shape of footwear — so they can keep the celebration going long past October.

*Kings Beer Hall (84 St. Marks Pl. at Fourth Avenue in Park Slope, www.thebbh.com). Oct. 1 at 2 pm. Free.*

## Arch nein!

Gather under the Manhattan Bridge archway — Brooklyn's answer to the Brandenburg Gate (if you don't count Grand Army Plaza) — for Dumbo's first ever Oktoberfest fair. The Dumbo Business Improvement District will transform the popular gathering into a German beer hall for three straight nights, with the Lighthouse-shaped bar there serving up steins and brats while polka band Melina and the Oompahs and DJ Holzmeister provide the music.

*The Manhattan Bridge Archway (57 Pearl St. at Water Street in Dumbo, www.dumbo.is). Oct. 6 and 7, 6–10 pm; Oct. 8, 3–10 pm. Free.*



Photo by Stefano Giovannini



Black Forest Brooklyn

**Getting mugged:** (Pictured top to bottom) Grand Prospect Hall's Bavarian Biergarten will serve up one-liter steins of Germany's finest beer during its Oktoberfest celebration. And Black Forest Brooklyn owners Tobias and Anya Holler say that drinkers will be dancing on the tables by the end of their competitive Oktoberfest party on Oct. 8.

## Into the woods

Fort Greene's Black Forest bar — named for the mountainous region of Germany where its owners grew up — will bring a competitive edge to its Oktoberfest celebration. Revelers can battle to win \$100 drink cards by entering a stein-hoisting competition — in which contestants must keep an arm straight while holding a giant, full beer mug — or a German-garb costume contest. All of this will go down as Balkan brass band Slavic Soul Party provides some raucous — if not particularly German — tunes.

*Black Forest Brooklyn (733 Fulton St. at S. Elliot Place in Fort Greene, www.blackforestbrooklyn.com). Oct. 8 at 8 pm. \$10.*

## Southern style

Traditional Teutonic band Die Spitzbaum will bring some oompah and oomph to Aviator Sports and Events Center's annual Oktoberfest shindig. The festival also includes a stein-hoisting competition and German grub including soft pretzels and brats.

*Aviator Sports and Events Center (3159 Flatbush Ave. near Aviation Road in Marine Park, www.aviatorsports.com). Oct. 9, noon–4 pm. \$30.*



## OKTOBERFEST

### September 17 - October 1

**Saturdays: 9/17, 9/24, & 10/1**

- Celebratory keg tappings
- Pig roasts
- Mug holding competitions
- Live brass bands

**Tuesdays: 9/13, 9/20, & 9/27**

- Oktoberfest beer tastings

**Thursdays: 9/22 & 9/29**

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PHOTO BY FRANK STEWART

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

**ART, "FALLING IN" OPENING RECEPTION:** An exhibition of paintings, sculptures, and drawings inspired by the Gowanus Canal. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Trestle Projects [400 Third Ave. at Sixth Street in Gowanus, (718) 858-9069], www.trestlegallery.org.

**ART, "BREAKING THROUGH THE CANVAS":** Annika Moller presents a combination of visual and performance art. **Free.** 7 pm. Castle Braid Artist Studio [114 Troutman St. between Central and Evergreen avenues in Bushwick, (917) 494-6310], www.annikamollerart.com.

**ART, "ONCE UPON UNFOLDING TIMES" OPENING RECEPTION:** A hypnotic tour through a fictional city.

**Free.** 7–9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969], www.opensource-gallery.org.

## SUN, OCT. 2

**MUSIC, RONNIE BURRAGE "JUMP OFF" SERIES:** Burrage and special guests play jazzy tunes in the afternoon. **Free.** 4–7 pm. Huckleberry Bar [588 Grand St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 218-8555], www.huckleberrybar.com.

**MUSIC, BUILT TO SPILL:** With opening acts Hop Along and Alex G. \$30. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

**MUSIC, OCEAN MUSIC, FUSILIER:** **Free.** 8–10 pm. Threes Brewing [333 Douglass St. between Third and

Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 522-2110], www.threesbrewing.com.

**MUSIC, KRIS DAVIS AND CRAIG TABORN:** An evening of original compositions and improvisations from two of jazz's most celebrated contemporary pianists. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**FILM, "THE PRODUCERS" AND "BLAZING SADDLES":** The Way Station screens two of Gene Wilder's best movies. **Free.** 4 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (718) 627-4949], www.waystationbk.com.

**ART, "BREAKING THROUGH THE CANVAS":** 7 pm. See Saturday, Oct. 1.

## MON, OCT. 3

**RELIGION, BECAUSE JEWISH:** A Rosh Hashanah service that uses music, study, and community to create a heightened spiritual experience. Includes lunch. \$80 (\$40 kids). 10 am. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

**TALK, SHOFTALK — QUEERING THEATER:** Theater professionals discuss the experiences, struggles, and victories of gay and gender non-conforming people in theater. \$14 (\$10 in advance). 7:30 pm. BRIC Arts Media House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5621], www.bricartsmedia.org.

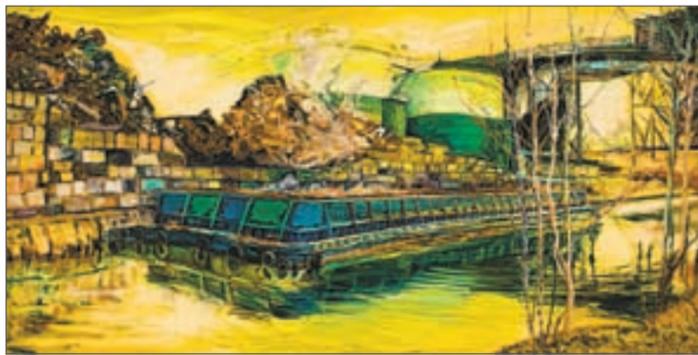
**MUSIC, SKIP'S HOUR OF CHARM:** A night of absurdly beautiful sounds inspired by thoughts of Amelia Earhart and David Bowie, featuring puppetry by Basil Twist, a glass harmonica, and music created by a series of cell phones calling each other. \$35 (\$30 in advance). 8 pm. National Sawdust [80 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg], www.nationalsawdust.org.

**MUSIC, ISAAC GILLESPIE AND THE DUE DILIGENCE:** The band plays with the Shivers, Ben Seretan, and Aaron Roche, with shadow puppetry by Rosalind Lilly, and light projections by A Clockface Orange. \$10 suggested donation. 8–11 pm. Threes Brewing [333 Douglass St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (718) 522-2110], www.threesbrewing.com.

## TUES, OCT. 4

**ART, "NEXT WAVE ART" OPENING RECEPTION:** BAM's campus hosts a collection of site-specific works created to dialogue with BAM's architectural elements and spaces. **Free.** 6–8 pm. BAM Fisher [321 Ashland Pl. between Hansen Place and Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.

**ART, "TINY GARDENS" AND "THE PICTURE BOOK EXHIBITION" OPENING RECEPTION:** A surreal collection of prints by Hattori Nanako, and an exhibit of work from Japanese picture



Looks like a super fun site! Lizbeth Mitty's giant oil painting "Boating" will be on display at the "Falling In" exhibit of work inspired by the Gowanus Canal, opening at Trestle Projects on Oct. 1.

book artists. **Free.** 7 pm. Ouchi Gallery [107 Tillary St., suite 105, between Jay Street and Flatbush Avenue in Downtown, (347) 987-4606], www.ouchigallery.com.

**THEATER, "MILES FOR MARY":** A bittersweet play about high school students in 1988 planning a telethon. \$18. 8 pm. Bushwick Starr [207 Starr St. between Irving and Wyckoff avenues in Bushwick], www.thebushwickstarr.org.

**MUSIC, BELLE MARE:** The duo debuts its album "Heaven Forget." \$12. 8 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111], www.roughtradeny.com.

**MUSIC, ROBU TRIO JAM SESSIONS:** Instrumentalists, singers, artists, and dancers are welcome to collaborate with the band at this late-night jam session. \$10 (\$4 for performers). 11 pm–2 am. The Five Spot [459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202], www.fivespot-soulfood.com.

## WED, OCT. 5

**TALK, "BLOCK BY BLOCK — EXPLORING BROOKLYN":** Bill Helmreich discusses his book "The Brooklyn Nobody Knows: An Urban Walking Guide" with NY1 anchor Pat Kiernan. \$10. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111],

www.brooklynhistory.org.

**THEATER, "NEITHER":** World premiere with the Shen Wei Dance Arts, music by Morton Feldman, libretto by Samuel Beckett. \$20. 7:30 pm. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House [30 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street in Fort Greene], www.bam.org.

**THEATER, THE MOTH STORRYSLAM:** A story telling competitions where the stage is open to any and all with a story to tell on the evening's theme. Hosted by Peter Aguero. \$10. 8 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

## THURS, OCT. 6

**TALK, "MEDIA + TECH: Where The Jobs Are":** A panel of recruiters from leading media and tech companies discuss the exciting opportunities available in the booming media and tech sector and share insight on the skills needed to land a position. **Free.** 6:30 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488-1624], www.brooklyn.liu.edu/kumbletheater.

**"DESIGN ON A DIME BROOKLYN OUTPOST" OPENING NIGHT:** The interior design festival benefiting Housing Works has a special opening night reception. The event features 20 rooms created by local interior designers and

makers. \$100. 6:30–9:30 pm. Industry City [233 37th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (347) 473-7454], doadbko2016.splashthat.com.

**MUSIC, THE HORSE-EYED MEN:** The band plays the "B-Side" television show. **Free.** 7:30 pm. BRIC Arts Media House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene, (718) 683-5621], www.bricartsmedia.org.

**MUSIC, IAN HUNTER AND THE RANT BAND:** With Ivan Julian. \$35 (\$30 in advance). 8:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

**MUSIC, SIGUR ROS:** Starting at \$75. 8 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

## FRI, OCT. 7

**MARKET, "DESIGN ON A DIME BROOKLYN":** An interior design event benefiting Housing Works, with 20 rooms created by local interior designers and makers. Shop for furniture, art, and home décor at steep discounts. **Free.** Noon–5 pm. Industry City [233 37th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (347) 473-7454], https://doadbko2016.splashthat.com.

**MUSIC, JONATHAN COULTON, PAUL & STORM:** \$35 (\$30 in advance). 7 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus,

(718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

**MUSIC, BROOKLYN ART SONG SOCIETY:** A lecture and performance of works who epitomize the opulence and of late German Romanticism. \$25. 7 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklyn-history.org.

**ART, "WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW MAKES YOU HAPPY" OPENING RECEPTION:** Dan Efram exhibits his photos of horses, pandas, and carnival characters. **Free.** 7–9 pm. Dub Pies [211 Prospect Park West at 16th Street in Windsor Terrace], www.eframphotography.com.

**COMEDY, DAVE HILL'S SUPER HORNY NIGHT OF COMEDY:** With special guests Julio Torres, Ana Fabrega, and Joe Pera, and an extended jam of "Dave's Erotic Short Stories." \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

## SAT, OCT. 8

**THEATER, KAIJU BIG BATTLE:** Costumed figures do battle in the arena. Who will save the helpless humans from total ruin? \$15 (\$30 VIP). 7:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebellhouseny.com.

**MUSIC, "THE LIGHT FOR DAVID":** Guitarist Glenn Branca premieres a new work written for David Bowie. \$55 (\$30 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (917) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**MUSIC, MAGIC SWORD:** \$10. 11:30 pm. Knitting Factory [361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696], bk.knittingfactory.com.

**FILM, DAN SAVAGE'S HUMPI FILM FEST:** A collection of short amateur porn films — each less than five minutes — representing a cornucopia of body types, shapes, ages, colors, sexualities, genders, kinks, and fetishes. \$30. 6:30, 8:30, and 10:30 pm. Dobbin St. [64 Dobbin St. between Wythe and Nassau avenues in Greenpoint, (718) 302-0400], www.humpfilmfest.com.

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## BOW...

Continued from page 7

The cello prodigy also plays the flute and piano. Shaw was introduced to music before he could crawl, when his older sister started playing

the piano, and early exposure to the instrument is probably part of the reason he is so talented, his dad said.

"He always banged on the keys when he was just an infant," said TJ Edwards. "All that music when he was just an infant may have helped affect his mind or brain."

Shaw — whose favorite piece to play is Joseph Haydn's Concerto in C Major, Number One — also enjoys basketball and running, but he makes time to practice the cello for about two hours each day, and the piano for 30 minutes, his dad said.

"He's just a really happy kid and this is what he does — he does cello," he said "He enjoys it. It's just who he is, it's his identity and it's great." Shaw has some ambitions for the future, but for now he said that he is focused on just playing music.

"I kinda want to be famous,"

said Shaw, "but it's really great to have the gift that I can play the cello and I'm good at it."

Shaw Edwards at Brooklyn Waterfront Arts Coalition [499 Van Brunt St. between Reed Street and the water in Red Hook, (917) 842-3737, www.bwac.org]. Oct. 2 at 1 pm. **Free.** — *Julianne Cuba*

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Olympic gold medalist Dominique Dawes shows students at PS 6 a few of her fitness routines.

# Talking fitness

## Olympic medalist visits Flatbush school

By **Alexandra Simon**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

Olympic gold medal gymnast Dominique Dawes swung into PS 6 to talk to fifth-graders about health and exercise on Sept. 21.

Roughly 150 students filled the Flatbush campus's schoolyard to participate in fitness activities and gorge on healthy-eating advice during a question-and-answer session with the athlete, who has worked as a health advocate since retir-

ing from professional sports two decades ago. And teaching youth about good living is as much of a rush as competing on the world stage, the three-time Olympian said.

"I'm so excited to be here," said Dawes. "I have an opportunity to travel around the nation while educating and empowering kids on the importance of living a healthy lifestyle, and the importance of physical activity."

Dawes was a part of the

1996 U.S. gymnastics team — nicknamed the "Magnificent Seven" — and became the first black woman to win a gold medal in the sport. Her rise started with eating right, she told kids.

"Looking back at my life and thinking about what helped me be successful — it was really about moderation and surrounding myself with good people," said Dawes, who came in part to tout a healthy snack company.



Dawes spoke with the pupils about her Olympic journey as a gymnast.

# Sometimes, you just need a sick day

I am writing this from bed, my dresser next to me filled with the mugs and tissues and other detritus of some virus or another that has taken hold of my body. My

13-year-old is asleep down the hall, afflicted with the same condition.

It has been years since we've had a sick day in our house. I boast often of the

mind-over-matter strategies I employ to keep us Thompsons healthy. But my system has broken down, literally and figuratively. The steam-shower eucalyptus, tea-with-honey combo that usually works has not. We are down for the count.

I look in my Louise Hay book to find out what this means. I turn to the guru of love-yourself healthy to determine what mental afflictions have caused our bodies to falter: sore throats and coughs, our lungs strained and phlegmy. Sore throats, she says, show an inability to express oneself, a holding in of angry words. Lung issues show an inability to take in the joys of life, she says, and coughs say, "Listen to me, now!"

Geez, how did we get to this place? Oscar doesn't buy it. He gets in to bed weakly but smiley next to me and shakes his head.

"No," he says when I suggest these are the reasons we are laid out. "I don't believe in that."

We always have these conversations about how our mental stresses make our bodies weak or how I think that and how he doesn't believe me. But then I told him to look it up, the statistic I heard that more than 70 percent of physical ailments presented at the doctor can be attributed to



## Fearless Parenting

By **Stephanie Thompson**

stress. It was there, a sure-fire "fact."

"I don't think I'm that stressed out, mom," Oscar whispers hoarsely.

We have barely talked about the high-school search process he's embarking on. He has a tutor for the specialized high-school admissions test. People routinely ask him "Where do you want to go?" But I am trying not to make him crazy and stressed. There are lots of options, I say. We will not visit every school in the city. We did not go to the high-school fair. I will try to pretend we live somewhere normal, where pressures to show yourself worthy don't come up every few years. I try to see it as an opportunity to help my kids think a little (but not too much) about who they are and who they want to be. I love the story the guidance counselor told of how one kid said, "It's not where I go, it's what I do when I'm there..."

What about me and my valiant effort not to stress and strain this fall? As I continue

to try to finish renovations, cursing that damn woman who wrote that book about "touching everything you own to make sure you love it," I am pulled in a million directions. I try to support family and friends, continue work with my small non-profit, and figure my writing career. The Jewish New Year looms. Even though we don't go to temple anymore, I am stuck forever on the Jewish calendar I grew up on, imagining that fall is the time for renewal and rebirth, for looking back and making amends so you can move forward.

Ugh. Cough, cough. My legs are heavy and sore, maybe from the long run I took getting ready for the half-marathon I signed up for, maybe from this darn virus.

Regardless of whether Louise Hay is "right" or "wrong," there is something to be said for those little reminders that every once in a while you need to take a day of rest, for your mind and body.

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# S'Parkers livid over shelters in inns

By Caroline Spivack  
Brooklyn Paper

They've got serious reservations.

Sunset Parkers came out in force to Community Board 7's Sept. 21 meeting concerned that the city is quietly turning area hotels into homeless shelters. Numerous buildings billed as inns for tourists are actually homes for the transient, but the city is not broadcasting that fact, and locals are fed-up with the lack of transparency, said one resident.

"It feels like a bait-and-switch situation where we were told there was going to be a hotel but it's a shelter," said 23rd Street resident



Sunset Parkers are worried that a temporary family shelter on 24th Street near Fourth Avenue will become permanent.

Maya Visco, referring to a stalled hotel that is operating as a temporary family shelter on 24th Street between Third and Fourth avenues. "You know I'm a home owner, my kids go to school here. I'm in it for the long haul and I want to know what is going on here, and I feel there is a serious lack of transparency."

Sunset Park only has one official homeless shelter — a controversial place for single men on 49th Street between Second and Third avenues. But the area is exploding with hotel development, and the Department of Homeless Services is actually renting rooms in five area inns without alerting locals, according to Community Board 7 district

manager Jeremy Laufer.

"As they keep telling me, these are not shelters so they do not have to inform us when they are renting here," he said.

Meantime, quality of life is tanking on blocks near the shelters, another resident said.

"In the 28 years I have lived on my block, people were never behaving like this to the point where I feel threatened," said Barbara Lee, who says she has suffered several sleepless nights due to people loudly congregating in front of the 24th Street hotel. "I never thought I'd be a NIMBY person — not in my backyard — but if somebody is not respecting my rights how can I respect theirs?"

# Undercovering women's urge to cover up

Religiously observant Muslims and Jews convened in lower Manhattan last week to discuss an item of vital interest to both:

Head scarves. And long skirts. And high collars. And how much arm one can expose.

And whatever tension may or may not exist between the faiths on a political level vanished at a symposium on dressing modestly yet fashionably, organized by Daniel Cole of the NYU Costume Studies department and opened by Nancy Deihl, the director of the program.

To give you an idea of how this topic cuts across religious lines, try to guess which of these statements was made by a Jewish woman, and which by a Muslim woman:

"I dress modestly because God commanded me to, as a way to focus on my value as a person."

"Why do women cover? Sexuality is something that belongs in the home."

Answer: Jew, Muslim. But they were both nodding along

with each other.

The Jewish woman here is Michelle Honig, a fashion journalist who often writes about the intersection of fashion and modesty. She was wearing a green striped sweater with a white long-sleeve shirt underneath, a slim dark skirt, and long blonde hair — a wig that mostly, but not totally (she admitted) covers her hair. Her shoes looked straight out of Vogue.

Admittedly, she said, the idea of a religiously observant Muslim, Jewish, or even Christian woman "doesn't bring to mind very fashionable women."

But just because they are covering more of themselves than your average secular lass doesn't mean they have to be dowdy. Honig goes shopping at popular stores, "browsing through the racks, each piece going through some mental calculation of how to modestify it."

To do that, she usually adds layers, or maybe she'll sew up the slit of a slinky skirt. Voila: a fashionable young



## Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

woman in "normal" clothes that just happen to cover the knees and elbows.

Dian Pelangi, head designer of the Indonesian fashion company that bears her name, took the podium next, looking regal in a stunning floor-length green cape with a black hood. "Hijab means 'to cover,'" she explained to half the audience that wasn't already wearing one of these Muslim headcoverings.

"There was a time when the hijab was considered weird, backwards and old-fashioned," Pelangi said. But now it is "huge trend." Witness the fact that a Jakarta designer showed the first "modest" fashion line at New York Fashion Week this year. And the fact both

Tommy Hilfiger and DKNY brought out a Ramadan collection. Or even the fact that Pelangi herself has 4.3 million Twitter followers who look to her for advice on modest styles.

With 23 percent of the world's population Islamic, catering to Muslim women's fashion needs makes business sense.

"For me," said Pelangi, "modest fashion is the next emerging market."

And yet, for the women at this symposium, fashion meant more than just looking good.

"The fashion world as it exists today is about very public sexuality," said Ann Shafer, an art historian and architect specializing in Is-

lamic culture who teaches at the Fashion Institute of Technology. "So I'm trying to provide another world view" — the view that "sexuality is not a sort of public phenomenon."

Shafer herself converted to Islam and was covered except for her face.

But don't think this made her — or any of the women on the panel — feel second class. On the contrary, they spoke of the freedom and joy of dressing this way.

In countries like America, where women have the choice to dress any way they please, "If women still choose to cover their bodies," said Honig, they are not "victims" who need to be saved, they're making a statement. "They take pride in their modesty because it's part of who they are."

Added Shafer, "It is often assumed that Muslim women who wear conservative dress don't have a relationship to their bodies." On the contrary, "Islam is very open about sort of how to treat your body as a sexual

phenomenon" — just not in public.

The other speakers concurred. They don't want to be thought of as sexless, just maybe excess-less. Rejecting a culture that reveals too much.

"Modest dress should not be the 'other' choice, just an equal choice," said Malky Weichbrod, the observant Jew behind the website, "My Therapist Told Me to Write a Fashion Blog."

And if ladies kick it up a notch by making it look great, they've got the best of both worlds. As Lyn Bakri, founder of the modest fashion line Aneeqa, said, "You don't have to show much skin to look beautiful and be confident."

The women at NYU, in their robes and scarves, wigs and heels, were evidence of that.

Lenore Skenazy is a keynote speaker, author and founder of the book and blog *Free-Range Kids*, and a contributor to *Reason.com*.



Hammy strutted for spectators at Rescue the Runway on Sept. 24.

# Dog stars Canines hit the catwalk

By Lauren Gill  
Brooklyn Paper

They raised the wool! Rescue dogs from local shelters strutted the catwalk to wow potential new owners at the Rescue the Runway show at Crown Heights' Berg'n Beer Hall last Saturday, putting on an impressive show despite their rough upbringing, according to an organizer.

"We couldn't have asked for a better group of rescue dogs," said Marisa Grimshaw, co-executive director of animal welfare group Mr. Bones and Company. "They were so social, so friendly, and really excited to get on the runway and have peo-

ple pet them and take photos of them."

The show featured 14 canines from three shelters, including Badass Animal Rescue in Gowanus, who pawed down the runway with firefighters, police officers, and local leaders.

None of the 175 guests adopted a dog at the actual event, since the rescue groups need to do a thorough background check on potential owners before handing over the leash, but Grimshaw said there has been a huge amount of interest in all of the dogs from those who attended the event and watched on-line.

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