

SERVING UP OUTRAGE

Residents protest at controversial new Crown Heights restaurant



By Colin Mixson
Brooklyn Paper

This conversation was over before it started.

The owner of a Crown Heights restaurant criticized for using the neighborhood’s violent past as a promotional tool was a no-show at a rally there on July 22, angering residents who thought they would have a chance to work things out.

“We gave her a perfect opportunity, even if she just wanted to do damage control. But she didn’t want to talk to anybody,” Ayanna Prescod, who has lived locally for 30 years, said of restaurant owner Becca Brennan. “It’s total bad business.”

The event was organized as a way for community members to speak directly to the owner of “boozy sandwich shop” Summerhill after she incited ire last week with a press release that boasted a “bullet hole—ridden wall” inside the recently opened space at 637 Nostrand Ave. between Bergen Street and St. Marks Avenue.

The business’s social media accounts promoted the wall—which Gothamist later confirmed was not perforated by bullets—in advertisements for its \$12 cocktails, in addition to featuring images of 40-ounce bottles of rosé served in brown bags. The restaurant’s profiles on Instagram and Yelp—where it currently enjoys a one-and-a-half-star rating—were flooded with critical messages in response, and fliers that called its owner a racist, colonialist gentrifier were posted around Crown Heights.

Organizers of the rally brought a list of demands—which included repairing the hole-ridden wall—and other suggestions for making amends with the community to the event. But when the proprietor did not appear and sent a lone representative to face the crowd with a statement on her behalf, the demonstrators tore up the credo, saying it was not their responsibility to get her back into



30-year Crown Heights resident Ayanna Prescod spoke railed against Summerhill outside the Nostrand Avenue business on July 22.

neighbors’ good graces.

“I ended up ripping up the list of demands and saying ‘Boycott the establishment,’” said Justine Stephens, a rally organizer. “As a community I don’t think it’s our job to hold them accountable—that just makes it easy for them. I think they can see the anger and hurt they’ve caused.”

Brennan, a former corporate tax attorney and self-described Toronto transplant, said in the statement that she was sorry for

unintentionally making light of the nabe’s conflicted past in her marketing.

“I deeply apologize for any offense that my recent comments might have caused,” she wrote. “I did not intend to be insensitive to anyone in the neighborhood, and I am sorry that my words have caused pain.”

But she stopped short of promising to fix the controversial wall, which she said would be kept intact for cosmetic purposes.

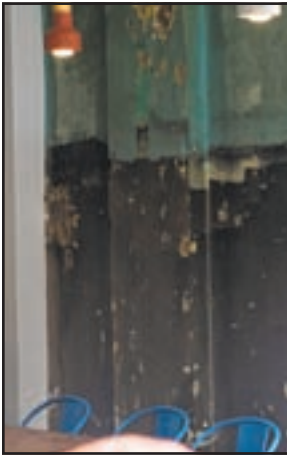
Summerhill owner Becca Brennan advertised this wall’s fake bullet-holes as an attraction for her new Crown Heights restaurant.

“The reason we maintained the distressed wall is for the aesthetic,” Brennan said in the statement. “We have kept other elements of the original space as well to create a visually engaging experience.”

Stephens said that Brennan contacted her and fellow demonstrators after the event in an attempt to arrange a follow-up discussion, but she is not sure whether they will accept the reviled restaurateur’s offer.

“We haven’t responded,” said Stephens. “We’re still developing what we’re going to say in reply.”

Crown Heights was home to a three-day riot in 1991 that set off when the motorcade of a Hasidic Jewish leader ran over two Guyanese immigrants, killing one of them.



Summerhill owner Becca Brennan advertised this wall’s fake bullet-holes as an attraction for her new Crown Heights restaurant.

Call it a cautionary tale!

A squirrel bit five people near Prospect Park’s entrance at Parkside and Ocean avenues in a July 18–20 serial chomping spree, and the city is urging meadow patrons, human or otherwise, that the potentially rabid may have attacked to seek medical attention.

“It has exhibited extremely unusual behavior and we are urging anyone who has been bitten by it, including any pets, to see a doctor or veterinarian,” said Health Department commissioner Mary Bassett.



What a nut

Sinister squirrel attacks five in Prospect Park biting binge

By Colin Mixson
Brooklyn Paper



Those chomped on include a 7-year-old girl and an East Flatbush man who said the squirrel sunk its teeth into his finger when he tried to feed it near the Parkside and Ocean avenue entry on July 11, the New York Daily News reported. And at least one victim, a jogger who witnesses watched the rambunctious rodent attack, has yet to be identified by the health department, which is recommending any bitten person

See **SQUIRREL** on page 6



Michael Halkias, left, and wife Alice, hosted a grand show by Canadian rock group Arcade Fire at the Grand Prospect Hall on July 27. Other musicians, including blues band Hot Tuna and electronica duo Infected Mushroom have also played the space.

New prospect for a rock venue

Arcade Fire releases album at Park Slope’s gilded Grand Prospect Hall

By Lauren Gill
Brooklyn Paper

Arcade Fire made their dreams come true!

The rock band performed a July 27 album release show at Park Slope’s Grand Prospect Hall—the ornate venue known for its slogan, “We make your dreams come true!”—fulfilling the wildest wishes of the space’s owners, who said they hoped that they gave the musicians a night to remember in return.

“They made my dreams come true so why shouldn’t we make theirs?” said Michael Halkias, who co-owns the 104-year-old hall on Prospect Avenue between Fifth and Sixth avenues with his wife Alice, the woman who utters the catchphrase in the venue’s storied commercials.

The Canadian outfit took over Grand

Prospect Hall’s gilded grand ballroom to celebrate the release of its new album, “Everything Now,” with a show that was livestreamed on Apple Music.

The opulent four-story, 16-room venue usually hosts weddings and parties, but recently branched out to accommodate concerts and festivals to help pay the property’s rising real estate taxes, Halkias said.

Other big name guests of the gold leaf-adorned site include old-school blues band Hot Tuna and electronica duo Infected Mushroom.

And after seeing the over-the-top space, reps for Arcade Fire wanted to get in on the action too, according to Halkias, who said he couldn’t blame them.

“Everybody knows that I do events so they called me and said ‘I love your place.’ I said ‘Thanks, I love it too,’” he said.

The hall will hold between 1,000 and 1,500 fans, who applied for the coveted concert tickets by answering the question, “What do you like about the first single from the new album?”

Arcade Fire sent out a message to attendees on July 24 instructing them that there will be a “hip and trendy” dress code for the occasion, with no flip-flops, crop tops, or phones allowed.

Putting on big concerts is different than preparing for lavish weddings—where everything is “glass, glass, glass,” according to Halkias—but the owner said he doesn’t prefer one to the other and has a blast watching young people rock out under the chandeliers.

“I enjoy whatever I do,” he said. “As long as people are happy, I’m enjoying it.”

But not everyone is having fun with

the hall’s new clientele.

Some neighbors have complained about concert-goers taking parking spots and swarming area streets after gigs, according to Halkias, who said he wished that the big events he has taken on to keep his business afloat didn’t upset locals.

The owner listens to every band that wants to play his venue to make sure groups are befitting of the space, and said Arcade Fire is “great.”

Superfans hoping to secure a concert ticket flooded Grand Prospect Hall’s phone lines ahead of the July 27 show, according to Halkias, who said one man drove up from Florida to attend.

“People went crazy to find tickets,” he said.

Reps for Arcade Fire did not return a request for comment.

Park apartments ready to rise

Judge: Pier 6 towers’ construction can proceed, but won’t influence ruling

By Lauren Gill
Brooklyn Paper

They’re going up—for now.

A judge denied an order to halt construction that began on two towers at Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Pier 6 during a July 20 emergency hearing, allowing work to proceed as litigants wait to make final arguments in a lawsuit over whether the high-rises can be built at all.

Civic group the Brooklyn Heights Association had petitioned Justice Lucy Billings to issue a temporary restraining order to stop construction on the proposed 15- and 28-story towers at the foot of Atlantic Avenue after developers filed paperwork with the city earlier this month to start work—which includes

a 34-day process of hammering 400 steel beams into the ground—on July 19.

The Heights Association’s attorney, Richard Ziegler, argued the construction will be noisy and intrusive to the park and surrounding neighborhood, especially since the site is adjacent to a playground popular among youngsters in the summer.

Billings agreed that there might be irreparable harm, but said she could not do much about it since the work does not violate any city noise codes.

“It’s not a harm that violates any environmental code,” she said.

Brooklyn Bridge Park honchos cheered the ruling and said they were thankful to the court.

“We are gratified that the judge agreed with us and decided not to grant the temporary restraining order,” said David Lowin, vice president of real estate for the green space.

Ziegler was worried that Billings would be less likely to rule in favor of the civic group if part of the high-rises already were built, but she guaranteed that the progress of construction will not influence her decision.

“I can’t see that’s anything that can’t be undone,” she said.

And though the Heights Association did not win its request for a restraining order, Ziegler, who had his first opportunity to argue the merits of his case on July 20, said the hour-long hearing yielded

some positive developments.

He made the case that the park’s 2006 General Project Plan—the agreement that mandates it only build what is necessary to fund its upkeep—declares the green space’s development lots can only be used to make money for it. And since developers RAL Companies and Affiliates and Oliver’s Realty Group’s 15-story tower will contain below-market-rate units, it will not generate any cash, Ziegler said.

“It was a very worthwhile session with the judge because she was very candid about skepticism she has previously hinted at,” he said outside the courtroom. “I don’t think we had previously been quite so clear in drawing the distinction that [the smaller tower] is an even

clearer violation of the GPP than [the 28-story tower].”

Billings, who has been charged with administering asbestos cases, said she will be tied up with those and asked at the beginning of the hearing if the litigants wanted to change justices, which they both declined.

But the judge later said that in deciding to allow construction, she was more inclined to come to a quick decision on the case.

“At least you guys have compelled me to make a decision as early as possible,” Billings said.

Litigants will return to the courtroom on Aug. 4 at 11 am in what is expected to be their final appearance before Billings rules.



A judge denied a petition to temporarily stop construction on two high-rises at Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Pier 6, allowing work to proceed as litigants wait to make their final arguments over whether the towers can go up at all.

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Driver hits, kills bicyclist

By Lauren Gill
Brooklyn Paper

A garbage truck driver hit and killed a cyclist in Greenpoint on July 22 without stopping.

Neftaly Ramirez, 27, was pedaling home to Manhattan from his job at pizza joint Paulie Gee’s when the driver for a city-contracted private carting service, which collects garbage from local businesses, struck him on Franklin Street by Noble Street at 12:30 am, according to police.

The driver of the green truck with yellow and white lettering fled, leaving Ramirez on the street, his black and yellow bicycle broken beside him.

Emergency responders pronounced him dead at the scene, police said.

Authorities are still searching for the driver and have not named the carting service. A Department of Sanitation spokeswoman said the trash collector is not employed by the agency, which only picks



Photo by Mark Wellone

Police survey the scene in Greenpoint where 27-year-old Neftaly Ramirez was hit and killed by a garbage truck driver on July 22.

up trash from private residences and city pails.

An Instagram post by Paulie Gee’s mourned Ramirez’s death.

“We are all heartbro-

ken and will miss him very much. Please be careful out there on the roads,” it reads.

“They are a very dangerous place these days.”

Cyclists and drivers are

forced to share Franklin Street, which is painted with sharrows — chevrons designed to alert motorists to bike-riders, who have dismissed them as ineffective.

Packing pints

Williamsburg bar serving beery, alcoholic ice cream

By Lauren Gill
Brooklyn Paper

Talk about an ice cold beer!

A Williamsburg bar is serving alcoholic, beer-infused ice cream that its owner said combines Brooklynites’ love for the frosty treat with another beloved borough pastime: boozing.

“It’s summer, so a lot of new ice cream concepts are popping up, and people in New York City just love to drink, so it’s the best of both worlds,” said Lantern Hall owner Jeff Wong, who started serving beer ice cream at his bar on Harrison Place and Morgan Avenue on July 19.

Flavors include a fruity creamsicle variety made with

an IPA from Bronx brewery Gun Hill, a toffee-like blend with Massachusetts-brewed Jack’s Abby House Lager, chocolate mixed with pretzel bits and a Maryland-made stout, and a honey-lemon sorbet with pilsner from Bushwick’s Kings County Brewers Collective — all served in cups on a wooden paddle, just like a flight of beer.

And like the frothy beverage, the ice creams contain alcohol, so patrons will have to show identification to prove they are old enough to eat the libation-laced delight, according to the bar’s spokeswoman.

Wong did not know exactly how much booze is in each scoop — all the recipes call



Photo by Caleb Caldwell

Reporter Lauren Gill can’t get enough of Topsy Scoop’s ice cream at Lantern Hall, particularly the Happy Hour toffee flavor blended with lager.

for 20 percent beer and the brews’ alcohol content varies by type, with the stout having the most — but said he is pretty sure you can get a buzz if you indulge enough.

“There’s only one way to find out,” he said.

Each four-flavor flight

costs \$8, and serves at least two people.

Lantern Hall whipped up its drunken desserts in partnership with boozy ice cream purveyor Tispy Scoop, which usually makes liquor-infused flavors such as vanilla bean

See **SCOOP** on page 12

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Demolition day

Center of the old Kosciuszko removed

By Colin Mixson
Brooklyn Paper

Call it a bridge too far gone.

Two barges sailed the center section of the old Kosciuszko Bridge into oblivion on Wednesday morning, ending the first phase of the 78-year-old span's state-led demolition, which — sadly — did not feature any explosions.

Workers began lowering the 300-foot long, 50-foot tall

section onto the vessels waiting 125 feet beneath it on Tuesday, using massive steel cables that dropped it at a rate of 20-feet-per hour.

The process concluded on Wednesday, as the barges floated the 2,400-ton chunk of metal down the Newtown Creek and into the East River.

The state plans to blow up the remaining ends of the severed bridge sometime in August, but has not set a specific date. It will recycle around

26-million pounds of metal from the old span, which opened in 1939 to replace the Meeker Avenue Bridge.

A new Kosciuszko Bridge opened in April to replace the aging Brooklyn–Queens crossing, and a sister span — which will also be named after Polish military engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko, who, ironically, is recognized for blowing up bridges during the American Revolutionary War — is set to debut in 2020.



Photo by Walter Keating

The first phase of the state-led demolition of the 78-year-old Kosciuszko Bridge began on Tuesday, as a 300-foot long section of the span was slowly lowered onto two barges waiting in the Newtown Creek below.

Smashes window and tries to jump

By Colin Mixson
Brooklyn Paper

A woman shredded her arms as she shattered a window in an attempt to jump from her Prospect-Lefferts Gardens apartment on July 18.

Police were called to the apartment building on Beekman Place near Flatbush Avenue at 8:56 am, after she broke her bedroom window, slashing her wrists and forearms in

the process, cops said.

The woman was threatening to leap from her first-floor apartment — a drop of about 10–12 feet.

But officers burst in and stopped her before she could further harm herself, according to police.

She was rushed in an ambulance to Kings County Hospital, where her wounds were treated and she underwent a psychological evaluation, cops said.

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Sneak takes woman's wallet in train station

84TH PRECINCT
Brooklyn Heights–Dumbo–Boerum Hill–Downtown

A thief stole a woman's wallet while she was attempting to buy a MetroCard inside Bergen Street station on July 17.

The victim was attempting to buy the train pass at the station near Smith Street at 2:30 pm when the filcher bumped into her from behind and said, "Excuse me."

She then boarded a Man-

hattan-bound F train and realized her purse was open and her Coach wallet containing her credit cards and \$60 had been taken, police said.

Bank robbery

Police are searching for a punk who robbed a Court Street bank on July 20.

The crook entered the bank by Schermerhorn Street at 3:40 pm and passed the teller a note stating, "Give me all your money now."

He didn't display any weapons and no one was hurt, authorities said.

POLICE BLOTTER

Find more online every Wednesday at **BrooklynPaper.com/blotter**

Snoozing

Some sneak snatched a guy's phone from his hand while he was asleep on a Brooklyn-bound F train on July 21.

The victim had been snoozing on the orange bullet from Manhattan and awoke at York Street station to find his cell was stolen and the culprit had fled, according to a report.

Knocked

A weasel grabbed a woman's phone after knocking her with her elbow as she was riding a Manhattan-bound F train on July 22.

The victim was listening to music on her phone as the train approached Jay Street–MetroTech station when the creep used her forearm to hit the victim on the forehead several times, according to a report.

The cheat then snatched her phone and ran off the train with about four people, authorities said.

Stair snatch

Cops are hunting for a pirate who stole a woman's wallet while she was fixing her shoes on the stairs to Jay Street–MetroTech station on July 24.

The woman was going up the stairs when the bad-die stepped on her shoes. As she was fixing her kicks, the nogoodnik swiped the wallet from the pocket of her bookbag and fled, according to a report.

The victims told police they were between Seventh and Eighth avenues at 2:40 pm when they spotted the delinquent duo looting the car.

The two men moved in to prevent the crooks from making off with their stuff, but the thieves made a run for it.

As they fled, one of the crooks hurled a rock that struck one of the victims square in the noggin, while the other man managed to catch up to the thieves, but was beaten off with a few knuckle sandwiches to the jaw, cops said.

Tire slasher

Cops busted a man for allegedly slashing the tires of a man's car parked on Third Avenue on July 13.

The victim told police he left his car between Fifth and Sixth avenues at 4:50 pm, and returned about 20 minutes later to find the tires on the driver's side of his car gushing air.

Police picked up their suspect, a 20-year-old man, later that day after the found him in possession of a knife, cops said.

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88TH PRECINCT
Fort Greene–Clinton Hill

Barking mad

Cops are hunting a thief who stole a pricey rose gold dog chain from a Greene Avenue apartment between July 18 and July 20.

The victim thinks she left the door of her residence between Bedford and Nostrand avenues open at 7:45 am — and discovered a sneak had taken the 18-inch chain — estimated at more than \$4,000 — at 10 pm two days later, according to a report.

Cut

A creep stabbed a woman with scissors on Clifton Place on July 19.

The victim was by Grand Avenue at 3:15 pm when the bruiser sliced her, she told police. She was taken to Methodist Hospital, where she is expected to recover, a report said.

Chaired

Some ruffian bashed a guy in the head with a metal chair on Prince Street on July 20.

The man was minding his own business by Tillary Street at 10:30 am when the jerk struck him with the chair and cut his forehead, according to cops.

In the night

A burglar broke into a Grand Avenue apartment and stole a woman's laptop and phone while she was asleep on July 19.

The weasel cut the screen to the front window of the residence by Park Avenue between 12:05 am and 6:15 am and lifted her MacBook Pro and iPhone, she told police. The woman was asleep, but her roommates told cops they heard someone walking around, but thought it was her.

Bad day at work

A filcher crept into a Lefferts Place home and stole a guy's belongings while he was at work on July 20.

The victim told authorities he left for his job at 10 am and returned to find that his Canon DSLR camera, Steven Alan backpack, cash, and loose change jar had been taken. Police were unable to immediately identify who the thief got in.

— Lauren Gill

76TH PRECINCT
Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook

To the point

Cops cuffed a guy on July 15 who they say stole thousands of dollars worth of cosmetics from a store on Smith Street and threatened someone in it with a needle after saying he had HIV on July 12.

The 30-year-old suspect stuffed his pockets with \$2,257 worth of cosmetics, and when someone in the store between Warren and Baltic streets tried to stop him, the two got into a fight and the suspect displayed the needle, according to authorities.

But the guy left without hurting anyone and police arrested him three days later, officials said.

Up in smoke

Police arrested a man who they say had untaxed cigarettes from Virginia in his car on First Place on July 15.

Officers pulled over the 21-year-old suspect for disobeying a traffic light near Court Street at about 4:30 am and discovered he had \$166,200 worth of butts in his car, according to authorities.

— Julianne Cuba

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ALL TIMES

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ON THE RADIO:

Our squirrel interview

By Moses Jefferson
Brooklyn Paper

The rabid squirrel of Prospect Park took time out of his busy schedule hiding from the authorities and sat down with Gersh and Vince to give his side of the story.

And guess what, folks. He's not rabid at all.

Granted anonymity so he won't be captured, killed, and have his brain sliced up and examined by so-called scientists, the tiny rodent told our hosts that the foam coming from his mouth was the result of gum inflammation caused by impacted wisdom teeth and is unrelated to the disease usually associated with dogs, raccoons, and skunks.

"Look, my mother always taught me to brush twice a day and I have to admit I've slacked off a bit," he told the hosts. "But the dentist said it should clear up now that those useless molars have been removed."

The squirrel also claimed that there is no way he could get rabies because he would be the last critter any other animal would ever try to sink its teeth into.

"I'm from the woods of Brooklyn and I'm old school," he said. "They're not going to mess with me."

As to why he's been acting so out of sorts of late, he blamed not taking his meds.

"I've got ADD, ADHD, and even HDAD, which is like the others, but much clearer," he said.

Of course, none of that happened on the show, but you should listen anyway



Prospect Park's rabid squirrel gave an exclusive interview to Gersh and Vince on this week's episode of Brooklyn Paper Radio — well, at least we wish that was what the latest broadcast was about.

As Gersh's son Ben did provide a knock-out impression of the most wanted rodent in America, reporter Colin Mixon broke down exactly how terrified the denizens of Prospect Park have become, and Gersh traveled mid-show to Crown Heights to visit the boys at Brooklyn Pizza Crew where he talked with whiskey-loving entrepreneur Nino Coniglio about his fantastic pies.

It all happened live on Brooklyn Paper Radio, so listen now.

Brooklyn Paper Radio is recorded and podcast live every Tuesday at 4:30 pm from our studio in America's Downtown and can be found on BrooklynPaper.com, iTunes, on Stitcher.

SQUIRREL...

Continued from page 1

or pet get a rabies vaccination — a series of shots that can take four to five weeks to complete.

Rangers equipped with a small arsenal of rodent hunting gear — including snare poles, safety gloves, and cages — scoured the area following the biting binge, according to a Parks Department spokeswoman, who said the officials found a few happy, healthy squirrels, but not the culprit, which is still wanted dead or alive.

And though officials said that the furry miscreant, if afflicted with rabies, is likely

dead, visitors to Brooklyn's Backyard on July 24 were still concerned about the possibility of being targeted by the creature with a taste for human flesh.

"That's scary," said Francesca Piteo, who lives near Prospect Park. "Hopefully there is just one."

Rabies, which is almost always fatal without the proper vaccination, rarely affects squirrels. It has yet to be detected in one since New York state launched a program in 1992 to monitor the viral disease in animals, and no person in the United States has ever contracted rabies from

a squirrel bite, according to the health department.

And while the Park's Department's head honcho said the bushy-tailed mammal's behavior was atypical, its bellicosity prompted him to remind meadow visitors to avoid critters.

"Aggression in squirrels is extremely rare, but park-goers' behavior toward all wildlife should remain the same — do not approach the animals with whom we share our city, but rather appreciate them from a distance," said commissioner Mitchell Silver.

People in the United States most commonly contract rabies via bat and dog bites, and the disease can only be diagnosed after symptoms manifest, according to a Boerum Hill veterinarian who treated rabid animals while studying in the Caribbean, where the virus is more common.

"It's quite a scene to see an animal die of rabies," said Dr. Amy Ford of the Veterinary Wellness Center of Boerum Hill.

Neither Ford nor representatives for the Park Slope Veterinary Center said they have noticed an uptick in potential rabies cases among pets at their hospitals, and the Boerum Hill vet has not treated any patients for squirrel bites.

"Most of the time it's the dogs that are chasing the squirrels," she said.



Our Perspective

Spectrum Strike Affects Us All

By Stuart Appelbaum, President
Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, UFCW

The strike by over 1,800 members of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers against their employer, Spectrum-Time Warner Cable, isn't important only to the families of the cable technicians who are fighting back against corporate greed. Their strike is important to all of us who believe in good jobs that build better lives and stronger families and communities. Their courage should resonate with everybody who has had enough of a corporate race to the bottom where workers are disrespected and benefits and pensions continue to be attacked.

In many ways, the action echoes the 2010 strike by hundreds of RWDSU members at Mott's in Williamson, New York. In that case, as in this one, workers pushed back against a successful, profitable company, owned by an even larger company (Dr. Pepper/Seven Up), that was attacking their workers and trying to destroy hard-earned benefits that members had earned for years. Local, national, and international support grew for the striking RWDSU Local 220 members, many of whom had decades of service at the apple sauce plant. Their strike came to symbolize the struggle of workers to keep quality jobs in an era when corporations value workers' contributions less and less. After a long four months, Mott's workers won their strike, negotiating a fair contract with good wage increases that protected benefits and gave them the security they had earned.

We see a similar fight at Spectrum, where cable technicians have been working without a new contract for years as the company has refused to negotiate in good faith. The company — whose CEO made almost \$100 million in 2016 — is proposing drastic health care cuts for unionized workers and their families and wants to eliminate pensions and job security. The

company also refuses to amend its discipline policy which punishes workers for making multiple visits to a household, when the majority of technical problems are due to the fact that the company hasn't updated equipment in decades. Buildings aren't properly wired, equipment is old and outdated, and workers take the blame for cable speeds that often fall so short of advertised performance that New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman has filed a lawsuit accusing the company of defrauding consumers.

When a multi-billion-dollar corporation attacks middle-class workers' benefits and retirements, it threatens the health of entire communities. And when a cable company replaces trusted, skilled technicians who enter consumers' homes every day with unknown scabs from outside of the community with little experience, that's worrisome for our families.

Mott's workers fought back and won, and protected middle class jobs and communities. And they did it with support of consumers and their communities. Spectrum workers need the same support, and they need to win, to send a message that our jobs — and our lives and our families — are important. Working people cannot accept corporate attacks on our quality of life in the name of higher profits.

IBEW Local 3 needs your help. The NYC Franchise agreement for Charter/Spectrum is up before the City Council for review now. Please support good union jobs and share your concerns and complaints about Charter/Spectrum with the New York State Public Service Commission by emailing secretary@dps.ny.gov.



www.rwdsu.org



Pints 'n' pies!

Giant brewery and pizza spot opens Downtown



Big and brew: Circa Brewing Company's head brewer Danny Bruckert, right, steps down from a tank inside the giant new beer hall, which can hold more than 250 guests.

By Bill Rounady
Brooklyn Paper

It's a big brews-er! An enormous new brewery, taproom, and restaurant opened Downtown this week giving local residents and workers a new option for pizza and beer. The owner of Circa Brewing Company says that the opening of his massive brewpub is a dream come true.

"It looks so close to the way I saw it in my head two years ago — it's amazing!" said Gerry Rooney, who also owns Putnam's Pub and Cooker in Clinton Hill.

The new space can hold more than 250 people, and a patio in front will soon seat another 30. A row of brewing tanks gleam along one wall, and a long wooden bar snakes towards the back, where a wood-fired oven turns out pizzas.

Rooney, who lives in Clinton Hill sees his brewpub as part of a recent wave that is bringing more life to a neighborhood that largely shuts down after 5 pm.

"It's just a start of making Downtown Brooklyn a true downtown," he said. "If you go to any downtown district of any city in the country, you're going to the vibrant nightlife,

DINING

Circa Brewing Company (141 Lawrence St. between Willoughby and Fulton streets Downtown, www.circabrewing.co). Open Sun–Thu, 11 am–midnight; Fri, Sat, 11 am–2 am.

bars, restaurants, people hanging out, community. And I think that's what Downtown Brooklyn is starting to move towards."

He expects the pub to draw workers from Metrotech, students at the NYU engineering school, local residents, and shoppers from CityPoint and the Fulton Mall, as well as people coming to and from the Jay Street-Metrotech subway stop one block away.

"We really feel we've got a good location," he said.

And people seem to be thirsty for the new spot — five days before the official opening, a steady stream of would-be customers ignored a half-drawn gate across the entrance to ask about getting a beer.

When the brewery is fully going, it will have 12 house-made beers on tap, though only 6–8 will likely be ready for open-



Company man: Gerry Rooney, the owner of Circa Brewing Company, holds a New England-style IPA in front of the tanks that brewed it.

ing day, according to head brewer Danny Bruckert. Formerly of Sixpoint beer, the Bay Ridge brewer plans to focus on simple, drinkable beers that anyone can enjoy, rather than experimenting with crazy flavors or creating high-alcohol barleywines that leave people reeling, he said.

"I really appreciate beer-flavored beer," said Bruckert. "I love session beers — beers that are 4–4.5 percent [alcohol by volume], you can sit down and have a great time with your friends, you can put a few back, you can talk — they're much more sociable beers than a 7 percent IPA."

The brews will vary with the season, he said, opening with a summertime list that is heavy on pale ales and wheat beers.

The bar also serves a collection of cocktails, several of which incorporate the beers, and has a menu of nine Napoli-style pizzas created by the head brewer's twin brother, Luke Bruckert.

Rooney said he is both scared and excited about opening the gigantic Downtown spot.

"I'm terrified," he said. "But if your dreams don't scare you, you're not dreaming big enough."



Chomp: At the Rosamunde Sausage Grill, not far from the South Williamsburg ferry stop, you can dig into a beer sausage and a wide variety of brews.

Hippest 'hood!

Set sail for South W'burg

By Carlo Bosticco
Brooklyn Paper

The ferry is heading South! We have explored all the stops on the South Brooklyn ferry line, but there is more than one ferry godmother to take you to the summer ball! The East River line continues up the coast, and it is well worth extending your journey to South Williamsburg.

The area immediately around the South Williamsburg stop is quiet and residential, but the action is not far away. Once you've docked, take a moment to enjoy a sweeping view of the Manhattan skyline from the lawns that grace the riverfront. Then move up Kent Street towards the Williamsburg Bridge and turn onto Broadway, a bustling street in the bridge's shadow.

Immediately ahead is an giant building



FERRY TALES

with a huge gilded dome: the **Williamsburgh Savings Bank** (175 Broadway at Driggs Avenue), a historic landmark that has become a banquet hall. Across the street is the famous **Peter Luger Steak House** (178 Broadway at Driggs Avenue), which is best saved for special oc-

casions. Instead, turn left onto Driggs Avenue, pass under the bridge, and turn on S. Fourth Street. You've arrived at **Pies 'n' Thighs** (166 S. Fourth St. at Driggs Avenue). The tiny fried chicken joint is legendary among Williamsburgers, and it offers the most perfectly realized pie you could ask for. Try the biscuits and gravy with the honey butter and the spicy sauce; for dessert go for the bourbon pecan pie — with whip cream, please!

One block back towards the water brings you to Bedford Avenue, the high street of Williamsburg. A walk along this avenue will leave you swamped with choices. Want a vintage boutique? **Fanaberie** (339 Bedford Ave. between S. Fourth and S. Third streets) offers chic clothing and accessories. Want some entertainment? **Videology** (308 Bedford Ave. at S. First St.) offers film screenings and movie-inspired events every night at its 40-seat theater seater — including a showing of "Ghostbusters" complete with a marshmallow roast on Aug. 28. Want craft beer? **Rosamunde Sausage Grill** (285 Bedford Ave. between S. First and Grand streets) has 25 brews on tap, along with tasty sausages.

New York City Ferry at South Williamsburg (440 Kent Ave. at S. Ninth Street in Williamsburg, www.ferry.nyc). \$2.75 per trip.

MUSIC

Settled score



A movie night? Sounds good!

A 40-piece orchestra known for blending classical and electronic music will provide a live soundtrack to two recent films screening at Prospect Park's Bandshell next month as part of the Bric Celebrate Brooklyn! Festival. The musically enhanced versions of boxing flick "Creed," on Aug. 4, and civil rights movie "Selma," on Aug. 10, will give film buffs a chance to appreciate the full impact of the features, according to the head of the ensemble.

"Usually these films are only done once, but to have an orchestra playing the music live is kind of a different way to see the film," said Carroll Gardens resident Ronen Givony, who founded Wordless Music Orchestra.

Before the screening, each film has its score stripped from the reel. The ensemble takes the sheet music for the score, usually rehearses the arrangement once, and then performs it live from the orchestra pit below the screen for the big night. Each evening will mark the first time the film has been shown with a live soundtrack, Givony said.

The composer of "Creed's" score, Ludwig Goransson, will conduct the Orchestra during the film's screening on Aug. 4, and the composer for "Selma," celebrated pianist Jason Moran, will join the group during its Aug. 10 event. Having the minds behind the music join the festivities makes playing along to the movies even more special, Givony said.

"It's a lot of fun to play with the people who wrote the music to start with," he said.

These appearances will not be Wordless Music Orchestra's first time in Prospect Park — the group played the soundtrack for 2012 film "Beasts of the Southern Wild" in 2013. The outfit also plays non-film-related gigs, including an upcoming show with John Cale, from experimental rock group Velvet Underground, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music in November.

But for now, Divony is focusing on the Prospect Park shows, and said he is thrilled that his band can make music for two movies that will make people think.

"We feel like we brought two timely and important films with a lot to say," he said. "It's just going to be a lot of fun to get up there and entertain people."

Wordless Music Orchestra at Prospect Park Bandshell (enter at Prospect Park West and 11th Street in Park Slope, www.bricartsmedia.org/cb). "Creed" on Aug. 4 and "Selma" on Aug. 10 at 7:30 pm. \$5 suggested donation. — **Lauren Gill**

BOOKS

Dirty words



Smut the front door!

An X-rated book club has started steaming up a Park Slope bar with its monthly discussion of racy reads. The Brooklyn Smutty Book Club, which meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Paddy's of Park Slope, gives lovers of the steamy sub-genre of romance novels a rare opportunity to dissect naughty books with like-minded fans, said one of the organizers.

"Where else can you talk about these books? Because there's certainly not another smut book club around. And if people are reading it — they're usually reading it themselves," said Dawn Schmidt.

The group started meeting in the distant island of Manhattan about four years ago, when the craze over the kinky novel "50 Shades of Grey" removed some of the taboo over discussing sexually charged literature, said Schmidt. But increasing demands from Brooklyn fans caused Schmidt and her friends to create a spin-off club for the borough of Kings. The new group held its first meeting in July to discuss "Dark Challenge," a book about sexy shape shifters.

At each meeting, members discuss a smutty tome chosen at the previous gathering, and the talk often segues into related topics, including sex and relationships, said Schmidt.

"We talk about the book for an hour, and one way or another a tangent leads in one direction, or something related to it on television or in our personal lives and pretty much talking about everything we read — sometimes we definitely stay past 10 pm," she said.

Most of the book club members are women, but it includes a wide variety of ethnic and professional backgrounds, said Schmidt.

"The club attracts all ages, all races, all jobs. There is a mixture of women in this club because if there's one thing that is universal, it's sex," she said.

The title for next month's meeting is "The Average American Male," by Chad Kultgen. The group tries to balance writing by male and female authors, and also makes sure each book is available in electronic form, since the ability to read erotic books without bodice-ripping covers has contributed to their popularity, said Schmidt.

"One reason why it's grown so popular compared to 10 years ago is because of e-books," she said. "No-one can see what you're reading — they don't know if you're reading smut or Shakespeare."

Brooklyn Smutty Book Club at Paddy's of Park Slope [273 13th St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 369-0831, www.meetup.com/smutty-book-club]. Aug. 16 at 7 pm. Free. — **Alexandra Simon**

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS' PICKS

FRIDAY
July 29



Gang up
The film "Dayveon," about a 13-year-old who falls in with a local gang after his older brother's death, has gotten great reviews. Check it out for yourself at this free screening, followed by a discussion with the director. Make a full night of it by showing up early for music from Honeychild Coleman and eating at Avocaderia next door.

8 pm at Industry City Courtyard 5-6 [Second Avenue between 34th and 35th streets in Sunset Park, (718) 417-7362, www.rooftopfilms.com]. Free.

SATURDAY
July 29

Disco 'Fever'
The greatest film of all time, the disco-dancing, John Travolta-starring, Bay Ridge-based flick "Saturday Night Fever" came out 40 years ago, so put on your boogie shoes and hustle to Coney Island to catch the Trammps and other bands from film's soundtrack play disco tunes in tribute

8 pm Coney Island Amphitheater (3052 W. 21st St. at Surf Avenue in Coney Island), www.coneyislandlive.com. \$35–\$200.



SUNDAY
July 30



Factory-made
Kenny DeForest, the longtime co-host of the weekly Comedy at the Knitting Factory show, will record his debut stand-up album tonight. You have two chances to catch his best material, and each show will feature special appearances from comedians Sasheer Zamata and Saurin Choksi.

8 pm and 10 pm at Knitting Factory (361 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg, (347) 529-6696), bk.knittingfactory.com. \$10

MONDAY
July 31

This title is mostly filler
The "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" musical episode "Once More with Feeling" was one of its best, and tonight the show gets a "shadowcast," with performers dressed as Buffy, Spike, Xander, Anya and the tuneless demon Sweet performing the show while the original screens behind them.

8 pm and 10 pm at the Way Station (683 Washington Ave. between Prospect and St. Marks places in Prospect Heights, (347) 627-4949, www.thewaystationbk.com). Free.



THURSDAY
Aug. 3



Whoa Nellie
The banjo-playing funk-fusion band Bela Fleck and the Flecktones headlines tonight's free Celebrate Brooklyn! show, but we are most excited for opening act Nellie McKay, a piano-playing chanteuse and Broadway performer who writes sprightly songs that blend showtune style and punk rock topics.

7:30 pm at the Prospect Park Band Shell [enter at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-8900], www.bricartsmedia.org/cb. Free.

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, JULY 28

MUSIC, JAZZY JAZZ FESTIVAL 2017: A weekly jazz tribute to the music of Lena Horne. Free. 7pm–10pm. Medgar Evers College (1638 Bedford Ave. at Crown Street in Crown Heights, (718) 270-5140).

COMEDY, POSTMEN: Comedy trio Postmen bring their weekly their frenzied, physical, hyper-absurdist sketch and improv show to Bushwick. \$5. 7:30 pm. Cobra Club (6 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick), www.cobraclubbk.com.

MUSIC, ANDREW BIRD, ESPERANZA SPALDING: Part of the annual outdoor Celebrate Brooklyn! festival. Free. 7:30 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell [Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-8900], www.bricartsmedia.org/cb.

THEATER, "JULIUS CAESAR": The Gallery Players present their rendition of Shakespeare's timeless drama. \$25 (\$20 children and seniors). 7:30 pm. Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352-3101), www.gallery-players.com.

MUSIC, WASABASSCO'S "THE THING WITH 10,000 PASTIES": An original, fully scripted B-movie striptease extravaganza live on stage! \$25 (\$15 in advance). 8 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), www.littlefieldnyc.com.

MUSIC, TORANAFEST: A rock show featuring Toranavox, Crazy & the Brains, Dad, and Eleanor. \$10. 8 pm. Sunnyside (1031 Grand St. between Morgan and Vandervoort avenues in Bushwick, (347) 987-3971), www.sunnysidebk.com.

MUSIC, CHERRY GLAZERR: With Mannequin Pussy. \$15 (\$12 in advance). 11:30 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111), www.roughtradennyc.com.

MUSIC, SANCTUARY 01: A night of electronic performers, including Tygapaw, Lil Jabba, Debit, and Wild Kid. \$10. Midnight. Sunnyside (1031 Grand St. between Morgan and Vandervoort avenues in Williamsburg, (347) 987-3971), sunnysidebk.com.



They will, they will rock you: Adam Lambert, right, and Brian May, of Queen, will support each other during a show at Barclays Center on July 28.

COMING SOON TO
BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, JULY 28

MUSIC, QUEEN AND ADAM LAMBERT: \$49–\$505. 8 pm.

SAT, JULY 29

SPORTS, ADRIAN BRONER VS. MIKEY GARCIA: \$82–\$505. Time tba.

TUE, AUG 1

MUSIC, J. COLE: \$64–\$500. 8 pm.

WED, AUG 2

MUSIC, J. COLE: \$64–\$500. 8 pm.

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

SAT, JULY 29

SOUTH SUMMER STROLLS: Climb a rock wall, hop around a bouncy house, and stop by the empanada eating contest, sponsored by Empanada Local. Free. 5:30–9 pm. (Fifth Avenue from 12th to 18th street in Park Slope), www.parkslopefifthavenuebid.com.

MUSIC, MUSIC IN MOTION: Barge-music presents a family concert of chamber music on its floating barge. The hour-long concert is followed by a discussion with the artists. Free. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing (1 Water St. at Furman Street in Dumbo), www.bargemusic.org.

MUSIC, ADMIRAL T. TABOU COMBO, DJ SPIKE T.I.: Part of the annual outdoor Celebrate Brooklyn! festival. Free. 7 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell [Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965-8900], www.bricartsmedia.org/cb.

DANCE, "MIGRANTS AT MIDNIGHT": In this new ballet from the Choreo-Joe Project, a cast of 12 delves into sights and sounds of a 1990s New York, with jazz and caribbean dance. \$15. 7 pm. The Hive NYC (20 Cook St. between Manhattan and Puerto Rico avenues in Williamsburg), the-hivenyc.com.

MUSIC, THE SPINTO BAND: With Chris Cubeta and The Liars Club, Shapes in Calgary. \$12. 8 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111), www.roughtradennyc.com.

MUSIC, PREOCCUPATIONS: \$20. 11:59 pm. Rough Trade NYC (64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388-4111), www.roughtradennyc.com.

ART, "PALETTE UNLIMITED" AND "BLACK AND WHITE" OPENING RECEPTION: Two new exhibits from See 9 DAYS on page 10

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COMMUNITY
NEWS GROUP



Brooklyn Paper

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

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Three’s a crowd: The adaptation “Macbeth: Thrice and Once,” opening at the Brick Theater on Aug. 2, uses just three actors to tell the story of the murderous king.

Murder of Kings!

Four versions of ‘Macbeth’ in B’klyn

By Bill Roundy
Brooklyn Paper

They’ve doubled double the toil and trouble!

Four different theater companies will take on Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” in Brooklyn over the next month. The bloody tragedy about an ambitious Scottish general who murders his king and seizes the throne is popular ones with audiences, so it makes sense to stage it in the county of Kings hereafter, said the co-producer of one version.

“Personally, it’s one of my favorite plays,” said Paul Molnar, of South Brooklyn Shakespeare. “The fact that it’s happening a lot is not surprising, but to have four companies doing it is quite a coincidence.”

South Brooklyn Shakespeare May have the most traditional version. The



Witch way: Elisabeth Preston, Paul Molnar, and Corey Tazmania play the three witches in South Brooklyn Shakespeare’s production of “Macbeth,” opening on July 29.

group will perform the tragedy in front of a Stonehenge-esque set, with actors costumed to evoke the 1970s — but still carrying swords to allow for the exciting fight scenes.

South Brooklyn Shakespeare’s “Macbeth” outside South (629 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Park Slope, www.southbrooklyn-shakespeare.com). July 29 at 6:30 pm. Free.

“Macbeth” at the Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope). Aug. 2–5 at 8 pm. Free.

An hour upon the stage

The Brick Theater’s “Shakespeare in the Theater” festival, running for most of August, includes two non-traditional adaptations of the Scottish Play.

“Macbeth: Thrice and Once,” is a stripped-down, one-hour version with three actors playing all the parts. Director J.W. Randall, who lives in Bushwick, adapted the show so that it can travel to schools, community centers, and prisons, with costumes and a set that can all fit in a suitcase. His version emphasizes the existential themes of the play, but also gives it a light touch, with the Porter’s comic monologue turned into a series of vaudeville-style knock-knock jokes.

“We use a lot of farce,” said Randall. “We’re using a lot of ritual, and a lot of vaudeville to tell this story.”

“Macbeth: Thrice and Once” at the Brick (575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union and Lorimer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 907–6189, www.bricktheater.com). Aug. 2 at 9:15 pm; Aug. 4 at 9:30 pm; Aug. 8 at 7 pm.

Something wicked

Another show at the Brick, “Macbeth: a Walking Shadow” goes in the opposite direction, drawing on the conventions of horror movies to present an especially bloody version of the tale of kings, witches, and murder.

“Macbeth: A Walking Shadow” at the Brick (575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union and Lorimer streets in Williamsburg, (718) 907–6189, www.bricktheater.com). Aug. 15 at 7 pm; Aug. 18 at 8:30 pm; Aug. 23 at 7 pm.

The use of nature

Rounding out the month is an outdoor production from the New York Classical Theatre. Actors dressed in Elizabethan garb will scamper across Brooklyn Bridge Park during the show, turning the Harbor View Lawn into the blasted Scottish heath and the upland trees into Birnam Wood, while audiences trail behind.

New York Classical Theatre’s “Macbeth” at Fulton Ferry Landing (Furman Street and Old Fulton Street in Dumbo, www.newyorkclassical.org). Aug. 22–23, 25–27 at 7 pm. Free.

These blerd lines

Black nerd festival in Dumbo

By Lauren Gill
Brooklyn Paper

Blerd is the word!

Hundreds of black nerds, or “blerds,” will descend on Dumbo this month to celebrate science fiction, comics, and their own nerdy selves. One of the founders of Blerd City Con, which will happen at five Dumbo spots — including The Dumbo Spot — on July 29 and 30, says that there is nothing uncool about being a nerd.

“A blerd is a black nerd and if you want to define nerd, I try to go to the cool side — we are cool, smart, and beautiful,” said Clairesa Clay. “Our tagline is ‘Celebrating the nerdiness in you.’ There’s a nerd inside of everyone.”

Clay, a Bedford-Stuyvesant resident, was inspired to create the fest after she came across the word “blerd” in an article about Afro-futurism. She instantly related to the term.

“I was like, ‘That word encompasses everything you are,’” she said.

She worked to compile a festival program that would be familiar to any condweller, with panels on typically nerdy topics such as computer hacking, comic books, and cosplay — but with black characters and issues front and center.



Nerd in paradise: Organizer — and book lover — Clairesa Clay is pumped to bring the inaugural Blerd City Conference to Dumbo on July 29 and 30.

“The difference is this is bringing race to the forefront instead of it being placed to the side or not at all,” she said. “But we’re into the same thing — we have cosplay, anime, the same conversations.”

The weekend conference will include a few panels of specific interest to black fans, including “The World of Wakanda,” about African superhero Black Panther; “A Right Not to Die,” a discussion of incarceration and police brutality, and the “Black Folks and Martial Arts” panel, which will illuminate how black people have mastered the sport, said Clay.

“We wanted to celebrate the black folks that have been in martial arts,” she said, pointing to majority-black films like “The Last Dragon.”

Other weekend highlights include the cosplay ball, where attendees will dress up as their favorite characters, and a celebration of the late author L.A. Banks, a black woman who wrote the celebrated “Vampire Huntress Legend” series.

Blerds usually get together at small meet-ups throughout the city, said Clay, but she is pumped to head the first conference where they can all hang out. And it seems like other black nerds are excited to let loose too, based on the reactions she’s gotten to the upcoming weekend.

“There’s so many blerds, I like that people are embracing their nerdiness,” she said. “When I tell people about the conference they respond with such joy.”

Blerd City at the Dumbo Spot (155 Water St. at Pearl St. in Dumbo, www.blerdcityconference.com). July 29–30; 11 am–10 pm. \$28–\$45.

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9 DAYS...

Continued from page 8

the Brooklyn Waterfront Artist Coalition, with soul-jazz band Bright Red Dress. **Free.** 1–6 pm. Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition [499 Van Brunt St., near Reed Street in Red Hook, (718) 596–2506], [www.bwac.org](#).

FILM, NET POSITIVE (INTERNET HEALTH SHORTS): Thought-provoking short films about the Internet. Brought to you by Mozilla. With a post-screening discussion with the filmmaker and an after-party. **Free** with RSVP. 8 pm. Courtyard 5–6 of Industry City [51 35th St. between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park, (718) 417–7362], [www.rooftopfilms.com/event/net-positive](#).

SUN, JULY 30

TAI CHI IN THE PARK: Wear comfortable clothing. **Free.** 10 am. Fort Greene Park Visitor Center [Enter park at Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park in Fort Greene, (718) 722–3218].

MUSIC, YOUNG MARCO, ANDRAS: \$20. 1 pm. Output [74 Wythe Ave. at N. 12th Street in Williamsburg, (917) 333–1000], [www.output-club.com](#).

THEATER, “GHETTO HORS D’VOEUVRES CLIMATE”: An eclectic group of Brooklyn artists paint a poetic, theatrical ode to climate justice in New York City. **Free.** 3–6 pm, 8–10 pm. Maria Hernandez Park (Knickerbocker Avenue between Starr and Suydam streets in Bushwick), [www.brooklyn-gypsies.org](#).

WHITE HAWK FOUNDATION FUND-RAISER BRUNCH:

Yoga Sole raises cash for the Costa Rican rainforest group with brunch in Prospect Park. \$10–\$1,000. 11 am. Prospect Park [Enter at 15th Street and Prospect Park West in Windsor Terrace, (718) 541–1382], [yoga-sole.com](#).

A LA CARTE FOOD AND CULTURE FESTIVAL: A celebration of Haitian food, plus arts, music, and crafts. \$15–\$30. Noon–6 pm. Bklyn Commons [495 Flatbush Ave. between Empire Boulevard and Lefferts Avenue in Prospect Lefferts Gardens, (646) 489–4120], [alacarte2.eventbrite.com](#).

COMEDY, JUST A SHOW: A comedy show with host Jo Firestone, Brandon Scott Wolf, Lucy Randall, the Postmen, and more. \$6. 5:30 pm. Sunnyside (1031 Grand St. between Morgan and Vandervoort avenues in Bushwick), [sunnysidebk.com](#).

MON, JULY 31

FILM, “LA LA LAND”: A screening of the film as part of “Coney Island Flicks on the Beach.” Come enjoy flicks with sand between your toes! **Free.** 7 pm. (West 12th Street and Riegelmann Boardwalk in Coney Island), [www.coneyislandfunguide.com](#).

READING, BOOKS BENEATH THE BRIDGE: Author Lisa Ko will read from her novel “The Leavers,” and Rakesh Satyal reads from his novel “No One Can Pronounce My Name.” **Free.** 7 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park’s Granite Prospect [Old Fulton Street at Furman Street in Dumbo, (718) 222–9939], [www.brooklynbridgepark.org](#).

COMEDY, NIGHT TRAIN WITH WYATT CENAC: Hosted by Brooklyn-based comedy favorite Wyatt

Cenac, this weekly show features comedy from the best local and international stand up comedians, and the occasional special guest appearances by musicians and local celebrities. \$8 (\$5 in advance). 8 pm. Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus), [www.littlefieldnyc.com](#).

DANCE, SUMMER SHAKE-UP: A collection of talented choreographers with a wide ranging of aesthetics. \$20 (\$16 in advance). 8 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389–3473], [www.triskelionarts.org](#).

MUSIC, BEEYOTCH, REST ASHORE, JULIA JULIAN, TROCHEE TROCHEE: \$10 suggested donation. 8 pm. Sunnyside [1031 Grand St. between Morgan and Vandervoort avenues in Williamsburg, (347) 987–3971],

[sunnysidebk.com](#).

COMEDY, SIDE PONYTAIL COMEDY: The Monday night comedy show welcomes Selena Coppock, Salma Zaky, Ethan SP, and more. **Free.** 8 pm. Friends and Lovers (641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights), [www.fnlbk.com](#).

TUES, AUG. 1

FORT GREENE NIGHT OUT AGAINST CRIME: Join police from the 88th Precinct and its Community and Youth Council at a safe street rally, with free rides, food and information. **Free.** Noon–7 pm. Fort Greene Park (DeKalb Ave. and Washington Park in Fort Greene).

DANCE, YOUNG DANCE-MAKERS: Teens from city high schools will perform their original choreogra-

phy, plus an excerpt from Limon’s “A Choreographic Offering.” Reservations recommended. **Free.** 1 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 329–7300 X3358], [www.kumbletheater.org](#).

MUSIC, FLEET FOXES: Part of the annual outdoor Celebrate Brooklyn! festival. \$55 (\$50.50 in advance). 7 pm. Prospect Park Band Shell [Prospect Park West and Ninth Street in Park Slope, (718) 965–8900], [www.bricartsmedia.org/cb](#).

TALK, DEATH AND DHARMA: The Brooklyn Zen Center and Green-Wood Cemetery host discussion so death, dying, and the hereafter. \$5–\$20. 7 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 210–3080], [www.brooklynzen.org](#).

COMEDY, THE SCIENTISTS: The comedy about truth talks about dead bodies, with one-theme performances from Phoebe Robinson, Jo Firestone, and Friends Who Folk, and a lecture from an actual expert. \$8 (\$6 in advance). 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638–4400], [www.unionhallnyc.com](#).

MUSIC, LONDON GRAMMAR, LO MOON: \$25 (\$20 in advance). 9 pm. Brooklyn Steel (319 Frost St. at Debevoise Avenue in Williamsburg), [www.bowerypresents.com/brooklyn-steel](#).

THURS, AUG. 3

MUSIC, CORY HENRY & THE FUNK APOSTLES: Part of the BAM R&B Festival at MetroTech, a free, outdoor concert series. **Free.** Noon. MetroTech Commons [Flatbush Ave and Myrtle Ave in Downtown, (718) 636–4100], [www.BAM.org](#).

FILM, “9 TO 5”: Music and food vendors open at 6 pm, and the movie begins at sundown. **Free.** 6 pm. Harbor View Lawn, Pier 1 (Furman Street at Old Fulton Street in Dumbo), [www.brooklynbridgepark.org](#).

MUSIC, GHOST TRAIN ORCHESTRA: The swing band plays the Live at the Archway series. Stop by early for a swing dance class. **Free.** 6 pm. The Archway Under the Manhattan Bridge (Water Street between Adams Street and Anchorage Place in Dumbo), [dumbo.is/live-at-the-archway](#).

OUTDOORS, JOURNEY TO THE STARS: Members of the Amateur Astronomers Association of New York set up hi-powered telescopes for stargazing sessions. **Free.** 8:30–10:30 pm. Brooklyn Bridge Park, Pier One [Old Fulton Street at Furman Street in Dumbo, (718) 222–9939], [www.brooklynbridgepark.org](#).

FRI, AUG. 4

MUSIC, TIM GRIMM AND THE FAMILY BAND: With Dayna Kurtz and Jan Bell. \$10. 8 pm. Jalopy Theatre [315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395–3214], [www.jalopy.biz](#).

FILM, “KUNG FU PANDA 3”: An outdoor screening of the animated film about a fun-loving panda. **Free.** 8 pm. Transmitter Park [West Street at Kent Avenue in Williamsburg, (347) 987–2765], [www.nycgovparks.org](#).

MUSIC, IRIS LUNE, PARIS MONSTER: With Ian Chang. \$12 (\$10 in advance). 9 pm. Rough Trade NYC [64 N. Ninth St. between Kent and Wythe avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 388–4111], [www.roughtradenyc.com](#).

SAT, AUG. 5

SPORTS, BROOKLYN CYCLONES V. LOWELL SPINNERS: Join the Cyclones for the fourth-annual Seinfeld Night. \$10. 6 pm. MCU Park [1904 Surf Ave. at W. 17th St. in Coney Island, (718) 449–8497], [www.brooklyn-cyclones.com](#).

RED LIGHT SPECIAL: A night of urban burlesque from Art Of Legohn. \$10. 10:30 pm. Gold Sounds (44 Wilson Ave. between George and Melrose streets in Bushwick), [www.artoflegohn.com](#).

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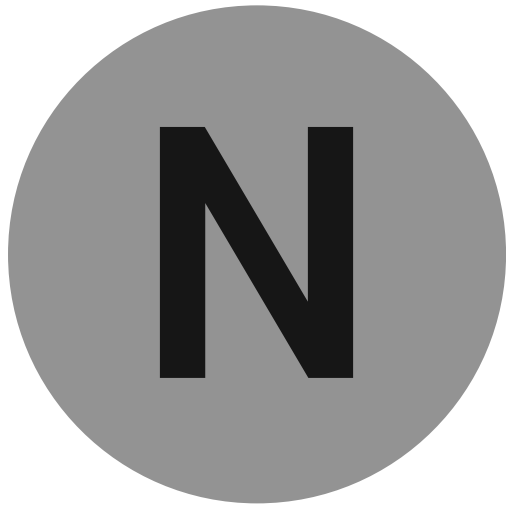
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- **R** trains and free shuttle buses stop at **59 St, 53 St** (shuttle bus only), **45 St,** and **36 St.**
- Transfer between **D N R** trains and free shuttle buses at **36 St.**

Note: Beginning 5 AM Monday, July 31, normal Manhattan-bound **N** service resumes. Coney Island-bound platforms will remain closed for reconstruction until Fall 2018.

Stay Informed

Call 511 and say “Current Service Status,” look for informational posters in stations, or visit **mta.info** – where you can access the latest Planned Service Changes information, use TripPlanner+, and sign up for free email and text alerts.

You’ll love my friend, and she needs help

Friday was a normal day for my friend Barbie Levin, an occupational therapist. She went to the modest home of a brand new patient, a baby who’d had a stroke in utero, was now 1-year-old and still not crawling because one leg was too weak.

As the mom watched, Barbie got down on the floor and placed the baby into crawling position. Then she asked the mom to go get the baby’s favorite food—a veggie stick (the kind that’s like a Cheeto, not a piece of celery). As the baby

tried to propel herself forward but couldn’t, Barbie propped the weak leg up and the baby managed a tiny scoot. Then Barbie had the mom get on the floor, take her place, and do the same re-propping.

The baby took her first three “steps” ever. She reached the treat and, said Barbie, smiling broadly, “ate it with relish.” As she left the mother stunned with joy, Barbie felt pretty good.

And also pretty bad.

Like that baby, Barbie was born with a medical problem, too: something wrong with her

urinary tract that affected her kidneys. As a little kid in the 1950s and ’60s, she was in and out of the hospital in an era when people were a lot less sensitive to what that feels like for a child.

“The nurses would practice catheterizing on me,” Barbie, 61, recalls.

Each stay at the hospital lasted about a week, and she never knew when another one was coming.

“My mom would wake me up and say, ‘It’s a hospital week!’” and Barbie would be overwhelmed with terror.



Rhymes with CRAZY

By Lenore Skenazy

Probes and pain and loneliness loomed, as did the humiliation of having interns, mostly men, coming in to examine her urinary tract and discuss it as if she wasn’t there.

Thank god for the arts and crafts lady who made her daily

rounds. Barbie made a set of tiny dolls. She kept them for 40 years.

By then, Barbie was a real mom, a single mom by choice.

“I spent all those years working with and falling in

love with other people’s children,” she says. “It was time to have my own.”

But her kidneys, damaged since childhood, were starting to fail. A few years ago the doctors told her she’d probably need a transplant — terrible words to hear in New York.

The wait for the kidney from a deceased donor in our state is seven to nine years, one of the longest waits in the country. (That, by the way, is why we should have people opting *out* if they don’t want their organs donated upon

death, rather than having to opt *in* by checking a box on our driver licenses. In Spain, everyone is automatically registered for after-death organ donation, unless they choose to check the “No” box. The average wait for a kidney there is eight months.)

Since the wait here is so long, and since a kidney donated by a living person tends to last up two twice as long as a cadaver kidney, as Barbie’s condition worsened, she started a blog, BarbiesKidney-Quest.wordpress.com.

How do you explain to someone who you are, and why they might want to consider giving you a kidney?

Barbie’s now college-age daughter Yona took a stab at it. She and her mom have one of those relationships, she wrote. Maybe because it has always been just the two of them, where they sing together in the kitchen. They watch a lot of murder mysteries on television, the British ones. They live in Stuyvesant Town where Yona grew up watching her mom check in on elderly neighbors (there are plenty!) and bring them soup.

As Barbie’s friend, I watch and marvel, too. She loves

learning things like carpentry and cocktail making. She invented a grated ginger cocktail in 2012 that is still the talk of our circle. She made her own guitar, and couch, and just did a glassblowing class with her daughter. Even as a child at Jewish sleep-away camp, where one of the offerings was a Yiddish class, she signed up.

“I was the only one.”

She loved it.

Like many of her friends, I did a little research and found out that giving a kidney does not shorten the donor’s life or compromise their health. So I got tested to see if I’m a match. I’m not. None of us are. Turns out I couldn’t do a “swap” either, where I’d give my kidney to a patient I matched, and their donor, a match for Barbie, would give her theirs. So instead, I am introducing her to you.

A childhood spent at the hospital. An adulthood spent making ailing kids better, and parents weep for joy. Endless curiosity. Deep friendships. And a loving daughter she loves back, more than the moon and the stars.

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Lenore Skenazy is founder of Free-Range Kids.

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SCOOP...

Continued from page 3

bourbon and strawberry white sangria sorbet. The bar provided all of the beer, and tested two to three kinds in the recipes before choosing each one’s winning ingredient, Wong said.

A necessary taste test found that ice cream pairs surprisingly well with beer, though the alcohol came through in some bites but not others. The booze was easiest to detect in the chocolate pretzel and stout, as the dark beer’s rich flavor complemented the chocolate. And the toffee-lager combination was a favorite, full of subtle hints of the golden beer and plenty of the delicious buttery sweet.

More menu items, such as scoop-topped Guinness floats, may incorporate the ice cream if the flights take off, according to the owner.

And the bar will keep serving the icy indulgence as long as people keep ordering it, but Wong said that recipes’ beers may need to change because some brews are in limited supply.

In other boozy ice cream news, Carroll Gardens shop MilkMade is churning out new flavors with Coney Island Lager and Van Brunt Stillhouse rum, but there is not enough alcohol in the treats for eaters to catch a buzz.

Try the beer ice cream yourself at Lantern Hall (52 Harrison Pl. at Morgan Avenue in Williamsburg, www.lanternhall.com). \$8.

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Legal Notice by Publication is hereby given to JONATHAN SMITH pursuant to CPLR 316 of an action commenced in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of New York, under Index No. 155343/2015, the object of which is, among other things, to recover damages against Defendant, Jonathan Smith, in the amount of \$200,000.00, plus expenses in the amount of \$24,907.08, plus interest, for his admitted role in a fraudulent scheme to impersonate and forge the name of a borrower in a mortgage loan transaction that was insured by Plaintiff, Fidelity National Title Insurance Company ("Fidelity National"). Legal Notice by Publication is further given that on July 20, 2017, the Court entered Judgment against Defendant, Jonathan Smith, in the amount of \$225,577.08 in favor of Fidelity National. Fidelity National, through its attorneys identified below, demands payment in full. Because Judgment was entered against you for the relief that Plaintiff demanded, the Sheriff may seize your money, wages or property to pay all or part of the Judgment. If you cannot afford an attorney, and seek information about the legal process, you may call the Help Center at the Supreme Court at (646) 386-3025, or visit Room 116 in the Courthouse. Attorneys for Plaintiff: Fidelity National Law Group, 105 Eisenhower Parkway, Suite 103, Roseland, New Jersey 07068, (973) 863-7017.

TO: ANGEL LUIS ROBLEDO, Administrator of Estate of Barbara Diaz v. St. Vincent Catholic Med Ctr - Index No. 13749/05. On 8/18/17 at 360 Adams St, Brooklyn, NY, Room 419 Hon. Marsha L. Steinhart will hear motion by Segan, Nemerov & Singer seeking leave to withdraw as attorneys for plaintiff. You must appear pro se or with counsel to preserve your interest.

Variance (§72-21) to permit the development of a new community facility (UG3) contrary to underlying bulk requirements. R5 zoning district. Address: 182 Minna St., Brooklyn. BSA Calendar number: 87-15-BZ. Applicant: Law Office of Jay Goldstein, for Yeshiva Machzikei Hadas. Owner. This application has been calendared for a Public Hearing Tuesday, August 8, 2017, at the 1:00 P.M. session in Spector Hall, 22 Reade Street, Manhattan.

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