



# Brooklyn Paper

Your World — Your News

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## MANE ATTRACTION

### Sold at auction, stables are saved — for now

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

A dark-horse buyer saved these stables!

The bankrupt owner of Prospect Park's lone horse barn, Kensington Stables, sold the property at auction last month to a buyer who agreed to relieve the seller's debts and keep the building and its operators in the riding business for at least five more years, according to the stables' manager.

"The new business partner will pay those debts off and we'll be partners in running the business," said Walker Blankenship, who manages the Caton Place property owned by his mother, who inherited her late husband's outstanding financial

obligations with the barn.

The purchaser — who the sellers declined to name until a bankruptcy-court judge officially approves the deal — will also refurbish the ailing facility after assuming ownership, according to Blankenship, who did say the buyer is a longtime Kensington Stables customer.

The barn's current manager is contractually obligated to remain in his position for five years as part of the deal, and said that if the business is successful in that time, he is optimistic the new owner will keep the property as a riding facility, despite there being no formal obligation to do so in perpetuity.

"Because I'm part of the agree-

ment, I'll maintain control of the property, and I'll have a lot of say in the matter," Blankenship said. "If it can be made successful, we could go on indefinitely."

And if the stables remain, the manager said locals can expect them to expand into a neighboring warehouse that once was home to the Prospect Park Riding Academy — the school that originally commissioned the barn's construction in 1930.

"The discussion is to do an expansion," Blankenship said.

The current owners first planned to bring Kensington Stables to auction in February, but called that sale off when another dark-horse buyer swept in with an offer to transform the prop-

erty into a mixed-use development with accommodations for humans — and horses.

That deal fell through, however, and the family then talked with a number of would-be purchasers, including officials from the Department of Parks and Recreation, who hoped to preserve the stables as a public amenity.

But the city's offer did not guarantee Blankenship continued operation of the facility under the parks department, and required the family to pony up hundreds of thousands of dollars for horse care while agency honchos chose a manager for the barn, so he and his mother turned it down, believing they could get a better deal for the property at auction.



Kensington Stables's current manager, Walker Blankenship, said his mother sold the barn to a buyer who agreed to keep the building and its operators in the horseback-riding business for at least five more years.

File photo by Jordan Rathkopf



Nine healthy honey locust trees at Fort Greene Park's corner near Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street will be cut down to redesign the area, according to environment-loving locals who oppose the makeover.

## Arborcide latest fuel for flap

### Parks department to fell dozens of healthy trees in Ft. Greene Park makeover

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

It's tree-son!

City officials fibbed to advance their controversial redesign for a section of Fort Greene Park when they claimed that dozens of meadow trees destined for the hatchet are sick and near-death, because most of the green things are actually young and in prime health, according to some locals who cited a report from city-hired arborists.

"It indicates that, contrary to what our people were told along the way, poor health of trees was a very minor issue," said Michael Gruen, an attorney representing Friends of Fort Greene Park, a group that opposes the makeover.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission green-lit the polarizing changes last month following the project's September approval by Community Board 2, which cleared the way for the Depart-



ment of Parks and Recreation to break ground on it in 2019.

The agency, as part of its "Parks Without Borders Program," plans to make Fort Greene Park's entry at Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street more welcoming to pedestrians by turning it into a grand corner entrance that leads to the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, which requires leveling some hilly

mounds, creating a paved walkway to the memorial, and chopping down trees.

Parks department honchos told locals during the several-month planning process that the green things chosen for removal wouldn't survive for much longer. But the agency's forestry report — a survey of all 129 trees currently growing where the redesign would occur that Friends of Fort Greene Park received via a Freedom of Information Act request and shared with this newspaper — shows that many of the trees deemed old and ill were anything but, according to Gruen.

"They were told that approximately 50 trees were sick or bad in age, would die within a few years, and had to be removed," the lawyer said. "Removing these trees had nothing to do with their health or age."

Officials plan to axe 49 of the 129 trees in that corner of the park,



The parks department's contentious makeover of a corner of Fort Greene Park continues to draw ire.

26 of which are large Norway maples — green things classified as invasive by the city, which added the species to its "do not plant list" in 2006 — according to information from the report and parks department.

See **PARK** on page 8

NYC Parks Department

## Second life is pretty sweet

### Landmarks approves Domino building's office transformation

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

It's a refinery redefined.

A developer will transform the old Domino Sugar factory's landmarked refinery building into a futuristic glass-and-brick office space following the Landmarks Preservation Commission's Nov. 28 vote to approve the design. The greenlit proposal — which a new architect created after the building's owners scrapped the first landmarks-approved makeover — is a sweet way to preserve the waterfront structure's heritage while turning it into a contemporary workspace, according to a leader of the project.

"The new plan is better for everyone," said David Lombino, who works for developer Two Trees, which is overseeing the conversion. "It honors and highlights the landmark; provides a flexible, modern, and totally unique office experience; and welcomes the public to enjoy this great piece of New York's history."

Honchos at the Brooklyn-based real-estate company in October tapped architect Vishaan Chakrabarti from Practice for Architecture and Urbanism to make over the 19th-century Kent Avenue structure that once churned out Domino's sweet stuff.

His design calls for creating a glass-enclosed office space with a barrel-vaulted roof that is surrounded by the refinery's outer walls and set back from the brick exterior, allowing sunlight and air



The city voted to approve developer Two Trees's plan to transform the landmarked Domino Sugar refinery into office space on Nov. 28.

to flow freely between the building's old and new components, according to information from the developer. It will also include a courtyard and ground-floor space for to-be-announced restaurants and shops, as well as public bathrooms.

The architect's predecessor proposed a similar concept — a glass-enclosed office within the

refinery's current exterior — but the crystalline workspace in that version butted against the brick walls, instead of being set back from them. Landmarks commission members approved that plan in 2014, but the developer ultimately decided to scrap it out of fear it would result in a dark, unwelcoming space that could drive tenants away, according to a New

York Magazine report.

Chakrabarti first presented his design to the landmarks agency in late October, but commissioners tabled their vote and told him to come back with more specific details about how he would protect the brick facade, construct the glass vault, and maintain the industrial feel of the building's masonry openings.

The architect seemed to win the preservationists over the second time around, however, because they voted eight to one to approve his proposal.

And as promised, the iconic Domino Sugar sign, which workers ripped from the exterior of the landmarked building in 2014, will be placed atop it once construction wraps, according to a rep for the developer, who could not confirm a completion date although previous reports claimed work will wrap around 2020.

The refinery sits in the middle of the old Domino Sugar factory site that Two Trees is transforming in its mega-development project, which will include a total of five residential and commercial buildings and a park on the sprawling parcel at the edge of the East River.

This summer, tenants moved into the first of the complex's residential buildings, a 16-story high-rise at the foot of S. Fourth Street that includes an elevated courtyard, a roof deck, a health club, a lounge, and a chef's kitchen for catering.



The Prospect Park Zoo added this black-footed cat from Africa to its nocturnal exhibit.

## Bachelor on the prowl

### Zoo hopes new African cat wants to settle down

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

They hope this puss knocks boots!

A male member of Africa's smallest wild-feline species joined the menagerie at Prospect Park Zoo's nocturnal section last week, and zookeepers hope to introduce him to a female in the near future so the two can do their part in perpetuating their rarefying breed, according to the animal house's head honcho.

"Our hope is to breed the cats to contribute to the survival of the species, while edu-



**Wild Brooklyn**

cating our guests about a beautiful yet vulnerable cat species that is unknown to most people," said Denise McClean, the zoo's director.

The diminutive black-footed cat is native to Southern Africa, where it tends to keep to itself, hunting birds and rodents at night with the aid of its large eyes and razor-sharp claws.

The breed has seen better

days, however, and a loss of habitat coupled with poaching and indiscriminate trapping led the International Union for Conservation of Nature to classify black-footed cats as vulnerable, a designation the species has held since 2002.

And even though the fuzz munchkin hails from half a world away, some locals said it would look right at home hunting rats in Brooklyn.

"It does look like a regular cat," Sheepshead Bay resident Yasmine Arslan said after examining a picture of the zoo's latest fluff ball.

Julie Larsen Maher





# No LIRR train service between Jamaica Station and Atlantic Terminal December 9–10

## Ride trains between Atlantic Terminal and 34th Street/Herald Square instead

The Long Island Rail Road will be installing new switches near Atlantic Terminal on the weekend of December 9–10. During this weekend, the following changes will be in effect:

- No LIRR trains will operate between Jamaica Station and Atlantic Terminal
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For more information, call 511 or visit [mta.info/lirr](https://www.mta.info/lirr).

# A short-term splash

## Feds promise replacement for beloved Gowanus pool



By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

The Double D is getting a double!

The Feds promised to build a temporary watering hole in Gowanus before draining and demolishing the nabe's beloved Double D pool in order to remove toxic waste that a former gas plant left buried beneath the recreation area, leaders of the Gowanus Canal cleanup announced.

"We won't allow that to happen until a replacement pool is built, and nothing will happen at the park until the temporary pool is up and operating," Environmental Protection Agency honcho Walter Muggdan said at a Nov. 16 meeting about scrubbing the Superfund site.

But agency officials could not confirm where the new pool will go or when, exactly, it will be built.

Utility company National Grid, under supervision of the federal agency, must dig up the sludge below the public watering hole in Gowanus's Thomas Greene Playground as one of the polluters required to fund the cleanup of the fetid waterway and its surrounding banks.

The utility provider — which owned the gas plant that formerly occupied the parkland — must also replace the Double D once the ground beneath it is purged of toxins, and Muggdan said the city could kick in some dough towards the restoration in order to build an even better facility than before.

"The obligation then is to provide the city with a replacement of the same kind as what was there," he said. "It would be silly not to take that wonderful opportunity to improve the facilities that are there for the community."

Environmental Protection Agency honchos wanted to



Environmental Protection Agency officials promised to create a temporary replacement for Gowanus's Double D pool while it is out of commission during the federally mandated cleanup of the neighborhood's namesake canal.

use the site of the exhumed Double D as the permanent storage space for two several-million-gallon sewage tanks — which will hold raw waste and storm water so neither floods the canal when it rains — claiming the pool needed to be removed anyway in order to extract the muck underneath it and that filling the ditch with the tanks would kill two birds with one stone.

But locals slammed the proposal, charging that neighborhood youngsters would have nowhere else to take a dip during the summer months and demanding the federal agency park its sewage-packed cisterns elsewhere than the city park.

The Feds ultimately gave the city the authority to choose where the four and eight-million-gallon waste tanks should go, and the local lawmakers acquiesced to residents' demands and proposed seizing private land on Nevins and Butler streets along the canal to house the underground vessels.

City officials claimed this solution, which Community Board 6 voted to approve last month, would only require the pool to close for as long as it takes to scrub the park clean, as opposed to shutting for the entire duration of the Superfund cleanup, which they said could take as long as a decade, according to Muggdan.

"This part of the park has to be dug out anyway, but the city of New York had reasons — quite strong reasons — why it didn't do that," he said. "And quite a number of you in the community also said, 'It's one thing to lose our pool for two, three, maybe four years, but to lose it for eight to 10 years is no good.'"

But if the city — which kicked-off its attempt to use eminent domain to seize the canal-adjacent land with a Nov. 27 public hearing as part of the Uniformed Land Use Review Process — can't acquire the parcels by 2020, the Feds will move forward with installing the tanks in the

Double D's grave anyway.

And conducting a lengthy and expensive process to get the private properties — which could cost taxpayers as much as \$70 million, Crain's reported — for the sake of keeping the pool at its original site seems ludicrous, especially when the amenity is only used for a few months each year, according to a Gowanus resident who spoke at the hearing.

"We are told that we are supposed to buy into this other alternative site merely because of the environmental injustice of our neighbors, my neighbors, losing the use of the swimming pool," said Marlene Donnelly, a member of Friends and Residents Of Greater Gowanus. "Let's put our money in sewage infrastructure, not land acquisition."

The beep will next weigh in on the land-seizure proposal, followed by the Department of City Planning and then Council before it lands on Mayor DeBlasio's desk.



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# Dastardly duo robs man of his cash

## 88TH PRECINCT

### Fort Greene—Clinton Hill

A pair of louts stabbed a guy and stole his cash on Myrtle Avenue on Nov. 28, police said.

The 63-year-old victim told cops he was walking near Washington Park around 10:30 am when the two no-goodniks approached him and the first put his hand on the victim's shoulder before removing \$152 in cash from his pocket. The second malefactor then tried to knife the man when he told the baddies he had no more money, but the victim raised his hand to block the blade and wound up getting cut, officials said.

The ruffians then threw him to the ground and he hit his head, police said.

### Phantom thief

A jerk broke into a woman's Saint James Place home on Nov. 30 and stole her jewelry and electronics, cops said.

The thief broke into the apartment between Greene and Gates avenues through the front door sometime between 3:30 and 5:30 pm and swiped a Macbook Pro, diamond earrings, \$100 bills, gold rings, and a speaker, all worth a total of \$3,050, authorities said.

### Bye bye bike!

Some weasel stole a wom-

## POLICE BLOTTER

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an's keys and the Citi Bike she was using on Willoughby Street on Nov. 24, officials said.

The victim told police she dropped her keys with a key ring allowing her unlimited access to the bike service near Hall Street around 4 pm, and later got an e-mail that she was still getting charged for someone using the bike, cops said.

### In a blink

A goniff swiped a woman's wallet from her purse as she was riding a G train near Lafayette Avenue on Nov. 28, police said.

The scofflaw must have reached inside the 39-year-old victim's purse and grabbed her wallet while aboard the Church Avenue-bound green bullet, which she boarded at the Classon Avenue station, cops said.

And when the woman hopped off near Fulton Street, she realized her bag was open and her wallet with her driver's license, five credit cards, BJ's card, and Patrolmen's Benevolent Association card, all worth a total of \$45, was miss-

ing, according to a report.

### Wallet woes

Some sneak stole a woman's wallet at a DeKalb Avenue hospital on Nov. 29, police said.

The 27-year-old said she dropped her wallet containing her Dominican Republic identification card, United States resident card, and two credit cards in the medical center near Willoughby Street around 2 pm, and later got a call from one of the credit-card companies that some baddie was using the cards, authorities said.

—Julianne Cuba

## 84TH PRECINCT

### Brooklyn Heights—Dumbo—Boerum Hill—Downtown

### Checking out

A thief robbed a Duffield Street hotel at gunpoint on Dec. 4, taking cash, officials said.

An employee told police that the suspect walked into the hotel between Willoughby and Fulton streets at 4:15 am, holding what looked like a gun

inside his pocket and snarling, "Give me the money, or I'll shoot."

The thief fled with two cash registers containing \$1,500, but cops arrived on the scene quickly and a foot chase along Prince Street ensued, which resulted in the perp escaping, but leaving his ill-gotten gains for cops to recover, police said.

### Code breaker

Some goon stole a man's phone on Pacific Street on Dec. 1 after forcing the victim into giving up his passcode, authorities said.

The victim, 15, told police he was between Third and Fourth avenues at 4:31 pm when the suspect snatched his phone and barked, "Enter your passcode, or I will f--- you up."

The teen duly complied, and the brute absconded with his \$900 iPhone 8, cops said.

### Boy burgled

Two thieves robbed a 15-year-old boy on Livingston Street on Dec. 1, police said.

The victim told authorities he was strolling with a friend near Flatbush Avenue at 3:45 pm when some goon pressed an unknown object against his back, while an accomplice went through his pockets, and pulled out his debit card and smart phone.

The crooks fled with their stolen stuff, and a police search came up short, officials said.

### Rough commute

Some crook beat and robbed a straphanger waiting at the DeKalb Avenue subway station on Dec. 1, cops said.

The victim told police he was standing on the Manhattan-bound platform at the station near Flatbush Avenue Extension when the crook snatched the phone from his hand and shoved him before fleeing with three other men.

### Beats bandit

Cops arrested a man who stole a guy's headphones and threatened him with a pair of scissors inside a Main Street building on Dec. 1.

The victim told police he forgot his headphones in the building between Water and Front streets at 8:30 am, and returned to find them in the suspect's possession.

The 29-year-old suspect allegedly refused to return the \$300 headphones, and at one point brandished a pair of scissors, shouting, "Come in and get them," officials said.

Police busted the suspect on robbery charges and recovered the victim's valuables in his backpack later that day, authorities said.

## 78TH PRECINCT

### Park Slope

### Reefer madness

Patrolmen busted two guys for allegedly smoking pot on separate occasions last month.

One officer was near Prospect Place and Carlton Avenue at 1 am on Nov. 20 when he spotted a man smoking a joint on the street, cops said. Authorities pinched another alleged pot smoker on Wykoff Street between Nevins Street and Third Avenue at 9:25 am on Nov. 25, after a cop spotted him with a joint in his hand, according to a report.

Both men were arrested and charged with criminal possession of marijuana, cops said.

### Teen terror

Cops busted a 16-year-old boy suspected of stealing a man's phone and threatening to shoot the victim when he demanded his device be returned inside a Hanson Place shopping center on Nov. 22.

The victim, 60, told police he stopped inside the mall between Hanson Place and At-

lantic Avenue to charge his phone at 3:50 am, when the suspect approached him and started up a conversation. As the pair spoke, the alleged crook slyly unplugged the man's device from its charger and slid it into his pocket, but he wasn't slick enough, and the older fellow called him out on it, cops said.

The suspect, not willing to hand over his illicit item, then reached into his waistband and the told victim he'd shoot him, police said. But the crook didn't get far after that — New York's Finest booked him that night on a robbery charge, according to a report.

### Pie guts

Police arrested two men, ages 45 and 53, accused of busting into a Fifth Avenue pizza joint on Nov. 22.

The suspects allegedly made numerous attempts to force their way into the pie spot between 10th and 11th streets at around 3:45 am, before finally breaking open the front door and letting themselves inside, according to cops, who said the pair hung around for a few minutes, but didn't take anything and soon fled.

Someone from the restaurant reported the break-in around 2 pm, and investigators made short work of tracking down the suspects, who were arrested on attempted burglary charges that day, cops said. —Colin Mixson

## 68TH PRECINCT

### Bay Ridge—Dyker Heights

### Rider robbed

A punk stole a man's iPhone 7, driver's license, and debit and credit cards when he was sleeping on the N train between the Bay Parkway and Eighth Avenue stations on Dec. 3, cops said.

The man told police that he got on the train at Stillwell Avenue station at 3 am, and missed his stop at Bay Parkway because he fell asleep. He woke up at Eighth Avenue by 4 am and realized his phone — along with its wallet case and the cards — was missing, authorities said.

### Cash grabber

A lout stole a little more than \$700 from a Ridge man's purloined debit card at an ATM on 18th Avenue at some point after Nov. 13, police said.

The thief snagged the cash at the corner of 65th Street, according to a report.

### Stroller heist

A lowlife stole \$300 in cash plus a woman's debit card, two credit cards, and driver's license from inside her child's stroller after she left it briefly to drop off her kid at daycare on Ridge Boulevard on Nov. 30, cops said.

The theft occurred within a 10-minute window between 7:40 and 7:50 am, when the woman briefly abandoned her childless stroller when on the sidewalk at 71st street, according to a report.

### Out of order

A no-goodnik stole a little more than \$1,000 via a money order that a Ridge man mailed to his landlord from his Fourth Avenue home some time after June 5, authorities said.

The man told police on Dec. 1 that he mailed the funds from his home between 72nd and 73rd streets after 10 am that June day. But a lout cashed the money order soon after he sent it, cops said.

### Left it, lost it

A miscreant stole a man's wallet, citizenship card, two credit cards, and a debit card from inside his unlocked car parked on 14th Avenue between Nov. 26 and 29, police said.

The man parked the car at 81st Street at 4 pm on the 26th and returned at noon on the 29th to find the items gone, cops said. —Julianne McShane



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# Up in arms

## Armory redevelopment plan prompts a lawsuit

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

The battle over this military structure is heading to court.

A group of pro-bono legal eagles sued the city over its controversial scheme to redevelop the Bedford-Union Armory, filing suit in state Supreme Court the day before Council voted to approve the plan on Nov. 30.

Attorneys at the Legal Aid Society allege the DeBlasio Administration is clueless to the negative effects that the project's massive amount of market-rate apartments will have on Crown Heights residents because of a flawed environmental-review process for the development and other building proposals city-wide.

"The city's methodology not only puts Crown Heights tenants at risk, but others barely making rent in every borough," said Judith Goldiner, the lead Legal Aid lawyer on the armory suit.

Hizzoner's hotly contested proposal to lease the publicly owned military structure at 1579 Bedford Ave. to developer BFC Partners survived its months-long public-review



Photo by Stefania Giovannini

process after the real-estate company and the city's Economic Development Corporation agreed last month to axe 48 luxury condos from and include more affordable housing in the plan in order to win the approval of Councilwoman Laurie Cumbo (D-Crown Heights), which was key to its success.

But opponents of the scheme, which also calls for 149 market-rate units, argue that building those apartments on public land is unacceptable, and that the influx of wealthy occupants they will draw will push less-affluent residents out, according to the head of a tenants' rights group that supports the suit.

"We joined this lawsuit because we are opposed to market-rate housing on public land," said Katie Goldstein, who runs Tenants & Neighbors. "We believe that a market-rate project of this magnitude in this neighborhood will lead to displacement of both unregulated and regulated tenants."

Legal Aid's complaint alleges that a city rule requiring developers to study the effects of new housing on tenants who occupy market-rate apartments — but not rent-regulated units — is unfair, claiming that some residents who benefit from rent stabilization could be harassed by greedy landlords as area rents rise, according to Goldiner.

"Gentrification affects all apartments — regulated or unregulated — and the city's land-use decisions need to factor in that reality," she said. For instance, a legal loophole allows landlords of stabilized buildings to entice tenants by charging a preferential rent that is less than the maximum legal rent they could collect in any given year, and then increase the rent — sometimes drastically — to the legal limit when renewing occupants' leases, a practice that could occur more frequently as

neighborhoods' rents rise.

The lawsuit also claims that residents never received their legal right to publicly comment on and request changes to the manual by which city officials conduct a project's environmental-review process, Goldiner said.

A state Supreme Court judge denied a restraining order Legal Aid's attorneys sought to halt construction on the armory development, but allowed the case to move forward, according to the organization's spokesman, who said a ruling is expected before the city officially awards the contract to BFC Partners in June.

And if the justice rules in Legal Aid's favor, the decision could have wide-ranging effects on several ongoing developments and rezoning initiatives throughout the city, which would have to repeat environmental reviews and potentially alter existing schemes, Goldiner said.

"They would have to go back and make sure that in pending and future actions where they've done an environmental review that they study that issue," the lawyer said.

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By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

To walk, or to park: that is the question.

Owners of property along a stretch of Prospect Park West may have to sacrifice street parking in order to repair a treacherous brick sidewalk that locals continue to stumble and injure themselves on, according to a leader of the Department of Transportation.

The agency's borough commissioner Keith Bray announced the Sophie's Choice to a crowd of residents and business owners during a public meeting on Tuesday, claiming that in order for the city to fund repaving the dangerous walkway that runs from Bartel Pritchard Square to 18th Street, any project would have to include traffic-safety improvements in the form of sidewalk extensions that would

gobble up parking and narrow the roadway near intersections—a compromise that some locals called a no-brainer.

"For the good of the community, if it's between a parking space or a person being crippled or killed by a hard fall, I would vote to give up parking spaces," said Don Kent, who owns a building on Windsor Place a few doors down from Prospect Park West. "Which is more important: a parking space or someone's life?"

Workers installed the brick sidewalk in 1987 and residents strolled it without issue for about a decade, said area property-owner Scott Nagel, who served as the head of the Prospect Park West Merchants Association when the masonry was first laid.

The path eventually fell into disrepair, but proved far more difficult to maintain than its concrete counterparts, accord-



Community News Group / Colin Mixson

Water seeps below the sidewalk's bricks, causing them to shift out of place and trip pedestrians.

ing to the local, who estimated he spends an average of \$200 per year repairing the bricks outside his building—as opposed to an average of \$400 per decade that he guessed he would pay for upkeep of concrete.

Another Prospect Park West property owner, Maureen Pynn, claimed fixing ma-

sonry that was dislodged by a tree root outside her lot cost her \$3,000 last year alone.

And even with regular maintenance, the sidewalk's bricks remain a constant hazard to pedestrians—especially seniors—many of whom suffered nasty falls over the years, according to

# Falls prompt tough call

## Locals may have to forfeit parking to fix scary sidewalk

Kent, who said his 75-year-old neighbor got five stitches after taking a spill and that he met a younger man who broke his knee tripping over a loose block.

But not all locals welcomed Bray's solution requiring the installation of sidewalk extensions known as bump-outs, and Nagel said he'd rather get a group of fellow property owners to fund repaving the walkway, or find another fix that doesn't sacrifice parking.

"It's a great idea to ask the city for money, but I think that the bump-outs are probably a very bad idea," he said. "I'd be happy to chip in 50–50 to fix the whole thing. If I put in \$1,500 and the city ponies up the difference, I'd be happier than getting bump-outs."

And Pynn said that if officials restrict the number of extensions per block to one or two, residents might be more amenable to installing them.

"We'd probably want the bare minimum, because parking is such a big issue," she said. "Why would we give up two spaces when you can give up half a space?"

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ENYMKT-0337-17



# 'Foods' for thought

Amazon-owned grocer to open Ft. Greene store in Jan.

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

It's a Whole new place to shop!

Whole Foods will open its long-awaited Fort Greene mini-market on Jan. 31 next year, honchos of the Amazon-owned supermarket chain announced on Tuesday. The new Whole Foods Market 365 — the store's inaugural East Coast branch — joins the just-opened Apple Downtown Brooklyn as a retailer inside the nabe's swanky 32-story 300 Ashland tower.

The store's inventory will be similar to that at its larger sister locations in Williamsburg and Gowanus, but will boast a less robust selection of ready-to-go meals and grocery items — which have included such head-scratching offerings as "asparagus water" and plastic-enclosed pre-peeled oranges.

Several high-end food sell-



A new Whole Foods Market 365 will open inside Fort Greene's 300 Ashland tower next January.

ers including a bakery-and-coffee joint, an organic-juice bar, and a 100-percent plant-based burger slinger will also set up shop inside the store, according to the supermarket's honchos.

And shoppers will be just steps from a branch of the Brooklyn Public Library, a home for the Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts, and a new Brooklyn Academy of Music cinema — all of which are moving into the 379-apartment high-rise near Lafayette Avenue.

Whole Foods Market 365 isn't the first trendy grocer to arrive in the area — earlier this year, a second Brooklyn outpost of Trader Joe's opened just a few blocks away at Downtown's City Point complex.

Whole Foods Market 365 (292 Ashland Place between Lafayette Avenue and Hanson Place in Fort Greene). Opens Jan. 31, 2018.



## Greeting Santa

Some kids still skeptics at Fort Greene Park spectacle

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

It was the fright before Christmas!

Fort Greeners descended upon their nabe's namesake park on Dec. 3 for a tree-lighting ceremony where some youngsters wowed by the dazzling spectacle were less thrilled about encountering its guest of honor — who rode his sleigh from the North Pole to join locals at the bash — according to one mom.

"She was quite excited when they lit the tree up, not so keen on Santa," Clinton Hill resident Tatiana Gott said of her 2-and-a-half-year-old daughter Fridha, whom she brought to the holiday celebration. "I asked her if she wanted to meet Santa and she said,

'No mommy, no, no.' She was a little scared."

Another mother whose 15-month-old son paid his first visit to the jolly old elf at the festivities near Myrtle Avenue and Washington Park described that meeting as slightly more successful.

"It wasn't a complete disaster — he was slightly scared, but he wasn't like freaking out," said Clinton Hill local Jennifer Sgobbo of her tyke Julian Russell. "It was his first time sitting on Santa's lap."

Kids spooked by Saint Nick lifted their spirits by munching on cookies, sipping on hot cocoa, and listening to a neighborhood choir perform classic yuletide melodies at the fourth-annual party.



(Top) These tots joined the man of the hour in his sleigh during the festivities. (Above) Tatiana Gott, right, and daughter Fridha snacked on some of Santa's favorite baked goods.




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## A different kind of healing

Hospital to reimburse patients charged for rape kits

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

Administrators at the Brooklyn Hospital Center in Fort Greene must cut checks to sexual-assault victims who were illegally billed for rape kits over the past several years, New York State's Attorney General said on Nov. 28 while announcing a settlement he reached with hospital officials.

The state's top prosecutor cut the deal with the medical center's honchos after an investigation uncovered that Brooklyn Hospital broke the law when it charged sexual-assault survivors for their tests—a horrible and illegal mistake that only added to the victims' burdens, he said.

"It's hard to imagine the heartache and anxiety a survivor must feel having to fight a collection agency over an unlawful bill for a rape kit," Eric Schneiderman said in a statement. "It's unacceptable, and we will not allow it to continue."

The attorney general started sniffing around at the DeKalb Avenue hospital after a patient complained



His hard look revealed that between January 2015 and February 2017, medical-center administrators incorrectly billed 85 out of 86 rape-exam recipients, either by directly sending invoices to patients or submitting them to their insurers without discussing payment options as required by the law, according to the investigation report.

Hospital officials claimed the charges were merely a clerical error, but agreed to overhaul their protocols to ensure similar mistakes never happen again as part of the settlement, according to the facility's head honcho.

"There was an inadvertent breakdown in our billing processes related to sexual assault victims, which we deeply regret," Gary Terri-noni said in a statement, in which he also pledged to follow laws in place to protect sexual-assault victims.

If you would like to issue a complaint regarding the hospital's billing or other healthcare issues, contact the Attorney General's Health Care Helpline at (800) 428-9071.

Honchos at Fort Greene's Brooklyn Hospital Center will repay sexual-assault victims who were illegally charged for rape kits as part of a settlement reached with New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman that the top prosecutor announced on Tuesday.

that she received seven bills for a forensic-rape exam she underwent in its emergency room. Sexual-assault survi-

vors are entitled to free emergency care under New York State law, according to Schneiderman.

## PARK...

Continued from page 1

Foresters initially pegged the maples as young and healthy after a visual assessment of their condition and size, according to a parks department spokeswoman, who said the agency later learned the trees were likely added in the early 1970s when they were between five and 10-years-old and claimed they are "certainly not young trees."

But a 10-year-old Norway maple planted in 1970 would be 57, which is only one third of the species' total lifespan, according to information from a State University of New York college.

The agency will also cut down around 23 non-maple trees in the area—including

some London planes, honey locusts, and zelkovas—only nine of which are sick, according to the forestry report. The rest, including all nine honey locusts currently standing at the corner being made over, are being felled to accommodate the new design, the document says.

Workers will replace most of the uprooted green things with saplings from the much smaller caliper species, which is about three-to-five inches in diameter as opposed to the Norway maple's heftier 10-to-13 inch girth, the parks department spokeswoman said.

Friends of Fort Greene Park members hired an independent arborist from Glaeser Horticultural Consulting to review the vitality of the to-be-felled trees, and that in-

vestigation showed the green things are young and in good health, though it did note that a handful of maple trees suffer from minor root problems that could be corrected without cutting them down.

Residents' outcry over the trees getting the axe led some top city officials to question the plan, with one demanding the Landmarks Preservation Commission rescind its approval of the makeover until the city truly reviews the environmental impacts of removing the green things and other aspects of the redesign, including leveling the grassy mounds and covering absorbent grass with a paved walkway.

"I believe that the city has not done its due process, and that the redesign dulls the environmentally resilient features that the park currently

provides, such as mitigating storm water runoff," Public Advocate Letitia James penned in a Nov. 27 letter to the commission. "The city has not done the proper environmental review."

James fired off the letter hoping it would prompt the landmarks agency to reconsider its vote, according to a spokesperson. Her mis-quest followed a similar request for a supplemental environmental study that Gruen made ahead of the commission's vote, which the preservationists did not act on.

But the city does not need the landmarks agency's approval to conduct a supplementary environmental review, according to a rep, who did not comment on whether the commission would consider rescinding its vote.

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## Ha-Hanukkah



Photo by Zoe Freilich

It's a Jewish festival of laughs.

Two Jewish comedienne will open the first night of Hanukkah with a gift of laughter. The second annual "Chanukahstravaganza: Night of a Thousand Jews" on Dec. 12 at Union Hall in Park Slope, will feature 10 Jewish performers cracking jokes and singing songs about dreidels, inexhaustible oils, and the proper spelling of "Hanukkah" — or possibly "Chanukah." Its creators were tired of the Festival of Lights being outshone by Christmas trees and Rudolph's nose, said one of the founders.

"I do really love Christmas, I'm a big Christmas fan, but I also love Hanukkah, and it kind of always upset me that Hanukkah doesn't get as much shine as Christmas does," said Lana Schwartz, who lives in Williamsburg.

And though the focus is on a Jewish holiday, the hosts say that Gentile audiences will still be able to appreciate the jokes.

"At the end of the day, you're still seeing some of the funniest, best comedians in the city," Schwartz said. "It's something that you can still enjoy."

"Chanukahstravaganza" at Union Hall (702 Union St. between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope, [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)). Dec. 12 at 8 pm. \$10 (\$8 in advance). — **Julianne McShane**

## PHOTOS

## Building sight



Ahmed Mater

It's a glimpse of an unseen city!

A new exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum makes visitors feel like they have traveled to the holy city of Mecca — a destination forbidden to non-Muslims. A Saudi photographer spent years documenting the construction boom that has recently transformed the city, and his show "Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys" offers a unique glimpse at a city off-limits to most Brooklynites, said the show's curator.

"Because Mecca is a city that can be visited only by Muslims, the exhibition provides a window into a place and a culture many people in the world will never have the opportunity to experience first-hand," said Catherine Morris.

The exhibit includes 28 oversized photographs, six videos, a symbolic sculpture, and a floor-to-ceiling installation of windows that Mater rescued from historic building slated for demolition. The large photos, the smallest of which are more than nine feet long, help visitors to feel immersed in the scene, said Ahmed Mater.

"It has been amazing to see how these unexpected perspectives of a city most of the audience have never, and will never visit, have surprised and engaged," he said.

"Ahmed Mater: Mecca Journeys" at Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)). \$16 donation. — **Alexandra Simon**

## NIGHTLIFE

## Disco fever!

Hustle back to Bay Ridge!

A group of dedicated "Saturday Night Fever" fans will celebrate the film's 40th anniversary by bringing its disco setting back to life! For the night of Dec. 13, the 2001 Odyssey nightclub will return to the Bay Ridge space it once occupied for a free, blow-out dance party. The organizer of the event said that she and her five feverish friends want to bring Brooklynites back to 1977 by recreating the iconic spot.

"When I think of the movie, the first thought in my head is the 2001 Odyssey," said Stephanie Ovadia, who grew up in Canarsie.

The former disco at 64th Street and Eighth Avenue is now home to Bamboo Garden, a Chinese restaurant, but organizers will restore the spot to its original glory by installing a light-up dance floor and disco balls for the night.

At the party, original cast member Karen Lynn Gorney will hustle the night away as discos stars Carol Douglas, Randy from the Village People, and the Trammps play Tony Manero's favorite songs, including "Disco Inferno."

Ovadia said that the pack of fans was inspired to recreate the space by their nostalgic longing for a simpler time.

"There's a bunch of people who love this time period — it was cell phone-free, people actually spoke to each other," she said.

At the free dance party, which can hold up to 500 people, cell phones will be allowed, but 1970s outfits are mandatory, said Ovadia, who planned ahead by putting a jumpsuit on layaway.

"I'm going all '70s," she said.

**Saturday Night Fever 40th Anniversary** (802 64th St. at Eighth Avenue in Bay Ridge, [www.40thanniversaryreception.com](http://www.40thanniversaryreception.com)). Dec. 13 at 5 pm. Free with RSVP.

— **Julianne McShane**



Brooklyn Paper's essential guide to the Boroughs — 14, 2017

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## OPENING

**Kick Axe** [622 Degraw St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, (833) 542-5293, [www.kickaxe.com](http://www.kickaxe.com)]. Opens Dec. 15. \$35.

Let it rip: One ax-pert shows how it's done at Kick Axe in Gowanus, set to open on Dec. 15.

## It's cutting edge!

## Boozy hatchet-hurling range to open in Gowanus

By **Julianne Cuba**  
Brooklyn Paper

This place is literally Kick Axe! Hurl a hatchet into a wooden bulls-eye at the city's first-ever axe throwing range — Kick Axe — in Gowanus, when it opens its doors on Dec. 15. The Pennsylvania-based owners gave the unconventional sport a try in their hometown, and knew it would be the perfect ax-perimental entertainment addition to hip Brooklyn, said Ginger Flesher-Sonnier, who co-owns the Degraw Street lodge with her husband, along with another soon-to-open range in Washington, DC, and multiple escape rooms.

"We thought it would be awesome. I fell in love with axe throwing and thought it would be an incredible experience for others to

have," she said. "We're into the experimental entertainment, we own escape rooms in D.C., we thought this would fit in."

Kick Axe is the first axe-throwing range in the five boroughs, but interest in the cutting-edge sport is definitely growing, and everyone should take a stab at it, said Flesher-Sonnier.

"We're very excited about being first," she said. "We hope it will be well received."

The Degraw Street range boasts a cozy lumberjack feel, with fur rugs, pillow-stuffed couches, and a warm fire blazing behind glass near the bar — that's right, there is a bar! So before you experience the fun of throwing a bladed weapon through the air, you can calm your nerves by downing some beer, wine, or malt beverages.

The lodge is also stocked with flannel shirts and faux axes you can grab while pos-

ing inside its photo-booth. The real choppers have to stay on the throwing range, but the props are perfect for sharing on all your social media platforms, said Flesher-Sonnier.

"We're kind of going for the urban lumberjack theme," she said. "The decor is a lodge."

Guests pay \$35 to use one of the 10 ranges, and get their own personal ax-pert — a trained expert axe thrower — who first explains all of the safety rules and protocols before anyone is allowed to enter the range and pick up the hatchet.

Lone wolves, pairs of two, and larger parties are all welcome, but only two throwers and their guide are allowed inside the range at a time, according to ax-pert Allison Grosso, Flesher-Sonnier's daughter.

Axe throwing is more about momen-

tum than it is about strength, said Grosso, so even those with noodle arms can give it whirl.

And if this not-very-muscular reporter — who prefers to slice with words rather than weapons — could satisfyingly sink the sharp blade right into the red circle in the center of a fir tree plank, then anyone can. After a quick lesson — and just a few unsuccessful throws that landed first on the ground, and then along the outer rings — bullseye!

All axe throwers must sign a waiver before entering the range, and must imbibe responsibly if they visit the bar, said Flesher-Sonnier.

"We will be very careful in how we monitor consumption," she said. "Anybody who appears to be intoxicated or throwing unsafely will not be able to continue."



**Power couple:** Luisa Boyaggi and Lorinne Lampert duel in their roles as mothers of the bride and groom, respectively, in "It Shoulda Been You."

## The farce is familiar

## Wedding musical is a fun, but stock story

It shoulda been shorter. But that's my only real complaint about "It Shoulda Been You," the latest musical production from Park Slope's Gallery Players, playing through Dec. 17. The play is a bit of fluff, a frothy farce that should go down like a flute of champagne — so when the first act starts to drag, it's like getting overserved, until the second-act palate cleanser wipe away all sins.

"It Shoulda Been You" is a mismatched wedding comedy — the bride is Jewish, the groom is "so white-bread, he bleeds mayonnaise," their families are appalled, and her ex-boyfriend shows up to ruin everything. The story is well-worn, but it's well-made — the mothers meddle, the bride gets cold feet, and characters pop in and out of doorways in a Scooby Doo-esque chase sequence. So the story is predictable — until suddenly it's not.

## The Butcher of Flatbush Ave. Extension



A twist at the end of the overlong first act is genuinely unexpected — it brought gasps from the audience — and it invigorates the second half with extra laughs and energy, dragging the plot from the sitcom conventions of the 1960s into, if not quite the present day, at least 2010, and giving every character a chance to show a new side.

Whatever the era, these performers are killing it. At the Saturday matinee this reviewer saw, they took a group of familiar characters and played them to the hilt. Gin-drinking WASP mama Georgette Howard (Lorinne Lampert), is deliciously bitchy, and she is ably matched in a passive aggressive-off

against the mother of the bride (Luisa Boyaggi), in a scene that threatens to come to blows at any moment.

The secondary characters sparkle around the edges of the story. Joseph Peterson, as the fey, seemingly-omniscient wedding planner Albert, is a dream, wafting over the production and sprinkling fairy dust over the fourth wall as needed. Walter's barely-competent assistant Walt, played by Sam Laasko, steals many of the laughs, and as does Sonya Rice, vamping it up as the boozey, man-hungry Aunt Sheila.

You've got two more weekends to catch this lightweight delight — just be sure to hang on until the end.

"It Shoulda Been You" at the Gallery Players (199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com)). Playing through Dec. 17, Wed-Fri at 8 pm; Sat, 2 pm and 8 pm, Sun, 3 pm. \$25 (\$20 students and seniors).



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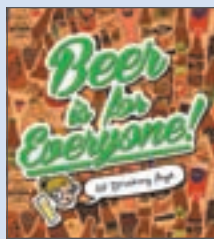
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# WHERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

### FRIDAY

Dec. 8



#### Drink and drawings

You don't need to read to educate yourself about booze! Cartoonist Em Sauter launches her graphic novel "Beer is for Everyone (of Drinking Age)" tonight at the Brooklyn Brewery, an illustrated guide to the brewing process and the many malt beverages it can produce.

7-9 pm at Brooklyn Brewery (79 N. 11th St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, [www.brooklynbrewery.com](http://www.brooklynbrewery.com)). Free.

### SATURDAY

Dec. 9

#### December-fest!

Celebrate Oktoberfest a little late, when German beerhall Black Forest Brooklyn celebrates the official grand opening of its second spot on Smith Street. The early-evening four-course meal is sold out, but at 9 pm the owners will tap a keg of free booze and begin the traditional stein-holding contest!

9 pm at Black Forest on Smith (181 Smith St. between Warren and Baltic streets in Boerum Hill, (718) 522-1806, [www.blackforestbrooklyn.com](http://www.blackforestbrooklyn.com)). Free.



### SUNDAY

Dec. 10



#### Silent sprite

It's not all booze this week! Get a taste of classic film with "True Heart Susie," a 1919 romance starring Lillian Gish as a girl who falls for the boy next door. Today's show is a tribute to late pianist Stuart Oderman, who helped launch the monthly film series in 2002, and who started his career as a film accompanist meeting Gish in 1954.

12:30 pm at Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch (10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100, [www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.brooklynpubliclibrary.org)). Free.

### MONDAY

Dec. 11

#### Holiday spirits

Booze with Scrooge! At "Drunk Christmas Carol," the inebriated actors of Drunken Restoration will combine a reading of the Charles Dickens classic with a drinking game, with the audience getting in on the action along with notorious sot the Ghost of Christmas Present (pictured).

8 pm at New York Distilling Company (79 Richardson St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, [www.drunke restoration.com](http://www.drunke restoration.com)). \$12 (includes one free drink).



### WEDNESDAY

Dec. 13



#### How Swede it is!

It's time to party with the Swedish Consulate General! The diplomatic group chose the lineup for tonight's Sweden Makes Music 2017 show, featuring four female-fronted bands from the Scandinavian country, including pop singer Janice (pictured), rock act Pale Honey, folk singer Sarah Klang, and electronica act sweeep.

7 pm at Baby's All Right (146 Broadway between Bedford and Driggs avenues in Williamsburg, (718) 599-5800, [sweden-makes-music-2017.confetti.events](http://sweden-makes-music-2017.confetti.events)). Free with RSVP.

## NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

### FRI, DEC. 8

**MUSIC, ROOTS AND RUCKUS FESTIVAL:** This four-day extravaganza of Americana music will feature more than 30 old-timey bands playing on two stages. Free. 6 pm. Jalopy Theatre (315 Columbia St. between Hamilton Avenue and Woodhull Street in Red Hook, (718) 395-3214, [www.jalopy.biz](http://www.jalopy.biz)).

**ART, SOUP KITCHEN 2017:** Every night in December, an artist provides a free one-pot meal for 15-20 people, and present a one-night exhibit or other arts event. Free. 7 pm. Open Source Gallery (306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279-3969, [www.open-source-gallery.org](http://www.open-source-gallery.org)).

**COMEDY, COMEDY OUTLIERS WINTER HOLIDAY SHOW:** Brandon Collins and Mike Brown bring the holiday cheer to their stand-up showcase. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 7 pm. Union Hall (702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400, [www.unionhallny.com](http://www.unionhallny.com)).

**DINING, AMERICAN WHISKEY TASTING:** Sample a selection of American whiskeys from across the nation, along with an array of delicious cheeses and breads. \$45. 7 pm. The Old Stone House (336 Third St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (718) 768-3195, [theold-stonehouse.org](http://theold-stonehouse.org)).

**DINING, A TASTE OF GUAM:** First Taste Brooklyn offers an eight-course tasting menu that examines Chamorro culture from the island of Guam. Drinks are included. \$85. 7 pm. Space Ninety 8 (98 N. Sixth St. between Berry Street and Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg), [www.first-tastebrooklyn.com](http://www.first-tastebrooklyn.com).

**MUSIC, JAWS OF LOVE:** Featuring Kelley Ayer of Local Natives, with opening act Combat! \$20. 8 pm. Park Church Co-op (129 Russell St. between Nassau and Driggs avenues in Greenpoint), [www.parkchurch-coop.org](http://www.parkchurch-coop.org).

**COMEDY, HEBEN AND TRACY'S KWANZAA SPECTACULAR:** Join Tracy Clayton and Heben Nigatu for a holiday party and live taping of their podcast "Another Round." \$25. 8 pm. Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [thebellhouse.com](http://thebellhouse.com)).



Lasers lights: Indie electronica act Odesza, just nominated for two Grammys, will rock Barclays Center on Dec. 15.

## COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

### SAT, DEC 9

COMEDY, CHRIS ROCK: \$89-\$256. 8 pm.

### MON, DEC 11

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V WASHINGTON CAPITALS: \$15-\$147. 7 pm.

### TUE, DEC 12

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V WASHINGTON WIZARDS: \$12-\$180. 7:30 pm.

### WED, DEC 13

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V DALLAS STARS: \$15-\$137. 7 pm.

### THU, DEC 14

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V NEW YORK KNICKS: \$44-\$355. 7:30 pm.

### FRI, DEC 15

MUSIC, ODESZA: \$24-\$123. 7:30 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)

### SAT, DEC. 9

**MUSIC, ROOTS AND RUCKUS FESTIVAL:** 6 pm. See Friday, Dec. 8.  
**MUSIC, BRAINIAC TRIBUTE SHOW:** With Girls Against Boys, The Heist, Savak, and others. \$25. 8 pm. Bell House (149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510, [www.thebellhouse.com](http://www.thebellhouse.com)).

**DANCE, "THE GREAT RUSSIAN NUTCRACKER":** The Moscow Ballet company performs the Tchaikovsky classic ballet, featuring lavish costumes in the style of the Victorian era, elaborate backdrops, and growing 50-foot tall Christmas tree. \$32-\$167. 2 pm and 7 pm. Kings Theatre (1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush), [www.kingstheatre.com](http://www.kingstheatre.com).

**MARKET, WINTER FLEA AND HOLIDAY MARKET:** The Brooklyn Flea moves to Industry City for the winter, with 50 retail vendors and 10 Smorgasburg food stalls, plus a bar with wine, beer, and cocktails. Free. 11 am-6 pm. Industry City (241 37th St., second floor, between Second and Third avenues in Sunset Park).

**ART, ART AND YOGA:** Stretch in the museum's Beaux-Arts Court, the wander through the galleries on a tour of contemplative objects. \$10. 9 am. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000, [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)).

**FILM, "FOR A BETTER LIFE":** An animated short film that tells the true story of a 5-year-old boy sold for \$100. A panel discussion about foster care and child trafficking follows. \$15. 5 pm. Halyards (406 Third Ave. at Sixth Street in Gowanus), [www.fostercarefilm.com](http://www.fostercarefilm.com).

See 9 DAYS on page 12

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**This means war:** (Left to right) The new comic series “War Cry,” from Brooklyn artist Dean Haspiel, stars a person of mass destruction. The alter-ego of superheroine War Cry is a young man struggling to reconcile his different identities.

# ‘War’ between sexes

*New comic stars gender-swapping superhero*

By **Bill Rounly**

Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn has a new hero! A busy new superheroine patrols the skies of New Brooklyn in a gender-bending new online comic that launched at Webtoons.com this week. “War Cry,” named after its lead character, a black gay man who transforms into a warrior goddess, is a convoluted story that balances questions of identity with smash ‘em up action, said its creator.

“It’s a very complicated comic that I had to figure out a way to write,” said Carroll Gardens cartoonist Dean Haspiel.

“War Cry” is a sequel to his series “The Red Hook,” about a superpowered thief forced to do good, in a universe in which Brooklyn becomes sentient and literally separates from the United States. When creating the new main character, Haspiel said he was inspired by two classic superheroes: Captain Marvel, a kid who transforms



Photo by Jason Speckman

**World builder:** Artist Dean Haspiel has created his own universe of superhero comics, set in a “New Brooklyn” where the borough has seceded from the United States.

into an adult hero when he shouts the word “Shazam!” and the superhuman cyborg called OMAC, for One Man Army Corps.

“I always liked the idea of those two characters, and I wanted to do a mash-up,” he said. “And I wanted to do a comic where a young kid shouts

a word — and the hero he becomes is this female goddess called War Cry. So instead of One Man Army Corps, it’s One Woman Army Corps.”

The adventure story comes with a dose of melodramatic romance, because the ferocious female he becomes is also the reincarnation of the Red Hook’s dead girlfriend.

“We have to navigate all this through the eyes of the Red Hook — and he just wants his girlfriend back,” said Haspiel. “It becomes this kind of star-crossed Romeo versus Juliet — or maybe Romeo versus Juliet and Julio!”

The series appears on the website Linetoons, which is also available as an app for smartphones. The images are optimized for phone viewing, with panels appearing in a single long scroll, though Haspiel plans to collect the series in a more traditional book format when it is completed.

The series launched with a bang on Dec. 6, dropping its first three chapters all at once. New chapters will follow each Wednesday for the

next 23 weeks.

Haspiel, who has also drawn “The Amazing Spider-Man” and “Batman Adventures,” had fun with his new series, throwing in references to some of his favorite heroes with a line-up of doomed superheroes.

“Knowing that I was going to dispose of these characters pretty quickly, I wanted to hip-check some icons, you know — there’s a Batman, there’s a Superman,” he said.

The story showcases locations around the borough, including the Brooklyn Bridge, the Red Hook grain silo, and an analogue of popular dim sum restaurant Pacificana in Sunset Park. Putting his super-characters in the real world — even a fantasy version of the world — helps the high-flying action to feel more grounded, said Haspiel.

“You can make up characters, but if you can put them in real places, it feels more real,” he said.

“War Cry” at Line Webtoons, [www.webtoons.com](http://www.webtoons.com). Free.



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## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 10

## SUN, DEC. 10

**MUSIC, DESSOFF CHOIRS HOLIDAY CONCERT:** The Dessoff Choirs "Welcome Yule" celebrates the holiday season with contemporary arrangement of carols, including a sing-in of Handel's "Messiah." \$20-\$40. 4 pm. Saint John's Episcopal Church (139 St. John's Pl. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope), www.dessoff.org.

**FAMILY, CITY OF SCIENCE 2017:** A larger-than-life event that demonstrates the wondrous properties of science, technology, engineering, and math. RSVP is encouraged. Free. 10 am-4 pm. Park Slope Ar-

mory [Eighth Avenue at 15th Street in Park Slope, (212) 348-1400.], www.world-sciencefestival.com.

**MARKET, THE SHOPUP:** A family-friendly holiday market sponsored by BabyCino, with crafts for kids, a photo booth, and gifts from 30 designers. Free. Noon-6 pm. 501 Union (501 Union St. at Bond Street in Gowanus).

**THE CHIRON FESTIVAL OF**

**THE ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT:** Performances by world class musicians, multimedia works, and speakers about environmental issues. \$15 (\$5 for additional family members). 4 pm. The Brooklyn Commons [388 Atlantic Ave. between Hoyt and Bond streets in Boerum Hill, (631) 332-9858], soundartus.com/chiron.

**ART, OPEN SOURCE SOUP**

**KITCHEN:** 7 pm-9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 8.

## MON, DEC. 11

**TALK, "WOMEN IN THE WORLD OF FREDERICK DOUGLASS":** Historian and professor Leigh Fought paints an alternative portrait of abolitionist and social reformer Frederick Douglass by examining the lives of the women around him. \$5. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**HEALTH IS WEALTH:** A free total body conditioning class for kids, men, and women of all fitness levels. RSVP required. Free. 7 pm. Brooklyn Stuy Dome [312 Kosciuszko Ave. between Throop Avenue and Marcus Garvey Boulevard in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (800) 556-0689], www.amidac-areny.org.

**MUSIC, NEW HOLLAND:** With special guests Sean Henry, Professional Man and Rock Solid. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 7 pm. Gold Sounds [44 Wilson Ave. between George and Melrose streets in Bushwick, (718) 618-0686], www.gold-soundsbar.com.

**COMEDY, BUTTERBOY:** A weekly stand-up comedy night hosted by Aparna Nancherla, Maeve Higgins and Jo Firestone. \$8-\$10. 8 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**DANCE, CURIOSER AND CURIOSER:** A surreal variety show inspired by "Alice in Wonderland," with songs, stories, and dance. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. National Sawdust [80 N. Sixth St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (646) 779-8455], www.nationalsawdust.org.



**Brighten your day:** Students from the Brighton Ballet Theater will dance beside the professionals of the Moscow Ballet during the 7 pm performance of "The Great Russian Nutcracker," on Dec. 9 at the Kings Theatre, portraying party guests, mice, snowflakes, and other supporting characters.

**SIDE PONYTAIL COMEDY:** The Monday night comedy show welcomes Nariko Ott, Kate Willett, Alejandro Morales, and more. Free. 8 pm. Friends and Lovers [641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights].

**COMEDY, COMEDY MONDAY:** Open Mic and Stand-Up. Free. 9 pm. Freddy's Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwood Heights, (718) 768-0131], www.freddysbar.com.

## TUES, DEC. 12

**ART, OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7 pm-9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 8.

**MUSIC, THE VICTOR WOOLLEN TRIO:** The Grammy-

winning bass player tours with his 10th solo album, "Trypnotyx." \$25. 8 pm. Brooklyn Bowl [61 Wythe Ave. between N. 11th and N. 12th streets in Williamsburg, (718) 963-3369], www.brooklynbowl.com.

## WED, DEC. 13

**HANUKKAH FAMILY FESTIVAL:** Celebrate the holidays with fun family crafts; beading studio; donut decorating; game show and the Lighting of the Grand Menorah. \$13 (\$10 seniors). 12:30 pm to 3:30 pm. Jewish Children's Museum [792 Eastern Pkwy. at Kingston Avenue in Crown Heights, (718) 907-8833], www.jcm-museum.org.

**SANTA LUCIA PROCESSION AND CELEBRATION:** Join the Ridge Creative Center and the Scandinavian East Coast Museum for traditional Scandinavian cookies and a craft activity before the Santa Lucia Procession. (Procession begins at 6:15 pm.) \$10 (\$20 for a family of four). 4:30 pm. Redeemer St. John's Lutheran Church [939 83rd St. between Seventh and 10th Avenues in Bay Ridge, (347) 860-1932].

**TREE LIGHTING ON THE BROOKLYN HEIGHTS PROMENADE:** The Brooklyn Heights Garden Club sponsors its 67th holiday tree-lighting, with carols from Grace Chorale of Brooklyn and a visit from Santa. Free. 5:30 pm. Brooklyn Heights Promenade (Montague Street at the Promenade in Brooklyn Heights).

**MAKERS MARKET:** Tarot reading, henna, local crafts and loads of cool stuff for your viewing and shopping pleasure. Free. 6 pm. Sycamore [1118 Cortelyou Rd. between Stratford and Westminster roads in Ditmas Park, (347) 240-5850], www.sycamorebrooklyn.com.

**TALK, "THE GHOST SHIP OF BROOKLYN":** Robert Watson brings to life the stories of a British prison ship moored off the coast of Brooklyn during the Revolutionary War. \$5. 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222-4111], www.brooklynhistory.org.

**READING, "FEED THE RESISTANCE":** Cookbook author Julia Turshen and food scholar Dr. Jessica Harris discuss becoming more politically engaged and active through the power of food and the dinner table. With small bites, wine, and beer. \$25. 6:30 pm. Museum of Food and Drink [62 Bayard St. between Lorimer and Leonard streets in Williamsburg, (718) 387-2845].

## THURS, DEC. 14

**MUSIC, HOLIDAY CONCERT:** Christmas classics by Vivaldi and Saint-Saëns. \$15. 4 pm. Union Church of Bay Ridge [7915 Ridge Blvd. in Bay Ridge, (718) 745-0438].

**DANCE, SALSA PARTY:** Balmir Latin Dance Company hosts an evening of salsa, beginning with a class led by professional dancers and followed by live music and performances by Brooklyn's best Latin dance teams. Free with museum admission. 6 pm. Brooklyn Museum [200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638-5000], www.brooklyn-museum.org.

**ART, OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7 pm-9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 8.

**DANCE, SPLIT BILL:** A festival featuring two different dance companies each night. \$22 (\$18 in advance). 7:30 pm. Triskelion Arts [106 Calyer St. between Banker Street and Clifford Place in Greenpoint, (718) 389-3473], www.triskelion-arts.org.

**TALK, ATLAS OBSCURA LIVE, HOLIDAY EDITION:** A live variety show where you can learn about bizarre festivals and customs, and answer trivia for prizes. \$15. 8 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

**COMEDY, UP 'N' COMING X-MAS EDITION:** Comedy duo Reformed Whores host a special X-mas edition of their variety show, with Jim Tews, Rojo Perez, Rebecca Vigil, and Alex English. \$8. 10 pm. Union Hall [702 Union St. at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 638-4400], www.unionhallnyc.com.

## FRI, DEC. 15

**TALK, INTERRUPTING THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE:** A conference aimed at keeping kids in school, with workshops on mental health resources for youth, strategies to avoid suspension, services for detained youth, and more. Families, educators, and caregivers all welcome. Light breakfast and lunch provided. Free. 9 am-2 pm. Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch [10 Grand Army Plaza, between Eastern Parkway and Flatbush Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 230-2100], brooklynpubliclibrary.org.

**ART, OPEN SOURCE SOUP KITCHEN:** 7 pm-9 pm. See Friday, Dec. 8.

**MUSIC, "NAVIDAD NUESTRA":** The holiday concert presented by the Grace Choral celebrates the cultural heritage of the Spanish-speaking Americas. \$15 (\$12 seniors and students). 7 pm. All Saints Church [286 Seventh Ave. at Seventh Street in Park Slope], www.gracechorale.org.

**DANCE, SPLIT BILL:** 7:30 pm. See Thursday, Dec. 14.

**READING, BROOKLYN WRITERS SPACE READING SERIES:** This month's readers include Heidi Diehl, Molly Tolsky, Mesh Flinders, and Beth Lisick. Free. 7:30 pm. Books Are Magic [225 Smith St. at Butler Street in Carroll Gardens].

**COMEDY, "DRULIA":** An evening of elegant laughter from comedians and sweethearts Drew Anderson and Julia Shiplett. Free. 8 pm. Friends and Lovers [641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights], www.fnlbk.com.

**COMEDY, CAMOUFLAGE:** A monthly comedy show offering free pizza and performances from Chris Redd, Aparna Nancherla, Shane Torres, Reformed Whores, and more. \$5-\$10. 9 pm. Big Lrv's [381 Hooper St. at S. First Street in Williamsburg].

**NIGHTLIFE, DECEMBER BABIES BIRTHDAY PARTY:** Booze, balloon animals, a magic act, cake, and treat bags for all the grown-ups whose childhood birthdays were overshadowed by the holidays. \$5 (Free for anyone born in December). 10:30 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], littlefieldnyc.com.

## SAT, DEC. 16

**TOUR, MURDER, MAYHEM, AND DISASTER:** A trolley ride through Green-Wood Cemetery highlights the final resting place of victims of headline-grabbing crimes and disasters. \$20. 11 am. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwood Heights, (718) 210-3080], www.green-wood.com.

**THEATER, "A CHARLIE BROWN CHRISTMAS":** An extremely faithful presentation of the holiday favorite, with a jazz trio playing all of the Vince Guaraldi favorites. \$15. 1 pm and 3 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], www.littlefieldnyc.com.

**MUSIC, YULE BALL:** Wizard rock band Harry and the Potters brings its annual Harry Potter-themed holiday concert back to Brooklyn. Come in your best robes and prepare for an enchanting evening. \$20. 5:30 pm. Bell House [149 Seventh St. at Third Avenue in Gowanus, (718) 643-6510], www.thebell-house.com.

**MUSIC, CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Featuring selections from Beethoven's "Mass in C Major," Handel's "Messiah," and Christmas spirituals. \$20 (\$10 kids). 6 pm. Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph [856 Pacific St. between Vanderbilt and Underhill avenues in Prospect Heights, (718) 709-8722], www.stjosephs-brooklyn.org.

**MUSIC, VICKY CHOW AND BEN REIMER DUO:** Pianist Vicky Chow and percussionist Ben Reimer. \$25 (\$20 in advance). 8 pm. Roulette [509 Atlantic Ave. at Third Avenue in Boerum Hill, (971) 267-0363], www.roulette.org.

**DANCE, HIP-HOP NUTCRACKER:** The Hip Hop Nutcracker re-imagines Tchaikovsky's classic score through explosive hip-hop choreography. \$29-\$79. 8 pm. Kings Theatre [1027 Flatbush Ave. between Beverly Road and Tilden Avenue in Flatbush], www.kingstheatre.com.

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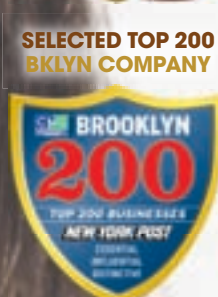
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# Muslims ... banned

## Imam bars congregants from praying at own mosque

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

They don't have a prayer. The leader of a Kensington mosque stole more than \$300,000 from members before storming the Islamic center with hired guards last month and barring worshippers from daily prayers, congregants claimed at a Dec. 1 protest outside the local religious institution.

"He's a wolf in sheep's clothing," said Maruf Alam, who worships at Masjid Nur al-Islam. "This guy came in with a private security force and changed the locks."

A large crowd of parishioners and reps from other local Islamic-faith-based centers rallied outside the Church Avenue mosque between Chester Avenue and Story Street eight days after Imam Gauhar Ahmed and his private security allegedly seized the building and prohibited members from using it as a place for their five-times-per-day prayers.

Worshippers shouting "He is a criminal" while carrying signs that declared "A thief can't be a religious leader" at one point clashed with Imam Ahmed's security during the demonstration, before protestors charged the imam with a laundry list of crimes he allegedly perpetrated against his hapless flock.

The congregants claimed their once-beloved religious leader turned against them sometime after the 2008 financial crisis, when he started pushing a plan to expand the mosque as a scheme to collect members' donations — which he actually spent on several Michigan properties for himself, according to another worshipper, who described the imam's actions as crimes against Islam.

"This is not Islam. Islam is never stealing money," said Khandaker Ahmed.

The parishioners said they filed a lawsuit in Civil Supreme Court upon realizing their leader was ripping them off, but claimed that they ultimately decided to show him



Community News Group / Colin Mixson

Masjid Nur al-Islam parishioners and reps from other Islamic-faith-based groups rallied outside the Kensington mosque on Dec. 1 in protest of Imam Gauhar Ahmed, whom they claimed fraudulently took over the house of worship and locked them out last month.

mercy, agreeing to drop the case on the condition he step down as the mosque's head on Aug. 8, Alam said.

But after his legal troubles cleared, the imam filed false documents with the city's Department of Finance, parishioners claimed, and portrayed himself as the mosque's current president in order to gain ownership of the property, which he then invaded with his security force on Thanksgiving day before changing its locks.

The religious leader's coup devastated local worshippers, according to Alam, who called it "outrageous."

"He portrayed himself as a spiritual leader and did this maleficence to the community," he said. "It took folks a while to understand it."

Imam Ahmed adamantly defended himself when reached for comment, claiming that the people who rallied outside his mosque weren't actually congregants, but a hodgepodge of protesters organized by a more radical group of Muslims on a mission to defame him and win over his parishioners.

"They're not a part of our religious understanding," he said. "They're an extreme version of Islam."

Alam vehemently refuted the imam's accusations of radicalization, however, calling him "sick" for smearing an entire community in order to salvage his reputation.

"That's the card he's playing, the radical card? You're talking about hundreds of people and they're radical, but you're a saint?" he said. "When someone makes a comment like that, it's sick."

A Supreme Court judge actually granted a restraining order that Masjid Nur al-Islam honchos filed in 2015 against Imam Ahmed's then-accusers — who included Khandaker Ahmed, as well as another speaker at the rally, Simon Mahmud, and 13 others — which prevented them from acting as mosque leaders and harassing congregants.

The imam refuted his opponents' claims on a point-by-point basis, beginning with the Michigan purchases, which he said the mosque's board of directors, executive board, and members approved, vot-



ing in favor of opening the out-of-state sister location to further the house of worship's religious and charitable missions.

And he admitted he agreed to step down in August if his critics dropped their lawsuit — even though he claimed the suit was frivolous and that his accusers actually blackmailed him into giving up his leadership position, although he declined to say how.

But his critics did not keep their end of the bargain and filed the suit, Imam Ahmed said, so he never abdicated from managing the mosque, and any allegations of a hostile takeover are just lies meant to besmirch him.

"They never withdrew the case, so I maintained management of the property," he said.


Imam Ahmed said he hired the guards he arrived with on Thanksgiving day to shoo away squatters who refused to leave the mosque, and that the building will be closed for daily prayer until around Christmas to accommodate plumbing repairs at the property.

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That's not a "Genius Bar," it's a "Genius Grove," and with good reason.

# Apple of my eye

Why the Downtown Apple Store matters

## Vince DiMiceli

Nobody at the office seemed to care that an Apple Store opened in Downtown Brooklyn last week. But I did.

Only because I've waited so long.

So when I got the invitation to attend a press preview last Thursday at 10 am sharp on Flatbush Avenue and Ashland Place, I didn't send a reporter. I went.

I'm an Apple guy from way back. Well, not Apple II-back (for some reason, we had TRS-80s back in grammar school. And I never owned the original Macintosh). But definitely iMac back.

I got into Apple during the company's least-influential time. Back in 1996, Apple was on its last leg. Steve Jobs wasn't back yet, and the only reason anyone was using a Power Mac 8100 was to put out newspapers and magazines. Which is what we did.

And when I started working on QuarkXPress in OS 7.6, I was quickly hooked.

Back then, the Apple products crashed less frequently than the Toshiba laptop I owned that ran Windows 95. And even though they used these weird "SCSI" cables to connect to the printers and the



That's a lot of windows for an Apple Store.

scanners, it worked. Mostly flawlessly. Meanwhile, the dot-matrix printer I had connected to my homemade computer in the den (via a "parallel" cable) took at least a day to get zipping. And the mouse? That was on the weird "com" port, which looked like something you'd plug an Atari joystick into.

Within a few years, we upgraded our network at the office and added a badly needed Mac server — our beloved Power Mac 9650/350 — that kept humming along on OS 9.1 for 10 years without a hitch. When we needed more space to store PDFs of old editions, we just plugged in another external firewire hard drive, and it seemed we'd never need another system.

Of course the internet

changed all that.

At first we were signing on to one house AOL account ("brooklynpa@aol.com") and using Netscape Navigator. So only one computer could be online at a time. But we soon had a DSL line, those colorful early-aughts iMacs for the reporters, and everyone was on the information super highway.

When it was time to launch our own website, Windows machines were never a consideration, even though Macs owned only about three percent of the personal computer market. Jobs was back and iMacs were selling like hotcakes from companies like MacMall that made you jump through lots of hoops to get discounts — so there was never a pleasant shopping experience.

Quark gave way to InDesign and the Adobe Creative Suite (three, if you are counting), a new Mac Pro server replaced the old Workgroup Server, and our transition to OS X was relatively painless.

BrooklynPaper.com launched in 2007, and a funny thing happened when we started looking at the analytics. Nearly 25 percent of our users — people in Brooklyn, that is — were on Macs. And this was before the iPhone and just shortly after the iPod changed "Apple Computer" (which soon changed its name to just plain "Apple") forever.

I thought I was the only one in Brooklyn back then who was a Mac addict. The readers of our website proved me wrong.

Of course, I took the information to the top when Apple started opening retail stores across the country. But my e-mail to [steve@apple.com](mailto:steve@apple.com) was not answered. And we kept having our machines tuned up (and got 10-cent bottles of Coke) at TekServe on 23rd Street in Manhattan instead of shopping at Apple's fancy SoHo digs.

Even after TekServe closed, I never made it over to the Williamsburg Apple Store that opened about a year ago, still waiting on that illusive Downtown storefront.

My reporters, who have grown up with pods and pads and pros, weren't all that excited about covering the opening. Nearly 40 percent of our page views online are being seen on some kind of Apple product. I don't have to convince people anymore to buy a Mac. My parents, who voted for Trump, want an Apple TV for Christmas.

Now that's it's here, it's a bit anti-climatic. Sure, it's nice enough, with its triangular shape and "Genius Grove" beneath a bunch of ficus nitidas (evergreens that are part of the fig-tree family). And being that it was designed by Apple geniuses, it promises to be quiet despite the traffic on and beneath Flatbush Avenue outside.

As usual, they've thought of everything. I just wish they thought of it sooner.

Vince DiMiceli is the Editor of Brooklyn Paper and host of Brooklyn Paper Radio.

NewYork-  
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## MONTHLY HEALTH NEWS

from NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital

### NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital Welcomes Oncology Surgeon Michael Wayne, DO

Michael Wayne, DO, recently joined the Department of Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital. In his new role, Dr. Wayne concentrates on surgical oncology with a focus on treating patients with liver, pancreatic and stomach cancer.

Dr. Wayne is board-certified in surgery and has over 20 years of experience performing pancreatic procedures. He is a specialist in hepatobiliary-pancreatic surgery with a clinical focus on minimally invasive pancreatic surgery. Previously, he worked at Mount Sinai-Beth Israel Medical Center as a pancreatico-biliary surgeon.

"After training as an adult and pediatric liver transplant surgeon, I developed a passion for liver and pancreatic surgery," says Dr. Wayne. "I am excited to be part of the NYP Brooklyn Methodist team and expand the range of minimally invasive procedures offered." Dr. Wayne's expertise also includes Whipple resections, a complex procedure used to treat tumors and other disorders of the pancreas, intestine and bile duct.

"We are delighted to welcome Dr. Wayne to the NYP Brooklyn Methodist family," says Michael Zenilman, MD, chairman of the department of surgery at the Hospital. "He brings techniques that complement those of the HPB surgeons already here, further reinforcing NYP Brooklyn Methodist's prominence as a treatment destination for complex liver, pancreatic and upper intestinal surgical diseases."

To schedule an appointment with a physician affiliated with NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital, please call 718-499-2273 or visit [www.nyp.org/brooklyn](http://www.nyp.org/brooklyn).

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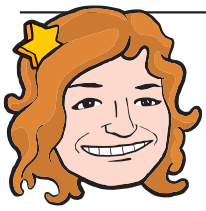


Michael Wayne, DO

over 135 years. Located in Park Slope, Brooklyn, the 591-bed teaching hospital, in collaboration with Weill Cornell Medicine, provides specialized services in advanced and minimally invasive surgery, neurosciences, orthopedics, digestive and liver disorders, and cancer and cardiac care. The Hospital's Emergency Department provides separate areas for adult and pediatric patients, as well as a separate women-only area. More than 5,000 babies are delivered annually in the Hospital's Department of Maternal Child Health. The Hospital houses Centers of Excellence for bariatric surgery and breast imaging, a cancer program accredited by the Commission on Cancer, and a New York State-designated stroke center. NewYork-Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital is a member of the NewYork-Presbyterian Regional Hospital Network. For more information or to find a physician, please call 718-499-2273 or visit [nyp.org/brooklyn](http://nyp.org/brooklyn).



# Do we have to feed the beast?



## Fearless Parenting

By Stephanie Thompson

I often wonder just how much facility humans have for change.

During the four college tours I took with my son last week in Pennsylvania, young men and women spoke ebulliently about the discussions on their campuses. Students are asked about their feelings on gender-neutral bathrooms at their dorms. There are policies on trust, and conflicts are expected to be resolved openly between students, facilitated by trained upperclassmen dotted throughout residential housing. Guards are placed at doors of fraternity parties to remind students to be sensitive on matters of racism, sexism, and homophobia.

I am 100 percent for the "social and emotional learning" that has crept into education. But I am also wary. As a writer, I know that words are only so effective, and that the reality of human nature belies all the flowery things that can be said about it.

I turned to a dad on one of the tours, somewhat alarmed.

"Do you think anyone hooks up anymore?" I asked. "What if they're too scared?"

He smiled. "Why don't you ask her?" he said, gesturing to the smiling co-ed guiding us with her great wide smile.

I'd thought about it. After all, when push comes to shove, with all the marketing speak we'd been hearing for days, with all the pointing out of beautiful ivy-covered buildings and hallowed libraries, most kids think a lot about what kind of opportunities they'll have to find love and its physical counterpart, sex.

With the headlines screaming out sex scandals daily, implicating the faces and voices we've trusted for years, it would seem that the world has gone crazy.

The millennials, of course,

are crying foul, and vowing to do it differently.

Can they? It reminds me of a scene from the play "Bengal Tiger at the Baghdad Zoo." Robin Williams stood on a balcony above the stage, spotlight as he gnawed on a small (stuffed) animal.

"I've got to stop this," he said, as he ripped the lesser beast apart with his teeth.

The metaphor is apt. We are humans, imbued with the capacity for higher brain function, and yet instinct is still our guide no matter what the syllabus at elite colleges say. The old literary adage of "man's inhumanity to man" still applies.

Connecting to other humans in non-aggressive ways should indeed be on the agenda of every school. Our education has to discuss how to get along and communicate better than we have been. But I think it's important to take a hard look at the stories and myths that have survived many generations to understand that it is, to a certain degree, a major game of Whack-A-Mole to root out the more egregious offenses that will inevitably rise up from even at the most "progressive" of places.

It does not surprise me that the aggressive types who get to the top sometimes wield their power when they get there, especially as it pertains to their sexual desires. And while I find their behavior incredibly distasteful, what concerns me is how they were able to get away with it. How hordes of men and women aided and abetted their behavior in the name of getting somewhere.

At breakfast in Philadel-

phia last weekend, these thoughts coursed through my brain. Dragging my son around to try to help him find his place in the world dredged up a lot of fear and anxiety about what he will discover out there.

I reminded him of a question he asked me when he was 9 and we walked out of the movie "How to Train Your Dragon."

All the dragons were expected to raid the Viking village and bring back food to feed the villainous dragon at the nest. They all did it until one dragon was befriended by a young boy in the village and began to see there could be another way. He saw that the two warring groups could live in harmony.

My son looked up at me as we walked out of the the-

ater and along the sidewalk toward home.

"Why did they think they had to bring stuff back to feed the big dragon?" he'd asked. "Couldn't they just not have done it?"

I nodded and smiled. "Yes, but they were afraid," I said, regurgitating the excuse used by silent accomplices of both mass genocides and power plays waged in the workplace, in schools, and everywhere you turned.

"When they became less afraid, and realized they didn't have to do it," I con-

tinued. "That's when it became light, remember?"

My son was not particularly interested in my early morning lecture about how to save the world. No doubt he was snap-chatting with some cute girl and eating his protein-filled egg-and-pastrami sandwich to bulk up, as it should be.

But I will remind him of the nature of power and the need of people not to feed the beast after he heads off to college.

Hopefully, he will take my call.



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