



# HORROR IN SLOPE

## Driver not immediately charged after hitting and killing two kids

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

Prosecutors did not immediately charge a female motorist after she allegedly killed two children and sent two women — one pregnant — and a man to the hospital with injuries when she plowed her vehicle into the victims while they crossed Ninth Street at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope on Monday afternoon.

“This very tragic incident is under active investigation and we’re looking into all aspects of this case,” said a spokesman for District Attorney Eric Gonzalez.

Seizures struck the driver at the time of the deadly crash, according to a law-enforcement source, who said the medical condition is investigators’ best explanation for the carnage.

The woman remained emotionless after the collision that claimed the lives of the 1-year-old boy and 4-year-old girl, firing off text messages on her phone as paramedics loaded her into an ambulance, witnesses claimed.

“She had no emotion, no emotion at all,” said bystander Jennifer Muniz, as she waited to speak with investigators following the horrific crash.

The driver was behind the wheel of a white Volvo sedan heading downhill on Ninth Street towards Fifth Avenue at 12:41 pm, when she allegedly ran a red light and slammed into the adults and children, according to witnesses.

Muniz claimed the motorist approached the intersection slowly, well after the light turned red, and then averted her eyes before accelerating into the victims making their way through the crosswalk.

“She just threw her head back, like she didn’t want to see what she was about to do,” said the eyewitness, who claimed she was about to cross the same intersection with a friend when the collision occurred.

The driver continued down Ninth Street towards Fourth Avenue following the crash, dragging one of the kids beneath her car, before colliding with a parked car halfway down the block, Muniz said.

Rescuers found the children dead at



A collision on Ninth Street in Park Slope wounded three adults and killed two children, one of whom was in a baby stroller that became lodged beneath the wheel of the white Volvo that cops said blew a red light.

the scene, according to a Police Department spokesman, who said paramedics rushed the two women and man to Methodist Hospital in critical, but non-life-threatening, condition.

A mangled baby stroller lay beneath the Volvo’s right-rear wheel following the crash, which left a visible trail of gore on the road beside a sneaker.

Bystanders, meanwhile, rushed to the wounded adults’ and dying children’s aid, according to Muniz.

“Everybody was crying, yelling, screaming,” she recounted. “It looked like Armageddon.”

Another witness said she was working on the second floor of a gym that overlooks the intersection when she spotted bodies littering the street below and ran to the scene fearing someone she knew was hurt.

And upon her arrival, the good Sa-

maritan said she was shocked to find her aunt — who lives in Red Hook — there, not as a victim, but comforting the pregnant woman as she lay injured in the street.

“The only person moving was the lady trying to get up to check on her child, and my aunt was telling her ‘please stay down, please stay down, please stay down,’” said Desiree Williams of her aunt, June Clark-Smith.

The pregnant woman with a wounded leg was covered in blood and drifting in and out of consciousness, according to Clark-Smith, who described the victim as hysterical with fear.

“She was crying, scared, everything. She was trying to get up,” said Clark-Smith. “She was like, ‘Oh god, you know?’”

Surveillance footage the Brooklyn Paper obtained from a nearby insurance

broker shows the 44-year-old driver — a Staten Island resident, according to reports — approach the intersection as the light turned red, then slowly inch forward as pedestrians and vehicles began to cross Ninth Street before speeding into the women and children during a break in traffic, sending their bodies flying to the pavement.

Numerous traffic-watchdog and cyclist-advocacy groups demanded Mayor DeBlasio improve safety on Ninth Street hours after the crash, with some organizing a rally at 8:30 am on Tuesday outside the nearby YMCA, where Hizzoner works out each morning.

In 2016, a motorist fatally struck a 41-year-old man at the intersection of Ninth Street and Fifth Avenue, where 33 others have suffered traffic-related injuries since 2010, according to data from the city’s Vision Zero initiative.



Mayor DeBlasio talked to street-safety activists outside his YMCA on Ninth Street on Tuesday morning, less than a day after two kids were killed by a driver a half-block away.

# Anger at mayor

## Facing crowd, Hizzoner calls for stiffer punishments on drivers

By Colin Mixson  
Brooklyn Paper

Harsher penalties must be dealt to reckless drivers whose behavior behind the wheel results in tragic collisions, Mayor DeBlasio told a crowd that rallied to confront him Tuesday morning as he left his gym on the same Park Slope street where a driver hit and killed two children on Monday.

“If someone has shown because of their actions they could endanger other human beings with a vehicle, and use that vehicle as a weapon, there should be more stringent penalties,” Hizzoner said.

More than 100 traffic watchdogs converged on the Prospect Park YMCA on Ninth Street the day after a Staten Island woman drove her white Volvo sedan through a red light and into five pedestrians crossing that street at Fifth Avenue, killing 1-year-old Joshua Lew and 4-year-old Abigail Blumenstein, and injuring three others, including Blumenstein’s pregnant mother, Tony Award-winning actress Ruthie Ann Miles.

The mayor emerged from the gym in workout gear shortly after 9 am, calling on state legislators to stiffen penal-

**PLUS: WHY CAR NUTS ARE LIKE GUN NUTS**  
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ties for lawbreaking motorists and for the installation of more speed cameras around the city in response to advocates’ demands for safety improvements at the site of the deadly crash.

But DeBlasio’s solutions merely retaliate against already committed crimes, and fail to prevent collisions in advance by implementing traffic-calming measures on treacherous roadways like Ninth Street, an organizer of the rally told the mayor in response.

“I don’t want cops to arrest my child’s killer, I want my child not to be killed,” Doug Gordon, who blogs about street safety on Brooklyn Spoke, said to DeBlasio.

Hours after the protest, investigators said the woman may have experienced a seizure at the time she accelerated into the victims, and Gordon admitted that

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# It’s going down

## Aging BQE won’t survive builder’s approved excavation of Heights courtyard, locals claim

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

They want this plan to stay buried.

Officials’ approval of a developer’s long-gestating proposal to dig up a tree-lined courtyard behind a Brooklyn Heights building to make way for an underground parking garage sandwiched against the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway could send the road’s already crumbling triple cantilever crashing down before it is repaired, warned residents and their reps.

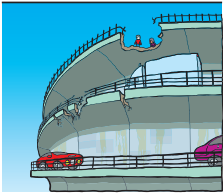
“Whatever work they are doing is threatening the integrity of the BQE,” said Joel Kupferman, an attorney in charge of the New York Environmental Law and Justice Project, who is representing the building’s tenants fighting the project along with lawyer Stephen Dobkin of Manhattan-based firm Collins, Dobkin and Miller, LLP.

The chief of builder Pinnacle Group, Joel Weiner — who owns the Riverside Apartments at the corner of Joralemon Street and Columbia place within the nabe’s designated historic district — wants to excavate the complex’s backyard to install 97 parking spots that would sit about 11 feet below the ground, according to the Department of Buildings.

But the project — which would also unfreeze some tenants’ rents that were locked in place after the ca. 1890 building’s previous landlord paved over part of its origi-

nal outdoor courtyard to add parking in the ’90s — has sat in purgatory for much of the last decade, because it requires approval by both the city and the state’s Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

State leaders panned the proposal back in 2009, but Weiner revised his then Landmarks Commission-approved plan — moving the entrance of the proposed garage after officials objected to its former location, among other tweaks —



**FIXING the BQE**

and the division eventually greenlit his scheme last December.

And the city’s Buildings Department issued the developer a permit to start construction back in 2014, according to a spokesman.

But as concerns over the complicated city-led rehabilitation of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway’s three-tiered segment heat up, Riverside tenants are demanding Weiner halt work on the garage until a thorough en-



Tenants of the Riverside Apartments in Brooklyn Heights claim its owner’s plan to dig up a courtyard behind the complex in order to build an underground garage abutting the Brooklyn Queens-Expressway could cause the road to crumble before it’s fixed, and demanded the state rescind its approval of the potentially perilous project.

vironmental study proves the job won’t sabotage the Department of Transportation’s impending repairs to the roadway.

“Of the utmost concern is the fact that the outer wall of our courtyard is the actual BQE triple cantilever bridge wall,” said Lenore Mitchell, who leads the Riverside Tenants Association. “We are at a loss as to why DOT has not acknowledged the risks posed by such a project.”

The Transportation Department, however, didn’t need to officially sign off on the parking-garage project since it falls within the jurisdiction of the Buildings Department, according to a rep.

The local transit leaders, however, reviewed the proposal anyway to ensure it complied with the agency’s regulations, and gave it a thumbs up because they said it won’t affect their engineers’ expressway rehabilitation, which is still a few years off, she said.

“This project has been reviewed by NYC DOT, meets the guidelines previously mentioned,

and should not impact the rehabilitation of the BQE,” said a spokeswoman for the city agency.

Weiner is still waiting for the state’s final go-ahead because the tenants association filed an administrative appeal in January to combat the Division of Housing and Community Renewal’s approval of the plan. A rep for the state-run division declined to comment on the issue, citing the pending appeal.

But if the division upholds its green light, Weiner can start digging immediately, and ultimately unfreeze those tenants’ rents that haven’t budged in decades — which a rep for the builder said would initially decrease by about three percent — after finishing work on the garage and fully restoring the courtyard to a state that the rep claimed will surpass its current condition.

“The plans for what goes on top of it are a rather beautiful new courtyard with considerably more trees,” said former Brooklyn Heights Councilman Ken Fisher, a spokesman for Weiner.

# State signals support for faster BQE fix

## Design-build process ‘essential’ to city-led job, Cuomo says

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

Now it’s getting somewhere!

The streamlined design-build process is integral to the city’s repairs to a crumbling portion of the Brooklyn-Queens Expressway, according to Gov. Cuomo, who this week signaled his support for the process that would fast-track the fix — months after local pols and residents began demanding he authorize the procedure in his bud-

get so city transit honchos aren’t forced to send the thousands of big-rigs that travel the road daily down local streets instead.

“The Brooklyn-Queens Expressway is a very big construction project. The city planning to move traffic throughout the construction period is by definition problematic,” Cuomo said on Tuesday during an unrelated conference call with reporters about the next day’s snowstorm. “Downtown

Brooklyn is already congested, so design-build for the BQE I think is essential. Even with design-build it’s going to be a real problem in terms of traffic.”

The governor has long maintained his general support for the process that state law requires his authorization for local governments to use, which would request one bid for the expressway makeover’s design and construction instead of hiring unique con-

tractors for each phase. He greenlit it for several state-run projects, including the construction of the recently built Kosciuszko Bridge and a new span that will bear the Cuomo name.

But he’s repeatedly left advocates hanging when asked specifically whether he’ll allow the Department of Transportation to use design-build in its reconstruction of the expressway’s decaying triple

See BQE on page 3



Gov. Cuomo this week said the design-build process is “essential” to repairing the BQE, to the delight of state and local lawmakers who rallied for the procedure’s authorization last month.



# About faces

## Local artist bringing new three-faced art to park

**By Julianne Cuba**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

They’re the new faces of Fort Greene Park! A massive sculpture featuring three carved visages will soon greet visitors to Fort Greene’s eponymous meadow, the Department of Parks and recreation announced on Feb. 28.

The green-space agency handed \$10,000 to local artist Tanda Francis — who created a larger-than-life memorial for borough son and hip-hop legend Biggie Smalls in 2016 — to make her 14-and-a-half-foot piece, “Adorn Me,” which combines elements of traditional African sculpture with references to Victorian and colonial-era dress, and will serve as a new monument to black culture in the nabe when it is installed this summer, according to the artist.

“I’m using the overall form of a large African head and incorporating contrasting elements of adornment — themes of skin scarification practiced in West African cultures, and decorative elements seen in Victorian ornamentation,” said Francis, who lives in Park Slope. “I seek to address the demographic of peo-

ple of African descent who are often underrepresented in public art, especially in terms of the current historic artwork featured in and around Fort Greene Park.”

Francis, who used to live in Clinton Hill, said she wanted to create a powerful and positive image for the African-American community in Fort Greene, which transformed from a once mainly working-class, low-income neighborhood into a largely affluent, white-collar community. “Being an African-American woman working, speaking my voice, is something I don’t see often in the public space,” she said. “The work I’m producing is a positive representation of people from African descent.”

The sculpture will stand in a to-be-determined spot inside the green space from this June through next May, and its authentic representation of African culture is a remedy to the recent controversy surrounding some culturally insensitive monuments throughout the city, according to the Parks Department.

Francis is one of 10 artists who received grant money from clothing retailer Uniqlo



Parks Department

Artist Tanda Francis will install her sculpture “Adorn Me” in Fort Greene Park in June.

to create artworks that will be installed in a handful of city meadows, including Bedford-Stuyvesant’s Herbert Von King Park, which local artist Roberto Visani will adorn with his own original piece, according to the agency.

And elsewhere in Fort Greene Park, the Parks Department is moving along with its polarizing plan to

transform the meadow’s entry at Myrtle Avenue and St. Edwards Street into a grand corner entrance leading to the Prison Ship Martyrs Monument, according to a spokeswoman, who said the project’s design phase is expected to wrap this spring before the agency begins a nine-month procurement process followed by the start of construction.

# Mend the gap

## Transit workers fix chasm that has long plagued Boerum Hill subway station

**By Julianne Cuba**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

It’s a hole new day! Transit workers are patching up a once-gaping chasm in a wall of Boerum Hill’s Bergen Street station that nauseated commuters for weeks while putrid odors wafted from it before a miniature glacier formed inside the gap.

The tiny iceberg’s natural splendor mesmerized some straphangers, but the shiny new tiles now covering the hole are a far more appealing sight for riders of the beleaguered subway system, according to the man whose nose first sniffed out the rank rupture.

“I’m glad that straphangers are finally able to have a normal, clean platform while waiting for their delayed train,” said Park Sloper Marcus Baram. “I don’t know why it took so long.”

Baram first whiffed the foul stench emanating from the cavity in a wall along the



Marcus Baram



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Community News Group / Julianne Cuba

Workers are nearly finished fixing the once-gaping hole in a wall of the Bergen Street train station.

# An uphill battle

## Citi Bike struggles to stock docks in elevated nabes

**By Colin Mixson**  
*Brooklyn Paper*

It’s all downhill from these neighborhoods.

Citi Bike users in some hilly parts of Brooklyn are pedaling their rented two-wheelers downward, but not back up again, according to a honcho of the program, who said riders frequently fail to re-dock bikes at stations in Prospect and Crown Heights because they’re located on higher ground.

“There’s higher elevation in those areas and, not surprisingly, bikes tend to go downhill,” said Collin Waldoch, who manages programs for the Citibank-sponsored rental service and lives in Prospect Heights.

Although neither neighborhood boasts the borough’s highest peak — that honor belongs to Green-Wood Cemetery’s 194-foot-tall Battle Hill — the stretch of Eastern Parkway that cuts through Prospect and Crown Heights, at 164 feet, towers over other lowland nabes such as Downtown and Dumbo that local cyclists commute to on the road, according to topographic maps.

And the incline — coupled with riders’ tendency to use Citi Bikes in the morning on their way to work, but switch to other forms of public transportation for their evening commutes — makes it harder for the service to refill docking stations in the resi-

dential neighborhoods where it last year debuted plans to install roughly 400 new bicycles, Waldoch said.

“In general, we see there is more commuting in the morning than in the evening,” he said.

But Citi Bike bigwigs recently announced an initiative to supplement the rental service’s in-house bicycle-restocking operation in the area, in which it offers members who join its Bike Angels corps — who earn points towards membership renewals by ferrying two-wheelers to understocked docks — extra incentives to return the rides to locations in Prospect and Crown Heights.

The special program, entitled Operation Edge Explorers, gives participants until March 16 to earn up to five times the amount of points they normally would for dropping off bikes at empty docks in the nabes, Waldoch said.

“We saw this as an area that can be challenging because of those factors,” he said. “It’s neat to harness the power of those incentives, and the power of Bike Angels to help us in these more difficult areas.”

Anyone interested in joining the Operation Edge Explorers initiative must first purchase an annual Citi Bike membership and enroll in the free Bike Angels program at [bikeangels.citi-bikenyc.com](http://bikeangels.citi-bikenyc.com).

# BQE...

*Continued from page 1*

cantilever. And Cuomo failed to authorize the procedure in both his first and revised drafts of the state budget, so his statement indicates he is moving in the right direction as his April 1 deadline to sign-off on a final budget looms, according to a Brooklyn Heights lawmaker in favor of the process.

“What’s different is that this is more direct, and it’s about doing it in the context of the city and some of its priority projects,” said Assemblywoman Jo Anne Simon. “I’m not going to rest until it’s done.”

Before the call on which Cuomo recognized how design-build could help the expressway’s repair, his staffer Alphonso David penned a Feb. 25 letter to Council Speaker Corey Johnson (D–Manhattan) that urged city officials to seek approval for the process in specific cases — including the road’s rehab and other projects such as closing the jails on Rikers Island and replacing them with new facilities throughout the five boroughs, and making much-needed renovations to the city’s

public-housing complexes, according to the New York Daily News, which first reported on Cuomo’s support.

But design-build advocates said they aren’t taking a victory lap until the governor officially approves a final budget that authorizes using the procedure to fix the expressway, a permission that will cut about \$113 million from the job’s current \$1.9-billion price tag, and accelerate the reconstruction of the 1.5-mile stretch of the road between Atlantic Avenue and Sands Street by at least two years, supporters say.

“Of course I’m worried,” Simon said. “I’m not going to rest until it’s done.”

The governor’s public support for the streamlined process followed a Feb. 27 meeting where Transportation Department bigwigs presented a draft of their expressway-repair plan, which locals have until March 12 to submit comment on by e-mail or snail mail.

Check out the city’s proposed repairs for the Brooklyn–Queens Expressway at [www.bqe-i278.com/en](http://www.bqe-i278.com/en). E-mail feedback to [info@bqe-i278.com](mailto:info@bqe-i278.com), or mail it to BQE Project Team, 605 3rd Avenue, 3rd Floor, New York, NY 10158. All comments due by March 12.

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# Brute socks straphanger in head

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

A snake struck a guy in the head inside a Schermerhorn Street subway station on March 4, police said.

The 31-year-old victim, who is a Metropolitan Transportation Authority conductor, told police he was inside the station near Hoyt Street around 7 pm on a Manhattan-bound C train departing the terminal when the villain socked him in the head.

**In a split second**

A good-for-nothing walked away with a woman's bag inside a clothing store on Fulton Street on Feb. 26, police said.

The victim told officers she put down her bag containing her Guatemalan passport, New York identification card, and debit card on a rack while she was shopping in the store near Bridge Street around 6:30 pm.

She then turned around for one minute, and when she went to pick it up, the bag was gone, officials said.

**Jewel thief**

A nogoodnik swiped thousands of dollars worth of jewelry from a woman's apartment on Henry Street sometime between Feb. 15

**88TH PRECINCT**  
*Fort Greene–Clinton Hill*

**Watch it!**

A wretch stole a guy's watch from his wrist while the two were inside a Washington Avenue hotel room on March 4, officers said.

The 21-year-old victim told police he met the rogue at a Manhattan club that night and she brought him back to the hotel near Greene Avenue around 3:30 am. When they got inside the room, the crook told him, "Your watch is bothering me," and took it off him and put it in his shoes, cops said.

The weasel then ran off with the guy's shoes and his rose-gold Rolex watch, according to authorities.

**Bye-cycle**

Some crook stole a wom-

**POLICE BLOTTER**

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an's Citi Bike after she tried to lock it up at a docking station near Saint Edwards Street on Feb. 18, police said.

The woman told cops she returned the bike to the station near Myrtle Avenue around 4:15 pm and heard it click into place, but was contacted by the rental service saying it was never returned. And when she went to go check 30 minutes later, it was gone, cops said.

A Citi Bike employee told authorities the bike was never docked.

**Villainous visitor**

A sneak swiped a guy's phone and laptop from his Clinton Avenue apartment on March 1, police said.

The 38-year-old victim told cops he let the cur into his apartment near Union Street around 5:30 am then went to bed, and when he woke up at 7 am, he noticed the punk had stolen his iPhone and Apple laptop.

**Bagged**

A nogoodnik swiped a senior's bag she accidentally left on a Fulton Street bus-stop bench on

Feb. 17, police said.

The 68-year-old woman told authorities she left the bag on the bench near Lafayette Avenue and then hopped on the B25 bus around 5 pm. And when she returned the next day at 2 pm, her bag with her passport, driver's license, and two credit cards inside was gone, according to cops. A stranger contacted the woman to return it to her, but never did, police said.

**Grab and go**

A sneak stole a guy's credit cards and glasses from inside his car parked on S. Portland Avenue on March 4, cops said.

The 46-year-old told police the malefactor broke into his car parked between Hanson and S. Elliott places around 10 am, and when he returned at 10:48 am, his four credit cards and glasses were gone.

**Rode away**

A crook took off with a guy's motorcycle parked on Greene Avenue sometime between Feb. 24 and 26, officers said.

The 28-year-old told police he parked and locked his 2011 DUC two-wheeler near Adelphi Street around 6 pm on Feb. 24, and when he returned for it on Feb. 26 a little after midnight, it was gone.

— **Julianne Cuba**

of chicken, two packs of hot dogs, cheese, a bag of shrimp, and a bouquet of flowers in his shopping cart, and left the store without paying.

Police apprehended the 60-year-old suspect and recovered all the items.

**Litterbug**

Some brute assaulted a man for telling him not to litter in front of a Park Place eatery on Feb. 22.

The victim told police that he was at the restaurant near Flatbush Avenue around 7:39 pm when he asked the litterbug to pick up trash he dropped on the ground.

Instead, the nogoodnik spat on and attacked the man, leaving a bruise on his lip, before fleeing, police said.

— **Alexandra Simon**

**76TH PRECINCT**  
*Carroll Gardens–Cobble Hill–Red Hook*

**Man fires gun**

Cops cuffed a man who they said fired a gun at someone on Bush Street on March 3.

Police said the Red Hook man shot the gun three times in the direction of someone else between Hicks and Columbia streets at 4:57 pm. Officers later arrested the suspect and charged him with criminal use of a firearm, reckless endangerment, and menacing.

**Car gone**

A good-for-nothing stole a man's car right out from under his nose on Court Street on March 3.

The victim said he left his green Toyota running near Atlantic Avenue at 11:58 pm. When he headed back towards the car, he saw a man in glasses get in and drive off, police said. The man chased after the car, but lost sight of it as it went towards Pacific Street, he told cops. He said his iPhone 7-Plus, three credit cards, and \$1,175 were in the car.

— **Adam Lucente**

**78TH PRECINCT**  
*Park Slope*

**Brutal assault**

A lowlife tore out a chunk of a woman's hair during an argument on a train near Union Street on Feb. 23.

The victim told police that she was on the Manhattan-bound R train near Fourth Avenue around 9:05 am when she asked a man sitting beside her to move into a different train car.

The pair then got into an argument, which escalated when the lout shoved her onto a row of seats across from her, and pulled her hair, causing a chunk of it to rip out, according to officials.

**Booze and lose**

A bandit stole a beer from a Ninth Street store on Feb. 20, cops said.

The thief entered the shop near Fifth Avenue just after midnight and took a can of beer before fleeing the scene.

**Harsh words**

A menace threatened an employee at an Atlantic Avenue market on Feb. 20.

The victim told cops that he was at the store around 8 am when, for some unknown reason, the troublemaker followed him around the market and began making threats toward him.

Cops said the nogoodnik told the victim "I will kill you. I'm from Crown Heights," and he feared for his life.

**Not so fast**

Cops busted a man who they said tried to shoplift several items from a Ninth Street pharmacy on Feb. 22.

The suspect walked into the drugstore near Sixth Avenue around 9:35 am and took an estimated \$93 worth of items, which he stuffed into his waist band and left the store without paying for, police said.

A pharmacy clerk pointed out the suspect to officers and the items he took were recovered an hour later, according to authorities.

**Would-be feast**

Officers cuffed a man who they said stole an estimated \$138 worth of groceries at a Fifth Avenue supermarket on Feb. 23.

Cops said the suspect entered the market near Baltic Street around around 9:46 am and placed four packs



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

March 9-15, 2018



Playtime is over: The Black Sabbath cover band Mac Sabbath will melt faces and cheese at Brooklyn Bazaar on March 11.

# Meat the band

## Mac Sabbath merges heavy metal and hamburgers

By Winnie McCroy  
for Brooklyn Paper

Their songs can be a little cheesy. A bizarre band of heavy metal hamburger mascots will serve up some prime cuts of fast food critique at a Greenpoint concert this weekend. The humorous McDonald's-themed Black Sabbath cover band Mac Sabbath, playing at Brooklyn Bazaar on March 11, will blast black metal riffs while screaming about genetically modified foods and Monsanto at the show. Despite their unusual appearance, the musical mutated mascots have a lofty mission, according to their manager.

"To bring the world back to a time when music and food were still genuine," said Mac Sabbath manager Mike Odd. The band, composed of demented clown and lead vocalist Ronald Osbourne, drummer the Cat Burglar, purple bass player Grimalice, and tasked guitarist Slayer Mac-Cheeze, is not all empty calories — the members can really shred. Mac Sabbath's irreverent shows are elaborate confections that mix raucous comedy with borderline-horror theatrics like "a smoking grill, laser-eyed clowns, bouncing burgers, and magical surprises," said Odd. "It's an arena-sized theatrical rock show framed onto a club-sized stage," said Odd.

"It has to be seen to be believed." The band recently released its first album — after a fashion. The one-song Flexi-disc of the song "Pair-A-Buns" — a parody of Sabbath's "Paranoid" — comes inside a coloring book available for \$15 at the band's website. But good luck finding a way to listen to it, said Odd. "If you don't come from the '70s, a Flexi-disc is like a child's toy version of a vinyl record single," said Odd. "It's flexible and does not play very well, but if you throw a couple 25-cent pieces on it and Scotch tape it to your record player, you might hear some 'music.'" Amazingly, the band's name has not

garnered any blowback from the McDonald's corporation. And according to Odd, the members of Black Sabbath are big fans too, even posting Mac Sabbath's live "Frying Pan" video (a sendup of the seminal hit "Iron Man") on their Facebook and Twitter feeds. The band is currently touring with Star Wars-themed heavy metal band Galactic Empire, on the "I Got a Bad Feeling About This Tour." Mac Sabbath at Brooklyn Bazaar (150 Greenpoint Ave. between Manhattan Avenue and Franklin Street in Greenpoint, www.bkbazaar.com). March 11 at 7 pm. \$25 (\$22 in advance).



Mamma and child: Netherlands-based artist Geertje Geertsma's piece from her series "Mammalia."

# Beauty and the breasts

## New art exhibit celebrates nursing mothers

By Julianne Cuba  
Brooklyn Paper

This art is all natural! Artists from all over the world will bust out their depictions of breastfeeding for "The Art of Breastfeeding: Modern Narratives of Motherhood," an exhibit opening in a Gowanus gallery on March 10. The show's co-curator said that, as an artist and a mother of three, she wanted to create a safe space to explore a beautiful, natural activity that is often banished from the public sphere, she said. "This is something that's sorely lacking in our everyday life as modern moms, very few representation of breastfeeding in a modern context," said Leigh Pennebaker, who put together the show with MF Gallery's director Martina Secondo Russo. "I've been breastfeeding for 11 years nonstop. I'm a passionate breastfeeding advocate and really engaged in the online community that is all about empowering breastfeeding women — we don't have to put up with being harassed, told to stop, that kind of thing."

The exhibit includes work from more than 24 artists, including performance artist Jess Dobkin, known for her piece "The Lactation Station," which invited people to taste donated breast milk, visual artist Aimee Gilmore, who has created "milkscapes," and cartoonist Lucy Knisley, who has an upcoming graphic novel about parenthood. Not all of the paintings, photos, or sculptures glorify the act of nursing — some take a political stance, or discuss the troubles some women experience while trying to breastfeed, said Pennebaker. "They're not all this glowing celebration, some things depict that wonderful connection and joy and beauty, but others delve into ambivalence or ambiguity or struggles moms are confronted with," she said. Mixing motherhood and femininity with art is no titillating new development, said Pennebaker — in fact, it has long been depicted in religious artwork. "In art history there's a plethora of images going back hundreds, thousands of

years that celebrate the maternal and fertility goddesses and breastfeeding," said Pennebaker. "It's a really common thing, and a lot of religious art across all religious backgrounds, things like the Virgin Mary. It's kind of a universal symbol of fertility and abundance." And the show — which will be open by appointment through April 22 after its March 10 opening — is not just for mothers or even just for women, said Pennebaker. "We just hope a lot of people from the community come out, it's very relevant to everyone, not just moms — but parents and grandparents, single people, it's important to just see this happening," she said. A portion of the exhibit's sales will go towards La Leche League, an international group that educates women about breastfeeding. "The Art of Breastfeeding" at MF Gallery (213 Bond St. between Baltic and Butler streets in Gowanus, www.mfgallery.net). Opening reception March 10, 7-10 pm. Free.

### BOOKS

## Beach read

The book is a sail down memory lane. A Pulitzer-winning author and former Brooklynite will launch his first children's book at the Brooklyn Public Library on March 13. Junot Diaz said that his picture book "Islandborn," about a young girl who must rely on her family's memories of the island where she was born, was inspired by his own family's journey from the Dominican Republic to the United States.

"I had very strong and indelible memories of [the Dominican], but I have family members who came over so young that they have no recollection, and I always felt that was kind of a curious place to be, to have been born in a place but not to recall it, and then to live surrounded by everyone else's memories," said Diaz, who emigrated to New Jersey when he was six years old. He lived in Boerum Hill in the early 1990s and now teaches at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In "Islandborn," illustrated by Leo Espinosa, Lola goes to school in the Dominican-heavy Washington Heights neighborhood on the distant isle of Manhattan, where her family and neighbors tell her about the festive music, sweet mangoes, sandy beaches, and colorful houses that fill their home island. Others describe a powerful, metaphorical monster, and the hurricane that drove many of them to flee. Diaz included those darker memories to make the text more realistic, and to inspire young readers to stand up to political oppression, wherever they come from. "The idea that there's only going to be nostalgic, warm memories — that people only have this positive connection to a place — struck me as deeply unrealistic," he said. "I think it's important to recall that many of us come from communities that are defined by our confrontations with political monsters, and I would hope the book functions on a deep level as a tutorial for fighting them."

His debut book for youngsters is an homage to New York City, he said, but he is glad to return to the better borough to kick off his month-long tour. "When I think about this book, I think about the fact that I miss New York City," he said. "I lived in Brooklyn a long time, and I have sentimental feelings for it." Junot Diaz at the Brooklyn Public Library Central Branch (10 Grand Army Plaza at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights, www.bklynlibrary.org). March 13 at 6 pm. \$20-\$25 (includes a copy of the book). — Julianne McShane

### MORE BOOKS!

## Reading picks

**Word's pick:** "Calamities" by Renee Gladman This collection of essays — or possibly prose poems — gives shape to the act of creation for the artist-as-writer or writer-as-artist. Always experimental, but never exclusionary, Renee Gladman's writing is open, reflective, and sublime. I wanted to read "Calamities" as soon as I woke up and I wanted it to sing me to sleep at the end of the day. Gladman is my dream writer. — Mary Thompson, Word [126 Franklin St. at Milton Street in Greenpoint, (718) 383-0096, www.wordbookstores.com].

**Greenlight Bookstore's pick:** "The Waves" by Virginia Woolf "The Waves" may be Woolf's strangest work, but I intend that as a compliment. Woolf called the book a play-poem, and the story within is told in prose poem soliloquies by six characters who we follow from childhood to adulthood. The soliloquies are distinct, but they build towards a gestalt of a silent, central consciousness. Breaking up the soliloquies are nine short scenes that describe the seaside at different times of a single day, beginning at dawn and ending at dusk. Six lifetimes set so close to a day can't help but show just how tethered we are to time — and how untethered it is from us. This experimental novel is a joy to experience. — Melissa Hohl, Greenlight Bookstore [686 Fulton St. between S. Elliott Place and S. Portland Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 246-0200, www.greenlightbookstore.com].

**Community Bookstore's pick:** "Craft" by Alexander Langlands In his new book, subtitled "An Inquiry Into the Origins and True Meaning of Traditional Crafts," archaeologist Alexander Langlands explores the material culture of medieval Europe and the domestic labor that was required to create it. From weaving and beekeeping to pottery and thatching, Langlands traces traditions which exist today as hobbies or quaint pastimes back to their origins, creating a compelling picture of our changing relationship with labor and technology, and of domestic and public space. The book is impressive in its ability to use historical examples to give us a fuller picture of our own time. — Samuel Partal, Community Bookstore [43 Seventh Ave. between Carroll Street and Garfield Place in Park Slope, (718) 783-3075, www.communitybookstore.net].

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WHERE TO GO

EDITORS’ PICKS

SATURDAY  
March 10



Jazzed up

Brooklyn jazz singer and songwriter Alicia Olatuja, who performed as a soloist with the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir at Obama’s second inauguration, returns to her home borough, belting out a selection of tunes from her upcoming album “Intuition: Songs from the Minds of Women.”

8 pm at Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb Avenue at Flatbush avenue Downtown, (718) 488–1624, [www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org)] \$30.

SUNDAY  
March 11

Per-sisters

Former First Daughter Chelsea Clinton will read from and discusses her new picture book “She Persisted Around the World: 13 Women Who Changed History,” along with illustrator Alexandra Boiger. The book showcases British author J.K. Rowling, Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai, and Marie Curie, along with 10 others.

5 pm at Brooklyn Public Library’s Central Branch (10 Grand Army Plaza, at Eastern Parkway in Prospect Heights, [www.bklynpubliclibrary.org](http://www.bklynpubliclibrary.org)). Free.



TUESDAY  
March 13



Paint the town

You can still get tickets to Little Cinema’s immersive presentation of “Basquiat.” The biopic about the celebrated New York painter, which features rock icon David Bowie as Andy Warhol, will get live dance numbers, aerial performances, live music from Basquiat’s friend Brian Kelly, and video projections. With another showing on March 14.

8 pm at House of Yes [2 Wyckoff Ave. at Jefferson Street in Bushwick, (646) 838–4937, [www.houseofyes.org](http://www.houseofyes.org)] \$30–\$45.

WEDNESDAY  
March 14

Call me Al

Celebrate Einstein’s 139th birthday with science, history, puppets, and beer! The group Astronomy on Tap will host “Our Friend Albert,” an evening of quick lectures from four different astro-scientists, intermixed with scenes from a puppet show about Einstein and his wife, titled “Friends Call Me Albert.”

8 pm at Littlefield (635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus, [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com)). \$10.



THURSDAY  
March 15



Go-go grandma!

Magician Tanya Solomon hosts Force Majeure Vaudeville, a monthly showcase of bizarre talent. Tonight’s edition will feature a pair sex-positive rapping grandmothers (Fantasy Grandma, pictured), a hat juggler, a flex dancer, a strong-woman, gender-shredding burlesque artist Poison Ivy, and more.

9 pm at Cobra Club (6 Wyckoff Ave. between Jefferson and Troutman streets in Bushwick), [www.cobraclubbk.com](http://www.cobraclubbk.com). \$15 (\$10 in advance).

NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

FRI, MARCH 9

ART, FREE FRIDAY’S “ARTISANAL TENTATIVE!”: An evening exploration of Brooklyn’s inexorable artisanal identity. Free. 5 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

THEATER, “ASSASSINS”: Theater 2020 presents Stephen Sondheim’s musical about figures who tried to take out U.S. Presidents. \$40 (\$30 seniors and students). 8 pm. St. Francis College [180 Remsen St. between Court and Clinton streets in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 489–5200], [www.sfc.edu](http://www.sfc.edu).

MUSIC, “THE ROBOT JOHNSON EXPERIENCE”: A sci-fi hip-hop solo concert and concept piece about the origins of a future race of hip-hop androids. \$20–\$25. 8 pm. Bushwick Starr (207 Starr St. between Irving and Wyckoff avenues in Bushwick), [www.thebushwickstarr.org](http://www.thebushwickstarr.org).

MUSIC, BROOKLYN CHAMBER MUSIC SOCIETY: The Brooklyn Heights group performs work by Haydn, Sibelius, and Franck. \$30 (\$20 students). 8 pm. Chapel at First Unitarian Church [119 Pierrepont St. between Clinton St. and Monroe Place in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 858–0718], [www.brooklynchambermusicsociety.org](http://www.brooklynchambermusicsociety.org).

MUSIC, CHOIRFLY: The a capella band sings about Harry Potter, Star Wars, and other nerdy stuff. \$5 suggested donation. 8 pm. The Way Station [683 Washington Ave. between St. Marks Avenue and Prospect Place in Prospect Heights, (718) 627–4949], [www.waystationbk.com](http://www.waystationbk.com).

DANCE, “MOODS”: A selection of work by dance pioneer Anna Sokolow. \$25 (\$18 students and seniors). 8 pm. Actors Fund Arts Center (160 Schermerhorn St. between Smith and Hoyt streets Downtown), [sokolow2018.bpt.me](http://sokolow2018.bpt.me).

NIGHTLIFE, MR(S). BROOKLYN COMPETITION, ROUND ONE: Acid Betty hosts the first round of the borough-wide drag queen competition. \$20 (\$15 in advance). 10 pm. Secret Project Robot (1186 Broadway between Lafayette Avenue and Van Buren Street in Williamsburg), [www.mrsbkny.com](http://www.mrsbkny.com).

COMING SOON TO BARCLAYS CENTER

FRI, MARCH 9

SPORTS, 2018 ACC MEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SEMI-FINALS: \$55. 7 pm.

SAT, MARCH 10

SPORTS, 2018 ACC MEN’S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT FINALS: \$55. 8:30 pm.

SUN, MARCH 11

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V PHILADELPHIA 76ERS: \$26–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

TUE, MARCH 13

SPORTS, BROOKLYN NETS V TORONTO RAPTORS: \$26–\$3,000. 7:30 pm.

THU, MARCH 15

SPORTS, NEW YORK ISLANDERS V WASHINGTON CAPITALS: \$15–\$400. 7 pm.

FRI, MARCH 16

MUSIC, DEMI LOVATO AND DJ KHALED: \$49–\$499. 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, MARCH 10

MUSIC, “MADAMA BUTTERFLY”: Regina Opera Company presents Puccini’s opera “Madama Butterfly,” the tragic story of a young geisha who gives up everything for a brash American naval officer. In Italian with English supertitles. \$25 (\$20 seniors, \$5 teens). 3 pm. Our Lady of Perpetual Help school auditorium [5902 Sixth Ave. between 59th and 60th Streets in Sunset Park, (718) 259–2772], [www.reginaopera.org](http://www.reginaopera.org).

THEATER, “THE VISITATION”: An immersive play about two priests in 1682 investigating a witchcraft accusation, performed throughout the Wyckoff House, the oldest building in NYC. \$40. 7 pm and 9 pm. Wyckoff House [5816 Clarendon Rd. at E. 59th Street in East Flatbush, (908) 420–9858], [visitationexperience.com](http://visitationexperience.com).

THEATER, “PLAZA SUITE”: The Gallery Players perform Neil Simon’s comedy classic about three couples who stay in the hotel suite. \$25 (\$20 seniors and students). 8 pm. Gallery Players [199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope, (212) 352–3101], [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com).

READING, POP-UP SHAKESPEARE: An entertaining pop-up book collaboration between the Reduced Shakespeare Company and illustrator Jennie Maizels. Free. 11 am. PowerHouse Arena [28 Adams St. at Water Street in Dumbo, (718) 666–3049], [www.powerhousearena.com](http://www.powerhousearena.com).

FREE FITNESS AND FUN: A weekly full body workout of low-impact aerobic, with African and world dance movements. Free. 2 pm. Restoration Plaza [1368 Fulton St. at Marcy Avenue in Bedford-Stuyvesant, (718) 636–6996], [www.restorationplaza.org](http://www.restorationplaza.org).

See 9 DAYS on page 7

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CEO  
Les Goodstein

PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER  
Jennifer Goodstein

EDITORIAL STAFF

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF  
Vince DiMiceli (718) 260–4508

DEPUTY EDITOR  
Anthony Rotunno (718) 260–8303

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All the young dudes: The exhibit “David Bowie is” at the Brooklyn Museum includes photos and artwork from throughout the artist’s career, including this image from 1973.

# Hallo, Spaceboy!

## Bklyn Museum welcomes Bowie exhibit

By Adam Lucente  
Brooklyn Paper

The Starman has touched down in Brooklyn!

After a five-year world tour, the “David Bowie is” exhibit has made its final landing at the Brooklyn Museum. The enormous exhibition displays more than 300 artifacts from the late rock icon’s five-decade career, including his instruments, costumes, writings and more. “David Bowie is” got its title because the polymorphous singer, actor, and artist David Bowie is so many things, said the curator of the London museum that initiated the project.

“It’s a statement and an unfinished sentence because it can’t be finished,” said Victoria Broackes, of the Victoria and Albert Museum. “It’s an answer in which everybody brings their own.”

“David Bowie is” shows off a treasure trove from the Starman’s personal archive, including original costumes, handwritten music, set designs, photos, and album artwork. Once you enter the exhibit, on the Museum’s fifth floor, you immediately see Bowie’s name lit up in bright, white lights. Many of the signs, placards, and images throughout the exhibit are orange, a steady theme throughout Bowie’s long career, said the Museum’s chief designer.

“Throughout Bowie’s album covers, one color stands out more than others: orange,” said Matthew Yokobosky, pointing to the orange lightning



Fashion forward: (Top to bottom) David Bowie’s elaborate stage costumes are on display at the exhibit. And the museum also shows off the art for each of Bowie’s many albums.

bolt painted on Bowie’s face for the “Aladdin Sane” album cover.

Each section covers a different era of Bowie’s career, with a different attempt to complete the title: Next to a collection of this stage costumes, a sign reads “David Bowie is making himself up.” Another, beside a series of photos, reads “David Bowie is float-

The Brooklyn Museum version of the show also features some objects not included at its previous stops, including lyrics and set lists.

And the exhibit is more than a visual tour of Bowie’s career — each visitor gets a pair of headphones that plays Bowie’s music hits and snippets from his interviews, with the audio changing depending on where you are in the room. For example, when you approach the slightly worn, yellowing sheet music for “Space Oddity,” you suddenly hear “Ground control to Major Tom” in your ear, followed by the rest of the song.

Bowie supported the dual audio and visual approach, according to Broackes.

“He wanted sound and vision to be as much a part of the story as photos and costumes,” she said.

Tickets to the exhibit start at \$20, and are scheduled to allow entry every 15 minutes throughout the day. Based on pre-sales, “David Bowie is” is already the Brooklyn Museum’s most successful exhibit, according to a spokeswoman.

“Advance sales for ‘David Bowie is’ have been the most successful to date compared to any exhibition presented at the Brooklyn Museum. A few days prior to opening, the Brooklyn Museum sold over 20,000 tickets,” said Fatima Jones Kafele.

The exhibit’s journey from London to Brooklyn echoes Bowie’s life and artistry, said those who worked on the show.

“He expressed his wish that it would open in London and close in New York,” said Brooklyn Museum director Anne Pasternak. “It followed the arc of his career.”

“David Bowie is” at Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 638–5000, [www.brooklynmuseum.org](http://www.brooklynmuseum.org)). On display through July 25. \$20–\$25. (VIP \$35–\$2,500).

# Over the line!

## Island artists team up

By Alexandra Simon  
Brooklyn Paper

Call them artists without borders. More than a dozen Dominican and Haitian artists will come together to showcase artwork depicting the relationship between the two neighboring Caribbean countries. At the exhibit “Bordering the Imaginary,” opening at Bric House on March 14, artists from both countries will explore the history of the

island they share. The show is a way to get artists of both nationalities to work together, said its curator.

“This exhibit’s [purpose] is to propagate and imagine communities, and it’s Dominican artists and Haitian artists who come together, and trying to find ways that highlight that creativity,” said Abigail Lapin Dardashti, a Dominican-American woman.

The exhibit features 40 pieces from 19 artists, and is split into three sections. The first examines the his-



Get the goat: Artist Scherezade Garcia says her painting “Caressing the Goat,” references a proverb said on the island.

tory of the island, the second looks at the border area between the two nations, and the last is a joint multimedia project by Dominican-American artist Scherezade Garcia and Haitian-American artist Vladimir Cybil Charlier. The section features an animated video and an installation exploring resistance and race. The countries have much in common, said Garcia.

“It’s not about making us one country — it’s beyond politics, it’s about the history that unites us, and they can fight all we want but we are intertwined,” she said.

“Bordering the Imaginary” at Bric House [647 Fulton St. at Rockwell Places in Fort Greene, (718) 855–7882, [www.bricartsmedia.org](http://www.bricartsmedia.org)]. Opening reception March 14 at 7 pm, on display through April 29. Free.

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 6

**READING, “BINGO LOVE” RELEASE PARTY:** Cartoonist Tee Franklin celebrates the release of her graphic novel about older lesbians who fall in love over bingo, with a reading, discussion, and several rounds of bingo! \$20 (\$10 in advance, includes two bingo cards). 7 pm. Rocco’s Tacos [339 Adams St. between Fulton and Johnson streets in Downtown, (718) 246–8226], [www.geekout.org](http://www.geekout.org).

**COMEDY, TINDER LIVE FOURTH ANNIVERSARY SHOW!** Lane Moore’s live online dating show welcomes comedian Eliot Glazer, musician JD Samson, and author Mychal Denzel Smith. \$15. 8:30 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com).



Take my hand: In the Regina Opera Company’s production of “Madama Butterfly,” which plays its final shows on March 10 and 11, Christina Rohm plays the devoted wife of an American serviceman, portrayed by Peter Hakjoon Kim.

### SUN, MARCH 11

**DANCE, “THE BEAUTY OF BALLET”:** The School of American Ballet presents famous ballet moments from “Sleeping Beauty,” and “Swan Lake,” and instructors explain how the dance works. Free. 2 pm. Kumble Theater at Long Island University [DeKalb and Flatbush avenues in Downtown, (718) 488–1624], [www.kumbletheater.org](http://www.kumbletheater.org).

**MUSIC, “MADAMA BUTTERFLY”:** 3 pm. See Saturday, March 10.

**FILM, “INTO THE NIGHT — PORTRAITS OF LIFE AND DEATH”:** A special preview screening of a new feature-length documentary about diverse perspectives on death and dying. With a free panel discussion starting at 1:30 before the screening. \$15. 3:30 pm. Green-Wood Cemetery [Fifth Avenue and 25th Street in Greenwald Heights, (718) 210–3080], [www.green-wood.com](http://www.green-wood.com).

**FILM, THAT SLAPSTICK SHOW!** An evening of vintage comedy films, featuring Laurel and Hardy, the Three Stooges, and more. \$10. 7 pm. [389 Melrose St. between Knickerbocker and Irving avenues in Bushwick, (718) 415–1025].

**THEATER, “PLAZA SUITE”:** 3 pm. See Saturday, March 10.

**DANCE, “MOODS”:** 3 pm. See Friday, March 9.

**THEATER, “ASSASSINS”:** 4 pm. See Friday, March 9.

### MON, MARCH 12

**TALK, “ONE CLICK AWAY”:** A performance and panel on human trafficking, with complimentary cocktails afterwards. Free. 6:30 pm.

Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

**COMEDY, SIDE PONYTAIL:** The Monday night comedy show welcomes Catherine Cohen, Joanna Briley, Peter Revello, and more. Free. 8 pm. Friends and Lovers [641 Classon Ave. between Dean and Pacific streets in Crown Heights], [www.fnlbk.com](http://www.fnlbk.com).

**COMEDY, COMEDY MONDAY:** Open mic and stand-up. Free. 6 pm. Freddy’s Bar [627 Fifth Ave. between 17th and 18th streets in Greenwald Heights, (718) 768–0131], [www.freddysbar.com](http://www.freddysbar.com).

### TUES, MARCH 13

**TALK, “THE WOMAN’S HOUR: The Great Fight to Win the Vote”:** Author Elaine Weiss discusses her new book. \$5 (Free for members). 6:30 pm. Brooklyn Historical Society [128 Pierrepont St. at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, (718) 222–4111], [www.brooklynhistory.org](http://www.brooklynhistory.org).

**TALK, “SHIRLEY JACKSON’S WEIRD”:** The Miskatonic Institute of Horror Studies presents a lecture on the work of Shirley Jackson, author of the short story “The Lottery” and the novel “The Haunting of Hill House,” exploring her legacy and some of her lesser-known works. \$15 (\$12 in advance). 7 pm. Film Noir Cinema [122 Meserole Ave. at Leonard Street in Greenpoint, (718) 389–5773], [www.miskatonic-nyc.com](http://www.miskatonic-nyc.com).

**THEATER, “THE WINTER’S TALE”:** Arin Arbus directs this production of Shake-

speare’s late tragicomedy, which features a jealous king, a missing daughter, and a hungry bear. \$90–\$100 (\$20 people under 30). 7:30 pm.

**FILM, “BREAKTHROUGH — PORTRAITS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE”:** A short film anthology that follows women working at the forefront of their fields. Followed by a live discussion with the producers. \$16. 8 pm. Alamo Drafthouse [445 Albee Square West between Willoughby and Fulton streets in Downtown, (718) 513–2547], [www.drafthouse.com/nyc](http://www.drafthouse.com/nyc).

**COMEDY, ONE LINER MADNESS:** 64 comedians compete in a one-liner joke tournament. Proceeds benefit Shelter Chic animal rescue. \$10 (\$8 in advance). 8 pm. Littlefield [635 Sackett St. between Third and Fourth avenues in Gowanus], [www.littlefieldnyc.com](http://www.littlefieldnyc.com).

### WED, MARCH 14

**FILM, “JUST ANOTHER GIRL ON THE IRT”:** A 25th anniversary screening of the film about a Brooklyn girl going after what she wants. Director Leslie Harris will discuss the film afterwards. \$15. 7 pm. Alamo Drafthouse [445 Albee Square West between Willoughby and Fulton streets in Downtown, (718) 513–2547], [www.drafthouse.com/nyc](http://www.drafthouse.com/nyc).

### THURS, MARCH 15

**TALK, JUGGLING TAXES FOR FREELANCERS:** A free workshop for the self-employed. RSVP requested. Free. 5 pm. The Muse [350

Moffat St. between Irving and Knickerbocker avenues in Bushwick, (929) 400–1678], [www.themusebrooklyn.com](http://www.themusebrooklyn.com).

**FILM, KEVIN GEEKS OUT ABOUT WOMEN’S WRESTLING:** Comedian Kevin Maher hosts a video variety show celebrating the ladies of wrestling entertainment in film and television, with guest presentations and an appearance by Kimmy Gatewood, star of the Netflix series “Glow.” \$15. 7:30 pm. Alamo Drafthouse [445 Albee Square West between Willoughby and Fulton streets in Downtown, (718) 513–2547], [www.drafthouse.com/nyc](http://www.drafthouse.com/nyc).

**COMEDY, FAME DUMPSTER:** Social media gurus Chris Burns and Alise Morales host a night of viral comedy. \$10. 9:30 pm. The Brick [575 Metropolitan Ave. between Union Avenue and Lorimer Street in Williamsburg, (718) 907–6189], [www.bricktheater.com](http://www.bricktheater.com).

### FRI, MARCH 16

**ART, “HAND LUGGAGE” OPENING RECEPTION:** A collaborative project by Kirmin Hagen and Christine Katscher, in which they follow pre-determined instructions about how to set up the exhibit. Free. 7–9 pm. Open Source Gallery [306 17th St. at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope, (646) 279–3969], [open-source-gallery.org](http://open-source-gallery.org).

**DANCE, “CLADDAGH”:** The Celtic rock group the Prodigals plays along with world-champion Irish and tap dancers. \$32–\$37. 8 pm. On Stage at Kingsborough [2001 Oriental Blvd. at Oxford Street in Manhattan Beach, (718) 368–5596], [www.onstageatkingsborough.org](http://www.onstageatkingsborough.org).

**FILM, “LEPRECHAUN 4 — IN SPACE!”:** The best film in the Leprechaun series gets a midnight screening for St. Patrick’s Day weekend. \$12. Midnight. Nitehawk Cinema [136 Metropolitan Ave. between Wythe Avenue and Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 384–3980], [www.nitehawkcinema.com](http://www.nitehawkcinema.com).

### SAT, MARCH 17

**TOUR, WHISKEY WARS FACTORY TOUR!:** Join Kings County Distillery on a tour and tasting that explores whiskey scandals of the past and the resurgence of the industry today. \$20. 4:30 pm. Brooklyn Navy Yard at BLDG 92 [63 Flushing Ave. at Carlton Avenue in Fort Greene, (718) 907–5932], [www.bldg92.org](http://www.bldg92.org).

**THEATER, “THE WINTER’S TALE”:** 7:30 pm. See Friday, March 16.

**THEATER, “ASSASSINS”:** 8 pm. See Friday, March 9.



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# Beware the car nuts

## ‘Thoughts and prayers’ won’t stop this. New rules can

I t’s time we stopped letting car owners talk about murderous drivers the same way that gun owners talk about murderers with weapons.

Follow the logic: Seconds after some nut kills innocent people with an AR-15, gun-rights advocates unleash their coordinated strategy: Guns, they say, are a birthright, but activists want to take them away — and besides, there’s no way to prevent crazy people with guns from killing innocents if they’re hell bent on doing it.

In the wake of Monday’s tragic death of two kids on Ninth Street in Park Slope, I’m hearing a similar argument: Cars are a birthright, but activists want to take them away — and, besides, there’s no way to prevent crazy people with cars from killing innocents if they’re hell bent on doing it.

But none of this is true: Cars have no greater right to the roadways than any other users, and safety advocates are not calling for cars to be banned, only regulated. And it’s a flat-out fallacy that deaths by rogue drivers can’t be dramatically reduced and even stopped with aggressive redesigns of our streets.

I realized that even safety advocates had been co-opted after my own councilman, Brad Lander, told the Daily News, “No intersection design was going to stop this erratic driver from killing these kids.” Lander, who is typically a champion of street safety, later clarified his position in a Facebook post and tweets.

“I wholeheartedly support intersection redesigns & have

## THE BROOKLYN ANGLE

By Gersh Kuntzman



fought for them in every corner of my district,” he posted to Twitter. “And would certainly support one at 5th/9th. But this killing appears to have been caused by a reckless driver with a driving record that suggests depraved indifference.”

But to a cyclist who demands safer streets for all Lander’s return to sanity was too late. The first words out of a politician’s mouth in a moment of crisis must be, “I will fix this” rather than, “I’m not sure we can ever really stop a killer from killing.”

The fact is, a lot can be done. The city’s own studies show that redesigning streets to include protected bike lanes and pedestrian islands improves safety for all. After such a redesign a few years ago on Eighth Avenue in Manhattan, there was a 35-percent drop in injuries for all users. On Ninth Avenue, the drop was 58 percent. And better street design on Hoyt Avenue near the Triboro Bridge in Queens led to more safety for pedestrians and less congestion for drivers.

There’s always a pushback — the protected bike lane on Prospect Park West was so controversial that some former city officials sued to block it! And anti-safety activists in Eastern Queens wanted to sue DeBlasio

for demanding cars slow down. But years afterwards, statistics always bear out what the safety advocates predicted: roads get less dangerous for all when the city adds protected bike lanes and lowers car speeds.

The gun-car parallel also came up recently when Gov. Cuomo supported congestion pricing as a way of taming Manhattan’s notorious, and productivity-destroying, traffic. Car owners in the so-called outer boroughs reacted with completely overinflated outrage: “What about the one time every four years that I have to drive into the city for a doctor’s appointment?”

That sounds like gun owners who assert that they need their weapons to overthrow a tyrannical federal government (231 years since the Constitution was ratified and . . . still no tyranny to overthrow).

I’m certainly not alone in calling for sanity. On Monday, Wall Street Journal writer Jason Gay joined me in frustration, tweeting “Cities must be feverishly serious about traffic calming strategies with speed limit reductions & media/pol jackassery about cyclist/ped rights can’t go unchecked. Literally life/death issue.”

And there’s no reason for delay, he added. “If the city is

serious it can fix Ninth Street tonight with a combination of calming strategies that are decades old — if I hear about a study or public survey I’m going to scream.”

For me, the scream-inducing moment is when politicians — who can make the changes they say they want — offer only thoughts and prayers when the all-too-predictable fatality on our streets comes yet again after years of activists’ calls for fixes. After Monday’s vehicular homicide, activist Doug Gordon — aka Brooklyn Spoke — posted the reaction the Department of Transportation gave him last year when he called for traffic calming on Ninth Street, where drivers frequently speed. The agency told him there was no room to make additional safety improvements. No room? The intersection of Fifth Avenue and Ninth Street feels like the plains of Montana; the open design itself invites speeding and double-parking in the bike lane.


The anti-safety backlash isn’t only happening in Brooklyn. In Queens, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer was a strong safety advocate, who most recently supported the city’s redesign of Skillman and 43rd Avenues with a protected bike lane — until Queens drivers pushed back to save their parking spaces and business owners claimed they would lose revenue. And instead of standing on his principles, Van Bramer folded like a cheap suit. Makes sense, I guess: When you want to be borough president of Queens, you can’t get too close to us “anti-car activists.” Except we’re not “anti-car activists,” we’re safety advocates.

So let’s not be swayed by the same arguments that the gun lobby makes: like gun nuts who kill, car nuts who kill can be stopped. Just as our society does not have to let gun owners run amok, we need not let car drivers do the same.

*Gersh Kuntzman, who is literally writing for food, can be reached at gershkuntzman@gmail.com. And if you see him, take him to lunch.*

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## MAYOR...

Continued from page 1  
no amount of infrastructure improvements could prevent crashes caused by certain uncontrollable circumstances.

“There’s no way to know exactly what would have made the difference here,” he said.

But Gordon said the recorded five fatalities along Ninth Street since 2004, in ad-

dition to the 33 injuries suffered on the road since 2010, suggest hazards that can be fixed through sensible traffic-safety improvements.

“When you look at the overall pattern, it suggests something more needs to be done,” he said.

And as advocates pushed for change outside the YMCA,

mourners congregated around floral bouquets and other tokens of grief laid down the block in honor of the victims, who some openly wept tears of grief for.

“We’re such a close-knit community,” said Park Slope resident Nancy Scherl, who left roses at a memorial outside the Chase Bank on Fifth Avenue near Ninth Street. “When something happens to one person, it happens to everybody.”

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Legal

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT  
COUNTY OF KINGS, U.S.  
BANK NATIONAL  
ASSOCIATION NOT IN  
ITS INDIVIDUAL  
CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY  
AS LEGAL TITLE  
TRUSTEE FOR LVS  
TITLE TRUST I, Plaintiff,  
vs. LAKERAM RAJDANNI,  
ET AL., Defendant(s).  
Pursuant to a Judgment of  
Foreclosure and Sale duly  
filed on December 16,  
2015, I, the undersigned  
Referee will sell at public  
auction at the Kings  
County Supreme Court,  
Room 224, 360 Adams  
Street, Brooklyn, NY on  
March 29, 2018 at 2:30  
p.m., premises known as 2  
Cypress Court, Brooklyn,  
NY. All that certain plot,  
piece or parcel of land, with  
the buildings and  
improvements thereon  
erected, situate, lying and  
being in the Borough of  
Brooklyn, County of Kings,  
City and State of New  
York, Block 4106 and Lot  
5. Approximate amount of  
judgment is \$681,281.36  
plus interest and costs.  
Premises will be sold  
subject to provisions of  
filed Judgment Index #  
15583/09.  
Andrew Lavcott Bluestone,  
Esq., Referee  
Knuckles, Komosinski &  
Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter  
Road, Ste. 590, Elmsford,  
NY 10523, Attorneys for  
Plaintiff  
Cash will not be accepted.

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
SUPREME COURT:  
KINGS COUNTY  
N A T I O N S T A R  
MORTGAGE LLC;  
Plaintiff(s)  
vs. OWEN JOHNSON, JR;  
et al; Defendant(s)  
Attorney (s) for Plaintiff (s):  
ROSICKI, ROSICKI &  
ASSOCIATES, P.C., 2  
Summit Court, Suite 301,  
Fishkill, New York, 12524,  
845.897.1600  
Pursuant to judgment of  
foreclosure and sale  
granted herein on or about  
October 6, 2015, I will sell  
at Public Auction to the  
highest bidder in Room  
224 of Kings County  
Supreme Court, 360  
Adams Street, Brooklyn,  
New York 11201.  
On March 22, 2018 at 2:30  
pm.  
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BEING IN THE BOROUGH  
OF BROOKLYN, COUNTY  
OF KINGS, CITY AND  
STATE OF NEW YORK.  
As more particularly  
described in the judgment  
of foreclosure and sale.  
Sold subject to all of the  
terms and conditions  
contained in said judgment  
and terms of sale.  
Approximate amount of  
judgment \$382,514.63 plus  
interest and costs.  
INDEX NO. 21977/09  
Gregory T. Cerchione,  
Esq., Referee

**SUPREME COURT**  
-  
COUNTY OF KINGS  
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M O R T G A G E  
ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE  
MAE"), A CORPORATION  
ORGANIZED AND  
EXISTING UNDER THE  
LAWS OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA,  
Plaintiff -against- HILLEL  
VOGEL, BAYLA VOGEL,  
et al Defendant(s).  
Pursuant to a Judgment of  
Foreclosure and Sale  
entered herein and dated  
September 12, 2017, I, the  
undersigned Referee will  
sell at public auction at the  
Kings County Courthouse  
360 Adams Street, Room  
224, Brooklyn, NY on April  
12, 2018 at 2:30 p.m.  
premises situate, lying and  
being in the County of  
Kings, City and State of  
New York in the  
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UNIT 1B, BROOKLYN, NY  
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deposit paid. The  
Purchaser shall have no  
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the Mortgagor, or the  
Mortgagee or the  
Mortgagee's attorney.  
Index Number 16648/2014.  
PHILIP L. KAMARAS,  
ESQ., Referee  
David A. Gallo &  
Associates LLP  
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff  
99 Powerhouse Road, First  
Floor, Roslyn Heights, NY  
11577  
File# 7254.1119  
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