

INSIDE

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The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper

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Brooklyn's REAL NEWSWEEK

The Brooklyn Papers

FOR 25 YEARS

Hikind: Girl bias victim

Says teen was beaten because she is Jewish

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A report that a Jewish schoolgirl was attacked by an Arab-American girl has raised the specter of ethnic tensions in the Bay Ridge community. The Arab student was arrested after the Dec. 12 incident inside a stairwell of IS 259. While the incident was not reported as a bias attack, Borough Park

Bay Ridge Assemblyman Dov Hikind believes it was bias-related and wants the incident investigated as such. In a letter to Schools Chancellor Joel Klein, Hikind said the 13-year-old victim was surrounded by a group of predominantly Arab students and taunted with the words, "Jew, Jew, Jew."

Hikind said the attack came after "weeks of taunting and tormenting by this group, led by one particular Arab girl."

The mother of the victim contacted Hikind and told him that she knew something had been wrong with her daughter, an honors student at IS 259, but it wasn't until after the attack that she learned that her daughter was being harassed by students at her school.

Police said the hate crimes task force investigated the incident and determined there was no evidence of bias in the attack — despite ethnic epithets used by both girls — nor was there any underlying ethnic strife in the school.

According to the Department of Education, the incident was "just a fight." Spokesman Kevin Ortiz said, "There's no indication that it was a bias incident... The Arab girl was arrested since she threw the first punch."

Hikind contacted Community School District 20 Superintendent Vincent Grippo. According to the assemblyman, Grippo told him that the incident was just a case of two students fighting.

Grippo did not return calls seeking comment. "Fights happen, but my concern is the bias," Hikind told The Brooklyn Papers, adding that his commitment to justice would be just as strong had the targeted student been Muslim.

In the letter to Klein, Hikind expressed concern that the public schools were "steeped in special consideration and sensitivity towards Arab students. What about the rights of Jewish students?" Hikind asked.

In a preemptive strike against this kind of religious tension in the Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst area, the community organized a group called the Unity Task Force in 1999.

"We figured let's be sure we are in place in case we have tensions in our area," said John Abi-Habib, a task force member. According to Abi-Habib, who is also a Bay Ridge business-

See **ATTACK** on page 7



Principal Louis Nezowitz of PS 97, 1855 Stillwell Ave., helps build gingerbread houses with fourth-graders from Mrs. Teresa Mirailh's class on Friday, his last day at the school.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

School's out forever

Gravesend principal Louis Nezowitz retires, leaves behind loving teachers, students and parents

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Every morning for the past 15 years, Principal Louis Nezowitz has gotten on the loudspeaker and told his students at PS 97 that he loves them.

But on Friday, the echo of, "We love you, too, Mr. Nezowitz," was heard for the last time outside the school on Stillwell Avenue between Highlawn Avenue and 82nd Street in Gravesend.

Nezowitz, 57, came to PS 97, which is considered among the best public elementary schools in New York City, 15 years ago. Since then both the reading and math scores have soared, earning PS 97 the distinguished school award for excellence in academics for showing improvements in math and reading growth for the past three years. The school is now up for the national award.

"PS 97 is overcrowded because people give phone addresses to get in here," Nezowitz said about his school, which now has approximately 870 students and 50 teachers, then he added, "And that's the biggest compliment."

Staff and parents are already lamenting the loss of their leader. "I'm devastated," said Laura Sorrentino, school secretary and former PTA president, speaking about Nezowitz's retirement. "He's a tremendous asset to the school and he makes coming to school every day a wonderful thing."

See **PRINCIPAL** on page 7

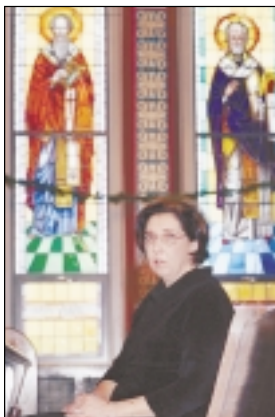


The sign outside PS 97 bids fond farewell to Principal Nezowitz, who has headed the school for the past 15 years.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

For Billy

Memorial to Bee-Kee-Nee Bar victim Manolis, but underage drink persists



Maria Manolis beside stained-glass window dedicated to her son, Billy, at family's church.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Maria Manolis says a day doesn't go by when she doesn't think about her son Billy, a popular St. Johns University freshman and member of the Greek Orthodox community, who was stabbed to death while celebrating his 18th birthday three years ago inside a Bay Ridge bar.

On Dec. 8, just a month after three underage men were stabbed outside another notorious Ridge nightclub, a new stained-glass window — dedicated in Billy's memory inside the gilded Kimisis Theotokou Greek Orthodox Church on 18th Street and Fifth Avenue.

The window depicts a red-cloaked Saint Basil, the fourth-century Greek Christian leader, born in 329, who was

bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. He was Billy's namesake in the church. It's the same church, Maria said, where her parents met and married in 1953 and where she wed her husband, christened her children, and where she is the principal of the parochial school and has worked for the past 26 years.

"This is home," she said, peering at the window as the morning sun lit St. Basil's red cross. Billy Manolis was celebrating his 18th birthday when he was murdered in the early morning hours of Easter Sunday 1999 while inside the now defunct Bee-Kee-Nee Bar on Fort Hamilton Parkway at 92nd Street, Carmine Galante, his convicted killer, charged into the bar and, without uttering a word, stabbed him in the chest, killing him.

See **MANOLIS** on page 7

Narrows Senior Center battle rages



Assemblyman Peter Abate joined by state Sen. Vincent Gentile and seniors Fran Aiello and Anna Valentino, pledged \$100,000 for a new Bensonhurst senior center and called on Marty Golden to come up with money promised during his campaign for state Senate. The event drew near 100 seniors to the Moose Lodge on 18th Avenue.

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mango

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Marking the latest move in an clash of political wills over where in Bensonhurst to move a senior center, Assemblyman Peter Abate this week signed a commitment of \$100,000 in funds towards a new center at the Loyal Order of the Moose Lodge on 18th Avenue.

The move by Abate firmly planted the ball back in state Senator-elect Marty Golden and Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno's court, as Bruno promised, at varying times during the course of Golden's senate campaign, \$250,000 and then funds to match what Abate put up for the Moose Lodge senior center if Golden was elected.

The event was also largely a political show, as the commitment from Abate signed is non-binding and, he has stated that he will provide the funds conditioned on the city pulling out of a deal for another senior center in Borough Park.

Flanked by seniors sporting signs that read, "Marty Golden, what's the deal?" and "Bensonhurst seniors deserve a Bensonhurst center," Abate

See **CENTER** on page 3

Gentile: 'no' to gay bill

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

State Sen. Vincent Gentile was one of only three Democrats to vote against legislation prohibiting discrimination against gays and lesbians

which passed the Republican-led state Senate last week.

Gov. George Pataki signed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA) into law on Dec. 17, making New York the 13th state to include gays and lesbians in its civil rights laws. The

legislation provides protection to gays and lesbians in employment, housing and public services.

Gentile told The Bay Ridge Paper that he was voting the conscience of his constituents, and said that he got calls decrying the legislation.

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Another Chinese health ctr.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Two roasted pigs, a set of drum players, and a lion dance were just part of the festivities at the opening of New York University Downtown Hospital's new health clinic in Sunset Park that will serve the community's growing Chinese population.

While several honored guests took turns lighting incense as part of the traditional Chinese ceremony on Dec. 18, doctors, hospital representatives, and members of the Chinese community clasped small gold scissors and cut the count of three cut the clinic's long, red ribbon welcoming the 6,000-square-foot facility on 61st Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues.

The opening ceremony for the facility, which will officially open its doors in January, came just a week after the mayor snipped the inaugural ribbon at Lutheran Medical Center's nearby Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center, on 54th Street between Eighth



At its grand opening on Dec. 18, doctors and hospital representatives joined members of the Chinese community to cut a ribbon on the new Brooklyn Primary Care Center at 755-759 61st St. in Sunset Park.

and Ninth avenues.

Both health clinics will serve the more than 17,000 Chinese-American residents in Sunset Park as well as the 34,000 Chinese immigrants in Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge.

But the new facilities, located in the heart of Sunset Park's Chinatown, are within walking distance of each other and have Chinese employees and staff, all of whom are bilingual, said Lee, adding, "and that makes patients feel comfortable."

Dr. Eric Poon, the project

needs of the community."

Lutheran Medical Center, the sponsor of the Brooklyn Chinese Family Health Center, which opened last week, has been serving the Sunset Community for more than 100 years.

"There are a lot of needs that need tending to and services are growing to meet those needs," said Rob Walsh, Lutheran's senior vice president.

"The scenario would be different if we just entered the scene," said NYU Downtown spokeswoman Vanessa Warner. "But we are not new, we have been serving our patients in Brooklyn for a number of years."

With about 25 percent of the hospital's patients in Manhattan traveling from Brooklyn, NYU Downtown opened a smaller center five years ago on Eighth Avenue between 53rd and 55th streets but needed a new site to meet growing demands.

"The reason we are in Brooklyn is because our patients are there," said Warner. "We are there to serve the market."

Back from the drawing board for City Council district lines

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The City Council's Districting Commission released its second draft for proposed councilmatic lines on Dec. 18.

The new drafts seem to have addressed some of the

controversy and concern that greeted the last round of proposals, especially with respect to the makeup of the Staten Island-Bensonhurst 50th district and the Sunset Park-Rock Hook 38th district, but take the Gowanus section back from Park Slope's 39th district.

The lines, which are drawn every 10 years to coincide with the shifting population census data, represent the districts in which council members will run for re-election next year.

Under the October proposal, Councilman James Oddo's 50th district portions of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach, Bensonhurst and Staten Island's north shore — consisted entirely of Staten Island. That was modified under the latest proposal to retain a small swath of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst.

The number of Brooklyn constituents, however, has been dramatically decreased in the latest proposal from about 42,000 to 14,000, said Councilman James Oddo, who currently represents the 50th District.

Oddo, the council's minority leader, said that while he had hoped to have an entirely Staten Island seat — to ease the confusion of dealing with two county delegations, two county leaders and a wider array of community boards — when it was discovered that there was not enough population to support three solely Staten Island seats he volunteered to return to Brooklyn.



James Oddo



Bill DeBlasio

"Those are my constituents," said Oddo, who was first elected to the cross-Narrows seat in 1999.

According to the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF), proposed districts in the Bronx, which is overwhelmingly Hispanic and black, had an average of nearly 163,000 people per district, while Staten Island, which is primarily white, had an average of nearly 145,000.

The PRLDEF and other groups complained that the division diluted the power of minority voters.

The proposed 50th district contains both sides of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge, the neighborhoods at the foot of the bridge and Dyker Beach Park. The district would lose some voters between Benson and Bath avenues, from 20th Avenue to 24th Avenue, but current residents of the 50th district south of 97th Street, between 14th and 17th avenues, would remain in the district.

What the 50th takes back, the newly drawn 43rd district of Bay Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst loses from the initial October lines. The district, currently represented by Councilman Marty Golden, who will leave the seat come Jan. 1 for the state senate, picks up a bit more of southern Bath Beach than in the previous redistricting plan. There will be a special election in mid-February for the seat.

Councilman Domenic Rache's 47th district, which is largely the Conboy Island and Gravesend, also picks up a portion of Bath Beach.

Large portions of the Gowanus section of Park Slope that were cut out of the 38th district in the initial redistricting proposal in October have been returned under the revised plan, while the district loses Boerum Hill. Furthermore, the 38th district will remain a Hispanic majority district.

"The lines that she has now seem to be much better than the ones she had previously," said Lynn Schulman, a spokeswoman for 38th District Councilwoman Sara Gonzalez. "But it's still an ongoing process." As the lines are now it's a majority Latino district and that's something that she hopes will stay at the end

of the process."

Park Slope has traditionally been split into three council districts — the 38th district of Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Windsor Terrace and Borough Park; the 38th district; and the 33rd district, which includes Brooklyn Heights, Cobble Hill, Downtown Brooklyn and Williamsburg.

Groups such as the Park Slope Civic Council have pushed for the unification of the neighborhood — which fractures into the 33rd district north of Fifth Street, between Seventh Avenue and Prospect Park West, and into the 38th district, at around 11th Street and Fifth Avenue.

"We're still looking at it, obviously," 39th district Councilman Bill DeBlasio said of the newly redrawn lines. "The initial feeling is, on the good side it definitely seems more coherent, but the side that I'm still wondering about is [that] the cut in Park Slope is a little artificial."

Under the current proposal, the 39th district would run along half of Fourth Avenue and 15th Street and then shift east to Fifth Avenue until 20th Street.

DeBlasio was concerned that Third and Fourth avenues were left out of the district, but added, "It's a pretty solid proposal and I'll look at it carefully. I still have some suggestions."

The new lines for the Sunset Park-Rock Hook 38th district from the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel around the Gowanus Canal to Fifth Street and Fourth Avenue and contain the western side of the 39th district's borders wrapping around Green-Wood Cemetery.

The district takes in pieces of Borough Park, between 38th and 40th streets going as far east as 16th Avenue.

Between roughly 60th and 68th streets — the southern-most border of the proposed district — a peninsula juts out to 16th Avenue in Borough Park. In the October plan, that section had extended to about 23rd Avenue.

Also, in the revised plan, the Columbia Street Waterfront District, west of Hicks Street and north of Hamilton Avenue, which is now in the 38th district, is to be included in the 33rd district, represented by Councilman David Yassky, chairman of the select Committee on Waterfronts.

The Gowanus and Wyckoff Gardens housing projects in Boerum Hill, also currently in the 38th district, would be included in Councilman James Davis' 35th District, which is largely Fort Greene and Prospect Heights.

Both of those proposed changes remained from the initial October redistricting plan.

The proposed maps were drawn by the New York City Districting Commission to reflect the population changes detailed in the 2000 Census. The proposed districts have been submitted to the City Council for approval. The council will send them back to the commissioner with recommendations, which will be subject to public hearings in late-January or early-February. If accepted, they will be subject to the approval of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The maps must be approved before the 2003 elections in November.



Chadwick's Christmas

In the holiday spirit at Chadwick's restaurant, at 99th Street and Third Avenue are Mayor Anne Cino, from Borough President Marty Markowitz's office; state Sen. Vincent Gentile; Chadwick's owner Steve Oliver; Col. Kewyn Williams, commander of the Fort Hamilton Army Base; and Maureen Stramka.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cullen

Bills seek to curb wayward trucks

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

New legislation is being introduced at both the city and state levels that hopes to put the brakes on truck drivers who take the law into their own hands.

Councilman David Yassky and Assemblyman Joseph Lentol each announced bills last week that seek to penalize truckers who deviate from designated truck routes and take their rigs onto residential streets.

"Off-route truckers wake up residents, damage property and even risk lives when they rumble through residential areas," said Yassky, whose district includes Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Greenpoint and parts of Williamsburg, Park Slope and Boerum Hill. "Without resources to catch them and [assess] appropriate penalties, trespassing truckers will continue to disrupt neighborhoods and diminish the quality of life of city residents."

Almost 14 million trucks make their way over New York City's bridge and tunnel crossings transporting two-thirds of all freight going into and out of the city.

Most truckers are aware of truck routes but often choose to ignore them, opting for more direct paths. Because the \$70 ticket amounts to little more than a slap on the wrist for drivers and the companies they work for — many of who calculate the amount into their shipping costs — it is often more cost effective for drivers to wend their way through residential streets.

While Yassky's bill, the Truck Route Enforcement Act, would impel the city to increase the number of traffic officers who are classified to issue summonses to truckers from 20 to 60, Lentol is looking to bring legislation to Albany that would seriously beef up penalties for wayward truckers.

"We can catch truckers more often, but when it's time to punish them we have to have the state in line with us and that's what Lentol's office is doing," said Evan Thies, a Yassky spokesman.

The Greenpoint-Williamsburg assemblyman's legislation would levy fines ranging from \$250 to \$2,000 against wayward truckers and penalties could include points on their license. This legislation hits business owners in their pocketbooks," Lentol said, adding that it could affect truckers' livelihoods enough for them to comply.

Assemblywoman Adele Cohen, whose district includes Bay Ridge, Brighton Beach, Coney Island and Dyker Heights, is a co-sponsor of the truck bill. Noting that off-route trucking is a huge problem, especially in Bay Ridge, where trucks come off the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, Cohen said, "Maybe this will show everybody how serious we are."



A police officer warns a trucker about driving on Bay Ridge streets.

The proposed trucking legislation came just two weeks after the Bay Ridge Community Council hosted a transportation forum to discuss the overabundance of trucks barreling through southern Brooklyn.

Both Cohen and Yassky said that calls about trucks are among the most common quality-of-life complaints their offices receive. "Truck traffic is an issue borough-wide," Cohen said.

The legislation also comes just as the City Department of Transportation (DOT) is getting ready to review its decades-old truck routes.

Bay Ridge community activist Bob Cassara, who's been fighting against trucks on residential streets in his neighborhood for the past seven years, called the bills "great news." Cassara said increased fines for wayward drivers has been a long time coming. Double-parked cars receive tickets for \$105, while truckers, who pose a serious danger to the community, walk away with a measly \$70 ticket, Cassara said.

"[Trucks] are a big problem for Bensonhurst because we live so close to the Verrazano Bridge and they're looking for the fastest access out of Bensonhurst," said CB11 District Manager Howard Feuer. He said the biggest problem area for trucks in this area is Coney Avenue between Bay Eighth and Bay 18th streets, and 23rd Avenue between Stillwell and Coney avenues.

For Bay Ridge residents the biggest headache is truck traffic coming off the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Instead of heading north on Seventh Avenue to 86th Street, the trucks veer south on Seventh Avenue past Victory Memorial Hospital and then around the south end of the Dyker Beach Golf Course before heading east on Coney Avenue from 14th Avenue.

Yassky's office said the most complaints in his district come in from Greenpoint, but that many people complain of truck traffic on smaller streets in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.

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Gangemi opts for trial by jury

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A disgraced former Bay Ridge attorney, charged with multiple counts of defrauding clients, turned down a plea deal he was expected to accept Monday after the judge raised the sentence being offered amid allegations of witness tampering.

Frank Gangemi, the son of former Bay Ridge Councilman John Gangemi Sr., pleaded not guilty in Brooklyn Supreme

Court to charges that he swindled his clients of more than \$6 million.

Judge Neil Firetop postponed Gangemi's scheduled plea bargain on Dec. 11 as new allegations of witness tampering emerged after a major bust of 27 alleged Luchese crime family members.

The allegations of jury tampering stem from information gathered by wiretaps placed on the cell phones of John "Johnny Sidburns" Cernella, Luchese consigliere Joseph Card's hand-picked captain, and Vincent "Vinny Bally"

Salanardi, identified in court papers as a Luchese soldier.

Asked about the Gangemi case, the district attorney's office faxed The Brooklyn Papers court papers stating that the "disbarred lawyer" and Ralph Lento, a Luchese soldier, wanted Salanardi to "silence certain individuals who were testifying against the lawyer."

According to court papers, Salanardi reported "back, 'They're stopped already.'"

Gangemi resigned from the New York Bar in March.

Asked whether the "dis-



Frank Gangemi AP/Photo

barred lawyer" referred to in the indictment was Gangemi, William Muller, a spokesman for the Eastern District U.S. Attorney's Office, said, the only thing they could confirm was that it was a pending case involving a disbarred lawyer in Kings County.

The bust led federal prosecutors to information about alleged attempts by Luchese family members to quiet a witness in a case in Brooklyn involving a disbarred lawyer.

Gangemi had been offered a plea deal of four to 12 years.

But his attorney, Ronald Aiello, said the judge jacked up the plea amid the new allegations. The Gangemi case is scheduled to proceed on Feb. 11.

Gangemi comes from one of Bay Ridge's most prominent political families. His father is a former Bay Ridge councilman and his brother and sister are past candidates for state and city elected office, John Gangemi Jr. and Ursula Gangemi.

Originally charged in March on 19 counts of defrauding clients, prosecutors presented a whopping 54-count indictment

Tax cops nab bicycling butt pirate

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

While Mayor Michael Bloomberg is trying to put a halt on smoking in almost all public places, the state Department of Taxation and Finance is cracking down on cigarette bootleggers.

A bicycling peddler of printed butts was nabbed in Sunset Park this week and arrested after tax department investigators allegedly spotted him selling cartons of cigarettes without tax stamps to stores and individuals along Eighth Avenue.

Wei-Yi Huang, 48, was arrested on Dec. 17 and charged with attempting to evade New

York State cigarette tax laws.

The State of New York will not tolerate bootlegging," said Taxation and Finance Commissioner Arthur Roth. "We will pursue those who seek to scam [people] and hurt honest merchants who uphold their obligations."

A search of Huang's apartment, on 12th Avenue between 38th and 39th streets, turned up more than 700 cartons of cigarettes without the required state or city tax stamps.

In an attempt to "stamp out" cigarette bootleggers, Governor Pataki signed a bill in 2000

introducing a new stamp — a gold apple for cigarettes sold outside New York City and a red apple for cigarettes sold in the city — indicating that the proper taxes have been paid.

Rather than focusing their efforts on individuals who evade tax laws by buying their

cigarettes over the Internet or on Indian reservations, the Tax Department is focusing in on vendors, said an agency spokeswoman, "because those are the ones cheating the honest businessman."

The spokeswoman, Karin Kennet, said cigarette bootleg-

gers are purchasing their illegal butts out of state and even out of the country. "Just a few months ago, we had a huge sting in Queens," said Kennet. "They found counterfeit Marlboro cigarettes being made in China."

Huang was released on \$10,000 bail.

Gunpoint invasion

The Brooklyn Papers

Three armed bandits who terrorized a father and his baby daughter in their own apartment, demanding money they knew was in the home, may have known their victim, police said.

The trio entered the lobby of an apartment building on Fort Hamilton Parkway between 90th and 92nd streets around noon on Dec. 18 with boxes on their heads to avoid security cameras. The woman and her two male accomplices then rang the doorknob of a 38-year-old man who was at home with his 15-month-old daughter.

"I'm sorry," the woman said as the two men rushed into the victim's apartment with guns drawn. They ordered him to get down on the floor while handcuffing him and pushing him onto the couch next to his baby, police said.

"Where's the money?" the gun-toters said as they searched the kitchen. "We know you have the money," they said.

BLOTTER

According to police, the victim pointed the men towards his bedroom dresser after they threatened to kill both him and his daughter.

Father and baby escaped from the incident unharmed as the suspects fled with \$10,000 in cash, a Motorola watch and gold chain.

"This was not a random act," police said. According to police, the victim is being uncooperative in the investigation.

Wild gunman

In what police believe was a suicide mission, a 24-year-old man pulled out a 9 mm semiautomatic pistol and started waving it on Third Avenue between 76th and 77th streets around 8 pm on Dec. 21.

Two police officers from the 68th Precinct responded as the man appeared calm and lucid as

he pointed his gun at passerby. The officers apprehended and arrested the gunman, who lived just a few blocks away.

Sneak attack

A man jumped out of a white van with Florida plates at 12:30 pm on Dec. 16 on the corner of 82nd Street and Dyker Place, wielded a knife, and demanded that a woman hand over her pocketbook.

The woman handed over her purse and the bandit hopped back into the van, which sped off with the woman's purse and \$300, according to police.

Car-jacked

A limo cab driver was car-jacked at 1:45 am on Dec. 16.

After a customer got into the car, he pointed a handgun at the cabby's throat, demanded money, and then drove off with the victim's car.

Police said the car was recovered two hours later on 10th Avenue at 61st Street by other employees of the car service.

Bust teacher for sex abuse

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A Bay Ridge teacher was arrested Dec. 17 and charged with molesting a student.

According to police, the teacher was arrested on charges of sex abuse and endangering the welfare of a child following a report filed the week prior by a 13-year-old student at PS 104, on Fifth Avenue between 91st and 92nd streets, who claimed that teacher Alex Calabretta touched her breast and arm in front of the entire class.

Deputy Inspector Pontillo, commanding officer of the 68th Precinct, said the Special Victims Unit investigated the incident and could not

find witnesses to corroborate her story.

Department of Education spokesman Kevin Ortiz said that Calabretta was reassigned to the district office pending the outcome of the police investigation. The Education Department did not have any further details on the incident and would not confirm whether Calabretta was a full-time or substitute teacher.

A call was placed to Calabretta's home, but the person who answered hung up when the caller identified herself as a reporter.

At press time, neither the district attorney's office nor the court clerk had an attorney listed for the defendant.

Calabretta was arraigned on Dec. 18 and released until his next court date on Jan. 29.

CENTER...

Continued from page 1

told the nearly 100 seniors who gathered at the Moose Lodge Thursday morning that he would "continue to fight against the city moving a Bensonhurst center to Borough Park."

"It's too far, I would have to take two buses," shouted Rose Palma, who's been coming to the Narrows Senior Center on New Utrecht Avenue at 79th Street, for more than 20 years.

The Narrows Senior Center, which must move because its current building is not handicap accessible has become the monkey in the middle of a political game of catch between Golden, Bruno and Abbate.

The Moose Lodge, on 18th Avenue at 77th street, just a few blocks away from the current Narrows center, offered up space in their facility. Meanwhile, the city Department for the Aging and Catholic Charities, which runs the center, got city and state funding to move the center 21 blocks away to the Angel Guardian Home, an adoption agency that is just blocks away from two other senior centers.

"The Moose was ready over three years ago to sign the lease," explained Sam Mazza, an administrator for the Moose Lodge, at Thursday's rally. While Golden's office said the center would cost \$450,000 to renovate, Department for the Aging spokeswoman Pat Wilks told The Brooklyn Papers in October that the price tag was closer to \$300,000.

During Golden's senate race in November, he secured \$225,000 in matching funds for a satellite center at the Moose Lodge from Bruno, the second most powerful elected official in the state after Gov. George Pataki. The money, however, would only be made available if Golden defeated state Sen. Vincent Gentile, a Democrat, for the newly drawn Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights-Bensonhurst district. Bruno later amended his promise to a match of whatever Abbate could come up with, no more and no less.

Now that Golden has won the election, Abbate is asking where the money is. And Golden is saying that Abbate must come up with half of the funds from the Assembly.

"I have more than met my end of the bargain," Golden said in a statement released in response to Abbate's announcement at the Moose Lodge.

Abbate said on Thursday that Golden's "prior relationship" with Angel Guardian, which according to Abbate is currently under financial duress, was the catalyst for the center's move there. He declined to say what that prior relationship might be.

Golden did not return calls seeking comment.

"[Abbate's] failing to deliver on half the funds," said Bruno spokesman John McArdle. "And it was clear to us from the beginning that he had no funds or support from [Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver]."

Golden and Abbate, who say they are committed to keeping the center in Bensonhurst, both have stipulations for their funding.

Golden says that exactly half of the money must come from Abbate, while Abbate will only sign over funds for the Moose Lodge if the city puts a halt to the Angel Guardian deal "a waste of taxpayer money," since the city already has two centers in Borough Park — the AMICO Senior Center on 13th Avenue at 59th Street, and the Borough Park Senior Center, on 11th Avenue at 56th Street.

"Bensonhurst seniors need and deserve a center in Bensonhurst," Golden said in his statement. "And it is unfortunate that Mr. Abbate won't do what is necessary to make that happen."

"The money is there," Gentile, who said he would run for Golden's vacated council seat in February, said to the loud cheers of seniors at the Moose Lodge on Thursday.

The main concern on the minds of the Bensonhurst seniors, many of whom come to the center almost every day, is whether or not they will still have a place to go.

"We can't go all the way to the Angel Guardian center," said Bob Genovese, 79. "This place would be ideal," he said of the Moose Lodge.

"I have a pacemaker" added his wife, Josephine, also 79. "There's just no way I could get to Angel Guardian and that's why I'm so disappointed."

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HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Treatment for osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis at Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

Arthritis is one of the leading causes of disability in the United States. Two forms of arthritis, osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis, can be particularly disabling without treatment. However, according to Placido Morano, MD, a rheumatologist at New York Methodist Hospital's Spine and Arthritis Center, treatment can

often be very effective in restoring quality of life to patients.

"The earlier the condition is treated, the more effective we can be in preventing or slowing the progression of the disease," Dr. Morano said.

A musculoskeletal disease, osteoarthritis often develops when people get older, usually when they are above the age of 50.

Some younger people, who have a genetic predisposition to the disease, have it as well. The disease occurs when the cartilage, which is the part of

the joint that cushions the end of the bones, erodes. This can be very painful and debilitating.

Treatment is usually geared toward preventing or slowing the progression of the disease.

Treatment and lifestyle changes often include weight reduction, physical therapy, resuming and increasing activity, exercise, and medications to reduce pain and inflammation.

In addition, corticosteroid injections, to decrease pain and inflammation in the joint, may be used.

If conservative treatments are not effective, patients may be referred for joint replacement, a surgical procedure. This procedure replaces the joint with a prosthetic device that takes over the functioning of the joint. This procedure is a cure for osteoarthritis.

Rheumatoid arthritis, on the other hand, occurs when the immune system attacks itself. This autoimmune disease usually strikes women between the ages of 30 and 60.

People with this disease develop swelling in multiple

joints, including the hands, feet and elbows.

"Some people are rendered totally dysfunctional—they can't get up in the morning because they are too stiff. The disease can become a disability," said Dr. Morano.

In some cases, the disease develops slowly, in others, aggressively.

If untreated, rheumatoid arthritis can be deadly. This disease affects the lungs, heart, eyes, nerves, and joints.

Treatment for rheumatoid arthritis involves medications

which suppress the immune system. The treatment is often very effective.

When there is a total dysfunction of the joint, or when only one joint doesn't respond to treatment and others have, there are two surgical options. The tissue around the joint can be replaced or the patient can have joint replacement surgery.

For more information about treatment for arthritis, call New York Methodist Hospital's Spine and Arthritis Center at (718) 246-8700.

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Victory gala

Hundreds of guests attended Victory Memorial Hospital's 102nd Anniversary Dinner-Dance, held at the New York Marriott Brooklyn, honoring Dr. Martin Wesesley. At left, Wesesley, a 42-year member of Victory's medical staff, receives a proclamation from Councilman Marty Golden. Above, board of trustees president J. Donald DiCunto (third from left) with special guests Rev. Jamie Gigante, Rev. Thomas Anastasio; Mgr. Michael Phillips; Rev. Robert Romano; and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Deputy Commissioner James Capozziello. Barbara A. Kotzschmar

Maimonides receives accreditation

Maimonides Medical Center

Maimonides Medical Center has received accreditation with full standards compliance from the national Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations (JCAHO).

Accreditation by JCAHO is a seal of approval indicating that Maimonides provides care of the highest quality. These standards run the gamut from the temperature of refrigerators where medications are stored to procedures to ensure patient safety. Maimonides' community medi-

cal health center was also fully accredited.

The Joint Commission, which has been accrediting hospitals for over 50 years, is

recognized as the leading authority on quality of care and is credited with pushing the healthcare industry to ever-higher standards. JCAHO's

specialized trained surveyors also help hospitals to identify strengths and weaknesses.

"Joint Commission visits are very important to us as they provide a means for measuring our performance against those of hospitals across the country," explained Maimonides President and Chief Executive Officer Stanley Breznoff.

"Just as important, JCAHO's report provides us with

an unvarnished picture of where changes should be made and whether our ongoing quality improvement efforts are effective."

Breznoff added, "The data that JCAHO provided us with is also important because it doubles as a report card for the public. This is critical because it gives our patients a solid justification for the confidence they have in us."

Lutheran Med appoints chief

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center has promoted Claudia C. Caine to the position of chief operating officer. Caine, former executive vice president for operations, joined the staff of Lutheran Medical Center in June 2001.

"Over the past 18 months she has consistently demon-

strated skill and expertise in addressing and solving hospital operational issues.

Of particular note are her significant accomplishments in strengthening physician relationships, medical staff recruitment, program development and addressing process improvement opportunities," said Wendy Z. Goldstein, president and CEO at Lutheran Medical Center.

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There is no fee charged for this service.

There will be eight sessions on Tuesdays, beginning Jan. 6.

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Dumpster crushes her SUV

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A construction Dumpster overloaded with water main pipes flattened a Bay Ridge resident's sport utility vehicle. Mary Anne Santomauro returned to her parked SUV at 4 pm Dec. 14 to discover that not much was left of her Ford Explorer.

"The car was smashed, it was flat," said Santomauro, who ex-

plained that by the time she arrived the police had been called and some of the mess cleaned up. The side of the Dumpster, which had split open, had been closed back up.

The car was parked on Shore Road between Ridge Boulevard and 95th Street.

The Dumpster, which was situated at a bus stop, belonged to Croysey Iron and Scrap Metal, which was hired by Staten Island-based contractor, S. DeFazio and

Sons, to remove the pulled piping from a water main being replaced by the city.

While Croysey Iron and Scrap Metal declined to comment on the incident in which Santomauro's SUV was crushed, they said that residents would "put the contractor on the back" if they saw the pipe that had previously been used for their drinking water, which was laden with rust and sediment.

Santomauro, however, wasn't ready to put anybody's back. The car was towed to Popular Ford, where Santomauro said the manager was in shock over the condition of her vehicle.

"I would certainly say it's totaled," he told her. The driver's side of the entire vehicle was literally flattened.

John Spavins, a spokesman for the city Department of Design and Construction (DDC), said that the

incident was not reported to his agency. "That is unusual," said Spavins, explaining that either Croysey Iron and Scrap Metal hadn't reported the incident to DeFazio or DeFazio hadn't reported the incident to the city.

Either way, Spavins said, "If Croysey's insurance carrier doesn't make good, the owner of the car should be talking to DDC."

Santomauro has filed a claim with her insurance company.



Remnants of SUV crushed by a Dumpster at Ridge Boulevard and 95th Street.

PRINCIPAL...

Continued from page 1

A self-declared "Isrt," Nezwitz has arrived at school dressed like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. And as part of a self-initiated literacy campaign he even roller-skated down the halls dressed as Bert from Sesame Street wearing signs saying, "READ! READ! READ!"

Nezwitz says the most important piece of advice he has passed on to his son Eric, 30, an assistant principal at PS 215, also in Gravesend, is, "Keep children smiling and the school system will be a success."

Everyone from the custodians to the staff and the parents

are what make the school work, says Nezwitz.

"He's a wonderful man," said school secretary Rosalie Roman. "This is a real loss."

Chia Hemphill, in her book "The Parents' Guide to New York City's Best Public Elementary Schools," describes PS 97 as an "old-fashioned kind of place with desks in rows" where the principal "checks children's homework himself and calls parents frequently — not just when they're having trouble."

Born and raised in Bensonhurst, on 74th Street and Bay Parkway, Nezwitz attended local schools including PS 247,

Seth Low Intermediate, and Lafayette High School, before going on to graduate from Long Island University and the New School for Social Research.

In 1967, he married the love of his life, Lesley — "a beautiful woman," he says — a school secretary at PS 229 in Coney Island who is also retiring. The couple has three sons, Eric, Keith, 27, an attorney living on Staten Island, and Greg, 32, who is an emergency room doctor in Palm Beach, Fla. They have one grandson, Max, Greg's 15-month-old son.

In honor of their beloved principal, PS 97 opened its holiday shindig this year and instead hosted a blow-out retirement party at the Rex Manor on Dec. 11.

"It was the most wonderful night a man who was retiring could have," said Nezwitz, who was presented with a proclamation of excellence for the past 35 years signed by President George Bush and Rep. Vito Fossella, as well as a gold-and-diamond watch from parents and staff, and a gold key chain with a picture of the school engraved on it from the PTA.

"But the children gave me the best present — lots of love," said Nezwitz.

On his last day of school, on Dec. 20, before embarking on his retirement to Boynton Beach, Fla., Nezwitz asked his cherished students one last time, "Who's the best?"

"We are," they screamed in unison.

Flip-flop on park fence

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Just six years ago, residents asked to have a fence put up around Steadman Park on the corner of Senator Street and Third Avenue.

Now they're asking the Parks Department to tear it down.

"The fence has provided a haven for vagrants and has kept neighborhood people from using the park," said Eleanor Petty, chairman of the Community Board 10 parks committee. The fence was originally requested to keep vagrants out of the vest-

pocket park.

At CB10's Dec. 16 monthly meeting, the board voted to send a letter to the Parks Department asking that the fence be removed.

The community petitioned for the fence when the small park was renovated in 1996. Not part of the original plans, the Parks Department agreed to install the fence at a cost of \$40,000.

"Back then it didn't make sense and now we're getting beat up because we were nice," an annoyed Brooklyn Parks Commissioner Julius

Spiegel told The Bay Ridge Paper this week. "This goes down on top of the list of no good deed going unpunished."

Spiegel said it would cost \$5,000 to remove the fence.

In addition to keeping them out, residents claim the fence eliminates valuable parking spaces, which the Senator Street 300 Block Association is looking to restore.

Located on a small, triangular parcel of land, the fence created a sidewalk too narrow to allow parked cars to open their doors. The block association submitted a proposal to CB10 asking for the removal

of the fence, the restoration of parking on the west and south sides of the park, and the relocation of the southbound bus stop to the Third Avenue side of the park.

Eric Rooda and Ronald Gross, who submitted the proposal to CB10, said as many as 12 parking spots could be reintroduced to the neighborhood.

When asked about the parking issue, Spiegel said, "I'm Parks, not parking." He also noted that even if the fence were removed, the curb stopping it would remain, so the same parking problems would persist.

ATTACK...

Continued from page 1

man and member of Community Board 10, Muslim-Jewish relations here have been hospitable, even after Sept. 11. "We have a lot of harmony in the community between the different groups," Abi-Habib said.

"The Jews, Christians and Muslims get along great."

But Hikind said there is a lot more going on than anyone is willing to admit. "We have people coming forward now," he said.

"We've gotten calls from people in schools; we even heard from a kid who was attacked because they thought she was Jewish."

This isn't the first allegation

of bias that Hikind has brought to the Education Department.

In October, Hikind sent a letter to Klein blasting administrators at Midwood High School after a 15-year-old student published an inflammatory op-ed piece in the school newspaper accusing Israeli soldiers of raping Palestinian women. Hikind claimed the piece was written to incite hate against Jews and Israel.

As for the girls in the most

recent attack, Abi-Habib said the task force would like to send them to counseling and bring them to an understanding that what they see on television is not the right thing to do.

"We are different groups living on one land," Abi-Habib said. "And we want to be an example, to show that this community in Bay Ridge is so diverse and we're living in peace. 'You're dealing with kids,' he said, 'not people with eternal hate.'"

GENTILE...

Continued from page 1

But gay rights groups that supported Gentile in his past senate races were disappointed.

As recently as November, Gentile indicated on a questionnaire for the Empire State Pride Agenda (ESPA) — an organization advocating for equality for gays and lesbians — that he was in favor of the gay rights bill, according to Dan Tietz, president of the Brooklyn's

Lambda Independent Democrats, a gay and lesbian organization.

"This was a clear-cut vote," said ESPA spokesman Joe Tarver. "Either you're for discrimination or you're against discrimination."

Besides being at odds with his constituents, Gentile said the SONDA legislation was not clear enough on whether "religious institutions not affili-

ated with a specific denomination would be exempted."

"That's nonsense," said Tietz. "If Gentile had a question he did not need to wait until Dec. 17 to ask it. The legislation has been sitting around for years."

Asked if his vote against the gay rights bill sent out the message that Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst residents were not tolerant of the gay community, Gentile said, "The people who expressed themselves to me were advocating their beliefs of a more traditional nature."

As part of a wider systematic campaign to put more progres-

sive candidates in office, the Empire State Pride Agenda placed resources, staff members and volunteers in Gentile's campaign for state senate in 1996, according to a report put out by the organization.

On Thursday, the New York Post's Page Six gossip column printed a blind item accusing Gentile, among other things, of voting against the bill he had signed. The item said that one of his planned runs for the City Council seat being vacated by Mary Golden, who won Gentile's seat in the state Senate.

Gentile called the report "hogwash."

MANOLIS...

Continued from page 1

Galante, the nephew of slain mobster Carmine Galante, was found by police covering in a Long Island basement after two years on the lam in April 2001. Just as his trial was about to start last June he copped a plea for 18 years to life.

The murder caused an outcry in Bay Ridge and motivated parents and children to think more seriously about underage drinking, Maria said.

That shock and outrage reverberated last month when three teens were stabbed during an incident at 3:30 am on Nov. 10 outside Virgo 64, a club in Bay Ridge.

One young woman from Bensonhurst, who identified herself as Jillian, 18, said she was at Virgo 64 when she saw the fight spill out from the club onto the street.

"A few boys were fighting," she told The Bay Ridge Paper in November. "One of the boys had a knife and said, 'Who's going to mess with me now?'"

Maria Skelton's son, Thomas, 20, spent five nights in the hospital after a knife was thrust into his abdomen outside the club that night.

"My son was in critical condition," Skelton told The Papers this week. "He has a major scar and pain that will last for some time."

Her son is 150 feet away from the people fighting, Skelton explained. "Some kid came over to Tommy and stabbed him in the stomach. He didn't even know he was stabbed until he saw the blood. His friend was smart enough to wrap the wound and press on it until the ambulance arrived."

"It was the worst thing I could ever go through," said Skelton, who lives in Staten Island.

Thomas Skelton had used his older brother's driver's license to get into Virgo 64 that night. "Their faces are completely different," his mother said, adding that establishments should be more ardent about catching kids trying to sneak into 21-and-over clubs.

Police from the 68th Precinct said Virgo 64, which is open Friday and Saturday nights, was issued summonses for having a disorderly premise and serving alcohol to minors. The State Liquor Authority was also notified.

According to police, investigation of the stabbing was inconclusive.

The owner of Virgo 64, a former police lieutenant, is considering selling the establishment, police confirmed. He did not return calls seeking comment.

An answering machine at the establishment, however, claimed: "No entry without proper ID for 21 and over."

Skelton said the police have not contacted her nor have they returned her phone calls. Her son is working delivering pizzas and is returning to the College of Staten Island in January, she said.

The other two boys injured in the attack could not be reached for comment.

"How does this happen?" asked Charles Capetanakis, who served as spokesman for the Manolis family through their ordeal, and who is also a member of the Greek Orthodox community. "I just can't believe that with everything that happened proprietors would still let kids in."



Just kidding around

Parent-to-Parent

By Betsy Flieger

Hopes and fears: "If I use my tent in the woods, I'm afraid an animal will come along, lift his paws up and untie the strings." ... "You said you'd come early. Did you come early?" ... "I couldn't wait to see a real world." ... "My baby-sitter used to speak Dutch in another world. I mean another planet."

"My friend's the generator in the Christmas play, the one who says all the words. And Mary will be Mary. Isn't it great she doesn't have to change her name?" ... After a stealthy visit from Saint Nick, an (obvious) little girl alarms his relatives. What they heard: "Santa peed on the rug." What he said: "Centipede on the rug."

by seven strikes!" ... "Dear Santa: If there's not enough room for my presents under the tree, put them on the side."

"Saying good-bye isn't so bad if there's a hug."

Making the connections: "Jumper cables are extension cords for cars." ... "A nursing home is a place where they grow plants. But I think there might be another kind of nursing home, where sick people go."

"Fragrant spots are just like the trunks of elephants." ... "It would make more sense if unicorns were called 'unihorns.'"

"Evaporated milk is for people who can't drink milk. The milk is all evaporated."

"These Newtons aren't big, so why do they call them big Newtons?"

Awaiting a sibling: A week before his baby brother's arrival, a 3-year-old tells his mom: "Babies only cry to tell us what it's time for." ... Listening to the baby growing in mom's tummy: "I love you whoever you are, but I think I'll need some big-brother tips."

"We don't know if our baby will be a brother or a sister or even if it's Italian."

All about mom: "Mom's been bossing me around all day."

And endless questions: "How do bumblebees poop?" ... "Why do animals have to die?"

Watching TV weather: "Where's 'parts of Montana'?" ... "Do trees have bones?" ... "Does my Dad spell letters at work?" ... "What do you call that animal that looks like a bee but doesn't sting?" I remember. A night-nin bug? ... "Did you know that a ladybug thinks your finger is a plant?" ... "Does God ever sleep days?"

Can you help? ... "My daughter is having great difficulty getting a teenager, a preteen and an elementary school student to take responsibility for getting themselves in gear in the morning and doing chores." ... a grandmother ... If you have fun or a question, call our toll-free hotline any time at (800) 827-1092 or e-mail us at p2pp@att.net.

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100 and counting!

Hannah Buch, who turned 100 years old on Sunday, cuts her birthday cake with a little help from her son, Leslie, at her home on Seventh Avenue in Park Slope.

A Marty X-mas to all

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz was unofficially sworn in at last New Year's celebration at Grand Army Plaza promising a colorful, diverse and energetic administration.

What did 2002 yield? Exactly that. And if his holiday blessings are any indication, 2003 will bring more of the same.

The Brooklyn beep's season's greetings to community organizations, activists, local newspapers, friends and colleagues features Markowitz standing in front of Borough Hall toasting with an egg cream, a la August's Egg Cream contest at Borough Hall, and wearing his now famous purple Everlast boxing trunks, donned for April's weigh-in to kick-off of his "Lighten Up Brooklyn" weight-loss campaign.

Weighing in alongside him on the card are two Santas, one white and one black, and a rabbi holding a Menorah. Strung between the scales are Christmas lights with dreidels dangling between them.

The outer jacket reads: "We're dreaming of a life..." with the inside continuing "...Brooklyn" (holidays excluded). The card was designed by



The holiday card Borough President Marty Markowitz sent out to journalists, community leaders and colleagues.

Al Vargas and Don Serica, from the New York City College of Technology, along with Marty and Jamie Markowitz, Brooklyn's first lady. The illustration was done by Larry Chusid and artist Adler from the Whitney Pink graphics company.

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Sonny Carson dies, 66

Associate Press

Sonny Carson, a militant black activist who fought for community control of New York City's public schools in the 1960s and against the spread of drugs in the 1980s, has died at a Manhattan hospital, where he had been in a coma for several weeks after suffering two heart attacks. He was 66.

Carson, who once called himself "anti-white," remained an important but divisive figure in the city's black community through the 1980s, leading protests against police brutality and founding the Black Men's Movement Against Crack. "It was a loss of a great person — he was a people's hero," said Jitu Weusi, an assistant principal in the city's school system who was a longtime Carson friend. Born in Brooklyn in 1936, Carson was arrested on murder, attempted murder and kidnapping charges in 1974, the same year that his autobiography, "The Education of Sonny Carson," was turned into a movie. Prosecutors argued that he had ordered two separate shootings as acts of revenge. He was convicted of the kidnapping charge and served 15 months in Sing Sing.

In his autobiography, Carson describes joining a gang in Brooklyn as a youth, being sent to a juvenile-detention institution and other experiences. The book also chronicles his start in political activism. His activities, which were met by either anger or approbation depending on the audience, continued throughout the decades. In 1990, he led a black boycott of a Korean grocer in Flatbush that lasted for months.

When asked once if he considered himself anti-Semitic, Carson replied, "That's absolutely absurd, 'anti-Semitic.' And so that you don't ask the question, I'm anti-white. Don't limit my unity to just one group of people."

Weusi said the remark was misinterpreted, that Carson was saying he was "anti the superiority attitude of white people when it came to dealing with black people."

Others, such as former Mayor Ed Koch, said the remark was typical of Carson, and that his public statements were consistently tinged with race and marked by divisiveness. "He wasn't even happy when I named two streets after Malcolm X," Koch recalled. Having Carson's political endorsement could also turn into an uncomfortable experience for candidates. In the 2001 mayoral election, he endorsed then-Brooklyn Borough President Fernando Ferrer, who could have been the first Hispanic mayor of New York City. Ferrer's opponents were critical, saying Carson's past made it inappropriate to accept his support. Ferrer, emphasizing that he never knew Carson nor asked for his support, said he rejected the endorsement if it was based on race.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

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INSIDE

DINING

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Sweet Mama's finds new home in Slope

DINING

PAGE GO 3

Warm welcome at Trattoria Mulino

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO4



Mixed nits

Celebs come to BAM for Mark Morris' 'Hard Nut'

By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

Attendees of the Brooklyn Academy of Music's 20th Next Wave Festival gala on Dec. 17 were treated to a performance by **Mark Morris** and his dance group in "The Hard Nut," a wildly imaginative, glorious and gruesome interpretation of the classic holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker."

The dancers performed to Tchaikovsky's score played live by the Brooklyn Philharmonic, under the baton of **Robert Cole**, and some angelic harmonizing by the Brooklyn Youth Chorus. Not seen at BAM since 1993, the work opens with a family hosting a drunken holiday party. Among the family members is daughter **Marie (Lauren Grant)**; her irksome younger brother **(June Omura)**, and hormonally charged older sister **(Julie Worden)**, as well as the cross-dressing maid **(Craig Patterson)**.

The stage is brimming with the many frolicking friends of Marie's parents, including Morris himself as a party guest in a hilarious afro, bell bottoms and, at one point, toilet paper on his shoe. (Morris also danced the role of a heavily shrouded Arabian Princess in Act II, and audience members in the fourth row wondered aloud if the renowned choreographer had given up on underwear.)

Mark Morris Dance Group general director **Barry Altmann** left his administrative duties behind and played the role of the beleaguered dad.

"Barry trained as an actor," Morris told Chatter Chatter. "And as an umpire, and a florist, and he worked at Haagen Dazs — and he's a genius! He's a gifted performer, and that's why he got the part!"

Lauren Grant and David Leventhal.

(Nutcracker and Young Drosselmeier) who perform a magical pas de deux, are a couple off the stage, too.

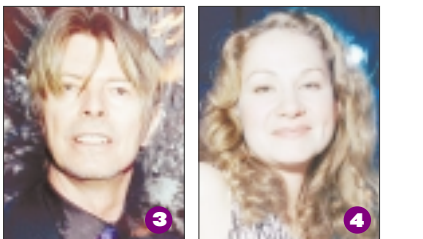
The outlandish costumes, which drew comic inspiration from 1970s fashions and — in the case of the large dance numbers — possibly even Esther Williams' glittering underwater dance spectacles, were designed by Tony Award-winning **Martin Pakledinaz** ("Thoroughly Modern Millie," "Kiss Me Kate").

When asked his opinion of Pakledinaz's work, fashion designer **Isaac Mizrahi** said, "The costumes are so fantastic — I wait sleep for a week knowing that I didn't do them."

"I'm such an old bitch," he said with a laugh. Mizrahi will have his day in the sun in March. The star of the documentary "Unzipped" designed the costumes for Morris' gangster-inspired "Resurrection," which will be one of three New York premieres the Mark Morris Dance Group will present as part of BAM's spring season, on March 26 and March 29-30.

Gala ticket prices were as high as \$2,500 for the performance, which took place in the BAM Opera House and included a sumptuous, post-performance dinner at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The museum's beaux-arts court was decked out as a winter wonderland complete with enormous snowflakes projected on the walls. Centrepieces were fashioned from tiny glowing lanterns suspended from silvery branches. The gala, catered by Taste, was set to music by DJ Ayres.

Chatter Chatter sat with BAM LDC chairman **Harvey Lichtenstein** and his family. Lichtenstein came late to the dinner, lingering at the museum's installation "BAM! BAM! BAM! Catching the Wave for 20 Years," which offered visitors cush-



Winter wonderland: (1) "Hard Nut" dancers David Leventhal (as the Young Drosselmeier) and Lauren Grant (as Marie), (2) choreographer Mark Morris (left) with fashion designer Isaac Mizrahi, (3) rock star David Bowie, (4) singer Joan Osborne and (5) dancers Amber Markens and Bradon McDonald all partied to the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Dec. 17 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

ioned platforms so they could recline, watch and listen to video highlights of two decades of the Next Wave Festival — most of which Lichtenstein presided over. (The "BAM! BAM! BAM!" tent will be on display at the Brooklyn Museum through Jan. 12.)

The former Majestic Theater was recently renamed the BAM Harvey Lichtenstein Theater in honor of the impresario, who stepped down in 1999 after a 32-year tenure as president and executive producer.

Lichtenstein fondly recalled climbing in the window of the Majestic Theater with **Peter Brook** in 1987 to see if it could be salvaged and restored to stage "The Mahabharata." ("His son John corrected: 'He

kicked in the window with Peter Brook.")

The gala dinner was also attended by rock star **David Bowie** and his wife, the model **Iman**, singer **Joan Osborne**, performance artist **Laurie Anderson**, photographer **Annie Leibowitz**, playwright **Susan Sontag**, Mahou Mines theater company director **Lee Breuer** and playwright **Charles Mee**. Actress **Isabella Rossellini** made the show but skipped the late-night feast.

Bowie said this was his third Brooklyn visit this year — he performed at St. Ann's Warehouse in DUMBO in October and he came to see the "Victorian Nudes" show at the museum ("I came with some painter friends, so it was enlightening," he

See BAM on page GO 3

NIGHTLIFE



Beam me up

Blending the disparate motifs of westerns and sci-fi flicks, Brooklyn Heights residents William and Ceta Crane opened the new Magnetic Field Cocktail Lounge on Dec. 14.

Magnetic Field, 97 Atlantic Ave. at Henry Street — the former Friends Tavern location — offers patrons cozy banquets, a pool table and a vintage 45 rpm jukebox that plays an eclectic mix of country classics from the '60s, '70s funk, '80s punk and a few current indie rockers.

In addition to all that, they offer 12 beers on tap, all imports or microbrews, and an extended happy hour, every day from 3 pm to 8 pm, when all tap beers and well cocktails are \$3 — a combo guaranteed to slake the thirsts of Atlantic Avenue's space cowboys.

Manager Stephen Freeman described Magnetic Field's signature cocktails: "the Isolation Transformer is a very sweet drink, which combines rum, Midori, Blue Curacao and soda; the Dead Elvis is a rum drink with a float of dark rum on top; the Irish Car Bomb is a half-pint of Guinness with a shot of Jameson [Irish Whiskey] and Bailey's [Irish Cream liqueur]; and Screaming Freeman shots are half Jagermeister and half Rumpelstiltskin."

For those looking for more earthly delights, Magnetic Field serves their spicy Bloody Marys by the pint. Patrons are encouraged to order in food from local restaurants since there is no kitchen at Magnetic Field.

And although there won't be anymore drag queen shows at the old Friends Tavern, Freeman says everybody is welcome at Magnetic Field.

For more information, call (718) 834-0069 or visit www.magneticbrooklyn.com. — Lisa J. Curtis

THEATER

Kiss of death

Brooklyn Lyceum's revival of a dead scandal needs more suspense and less smooching

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Harvey Burdell, a confirmed bachelor and a prosperous dentist, was found stabbed to death in his home on Bond Street, in Manhattan, in 1857.

Emma Cunningham, whom he had both courted and employed as the manager of his property, was acquitted of the crime at trial. The murder had all the juicy elements over which media tends to salivate: greed, passion and infidelity.

If these facts alone were not enough to make the incident a cause celebre, more messy details included Cunningham's unsuccessful lawsuit against Burdell (before the murder) for breach of promise to marry her, her attempt to feign a pregnancy (claiming it was Burdell's child), and her faked wedding to Burdell (with a stand-in — all so she could inherit Burdell's estate).

What's more, throughout the trial, there were hints of a homosexual relationship between Burdell and a third party, who completed the scandalous triangle.

The incident was largely lost to history, but it is recorded in Jeffrey I. Richman's non-fiction "Brooklyn's Green-Wood Cemetery" (Stinehour Press, 1998). Playwright Michele Aldin based "31 Bond" on Richman's account of Burdell's murder. (Burdell is buried in an unmarked grave in Sunset Park's Green-Wood Cemetery.)

The play is the first in the "Only the Dead" series, which dramatizes the stories of people buried in Green-Wood. Brooklyn Lyceum owner Eric Richmond is producing the series in association with the cemetery.

Aldin tells the story of the Burdell murder in a series of flashbacks punctuated by scenes based on the testimony of acquaintances of both the victim and the defendant during the coroner's inquest. Every trial scene is introduced by Corner Connery (John Alban Coughlan), pushing a rolling platform with a chair onstage. Although this device is initially dramatic, it soon grows tedious. Once the witnesses are seated, Coughlan questions them in dramatic tones that would have made Clarence Darrow blush.

See 31 BOND on page GO 2

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31 BOND...
Continued from page GO 1

The flashbacks trace the relationship of Burdell (George Millenbach) and Cunningham (Carol Roscoe) from their first meeting while each was vacationing in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., to their final, bloody breakup. The flashbacks also quite graphically reproduce for the audience's benefit scenes illustrating the nature of Burdell's alliance with his lover, Morris Zagler (Avery Clark).

If the play had been limited to trial and flashback scenes, it might have unfolded as a riveting psychological drama. But Aldin and director Julie Fei-Fan Balzer have chosen to include many creative flourishes that add little but repetition.

Zagler is periodically visited by the ghost of Burdell's preachy, puritanical mother (Ruth Kulerman), who for some reason has chosen to plague not her son, who cannot see her, but his lover, who can't get rid of her.

Cunningham, too, has a personal



Three's a crowd: (Left to right) Avery Clark as Morris Zagler, Carol Roscoe as Emma Cunningham and George Millenbach as Harvey Burdell, in "31 Bond," a play based on the true story of Burdell's murder and Cunningham's trial in 19th-century New York.

THEATER

"31 Bond" plays Thursdays and Fridays at 8 pm, Saturdays at 7 pm, and Sundays at 3 pm. Tickets are \$20 at the door, \$15 online at www.gowanus.com, and \$15 for students and seniors through Dec. 31. Beginning Jan. 1, tickets will be \$40 at the door, \$30 online and \$15 for students and seniors.

The Brooklyn Lyceum is located at 227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope. For more information, call (718) 866-GOWANUS or (718) 627-4816.

ghost — her deceased husband, George (Jason Heil), a violent lout who calls her a whore ready to go to any lengths to ensure her financial security.

Both ghosts emerge from and disappear behind a scrim at the back of the stage. Add to that dramatic lighting that alternates with blackouts, and many in the audience may be seriously waiting for a magician to materialize onstage — complete with magic wand and top hat — although perhaps not a bunny rabbit.

Even with these unnecessary ghosts and their disruptive entrances

and exits, the action might have accelerated if Balzer had not dwelt so lovingly on Clark and Millenbach's love, or perhaps lust, scenes. The director seems to be testing or perhaps exploiting contemporary audiences' acceptance of gay love. But once she has established the nature of the men's relationship, in this case, less might have meant more.

Long love scenes on film are seen through the eye of a director and an editor, who can, if done right, make motions flow like music. Even the most graphic films fall into one of two tolerable categories: porn or art — depending on your point of view. But the stage is not so kind. Clark and Millenbach's nuzzling, nibbling and groping is embarrassingly explicit — not erotic.

"31 Bond" runs for almost three hours with a 15-minute intermission. With a bit more discipline, it could easily be trimmed down to a two-hour production. Perhaps such a cut would allow the audience to focus on the superb acting of every member of the cast. It would also turn the play from a self-indulgent soap opera into the thriller it was meant to be.



Mama's back

Terry Mangrum, chef and owner of the southern-style restaurant Sweet Mama's, has long luck with landlords.

After only two years at her Seventh Avenue location, Mangrum's landlord tripled her rent. With pluck Oprah would admire, Mangrum packed up her fry pan and '50s-style tchotchkes and reopened in Williamsburg. Just as the locals were digging into her fried dill pickles and catfish Po' boys, her new landlord ended their association.

Tough luck for Williamsburg, but good news for Slopers — Mangrum is back in Park Slope, serving her deep-fried cuisine out of the small kitchen of the Rising Cafe, a bar on Fifth Avenue.

As a side dish to her pulled pork on a bun and fried chicken, the Rising Cafe hosts nightly musical events. On Dec. 28, 81 South will perform "country blues for city folk."

"I'll come back now to Sweet Mama's, ya hear!"

Sweet Mama's at the Rising Cafe (186 Fifth Ave. at Sackett Street) is open for dinner Tuesday through Sunday, 6 pm–11 pm, and for brunch on Saturdays and Sundays from 11 am to 4 pm. Sweet Mama's accepts cash only. For further information, call (718) 622-8072.

— Tina Barry

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Hail Cesar

New Italian eatery
Trattoria Mulino has the
host with the mostest

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

"Ah, ladies, lovely to see you," says Cesar Zingales, manager extraordinaire and passionate spokesman for Trattoria Mulino, a new Italian restaurant in Park Slope.

After my mother and I are seated and our coats are whisked away, Cesar stops to light the candle on our table, and with all the theatricality of a Shakespearean actor begins reciting the specials.

"Let me tell you about the veal chop Valdostana," he says. "It is a very big, beautiful chop. First it is pounded thin, then it's stuffed with prosciutto and mozzarella." (He sighs and takes a moment to compose himself.)

"Then the chop is very lightly breaded and quickly sautéed with mushrooms. When the chop is tender it is removed from the pan and we add Marsala to make a sauce. It is ... it is just ..." (He raises his hand and eyes upward; there are no words to express the wonder of this veal chop.)

My mother asks how the baccala is served.

"Oh, the baccala! It is very fresh; only a little salty," he says of the codfish. "Over the fish we put a light tomato sauce, onions, some carrots. You'll like it."

I hesitantly ask for the menu. He is disappointed.

"If I give you the menu then you won't order the veal chop," Cesar says quietly. He was right; had I perused the menu I would have passed on the chop (more than 40 cooking techniques in one dish can be overkill). I might have opted for something lighter or for an Italian-American favorite like eggplant parmigiana.

We order the hot antipasto,

the veal Valdostana and the baccala.

"And," I say, "I'd like ..." Cesar finishes my sentence with, "the rigatoni with broccoli rabe." Asking how he knows which pasta I want would be like asking a psychic why he has visions.

"I just know," he says and leaves our table.

At Cesar's suggestion we sip glasses of a full-bodied, velvety Estrella Merlot from California, a bargain at \$5 a glass. We sip and nibble on crusty Italian bread, served warm with butter. (Why more restaurants don't heat their bread is a mystery; warm bread and butter is such a delicious indulgence.)

DINING

Trattoria Mulino (133 Fifth Ave. between Sterling Place and St. John's Place) accepts Visa, MasterCard and American Express. Entrees: \$13-\$19; Pastas: \$10-\$13.95. For reservations, call (718) 398-9001.

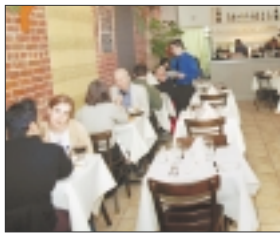
Around the room I notice young couples on dates, older couples holding hands and families with kids sharing big plates of pasta. Two young guys wearing head-to-toe black sit near us bragging about women.

"Everyone looks happy," says my mother, and indeed they do.

Maybe it's the flattering lighting, or the long, pretty room with its brick wall and vintage Italian posters, or the handsome waiters in their blue oxford shirts and ties roaming the room with enormous pepper grinders. Maybe it's the opera playing softly in the background that adds a note of kitsch to the setting, or the cooking of chef Louis Mulino (the restaurant's namesake) that elevates familiar old favorites.

Whatever it has, Trattoria Mulino casts a spell of good cheer over its diners.

The hot antipasto has all the usual breaded and stuffed components: a stuffed clam,



Roman holiday: (Top) Chef Louis Mulino's arugula and portobello salad is offered at Trattoria Mulino on the weekends. (Above) The new Italian restaurant in Park Slope attracts diners as much for the gracious service as for the satisfying menu selections.

stuffed mushrooms, a fried shrimp, eggplant rollatini and a stuffed zucchini. What makes this antipasto special is its light tomato sauce replete of freshly chopped herbs, and the fresh breadcrumbs used to stuff the clam and vegetables have a delicate texture.

Tony Soprano would admire the braised veal chop Valdostana. Covering the surface of a large plate, the chop is a meal in itself. (Forgo the appetizer and dessert if you order it.) The veal is tender and its thick layer of wine-

complemented by the sweetness of the tomatoes and vegetables. A side of perfectly al dente ziti in sprightly tomato sauce almost upstaged the fish.

A sprinkle of Parmesan and a grind from the roving pepper mill (it's a cliché but the pepper sparks the dish) is all that was needed to brighten a bowl of luscious, firm-to-the-bite rigatoni. Satisfyingly bitter broccoli rabe, its flavor softened by mild spinach, garlic sweetened by rose sautéing and tiny, salty black olives made for a robust pasta sauce.

Forget new-fangled desserts. Mulino serves the usual Italian sweets: ricotta cheesecake, tiramisu and a variety of house-made sorbets. The cheesecake is crustless, light, somewhat drier than American cheesecake and nicely tart with the addition of lemon juice and zest. The only disappointment was a pineapple sorbet. The sorbet came frozen solid in a scooped-out pineapple half. The presentation lacked artistry and the sorbet, while refreshing, needed more pineapple flavor.

Will you be blown away by the inventiveness of Trattoria Mulino's kitchen? No. But you will enjoy a well-prepared meal of satisfying Italian dishes a few notches above many of the other Italian restaurants in the area.

And there's Cesar. Need I say more?

BAM...

Continued from page G 1 said. The rock icon is co-chair, with Iman, of the Next Wave Festival Friends of BAM, but explained he had to skip "The Hard Nut."

"I was working until 8 o'clock on just boring old music," said Bowie.

Kentucky girl Osborne, now a Beacon Hill resident, said she "had a cousin who danced in Baryshnikov's 'Nutcracker'."

"[Hard Nut] was great to see," she said. "The whole thing was turned on its head — and that sense of humor!"

Borough President **Marty Markowitz** arrived, wearing an unexplained orange, plastic lei, but wife Jamie Snow Markowitz wore vintage Kenneth J. Lane accessories. City Cultural Affairs Commissioner **Kate Levin** made the show and dinner, but Mayor **Mike Bloomberg** didn't show up until a performance two days later. Other attendees included Brooklyn Museum of Art Director **Arnold Lehman** and Brooklyn Philharmonic CEO **Catherine Cahill**, shimmering in pink sequins.

Proceeds from the evening, nearly \$700,000, will benefit BAM. The next BAM gala is April 29, featuring a performance by Les Ballets de Monte-Carlo in "Cinderella." For tickets, call (718) 636-4182.



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- Lobster Ravioli
- Linguine with Pesto
- Linguine with White Clam Sauce

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WHERE TO GO

compiled by
Susan Rosenthal

THURS, DEC 26

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of the complete works for cello and piano, Part 1, by Beethoven. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: presents "31 Bond." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

FRI, DEC 27

TAI CHI: Salt Marsh Nature Center offers a session with volunteer Linda Baum. 9:30 am. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

TODDLER PROGRAM: Prospect Park. Prospect Park offers toddlers, ages 1 to 5 to enjoy activities such as storytelling, music, crafts, outdoor exploration and lessons in natural science. 2 pm. Audubon Center at the Prospect Park Boathouse. (718) 287-3400. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents a ballet workshop for Kwanzaa. \$4. 1:30 to 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

SUPPORT: Maimonides Medical Center offers a support group for people with breast cancer. Pre-registration necessary. 6 to 7:30 pm. 6323 Seventh Ave. (718) 283-4955. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

SAT, DEC 28

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

OUTDOOR SKATING: Prospect Park's Kate Wolfman Rink is open. \$4 rental fee. \$4 admission fee. 10 am to 1 pm, 2 to 6 pm and 7 to 10 pm. Enter park at 50th and 10th avenues. (718) 287-6431.

WINTER WALKS: Naturalists and winter enthusiasts are invited to a guided walk. 1 to 2 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park near Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

PERFORMANCES

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: presents "31 Bond." a story about an historic, doomed love triangle. \$20. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 866-gowanus.

VOYEURISTIC THEATER: Collapsing the Grotto presents its new work "Meet is Floating By." Performers obsess, rant, crib suicide notes, drink and torture one another, in small ways. \$12. 9 pm. 146 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 388-2251.

COMEDY: East End Ensemble presents "The Brooklyn Brew House." MC is Allison Castillo. 55 plus one drink minimum. 9 pm. 273 Smith St. (718) 624-8878.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: "31 Bond." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

forming music from Godard's 1966a film. \$8. 9 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 945-9177.

CHILDREN

PROSPECT PARK ZOO: Kids of all ages are invited to learn about animals. \$2.50. \$1.25 seniors. \$50 cents children ages 3 to 12. (718) 399-7339.

AUDUBON CENTER: Kids are invited to "A Very Birdie Tradition," a workshop to learn bio-facts about the eggs, feathers and nests of the top five birds that were counted in last year's Christmas bird count. Noon to 4 pm. Also, "On The Twelfth Day of Winter My Park Gave To Me," an arts and crafts program. Noon to 1 and 2 to 3 pm. Boathouse, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents a New Year's Family Dance Celebration. \$4. 1:30 to 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

OTHER

OPEN MIC: Salt Marsh Nature Center invites the community to bring poems, stories, songs and ideas. Refreshments served. 6:45 pm. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-2021. Free.

SUN DEC 29

OUTDOORS

WINTER WALKS: Naturalists and winter enthusiasts are invited to a guided walk. 1 to 2 pm. Audubon Center. See Sat., Dec. 28.

PERFORMANCES

CONCERT: Tzafraim Tompkins Congregational Church hosts an organ and vocal concert as part of its Sunday morning service. 10:45 am. 424 East 19th Street. (718) 282-5353. Free.

BARGE MUSIC: Part two of a chamber music program of the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven. \$35. 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

SUNDAY SERIES: Todd F. presents a trilogy: "Monger" at 9 pm, "My Bratton" at 10 pm and "Monger" at 11 pm. DJ Mike Burke performs, between and after 57. Doors open at 8 pm. Luxe, 254 Grand St. at Reading in Williamsburg. (718) 748-0305.

BROOKLYN LYCEUM: presents "31 Bond." 3 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

MON, DEC 30

OPEN REVEALED: Barge Music invites the community to hear the Brandenburg Concert. 12:30 to 4 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Avraham presents the David Ben-Zur Lecture Series, "Toward Her History, Borders and Meaning." 7 pm. 181 Broadway. (718) 802-1827. Free.

TUES, DEC 31

New Year's Eve

FIREWORKS: The Prospect Park Alliance presents a 10- to 15-minute pyrotechnics display in 2003. Gather by 11:45 pm. Prospect Park. Prospect Park long meadow, near 90th and 10th Avenues. (718) 965-8999. Free.

CHILDREN'S SHOW: Carmin the Magician performs. \$3. 1 pm. 2nd Avenue, 97th Street and Fourth Avenue. (718) 835-1373.

BARGE MUSIC: presents a New Year's Eve Baked Bath with the Augustin Orchestra. \$5 donation. 10:30 pm. 376 Ninth St. (718) 945-9177.

BRIDGE WALK: Dr. Phil's New York Talks and walks a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and welcomes in the New Year. Learn history of the bridge while you enjoy the views from this vantage point. \$25. 11 pm. Meet outside Bilingual Bicultural Park Row, lower Manhattan. (718) 747-4455.

WEDS, JAN 1

Happy New Year!

BIRDING: It's the 103rd nationwide count. Noon to 2:30 pm. All invited. Audubon Center, Prospect Park near Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

MUSIC: Program "A Passing Fancy: The Consort of Vols." features works by Bach, de Vries by Anthony Holborne and Consort Seris by Brian Lister. 3 pm. Reception follows. Christ Church, 336 Clinton St. (212) 864-1003. Free.

THURS, JAN 2

BRIDGE WALK: Big Orion Tours takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. Learn about the city's first suburbs, through its history architecture and people. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street. (212) 439-1090.

MEETING: AARP Midwood Chapter meets. 1 pm. Scheraga Manor, 631 Foster Ave. (718) 859-4600. ext. 116.

PEACE VIGIL: Park Slope Greens and Brooklyn's Manhattan War Resisters League host an informational meeting. 5:30 to 7 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 768-2022.

MEETING: Park Slope Civic Council meets. 7 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, room A4BC, Carvington Pavilion, South Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues. (718) 832-8227.

LOW BAR: presents playwright Patricia Smith. She reads from her poetry. 7 pm. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1106. Free.

DRUMMING CIRCLE: Mama Donna's Tea Garden and Healing Haven hosts a New Year's Ceremony. Bring a token of your new resolve for the year. 7:30 pm. Call for location information and reservations. (718) 857-2247.

BARGE MUSIC: chamber music program of works by Beethoven. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

Size matters

"To Scale," an exhibition that explores the ways in which the size of a work of art can shape a viewer's response, is on display now at the Rotunda Gallery (33 Clinton St. at Pierpoint Street in Brooklyn Heights). Nina Levy's ichabrome on aluminum, "Daughter" (pictured), is one of the works on display in this group show.

"To Scale" will remain on view through Jan. 18. For more information, visit www.brooklynx.org/rotunda on the Web or call (718) 875-4047. Admission is free.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN MUSEUM: presents "Any Fats." Kids are invited to "What's the Story?" where every work of art tells its tale. \$5, children 12 and younger free. 11 am and 2 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "The Book Children." 7 pm. Refreshments served. 25 Eighth Ave. (718) 638-0800. Free.

OTHER

LECTURE: Grace Baptist Church hosts Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum, Director of Ariel Ministries, a Messianic Jewish organization. He speaks on the topic, "Can the Jews be Destroyed?" 11:10 to 12:30. 181 Broadway. (718) 492-4141. Free.

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BRIDGE WALK: Big Orion Tours takes a walk across the Brooklyn Bridge and through Brooklyn Heights. Learn about the city's first suburbs, through its history architecture and people. \$12. \$10 students and seniors. 1 pm. Meet at southeast corner of Broadway and Chambers Street. (212) 439-1090.

MEETING: AARP Midwood Chapter meets. 1 pm. Scheraga Manor, 631 Foster Ave. (718) 859-4600. ext. 116.

PEACE VIGIL: Park Slope Greens and Brooklyn's Manhattan War Resisters League host an informational meeting. 5:30 to 7 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 768-2022.

MEETING: Park Slope Civic Council meets. 7 pm. New York Methodist Hospital, room A4BC, Carvington Pavilion, South Street between Seventh and Eighth avenues. (718) 832-8227.

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