

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.

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 was amiss because her daughter, her ten-year-old son at IS 259, but it wasn't until after the attack that she learned that her daughter was being harassed by students at the 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 sides — nor was there any underlying ethnic strife in the school.

According to the Department of Education, the incident was "just a fight." Schools said Kevin Klein 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 that it's Hikind's hold The Brooklyn Papers, asking if 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 city's 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.

"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 businesswoman, See ATTACK on page 7



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

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

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 risen, and earlier this year the school was awarded an achievement 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 phony addresses to get in here," Nezowitz said about his school, which now has approximately 670 students in grades K-5.

He added, "And that's the biggest complaint."

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 Margo

Narrows Senior Center battle rages

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Marking the latest move in a 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 Abbate firmly planted him in state Senior Senator Mary Golden's court, as Bruno promised, at varying times during the fight of Golden's senate campaign \$250,000 and then funds to match what Abbate put up for the Moose Lodge senior center if Golden was elected.

The event was also largely a politi-

cal show, as the commitment from Abbate was not binding and, he said, that he will pursue the funds conditioned on the city pulling out of a deal for another senior center in Borough Park.

Granted by senior sports signs that read, "Marty Golden, what's the deal?" and "Bensonhurst seniors deserve a Bensonhurst center," Abbate 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.

See GENTILE on page 7

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

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

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. John's 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 the third anniversary when she stabbed outside another notorious Ridge hotspot, a new stained-glass window was dedicated in Billy's memory inside the St. John the Baptist Greek Orthodox Church on 18th Street.

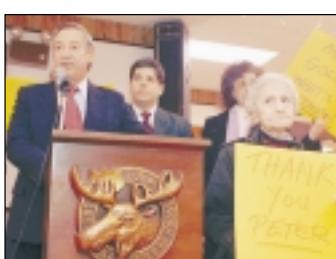
The window depicts a red-cloaked Saint Basil, the fourth century Greek Christian leader, born in 329, who was

bishop of Caesarea in Cappadocia. He was Basil's namesake 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 parish school and has worked for the past 26 years.

"This is home," she said, peering at the window as the morning sun lit 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-closed Bee-Kee-Nee Bar on Fort Hamilton Parkway at 92nd Street. Carmine Galante, his convicted killer, changed into the bar and, without uttering a word, stabbed him in the chest, killing him. See MANOLIS on page 7



The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margo

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Another Chinese health ctr.

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Paper

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 clapped small gold scissors and on 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 to the public next week after the major snipped 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-Americans in Bensonhurst and Bay Ridge.

"Before now, the Chinese community in Sunset Park did not have health centers with Chinese-speaking staffs," said Betty Poon, an assistant to

president of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Organization.

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

director for the NYU Brooklyn clinic and chief of pediatrics at NYU Downtown in Manhattan, hailed the multiple centers as creating healthy competition.

"Our job is to promote health education and availability to health care," Poon said, adding, "Competition is always good because that way we'll pay more attention to the health care 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, Lutherian's senior vice president.

"The services 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 from Brooklyn, NYU Downtown opened a smaller center five years ago on Eighth Avenue between 52nd and 53rd streets but needs a new site to take growing demands.

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



Chadwick's Christmas

In the holiday spirit at Chadwick's restaurant, at 99th Street and Third Avenue are Mary 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 Callan

Back from the drawing board for City Council district lines

By Patrick Gallahue

The Brooklyn Papers

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

The new drafts seem to have addressed some of the

controversy and concern that gripped the community over the proposed, especially with respect to the makeup of Staten Island-Bensonhurst 50th district and the Sunset Park-Red Hook 38th district, but take the Gowanus section back from Park Slope's 39th district.

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 sliver of Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst.

The number of Brooklyn constituents, however, has 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 50th's minority leader, said that date he had hoped to have an entirely Staten Island seat — to ease the confusion of dealing with two county delegations, two congressional districts and a wider array of commissioners — when it was discovered that there was not enough population to support three solely Staten Island seats he volunteered to return to Brooklyn.

"We're still looking at it, obviously," said Councilman Bill DeBlasio of the Staten Island seat.

According to the Park Ridge Legal Defense and Education Fund (PRLDEF), proposed districts in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens are panic and black, had an average of nearly 163,000 people per district, while Staten Island, which is primarily white, had an average of nearly 148,000.

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

The proposed 50th district contains both sides of the Verazano-Narrows Bridge, the neighborhoods at the foot of the bridge and Dyker Beach, which is the only place 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 new 39th district gains, of the Ridge, Dyker Heights, Bath Beach and Bensonhurst loses from the initial October lines. The district, currently represented by Councilman Mark Golden, will welcome the seat come Jan. 1 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 Recchia's 47th district, which is largely Coney Island and Gravesend, also gets 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 plan in October have been returned 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 Gomez, a spokesman for 38th district Councilwoman Sara González. "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



James Oddo BP / File Photo



Bill DeBlasio BP / File Photo

of the process."

Park Slope, traditionally broken into three council districts, the 39th district of Park Slope, Carroll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Windsor Terrace and Borough Park; the 38th district, which includes Williamsburg, Park Slope and Brooklyn Hill.

"Without resources to catch them and [assess] appropriate penalties, trespassing trucks will continue to disrupt neighborhoods and diminish the quality of life of residents."

Groups that the Park Slope Civic Council have pushed for the unification of the neighborhood — which fractures into the 38th district north of Fifth Street between Second Avenue and First Street, and into the 39th district, at around 11th Street and Fifth Avenue.

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Bills seek to curb wayward trucks

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

New legislation is being introduced at both the state and federal levels that hopes to put the brakes on truck routes 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 via residential streets.

"Out-of-route truckers wake up residents, damage property and even risk lives when they ramble through residential areas," said Yassky, whose district includes Brooklyn Heights, DUMBO, Greenpoint and parts of Williamsburg, Park Slope and Brooklyn Hill.

"Without resources to catch them and [assess] appropriate penalties, trespassing trucks will continue to disrupt neighborhoods and diminish the quality of life of residents."

According to Yassky, truckers who drive over New York City's bridge and tunnel crossings transporting two-thirds of all freight goods to and from the city.

Most truckers, he said, 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 most cost effective for drivers to wend their way through residential streets.

Yassky, who is the author of the bill, the Truck Route Enforcement Act, would give drivers who violate the law a ticket of \$100 and the option to pay a fine of \$100.

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"[Trucks] are a big problem for Bensonhurst because we're so close to the Verrazano Bridge and they're taking the shortest route across to Bensonhurst," said CB11 District Manager Howard Feuer. He said the biggest problem area for trucks in his area is Crosey Avenue between Bay Eighth and Bay 18th Streets, and 23rd Avenue between Stillwell and Crosey Avenues.

For Bay Ridge residents the biggest headache is truck traffic coming off the Verrazano Narrows Bridge. Instead of heading north on Second Avenue, drivers turn right on the ramp south on 23rd Street, the Verrazano Memorial Hospital and then around the south end of the Dyker Beach Golf Course before heading east on Crosey Avenue from 14th Avenue.

The councilman's office received complaints in his district, in Greenpoint, but that many people complain of truck traffic on smaller streets in Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights.



A police officer warns a trucker about driving on Bay Ridge streets. BP / File photo

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.

Bob Cassara, who is quickly said that calls about truckers are among the most common quality-of-life complaints their offices receive.

"Truck traffic is an issue borough-wide," Cassara 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 has been fighting against truckers on residential streets in his neighborhood for the past seven years, called the trucks "great news."

Cassara said increased fines for wayward drivers has been a long time coming. Doubtless, truckers can receive tickets for \$105, while truckers who pose a serious danger to the community, walk away with a measly \$70 ticket, Cassara said.

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Treatment for osteoarthritis and rheumatoid arthritis at Methodist

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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 Michael J. Majlessi, M.D., a physiatrist and musculoskeletal specialist at New York Methodist Hospital's Spine and Arthritis Center, treatment can

other than surgery restore 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. Majlessi says.

A degenerative 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 relieve pain and inflammation.

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

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 spine, and the joints may be referred for joint replacement, a surgical procedure.

This procedure replaces the joint with a prosthetic device that restores the functioning of the joint. The 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.

Treatment for rheumatoid arthritis involves medications

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

When there is a total dysfunction of the joint, or when only one joint does not respond to treatment, joint replacement surgery is an option.

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

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Victory gala

Hundreds of guests attended Victory Memorial Hospital's 102nd Anniversary Dinner-Dance held at the New York Hilton in Brooklyn. Among Dr. Michael Phillips, left, Wesley, 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 Gigantiello; Rev. Thomas Anastasio; Msgr. Michael Phillips; Rev. Robert Romano; and Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Deputy Commissioner James Capozziello. Barbara A. Kretschmar

Maimonides receives accreditation

Maimonides Medical Center

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

Accreditation by JCAHO is a seal of approval indicating that JCAHO evaluated after a five-year visit, reflecting significant, rigorous and objective performance standards, found that Maimonides provides care of the highest quality. These standards run the gamut from the temperature of the thermometer to medications are stored to procedures to ensure patient safety.

Maimonides' community men-

tal 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

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

"These visit are very important to us as they are

provide a means for measuring our performance against those of hospitals across the country," ex-

plains Maimonides President

and Chief Executive Officer Stanley Bernstein.

"Just as important, JCA-

HOD's report provides us with

an unvarnished picture of where changes should be made and what our ongoing efforts are effective.

Bernstein added, "The data

that JCAHO provided us with is also important because it dou-

bles as a critical piece of

information, as it gives our patients a solid justification for the confidence they have in us.

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Dumpster crushes her SUV

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A construction Dumpster overflowed with flattened metal pipes, flattened in Bay Ridge, resident's sport utility vehicle.

Many Anne Santamuro returned to her parked SUV at 9 pm Dec. 14 to discover that not much was left of her Ford Explorer.

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

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

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

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

Sons removed the palled piping from a water main being replaced by the city.

While Croseye Iron and Scrap Metal declined to comment on the incident, which Santamuro's SUV was caught in, they said that residents would "pat this 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.

Santamuro, however, wasn't ready to pat him.

The car was towed to Popular Ford, where Santamuro said the manager was in shock over the condition of her vehicle.

"I would never 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 office, but Santamuro and Spavins, explaining that either Croseye Iron and Scrap Metal hadn't reported the incident to DeFazio or DeFazio didn't report the incident to the city.

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

Santamuro has filed a claim with her insurance company.



PRINCIPAL...

Continued from page 1

A self-declared "nut," Nezovitz has arrived at school dressed like Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny. And as part of a self-imposed literacy campaign, he even painted the words down the hallways as Bert from Sesame Street carrying signs reading, "READ! READ! READ!"

Nezovitz 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 in school, in person, and you will be successful."

Everyone from the custodians to the staff and the parents

are what make the school work, says Nezovitz.

"He's a wonderful man," said school secretary Rosalie Romano. "This is a real loss." *Class Hero* is the title of The Parent's Guide to New York City's Best Public Elementary Schools.

PS 97 as "old-fashioned kind of school with desks rowdy, where the teacher checks children's homework himself and calls parents frequently — not just when they're having trouble."

But Nezovitz, who is in charge of the school's 30th anniversary, on 7th Street at Bay Parkway, Nezovitz attended local schools including PS 247,

Seth Low Intermediate, and LaGuardia 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," says school secretary 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 physician in Palm Beach, Fla. They have one grandson, Max, Greg's 15-month-old son.

In honor of their beloved principal, PS 97 organized a benefit dinner this year and instead hosted a blood drive at the Rex Manor on Dec. 11.

"It was the most wonderful night a man who was retiring could have," said Nezovitz, who was presented with a proclamation of excellence for the past 35 years signed by President George Bush and Rep. Vito J. Lopez.

He is a gold-standard man

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 lots of love," said Nezovitz, lots of love, said Nezovitz.

On his last day of school, on Dec. 20, before embarking on his retirement to Boynton Beach, Fla., Nezovitz asked his children to come to last class. "Who's the best?"

"We are," they screamed in unison.

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."

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. Klein, who declined to be interviewed, said the piece was written to incite hate against Jews and Israel.

"We are dealing with kids," he said, "not people with eternal hate."

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 the attack was 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 Brooklyn is so diverse, and we're living in peace."

"You're dealing with kids," he said, "not people with eternal hate."

isated 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 stalled for two years."

Asked if he is against the gay rights bill sent out the message that Bay Ridge and Bensonhurst residents were not tolerant of the gay community, Gentile responded, "People who were advocating their beliefs of a more traditional nature."

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

ive candidates in office, the Empire State Pride Agenda placed resources, staff members and volunteers in Gentile's campaign for state senator 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 being a "homophobe" because of his named role for the City Council seat being vacated by Marty Golden, who won Gentile's seat in the state Senate.

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MANOLIS...

Continued from page 1

Initially, Galine, the nephew of slain mobster Carmine Galante, was found by police covering in a Long Island basement after the son 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 killer caused an out-

rage in Bay Ridge and irritated parents and children to more seriously about underage drinking, Maria said.

The shock and reverberation last month when three teens were shot during an all-nighter at 3:30 am on Nov. 10 outside Virgo 64, a club in Bay Ridge.

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

"A few boys were fighting," she told The Brooklyn Paper. "One of the boys had a knife and said, 'We're going to mess with you 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 Brooklyn Paper this week. "He has a long road ahead of him, and that will last for some time."

Her son was 150 feet away from the people fighting, Skelton said. "I was shocked when I saw the fight spill out from the club onto the street."

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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 undeniably swin in at last New Year's Eve's election at Brooklyn 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 news media, friends and neighbors featuring Markowitz standing in front of Borough Hall toasting with egg cream, a la August's Egg Cream contest at Borough Hall, and holding his famous purple Easter basket trunks, donned for April's weigh-in to kick-off of his "Lighten Up Brooklyn" weight-loss campaign. And, of course, jingling 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 other jaded track: "We're dreaming of a lite . . ." 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 Dom Serica, 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.

Carson died Friday night at a Manhattan hospital, where he had been in a coma for several weeks after suffering a heart attack. 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 People's Movement Against Cracks.

"It was a loss of a great person — he was a people's hero," said Jimi Wusu, an associate of Carson in the city's school system who was a longtime Carson friend.

Born in Brooklyn in 1936, Carson was arrested on charges of murder and kidnapping 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 of trouble 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 approval, depending on the audience, continued throughout the decades. In 1990, he led a black boycott of a Korean grocer in Flatbush over language remarks.

When asked if he considered himself anti-Semitic, Carson replied, "That's absolutely absurd, 'anti-Semitic' means you don't ask the question, it's anti-white. Don't limit my anti to just one group of people."

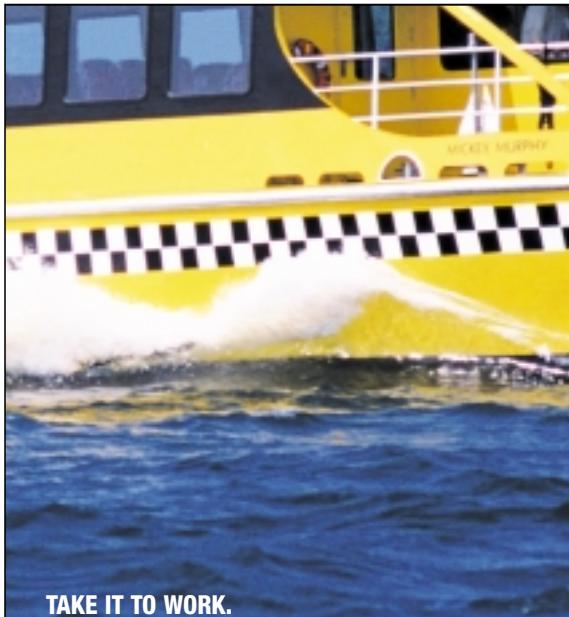
Wusu said the remark was innocent, noting that Carson was saying he was "anti-the superiority attitude of white people when it came to dealing with black people."

Others said the former Mayor Ed Koch, said the remark was typical of Carson, and that his public statements were often 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 turn into an uncomfortable experience for him. In the 2001 mayoral election, he endorsed then-Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer, who could have been the first black 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 neither knew Carson nor asked for his support, said he rejected the endorsement if it was based on race.



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G GO BROOKLYN

The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings



Mixed nuts

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 wacky imaginative, giddy and gruesome interpretation of the classic holiday ballet, "The Nutcracker."

The dancers, performing in Tchaikovsky's score, played live by the Brooklyn Philharmonic, under the baton of **Robert Cole**, and some angelic harpists, were joined by Morris' daughter **Lauren Grant**, her irksome younger brother (**Jesse Ormura**), and hormonally charged older sister (**Jolie Worden**), as well as the cross-dressing maid (**Kraig Patterson**).

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

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

"Barry trained as an actor," Morris told Chitter Chatter. "As an adult, he's a flop, but he's a genius! He's a gifted performer, and that's why he got the part!"

Lauren Grant and David Leventhal,

who performed a musical 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 — from the 1930s, 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 won't sleep for a week knowing that I designed 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 show is **David Bowie**, who 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, March 26-April 12.

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 former Majestic Theater was decked out as a winter wonderland replete with enormous snowflakes projected on the walls. Centerpieces were fashioned from tiny glowing lanterns strung from silvery branches. The gala, catered by Taste, was set to music by DJ Ayers.

Chitter Chatter sat with BAM LDC chairman **Harvey Lichtenstein** and his family to catch late night fun, no lingering at the museum's installation "BAM! BAM! BAM! Catching the Wave for '20 Years," which offered visitors cushioned platforms so they could recline, watch and listen to video highlights of two decades of the Next Wave Festival.

Most of which was presented at the BAM! BAM! BAM! tent will be on display at the Brooklyn Museum through Jan. 12.

The former Majestic Theater was re-

named the BAM Harvey Lichtenstein Theater in 1998, the year the theater,

who stepped down in 1999 after a 32-year tenure as president and executive producer.

Lichtenstein fondly recalled climbing in the wings of the Majestic Theater.

Peter Brook in 1987 to see if it could be salvaged and restored to stage. "The Majestic theater," (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 **Adrienne Pollock**, actress **Annie Leibovitz**, playwright **Susan Stroman**, Mabon Mines theater company director **Lee Breuer** and playwright **Charles Mee**. Actress **Isabella Rossellini** was at 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 Hard Nut" Nudes

at the museum. "I came with some painter friends, so it was enlightening," he

corrected. "He

See BAM on page GO 3

INSIDE

DINING

PAGE GO 2

Sweet Mama's finds new home in Slope

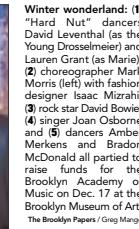
DINING

PAGE GO 3

Warm welcome at Trattoria Mulino

BROOKLYN EVENTS CALENDAR: GO 4

(718) 834-9350 • December 30, 2002



Winter wonderland: (1) "Hard Nut" dancers David Leventhal (as the Young Drosselmeyer) 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 Mordillo and Bradon McDonald all partied to raise funds for the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Dec. 17 at the Brooklyn Museum of Art. *The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Mangan*

NIGHTLIFE



Beam me up

Blending the disparate motifs of westerns and sci-fi flicks, Brooklyn Heights residents William and Gina 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 banquette seating, a vintage jukebox that plays '60s 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 deal designed to slake the thirsts of Atlantic Avenue's space cowboys.

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

For those looking for more earthly delights, Magnetic Field serves the usual bar fare 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 a la the of 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.

Emmett Cunningham, whose dad had both counted and played as the manager of his property, was acquitted of the crime at the time.

The trial had all the juicy elements over which media tends to salivate: greed, passion and sex.

If these facts alone were not enough to make the incident a cause célèbre, more messy details included Cunningham's unrequited love for 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) so she could inherit Burdell's estate.

After the trial, there were hints of a homosexual relationship between Burdell and a third party, who completed the salacious triangle.

The trial 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.)

It's the subject of 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 Coroner Connelly (John Alber Coughlan), pushing a rolling platform with a chair onstage. Although the device is initially dramatic, it soon grows tiresome. Once the witnesses are seated, Coughlan questions them in dramatic tones that would have made Clarence Darrow blanch.

See 31 BOND on page GO 2

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WHERE To GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, DEC 26

BARGEMUSIC: chamber music program of the complete works for string quartet by Beethoven, \$35, 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing, 218 Warren St. **BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** presents "31 Bond." 8 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

FRI, DEC 27

TAI CHI: Salt Marsh Center offers a session with volunteer Linda Baetz, 9:30 am-10:30 am. \$15. (718) 287-6431. **TODDLER PROGRAM:** Prospect Park Neighbors invites toddlers, ages 3 to 5 to enjoy activities including music, art, science, crafts, outdoor exploration and lessons in natural science. 2 to 3 pm. \$10. Prospect Park Boathouse, 1717 Prospect Park West. **BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents a ballet workshop with costume making to 3 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 287-3400. **SUPPORT:** Matrimonies Medical Center offers a support group for people with breast cancer. Pre-registration necessary. 6 to 7:30 pm. 6323 Seventh Ave. **BARGEMUSIC:** 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 Wellman Rink is open to the public. \$10 admission fee, 10 am to 1 pm, 2 to 6 pm and 7 to 10 pm. Enter park at Fulton Ferry Landing, 218 Warren St.

PERFORMANCES

BARGEMUSIC: chamber music program of works by Mendelssohn, Ravel and Arensky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. **BROOKLYN LYCEUM:** presents "31 Bond," a story about an intergenerational exchange. \$20. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 287-3400. **VOYEURISTIC THEATER:** Collapsible Giraffe presents "Monger" with a new work by David Flucking. For performers, actors, crib audience. \$12. 9 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 421-2011. **FRI, DEC 29**

featuring music from Godard's 1960s films. \$8 to \$17. Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

CHILDREN
PROSPERITY: Children of all ages are invited to learn about animals. \$12.50, \$12.25 seniors. \$5. 10 am to 1 pm. Ages 3 to 12. (718) 399-7339.

AUDUBON CENTER: Are you interested in birding? Come to "Tradition," a workshop to learn about birding, bird songs, feathers and nests of the five birds that were counted in last year's Audubon Christmas Count. Noon to 4 pm. Also, "On The Twelfth Day of Winter My Park Gave to Me" is a children's program. Noon to 1 and 2 to 3 pm. Prospect Park Boathouse, 1717 Prospect Park. **GO,** 218 Warren St.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents a ballet workshop with costume making to 3 pm, 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 287-3400. **OTHER**

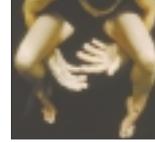
OPEN MIC: Salt Marsh Nature Center invites the community to bring their guitars, songs and dance. Refreshments served. \$5. 7 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 287-3400. **SUNDAY SERIES:** Todd P presents a trilogy: "Monger," 7 pm; "Monger," 11 pm; DJ Mike Burke before, between and after. \$10. 10 am to 8 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 287-3400. **OTHER**

LECTURE: Grace Baptist Church hosts a lecture by Arieh Minzberg, Director of Ariel Ministries, a Messianic Jewish organization. He speaks on "Is There a God? Can the Jews be Destroyed?" 11:15 am. 17 Remsen St. (718) 31 Bond." 3 pm. See Sat., Dec. 28.

HALCYON CAFE: Francis Harris. "Any Farts?" Kids are invited to bring their favorite art work every week of art tells its tale. \$5. 11 am to 2 pm. 209 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5200. **BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM:** presents "A Moonlit Night," 5:45 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 287-3400. **OTHER**

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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 Pierrepont Street in Brooklyn Heights). Nina Levy's chromatic 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.

PERFORMANCES

CONCERT: Flatbush-Tompkins Congregational Church hosts a concert of traditional songs as part of its Sunday morning service. Noon to 4 pm. Also, "On The Twelfth Day of Winter My Park Gave to Me" is a children's program. Noon to 1 and 2 to 3 pm. Prospect Park Boathouse, 1717 Prospect Park. **GO,** 218 Warren St.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: presents "31 Bond," a story about an intergenerational exchange. \$20. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 287-3400. **OTHER**

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