

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The arrest came as police stepped up the pressure to curb a wave of bank robberies citywide. Police were led to Bryant Brown, 37, by an anonymous tip. According to police, Brown, a

On March 1, Brown passed a note demanding cash at a North Fork Bank on Joralemon Street, be-

Brown passed a note that said, "Don't move, me and my partner will kill everybody. Don't [mess] with me. Just put 20s and 100s on the

See **NABBED** on page 6

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Chase Bank ATM vestibule on Ninth Street at Fifth Avenue in Park Slope was scene of a Martin Luther King Day mugging.

The Brooklyn Papers

"They're spending money on a lot of stupid [public relations] things," the woman told *The Brooklyn Papers*, speaking on condition of anonymity. "They should really be putting it towards a security guard."

And while security at ATMs and the lack of a security

See **SAFETY** on page 6

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

The museum's director, Arnold Lehman, said in a statement, "The seriousness of our fiscal situation — primarily due to diminished support from the city as well as from the private sector and from a reduc-

See **MUSEUM** on page 5



Students visiting Brooklyn Museum Wednesday view its expanded Egyptian art exhibit. The Museum will close for two weeks this summer.

A group of children are gathered outdoors, holding a large yellow sign that reads "SAVE MY ZOO" in green and red letters. The children are looking towards the camera with expressions of concern and determination. The background shows trees and a brick wall.

Annalicia Massiah, 11, holds a sign at the Prospect Park Zoo Friday protesting its possible closure due to budget cuts. Monica Franklin, 10 (far right), joins the impassioned plea. All pictured are students at PS 269 on Nostrand Avenue. Rally also drew elected officials and actors John Turturro and Steve Buscemi.

By Patrick Gallahue
The Goodbye Game

Convicted Montague Street bomber Stephen Alster faces new charges of placing a false bomb in

EXCLUSIVE

A grand jury is hearing the charges and will decide whether to indict.

The charges come two weeks

See **BOMBER** on page 6

By Patrick Gallahue

Flanked by women dressed as the Statue of Liberty and as Emily Roebling — who served as deputy to her infirm husband, the master builder of the bridge, Washington Roebling — Markowitz delineated the May 24 celebration.

See **BASH** on page 1



Fireworks light up the Brooklyn Bridge in 1992 during quincennial celebration of Columbus' discovery of America.

A player from the Brooklyn North Narcotics Squad team fires a pitch during Saturday's charity event at KeySpan Park.

By Neil Sloane
The Brooklyn Papers

morin, 36, were shot to death during an undercover gun-buying operation on March 10. Police acted swiftly in nabbing

"This is a way to show family. That the job doesn't end when you go home."

At least it was supposed to.
See **SOFTBALL** on page 5



Sarah Nemorin, left, daughter of slain detective James Nemorin. (Above right) Detective Nemorin's sons, Rudolphe and Stephan, surround their cousin, Jean-Marc Etienne, at the ballpark on Saturday.

Ed Weintrob / In the news biz, this was the week that was

It's hard to escape the incredible story of Jayson Blair, a Brooklynite who, as a reporter for the New York Times, invented accounts of major news events that were then passed along as fact by his editors at the Times.

We need not give the Times a failing grade for offering a young man a chance. But Blair long ago blew that chance, and his editors appear to have gone out of their way to cover up the young man's assault on truth. The Times moved to "get ahead of the problem" (to use public relations vernacular), publishing a mas-

sive report in Sunday's edition detailing Blair's lies. For all the specifics cited in the Times account, however, many questions went unanswered.

While the Blair disaster is certainly, as the Times put it, "a low point" in the 152-year history of that newspaper, it's not necessarily the lowest. While many still cling to the notion that the Times is America's "newspaper of record," it's long been a warped one.

Journalism critics this week repeated use of some of the Times' historic blunders — in the 1930s, it



was telling America that Uncle Joe Stalin was a great guy, and in the early '40s it deliberately buried news of the Holocaust.

I'm more concerned with the superficiality of much of the Times' coverage, the outright bias on issues where its editors have a special interest, the preponderance of advertiser-boosting and focus-group satisfying

fluff in much of the newspaper.

The Times has the right to do what it wants, and if people are willing to spend a buck-a-day on their fix — well, it's arguably safer, and certainly cheaper, than drugs or drink.

But the Times sets the news agenda for the American media. Nonsense that would be enjoyable in the New York Post is potentially dangerous in the Times.

Am I arguing that The Brooklyn Paper is more honest and less dangerous than the Times' Hardy. But with their resources and reach comes a re-

sponsibility they've failed to honor.

I was privileged this week to accompany Celia, my wife and The Brooklyn Papers publisher, to the Brooklyn Leaders Award Luncheon of the Arthritis Foundation. NY Chapter, where she was the community service honoree.

Particularly in a week when the news media is under such heavy criticism in the wake of the Times-Blair affair, it was a delight to hear so many nice words spoken publicly about Celia and our newspaper — by Borough President

Marty Markowitz and luncheon co-chairman Dr. Daniel Ricciardi. I sometimes compare production of our newspaper to the assembly of a jigsaw puzzle — so many pieces, just so much space. The work that leads to the final step, when pieces are laid out, belies its simplicity.

The Times referred to Jayson Blair as a "prodigal" reporter who filed nearly 600 stories over four years — by my count, that's about three stories a week, assignments added by the Times' vast support staff. Look at today's Brooklyn Paper. If you're reading a Park Slope or

Downtown edition, you'll find 16 stories by Patrick Gallahue; in Bay Ridge, Deborah Kolben's byline appears 16 times. Behind every story, there's Editor Neil Sloane — proofreading, line-tuning, listening. GO Brooklyn, our entertainment section (accurately described as the "essential guide to the Borough of Kings"), is not a clipboard of press releases assembled on automotive pilot — it's edited by Lisa Curtis, a professional who vets every story idea. Celia accepted her community service honor — on behalf of her dedicated staff.

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Committee to Improve Carroll Park President Pearl Lau (right) and Treasurer Glenn Kelly at area of park where shrubs were stolen by vandals.

Carroll Park shrubs stolen

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

Police are on the lookout for a posse of shrub muggers who ripped off (and out) a dogwood tree and eastern red bud tree, as well as several bushes, and plants from Carroll Park on May 4.

Pearl Lau, president of the Committee to Improve Carroll Park, said volunteers had just planted the shrubs earlier in the day when they were uprooted by what is suspected to have been a pack of marauding teens.

She believes the plants were stolen sometime be-

tween 1 am and 6 am, based on neighbors' accounts of having last seen the shrubs in the park, which is bounded by Carroll, Court, Smith and President streets.

Capt. Thomas Harris, commanding officer of the 76th

Precinct, said patrols are being stepped up to regularly check on the park and enforce its 10 pm curfew.

"There is a curfew on the park and we will enforce it," he said. Kids in the park after 10 pm, he said, "will be arrested."

Lau said volunteers, who also trim, water, plant and maintain the green space, spent more than \$1,000 on foliage for the park the day the shrubs were stolen. The thieves stole about \$200 worth.

While discouraged by the

vandalism, Lau said that at least there might be stronger enforcement of the park rules now.

"It's not a good thing at all," she said, "but it came to a head because there's been nonsense going on."



Driver mows down 7 at Mall

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A cab driver drove his delivery cab onto the curb at the corner of Adams and Wiloughby streets, at Fulton Mall, Friday plowing through seven pedestrians in front of Tony's Famous Pizza around 5 pm.

No one was seriously in-

jured but a Fire Department spokesman said four people were taken to city hospitals and three were treated on the scene. Two were taken to Bellevue Hospital in Manhattan and two others to Brooklyn Hospital Center in Fort Greene.

A witness to the May 9 incident, who would only identify himself as Usman, 32, said a

van turned from Adams Street towards Fulton Street while the cab was passing through the intersection. To avoid a collision, the driver cut towards the median between Fulton and Wiloughby streets and ended up hitting the column near the archway sign at the entrance to Fulton Mall — leaving a large dent in the hollow metal — and spinning out

of control towards the pedestrians, Usman said.

"He used his common sense," Usman said of the delivery driver.

"I heard the tires screech from over on Adams Street," said Jonathan Lowery, 18. "[The pedestrians] looked more shocked than anything. You're sitting there eating, you don't expect a car to come over and hit you."

Police made no arrests and issued no summonses, determining the car crash to be an accident.

Stunned witnesses stood outside the pizzeria after ambulances took the victims away.

One woman at the scene said she was shocked that the victims weren't more seriously injured.

"I thought at least three or four people would be dead from how it looked," she said.



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New PS 8 chief welcomes parents

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Promises have been made in recent months to revamp the curriculum at PS 8 in Brooklyn Heights. This week, the doors were swung open for the community to see for themselves.

In only his ninth day as principal, Seth Phillips held his first open house at the long-troubled school to show parents the fledgling program at work.

The first changes are slight — children organized into groups instead of working in rows and a coursework with a strong emphasis on reading — but the promise of a new school of choice in a neighborhood where most parents send their kids to private schools attracted about 50 adults on Tuesday.

Despite the upscale image of the Heights, its only public school is one of the poorest performing in Brownstone Brooklyn. That is largely attributed to a lack of enrollment within the neighborhood.

"I think there's a huge need for an excellent public school," said Erika Worth, a Heights resident and mother of two nursery school-age children. "There just isn't enough space in private schools and I think people believe in public school. The



New Public School 8 Principal Seth Phillips meets with parents during open house Tuesday at the long-troubled Brooklyn Heights school.

question is how quickly it can be turned around."

Parents heard Phillips describe his efforts to build libraries in every classroom and focus children's curriculum on reading and writing. In addition

to purchasing \$20,000 worth of books, he's refreshed the building's walls with more recent artwork and has attempted to train staff using paradigms that have succeeded at schools in neighboring District 15, such as PS

321 and PS 29.

Olivia Ellis, a second-grade teacher at Park Slope's PS 321, is currently leading staff development. Teachers are also looking at educational practices at PS 8's recently es-

tablished "sister school," PS 29 in Cobble Hill.

[PS 29's PTA will be honored by Schools Chancellor Joel Klein May 29 as the best in the city.]

Among the exports from

District 15 to be developed in September will be a special education collaboration that will mix 10 special education students with 15 general education students. There will be two teachers per mixed class.

"Having the second [teacher] see something the first might have missed is a benefit to everyone," Phillips said.

Phillips stressed that reading and writing, as per the new uniform citywide school curriculum, would be an overwhelming part of next year's agenda. While book reports already decorate the walls, he said he would like to see the student's work "be deeper."

"We're looking at the things that can be put in right away, and things that will take some time," Phillips told the parents.

Unlike most city public schools PS 8 remains underutilized. It has a capacity of 450 students but an enrollment of just 250, and only 16 of its 23 classrooms are currently used. Still, parents are optimistic that the leadership and vision will steer the program in a new direction.

"I'm very interested," said Mark Sidgwick, a Heights resident of a 3-year-old boy. Sidgwick is eyeing the 2004-05 school year for his son.

"I think the key is getting local parents to send their children here," he said. "If that happens I think it will be as counter as its counterpart in Cobble Hill."

Burke to head Downtown Council

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz's chief of staff, Michael Burke, has been tapped to head the Downtown Brooklyn Council.

Burke, of Park Slope, is a Borough Hall veteran who served under former Borough President Howard Golden as the director of government operations and director of development and budget.

"Michael Burke has played a very important role in everything that has gone on here at Borough Hall," Markowitz said. "He was a pleasure to work with and a superb manager of staff."

Markowitz has not yet announced Burke's replacement.

"Downtown Brooklyn is ready one of the three largest business hubs in New York, and it has an incredibly bright future full of opportunity," Burke said.

Last month, the city announced the details of a \$100 million rezoning plan for Downtown Brooklyn, spearheaded by the Downtown Brooklyn Council, that included zoning changes to allow for residential and commercial

expansion in addition to the creation of two parks settled beneath towering office buildings.

The plan anticipates the development of 5.4 million square feet of office space and more than 1,000 units of new

housing.

Deputy Mayor Dan Doctoroff estimated as many as 18,500 office jobs would be created as a result of the plan.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg will allocate \$100 million in subsidies and capital improve-

ments over seven to 10 years.

Shortly after the administration announced its contribution to the plan, the Downtown Brooklyn Council's director, James Whelan, stepped down to lead the Hudson Yards Coalition, a public-private

partnership formed to push forward Bloomberg's vision for a new Jets Stadium, an extension of the number 7 subway line and the expansion of the Jacob Javits Center on Manhattan's west side.

The next scoping session

for the Downtown rezoning plan will take place on May 20, at 6 p.m. in Borough Hall's ceremonial courtroom to discuss the scope of what will be considered in the environmental impact statement for the plan.

OEM plan for Cadman Plaza passes

By Patrick Gallahee
The Brooklyn Papers

A contentious plan to build a new, \$110 million headquarters for the Office of Emergency Management in Downtown Brooklyn was passed by the City Council this week, clearing the way for the project to begin.

The plan for an emergency command center at 165 Cadman Plaza East passed the council Wednesday by a vote of 38 to 11 despite sharp objections from residents and elected officials who complained that the emergency bunker, sited right next to the Brooklyn Bridge and the federal courthouse, and above East River subway tunnels, made the neighborhood a terrorist's dream.

Among the council members to re-

ject the proposal were Bill DeBlasio of Park Slope, Lew Fidler of Marine Park, James Davis of Fort Greene and the plan's most vocal opponent, David Yassky of Brooklyn Heights-Downtown Brooklyn.

"I give a lot of credit to the 10 of my colleagues who made the effort to look at the merits of this issue and realize that a site next to the Brooklyn Bridge and the federal courthouse is not a smart place for the Office of Emergency Management's command center," Yassky said.

The plan had been held up by the council's subcommittee on Landmarks, Public Sitting and Maritime Uses, which ruled it should not contain the 20,000 gallons of fuel OEM maintained as an independent emergency source. The application was

kicked back to the City Planning Commission, which came up with a compromise of 8,000 gallons of stored fuel, enough to power the facility for five days.

Additional suggestions by the subcommittee included not encroaching on city parkland and OEM employees only parking onsite. Both of those were upheld by the full council.

The approval caps a furious battle between the city and the community surrounding the site, waged since the proposal was first presented to Community Board 2 in December.

OEM officials claimed the site was the only suitable location because it is city owned, stand alone and outside of a storm surge area. Among the locations that OEM claimed to have considered — which critics strongly doubted

were legitimate candidates — were Central Park, the Cloisters and Rikers Island.

CB2 unanimously rejected the proposal, but it was approved by the City Planning Commission and Borough President Marty Markowitz.

In February 1999, Mayor Rudy Giuliani opened the \$113 million Office of Emergency command center, often referred to as the "command bunker" in 7 World Trade Center.

The state-of-the-art bunker served as a coordinating command post between different emergency agencies, such as the police, fire and sanitation departments, in the case of a large-scale disaster, natural or otherwise. An independent generator, water supply and air filters serviced the facility, which was also designed to serve as a refuge for the mayor.

MUSEUM...

Continued from page 1

nel decisions that we'll need to make in terms of furloughing or laying off," she added.

Carol Enselki, president of the Brooklyn Children's Museum, said she is in discussion with her museum's board over how to deal with a proposed \$1.4 million reduction in its anticipated \$5.9 million in city support for fiscal year 2004, which starts July 1.

"For all of us, everything has to be on the table," said Enselki. "I think the art museum's announcement reflects what all the institutions are going through. It's not belt tightening any longer."

Furloughs, she added, would be an option to be explored among the actions already taken, such as the elimination of 25 percent of the children's museum's public performances and workshops, and the loss of 18 positions.

Among the living exhibitions, at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, New York Aquarium and Prospect Park Zoo, not furloughs are not an option.

"These animals depend on highly filtered water that we treat daily," said the aquarium's director, Dr. Paul Boyle. "In that instance when I'm faced with budget cuts I can't cut the monies from that function."

Over the last year and a half, the aquarium has lost 18 percent of its city funding and in the next fiscal year Bloomberg has proposed cutting 35 percent from the \$3.1 million in the city money the aquarium receives.

Among the host of painful options — including layoffs and a truncation in services and external education programs — one of the most agonizing cuts being looked at, Boyle said, was a cancellation of the beluga whale exhibit.

"We might have to say we can't have beluga whales here," he said.

For the first aquarium in North America to host beluga whales — and the first museum anywhere to have a beluga give birth in captivity — to lose that exhibit would be devastating to say the least, Boyle said.

Previous cuts have already forced an across-the-board wage freeze, and increased admission prices and membership fees.

For the Prospect Park Zoo, the outlook is even grimmer. In the latest round of budget cuts, presented on April 15, Bloomberg proposed locking the gates of the Prospect Park and Queens zoos, which would save the city approximately \$8 million, less than 1 percent of the needed \$1 billion.

The 12-acre Prospect Park Zoo attracts nearly 250,000 visitors each year.

"This is not a budgetary exercise — this is the lives of 211 people, the displacement of thousands of animals, and the dismantling of the world's largest and most distinguished network of urban wildlife parks," Dr. Steven Sanderson said of the cuts. Sanderson is president and chief executive officer of the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), the parent organization to the city's four zoos and the aquarium.

The WCS has mounted a petition drive and they are asking New Yorkers to visit the city's zoos in a show of support.

At the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, city funding is set to be slashed by \$1.2 million in the next fiscal year. Since 2001, the Botanic Garden's city allocation has declined from \$4 million to the \$2.4 million proposed for the next fiscal year.

"We will not be closing as the museum did because for us we need our gardening staff," said Judith Kohn, the president of the Botanic Garden. "Our plants continue to grow, budget cuts or not."

A high school apprenticeship program has been discontinued as has been a water conservation program. Staff vacancies have gone unfilled and the garden is considering opening at 10 am rather than 8 am on weekdays.

In March, the Botanic Garden raised its admission fees from \$3 to \$5, on top of an across-the-board wage freeze. In addition to closing, the Brooklyn Museum of Art will cancel several exhibitions, cut back on programming and maintain a hiring freeze.

BASH...

Continued from page 1

lyn's chief landmark, the Brooklyn Bridge.

"If we do it in Brooklyn, we do it big," Markowitz said on the steps of Borough Hall Wednesday. "We're going to have a huge celebration."

In an event that seeks to condense all things Brooklyn into a single day, Markowitz announced a massive schedule of events that will include music, poetry and food in multiple locations, for his "Brooklyn Bridge to the World" party.

At Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, on Water Street between Main and New Dock streets, there will be hourly lectures about the Brooklyn Bridge; performances by Brooklyn artists between noon and 5 p.m.; a performance by the U.S. Army Old Guard Field and Drum Corps; a marionette show of Sleeping Beauty at 2 and 5 p.m.; an ode to the Brooklyn Bridge by Brooklyn Poets at 6:30 p.m.; a Brooklyn Philharmonic sunset concert, conducted by Edward Outwater, at 7 p.m.; and a laser-light show against a six-story screen to usher in a birthday cake for the Brooklyn Bridge, from 8:30 to 9 p.m.

Starting at 9 p.m. the pop groove band, BeatRoot and other performers will close the show at Empire-Fulton Ferry.

Events will also extend to Brooklyn's cultural attractions with free shuttle buses and tours of Green-Wood Cemetery, the Old Stone House, the Wyckoff Houses, Little Odessa in Brighton Beach and a Brooklyn historic house tour led by Borough Historian Ron Schweiger.

Shuttle buses from Cadman Plaza West and Middagh Street, between 11 am and 5 p.m., will run to the Brooklyn Academy of Music; Coney Island's Surf Avenue, between the amusement parks and the New York Aquarium; Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition's Arts Exhibition on the Red Hook Piers; Grand Army Plaza's Art Gallery; and Prospect Park, which will have its own "Heart of Brooklyn" shuttle connection to the Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn Children's Museum, Brooklyn Museum of Art and the Prospect Park Zoo.

SOFTBALL...

Continued from page 1

Because of heavy rain that Saturday, all 45 five-inning games had to be played on Sunday, and played they were. The detectives set up five makeshift fields so that games could be played simultaneously and the scheduled championship games could still be held for the Keyspan benefit.

In the first championship

game on Saturday, the Manhattan Warrants Squad team beat out the Brooklyn North Narcotics Squad team for the Division B title. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly handed out their trophy.

In the Division A game, Detectives Endowment Association team bested the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association.

The event was expected to raise \$15,000 to \$20,000, according to Scigliano, between the ticket sales, the sale of special NYPD T-shirts and polo shirts commemorating the slain detectives, the sale of police department merchandise at the park and after-party and the sale of donated Budweiser and sodas at Peggy O'Neill's.

The Brooklyn Baseball Club, which owns the Cyclones, donated use of their ballpark for the roughly three-hour tourney and parking was free. They also provided a concessionaire to sell hot dogs, beer and sodas during the games.

After the game, the police and civilians in attendance took the party to Peggy O'Neill's, whose owners donated their indoor and outdoor bar for the event. They also set up a barbecue grill and Anheuser Busch had a beer stand outside. The party-fundaiser went on till about 1 am.

The evening featured performances by local bands, Soul Shake, Judy Torres, Com, Suave

and Reina, and DJ Big Dave kept the party going. The TV show "Third Watch" donated merchandise for a raffle, which also included Mets and Yankees tickets.

All the funds raised by the event and collected subsequently will go to five scholarship funds for the slain officers' children.

Detective Andrews' wife, Maryann Andrews, and Detective Nemon's wife, Rose Nemon, have been active since their husbands' deaths in calling for

tougher gun laws. On May 9, they were joined by Sen. Charles Schumer in calling for a ban on assault weapons. Detectives Andrews and Nemon had been attempting to purchase TEC-9 assault weapons the night they were murdered.

Those interested in donating to the scholarship fund should send their donation to: DEA Widows and Children's Fund, 26 Thomas St., New York, NY, 10007. Write "March 10 Undiscovered Fund" in the memo line.

Arthritis Foundation honors Paper publisher for community service



Brooklyn Papers Publisher Celia Weintraub was the Community Service Award honoree at the annual Brooklyn Leaders Award Luncheon of the Arthritis Foundation's New York Chapter on Wednesday. The organization presented its Brooklyn Physician Leadership Award to Dr. Peggy Ann Garjarian,

chief of rheumatology at both Victory Memorial Hospital in Bay Ridge and St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Center in Staten Island; its Brooklyn Sports Award to Brooklyn Cyclones Community Relations Manager Gary J. Perone; and its John Wren Corporate Award to Hal M. Rose, chief executive officer of Quantin Medical Laboratory and Micro-Medical Industries.

Borough President Marty Markowitz (pictured with Weintraub at left) praised the publisher's work and said that "The Brooklyn Papers really set the standard for a quality newspaper."

Pictured with Weintraub at right are the luncheon co-chairmen — Paul A. Golinski (left), a partner in the Brooklyn Heights office of the law firm Cullen and Dykman Bleakley Platt LLP, and Dr. Daniel D. Ricciardi, president of the Long Island College Hospital medical staff, chief of the Division of

Rheumatology, and director of Undergraduate Medical Education. Honorees pictured in the center photos: Dr. Peggy Ann Garjarian and Gary J. Perone. The luncheon, which raised more than \$65,000, was held in the Palm House of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden.

The Brooklyn Paper Photos © Greg Margolis

78th Precinct cops suspended

Duo disobeyed orders, reloaded weapons

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A pair of police officers from the 78th Precinct were suspended on Tuesday after ignoring an order to call off a high-speed car chase and then reloading their weapons after firing at the suspect.

The suspect had led cops on a wild chase through Park Slope.

The officers, Linda Martin and Kathy Pappas, violated department regulations by failing to drop their pursuit of the errant driver after twice being ordered to do so. They may have also tried to cover up how many times they fired on him.

Martin and Pappas failed to turn their weapons over to supervisors, as department policy dictates, instead returning to the precinct to reload before turning over their weapons for

inspection, as is required after any police shooting. They failed to mention that they had reloaded the weapons, police officials said.

A department spokesman would only say the matter is under investigation and added that a ruling had not been made as to whether they reloaded to cover up the shooting or if it was an accidental violation.

Police attempted to pull over a 1988 Oldsmobile at

Flatbush Avenue and Pacific Street at 9:45 a.m. on May 12 for traffic infractions that included an illegal left turn. The vehicle was also sporting a photocopied license plate affixed to cardboard.

The driver, identified as Frederick Fahmie, 42, of Sunset Park, refused to stop and took off, striking three patrol cars, one occupied civilian vehicle and three parked cars, police said. Police ordered patrol cars to give up their pur-

suit — a policy to protect pedestrians from being struck — but Pappas and Martin stayed on the suspect's tail.

Fahmie eventually crashed into a tow truck on Fourth Avenue at Carroll Street.

When he got out of the car, Pappas and Martin fired six shots.

They then returned to the 78th Precinct and reloaded their guns, without notifying supervising officers that they had discharged their weapons, a department spokesman said.

No one was injured in the shooting.

Pappas has been on the force since 1993 and Martin since 1995.

After jumping out of the car, Fahmie put up a brief struggle with police but was eventually brought down by K-9 units, police said. He was taken to Lutheran Medical Center to treat dog bites.

A crack pipe and "a controlled substance" was recovered from Fahmie's vehicle, police said.

Three police officers were treated for minor injuries at New York Methodist Hospital in Park Slope.



The site of the Szechuan Empire Chinese restaurant at the corner of Court and State streets, where a 10-story condominium building will rise.

Chinese restaurant delivering housing

By Patrick Gallahue
The Brooklyn Papers

A 10- to 12-story luxury condominium apartment building is being constructed at 117-119 Court St., on the corner of State Street in Downtown Brooklyn.

The owner of the two lots, Danny Chow, was the proprietor of Szechuan Empire for nearly 30 years, but recently closed the Court Street mainstay to make way for the condominiums.

Chow could not be reached for comment.

Mukesh Vasvani, the broker of the property for Harbor View Realty, said the 120-

foot-tall building would house just seven "luxury loft-style" apartments including two duplexes.

He added that each apartment would have at least three bedrooms, two-and-a-half bathrooms and a balcony. Each apartment would contain roughly 2,400 square feet, Vasvani said, and the duplexes would be slightly larger at 2,485 square feet.

Vasvani would not say how much the condos would sell for on the open market.

The architect is the Manhattan-based firm, Ernst and Associates Architects.

Todd Ernst, a principal in the firm, said the materials would be "brick with brownstone corners."

"The intention is to have a somewhat modern building," he said. "The first floor will be commercial with a glass storefront to maintain the commercial nature of Court Street and then the apartments are going to feature floor-to-ceiling glass panels."

There will be no onsite parking provided. Two commercial spaces will be developed on the ground floor and in the cellar, each about 2,700 square feet, Ernst said.

Exactly what type of businesses the building is expected to accommodate is not clear, Ernst added.

Though demolition has already begun the status of the city approvals for the project

remained unclear at press time. Both Ernst and Vasvani said approvals had been granted, but Sid Dinsay, a spokesman for the Department of Buildings said, "Going by what we have in our system, i.e., our computer system, we don't see any work that was approved at this address."

The expeditor, Scott Schnall, could not be reached by press time. Expeditors generally handle obtaining permits for contractors.

The building will rise to 120 feet, the limit of the Downtown Brooklyn Special Zoning District, passed in 2001.

The building, according to Vasvani, does not require any public review and they hope to have it finished in about a year.

Another major Downtown Brooklyn project is rising across the street from the planned development, at the site of the municipal parking garage on the lot bounded by Atlantic Avenue, Boerum Place, Court Street and State Street.

The plans, by DUMBO developer David Walentas, currently call for a 12-story building, with 20,000 square feet of ground-floor retail, about 600 underground public parking spaces and 250 apartments for rent on the second through 12th floors. A 40,000-square-foot YMCAs is also included in the proposal with an entrance on Atlantic Avenue.

BOMBER...

Continued from page 1

grand jury was not considering charges against anyone but Alster.

On March 31, shortly after 10 a.m., five PVC pipes filled with gasoline and Shetco screws as well as a .38-caliber revolver and a .380-caliber automatic were discovered in the backseat of Police Officer Yensy Thomas' 1992 Isuzu SUV.

The door of the car was unlocked and the vehicle was parked in a fire zone in front of Thomas' home between Hicks Street and Montague Terrace. An anonymous tipster led officers to the vehicle from pay phones on Court Street.

The device was planted the day before Yensy Thomas and her husband, Steven Thomas, were scheduled to make a deposition in their \$75 million lawsuit against Alster, who set off a bomb during a 2001 party at their home.

Alster, 66, who prosecutors said was driven to the 2001 bombing by an obsessive crush on Yensy Thomas, was convicted last year and sentenced to 20 years in life in prison.

On April 24, a Queens ex-con named Andrian Scott, 29, who served time on Rikers Island with Alster, was arrested for planting the devices in the Thomases' SUV, allegedly at Alster's request. The two met at Rikers Island while Alster was being held on \$10 million bail and Scott was serving time on weapons charges.

Though Scott was transferred from the facility in December 2001, he kept in touch with Alster after he was paroled last September, investigators said.

Prison records show Scott visited Alster on March 1, March 4, March 11, March 23, March 27, April 3, April 9, April 14 and April 22. Alster also made regular calls to Scott from prison, where they were recorded, according to police.

During the conversations Scott warned Alster not to discuss specifics about their arrangement because, he said, the State Department of Correctional Services records calls made by inmates. The two also allegedly negotiated a fee and Scott said he would, "Keep his word ... and do what has to be done."

Investigators believe Alster orchestrated the planting of the pipe bombs to help him appeal his conviction for the May 29, 2001 bombing of the Thomases home, where Steven Thomas was the building superintendent.

Alster, a law enforcement buff, assumed the role of mentor to Yensy Thomas while she was in the police academy. When she graduated, prosecutors contended, Alster feared he would become an irrelevant figure in her life and decided to attempt something dramatic.

Prosecutors said during Alster's trial that he brought the bomb, mixed in with a load of gifts, to Yensy Thomas' graduation party, but then blew himself up while planting it in a tool room adjacent to the Thomases' apartment.

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Gala-who?

Brooklyn Papers reporter Patrick Gallahue addresses students at Touro College in Harlem Thursday, where he spoke about media and its relationship to public policy.

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SAFETY...



The Bank of New York and Atlantic Liberty Savings on Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights.

Continued from page 1

presence in their vestibules has long been a problem, of increasing concern to law enforcement and bank customers is the rash of bank robberies that have been perpetrated in the city over the last year. Most of those involve what police call "note jobs," where a robber slips a note to a teller demanding cash, often displays no weapon, and makes off with proceeds in the \$1,000 range.

Thirty-two of JP Morgan Chase's 192 banks have been robbed in 2003 making it one of the five worst ratios in the city at one robbery for every six branches, according to the police department.

But JP Morgan Chase is not alone. Banks across the city are being held up at rates that have not been seen since the 1970s.

Banks contacted by The Papers this week were hesitant to discuss their security procedures, but Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly are stepping up the pressure to force them to increase security as bank heists have skyrocketed since late last year.

As of May 4, the police department has documented 184 robberies for 2003, compared to 65 this time last year. The greatest jump has been in note jobs.

Kelly said in a press conference last week that in the "criminal element" there's a "permissive environment" when it comes to banks.

"Word gets out on the streets and in places like Rikers Island," the commissioner said.

As Kelly spoke, two Citibanks and a Chase branch were robbed in Manhattan.

The worst bank, as far as the ratio of robberies to branches, is Commerce Bank, which has had 10 robberies in its 11 branches this year, a ratio of nearly 1-to-1, according to police. The bank is making a major push to expand in the city and is opening more than 15 branches in Brooklyn alone, including one at the corner of Montague Street and Cadman Plaza West.

There is a tie for second place on the police department list, with a ratio of one robbery for every three branches, between Banco Popular and North Fork Bank. Washington Mutual is next at one robbery for every four branches, beating out JP Morgan Chase, which has had one robbery for every six branches.

Bank robberies have actually slowed in the 84th Precinct, which covers Downtown Brooklyn and Brooklyn Heights, since 2002. In December of last year, there were at least four banks robbed in the 84th Precinct. Seven bank robberies have occurred in the area in 2003, according to the most recent figures provided by police.

A visit by The Papers to "bankers row" on Montague Street showed three out of six banks had visible security guards or greeters at the door during regular banking hours.

Among those on Montague Street to have someone visibly stationed near the front door were Citibank, Chase and Fleet. HSBC, Independence and Atlantic Liberty did not.

Employing "customer greeters" or security guards is one of a number of recommendations pushed for by the police commissioner with support from the trade group, the New York Bankers Association and the State of New York Banking Department, the primary regulator for state-licensed financial entities.

Other recommendations include installing high-quality, closed-circuit video equipment; floor to ceiling bullet-resistant glass in front of the teller's desks; using dye packs and serialized currency; signage to indicate the presence of security equipment; panic alarm buttons at each workstation; and training employees to be able build evidence against robbers.

HSBC and Citibank, which have been robbed at a ratio of one in nine, declined to discuss their compliance with the recommendations other than to say the safety and security of their employees and customers was important.

Commerce Bank officials said in a statement, "We have systems and people in place to create a safe environment in all our locations. For safety reasons, the bank chooses not to disclose details about our security procedures."

Even banks such as Independence Community Bank, which rated comparatively well with a ratio of one robbery for every 11 branches, was vague when asked about compliance with the commissioner's request for more bank security.

"We continually maintain and update our security systems with the latest technology available," said Terence Mitchell, president of the consumer banking division of Independence. "We also provide initial and subsequent in-service security training for all of our employees."

"The New York Bankers Association, which is not a regulatory authority, recognizes and respects each individual bank's decision as to the most appropriate security procedures to ensure the safety of the people in its branches," said Michael Smith, president of the association. "The list of security measures in the best practices are not meant to be static and can be changed from time to time to reflect advances in security technology."

—Patrick Gallahue

NABBED...

Continued from page 1

counter."

He fled with \$3,290, police said.

Brown also confessed to three other robberies, in the 79th Precinct, which covers Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Brown's last heist was the City Hall job on April 22.

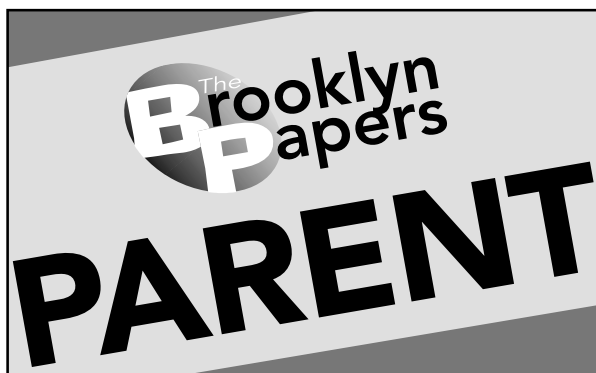
There were no injuries or weapons displays in any of the heists. Brown collected more than \$41,000 from the 14 robberies, police said, and according to the Post, when police caught him he had nothing left, having blown it all on crack cocaine, clothes and jewelry.

Police in the city have struggled to curb bank robberies, which have skyrocketed in recent months.

Many occurred on the "bankers row" along Montague Street in Brooklyn Heights and Downtown Brooklyn where at least 11 different robberies have taken place in the past six months, mostly by note-passers. There are seven banks along Montague Street.

brooklyn's
best read





A century later, memories of Luna Park still bright

By Larry McShane
Associated Press

It promised — and delivered — “a delirium of something doing.” There were dog sleds and a monkey theater, Japanese gardens and Venetian canals, the world’s largest ballroom and a faux trip to the moon. A newspaper ad promised wondrous acts “gathered from the universe,” along with “strange people from every clime.”

It was all unveiled on May 16, 1903 — opening night at Luna Park, a peerless purveyor of fantasy and family fun opposite the ocean in Coney Island. Fifty-two years before Disneyland debuted, its predecessor was attracting 90,000 daily visitors.

“Coney Island is the place where American mass culture was invented, and then imported around the world,” said Michael Immeso, author of “Coney Island: The People’s Playground.”

“Luna Park took that process to the highest level.”

The trip began 100 years ago, when Ohio-born Fred Thompson brought his vision of an unprecedented new amusement park to Brooklyn. The park’s name came from his partner’s sister; its reputation was made all on its own.

Luna Park, four blocks wide on Coney Island’s Surf Avenue, was spectacular. Hundreds of thousands of lights illuminated the facility; the phrase “it’s lit up like Luna Park” soon entered the vernacular.

In its first year of operation, the park cleared a \$600,000 profit (with a 10 cent admission). It drew nearly 5 million people in the 3 and 1/2 month summer season — about what Disneyland drew per year when it first opened, Immeso said.

Its daily attendance routinely outdrew the city’s baseball teams. An architectural critic hailed the park: “Not only can Coney Island be good, but that goodness pays, and pays handsomely.”

In 1907, more than a million postcards per week were mailed out of the Coney



A 1906 photograph of Luna Park in Coney Island, which would have turned 100 years old this year.

Island post office by visitors boasting to friends about their visits to the sparkling attraction.

Luna Park “changed the amusement rules,” said renowned New York historian Mike Wallace. “They deliberately aimed at expanding audience size — going beyond the largely male working class to include the middle class and entire families.”

The park, walled in from the neighborhood’s seafarer pursuits, was an assembly of fantasy architecture: 1,211 towers, minarets and domes rose up by 1906, giving Coney Island its own improbable skyline.

In glory years covered about a decade, until Thompson left, although Luna Park endured into the 1940s. It eventually disappeared as it debated: in a blaze of glory.

An electrical fire, which started in a ride called the Dragon’s Gorge, burned

down much of the park in August 1944. An estimated 750,000 people stood watching the 10-alarm blaze from the Coney Island beach.

Buildings and concession stands “burned like matchsticks,” according to New York Times. Mayor Fiorello La Guardia rushed to the scene from City Hall. Twenty rides were destroyed. And so was the park, which briefly reopened before closing for good.

Today, the only signs of the once-mighty park hang above buildings that bear its name: the Luna Park Houses, where master builder Robert Moses presided over the 1958 groundbreaking; the Luna Park Senior Center; and Luna Park Furniture.

Incredibly, there remains an actual Luna Park — a small asphalt playground opened in 1962, tucked beneath the elevated subway tracks.

How to (gently) quiet a chatty child

Q: “My third-grader is an A student but gets low conduct grades because of too much talking. How can her teachers and I stop this?” — a mother

A: Shouting “shut up” and other common mistakes fail to solve the talking problem. Instead of disrupting the class to silence a chatterbox, help the sociable child re-channel her behavior into a benefit.

“Talking in class is more of a social problem, an interaction problem, than a discipline problem,” says Robert DeBruyn, author of “You Can Handle Them All” (The Master Teacher, 2000) and “You Can Handle Them All for Parents” (2003). “Interrupting the class to reprimand the child won’t solve it.”

If you punish or isolate compulsive talkers in class, in the lunchroom or at home, they will be even more needy for attention and relationships — part of what gets them into trouble in the first place, says DeBruyn, owner of The Master Teacher Inc., which produces educational resources.

“Give them a chance to speak out in other ways,” he says. “Meet their needs through productive work in the classroom or doing something for the teacher. These are great kids to make classroom announcements, to help other kids, to give reports.”

Some students are less tempted to chatter if they get to work in groups, get jobs around the classroom and have additional challenging assignments.

First, make the child aware of her talkative behavior — she may not even know she’s talking, DeBruyn suggests. Coordinate with the teacher how the problem will be handled at school and at home. The goal: Improved self-discipline, not punishment.

What undermines the management of a talker at home or in class: Ignoring the behavior one day then overreacting the next.

One mother gave her son a note card to jot down each time he wanted to speak in class but didn’t have a chance to. That helped him gain control without squashing his interest, and he proudly brought home his tallies to mom. The tallies added up to small treats.

One reader’s son responded to keeping score, so his teacher marked on a sticky note on his desk each time he spoke out of turn. His teacher quietly called attention to how

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flagler

often he interrupted class, and he learned that he had to wait to be called on.

DeBruyn, a former teacher, used hand signals to help his students check their chatty behavior without any interruption of the class or embarrassment of the child.

His other tips include: • When the student is talking, don’t stop class or say a word. Walk toward the child’s desk. The closer the teacher moves to a talker, the less she will talk.

• Let the student know you will call on her during class discussion. If you tell her the question you will ask, she can focus on planning her answer instead of talking.

• Make frequent eye contact.

• Seat the talker near quiet and serious students.

Parents can encourage the child to count “1-2-3,” to be sure what she has to say “counts” before she opens her mouth, DeBruyn suggests.

At the dinner table, take turns talking. Ask questions and make eye contact. A child learns social skills in a family-centered home where he has to be courteous, listen and take turns talking, not in a child-centered family where the child is king.

The ability to talk is an asset, DeBruyn says, as long as a child learns appropriate behavior — such as not to interrupt classmates while they are working, to think before speaking and to realize they aren’t learning while they are talking.

“Tell the child she has a gift, but she has to use it con-

structively,” he says. “Others will have more respect for you if you use your gift appropriately.”

For information on educational resources published by The Master Teacher, including how to deal with misbehavior in class, call (800) 669-9633.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

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By Lisa J. Curtis
The Brooklyn Papers

For those who enjoy their performing arts al fresco, the Celebrate Brooklyn summer performance schedule has been an annual treat for the last 24 years.

With free admission, and a suggested contribution of \$3, the price is a steal to see veteran performers. And as for performers by emerging artists, Celebrate Brooklyn's low entrance fee has made it possible for audience members to take a gamble and discover new faces, because they literally have nothing to lose.

Co-producer Jack Walsh has labored over Celebrate Brooklyn for the last 21 seasons, and says the summer of 2003, the festival's 25th, promises to contain more hooping helpings of the same recipe for success.

"We were coming off last summer's incredibly strong program, with a really strong lineup," Walsh told GO Brooklyn. "We had set the bar pretty high for ourselves. We came in saying, if we do not match the level of what we did last year, we wanted to exceed it."

The 2002 season attracted more than 200,000 visitors to Prospect Park and included performances by dozens of artists including Dr. John, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra with Wynton Marsalis, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, a screening of the Elvis Presley movie "Jailhouse Rock," and new work by choreographers David Neumann and Nicholas Eichler-Dance — commissioned by Celebrate Brooklyn.

Held at the Prospect Park Bandshell at Prospect Park West and Ninth Street, this year's festival will kick off on June 12 with a performance by singer Joan Armatrading. The British vocalist has been performing her blend of rock, reggae, blues and jazz for 30 years. After an eight-year hiatus, she returned this year with her March release "Lover's Speak" (Demon, \$16.98).



Armatrading's concert will be preceded by a 25th birthday gala, a benefit to raise funds for Celebrate Brooklyn. Honorees will be Gordon Davis, former chairman of the city Parks Department, and Fort Greene-based choreographer Mark Morris.

Walsh credits Davis with the creation of Celebrate Brooklyn in 1979. "Davis was the Parks commissioner from 1978 to 1983, and he was instrumental in making Celebrate Brooklyn," said Walsh. "We're honoring him for that initiative. Since then he has gone on to be active in New York City's cultural world."

The world-renowned Mark Morris Dance Group made its Celebrate Brooklyn debut in 1985, and has performed there two additional times. Morris opened the Mark Morris Dance Center in Fort Greene in 2001.

"We love it, truly love it," said Barry Alterman, general director of the Mark Morris Dance Group. "Mark gets a lot of honors, but to be honored by an organi-

zation that we both esteem and love is just the best. We're hoping to perform every year starting next year — into perpetuity!"

"It's the greatest scene — to have all of those people come to Prospect Park and see great performers in a setting that's beautiful, relaxed and exciting. It's one of the great things that Brooklyn and New York has."

While favorite performers like the Alloy Orchestra and the Mark Morris Dance Group return regularly, the festival is always being tweaked. Last year, Walsh even revamped the Friends of Celebrate Brooklyn membership program with additional perks and added new concessionaire Two Books.

"We were able to get through the renovation of the bandshell in 1998-99 with extraordinarily successful seasons," said Walsh, "resulting in the fabulous facility we have now with enhanced production values and comfort level for the audience and improved sightlines."

When Walsh became director of the festival in 1994, he made a significant change in its programming philosophy. "Rachel Char-noff, my co-producer, and I made it our mandate at that point to focus on a slightly different program model," explained Walsh. "We paired a local emerging artist of highest quality... with a nationally oriented recognized artist. It took

some time to be able to afford that, but the result was to attract larger audiences and to introduce lesser known but deserving artists to a larger audience."

In 1996, Walsh said, he introduced the concept of live musical accompaniment to silent films.

This summer, the Alloy Orchestra will perform the score to "The Black Pirate," the 1926 film written by and starring Douglas Fairbanks.

This summer's festival is again commissioning new dance works (by Keely Garfield and James Gaines) and will see the return of Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Brooklyn Philharmonic, with Tony Award-winning singer Lillias White; the African Festival, featuring Salif Keita; the Borzua Festival; and the Irish rock group the Saw Doctors.

Walsh has been able to keep Celebrate Brooklyn afloat despite the city's economic highs and lows by creating corporate sponsorships, the Friends of Celebrate Brooklyn membership program, the "Keep it Great" give \$3 at the Gate" campaign and by offering benefit concerts.

"Now I would say it's fair to say that we're feeling the pinch along with everyone else," said Walsh. "We fear what the future holds if the economy continues to drag along. That said, we're in pretty good shape going into this year, and we have as full a season as we had last year."

MUSIC

The 25th Birthday Gala on June 12 to benefit Celebrate Brooklyn will feature cocktails and dinner at 5:30 pm followed by a performance by Joan Armatrading at 8 pm and post-concert party at 9:30 pm, featuring Clubhouse DJ Collective. Tickets are \$250 and up for VIP seating at the concert, pre-concert dinner and post-concert party.

Admission to the concert is free and open to the public with a suggested donation of \$3. For the complete Celebrate Brooklyn schedule, log on to www.brooklyn.org/celebrate.

FAIR

Fairly fabulous

The Fabulous Fifth Avenue Street Fair promises to live up to its name again this year.

The fair — Sunday, May 18, from 11 am to 7 pm, on Fifth Avenue between St. Johns Place and 12th Street — will feature a wide variety of live music at two locations: at Orzic's main stage, on Fifth Avenue between Garfield Place and Carroll Street, and at Moda Cafe, on Fifth Avenue between First and Second streets.

Between Berkeley Place and Second Street, there will be a section of tables offering fine arts and crafts, which attracted national media attention last year. Event organizers anticipate vendors will again offer purses and pillows, handcrafted stationary and greeting cards, jewelry, personalized children's stories and more.

At 718 Gallery, Fifth Avenue at Degraw Street, photographer Ann Rosen will snap individual and family color portraits against a variety of backdrops. Twenty-minute appointments are available between 1 pm and 4:40 pm. While you wait, check out "In the Presence of Family," an exhibit of Rosen's black-and-white portraits of Brooklyn families, on display at the 718 Gallery through May 31.

Brooklyn Papers photographer Greg Mango will also have a table offering signed and numbered single prints and series of prints at Fifth Avenue and Union Street.

And of course, Fifth Avenue is teeming with many restaurants where fair-goers can dine al fresco: Blue Ribbon, Long Tan, Press 195, Los Pollos, Bierkraft, Coco Roco and Mezcal.

Kids can enjoy rides all day throughout the fair, and make free paper bag puppets and hats at the Puppetry Arts table, on Fifth Avenue between Second and Third streets.

— Lisa J. Curtis

FESTIVAL

All for one

'Spring Fever' brings artists together at Brooklyn Lyceum

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Two innovative Park Slope producers have created a "Spring Fever" that may prove to be contagious among fiscally challenged arts groups.

The difficulty of raising money to create and produce new work in the arts is legendary. Undaunted by the hurdles they faced, Tomi Tsunoda and Sharon Eisman, two New York University graduates, formed their own production company in September 2000.

This company, breedingground productions, uses a "time share" concept that allows artists to obtain the resources they need at minimal cost.

"Over the years and after many frustrations, we decided to create a company where poor, smart, passionate artists could do the things they wanted to. We set up an office in our [Park Slope] apartment and founded a company which allows collaborators to trade time for each other's productions," Eisman told GO Brooklyn.

This means, for example, that if a director works the box office in one show, he may collect enough time to get someone else to do the lights on his next show. Their upcoming multimedia arts festival, "Spring Fever" at the Brooklyn Lyceum, is a perfect example of how this system works.

"We wanted to produce our clown show, 'Blue: A Comedy About Death and Loss,' which we had workedshoped at the Westbeth Theatre Center several times," Eisman explained. "We rented the Lyceum theater space for three weeks, and instead of letting it sit dark for those times when we weren't running our show, we decided to give other collaborators a chance to work on and produce projects they'd wanted to do for some time but couldn't due to financial limitations. We would provide the space, lights, publicity and staff. They would provide their brilliance, hard work and dreams."

The project now has 120 collaborators and the financial assistance or donated materials from the Brooklyn Academy of Music, off-off-Broadway's Chashama Theatre and DUMBO theater company One Arm Red.

"Spring Fever" opens May 21 with an evening of free drinks, free food and a free performance of choreographer Josh Walden's "All is Full of Love" and continues until June 7 with two free art installations, five theatrical performances, three dance pieces and two film events — all going throughout the festival — as well as two live music events.

Walden has based "All is Full of Love" on the musical "On the Town." Only instead of using the music of Leonard Bern-

See SPRING on page GO 6



Dance 'Fever': Choreographer Josh Walden's "All is Full of Love," set to music by Bjork, will open the new "Spring Fever" fest.

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Spiritual visions

Jewish art gallery raises money for 102-year-old Slope synagogue's repairs

By Gena Hymowech
For The Brooklyn Papers

The main sanctuary in Congregation B'nai Jacob is a mess. It's dirty. Pipes use it as a rest stop. And practically everything here, including the frescoes, the balcony and the cupola — which once was made of stained glass — is in disrepair.

But one day, this space will look beautiful again, thanks in part to the efforts of Alex Novack and Fred Polaniecki, the founders of the Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery. Proceeds from this gallery, which is located in the synagogue, will go towards the restoration of the 102-year-old building.

ART

The Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery is located inside Congregation B'nai Jacob, 401 Ninth St. at Sixth Avenue. The next group show runs May 15-June 15. An artist's reception will be held May 15, from 6 to 10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 832-1266 or visit the Web site at bjag.org.

and we wanted to look into it," said Polaniecki. "We talked about it with the board. They also thought it could work and told us that we should go ahead and do it."

There were a number of concerns that had to be dealt with before the gallery opened. One worry was that it wouldn't attract a huge audience.

"We weren't sure how large the interest in Jewish art was," said Polaniecki. Another concern was that the art would detract from services. A third worry was that the art wouldn't be modest enough for the modern Orthodox synagogue. But Novack and Polaniecki assured board members that the art wouldn't affect the synagogue negatively.

"People eventually got behind the gallery," Polaniecki said.

Another problem was that there was a limited amount of money to work with.

"We set a reasonable budget and we were able to stay well within it," he said. That was partly due to the fact that they did not spend a lot on promotion. Press coverage and word of mouth helped attract attention.

"We really didn't have too many hurdles to overcome," Polaniecki said. The first show, curated by Cadena, took place March 8-9. The gallery, an approximately 60-foot by 70-foot, well-lit room, exhibited works by a trio of Jewish artists: Ivo Perelman, Rebecca Schweiger and Shoshannah Brombach-Miller. The Klezmmer Mountain Boys, a klezmer and bluegrass ensemble led



Restorative art: (Top) Preparing for the Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery's May 15 opening, gallery co-founder Fred Polaniecki (left) and curator Betzel Cadena hang Cadena's painting, "The Masks for Purim." Proceeds from gallery sales will help restore Congregation B'nai Jacob (bottom right) which needs substantial repairs of its frescoes, stained glass and cupola. Rabbi Shimon Hecht (bottom left) is the spiritual leader of Congregation B'nai Jacob, located at 401 Ninth St. in Park Slope.

by clarinetist Margot Leverett, played March 8.

The show attracted about 400 attendees, said Novack, who came from all over Brooklyn — and beyond — to see the 52 works on display.

"People enjoyed the art," Novack said.

That response, he said, "made us realize we could take this to another level. Not only could we fundraise, but we could also create an appreciation of Jewish art and connect people to the synagogue."

The gallery had another effect as well.

"People told us the art inspired them during prayer services. We're very pleased by that," said Novack, adding that they were not completely surprised

"The art is very spiritual," he said.

Novack estimated that the first show raised a few thousand dollars. (The gallery committee's ultimate goal is to raise \$770,000.) The money raised from the show is currently in the restoration fund.

As for the future, some improvements to the gallery space and the main sanctuary will be made shortly. The main sanctuary, in particular, needs to be improved as soon as possible.

"The longer we leave it in this condition, the more hazardous it will become," said Novack. Another reason the main sanctuary needs to be improved is so the gallery can expand to a small area there before the upcoming show. (The space is capable of exhibiting around 25 additional works.) The

original gallery space, on the other hand, requires improvement because the synagogue is trying to encourage more people to rent it out. This is especially important, as those rentals help raise money for the restoration.

While it's encouraging that work continues to be done on the synagogue, some things — like the frescoes and the cupola — simply cost too much for a full restoration right now.

The upcoming art exhibit, featuring works by Cadena, Alex Zwartenstein, Ewa Harabasz, Richard McBee and Shoshannah Golim, opens May 15. The gallery will host two more shows later in the year: one in September and one in November. Further details will be posted on the gallery's Web site, bjag.org, as they become available.

WHERE TO GO

compiled by Susan Rosenthal

THURS, MAY 15	FRI, MAY 16	SAT, MAY 17
ORGANIC MARKET: Park Slope Community Supported Space hosts "100 culture hosts an open house featuring food tastings, fiddle and bagpipe music and information on how to join the CSA and enjoy the benefits of organic produce. 5 to 7 p.m. Garden of Union, Union Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues. (718) 701-0223. Free.	BENEFIT SHOW: Kendler International Dining Space hosts "100 Small Works on Paper." \$100 include one work of art, 6 p.m. 353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2068.	OUTDOORS AND TOURS VIKING FEST: Viking Ship, Viking re-enactment and rides on activities offered during this annual event. Noon to 5 p.m. Owl's Head Park, 68th Street and Narrows Avenue. (718) 748-9902. Free.
BASIC JUDAISM: Congregation B'nai Anshin offers a talk, "The Holidays: An Appointment Calendar." 6:30 to 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 998-4800. Free.	RECEPTION: 718 Gallery hosts a reception for exhibit "Color Portraits by Ann Rosen." 6 p.m. 164 Fifth Ave. (718) 636-1103.	WARBLER WALK: Audubon Center offers a bird watching opportunity. 8 to 10 a.m. Meet at Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 287-3400. Free.
BARGEMUSIC: chamber music by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.	LOW BAR: presents music with the Howard Fishman Quartet. No cover. 10 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.	CRUISING THE GOWANUS: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment takes a tour aboard the Chelsea Screamers. \$11, 59 members, \$8 seniors and students. Noon to 2 p.m. Meet at Lafayette Street Pier. (718) 287-2224.
BARGEMUSIC: chamber music by Schubert, Mendelssohn and Brahms. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.	SUGARHILL SUPPER CLUB: Live concert of bands and Strangers Youth Jazz Band. 8 p.m. 164 Fifth Ave. Call for time. (718) 622-0492.	ARTS FEST: Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival returns for its 10th annual celebration. 9 a.m. to noon. 15th Street and Sixth Avenue. (718) 788-8500.
BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts a discussion group. This month's selection is "Thirteen: My Grandfather" by Mariana Pizarro. 7:30 p.m. 106 Court St. (718) 264-4996. Free.	STARRY NIGHTS: Sukh Marit Nature Center hosts a night of astronomy and stargazing. 6 p.m. 3302 Ave. U. (718) 421-5201. Free.	HARBOR TOUR: Working Watercraft Committee of New York and New Jersey hosts a guided excursion to Brighton Beach. \$25, \$20 members. 10 a.m. Reservations and pre-payment necessary. (718) 694-5139.
LECTURE: Community is invited to enjoy a Brooklyn film presents its documentary expose "Hidden History of Garbage." 7:30 p.m. Y.M.C.A. 357 Ninth St. (718) 768-1100. Free.	CHAMBER MUSIC: Brooklyn Chamber Music Society presents its first concert. 5:25, 8 p.m. First Unitarian Church, 50 Monroeville Place. (718) 858-0718.	BRIGHTON LINE MEMOIRS: New York Transit Museum hosts an
HALCYON CAFE: presents a poetry and prose reading. No cover. 7:30 p.m. 227 Smith St. (718) 260-WAXY.	SOUTHPAW: Live music with The Standard. 8:30 p.m. 125 Fifth Ave. (718) 232-0236.	
BRIC STUDIO: presents American Theater News, featuring work by Tom X. Chao. \$10, \$8 students. 7:30 p.m. 57 Rockwell Place. (718) 855-7882.	DANCE: One Ave. Red presents an evening of dance. 8 p.m. 45 Main St. Call. (718) 797-0044.	
GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: CD release party for "Birth of George," a chamber opera. \$5, 6 to 9 p.m. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.	GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: New York band Ganja A Go-Go play jazz/poetry pop. \$6, 9:30 p.m. North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.	
VARIETY SHOW: Theaterworks, New York City College of Technology's resident theater troupe, hosts "Jenertainment." \$5, \$1 students. 8 p.m. 186 Jay St. (718) 260-5569.	FLMK: Park Slope Films hosts the premiere of its latest production, "York Street." \$10, 9:30 p.m. Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 369-7030.	
SOUTHPAW: Portanti Saters and others perform for a benefit for Project Brooklyn. \$10, 8 p.m. 125 Fifth Ave. (718) 834-9120.	451 ARTS: presents The Day After Tomorrow. 8 p.m. See Sat.	
LOW BAR: presents music with Radigan. No cover. 10 p.m. 81 Washington St. (718) 222-1100.	PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters." 8 p.m. See Sat.	
GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 8 p.m. See Sat.	GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 8 p.m. See Sat.	

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to Go**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 28 Court St., Ste. 306, Brooklyn, NY 11242; or by fax: (718) 634-9276. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

NAVY YARD ARTISTS: hosts its annual self-guided event. Art by over 100 artists at 48 locations. Noon to 6 p.m. 101 Lafayette Ave. at South Oxford Street. (718) 299-2445.

WATER WONDER: Prospect Park Audubon Center offers an interactive exhibit about the park's waterways. Noon to 5 p.m. Prospect Park. (718) 267-3400. Free.

BROOKLYN BOTANIC GARDEN: \$5, \$3 seniors and students. Free for children under 16. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

TWILIGHT TATTOO: Military pageant includes the silent drill team and jazz ambassadors. 6 p.m. Fort Hamilton. (718) 630-4780. Free.

YOU GOTTA HAVE PARK: Annual event celebrates volunteerism in Prospect Park. \$1. All day. Activities include cleaning and greening of park. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Discover Nature Tours at 3 pm from Audubon Center. Lull-water Nature Trail Self-Guided tour from noon to 5 p.m. pony rides from noon to 5 p.m. carousel is open from noon to 5 p.m. celebration at Flatbush Play Day at 3 p.m. Prospect Park. www.prospectpark.org (718) 965-8960.

PERFORMANCES
PER SHOW 11: Brooklyn Working Artists Coalition hosts its annual art show. Red Hook Waterfront Arts Festival features dance, poetry, food, music and more. Noon to 6 p.m. 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507. Free.

DANCE RECITAL: Brooklyn College presents a year-end director's recital and dance festival. 12:20 p.m. Leverett Hall, Brooklyn College, one block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500. Free.

OLD STONE HOUSE: Reception for Anne Alcazar, new executive director, also rehearsal of the classical jam of Continued on page GO 4...

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Merci, Quercy

New French restaurant on Court Street offers authentic Gallic hits and misses

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Patrons may be boycotting French bistros outside of Brooklyn, but in our borough, Gallic dining is tres chic.

On a recent weeknight, Quercy, a French bistro that opened on Court Street in January, was packed with customers gobbling escargot and rabbit stew. Apparently, for unapologetic hedonists (and I count myself as one of them) when the pleasure of a good meal beckons, we leave our politics at home.

Chef Jean-François Fraysse and his wife, Melva Max, who also own Manhattan's La Luncheonette, named their eatery after his hometown, located halfway between Toulouse and Bordeaux in Southwest France.

The two revamped the space, which formerly housed Harvest Market, and added their own spin to the ubiquitous "bistro in a box" decor seen so often in our neighborhoods. The room sports persimmon-colored walls that cast a flattering glow on patrons; black-and-white photographs and carefully appointed tables that are close, but not too near other diners. It's an inviting room heady with the aroma of garlic.

Fraysse's menu is classic, Old World French bistro fare. No surprises await you. No fusion anything. No Asian touches. Much of our meal, like the special *boeuf bourguignon* and the rustic pear tarte Tatin (a crust is placed over the fruit in a saute pan, then baked and flipped for serving) were delectable.

However, a few dishes didn't dazzle.

The evening's soup du jour, a creamy potage of cauliflower and roast chestnuts, was like velvet in the mouth, yet tasted like an under-seasoned pea soup. Delicate, nutty-flavored chanterelle mushrooms were



Where's the boeuf? (At right) Quercy Chef Jean-François Fraysse with his impossibly tender boeuf bourguignon and cassoulets. (Above) Waitress Mumtaz Ismail offers service with a smile at the Court Street restaurant.

awash in oil and overwhelmed by garlic.

A better choice would be the artichoke vinaigrette. Women at a nearby table were breaking the leaves off a huge artichoke, dipping it into the light dressing and sighing.

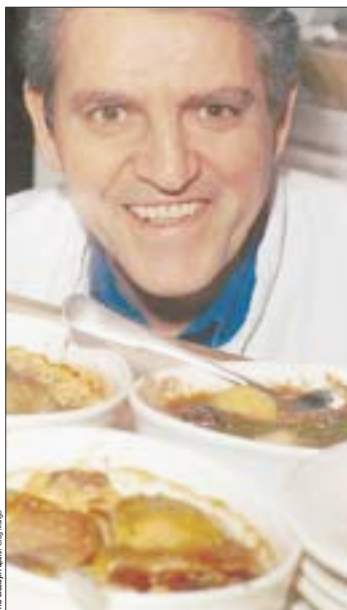
The lackluster first course was redeemed by an uncomplicated endive and Roquefort salad. Sweet roasted

beets sat atop the bitter endive leaves, a wedge of the sharp cheese perched at the edge of the plate. Health-conscious customers can use a little pitcher to drizzle their own greens with the tart, creamy dressing. This salad, with its pleasing harmony of strong and subtle flavors and crunchy and smooth textures, will become a destination dish when the warm weather finally kicks in.

Regardless of the weather, patrons

shouldn't pass on the special *boeuf bourguignon*. The stew is more homey than exciting, yet Fraysse's version provides some drama. Served in a large, oval gratin dish, it arrived with its thick, wine-laced sauce bubbling. Meaty, winy and perfumed with garlic, each cube of beef was cooked to optimal tenderness and every carrot and onion caramelized to sweet perfection. Knives are optional.

Another no-big-deal dish (until you try it yourself) is Fraysse's faultless roasted chicken. The skin of his bronzed bird is as brittle as the top of a properly made creme brulee, and the moist meat oozes juice. Liberally coated with an assertive mustard sauce, the chicken, and its side of potato and Gruyere cheese gratin, are the dishes upon which bistros base their reputations. An Atkins Diet devotee may want to give the spuds a pass, but the experience of eating that dish is worth every artery-clogging bite. The tender vegetable is en-



scorced in cream and tangy cheese then baked until the top is crisp and brown.

If some justification for indulgence is needed, Fraysse thoughtfully adds to the plate crisp *haricots verts* (thin string beans), sauteed with mushrooms.

Desserts at Quercy are well-made bistro classics. The pear tarte Tatin is a triumph: it's crust as crisp as a cracker, and the large wedges of pear caramelized until deep brown. After the pears are baked, they assume a wine-like taste that is nicely complemented by a dollop of tart creme fraiche, which sits on the side of the pastry.

After being fed so many overwrought desserts at other places—a soufflé on top of a cookie, served with two sauces, ice cream and five

varieties of berries—it's a pleasure (and the appropriate way to end a rich meal) to have an unadorned tart, without infusions of herbs or essences.

The flourless, bitter chocolate tart was less successful. Sitting in a pool of thin, slightly sweetened chocolate sauce, the pastry promised a bit of strong chocolate but didn't deliver.

"It tastes like a candle," someone at my table said. They weren't far off. We've all experienced the same traumatic couple of years. This long, dismal winter has left us pining for warm escapes, and our fear of flying, coupled by diminishing paychecks (for those lucky enough to be employed), has kept us homebound. So why be spiteful if saying "oui" affords us some small gratification?



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WHERE TO GO...

Continued from page G02...
the Brooklyn Brandenburgs, 1 to 5 p.m., 411 1st Ave. (718) 768-3195. Free.

DANCE: Straight to the Helicopter presents excerpts from "Avantardance." 2 p.m. Sunset Park, enter on 18th Avenue at 41st Street. (718) 812-6418. Free.

YOUNG COMPOSERS: Performance by members of the St. Luke's Young Composers Development Program. Four composers between the ages of 12 and 25 perform. 2 p.m. Brooklyn School of Music, 126 St. Felix St. (718) 855-7101.

CHURCH CHOIR: Flatbush-Tompkins presents The Church Choir. \$15, \$10 students and seniors. 7 p.m. 451 East 18th St. (718) 262-5353.

SPRING CONCERT: Soprano Shenglei Boyd performs works by Mozart, Offenbach and Paganini. \$50 donation. 8 p.m. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 717-4341.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Philharmonic Chorus performs Gabriel Fauré's "Requiem" and "Messe Beate Pour Voix de Femmes." \$12, 7:30 p.m. St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church, 116 Sixth Ave. (718) 907-0963.

BARCELONIC: chamber music program by Beethoven, Dvorak, Stravinsky and Bartok. \$35, 3 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

OPERA: American Opera Projects presents a music reading of "To Touch an Angel." \$15, 8 p.m. South Oldford St. (917) 660-8200.

RIGHT BANK: Snowsuit, Japanese and Plate Tectonics perform. \$8, 8 p.m. 409 Kent Ave. (718) 959-4840.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess," a musical. \$15, \$12 children 12 and under and seniors. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 595-5245.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters," by AR Gurney. \$8, 8 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 2635 E. 23rd St. (718) 849-2937.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: "Dance the Night Away." \$20, 9 p.m. 1st American Can Factory, 230 Third St. (718) 632-8227.

MICRO MUSEUM: "International Not Still Art Festival." Event features non-narrative and abstract electronic motion imaging with music and sound design and live performances. noon discussion and networking opportunity. \$15, \$10 students, 2 and 8 p.m. 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: presents "My Fair Lady." \$15, \$12 seniors and children. 8 p.m. 26 Willow Place. (718) 237-2752.

651 ARTS: "Black Dance: Transition and Transformation" presents The Dayton Contemporary Dance Company. \$40, \$20 seniors. 8 p.m. 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4150.

RELEASE PARTY: Release party for Dr. Mondak and Straight Circle. \$15, 9 to 11:30 p.m. 6th Street and Parlor Jazz, 119 Vanderbilt Ave. (718) 855-1981.

SPRING DANCE: Brooklyn Arts Center hosts its 120th Anniversary event. \$50, 6 p.m. Congo Square Drummers of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 632-8629.

DANCE: Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts its first annual Spring Dance. \$15, 1 to 4 p.m. American Can Factory, 230 Third St. (718) 632-8227.

OTHER: Shabbatong, Congregation B'nai Israel, 718-262-5803. Lunch. Topic of discussion: "How Can Spirituality Enhance Your Life?" \$30 non-members, \$25 members, \$15 students and seniors. 117 Remsen St. (718) 596-4840.

SE-HYUNDO WORKSHOP: Drs. Lee and George Donnelly host a self-hypnosis workshop. \$75, 10 am to 6 p.m. Touch of Light Chiropractic, 44 Court Street. (718) 240-5803.

OPEN HOUSE: Sebago Cane Club open house, 409 Kent Ave. All welcome. 10 am to 5 p.m. 1400 Linden Avenue. (718) 241-5663.

STRESS MANAGEMENT: Brooklyn Public Library and Project Liberty present a post-9/11 workshop. 2 p.m. New Brooklyn Library, 69th Street and Shore Road.

ISLAND CRUISE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment. Part two of a tour. Other islands: Hosts: Choice. Part two: Cruise aboard the Chelsea Seaside and tour the island's favorite islands including Governors Island, Ellis Island, Hoffman and Swinburne Island and others. \$15, 9 p.m. members, \$8 seniors and students. 9 p.m. to noon. Call for reservations and meeting location. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

GAYS OF NEW YORK: The New York Talks and Walks explores the Jewish connection of "The Gays of New York." Learn about the underside of Jewish immigrant life. \$15, 10:30 a.m. Meet at First Row American Synagogue, 89 Livingston St. Lower Manhattan. \$15, 10:30 a.m. Meet at America's first media school, site of Foley Square Housing State and Federal courts. \$15, 1:30 p.m. Meet at 38 Park Row, lower Manhattan. (888) 377-4655.

WILD TOUR: Learn about wild food and ecology of Prospect Park with "Wildman" Steve Bell. \$10, \$5 children under 12. 11:45 a.m. Call for meeting location and reservations. (914) 435-2153.

HOUSE TOUR: 44th annual self-guided Park Statue House Tour. \$20, Noon to 5 p.m. Buy tickets at Dizay's, corner of Eighth Avenue and Ninth Street. (718) 832-8227.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY: Big Open House a tour of this "Victorian City of the Dead." Tour directed by architectural historian and people of this Brooklyn landmark. \$12, \$10 students and seniors. 1 p.m. Meet at main entrance, Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 439-4393.

Also, a tour of the cemetery led by John Cashman and Frank McCall. Tour and talk about Greenwood's historical, sociological, architectural, artistic, horticultural and historical appeal. \$6, 1 p.m. Meet inside Ninth Avenue gate at 20th Street. (718) 469-5277. Finally, third tour led by Jeff Richman, cemetery historian. \$10, 1 p.m. Meet at 25th Street and Fifth Avenue. (631) 549-8091.

PUM BEACH NATURE WALK: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour. \$11, 9 p.m. members, \$8 seniors and students. 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. Meet at Circular Building in Plum Beach parking lot. Plum Beach is off the eastbound Belt Parkway. (718) 788-8500.

YOU GOTTA HAVE PARK: Annual event to celebrate volunteerism in Prospect Park continues. \$1. All day. Events include canine good citizen test, 12:30 to 5:30 p.m. Summer reading kickoff!



Home sweet homes

The Park Slope Civic Council hosts a self-guided walking tour, "Grand Central," featuring nine 19th- and early 20th-century homes, on May 18 from noon to 5 p.m.

This 44th annual walking tour is a fundraiser for the civic council, which returns the funds to the community through scholarships to college-bound students and grants to schools, charities, cultural institutions and other organizations benefiting Park Slope.

Day-of tour tickets and T-shirts are available outside Dizay's restaurant, on the corner of Eighth Avenue and Ninth Street. Ticket holders may also visit the Brooklyn Jewish Art Gallery, newly

opened in Congregation B'nai Jacob, and All Saints Episcopal Church. Built in 1892, the church is a blend of Moorish design and Romanesque architecture.

A highlight of the tour is a look inside Bed and Breakfast on the Park (above), an 1896 Neo-Renaissance bed-and-breakfast with stained-glass windows, gas burning fireplaces, canopy beds and Victorian furnishings.

Tickets are \$20. For more information, call (718) 832-8227 or visit the Web site at www.parkslopeciviccouncil.org. The tour will be offered rain or shine. Children younger than 10, photographs and video cameras are not permitted inside the homes.

— Lisa J. Curtis

SUN, MAY 18

OUTDOORS AND TOURS
FIFTH AVENUE FAIR: Event features live music, food, local vendors, and more. Artist Ann Rosen will be available to take family or individual color portraits, starting at \$40, at 123rd Street. Rain or shine. 10 am to 5 p.m. 123rd Street. (718) 832-8227.

SPRING FEST: Brooklyn Botanic Garden hosts Mei-Mei Berssenbrugge and Molly McCade in a poetry reading. 2 p.m. Also, Dirty Red, Carolina Slim and Norio Concert play Piedmont blues. 10 am to 5 p.m. 100th Avenue. (718) 623-7333.

MUSIC: Kingsborough Orchestra performs with Congregation Chorus. 2:30 p.m. 2001 Oriental Boulevard. (718) 348-5976.

ASIAN FESTIVAL: First annual Asian Pacific Heritage Festival. Dance and music performances. 10 am to 5 p.m. 100th Avenue. (718) 623-7333.

MUSIC: Brooklyn Philharmonic performs music about and by women in conjunction with "Victorian Lady" and "Dinner Party." Brooklyn Museum exhibits. \$15, \$10 seniors and students. 3 p.m. Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 623-8629.

LUTE AND VOICE CONCERT: The Musicians in Ordinary host a concert. "Drowned the Sea." Men, a program that investigates music on musical form. \$8, 8 p.m. 3rd Street. (718) 624-0083.

GOSPEL CONCERT: Lafayette Inspirational Music performs at its 12th annual concert. \$20, \$10 seniors and students. 4 p.m. Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, Lafayette Avenue and 10th Street. (718) 623-7315.

BAROQUE MUSIC: New York Baroque presents "Boutade of Lutes." \$20, \$15 seniors and students. First Union Church, Pierpont Street and Monroe Place. (718) 852-4644.

BAROQUE MUSIC: chamber music program by Beethoven, Dvorak, Stravinsky and Bartok. \$35, 4 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

LUXE BAR: presents underground rock and vintage. Call for times. No cover. (718) 599-1000.

HEIGHTS PLAYERS: "My Fair Lady." 3 p.m. See site.

GALLERY PLAYERS: "Chess." 3 p.m. See site.

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: "Love Letters." 3:30 p.m. See site.

CHILDREN
SMALL FINGER COMPETITION: Brooklyn Arts Council hosts its 30th annual music competition for young people. 11 a.m. 250 Bklyn St. (718) 625-0083. Free.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: U2 presents Rattle and Dancers. 4:30 p.m. Also, comic book artist and animator John Kites leads a workshop. 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

MUSIC FOR FAMILIES: The Klezmas performs. \$10, \$5 children. 3 p.m. Brooklyn Conservatory of Music. 58 Seventh Ave. (718) 622-3300.

PUPPETWORKS: "Cinderella." 12:30 and 2:30 p.m. See site.

OTHER
DOG TALK: Kings County Kennel Club offers a canine good citizen test. Learn if your dog is socially acceptable. \$10, 10 am to 12:30 p.m. Wolman Park, Prospect Park, enter at Ocean and Parkside avenues. (718) 492-2460.

Flea Market: at Flatbush Jewish Center. 10 am to 2:30 p.m. 500 Church Ave. (718) 871-5209.

ART GALLERY: Brooklyn Jewish Arts Gallery presents an art sale. Proceeds help restore

St. (718) 782-5188.

DRAMA: One Arm Red presents "I'm Gonna Kill the President." 8 p.m. Other pieces follow. 45 Main St. Call for ticket info. (718) 797-0045.

Wed, May 21

BOOK LAUNCH: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, presents "Storied City," a children's book and walking tour guide to New York City. 4:30 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. RSVP: (718) 349-9835.

FILM: The Watch Club hosts "Howard's End" (1992). 2 p.m. 157 Montague St. (718) 875-4950.

SPRING FEVER: Brooklyn Lyceum presents "All is Full of Love." \$12, 8 p.m. 300 Lafayette Ave. (347) 683-7698.

LEGAL CLINIC: North Ave. Talk and answer questions concerning "All is Full of Love." (718) 522-2613. Free.

B&N CAFE: In conjunction with the Dance Africa program, a reading by poets of their poetry. 7:30 p.m. 300 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100. Free.

FITNESS WORKSHOP: Woodstock Development Corporation hosts a workout conducted by a chiropractor. 7 to 9 p.m. Edward R. Royce High School, 1600 Ave. L. (718) 376-0997. Free.

MEETING: Bklyn. Historical Society meets to discuss "The Bed Reading of Brooklyn," a book by Ron Schwieger. 7:30 p.m. Bronx Hall of Records, 1000 Westchester Ave. (718) 745-5938. Free.

MEETING: of Community School District, District 15. 7:30 p.m. 330 South St. (718) 330-9283.

BARNES AND NOBLE: presents a contemporary world fiction reading group. Month's selection is "Waiting" by Lisa J. Curtis. 7:30 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 632-9064. Free.

MUSIC: Vox Novus presents electro-acoustic music. \$10, 7:30 p.m. South Oldford Square, 138 South Oldford St. (718) 398-3020. Free.

CONCERT: Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra presents a performance of works by William Walton. 8 p.m. Bronx Hall of Records, 1000 Westchester Ave. (718) 745-5938. Free.

SPRINT THOUGHT: Second annual "Alternative Small Press Expo." Fair. On exhibit are small press publications, electronic publishing methods, spoken word audio recordings and other alternative publishing methods. Noon to 6 p.m. The Old Stone House, 336 Third St. (718) 832-2310.

LECTURE SERIES: Brooklyn Public Library hosts a series on Jews and the Media. Today: "Jews in Brooklyn." 2 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 230-2100. Free.

SUNDAYS ON MYRTLE: Lecture and diems on photography. Topic is "New Trends in Fashion Framing." 11:45 to 4 p.m. Clinton Hill Simply Art and Framing Gallery, 583 Myrtle Ave. (718) 624-5041.

READING SERIES: Barbes Bar presents fiction writers reading from their works. 6 p.m. No cover. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177.

OCULARS FILM: Cinema Williamsburg Style presents "Risky Business," a new video work by three award-winning multimedia media artists. \$2, 7:30 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

BARBES BAR: presents the Academy Award-winning film "The Panama Deception." 1992). 9 p.m. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

PIER SHOW 11: Working Artists Coalition hosts its annual art show. Noon to 6 p.m. See site.

READING: Sotto Voce Lounge hosts Readings Below the Bridge by Jeannine Veroff and W. Collier. 57 7:30 p.m. 443 Fourth St. (718) 369-9222.

ASTHMA SCREENING: Maimonides Medical Center offers a screening. Call for time. 4800 Tenth Ave. (877) 874-2796. Free.

STAGED READING: Mission Theater Company presents a reading of Robert Chesley's "Stray Dog Story." 7:30 p.m. South Oldford Square, 138 S. Oldford St. (718) 638-0384. Free.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Avraham hosts a series, "Ethics of Our Fathers." Today: "Self-Respect." 8 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 802-1827. Free.

BARBES BAR: presents the Academy Award-winning film "The Panama Deception." 1992). 9 p.m. 376 Ninth St. (718) 965-9177. Free.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Evening of burlesque. 9:30 p.m. No cover. Also, 10:15 to 10:30 p.m. North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

WEDDING 101: Learn how to plan your wedding day during a fair hosted at the New York Marriott Brooklyn. \$20, 6 to 9:30 p.m. 333 Adams St. (718) 857-8066.

TUES, MAY 20

FAMILIES FIRST: Talk for parents of teens. Learn how to set limits and figure out what motivates teens. \$10, 5:30 to 7 p.m. 250 Bklyn St. (718) 625-0083. Free.

FINANCE TALK: Greenpoint Bank and Barnes Enterprises present "Budgeting and Financing Strategies for Future Business Owners." 5:30 to 8 p.m. Greenpoint Bank, 356 Fulton St. (718) 625-0370. Free.

AGING PARENT TALK: Heights and Hill Community Council offers a series of workshops. Today: "Medical Issues." 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. 140 Montague St. Registration required. (718) 596-8795. Free.

READING: Brooklyn poets read from their works. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Brooklyn Public Library, Brooklyn Heights Branch, 280 Cadman Place West. (718) 623-7100.

MEETING: 84th Precinct Community Council presents Cap-of-the-Month award to Capt. Gary Gomula. 7 p.m. Brooklyn Borough Hall, 209 Ansonia St. (718) 875-4850.

BARNES AND NOBLE: author David Kushner reading from his book "Masters of Doom: How Two Guys Created an Empire and Transformed Pop Culture." 7:30 p.m. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

CONCERT: Forensic Music hosts a multimedia concert featuring four experimental works created in collaboration with local artists in various disciplines. \$5, 7:30 p.m. 138 South Oldford St. (718) 389-0761.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: Play Tuesdays with Todd Reynolds and Curtis Ellis. \$12, 8 p.m. Also, Klezmer Tuesdays. 8:30 p.m. No cover. 70 North Sixth St. (718) 782-5188.

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Fabulous Fifth Avenue Fair

Sunday, May 18th, 11am to 6pm (rain or shine)
from St. John's Place to 12th Street



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The Fabulous Fifth Avenue FAIR

PARK SLOPE BROOKLYN

Sun. May 18th
 11am-6pm rain or shine
 St. Johns Pl. to 12th Street

crafts - live music - food - puppet making
 local artists - antiques - apparel - gifts - rides
 an entire neighborhood of fun

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

ENTERTAINMENT:

Main Stage at OZZIE'S - (Between Garfield & Carroll St.)
 presented by Southpaw & PSFAMA

12:45 STREETS OF BROOKLYN - Acapella doo-wop
 1:30 NERVOUS CABARET - Hip-hop artists collective
 2:30 ARI BEN MOSES BAND - World rock & reggae
 3:30 NUCLEAR FAMILY
 4:30 RADIO MUNDIAL - Latin house rock & reggae
 MODA CAFE (1st & 2nd Sts.)
 11am- D.J. AMANDA - Soulful House / Moda Music
 3:30pm- D.J. NICKODEMUS - Giant Step Records / Turntables on the Hudson

FINE ARTS & CRAFTS SECTION

A variety of local artists and craftspeople from Berkeley Pl. to 2nd St.

FOOD & DRINK

Dine al-fresco at your favorite spots including Blue Ribbon, Long Tan,
 Press 195, Los Pollitos, Bierkraft, Coco Roco, and Mezcal's.

KIDS

PUPPETRY ARTS (Bet. 2nd and 3rd St.)
 Bring the kids and make free paper bag puppets. All Day
 KIDDIE RIDES - Throughout the fair. All Day

In addition, stroll along the avenue to find more performances
 and activities at other locations throughout the fair!

VISIT THESE AND OTHER FINE FIFTH AVENUE MERCHANTS

ANTIQUES / COLLECTIBLES

Bob & Judi's Collectibles
 Trailer Park

ART / HANDCRAFTS / GALLERIES

Cop & Pearl
 Gallery 718
 Patrias

BARS / NIGHTLIFE

Excelsior
 Ginger's Bar
 Patio Lounge
 Southpaw
 Timboos Tavern

BEER / WINE

Bierkraft
 Red White & Bubbly

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 Graphicolor Corp.
 Greenpoint Savings Bank
 Herrera Accounting Svcs.
 Susan Martin-Strategy Coach

CAFES / BAKERY / ICE CREAM

Delices de Paris
 Fifth Ave. Baguette Cafe
 Moda Cafe
 Ozzies Coffee
 Uncle Louie G's

CARDS/GIFTS

Nancy Nancy
 Scaredy Kat

CARPETS

Caesar's Carpet Center

CLOTHING / ACCESSORIES

Beacon's Closet
 Bopkai
 Diana Kane
 Eidolon
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 Slang Betty
 Square Stores

FLORIST

Blooms on Fifth

FRAMING

Brooklyn Frameworks

GROCERY

Associated Supermarket

HAIR SALONS

Elements Hair Studio
 Le Chandelier
 Rapunzel Rapunzel

HARDWARE / PLUMBING

Aladdin Plumbing
 J.E. Smalls Plumbing
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HEALTH / FITNESS

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'Fair' play

Heights Players ends season with the best English lesson in town

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

For their last show of this season, the Heights Players have pulled out all the stops for that most extravagant of extravaganzas, Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Loewe's "My Fair Lady."

Thomas N. Tyler directs a cast of more than 30 actors, that includes doubling, and sometimes tripling up on parts. He's also enlisted the talents of choreographers Gina Healy and James Martinelli, costume designer Albert Walsh, musical director Ray Jordan and scenic designer Bill Wood. The result is "lovely."

A smash hit in the 1950s, "My Fair Lady" came into being mostly through the persistence of Hungarian film producer Gabriel Pascal, who devoted the last two years of his life to finding writers who would want to adapt George Bernard Shaw's 1913 play, "Pygmalion," into a musical.

Rogers and Hammerstein didn't want it. Noel Coward rejected it. Finally, a young but talented team, Lerner and Loewe, came up to the plate, and the rest is history.

The musical opened at the Mark Hellinger Theatre on March 15, 1956, and ran for a then-record-breaking 2,717 performances before closing on Sept. 29, 1962, at the Broadway Theatre. The show won nine Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and

has remained steady fare both on Broadway — who also starred on Broadway — as Henry Higgins and Audrey Hepburn, who replaced Julie Andrews as Eliza Doolittle, despite the fact that she was not a singer and needed the dubbing of Mami

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‘Lovely’ moment: Jamie Copaken as Freddy Eynford-Hill and Ellen Copaken as Eliza Doolittle in the Heights Players' production of "My Fair Lady."

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THEATER

The Heights Players' production of "My Fair Lady" runs through May 18, Friday through Saturday at 8 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm, at 26 Willow Place between State and Jerusalem streets in Brooklyn Heights. Tickets are \$15, \$13 students and seniors. For reservations, call (718) 237-2752.

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Eliza's waltz, "I Could Have Danced All Night"; or the "Ascot Gavotte" sequence — all of which entertain while giving the audience important information.

The Heights Players production owes its success in great part to its leading actors. Ellen Copaken blithely sings and dances her way from the Cockney flower girl to the fair lady. She is believably defiant and dainty, and sometimes both at the same time. Her sweet and powerful voice is always a pleasure to hear.

Jerry Kahn might have been born in tweeds. He is irresistible as the irascible Henry Higgins, and his voice is better than Harrison's.

Ed Healy, as Colonel Hugh Pickering, is a little more Healy than Pickering, but somehow he manages to pull it off admirably.

Steven Benquist returns to the Heights Players as Alfred P. Doolittle after a long absence. Watching him prance across the stage, or going head-to-head with Higgins, one can only hope he won't repeat his long absence.

As for the supporting cast and ensemble, except for a few blunders, such as Leslie Ross, who neither looks nor acts like a convincing Mrs. Higgins and John Bourne, who is neither a singer nor a dancer, they are for the most part an asset to the play.

Healy and Martinelli have bent over backward — and every other way, too — to create lively dancers that do not overreach the ability of the dancers. And even those who don't get in the movement look fine standing still, dressed in Walsh's array of flowing gowns, feathered hats and fine lines.

Almost a half-century after it first opened, "My Fair Lady" is as fresh as one of the newly cut flowers Eliza sells. Its music has not gone out of style, and its humor does not seem out of date.

What a piece of luck that the Heights Players are reviving "My Fair Lady" once again!

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