

The Bay Ridge Paper

Including The Bensonhurst Paper

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Who saved the Alpine theater?

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

The Alpine Cinema has been saved — now, who gets the credit?

Two Bay Ridge lawmakers — who have been rivals for more than a decade — held bizarre back-to-back press conferences this week to crow about their roles in finding a buyer for the last moviehouse in a neighborhood that once had a half-dozen.

First up was City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge). The credibility of his event — bright and early at 9:30 am on Tuesday — was bolstered by the appearance of Borough President Markowitz, Community Board 10 District Manager Joseph Beckmann, congressional candidate Steve Harrison, Fifth Avenue Board of Trade board member Jim Clark, and Tim King, the Massey-Kniskall real estate broker who saved the building.

"The Alpine has been saved!" Gentile cheered, brandishing 2,300 peti-

tion signatures that, he claimed, persuaded owner Jeffrey Deneroff to commit to finding a buyer who would maintain the 85-year-old Alpine as a cinema.

Gentile said the new owner, Nicolas Nicolaou, would take over in July, and transform the Alpine from a weak link in the national AMC chain into an independent cinema. There will also be long-overdue renovations, Gentile said.

Nicolaou owns an independent theater on the Upper East Side of Manhattan and the Cinemart in Forest Hills.

King refused to say how much Nicolaou paid for the building, which had an asking price last year of \$10 million. A source close to the deal did tell The Brooklyn Papers that Nicolaou paid between \$6 and \$7 million.

Three hours later, state Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge) presented his half of the double-feature with some of the same co-stars — King, Beckmann and Clark — but no Markowitz.

Golden said his office "worked incredible man-hours" to convince state regulators to expand the boundaries of an Empire Zone in Sunset Park to include the cinema, which is at Fifth Avenue and 68th Street.

If such an expansion of the zone goes through, the Alpine would be tax eligible for a long list of tax credits and energy cost abatements.

Golden also mentioned renovations that Nicolaou will make — plus converting some currently unused space into a community theater.

And Golden's press conference did have Basil Capetanakis, president of the Fifth Avenue Board of Trade, who has been credited by both sides for finding Nicolaou and hooking him up with Deneroff.

"Basil made the shidduch," Markowitz had said earlier, employing the Yiddish word for arranged marriage.

But the language of this deal was probably Greek.

See **ALPINE THEATER** on page 14



Dueling press conferences — which took place just hours apart — had both Councilman Vincent Gentile (above) and state Sen. Marty Golden (below) taking credit for saving the Alpine Cinema. Gentile's event featured Borough President Markowitz (far left), while Golden's show had Fifth Avenue bigwig Basil Capetanakis (far right).



'Green' lights

Among the environmentally friendly artists who will be showcasing their work at Bklyn Designs, May 12-14 in DUMBO, is Nicholas Furrow, whose "Red Light District Lamps" recycle vintage glass lampshades and consume only 1-5-watts. For more about Bklyn Designs exhibitors, see **GO Brooklyn** on page 7.

NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN

Toddler troubadour sings against Ratner

By Gersh Kuntzman
The Brooklyn Papers

If you're under 10, this is your Woodstock: Children's folk singer Dan Zanes — the Bob Dylan of the pre-school set — has joined the opposition to Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards project and will headline an anti-project concert next month.

Zanes, a resident of Cobble Hill, became a member of the advisory committee of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn last month and now hopes to spread his anti-Ratner message through song. "My opposition is mostly about saving the soul of Brooklyn," Zanes (pictured right) told The Brooklyn Papers. "Everything I do is about community — in my case, the spirit that comes from making music. That's what Brooklyn means right now. That's why we came here. But Ratner's project is in direct opposition to all that's good, soulful and communal about Brooklyn."

"We need to remember what we love about Brooklyn and stop this."

Across nearly a decade and on his eight best-selling albums, the former Del Fuegos

frontman has been singing to kids. But in this fight, he's playing to the adults. "I was like everyone else who had heard about the project — busy with work and family and I thought, well, it's ugly, but it's inevitable," said Zanes, who's been so busy in fact, that he even let his membership in the Park Slope Food Co-op lapse.

When he took the time to consider the "nuts and bolts" of the project — the 17 skyscrapers, the basketball arena, the 6,900-units of housing, the thousands of cars, the use of eminent domain to condemn buildings where people are currently living — Zanes said he could ignore it no more.

"I thought, 'Well, I live in Cobble Hill, that's not going to affect me.' But this project is not just in 'someone else's neighborhood,'" he said.

Zanes, who is known by virtually everyone with a kid under age 12, said his job will be to spread the word to "busy, self-centered" people like himself.

"I tell people: get informed about the entire project and then make up your mind," he said. "Atlantic Yards is everything Brooklyn is not. Check Bruce Rat-

ner's track record: Atlantic Center, Atlantic Terminal, Metrotech. Is this the guy we want doing the single biggest development in New York City?"

And then Zanes issued his most-daring edict (at least from the perspective of a dewy-eyed 10-year-old Park Slope Zanes fan): "Ratner gave us Chuck E. Cheese. Is that the best we can do for our kids?"

A spokesman for Ratner declined to comment. Although Zanes will headline the Saturday, June 3, concert at the Hanson Place Central Unit Methodist Church in Fort Greene, don't expect any over-the-top Ratner songs.

"I'm not that kind of songwriter," said Zanes, who will sing protest songs like "We Shall Not Be Moved," "I Don't Want Your Millions, Mister," and the more-subtle "Wander in the Summer Wind," a classic Zanes yarn that celebrates the serendipity of just taking a walk in a green borough (see sidebar).

Zanes' Brooklyn blues

that, he says, is jeopardized by Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development. Here are the excerpted lyrics:

Take a left on Kane Street
Another one on Henry
Take a look around us
For anyone who knows
Up the hill and down again
Hand in hand
We'll be feeling grand
When we wander in the summer wind

I'll take you to the river
Maybe down to Red Hook
Eat a few tamales
Over by the soccer games
Basketballs are flying
Over by the schoolyard
I hear the breeze
Call your name

High and low
People that we know
They say, "Hey there"
And "How've you been?"
Good, good, good

Dan Zanes says he doesn't write overtly political songs, but his new tune, "Wander in the Summer Wind," was inspired by a vision of Brooklyn that, he says, is jeopardized by Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-development. Here are the excerpted lyrics:

And do you think you would
Like to wander in the summer wind
We can take the F train
Right on up to Ninth Street
Walk on to the park
To where the steel drums play
Dance around in circles
With anyone that we meet
All this could happen
On a summer Saturday

Blacks blast Bruce

Ex-Panther says Ratner 'disrespects us, denigrates us'

By Dana Rubinstein
The Brooklyn Papers

Is Bruce Ratner's basketball card a race card?

That question was raised by two fiery black leaders at an Atlantic Yards forum last week at First Unitarian Church in Brooklyn Heights.

A centerpiece of Ratner's project is a basketball arena for his Brooklyn-bound New Jersey Nets.

"[He] has the audacity to talk about a basketball stadium, like black people would be impressed," said Bob Law, a radio commentator. Prospect Heights restaurateur and former Black Panther, "Like hoops is something we would really need."

"We are really not going to sit quietly and allow you to disrespect us and denigrate us ... [This] rings with a kind of contempt for poor people and black people."

Law hammered all night on the race issue, which has bubbled up at other forums, but was also the driving force behind the Community Benefits Agreement Ratner signed with eight minority groups.

"[Ratner believes that] because you are poor, you ought to accept any job you can get, like, 'You poor little ignorant Negroes,'" Law said.

The Rev. Dennis Dillon of the Brooklyn Christian Center in Fort Greene joined Law in his opposition to Atlantic Yards — but Dillon focused on the type of permanent jobs Ratner says will be created at the arena.

And he was more circumspect in his rhetoric. "The black community is not all about some low-paying jobs that will force us to live elsewhere anyway," said Dillon, who evoked the civil rights movement as a model for black opposition to Atlantic Yards.

"We believe, like Martin Luther King did, that justice must roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream," he said.

But there was another man of god in the house who defended the Ratner project. "Ratner's always been fair, just, concerned and compassionate to me," said the Rev. Herbert Daughtry of the House of the Lord Pentecostal Church in Boro Park.

"He's one of the more liberal, progressive developers in the country."

Daughtry argued that Ratner's project could reverse the chronic joblessness of his parishioners.

THE BROOKLYN ANGLE

By Gersh Kuntzman



YOU NEVER KNOW what you're going to get in the morning mail: a glossy catalogue, a piece of political literature, some junk mail.

Or, in the case of Bruce Ratner's latest mailing to thousands of Brooklyn residents, a little bit of all three.

The man who wants to build 17 skyscrapers in between low-rise Fort Greene and Prospect Heights sent out his latest flyer this week, painting Atlantic Yards as an urban utopia.

But it's just a four-color fantasy. Indeed, the flyer offers no renderings of the 17 Frank Gehry-designed, Vegas-style towers. Instead, it showcases the very low-rise Brooklyn that Ratner's project would overwhelm.

Deception is lurking everywhere (see my annotated Page One, far right), so read the mailing with care.

Page 3: Atlantic Yards will "create thousands of needed apartments, office space [and] local retail space." Yes, apartments are needed, but if office space is so badly needed, why are all the top floors along Fulton Street being prepped for residential conversions? And if Brooklyn is in desperate need of more retail space, why does Ratner's Atlantic Center Mall fill out its tenant list with a DMV and an Empire

State Development Corporation office?

Page 6: Ratner now says his project will "provide approximately 3,800 permanent jobs," down from a claim three years ago that 10,000 new jobs would be "created."

Page 8: That smiling woman isn't smiling anymore. Actress T. Sahara Meer (pictured at left), the woman in the picture, told The Brooklyn Angle that she posed for the photo because she was "between gigs" — only to find out that the photographer sold the photo to Ratner. "That innocent day in the park [is] one of the most nightmarish experiences of my life: I have become Bruce Ratner's poster girl," said Meer, who has a "Stop Eminent Domain Abuse" sign in the window of her Prospect Heights home. "My only hope for redemption is to fight harder. So, thanks, Bruce, for fueling my fire, my anger, my ire, my hatred of you."

Page 10: Ratner claims that his community benefits agreement was negotiated by eight local organizations. But only two of them — ACORN and the New York State Association of Minority Contractors — existed before the deal was inked, as the New York Observer has reported.

Nice brownstones, Bruce!
Too bad Atlantic Yards doesn't include any of them.

This project is between Fort Greene and Prospect Heights. Calling it "Downtown" is just an attempt to justify 17 skyscrapers.

Wow! He made the arena disappear! Only Ratner could turn a 19,000-seat arena into a leafy meadow. (It's actually a private roof garden.)



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Illegals do Brooklyn's dirty work

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Papers

Until last week, Silvia worked at a Bay Ridge cafe. An illegal immigrant from Mexico, she decided that the May 1 immigrant rally in Sunset Park was too important to miss. So did five of her colleagues.

They were all fired. But Silvia was hardly broken up about losing her position of two years.

"I'm not worried," she said, holding a sign at the rally that read, "I lost my job to be here today. I'll find another job."



The Brooklyn Papers / Roberto Marchia

She's almost certainly right. Undocumented immigrants are, after all, in constant demand. From the buildings that go up to the restaurant meals that go down to the babies that get wheeled all around, immigrants — both legal and illegal — prop up virtually every sector of the Brooklyn economy.

Take the restaurant industry. In even the fanciest joints, the hands preparing your mirror-glazed baked salmon usually belong to an undocumented worker.

At just 24-years-old, Jesus, an illegal immigrant from Puebla, Mexico, is a veteran of Brooklyn's underground



The Brooklyn Papers / Laura Schmitt

economy. During his seven years here, he's made everything from salads to stir-fry to sushi (which he doesn't particularly care for). He got his current job the old-fashioned way — by walking into a restaurant that was under construction and asking for work. He's helping to build the eatery by hand. Once the renovation is done, he'll work in the kitchen.

"I like what I do and I do what I like," he said. "They treat me well."

The jobs Jesus has held typically the positions normally filled by immigrants — they are low-wage, don't require many skills, and are attained through a web of contacts, by pounding the pavement or merely standing at well-known day-laborer pick-up sites like the parking lot of the Caesar's Bay shopping center in Bensonhurst.

"Very few Americans apply for these jobs — cooking, dishwashing, construction," said a restaurateur who's been in the business for a decade.

Not only are immigrants more willing to take these jobs, but, according to the restaurateur, they do a better job.

"We prefer to train someone from the ground up anyway," he said. "You want someone who will come to you humble and is willing to learn. And then you hold on to these guys and hopefully you treat them well and you keep them."

Jesus's story illustrates this point (see sidebar). He had no construction skills when he was first hired. Now he can do delicate carpentry with the best of them.

While the number of positions filled by undocumented workers is elusive, experts say the number is very high.

"Even in the highest-end restaurants, the majority of the employees, at every level, except the management, has been illegal immigrants," said the restaurateur.

The Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce estimates 20,000 jobs borough-wide in accommodation and food services — many held by immigrants.

"Immigrant workers are of vital importance across the Brooklyn economy, in a variety of sectors," said Kenneth Adams, president of the chamber, which opposes a



Silvia (bottom) joins flag-waving immigrants during Monday's Sunset Park rally.

pending bill in Congress that would cause the deportation of many illegal workers.

"What's less clear, because we don't have good data about it, is the percentage of illegal immigrants in the Brooklyn workforce."

That's because most employers and immigrant groups have a "don't ask, don't tell" policy. Andrew Friedman, co-director of the advocacy group Make the Road by Walking, says that he has no idea what percentage of his 1,600 clients are illegal. His organization doesn't ask.

Some businesses do ask for Social Security cards, but it's little more than a formality.

"Anyone can get some type of paper that says something on it," said the restaurateur. "And most people will take it, photocopy it, and file it somewhere. A lot of these guys are even paying taxes."

Like anyone who works so deeply in the shadows, undocumented workers are subject to abuse.

"There are some restaurants that are great places to work, and there are others where the restaurant owner is mistreating or exploiting workers," said Friedman.

Jesus knows this from first-hand experience. At one restaurant where he worked, employees who got sick were told to stay home and rest — permanently.

One immigrant tells his story

The Brooklyn Papers

To reach the Land of Opportunity seven years ago, Jesus, 24, staked \$1,700, his safety, and his future. Here is his story:

"I wanted to better myself. My dad asked me if I wanted to move to the United States. I didn't know anything. I was 17. I wanted the adventure."

"I left Puebla, Mexico, on a Monday morning. My family took me to the airport to say goodbye, and I boarded a plane to Nogales with a friend of my father's. We were following a coyote."

"After a few days of moving north, we started walking across the desert to Arizona."

"We began walking at 3 pm in single file, like in school. Three or four coyotes took out pistols and made us lie down on the ground. One by one, they searched us, making us undress to see if we were hiding money. I lost about 600 pesos."

"Fifteen hours later, we arrived at a small forest next to a highway (near Phoenix). We were divided into groups of 15 and piled into trucks."

"I had to lie at the bottom of a pile of

four or five people for two hours."

"A day later, we were taken by car to New York City. I had to adjust quickly. I ended up delivering stuff from a warehouse to 99-cent shops, and then I got a job at a restaurant in Chinatown. I made salads and stir-fry and sushi. If anyone gets sick, they fire you."

"But overall, I am happy to be in Brooklyn. I earn good money and have my own place in Bushwick."

"I like the U.S. a lot. I don't care if they say bad things about us. I came to work. I came to earn money."

— as told to Dana Rubinstein

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Stop and eat the wild violets



The Brooklyn Papers / Sharon Seitz

It's wild violet season in Brooklyn — and these two tykes have a handful of yummy treats.

By Sharon Seitz
for The Brooklyn Papers

If you've ever wanted to show your kids that food doesn't grow at the supermarket, try harvesting some Brooklyn-grown, vitamin C-filled, wild violets.

They're growing everywhere right now, in yards, parks, and even sidewalk cracks. Look for a low-growing, sprawling plant with heart-shaped leaves and purple or blue five-petaled flowers.

Eat them straight out of hand — after washing them, of course — or follow this easy, sweet recipe. Your kids will love it: Whisk one, room-temperature egg white with a few drops of water. Paint the blossoms with the mixture and sprinkle them with superfine sugar. Let dry completely before storing in an airtight container. They keep for about a year and make nice cupcake decorations.

Trucker beats Ridge cop

68th Precinct

By Lilo H. Stainton
The Brooklyn Papers

Road rage is one thing. But double-parking rage is another.

An angry truck driver brutally attacked a Bay Ridge traffic cop who tried to keep him from blocking traffic on April 26, police said.

The thug double-parked his tractor-trailer on 64th Street, between Seventh and Eighth avenues, around 2:15 pm. The rig blocked traffic, aggravating other drivers, but the driver refused to move it when the officer asked.

When the 28-year-old officer moved in to question the trucker further, the irate man leapt from his cab and ran at the officer in "an aggressive manner," police said. The thug grabbed the cop and threw him to the pavement, which

POLICE BLOTTER

injured the officer's shoulder, elbow and upper back.

The truck driver continued to fight as police moved in to handcuff him moments later. The 57-year-old now faces multiple charges for assault, attacking an officer and resisting arrest.

Bat attack

A teenage slugger struck another boy in the legs with a baseball bat on Ridge Boulevard at dusk.

The thug snuck up behind his 18-year-old victim around 7 pm on April 13 as the unlucky teen walked near 79th Street. The brute swung an aluminum bat at the back of the victim's legs, leaving him bruised and swollen.

It's not clear why the victim, who knew his attacker by name, waited until April 24 to

report the crime. The police department arrested the 20-year-old suspect, a resident of Pennsylvania.

Senior nabbed

Timing is everything — both good and bad.

A 35-year-old sales clerk learned that lesson on April 26 when she left her post at an 86th Street craft store for less than a quarter-hour, police said. When she returned to the shop, near Fifth Avenue, she realized a burglar had visited during her absence.

Luckily the clerk's arrival coincided with the thief's departure. She looked up from the empty register — now missing \$84 — to see him trying to slip out the door. The woman struggled to stop the burglar from bolting, hurting her forearm during the melee.

Police soon arrived to arrest the robber and discovered they were dealing with a sticky-fingered senior citizen, who now faces a variety of burglary charges.

Sticks & stones

An April 26 assault started with a torrent of foul language, but ended with violence that left one man nursing a bloody gash on his head.

A teenager approached the 23-year-old victim on 62nd Street, near Fifth Avenue, close to 9 pm, police said. The young thug then waved a heavy piece of equipment and struck the victim several times on the head, leaving him with a serious laceration.

Police arrested the 17-year-old suspect later that night.

62nd Precinct

Delivery rob

The attacks against food delivery men are coming more frequently and with increasing violence.

When two thugs robbed and beat the Chinese-food delivery man on April 27, it marked at least the fourth time this year that robbers have targeted men dropping off food within the 62nd Precinct, police reports show.

Three of these robberies occurred within the last six weeks, all of which involved men delivering Chinese food.

The latest heist involved a 60-year-old victim who brought a food order to a home on 23rd Avenue, near 63rd Street, around 2:30 pm, police said. When the delivery man rang the bell and found no one home, he turned to walk back down the stoop.

Suddenly, someone grab-

bed the victim from behind, pushing him back into the building lobby, where another man rushed him from the front. The pair knocked the delivery man to the ground, kicked him and punched him in the face. Then they rifled his pockets, snatched \$150 and his cellphone, and ran off.

On April 11, a 20-year-old lost \$375 to a trio of knife-wielding robbers who attacked him on 74th Street, near 21st Avenue. Another Chinese-food delivery man lost his BMW when thieves posed as customers and lured him to Bath Avenue, near Bay 28th Street, on March 27.

And a man delivering a pizza pie was robbed at knife-point on Jan. 21 while making a stop on West Fifth Street, near Highlawn Avenue. Police also saw a string of similar crimes last year.

Driver targeted

A trio of thieves — two posing as a passenger and one armed with a gun — beat and robbed a car service driver on April 26, police said.

The driver picked up two passengers at 2:40 am and drove them to the corner of 17th Avenue and 77th Street. When they arrived, a third thug emerged from the darkness, went up to the car and began to beat the driver.

When the two passengers joined in, the three robbers dragged the victim from his car vehicle and continued to pummel him. The third thug pulled a gun and grabbed the man's wallet, which held \$200, credit cards and his driver's license.

The gang ran down 77th Street, leaving the victim bloody and bruised. The driver

See **POLICE** on page 14

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OUR OPINION

Amagly payoff

THE PRICE OF A CLEAR conscience dropped dramatically this week with the news that Century 21, the department store chain with a massive presence on 86th Street in Bay Ridge, had given four youth groups checks for \$2,500.

What could be wrong with a donation of \$10,000 from a family-owned corporation to struggling neighborhood groups? Nothing — if the checks are written for the right reasons.

But Century 21's donations amount to blood money. Only a few months ago, residents, elected officials and indeed this newspaper decried the department store for buying a well-tiled bowling alley and planning to tear it down to build a multi-level parking garage.

Shades of Joni Mitchell: "They paved paradise to put up a parking lot." No one argues that the Mark Lanes was "paradise" — but in a neighborhood that recently saw one of its two movie theaters close, where parents are desperate to find safe places for their kids to play or hang out, and where seniors are constantly looking for something to do, the loss of the Mark Lanes will hit Bay Ridge hard.

But that isn't Century 21's concern. Only after the fact — and only after relentless prodding by City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge) — did the company cough up a little dough for a reeling community.

Local officials feted company officials at a press conference on Monday, but found them

selves on the defensive when a reporter — our own Gersh Kuntzman — said that \$10,000 didn't seem to be a heck of a lot of scratch.

"But other companies don't give anything," one local business leader said. Actually, they do it all the time — witness Bruce Ratner's sponsorship of this year's PS 321 spring dance and auction in Park Slope. The problem is that companies like Century 21 and Forest City Ratner, promoting its Atlantic Yards mega-development against heavy community opposition, seem to think they can buy off the public for a song.

Century 21 is destroying a community resource to make it easier for discount shoppers to park their SUVs and spend their money. For that, \$10,000 is a paltry sum.

ALL DRAWN OUT



Cartoon courtesy of The Brooklyn Papers

LETTERS

After IND, the reformers need reform

To the editor:

As a new member of the venerable political club, Independent Neighborhood Democrats (IND), I am also a newly disenfranchised member ("New Dems locked out," April 22).

IND's executive board took the extreme, wrongheaded, shortsighted and contemptible measure of moving its stated and publicized congressional and state race endorsement dates weeks earlier in order to block the endorsement vote eligibility of new dues-paying members.

The measure has disenfranchised anyone between 70 and 100 new members. It seems that the club board, which seeks to grow the club, was not pleased with who joined the club. In so doing, the board has severely harmed its integrity.

For more than two years, Brooklyn citizens with a vast array of serious concerns about Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards proposal have been locked out of the development's review process, both by state and city agencies, as well as elected office holders.

For the largest single-source development proposal in the history of New York City, this is unacceptable. So concerned citizens, and opponents of that project who seek sensible and responsible development, have sought to find their place in the few remaining corners of the political world that allow and encourage the voices of citizens and voters.

Political clubs are one of those last corners of grassroots politics, where sunlight can shine on processes and candidates. And the opportunity to participate in ground-level endorsements is a key part of the club process.

Yet now, IND, Brooklyn's premier reform club, has closed that window and blocked that sunlight, removing yet another forum for political engagement.

What, I wonder, are they all so afraid of?

Daniel Goldstein, Prospect Heights

Note on your note

To the editor:

You ran my letter in a recent issue ("Racial plagues," April 29), but added an "editor's note" which cited

the 1990-2000 Census as evidence that blacks are not being pushed out of Brooklyn.

First of all, Brooklyn demographics from 1990 to 2006 are not covered in the Census you quote.

Next, blacks are not the only people being pushed out of previously affordable Brooklyn neighborhoods. Arabs, Puerto Ricans, Asians, many ethnic groups suffer the same fate.

The Anglo Anschluss of Brooklyn

came on strong in 1998 and has not abated as of this date. Therefore, your reply to my commentary is irrelevant.

Kelly Grill, Cobble Hill

Simonized

To the editor:

Whoa! Your front-page story on Hugh Carey's endorsement of Eliot Spitzer ("New Odd Couple," April 29) mentioned that they met with

male District Leader Alan Fleischman at a diner in Park Slope.

But, for the record, there was a redheaded female district leader engaged in animated conversation with Mr. Spitzer and Gov. Carey.

Feeling like chopped liver, I request some acknowledgement of this.

Jo Anne Simon, District Leader

Editor's note: Acknowledgement provided — with our apologies.

Protect the protectors

To the editor,

When it comes to fighting crime in and making sure our communities are safe, the men and women in the Police Department truly are New York's Finest. Crime is down. Arrests are up. And day after day, our brave officers put themselves in harm's way to keep New York the safest big city in the world.

Yet many New Yorkers recall tragedies like the death of Police Officer Anthony Mosonillo, a Bensonhurst resident, who was fatally shot while arresting a criminal for a parole violation. Although Officer Mosonillo was wearing a bulletproof vest, he was struck in the neck, a section left unprotected by his vest.

The death of any police officer is a tragedy, but it is even more so when it might have been prevented with a more up-to-date bulletproof vest. It forces us to ask a critical question: as cops put their lives on the line to protect us, can the city do more to protect them? The answer is yes.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly recently testified that approximately half of the NYPD — nearly 18,000 officers — wear older, less-protective vests. These outdated vests do not take advantage of new technology that protects vulnerable areas along the sides of the body and around the neck.

For police officers to put their lives on the line without the proper safety equipment is just plain wrong.

That's why I have spearheaded an

effort in the City Council to call on the mayor to buy 18,000 state-of-the-art vests for New York's Finest. The latest vests are capable of stopping bullets traveling at higher velocities and offer added protection to vulnerable areas under the arm and around the neck — the area where Officer Mosonillo was fatally wounded.

I have also introduced legislation to reimburse officers who choose to upgrade or add attachments to their vests.

As weaponry gets more sophisticated and criminals become more brazen, helping officers wear a more protective vest is a simple, commonsense plan to save lives. It's also the right thing to do.

Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge)

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Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge)

Send a letter

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All letters must be signed and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's name and neighborhood are published with the letter). Letters may be edited and will not be returned. The earlier in the week you send your letter, the better.

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Water Taxi heads to Hook

The Brooklyn Papers

Who needs the highway to get to Fairway? A weekend ferry service to bring Manhattanites to the new market — and perhaps to sample Red Hook's other attractions — began last weekend.

"I had no idea about this place, it's really beautiful," said ferry rider John Bodan.

The newly renovated New York Water Taxi terminal sits at the foot of Van Brunt Street — facing the soon-to-open gourmet emporium.

Passengers will be able to stop in Red Hook, or hop a ride to Brooklyn's Fulton Ferry Landing, or to Lower Manhattan, 17 times each Saturday and Sunday — a tourist-



A New York Water Taxi off the Red Hook coast Saturday.

friendly schedule created with an eye towards the market, as well as the city's plans to connect the notoriously hard-to-

reach waterfront neighborhood to future parks in Manhattan, Brooklyn Heights and Governor's Island.

A receipt from Fairway — expected to open on May 17 — will earn ferry passengers a \$3 discount. Operators are hoping it's enough of a deal to lure Manhattan's Fresh Direct shoppers to the converted Civil-War era warehouse abode.

— Ariella Cohen

the financial district to Red Hook."

Not only residents and tourists are impressed. Last month, the federal Small Business Administration awarded the Fairway site's developer, Greg O'Connell, its "Small Business of the Year" award, citing his role in "turning Red Hook into New York's hottest new neighborhood."

The opening coincided with the second docking of the Queen Mary 2 at its pier at the foot of Pioneer Street. Some passengers were a little too enthusiastic.

"We got e-mails from cruise ship passengers who wanted to catch the ferry in Manhattan and take it to the

dock at Red Hook," said NY Water Taxi president Tom Fox. "But the walk is too long with baggage."

This week, Ikea unveiled its plans for transporting shoppers to its big-box store on the waterfront — slated to open in the summer of 2008. In response to concerns about the traffic impact of its gigantic blue-and-yellow store, the Swedish furniture retailer said it will shuttle shoppers to the distant F and G train station at Smith and Ninth Street, and provide a non-stop ferry from their site to lower Manhattan.

Ikea's ferry will be free — with the right shopping bag, of course.

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My present address is: 1024 Ridge Blvd, Apt. 1E, Brooklyn, New York 11208. The date of my birth is November 1, 1983, the place of my birth is Brooklyn, New York; my present name is Frankie Tony DeCarm.

BR18

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County of the 28th day of April, 2006, bearing the Index Number N003142006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right, effective on the day of completion, to assume the name of Joshua Abraham. My present name is: Joshua Abraham. My present address is: 301 120th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11208. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 4, 2005.

BR18

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County of the 28th day of April, 2006, bearing the Index Number N003142006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right, effective on the day of completion, to assume the name of Mariani. My present name is: Mariani. My present address is: 1799 79th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11214. My place of birth is Brooklyn, New York. My date of birth is April 1, 1999.

BR18

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County of the 28th day of April, 2006, bearing the Index Number N003142006, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT KINGS COUNTY, 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me the right, effective on the day of completion, to assume the name of Pui Wan Anna. My present name is: Pui Wan Anna. My present address is: 1732 West 126th Street, Brooklyn, New York 11223. My place of birth is Kowloon, Hong Kong. My date of birth is November 1, 1986.

BR18

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is to St. Clare, Ark. St. Clare for 3 years. One business, two impossible. Say 9 Mail Marys for 9 days with signed card. If you are not a ball or not. Publish on the 9th day. "May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, adored and glorified today & every day." requests will be granted no matter how impossible it seems. Publication must be presented. St. Clare pray for us. St. Jude pray for us. M.S.C. R.C.

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KIDS SCHOOL STYLE

The Brooklyn Papers

PARENT

TEENS CAMPS MUSIC

in the hunt for Heath

SSMARTMOM LOVED Heath Ledger in "Brokeback Mountain." In fact, the scene in the tent with Jake really got her juices going. Literally. A little rough, a little raw, it was one of the best movie sex scenes in recent memory.

Truth be told, Smartmom got all hot and squirmy sitting next to Hepcat in the Pavilion not long ago. Then, the other day, Smartmom read a short on-line piece about her man Heath.

"My life right now is, I wouldn't say reduced to food, but my duties in life are that I wake up, cook breakfast, clean the dishes, prepare lunch, clean those dishes, go to the market, get fresh produce, cook dinner, clean those dishes and then sleep if I can. And I love it. I actually adore it," Ledger told the Hollywood Star.

It's no secret that Smartmom thinks — hell, even dumb moms, think it, too — that there is nothing sexier than a man who takes good care of his children, SHOPS FOR GROCERIES and cooks. Clearly, Heath is loving his life as baby Matilda's dad and Michelle's husband in Boerum Hill.

Later, Smartmom shared her view of Heath with Dumb Editor (who also liked "Brokeback Mountain," although he did not find the tent scene as pleasing as Smartmom). "Why don't you go down to BoCoCa — or whatever the brokers are calling that neighborhood nowadays and find Heath? Then you can see for yourself."

Smartmom is never thrilled when she has to leave her upholstered divan to do some real reporting. But if it meant a chance to see her man Heath, Smartmom was game. She changed into Heath-stalking gear — cowboy boots, blue jeans, jean jacket and dark glasses — and boarded a Bergen Street-bound F-train.

When Smartmom arrived in the land of Heath and Michelle, she walked up Smith Street and peeked into the Cafe Kai, which had an ultra welcoming sign on the door that said, "We've Been Waiting for You."

Despite a full menu of organic tea, there was no H or M.

Smartmom spotted a seriously cool woman's closet store, called Dear Fieldbinder. Hoping to see Michelle, with Matilda in the Bjorn, shopping with Daddy Heath, Smartmom walked into the high-end dress shop.

Smartmom spotted a black t-shirt that would look perfect underneath the jacket she's wearing to her 30th high school reunion in a few weeks. She plunked down \$32 for garment — but this wasn't shopping, this was recce. Smartmom asked the saleswoman, Sadie Stein, if she'd ever seen Heath or Michelle.

A huge, mischievous smile crossed Stein's face and her eyes shone through her oversized tortoise-shell glasses.

"I was driving down Smith Street with friends and saw a really goofy looking jogger wearing bright red sweat pants, an Africa t-shirt, a really weird headband, and big sunglasses, flailing his arms about like this."

She demonstrated what looked like a cross between modern dance and kick-boxing. "He looked so funny, we had to stop the car. And then my friend figured out that it was Heath Ledger!"

Stein was an unapologetic treasure trove of information about Heath and Michelle. "I also saw the two of them at an afternoon screening of 'Grizzly Man' at the Cobble Hill Cinema. I was the only one in the movie theater. They came in after the opening credits and left before the closing credits. Stein thought that was strange. "I mean, it was just the three of us."

That sounded kinda kinky to Smartmom. (Dumb Editor note: Down, girl.)

Next, Smartmom checked out the various children's boutiques on Smith Street. Smartmom was almost certain that she'd see them at Area in BoCoCa, shopping for yoga pants, a Buddha-patterned diaper cover, or a \$95, hand-knit hoodie for Matilda.

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SMART mom



By Louise Crawford

one salegirl said helpfully. But they're not here now, are they, thought Smartmom.

Smartmom headed to Hoyt Street, where, she'd heard, the dashing couple lived. Hoyt is a step back in time to pre-gentrified Brooklyn. The impressive St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church looms over the small-scale neighborhood of three-story brownstones and bodegas

"They've been here a lot," one salegirl said helpfully. But they're not here now, are they, thought Smartmom.

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and acres of red brick apartment buildings that make up the Gowanus Houses.

Smartmom ran into a small woman walking a fashionable small dog and popped the question. The woman's eyes moved discreetly towards the building where Heath and Michelle supposedly live.

"But we've never seen them," Dog Lady said. "I think they must have a house somewhere else. They don't live there."

Still, Smartmom's opinion of Heath and Michelle was rising to new heights. They are so cool to see the beauty in this very mixed Brooklyn landscape, she thought.

Smartmom walked back to Smith, hoping to see Heath carrying a big bag of groceries. Instead, she saw a Brooklyn See HEATH on page 14



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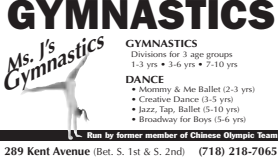


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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

May 6, 2006

Easy being green

More than 20 exhibitors at Bklyn Designs 2006 put the earth first

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

While Brooklyn furniture makers and product designers are already sought after for their clever concepts, top-notch craftsmanship and ironic wit, they're increasingly getting a rep for an environmentally friendly work ethic, too.

At this year's edition of the annual home decor showcase, Bklyn Designs, more than 20 of the 57 exhibitors will be showing products that are good for the earth and home.

"Some of the exhibitors who are building green now haven't in the past," explained Karen Asster, producer of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce event, which features the largest number of participating green designers to date. "It's part of our culture; it's more mainstream now."

One of the designers, who not only creates furniture from sustainable materials, but is also a source of such materials for his fellow artists, is Bart Bettencourt. His Bettencourt Green Building Supplies in Williamsburg supplies designers, like those from East Williamsburg's Brave Space, and he uses renewable resources and non-toxic adhesives and finishes in his own Bart Bettencourt furniture line.

"A couple of years ago, no one was doing it, and that's why we started [Green Building Supplies]," Bettencourt told GO Brooklyn. "Now people are starting to see there's a market for it."

"The wood alternatives have come to a point where they are as good or better than their environmentally damaging counterparts: those that have finishes that have heavy-metal drying agents, or are formaldehyde-based, or have off-gas or ozone-depleting chemicals in their finishes that lead to poor indoor air quality, or particle board or fiber board from virgin trees rather than industrial by-products."

Bettencourt also collaborates with Carlos Salgado to create a line of furniture fashioned from 100 percent reclaimed lumber. Scrapie, At Bklyn Designs, Scrapie works will be exhibited as well as pieces from Bettencourt's line.

He will also display pieces he created with Williamsburg, such as an ottoman with a wood base topped with a white-hemp cushion.

"She does a lot of work with vintage and reclaimed fabrics," he said.

Bettencourt says that making furniture



Creature comforts: At Bklyn Designs in DUMBO, May 12-14, Williamsburg's Swigg will showcase its "Swigg Critters II," crafted from hand-screened vinyl and stuffed with 100 percent polyester fiber fill and poly pellets.

with green materials is increasingly necessary "as population increases and we deplete our natural resources," but New York magazine's Ben Williams recently sniffed that the greenies are deceiving themselves.

"Given that eco-friendly furniture can have little impact on the environment at such small production levels, it cannot help but be more about the idea of saving the Earth than actually doing it," Williams wrote.

Susan Woods of DUMBO's As-won showroom disagrees.

"Every contribution that people make is very important to the environment," Woods told GO Brooklyn. "I buy biodegradable dish soap and that's a good thing."

"Some of these people are not at a point where they are able to make big runs — or they don't want to. Many of the people in Bklyn Designs are new to the industry, like myself. It takes a while to establish oneself."

At Bklyn Designs, Woods will exhibit her metal and bent poplar wood pieces that are "on the cusp between art and functional objects."

"I do a lot of recycling," said Woods, whose work is shown in Todd Yellin's new

feature film, "Brother's Shadow." "I get things out of Dumpsters and things that are going to be thrown away — as a result, the materials are repurposed. Sometimes I have to buy certain



Bamboo duo: Brave Space's "Hollow Tables," crafted from bamboo with an organic finish, come in a utility table size and end table version, which has a number of folds that create pockets for storage.

HOME

Bklyn Designs takes place May 12-14 at several locations, including St. Ann's Warehouse (59 Water St., at Dock Street in DUMBO, BO) (718) 254-8779 and Bklyn Designs Gallery, 37 Main St. The "Blockparty" exhibit is on display at 267A State St., between Smith and Hoyt streets in Boerum Hill; a shuttle bus to and from DUMBO will be stopping there every half-hour. Bklyn Designs hours are 12 for trade only, from 10 am to 8 pm; May 13, from 10 am to 7 pm; and May 14, from 11 am to 6 pm. Tickets, which include admission to all show venues and seminars on May 13 and 14, are \$12 and are available at the door, at the Web site and Brooklyn Industries locations. For a list of exhibitors, visit www.brooklyn.designs.net.

materials to fill out some of the found materials, but I also buy recycled things." For instance, her "Spring Line" of screens is made from upholstery springs.

San Kragiel of Brave Space says his company "tries to implement non-toxic, sustainably produced" materials whenever possible, and all of their furniture's finishes are water-based or organically produced oils.

"You can't consider one facet of the environmental movement to be irrelevant because it's only doing a small part," said Kragiel in response to Williams. "It's a growing and necessary movement."

At Bklyn Designs, Brave Space will exhibit its "Hollow" line of furniture, made from Bettencourt's Plyboo, a bamboo product.

"It acts like a hardwood," explained Kragiel. "It has the strength and density of hardwood, and we like using it because it comes in a sheet. But it has a strength and resilience you can't find in normal plywood."

Kragiel believes customers will pony up the slightly higher price tag of green materials.

"It doesn't cost THAT much more," he said. "It doesn't look as cheap as comparable materials; it looks more expensive and it's durable and has the green selling point that makes it worthwhile."

Brooklyn designers like Kragiel, Woods and Bettencourt are proving that employing eco-friendly materials doesn't mean sacrificing durability, form or function, so their pieces — and the philosophy behind using those materials — can't help but influence even more consumers and manufacturers to jump on the green bandwagon.

"If it seems naive now to say that green design is making an environmental impact, watch for a year or two and see if you feel the same way," wagers Bettencourt. "There's definitely a growing trend and the supply is just starting to catch up with the demand."

— Lisa J. Curtis

MUSIC

Elvis returns

On May 12, Alan Broadbent conducts the Brooklyn Philharmonic in a performance of Elvis Costello's "Suite from Il Sogno (The Dream)."

Yes, that Elvis Costello. The singer-songwriter who pined for "Alison" has reworked his classical suite, initially commissioned by the Italian dance company Aterballetto, since its North American debut with the Brooklyn Philharmonic in 2004.

The second half of the program will feature songs selected by Costello and performed with pianist Steve Nieve and the

philharmonic, including tunes from his latest album "My Flame Burns Blue" (Deutsche Grammophon). The "Elvis Costello and the Brooklyn Philharmonic" program begins at 8 pm on May 12 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music (30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$25, \$60, \$80 and \$105. For premium tickets, call (718) 488-5913, all others call (718) 636-4100 or visit www.brooklynphilharmonic.org. — Lisa J. Curtis

CINEMA

Sundance East

On May 11, "Sundance Institute at BAM" kicks off with an invitation-only screening of the film, "Little Miss Sunshine."

Before the tears start to flow, rest assured that there are tickets remaining for most of the screenings of 15 feature-length and documentary films culled from January's festival in Park City, Utah, as well as the panel discussions, filmmaker Q&As, and musical performances that continue through May 21.

Among the Sundance Film Festival selections being screened is Mark Dornford-May's "Son of Man" (pictured), which sets Jesus's life in modern-day South Africa. This movie will be shown May 14 at 6:15 pm and May 15 at 9:30 pm.

The co-winner of the jury prize in short filmmaking, Adam Parrish King's short film "The Wrath of Cobble Hill" is, indeed, set in our very own borough.

"Wrath" will be shown as part of a short film program on May 14 at 12:30 pm and May 16 at 9:30 pm. For a complete list of Sundance Institute events — including the May 21 panel discussion with Allison Anders, Hal Hartley, David O. Russell, John Waters and Janet Maslin — visit www.bam.org/sundance. For tickets, visit the box office at 30 Lafayette Ave., at Ashland Place in Fort Greene or call (718) 777-FILM. — LIC

FASHION

Indie threads

After three years, fashion-forward Brooklynites — with a heart — know the place to be is by the runway at Tuesday's annual "Fashion on Fulton & Friends" event at the Brooklyn Museum.

Year after year, borough clothing and accessory designers have come together for the fundraiser, which benefits Brooklyn Community Housing and Services (BCHS).

Karen La Porte, of Boerum Hill's Ourvez, is one of the many artists who have sent their fashions down the catwalk since the beginning.

"This year, I'm showing a lot of silk pieces, such as a silk charmeuse dress in brown and silver satin — 1940s-vintage inspired pieces," La Porte told GO Brooklyn. "I love doing the show and seeing what other designers are doing, and it always has such great energy. And it's a great cause."

A silent auction will add to the excitement of watching the sartorial temptations strut by in the Beaux Arts Court — "a gorgeous space," says La Porte (whose 2005 ensemble is pictured above). Proceeds from bidding and ticket sales support BCHS, which provides housing and support to formerly homeless people and others in need.

BCHS will honor restaurateur-chef Alan Harding, host of Discovery Home Channel's "Cookin' in Brooklyn," among others.

"Fashion on Fulton & Friends" takes place May 9 at 6 pm at the Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy., at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights. Tickets are \$100 and up. For information, call Brooklyn Community Housing and Services at (718) 222-1808, ext. 132 or visit www.bchands.org. — LIC

Peek at the Joneses



Whether looking to meet their neighbors, to find inspiration for their own interior design project or just to get some exercise, decorating junkies won't want to miss this month's house tours in Brooklyn Heights and Fort Greene.

On Sunday, select Fort Greene residents will open their homes for a self-guided tour, which benefits the Fort Greene Association, a community advocacy group.

Among this tour's highlights are access to the top of the Williamsburgh Bank Tower, rare glimpses of the interiors of Victorian-era homes (decorated in a wide array of styles) and the exhibit "Fort Greene Modern," which features artist's renderings of cutting-edge structures by Enrique Norton, Hugh Harly and Ar-

quitectonica that are slated to rise in this historic hood.

The Heights tour, "The Brooklyn Landmarks House and Garden Tour" (pictured), takes place on May 13 and benefits the Brooklyn Heights Association. Among the crowd pleasers on this self-guided tour are an 1848 brick house with a Japanese tea garden and the newly restored ceiling murals in the Zion German Evangelical Lutheran Church's sanctuary.

"Transition/Fort Greene" takes place May 7, from noon to 5 pm, rain or shine. Tickets are \$20 in advance at Tillie's of the tour, \$25 tickets are available at BAM

Triangle Park. For information, visit www.historicfortgreene.org.

"The Brooklyn Landmarks House and Garden Tour," takes place May 13, from 12:30 pm to 4 pm, followed by pastries and tea in the garden of Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims from 3 to 5 pm. Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased by phone at (718) 858-9193 or on the Web site www.brooklynheightsassociation.org. On the day of the tour, tickets will be sold at the entrance to St. Ann's School, 129 Pier-report St. at Clinton Street. The tour does not permit photography or children under age 13, except infants in front-packs.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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Rekindled romance

Fifth Avenue's Cocotte introduces new chefs, new menu

By Tina Barry
for The Brooklyn Papers

Cocotte was the only French bistro on Fifth Avenue when it opened in 2002. Not long afterward, this commercial strip of 99-cent stores and greasy spoons began a culinary turnaround. Joining the few intrepid restaurateurs, like Cocotte's owners Bill and Christine Snell, came chefs who opened French cafes, Thai places, Italian trattorias and bars.

Before long, Fifth Avenue was the second — and much improved — coming of Smith Street.

Having so many dining choices can be a wonderful thing, but it can pose a problem: with new places to sample, customers sometimes forget the older gems in their midst.

That's what happened to me.

I never made a decision to stop visiting Cocotte (French for "chicken"). I just got busy giving the newcomers a try. Before you could say "coq au vin," a year went by between meals there.

During that time, executive chef Rebecca Peters and pastry chef Valerie Pryor moved on. I'd heard that the Snells hired Adam Ross (formerly of Salt, a four-star restaurant in Cambridge, Mass.), who was turning out elegant, boldly flavored fare. I'd also heard that the desserts, executed by Richard Chirol, were impressive.

I never knew what to expect when I've been away from a restaurant for a while: the menu can seem dated, whatever I enjoyed about the ambience could lose its charm at second glance. Neither proved true during a recent visit to Cocotte, where Christine still acts as the charming hostess.

I'd forgotten how lovely Cocotte's dining room is. On the first Sunday evening, when the weather finally felt like spring, the cafe's tall windows were opened wide, allowing breezes to ruffle the sheer golden curtains. The walls are covered with dark wood and lit by stained glass chandeliers, so the space is romantically dark in the colder months, and full of light from the street during the warmer seasons. With its deep-stained wood floors and white linen tablecloths, its aesthetic is neither farmhouse cute nor Parisian chic, but something comfortably in between.

The dinner I recently had there was indeed elegant, but also earthy and attractively — yet simply — plated.

There isn't a better way to welcome spring than with an icy cold, crisp — yet slightly sweet — flute of Kir Royale. The old-fashioned cocktail is made with champagne tinged with creme de cassis, the black currant-flavored liqueur.

Another touch of spring is Ross's bright green pea soup. He kept the seasoning down to a minimum so the vegetable's freshness stayed strong and clear. Creme fraiche added a touch of tartness to it, while mint brightened the taste. A brittle, extra salty strip of house-cured pancetta balanced on the rim of the bowl. One nibble of the intense bacon, paired with a spoonful of the warm soup, made a little cha-cha on the tongue.

He played the same salty/delicate dance in another appetizer of asparagus spears, tossed in champagne vinaigrette and topped with slices of house-cured duck breast. The vegetables had a nutty, lemony taste; the meat was tender and rimmed with crisp fat. Coarse grains of sea salt intensified each ingredient and added a playful crunch to the dish. A warm poached egg dripped over the works.

An entree of grilled sea scallops



was as attractive on the plate as it was a pleasure to consume.

Big, grilled scallops sat over lushly creamy mashed potatoes. Small chunks of braised sunchoke — which are actually tubers — added nuttiness, while a dab of cherry tomato to salad, freshened with cilantro, brightened the plate.

One stunning entree was the slow-roasted pork shoulder bundles. Ross roasted the meat with orange juice, rosemary and garlic for five hours until it took on the texture of confit, and then wrapped in fatback. Each little



bundle is served juicy like a plump sausage. Slices of orange and anise-fennel lighter the dish with citrus notes. It's delectable.

So was the 14-hour braised lamb shank, but this dish was a touch heavy on a warm night. Ross served the hearty meat with sunchoke, pieces of silky, slow-cooked turnips and string beans that added a necessary touch of green to the plate.

Lake Rosa, Chirol takes familiar fare and gives it a contemporary spin. Rice pudding, the humblest of desserts, travels to the tropics when the grains and moist golden raisins are cooked in coconut milk. The dish is finished with a scoop of intense mango sorbet, candied walnuts and banana slices that have a hard cap of caramelized sugar.

Flourish chocolate cake is served just as it should be: in a small, warm circle, enveloped on one side by a disc of chewy hazelnut meringue and topped with a spoonful of Guinness Stout-tinged gelato.

Cocotte may be an old-timer in the Fifth Avenue dining scene, but it's my latest favorite.

Shanks for the memories: At Cocotte restaurant in Park Slope, Chef Adam Ross (at left) serves up a braised lamb shank (above), which he marinates for 14-hours then serves with turnips and artichokes.

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Catering to clients

It's no longer possible to make reservations at Restaurant Gia.

The modern cafe in Fort Greene closed on Jan. 1, but the fans of Ian Grant (pictured in 2003), Gia's owner and chef, will be delighted to learn that he is now concentrating on A La Carte Catering and Event Services.

Housed in the same two-level space as Gia, the full-service catering and party planning operation specializes in upscale fare for corporate and residential clients, including on- and off-site wedding receptions.

"The restaurant was doing well," says Grant, "but we were ready for a change. The catering side of the business was taking off, so it made sense to concentrate on that." Grant, who cooked in the kitchens of DUMBO's The River Cafe and Manhattan's Jean-Georges and Bouley, offers a full range of dishes "prepared in the French technique and influenced by

Asian ingredients," he says.

The ivy-covered brownstone, furnished in the contemporary style of French designer Christian Ligne, is available for private events. Its two rooms with dark wood floors, shelves of art books and long limestone bar make an elegant setting for up to 150 people. Off-premise catering is available, too.

A La Carte Catering and Event Services (68 Lafayette St. between South Portland and South Elliott streets in Fort Greene) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The catering service is open from 9 am to 8 pm, Monday through Saturday, and Sundays from 10:30 am to 3 pm. For more information on services and pricing, call (718) 244-0139.

The Manhattan location of A La Carte is 1 West St., Suite 100. For information, call (646) 274-1409.

— Tina Barry



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RESTAURANT LOUNGE

Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

SAT, MAY 6

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

CRUISE THE LULLWATER: Guided tours on the electric boat Independence. See on Brooklyn's flora and fauna by water. \$10, 50 children. Noon to 12:45 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8943.

INTRO TO BIRD WATCHING: at Prospect Park. Noon to 1:30 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400 ext. 101. Free.

URBAN RANGER WALK: Learn about the history of Fort Greene Park. Ranger-led walk discusses fort's role in the Revolutionary War and the prisoners of war who are entombed in a vault. 1 p.m. Meet at Visitor's Center, Myrtle Avenue at Washington Park. Call 311. Free.

BOAT TOUR: Boat around Brooklyn while learning about the history of Prospect Park. \$10, 50 children. 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. Prospect Park Boathouse. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 965-8943.

WALKING TOUR: Mauricio Lorenzo hosts the Metro Tour Service, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill, and Brooklyn Heights. \$25, 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0430.

GALAPAGOS ART SPACE: presents Mike Delany in "Great Males of Genius." \$12, 70 N. Sixth Street. (718) 968-4444.

PERFORMANCE

CENTRAL BRANCH: presents the Brooklyn College Conservatory of Music in a program of piano music. 2 p.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

DANCE: One-specific dance theater work for 12 dancers, choreographed by Abigail Levine. 5 p.m. and 6 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, main entrance, 200 Eastern Parkway. (646) 265-8775. Free.

OPENING RECEPTION: Hogar Collection presents "Absolute Threshold," by Cecilia Baggio. 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. 111 Grand Street. (718) 288-5022. Free.

BARGAIN MUSIC: Classical music concert "Gallant Troubadour" featuring selections by Beethoven, Weber, Góndor, Molique and others. \$35, \$30 seniors, \$25 students. 7:30 p.m. Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River. (718) 624-2083.

NEXT WAVE: Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Kammer/Kammer," a dance piece by William Forsythe. \$20 to \$70, 7:30 p.m. BAM Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 624-1000.

GALLERY PLAYS: presents "Once on This Island." \$15, \$12 children and seniors. 8 p.m. 199 14th St. (718) 352-3101. www.galleryplays.com

PAPER MOON PLAYERS: presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women." \$10, \$8 seniors. 8 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 2635 E. 23rd St. (718) 645-2276.

DRAMA: The Paul Robeson Theater hosts the premiere of the production "Cabaret Green," a story about an interracial couple. 8 p.m. 40 Greene Ave. between Carlton Avenue and Adelphi Street. (718) 769-9794.

BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE: presents "First Weekends: New Performance and Discussion Series" featuring performance by David Agost, Melissa Ring and Andrew Shuman. \$15, \$10 members, \$8 low income. 8 p.m. 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 832-0018.

NARROWS COMMUNITY THEATER: presents the musical "Mama." \$20, \$15 child.



Best foot forward: Mark Warren's "Dancing Lessons" will be screened at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch on May 11 at 7 p.m.

children age 12 and younger. 8 p.m. St. Patrick's Auditorium, Fourth Avenue and 97th Street. (718) 482-3172.

THEATER: The Sedgwick Group performs as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School Playhouse. Production is "One Big Happy Family," by Joe Castera. \$19, 8 p.m. 126 St. Felix St. (718) 638-5660. www.amartist.com

BRIC STUDIO: presents "Everday Above Ground," an adaptation of Michael Ondaatje's "Collected Works of Billy the Kid." \$12, \$10 students. 8:30 p.m. 647 Fulton St. (718) 855-7882, ext. 53.

IMPROV: at Brooklyn Lyceum. \$10, 9:30 p.m. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 857-4816.

CHILDREN

KID DRUMMING CIRCLE: David Slovin entertains. \$10 per family or \$5 per child. 10 am to 2 p.m. Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 Fourth Avenue. (718) 857-4816.

SPRING CARNIVAL: Families First hosts its annual entertainment event. \$7 per person. Live music with children's performer Ann McCormack at 11 a.m. Music for All parks at 12:30 p.m. Elton the Super Magic Man at 2 p.m. Also, pony rides, train walks, refreshments and more. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

SHADOW BOX THEATER: presents "The Earth and Me," and asks the question: can a child save the earth? \$5.50, 10:30

a.m. YWCA of Brooklyn, 30 Third Ave. (212) 724-0677.

FAMILY MOVIE: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Beauty and the Beast." 11 a.m. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

ARTY FACTS: Brooklyn Museum invites kids, ages 4 and older, to look at art and have an arts and crafts session. \$8 adults, \$4 seniors, free for children ages 12 and younger. 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000.

CAROUSEL: Ride the Prospect Park Carousel. \$1.50 per ride. Noon to 5 p.m. Prospect Park's Children's Corner, near Flatbush and Ocean avenues. (718) 857-4816.

ART: Opening party for an art gallery for children. Eclectic assortment of imagined creatures and characters, illustrated etiquette books, alphabet designs. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Arts in the Park. 45 Main St., Suite 301. (718) 222-4600. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: presents a marionette performance of "The Wizard of Oz." \$8, \$7 children. Recommended for ages 4 and older. 12:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. 338 South Ave. at Fourth Street. (718) 965-3391.

TRANSIT MUSEUM: Kids, ages 5 and older, are invited to look at a vintage subway map and discover a transit tote for Mother's Day. \$5, \$3 children ages 3 to 17. 1 p.m. Boerum Place and South Street. (718) 694-1867.

DROP-IN CRAFTS: Art activities for children. 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. Prospect Park Auditorium Center. Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue. (718) 287-3400. Free.

NY AQUARIUM: Children are invited to "Shark Ramen" behind the scenes look at sharks. \$30, \$23 members. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. 44 West Eighth Street and Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

OTHER

FIRST SATURDAY: "Four Eyed Monsters," winner of best new director award at the 2005 Brooklyn International Film Festival, is screened as part of free event. 3:30 p.m. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 638-5000. Free.

PILATES DAY: In honor of the third annual International Pilates Day, Half Moon Pilates offers classes. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Eastern Athletic Club, 43 Clark St. Reservations necessary. (917) 363-3394. Free.

SEMIWALK SALE: Plants, books, appliances, food, vintage and new clothing, toys, and more. Clinton Avenue, between Greene and DeKalb avenues. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. (718) 636-9263.

PILATES SEMINAR: Learn how to access your inner voice. \$25, 10 a.m. to noon. Flatbush Garage, 291 Eighth St. (718) 765-1235.

ANIMAL ADOPTION: Dogs, cats, and bunnies available for adoption. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. The Christ Church of Bay Ridge, 73rd Street and Bridge Boulevard. (718) 826-2600.

FILM FEST: Fifth annual Women of African Descent Film Festival. 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Kumbia Theater, Long Island University, 1 University Place at Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 625-0800. Free.

MOTHER'S DAY SHOPPING: hosted by The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. 7420 86th Ave. (718) 745-8620.

LUNCH & LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Avraham presents "Positive Parenting," with Rabbi Shmuel and Rivka Zaller. Stauber. \$25, \$35 non-members, \$18 students and seniors. \$10 children. Lunch served. 1:30 p.m. 117 Remsen St. (718) 916-4640 ext. 18.

ARTIST TALK: Talk: Raza Gallery hosts a talk: "Collaborative Art: How It Happens." 2 p.m. 224 4th St. (718) 833-9100. Free.

BAMCENMATE: presents "Floating Clouds" (1955). \$10, \$7 children and seniors. 2 p.m. 4:30 p.m. 4:50 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7130. www.bamcenate.com.

KNT ONE PERL TWO: Creative Arts Studio hosts a "Pick-knit." Knit and noah while working on your own creative project. 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. 310 Atlantic Ave. (718) 997-5600.

HOGAR COLLECTION: presents "Absolute Threshold," an exhibit by Cecilia Baggio. 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. 111 Grand St. (718) 288-5022. Free.

VEGAS NIGHT: hosted by Engine Co. 201. \$40 donation. Food and beverage included. 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. CUBA Libre, 40th Street and Sixth Avenue. (718) 813-0144.

SUN, MAY 7

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

FIVE BORO BIKE TOUR: 42-mile begins in Battery Park, lower Manhattan and ends in the Bronx. \$20. Sign up online at www.bikenyc.org/ (718) 210-2100.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment presents a walking tour of Green-Wood Cemetery. Green-Wood offers flora displays and a lecture on the life and culture of the final resting places of the men and women who shaped the city. \$10, \$5 seniors. \$10 members. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 330 5th Avenue. (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.

FORT GREENE HOUSE TOUR: The last public opportunity to experience views from top of landmarked Williamsburg Bank Tower. Also, visit several Victorian era buildings. \$25, \$20 members. For tickets, locations and time, visit www.historictorgreen.org/ (718) 596-8899.

GOVANUS CANAL: Proteus Govanus hosts a tour of the canal, which is also along the canal through a cultural lens: historic preservation, urban planning, and post-low-income housing expert and settlement house founder. \$25, \$20 members. \$10 children. 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. 343 Union St. at Nevins Street. (718) 243-1572.

BOAT TOUR: 1:15 p.m. to 2 p.m. See Sat., May 6.

Continued on page 11...



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Happy Hour & \$10 Burgers
every night bet. 5:30pm & 7pm

Movie Night TUESDAY
Come & enjoy a full screen movie & our special \$18 prix fix

"Crêpes à gogo" WEDNESDAY
Savory, sweet, delicious & cheap, you'll get addicted!

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Buy one entrée; get one free, exclusive in Park Slope

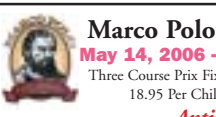
FRIDAY Kids Eat for Free
Between 5:30 & 7pm

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
Brunch between 11am & 3pm

SUNDAY Night
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Antipasto

Classico Antipasto Caldo

Assortment of baked kasha, shrimp, mushrooms & Mozzarella in carozza

Piccola Parmigiana

Eggplant napoleon with homemade mozzarella, basil & tomato

Mozzarella con Pomodoro e Basilico

Homemade mozzarella with sliced tomato, basil & extra virgin olive oil

Zuppa d'Asparagi

Cream of Asparagus garnished with crostini

Insalata Tre Colore Con Mela e Pere

Traditional three color salad with sliced pears & apples, balsamic vinaigrette

Cocktail di Gamberi

Chilled shrimp cocktail... Additional 4.95

Capasante con Insalata Mista

Grilled sea scallops over a salad of mixed greens

Minestrone

Traditional vegetable soup

Tortello Di Ricotta Al Pomodoro Basilico
Spinach lasagna with mushrooms & mozzarella

Gnocchi di Melanzane

Potato & Eggplant gnocchi with asparagus sauce

Salmon Tornado

Salmon over a bed of spinach with lobster sauce

Filetto di Sogliola con zucchini

Baked fillet of sole wrapped in a filo dough crust with baby zucchini, served in a seafood broth

Tilapia Oreganato

Tilapia fish topped with breadcrumbs & herbs

Penne Rigate al Pomodoro

Penne with fresh tomato, oregano & basil

Risotto Primavera

Risotto served with diced vegetables

Entrée

Bistecca alla Griglia

Grilled Sirloin steak... Additional \$4.95

Vitello Sorentino

Veal stuffed with mozzarella, prosciutto & tomato

Cotoletta di Malinno Farcito

Stuffed pork chop in a red wine sauce

Petto Di Pollo Al Rosmarino E Funghi

Chicken Breast with rosemary & mushrooms

Dessert

Traditional Italian Cheese Cake

Strudel Di Mela

Apple Strudel served with ice cream

Coffee or tea. (Cappuccino & Espresso \$1.50 Extra)

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LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 624, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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100 Wine Tips The Importance of Tasting

By Darrin Siegfried

I WON'T BUY A WINE WITHOUT TASTING IT, AND WHY SHOULD YOU? (That clanging sound you hear is the sound of other wine merchants colluding on the floor.) One of the things that I'm the most proud of with Red White & Bubblly is that my customers so often tell me that every wine they buy from me tastes good!

Wine is an agricultural product; the quality of the wine is determined in the vineyard by grapes that respond to the differences in weather from one year to another. The wine-maker, especially a good one, respects this and doesn't try to force the grapes to produce something that they haven't grown into. Just because a wine has pleased one or two "critics" does not mean anything... other than it has pleased one or two critics. A wine that tasted very good last year might miss the mark this year. How to taste? Taste! When I taste wines, I'm also looking for value. There are plenty of wines on the market grown in the same area, and will cost you less money. It takes time to find them, and some wine shop owners have told me that it's too much work to do this, but I believe that I owe it to you. It's an important part of my job. From the first week that we opened over five years ago, we have invited our customers to taste

wines with us. Every Friday from 5 until 8, and every Saturday and Sunday from 2 until 6 we have a wine-tasting, an important, or one of our representatives here to offer tastes of as many as six wines (during last year's Rose Festival, we offered 8). Join us on Sunday May 14th for this year's Rose Festival. I can promise that you will be happily surprised! By having someone on hand who knows the wines well, we offer more than just a taste; we can give an informed answer to your questions, as well as advice on buying, storing and serving wine.

May Tastings:

Fridays 5-8 PM,
Saturdays & Sundays 2-6 PM

Fri. 5 Bologna Holiday Sherries
Sat. 6 Galopier Road, Garden
Pony Road, Chiosello Pic-Su-Loup
Special Green City Councilman
and Congressional Candidate
David Vandy

Come by to meet your representative!
Sun. 7 Jullienne, Chateau de la Quing

Fri. 12 TBA
Sat. 13 Villa Maria, Mirabe-Novo d'Avola,
Tala-Sangre-Bio

Sun. 14 Selections from Organic Vineyards

Fri. 19 Imports from Santa Susana Selections
Sat. 20 Our Red Festival: Taste city, dry, boys

Get answers to questions that you've been too tired to ask.

- Q: Why do I snore so loudly?**
Q: Why am I tired even after a full night's sleep?
Q: Why do I wake up feeling that I can't catch my breath?
Q: Why do I have difficulty falling asleep?
Q: Why do I often feel as if I'm in a daze?
Q: Why do I fight to stay awake while I'm driving?

A: THE INSTITUTE FOR SLEEP AND BREATHING DISORDERS.

At the Institute for Sleep & Breathing Disorders, you can finally find the answer to these questions and begin to live a fuller, more productive life. The center is open seven days a week and has all the amenities of a four-star hotel. So, you can have your sleep study any day and leave the next morning ready for work. Good sleep could be just a few days away. Please call to arrange for an appointment.

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BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara F. Corvan

Amarachi Lounge
 325 Franklin Ave. at Clifton Place in Bedford-Stuyvesant (846) 641-4510, www.amarachilounge.com
 Saturdays: The Weekend Workout, 10 pm, \$5; Tuesdays: Open Mic Artist Showcase, 8 pm, \$5; Thursdays: Fishbowl, live fashion show featuring Brooklyn designers and models, 8 pm, \$7.

Anyo Cafe
 1602 Greenwood Neck Road at East 16th Street in Sheepshead Bay (718) 934-5988, www.anyocafe.com
 Tuesdays: Jazz funk with Kari Okada and guests, 9 pm, FREE.

The Backroom
 Inside Freddy's Bar at 48th Street at Sixth Avenue in Prospect Heights, (718) 622-7035, www.backroom.com
 Sundays: Pub Quiz, 9 pm, FREE; May 13: 11 a.m., 9 pm, FREE.

BAM Cafe
 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene, (718) 436-4100, www.bam.org
 May 6: Gospel Sing, 9:30 pm; \$10 food/drink minimum; May 12: Las Rabas del Norte, 10 pm, \$10 food/drink minimum; May 13: Barbas, 10 pm, \$10 food/drink minimum.

Bar 4
 444 Seventh Ave. at 15th Street in Park Slope, (718) 522-9825
 May 7: James Carr Group, 8 pm, 10 pm, \$5 (includes both sets).

Barbes
 316 Ninth St. at South Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 965-9177, www.barbesbrooklyn.com
 Sundays: Italiane Winebar, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Tuesdays: Static Soul Party, 9 pm, \$8; Wednesdays: "Night of the Rawlins' Linds", 9 pm, \$8; May 6: The Jack Grass Band, 8 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Life in a Blender, 10 pm, \$8 suggested donation; A Tribute to Nikki Sullivan of the Jacobites by Sea of Scapes featuring Henry Terrace, 11 pm, \$8 suggested donation; May 8: Andy Stanton, 9:30 pm, \$8 suggested donation; May 9: Jenny Sherman, 7 pm, \$8 suggested donation; May 10: The Diplomats, 8 pm, \$8; Bishop/Clauser/Flood, 10 pm, \$8; May 11: Catherine Russell, 8 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Ben Mander, 10 pm, \$8; May 12: The Lark, \$8 suggested donation; Santos de Tez, 8 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Howard Falloon, 10 pm, \$8 suggested donation; May 13: WPMJ Live Broadcast from Barbes with Lameel Kolesita, Maestros Exploration, Luminous Orchestra, 4 pm, \$8 suggested donation; Maestros Exploration, 9 pm, \$8 suggested donation.

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 81 S. 5th St. at Berry Street in Williamsburg, (718) 387-5380, www.bembes.com
 Saturdays: Rhum, live DJs alongside live Latin percussion bands, 9 pm, FREE; Sundays: No Selections with live DJs, 9 pm, FREE; Mondays: Unintended, 9 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Natural Selections with DJ Jon Bliss and guests, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Consequence with DJ Stefan Andriessen, 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Toque with DJ Buzualo and Captain Pineda with live artists by Roman Diaz and Paul and the Oki Oki Oki Banda Ensemble, 10 pm, FREE; Fridays: World Best Flavors, 9 pm, FREE.

Black Betty
 346 Montgomery Ave. at Hatter Street in Williamsburg (718) 599-0343, www.blackbetty.net
 Saturdays: DJs Yoh Supreme and Concerned, 11 pm, FREE; Sundays: Brazilian Beat with DJ Sean Marquand and DJ Greg Caz, 10 pm, FREE; Mondays: Rex: West Anderson and Hot Love Chix, 10:30 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Hot Rods, 10 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Yoh Supreme & Bobwhite with DJ Concerned, 9:30 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Kings County Soul Night featuring DJ Montell, Emilee, Fawcette & Nick Cope, 10 pm, FREE; Fridays: The Greenhouse with DJ Montell and DJ Emilee and MC G-man, 11 pm, FREE.

The Brooklyn Conservatory of Music
 58 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300, www.bbcm.org
 May 7: The Live All Stars featuring Andy Gonzalez & Manny Oquendo and more, 8 pm, \$25 (15 for students/seniors).



Tara Jane O'Neil plays Union Pool on May 12.

(718) 622-3300, www.bbcm.org
 May 7: The Live All Stars featuring Andy Gonzalez & Manny Oquendo and more, 8 pm, \$25 (15 for students/seniors).

The Brooklyn Lyceum
 227 Fourth Ave. at President Street in Park Slope, (718) 622-3300, www.brooklynlyceum.com
 May 6: Impass Summit hosted by Norman K. with Benicio, Scotty, and more, 8 pm, \$10.

Catty Shack
 248 Fourth Ave. at Canal Street in Park Slope, (718) 220-5742, www.cattyshack.com
 Saturdays: DJs David Raymond & B.C. Bonesteel, 10 pm, FREE; Sundays: P's Tea Party featuring rotating DJs and the latest "What's" viewings, 9 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: (Downstairs) Trivia Night with Sanchez, 7 pm, FREE; (Upstairs) After-work party with rotating DJs, 5 pm, \$5, FREE after midnight; Wednesdays: Downstairs Karaoke hosted by Jeanie Sol, 9 pm, FREE; (Upstairs) 50/50 all you can sing, (Upstairs) "O'Neil" with DJ Floyd for dirty boys hosted by P.J., 9 pm, \$5; Fridays: All-nighter after-work party with DJ Lugnut, Crash with DJ Mark James, and rotating go-go with Maria & Sarah and Cinnamon & Kalba, 10 pm, \$5.

Center for Improvisational Music
 212 6th Ave. at Third Avenue in Park Slope, (212) 637-5882, www.centerforimprov.org
 May 6: Henry Girme with Andrew Lamb and Newman Taylor Baker, 8 pm, \$12; May 7: Anghela Banna, Kneadable, 8 pm, \$12; May 9: Larry Pickett Ensemble, Ralph Albert Grossi, 8 pm, FREE; May 11: Open Session hosted by Ray Collura, 8 pm, \$7; May 13: Jerry Granelli, David Toranzo and J.A. Granelli, 8 pm, \$12.

Chocolate Monkey
 329 Flatbush Ave. at Seventh Avenue in Park Slope, (718) 289-3955
 Saturdays: Express also Open Mic Poetry talent showcase, 10 pm, \$10; May 11: New York Film Festival Closing Party, 7 pm \$180; May 13: Backroom HappyFunda and Gals a Go-Go, 10 pm, \$10; (Frontroom) I EAT PANDEAS "Mala Dreams Come True" Benefit Party, 8 pm, \$5.

Club Exit
 147 Greenpoint Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 349-4989, www.club-exit.com
 Saturdays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, \$15 (includes FREE until 11 pm); Fridays: DJ Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE.

Club X
 1219 Utica Ave. at Avenue J in Flatlands, (718) 209-0205, www.clubxny.com
 Fridays: "The Best of the Best" featuring live DJs, 11 pm, FREE; Saturdays: night, \$10 after midnight.

The Cornerstone Pub
 1502 Cortelyou Rd. at Marlborough Road in Flatbush, (718) 740-9037, www.cornerstonepub.com
 Tuesdays: Open mic, 7:30 pm, 1-drink minimum; Dan Pratt Quartet, 9 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: Dalia Drazemba, 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Sex-Phone Wembley's Hot Club of New York, 9 pm, FREE; Fridays: Beavis Lawrence Trio, 9 pm, FREE.

Crossroads Cafe
 1241 A Prospect Ave. at Beave Place in Windsor Terrace, (718) 972-1852, www.crossroadscafe.com
 Tuesdays: Jazz series with Todd Neufeld and friends, 8 pm, \$5 donation suggested.

Crossroads Saloon
 2079 Conroy Island Ave. at Kings Highway in Sheepshead Bay, (718) 339-9203
 Saturdays and Fridays: Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

Le Dakar Cafe
 285 Grand Ave. at Lafayette Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 398-8903, www.le-dakar.net
 Mondays: Karaoke, a cast member in "The Lion King", 8 pm, \$5; Wednesdays: Soul Session with DJ Ops, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: DJ Ops, 8 pm, FREE.

Europa Night Club
 98 Madison Ave. at Manhattan Avenue in Greenpoint, (718) 383-5722, www.europacub.com
 Saturdays: VIP Dance Party, 10 pm, FREE before 10:30 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; Fridays: Sexy Pool, 10 pm, \$10; Saturdays: Sexy Pool, 10 pm, \$15 after 10:30 pm; May 7: Susanne De & Friends, 7:30 pm, \$10 (students free before 8 pm with valid student ID).

Five Spot
 459 Myrtle Ave. at Washington Avenue in Clinton Hill, (718) 852-0202, www.fivespot.com
 Sundays: Soul Food Sundays with The Boogaloo Communion, 7 pm, \$5; Mondays: Open turntables hosted by DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: DJ Handgren Diners, 6 pm, FREE; DJ Tommy Talk, 8 pm, FREE; Hot Dance Tuesdays (comedy night) with Dave Lester, 10 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Saturdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Sundays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Mondays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Wednesdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Thursdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Fridays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Saturdays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE; Sundays: DJ Cooz, 8 pm, FREE.

Frank's Lounge
 660 Fulton St. at South Street in Fort Greene, (718) 425-4235, www.frankslounge.com
 Saturdays: Sniff! Saturdays with DJ Tyrone and Infinite, 9 pm, FREE; Tuesdays: Sunday Night, 2-drink minimum; Wednesdays: Karaoke with Davey B, 9 pm, FREE; Thursdays: Lounge Youngblood, 9 pm, \$10; Fridays: Downstairs Flat Dance Party with DJ Tyrone, Julian and Infinite, 8 pm, \$5; Saturdays: DJ Tyrone, Julian and Infinite, 8 pm, \$5.

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 70 N. 5th St. at Wythe Avenue in Williamsburg, (718) 782-5188, www.galapagosnyc.com
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[illegible]

TW **TIME WARNER**
CABLE
Channels 34, 35, 56, 57

CV **CABLEVISION**
Channels 67, 68, 69, 70

programs submitted by Brooklyn residents and entries are identified on TV with a "Brooklyn Free Search TV" logo; programs produced by or in partnership with BCYT are identified on TV with a "Brooklyn Independent Television" logo and appear in stacked boxes in this guide.

HEALTH, MIND & BODY

Stroke awareness month Maimonides Medical Ctr spreads the words

Maimonides Medical Center

Maimonides Medical Center will celebrate National Stroke Awareness Month in May with a full-scale public service campaign aimed at educating colleagues and community members on recent advances in stroke research and the latest in stroke prevention, detection and treatment.

The Maimonides Stroke Center is ranked among the top 5 percent in the nation, and the top two in New York State. There are several other stroke centers in Brooklyn, but the services at Maimonides are far more advanced than at any other institution.

After the onset of stroke symptoms, there is a three-hour window of opportunity for the administration of a clot-busting drug. With highly specialized training, experts at certified stroke centers can administer that drug to appropriate patients. But there is a nine-hour window of opportunity for an advanced treatment, and Maimonides is one of only a handful of hospitals in the New York metropolitan area with the capacity

to provided that treatment — and the ONLY one in Brooklyn.

Dr. Jeffrey Farkas, Director of Interventional Neuroradiology, can insert a special instrument into a blood vessel, thread it up to the brain, and remove a stroke-causing blood clot. This procedure can greatly reduce stroke damage, and in some cases has completely reversed all symptoms. Dr. Farkas is among an elite few in the nation with significant experience utilizing this advanced

technology for stroke patients.

Dr. Steven Rudolph, the neurologist Stroke Director at Maimonides, has just been selected as investigator in two clinical trials for the newest medical stroke therapies. This distinction is bestowed only on the most respected clinicians in that specialty.

These therapies, too, will be able to provide treatment up to nine hours after the onset of symptoms.

In addition, Maimonides has a multi-

disciplinary team of stroke experts that includes physicians and nurses from the Department of Emergency Medicine, providing the vital first line of defense in combating stroke.

The ER at Maimonides is equipped with telemedicine, an interactive system that allows consultation with a stroke neurologist in real time, even when the doctor is at a remote location. In our stroke unit and interventional neuroradiology suite, nurses are certified and experienced in these specialties, and they coordinate recovery plans that include numerous technicians and therapists.

Stroke is the leading cause of disability and is the third leading cause of death in the United States. It is second only to Alzheimer's Disease as a cause of dementia. Stroke occurs when a blood vessel in the brain bursts or gets clogged. The affected part of the brain doesn't get the blood it needs and begins to die within minutes.

For more information on stroke risk factors and treatment, visit the Maimonides at www.maimonidesmed.org.

LMC's Hospital Week party

Lutheran Medical Center

Lutheran Medical Center and Borough President Markowitz will kick off National Hospital Week, on Monday, May 8, by celebrating Lutheran Medical Center's new designation: the best rated hospital in Brooklyn!

A recent study by HealthGrades, a leading health care ratings company,

found LMC to be among the top five percent in the United States — and the best rated in Brooklyn — for clinical excellence. The 2006 Distinguished Hospital Award for Clinical Excellence ranks LMC among the best in the nation overall, and also top-rated in pulmonary, stroke, gastrointestinal, general surgery, joint replacement surgery and orthopedics.

Beth Israel

Continuum Health Partners, Inc.

CHRONIC PAIN FROM POST HERPETIC NEURALGIA (PHN).

If you are suffering from persistent pain in the same area as the shingles rash and it has lasted 3 or more months after the disappearance of the rash you may qualify for participation in a clinical research study to evaluate the effectiveness of a new investigational medication.

The study may last up to 9 weeks and includes 7 outpatient clinic visits.

To qualify for this study, you must:

- Be between 18 - 80 years of age
- Have had pain associated with shingles for 3 months

Qualified participants will receive at no cost:

- Study related physical exams and blood tests
- Study related medication

Compensation provided for time and travel

For more information contact Marina Godina, RN at 212-844-1491 or

Visit our web site at <http://www.stoppain.org>

Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care

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Where to G...

Continued from page 11...

Ocean Ave. (718) 339-0230.

JEWISH HERITAGE: Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents a screening of "Dancing Lessons," 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.**BARGENMUSIC:** Classical music concert of works by Beethoven, Shostakovich and Schubert, 8:30 p.m., \$20 seniors, \$25 students, 7:30 p.m., Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.**IMPACT THEATER:** presents "Wounded Hopes," based on the poetry of Gerald Zipper, 8:30 p.m., \$12 students and seniors, 8 pm, 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 360-7163.**BRIC STUDIO:** "Elsewhere," 8:30 pm, See Sat., May 13.**SACKETT:** "One Big Happy Family," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.

Fri, May 12

IKLYN DESIGNS: Brooklyn-based designers and manufacturers of contemporary furnishings, including indoor and outdoor furniture, and more. Opening day, to the trade only, 10 am to 8 pm, See Sat., May 13. Also, opening night party, 8:30 p.m., Warehouse, 38 Water St., (718) 624-1114.**ARTS ON THE COMMONS:** Metro Tech Business Improvement District hosts its annual Spring Arts on the Commons event with Isaac Ben Ayala Quartet, Noon, Metro Tech Commons, Jay and Duffield streets, (718) 485-8200. Free.**SEWING CLUB:** Lefteris Historic House offers basic sewing techniques in creating a patchwork quilt, 1:30 to 3:30 pm, Children's Corner, inside the Park's Village entrance, at the intersection of Flatbush Avenue and Empire Boulevard, (718) 789-2822. Free.**SUNDANCE AT BAM:** Sundance Institute in collaboration with Brooklyn Academy of Music presents a screening of "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, "Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, "Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7111. www.bam.org**FRIDAY NIGHT MOVIES:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "Thelma and Louise," (Rated R) 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.**BARGENMUSIC:** Classical music concert of works by Mozart, Weber, Schubert and Schumann, 8:30 p.m., \$20 seniors, \$25 students, 7:30 p.m., Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Philharmonic performs with musician Elvis Costello, \$25 to \$80, 8 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music, Howard Gilman Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 485-5913 or (718) 634-1100.**GALAPAGOS ART SPACE:** presents Mike Dwyer in "Great Men of Genius: An Evening of Illustrations on Men and Their Cities," \$12, 8 pm, 70 N. Sixth Street, (212) 688-4444.**SACKETT:** "One Big Happy Family," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.**PAPER MOON PLAYERS:** "Jake's Women," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.**IMPACT THEATER:** "Wounded Hopes," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Once on This Island," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.**BRIC STUDIO:** "Elsewhere," 8:30 pm, See Sat., May 13.

Sat, May 13

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BIKE TOUR: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts its third annual tour of sustainable building and sites. Explore eco-friendly initiatives along the waterfronts of Brooklyn and Queens. Trip ends at Brooklyn Brewery in Williamsburg, \$11, 9 am, \$9 seniors and students. Noon to 4 pm, (718) 788-8500, ext. 208.**ECO-CRUISE:** NYC Audubon Society offers a tour of the New York Harbor. Learn about winter birds of the Lower Bay region, \$45, \$20 children ages 12 and younger, 11 am to 1 pm. Meet at South Street Seaport, Pier 17 lower Manhattan, (212) 742-7969.**INTRO TO BIRD WATCHING:** At Prospect Park, Noon to 1:30 pm, Prospect Park Boathouse, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3600, ext. 101. Free.**BOAT TOUR:** Boat around Brooklyn while learning about the history of Prospect Park, \$10, \$5 children, 1:15 pm to 2 pm, Prospect Park Boathouse, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3600.**HOUSE & GARDEN TOUR:** Brooklyn Heights Association sponsors annual self-guided tour of the historic houses, \$30, 1 pm to 5 pm. Refreshments served. Pick up tickets at 129 Pierrepont St. (718) 858-9192.**WALKING TOUR:** Mauricio Lomonte hosts the Metro Tour Series, taking a walk through Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Brooklyn Heights, \$25, 2 pm to 5 pm. Meet at Marriott Hotel Brooklyn, 333 Adams St. (718) 789-0400.

PERFORMANCE

ORCHESTRA: Brooklyn Public Library's Brooklyn Heights branch presents the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, 1:30 pm, 280 Canal Plaza West, (718) 623-7100. Free.**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, "Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, "Gutierrez," \$10, 4 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7111. www.bam.org**BARGENMUSIC:** All-Hands chamber music concert, \$25, \$20 seniors, \$25 students, 7:30 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.**GALLERY PLAYERS:** presents "Once on This Island," \$15, \$12 children and seniors, 8 pm, 199 14th St., (212) 352-3107. www.galleryplayers.com**NARROWS COMMUNITY THEATER:** presents the musical "Mame," 8 pm, St. Patrick's Auditorium, Fourth Avenue and 97th Street, Call for ticket info, (718) 482-3173.**THEATER:** The Paul Robeson Theater hosts the premiere of the production "Calvin Klein," a story about an interracial couple, \$30, 8 pm, 40 Greene Ave., between Carlton Avenue and Adelphi Street, (718) 783-9794.**PAPER MOON PLAYERS:** presents Neil Simon's "Jake's Women," \$10, \$8 seniors, 8 pm, Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 2635 E. 23rd St. (718) 485-2276.**SACKETT:** The Sackett Group performs as the resident company at the Brooklyn Music School, by Joe Costanza, \$19, 8 pm, 126 St. Felix St. (212) 688-4444. www.smartarts.com**IMPACT THEATER:** presents**"Wounded Hopes,"** based on the poetry of Gerald Zipper, \$15, \$12 students and seniors, 8 pm, 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 360-7163.**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Philharmonic presents Freehold, conducted by Chelsea Tustin II, along with Cynthia Harmon, Nixon Ford, and TOTAL Plastic Choir, \$20 to \$40, 8 pm, Brooklyn Academy of Music Opera House, 30 Lafayette Ave., between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street, (718) 634-1100.**BRIC STUDIO:** presents "Elsewhere," a specific premiere of a production by Cora and choreographer Norman Hummel, \$12, \$10 students, 8:30 pm, 421 Fifth Ave. (718) 535-7882.

CHILDREN

PUPPET SHOW: Talking Hands Theater at the Brooklyn Lyceum, \$20 per family, 227 Fourth Ave., Call for time, (718) 857-4816.**FAMILY MOVIE:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "The Last Man," 1 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.**ARTY FACTS:** Brooklyn Museum invites kids, ages 4 and older, to learn about art and have an art and crafts session, 58 adults, \$4 seniors, free for kids, 11 am to 2 pm, 1000 5th Ave., (718) 638-5000.**REGISTRATION:** The Fresh Air Fund holds a session on how to register children for free summer vacations in the country, 11 am to 3 pm, First Baptist Church of Brooklyn, 450 Eastern Parkway, 360 567 St., (718) 638-5000.**PUPPETWORKS:** presents a marionette performance of "The Wizard of Oz," \$8, \$7 children, 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm, 338 56th Ave., at Fourth Street, (718) 965-3391.**DROP-IN CRAFTS:** Prospect Park Audubon Center hosts art activities for kids, 1 pm to 3 pm, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 287-3600. Free.**BROOKLYN ARTS EXCHANGE:** presents performing workshop concerts, children, ages 9 and older, present dance pieces made from the students' experience of architecture in New York, \$5, \$5 students, 8 pm, Also, children, ages 11 to 15, perform "Our Story," highlighting strong group connection, 421 Fifth Ave., Eighth Street, (718) 632-0018.

OTHER

IKLYN DESIGNS: Annual event features Brooklyn-based designers and manufacturers of contemporary furnishings, including indoor and outdoor furniture, rugs, lighting and accessories. Keynote speakers, parties and more, \$12, 10 am to 7 pm, Reception at 6 pm, St. Ann's Warehouse, 38 Water St. For info, www.brooklynindesign.net**DESIGN COLLECTIVE:** Park Slope's indie designer market showcases Brooklyn's design talent. Jewelry, clothing, bath, handbags, toys and more, 10 am to 6 pm, J.J. Byrne Park, Fifth Avenue between Third and Fourth streets, (847) 407-1187.**COOKING DEMO:** Audubon Center and Bryant Terry offer lessons from their book, "Crucible for an Urban Organic Kitchen," Grand Army Plaza's Farmers Market, 10 am to 5 pm, www.greengarden.com**MEET THE WATERFRONT ARTISTS:** "Transformation," presented by Coalition, Noon to 5 pm, 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507.**SUNDANCE AT BAM:** Sundance Institute in collaboration with Brooklyn Academy of Music presents several films. The day begins with a la carte brunch, 11 am to 1 pm, 11 to 1 pm. Reservations recommended. Screening of "The Short Life of Jose Antonio Gutierrez," \$10, 12:30 pm, "Iraq in Fragments," (2005), \$45 pm, Also, "TV Junkie," 8:30 pm, Also, "Distraction," (2005), 11:30 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 777-7111. www.bam.org**MEETING:** AARP Ovation Chapter, Bay Ridge Center for Older Adults, 6935 Fourth Ave., (718) 748-0650. Free.**AFTER PARTY:** For the fourth annual IKLYN Design Show, featuring Cameron Sinclair, founder of Architecture for Humanity, Call for ticket information, 10 am to 10 pm, 74 Montague St., between Hite Street and the Promenade, (718) 643-1015.

SUN, MAY 14

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

BOAT TOUR: 1:15 pm to 2 pm, See Sat., May 13.

PERFORMANCE

CONCERT: Paula Jeanine and the Emerson Ghazal perform with the Emerson Ghazal Orchestra, Call for price, 3 pm, See Sat., May 13.**FRONT ARTISTS COALITION:** 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2507.**CONCERT:** St. Jacobs Ev. Lutheran Church hosts Duo Marchand, a harp and lute duo, 4 pm, Reception follows, 5406 Fourth Ave. (718) 438-8978. Free.**BARGENMUSIC:** All-Hands chamber music concert, \$25, \$20 seniors, \$25 students, 4 pm, Fulton Ferry Landing, Old Fulton Street at the East River, (718) 624-2083.**NARROWS COMMUNITY THEATER:** "Mame," 3 pm, See Sat., May 13.**IMPACT THEATER:** "Wounded Hopes," 8 pm, See Sat., May 13.**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Once on This Island," 3 pm, See Sat., May 13.**SACKETT:** "One Big Happy Family," 5 pm, See Sat., May 13.

CHILDREN

PUPPET SHOW: "The Wizard of Oz," 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm, See Sat., May 13.**SUNDANCE AT BAM:** Sundance Institute in collaboration with Brooklyn Academy of Music presents several films. Screening of "Sundance Show," \$10, 12:30 pm, Also, "American Heist," (2006), 2:30 pm, Also, "Forgiveness," (2005), 9:15 pm, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 634-1100.**PROTEUS COWANES:** in honor of its namesake "Proteus," Proteus Cowanes hosts a session in the Greek alphabet and offers Greek-related experiences including stories and songs.**JEWISH HERITAGE:** Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents a screening of "A Man from Maracaibo," 8 pm, 126 St. Felix St. (212) 688-4444. www.smartarts.com**CONCERT:** follows, 2 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

DOLLARS FOR BOWLING

Century 21 shuts bowling alley, pays off youth groups

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Century 21 department store attempted to ease the pain it caused by buying a Bay Ridge bowling alley to make room for a parking lot by handing out \$2,500 checks this week to four community groups.

"This is just a small token of our support," said Ray Gindi, the chief operating officer of the mini-Macy's of 86th Street.

Members of the four groups — the Parkway Youth Organization, the 68th Precinct Community Council, the St. Patrick's Youth League and the Brooklyn Kiwanis Flag Football League — gladly posed behind an oversized \$10,000

check, and later accepted their \$2,500 grants.

Bob Cavaliere of the Parkway Youth Organization said he felt no qualms about accepting money for youth programs from a company that had just shut the Mark Lanes, the neighborhood's only bowling alley.

"We're constantly looking for businesses to support our group, so this is a shot in the arm," he said. "This money has nothing to do with the bowling alley closing."

But even the legislator who got Gindi to cut the checks admitted that there was a connection between Century 21's plans to pave over the lanes and Monday's check-writing ceremony.

"For me, it was saying to



Century 21 Chief Operating Officer Ray Gindi (l) holds up a large ceremonial check to symbolize \$10,000 in grants for local youth groups.

Century 21, "What can you do as a show of support for the community?" said City Councilman Vincent Gentile (D-Bay Ridge), who secured the payment after it was clear that there was no way to convince the department giant to spare the bowling alley.

"We knew we couldn't throw a strike [and save the Mark Lanes], but at least we could help the remaining youth groups in the area."

Other local officials rushed to defuse the notion that Century 21 bought off the neighborhood for just \$10,000. "It may sound like a little, but most businesses don't give anything," said Pat Condon, executive director of the 86th Street Business Improvement District.

Steve Harrison, a member of Community Board 10 who is running for congress, added: "We're seeing more and more national chains in the neighborhood and they haven't been as supportive. I want those national chains to follow this lead."

Indeed, the sale of the bowling alley — which will close for good in August — didn't seem to bother the youth group organizers accepting Gindi's checks.

"To be honest, we had a kid's league at the Mark Lanes until a few years ago," said Richard Sherry, treasurer of the 68th Precinct Community Council. "But we cancelled it because fewer and fewer kids were signing up."

Apizza the action

By Gersh Kuntzman

The Brooklyn Papers

Bay Ridge Democrats may not agree on everything, but they have finally settled on just one pizzeria as their neighborhood's best.

One year after Brooklyn Democrats for Change, a neighborhood political club, raised cackles from their GOP counterparts for picking two pizzeria in its first-ever "Best Pizza" contest, the club members

handed the crown to Peppino's. More cackles ensued — even from the winner.

"I'm a Republican," Joe Mancino, owner of the Third Avenue pie joint, told The Brooklyn Papers.

It could have been worse. In hopes of avoiding last year's waffling, the club employed a numbering system that hid the identity of the 11 participating pizzerias.

"I know that a group of Democrats tends to have 14 opinions on every topic, but we will pick a winner this year," Piero Lehu, the club's second vice president, said as members of the club gathered last

week at The Pour House on Third Avenue.

As the pizzas started showing up, the club was clearly divided along partisan lines. Some genuinely wanted to get serious about pizza (and, of course, complain about the Bush Administration). But others were there just to eat, drink and complain about the Bush Administration.

Club President Jeannie May took the competition seriously, although she admitted that, despite the club's egalitarian stance on most social issues, she had a "prejudice in favor of cheese."

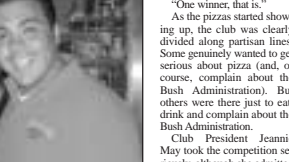
"I'm from Wisconsin, you know," she said.

In the end, May voted for Peppino's — and was pleased when the plurality of her members did, too.

"As a Democrat, it does feel nice to back a winner from time to time," she said.

In exit polls, Peppino's voters praised the outstanding Pizza Alla Vodka, a standout pie featuring prosciutto, mushrooms, fresh mozzarella and a vodka-infused sauce.

Joe Mancino and his sister Rosanna of Peppino's Pizzeria, voted the best pizza in Bay Ridge by Brooklyn Democrats for Change.



Joe Mancino and his sister Rosanna of Peppino's Pizzeria, voted the best pizza in Bay Ridge by Brooklyn Democrats for Change.

POLICE BLOTTER...

Continued from page 3

er didn't get a good look at the robbers, but said he saw a white man in his mid-20s.

Nab assailant

A teenage thief was arrested after robbing a man in the hallway of an apartment building on April 27, police said.

The thief jumped his victim inside the 71st Street building, near 14th Avenue, around 7:30 pm. He punched the man in the face, threw him in a chokehold and grabbed his cellphone and wallet, which held \$20.

But police caught up to the mugger later that day and handed the 17-year-old suspect.

iPod snatched

A gang of youngsters — led by a girl with pink-lined eyes and a mouth full of braces — robbed two 12-year-olds as they walked home after school on April 26, police said.

The group of thieves surrounded the young boy and girl when they reached the corner of Kings Highway and West Fifth Street at 2:30 pm. That's when the black girl wearing pink eyeliner and sporting braces on her teeth stepped forward and grabbed an iPod from the 12-year-old girl.

The posse quickly bolted for the subway, before the victims could get a good look at the thieves or even count how many youngsters made up the group.

Quick grab

A flat tire meant one Brooklyn man far more than just aggravation.

The 45-year-old man pulled over on 86th Street, near Bay Parkway, around 3:15 pm on April 26 with rubber flapping under his car. He stepped out, took off his jacket and laid it on the passenger seat and proceeded to change the tire, police said.

When he finished with the grimy job, the fellow wiped his hands and went to recover his jacket from the car seat.

But the jacket was gone, along with several jewelry items and the wallet he stashed in the pocket that held \$700 and credit cards, police said.

Painful discover-

ery

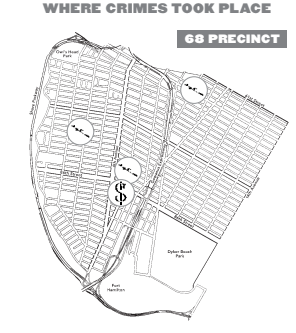
A 55-year-old woman returned to her 23rd Avenue home on May 1 to discover a night-mug scene in her apartment.

Someone had pried open the front door with a screw-

driver and vandalized the residence, at Benson Avenue, and squirted paint on the walls, floors and furniture, police said. The intruder also pocketed \$800 and various jewelry items before fleeing.

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

WHERE CRIMES TOOK PLACE



Quick grab

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Someone had pried open the front door with a screw-

BROOKLYN BRIEFS

Ratner hires rival's chief

The Brooklyn Papers

Touche, Tish!

The chief of staff to one of the highest-profile opponents to the Atlantic Yards project has quit her job to work for her former boss's biggest foe — Bruce Ratner.

It is unclear what Janella Meeks, former chief of staff to City Councilwoman Letitia James (D-Prospect Heights) will be doing for Ratner, but the still-unpublicized revolving-door move certainly had insiders buzzing.

"Oooh, this is too good," cooed one supporter of Atlantic Yards — and an opponent of James's. "How does it look for Tish James to lose her chief of staff to Bruce Ratner?"

Sources say that James and Meeks — sister of pro-Atlantic Yards Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Queens) — disagreed on Ratner's plan to build a basketball arena and 17 skyscrapers within James's district. Before going to work for James, Meeks was an aide to arena cheerleader Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Prospect Heights).

"Janella felt very alone in Tish's office," said a colleague in city government.

But James said Meeks quit simply because she moved to New Jersey — a jump across state lines that made it illegal for her to remain on the city payroll.

"Obviously she needed a change," James told The Brooklyn Papers. "She was looking for an opportunity, and Forest City offered it."

"I guess she needed additional income and she took advantage of a deal I couldn't provide her with," James added.

News of Meeks' defection first appeared on The Brooklyn Papers' website Monday. Neither Meeks, nor Forest City Ratner, returned phone calls.



Green (D-Prospect Heights)

— Ariella Cohen



A little off the top ... and back ... and legs

Sheep in Prospect Park Zoo got their annual haircuts last weekend. As you can see from our startling before-and-after photos, Holly, a four-horned Jacobs sheep, got a full buzz cut — to the delight of dozens of kids.



Photo by Brooklyn Papers. © Alan Hershman

Dated perks subsidize luxury condos throughout the city

By Ariella Cohen

The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's first Feng Shui-themed luxury dwellings will be publicly subsidized — but affordable housing advocates aren't feeling so serene about it.

In the DUMBO, the meditation-minded condos in the Beacon Tower — where units cost up to \$2.4 million — were developed thanks to a city subsidy created in the 1970s to encourage residential development at a time when residents were fleeing to the suburbs.

But some say the subsidy is no longer needed — especially in hot 'hoods like DUMBO.

"The vast majority of New Yorkers would be shocked to know that million-dollar condos are being subsidized by their tax dollars," said Jonathan Rosen, a spokesman for the housing advocacy group ACORN.

Last month, members of ACORN stormed the Beacon Tower's plush sales office — replete with its white leather seating and glass-topped Noguchi coffee table — to hand out flyers blasting developer Shura Boynelgreen for "getting rich off the backs of working families."

Boynelgreen has certainly been

getting rich: Last week, he sent out a press release to report that three-quarters of the still-unfinished building have already been sold.

He bought the formerly industrial lot for just over \$100,000 in 2004 — but the completed building will be assessed at \$5.1 million, records show. But thanks to the city's 421-a subsidy, Boynelgreen's tax rate will be based on the much-lower figure for the first 15 years.

And it's not only condo owners in DUMBO sitting pretty with the city tax break. More than 28 buildings under construction in trendy Brooklyn neighborhoods like Park Slope, Boerum Hill and Carroll Gardens get the same exemption.

The buildings include:

- A 512-condo Downtown high-rise where prices are expected to exceed \$1 million.
- A 40-condo "zen-like" development on the edge of Park Slope.
- A 28-condo townhouse-style development Downtown where prices are expected to range more than \$2 million.

There's no catch to the 421-a subsidies. Unlike other city handouts, developers receiving the tax abatements are not obligated to include affordable housing in their projects — ex-

Route chosen for Gowanus tunnel



A Gowanus Tunnel along the Sunset Park waterfront would cost \$12.8 billion. It is being considered by the state Department of Transportation.

The Brooklyn Papers

The Gowanus Expressway is one step closer to swimming with the fishes.

Last week, the state Department of Transportation and the Gowanus Community Stakeholders Group, which has been advocating for a tunnel since 2001, settled on a route for a tunnel that would stretch from Bay Ridge to the Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel and replace the existing elevated highway.

Such a tunnel would be a dream-come-true for motorists forever stuck on the "expressway," not to mention those who live nearby. Tunnel advocates say the elevated highway has been an economic blight on Red Hook, Sunset Park and Bay Ridge since it was built in 1941.

But don't get too excited — even under the best-case scenario, a tunnel would not be completed until 2020. And the path — like the Gowanus itself — is pitted with potholes.

The tunnel would cost a stunning \$12.8 billion —

and is competing against three less-expensive proposals, including one that would simply rebuild the expressway where it is.

The state will examine all the options in a forthcoming environmental impact statement by 2010.

The money for this project would come from the same limited pool of funds that is expected to finance the Second Avenue subway, and other higher-profile projects in higher-profile neighborhoods.

Elected officials support the notion of a Brooklyn "Big Dig" — at least in theory.

"I am hopeful that a cost-benefit analysis will be a part of the EIS so that the decision can be made with the appropriate data," said Borough President Markowitz.

Right now, DOT is repaving the highway to keep it functioning through 2020. The \$440 million refurbishment is the first major work done on the highway since 1961.

— Dana Rubinstein

Fear of restaurants' In-Sink-erators

The Brooklyn Papers

A proposal to allow restaurants to grind up garbage and send it down the drain has environmentalists seeing red — red meat in the Gowanus Canal, that is.

"Imagine all the waste from the restaurants on Smith Street — hamburgers, pizza, whatever — going straight into the sewers," Mark Lanaghan, commissioner of the city Department of Environmental Protec-

tion, told The Brooklyn Papers.

At a town hall meeting last week at the YWCA in Boerum Hill, Lanaghan criticized a pending City Council proposal that would give restaurants the same rights as residents to grind their organic material and send it down the drain.

The same fear that once banned residential In-Sink-erators — that gurgling food would clog the city's antiquated sewer system — is behind

Lanaghan and others' opposition to the new proposal.

During heavy rainfalls, everything that goes down a drain in this city — food, garbage, fecal matter — ends up in waterways like the harbor and the Gowanus Canal, which has 13 sewage-spewing pipes along its one-mile length.

Restaurant owners say garbage disposals would save them thousands of dollars a year in trash pickup costs.

"We could just throw the wet stuff

down the drain instead of carrying dripping bags all over the place," said Big J, a cashier at Front Street Pizzeria in DUMBO.

But for now, Big J seems to be in the minority.

"We are trying hard to clean the canal," said Lanaghan. "And everything we know leads up to believe that commercial grinders would mean a lot more food floating in the wastewater and, eventually, in the Gowanus." — Cohen

Greenpoint smoke blankets N. B'klyn

The Brooklyn Papers

"Did you leave the coffee-maker on overnight?"

"Who's smoking on the fire-escape?"

"Is the house on fire?"

That's how northern Brooklynites — from Williamsburg to Windsor Terrace — greeted Tuesday morning, unaware that at that moment, firefighters along the Greenpoint waterfront were battling the largest blaze since Sept. 11, and the biggest Brooklyn inferno since the Hotel St. George fire in 1935.

It took 36 hours to fully extinguish the 10-alarm fire at the Greenpoint Terminal Market — a 13-building complex in a gentrifying neighborhood where industrial warehouses are rapidly being converted to luxury housing.

The property's desirability raised suspicions that its owner, Joshua Guttman, had burned down his own buildings for the insurance money rather than demolishing them, which he has the permits to do.

Adding to the whisper campaign is this fact: In 2004, a DUMBO building Guttman owned and slated for residential conversion burned down in a suspicious fire.

Guttman's lawyer denied the developer had anything to do with Tuesday's blaze — and fire marshals have not begun their investigation.

Here is what is known: Guttman bought the complex in 2001 for a mere \$25 million. But last year, a developer paid him \$42 million for just 10 percent of the site — meaning the buildings are now worth nearly 200 times what Guttman paid for them just five years ago.

The increased value is a result of last year's rezoning of the waterfront from manufacturing to residential.

Guttman's deal with the developer fell through.

— Gersh Kuntzman



Firefighters battle Tuesday's massive fire in Greenpoint.

Screech! Weiner nixes grand prix

The Brooklyn Papers

Clearly, Rep. Anthony Weiner (D-Sheepshead Bay) isn't afraid to lose the Grand Prix vote.

The fiery mayoral wannabe has put the pedal to the metal and vowed to block efforts by Paul Newman and his Formula One team to hold an annual three-day grand prix race at Floyd Bennett Field, which is part of the national park system.

"I'm not going to permit it," Weiner told The Brooklyn Papers. "It's an inappropriate use of a national park. Parks are for recreation, not entertainment. We turned down a Phish concert there."

Weiner's blood was boiling because state Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Sheepshead Bay), who supports Newman's racing plan, upbraided a Weiner staffer at a recent meeting about the project. Weiner followed up by yelling at Kruger last week at a Mill Basin synagogue.

"He crossed the line, attacking my staffer, and I told him so," Weiner said. "I think he got the message."

Kruger aide Jason Koppel said his boss was upset to put the back-to-back shooting matches behind him.

"We just want to have an open discussion about the grand prix plan," he said.

— Kuntzman

CHECKIN' IN WITH... Hakeem Jeffries

Another hat is in the ring to succeed Assemblyman Roger Green (D-Fort Greene), who is leaving his seat to seek a promotion to Congress next two years after being found guilty of double-billing the state on travel expenses (nice). Joining the other declared candidate, Bill Batson, is community activist Hakeem Jeffries, who has run twice for the seat — and would have run a third time, except Green and others re-centralized the district line so that Jeffries' building was no longer in the district (nice). This week, Jeffries checked in with Gersh Kuntzman.



Q: I was happy to see that you were running — not because I support you, but because you once again live in the district.

A: I was always a Prospect Heights resident. When I got 40 percent of the vote in 2000, it shocked the political establishment. So they redrew the lines and suddenly my apartment — I was on Park Place — had been cut out. The line was moved one block away.

Q: Clearly, somebody didn't want you to run against Roger Green.

A: I don't think even he would say he had no responsibility for redrawing the lines. It was clearly a classic case of Albany incumbent protection.

Q: Why didn't you run against him after he resigned in disgrace following the conviction?

A: Under state law, you have to be in the district for a year. [Jeffries later moved into the district.]

Q: So he screwed you twice — first by drawing you out of the district and then by resigning too late for you to run?

A: Yes, but it brought more attention to the issue of redistricting and other reforms that Albany hasn't dealt with.

Q: What are your issues?

A: We need to address the affordable housing crisis that is suffocating large parts of central Brooklyn. You have folks who are being pushed out of Fort Greene, Clinton Hill and Prospect Heights. The state has to get back in the affordable-housing business in a real way. Programs like Mitchell-Lama, which promoted affordable home ownership and affordable rentals for working families for middle-class residents.

Q: So where do you stand on the biggest project, Atlantic Yards?

A: There must be significant provisions for affordable housing for middle-class and working-class families. A middle-class family in New York today is a family of four that earns \$100,000-150,000. That family can't afford to buy in central Brooklyn.

Q: Will Atlantic Yards change that?

A: It will hinge on the housing component. The project has not yet earned my support. More can be extracted for the community. With Bruce Ratner, the on-site affordable housing is all rental. Some co-ops should be affordable units. That's how you get permanence in neighborhoods and passing wealth from generation to generation in America.

Q: Couldn't help but notice that one of the people handing out flyers at your announcement was none other than Ratner spokeswoman Lupe Todd. Care to explain?

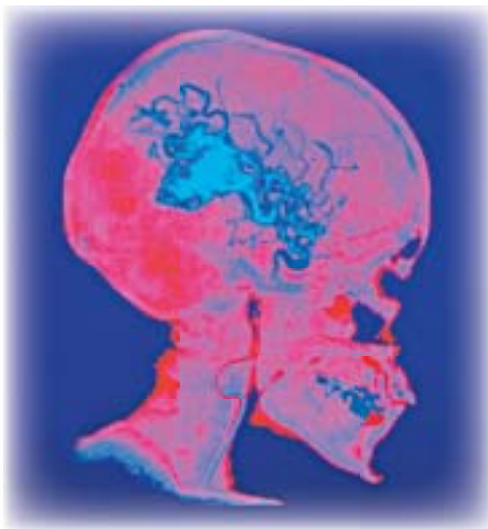
A: My friendship with Lupe dates back to 2001, when I was working on the Mark Green campaign for mayor and she was on Peter Vallone's campaign.

Q: And you were friends?

A: Well, the real fighting in the mayoral race was between other candidates, not ours. Besides, I had an idea that, someday, there would be a Ratner project — and that she would be working on it. It's funny that people bring up Lupe, yet not notice that two of my most prominent supporters, Eric Adams of 100 Blacks in Law Enforcement and the Rev. Clinton Miller, are vocal opponents of Atlantic Yards. So if anything, my candidacy shows I can unify people.

Q: That was nicely spun, Hakeem.

A: Thank you.



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