



LEFT: Catholics visibly demonstrated their faith this week, beginning the penitential Lenten season — which leads to Easter on March 23 — by receiving on their foreheads ashes of burned palms in the shape of a



cross. Above, Dorothy Connor prays at St. Thomas Aquinas church on Ninth Street and Fourth Avenue in Park Slope. RIGHT: In advance of the Chinese new year celebration, which began on Thursday, members of the

Korean Traditional Music & Dance Institute of NY performed Sunday at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. This is the 4706th year on the Chinese calendar; it's the Year of the Rat, the first year in the 12-year lunar cycle.

## Penance & joy

# The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn's Real Newspaper

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## DUMBO

### Battling panhandlers between the bridges

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A grocer in DUMBO has posted signs urging customers not to give money to the panhandlers who congregate near the entrance — the latest salvo in an ongoing war against beggars in the rapidly gentrifying neighborhood.

"We've heard from more than half our customers that they've been harassed by panhandlers in front of the store," said Mark Froyo, the manager of Peas & Pickles, the neighborhood's largest supermarket. "We've actually had loyal customers who stopped coming here because of it."

The signs encourage patrons to report "harassment" to the store's management and reminds customers that it's better to donate to legitimate charities than to individuals on the street.

The anti-panhandling notices are the latest example of DUMBO's ongoing struggle with begging. At a DUMBO Improvement District meeting in October, neighborhood residents implored the police to crack down.

But John Kenny, a crime prevention officer from the 84th Precinct, told the audience that begging is a First Amendment right — though there are limits against aggressive begging. Kenny's advice for curbing the problem was the same as that on the signs in Peas & Pickles — stop giving handouts.

"People who understand panhandling have come to the neighborhood to explain that the only thing you can do if you want these people to go away is stop giving them money," said Tucker Reed, executive director of the DUMBO Improvement District.

Around the same time, a new Web site, DUMBOwatch, made vague promises that it would take pictures of all panhandlers in the neighborhood. Given the anti-panhandling attitude in DUMBO, it's no surprise that at least one of the merchants had a strong opinion about the new Peas & Pickles sign.

"That sign can kiss my ass — and so can you," he told a Brooklyn Paper reporter on Friday. His fellow panhandler said she doesn't think the pair bothers anyone — even after the male half of the team had just been ticked by a cop from the 84th Precinct for disorderly conduct at the corner of Washington and Hoyt streets.

"I'm just out here trying to get mine like everybody else," she said.

They would not reveal their names.

— with Adam F. Hutton



The plan for the Domino Sugar factory site, in view of the Williamsburg Bridge, would include a glass tower atop the landmark factory buildings (near center), as well as a number of other residential towers.

## DOMINO EFFECT

### Plans on the table, advocates spar

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

Preservationists and affordable-housing advocates battled this week over a proposal to convert the Domino Sugar site in Williamsburg — including three landmark buildings — into a development with more than 2,200 units of housing.

The Landmarks Preservation Commission, which held a hearing on Tuesday, is being asked to approve the plans for the sugar refinery, which was built in 1884. Proposed renovations include adding five stories of glassed apartments on top of the existing 12 floors of the landmark factory.

The developer would also demolish several non-landmark — but, to some, historical — buildings

in the complex to make way for nine residential towers.

The matter is ostensibly about architecture right now, but the developer hopes the 30 percent of apartments at below-market rates and public access to the waterfront will sweeten the \$1.2 billion deal.

"We want to harmonize preservation with affordable housing and creating an open public space," said Mike Lappin, president of CPC Resources.

But for aesthetes, it was a visual cacophony. "The proposed glass box addition, plunked on top of the landmark, is simply too large and lacks the compositional organization and the arrangements of details that would relate it to the landmark," said Lisa Kersavage, a director at the Municipal Arts Society.

Kersavage was also upset that the iconic, neon Domino sign might not be maintained.

"We'd like to keep it, but it's not a simple thing to figure out where to put it or how to support it," said Lappin.

Supporters of the project say the possible loss of the sign does not outweigh the hundreds of sub-market rate units the development would provide.

"It's very difficult to get a developer to make that kind of commitment," said Monsignor Alfred LoPinto of Catholic Charities Brooklyn and Queens. "So we realize there are tradeoffs you have to make."

The Landmarks Preservation Commission did not rule on the proposal, which also requires rezoning the plant from manufacturing to residential.

# IT'S TRUE! RATNER A BIG LIAR!

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

It's official, direct from Forest City Ratner Companies: the Atlantic Yards development is a liar.

Forest City Ratner now admits that its claim of a tax revenue windfall — a justification for the government's support of the \$4 billion project — was actually concocted by Ratner's paid consultant, and was not based on an analysis by state officials as the developer repeatedly claimed.

"The \$4.4 billion figure is in the report of a consultant who had been retained by [Forest City Ratner Companies] and does not appear in the state's [Final Environmental Review Statement]," said Ratner attorney Jeffrey

## Pols must hit Ratner in wallet

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Braun in a legal document that surfaced this week.

Braun himself previously stated in court that the \$4.4 billion number came from the state. "My statement in my prior affidavit that the 'environmental impact statement for the project estimates that the project will create ... \$4.4 billion in net tax revenues for the city and the state over 30 years' is mistaken, because [t]here is simply no projection at all regarding the net tax revenues contained in the EIS."

The revelation appeared in a footnote to a filing in a lawsuit challenging the validity of the state's environmental review. It was first reported on Wednesday by Atlantic Yards Report.

Prior to this latest admission, the developer had said that the 16-sky-scraper-and-arena development, the largest in Brooklyn's history, would generate a total of \$5.6 billion for the city and state and that once city and state contributions were factored in, \$4.4 billion in net revenue.

Ratner executives had said the jaw-dropping number came from the state's own Final Environmental Impact Statement, written by the Empire State Development Corporation.

Critics said the news was yet another example of Ratner's untrustworthiness.

"The whole project has been built upon lies," said Daniel Goldstein, spokesman for Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn. "It's hard to imagine that's the only misinformation that they publicized over the past years."

Neither the Empire State Development Corporation nor Forest City Ratner would comment for this article.

## James, Yassky: Ax Yards funds

The Brooklyn Paper

Two city councilmembers are not giving up on their bid to withhold hundreds of millions of dollars in city and state subsidies from the Atlantic Yards mega-development, despite an initial rejection by the council.

Councilmembers David Yassky (D-Brooklyn Heights) and Letitia James (D-Fort Greene) asked the council's Finance Committee to take up the matter of those Atlantic Yards subsidies while considering a resolution calling for the state to end property-tax exemptions for Madison Square Garden.

See YARDS SUBSIDIES on page 13

## Slope baby doc beaten

By Ben Muessig

The Brooklyn Paper

A gun-toting robber broke into a Park Slope doctor's office on Jan. 28, hospitalizing a 67-year-old pediatrician for a handful of cash — but the beloved doctor, practicing on 13th Street for nearly 30 years, isn't letting the beating deter him from his medical mission.

"I'll be back as soon as I can get up and walk," Dr. Vasudev Gabbur told The Brooklyn Paper in an exclusive hospital room interview this week.

Gabbur was doing paperwork in his office when a man with a pistol burst through the front door. Gabbur gave the man all of the money in the office — about \$100. Not satisfied, the bandit demanded that Gabbur open the office's safe.

"I told him I didn't have cash — but the combination or how to open it," Gabbur said. "He said, 'You're lying, I'll kill you.' Then he started hitting me with his gun."

After pistol-whipping Gabbur, the robber made a call on his cellphone,



Veteran Park Slope pediatrician Dr. Vasudev Gabbur was beaten bloody while doing paperwork in his 13th Street office.

at which point Gabbur attempted to escape, but the thief beat him to the ground and eventually fled.

Bloody and dazed, Gabbur stumbled onto 13th Street. Two passersby — whose children were former patients of Gabbur's — spotted the doctor and called police.

The attack left Gabbur with fractured

ring and pinky fingers on his right hand, a fractured left leg, lacerations to his head and internal bleeding. Gabbur lost so much blood during the assault that he needed a transfusion. He remains hospitalized at Lutheran Medical Center, though he is expected to be released next week. See BEATEN on page 6

## PAY-TO-PARK PLAN CHEERED

By Mike McLaughlin

The Brooklyn Paper

A new facet of the city's congestion-pricing plan would add a fee for Brooklyn drivers looking to park their cars on their own blocks — and if Monday night's meeting on the proposal is any indication, many residents would line up to pay it.

A commission studying Mayor Bloomberg's plan — which would charge drivers \$8 to enter Manhattan below 6th Street during business hours — has recommended implementing the neighborhood parking permit system by next March as a proactive strike against the "park-and-ride phenomenon," where

commuters park in neighborhoods with ample mass transit and finish their trips to work on the subway, thus avoiding the "congestion" fee.

Residents would be charged between \$75 and \$125 a year for the placard allowing them to park in their neighborhood.

See PAY on page 13

## Hil, Bam split B'klyn

By Dana Rubinstein

The Brooklyn Paper

Brooklyn Democrats were far more divided than their counterparts statewide, splitting their votes 50 percent to 48 percent in favor of their own junior senator, Hillary Clinton, over Illinois rival — and former Brooklynite! — Barack Obama on Tuesday.

The statewide vote was 57 percent to 40 percent in favor of Clinton.

Clinton narrowly won the primary in the state's biggest Democratic county, but Obama did take the popular vote in two prized congressional districts — both represented by staunch Clinton supporters.

Fifty-nine percent of Rep. Yvette Clarke's 11th district, which runs through Park Slope, Kensington and Crown Heights, went for Obama, while 44 percent went for Clinton.

See BAM AND HIL on page 13



Jo Anne Simon highlights the benefits of parking permits, at Monday night's meeting.

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# HERE TO GO

## EDITORS' PICKS

<p><b>SATURDAY</b> February 9</p> <p><b>'Freaks' out</b></p> <p>Tonight is the eighth annual "Freak's Ball," featuring performances by Bustle in Your Hedge-row (featuring Dave Dreiwitz of Ween) and Tom Hamilton's American Babies. The ball is borne from an online community devoted to live music in NYC.</p> <p>8 pm at Southpaw, 125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope. \$25. For information, call (718) 230-0236 or <a href="http://www.sposounds.com">www.sposounds.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY</b> February 10</p> <p><b>Love run</b></p> <p>Because of all the chocolate hearts you'll be eating on Valentine's Day, today offers a chance to do something good for the one inside of you. All participants in today's 5K Valentine's Day run in Prospect Park will be treated to a commemorative T-shirt and refreshments. Runners can pre-register at Slope Sports (70 Seventh Ave. at Lincoln Place in Park Slope) from 3 pm to 5 pm on Feb. 9.</p> <p>10 am at Prospect Park (enter park at 15th Street and Prospect Park West). \$12. For information, call (718) 230-4686 or <a href="http://www.active.com">www.active.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>TUESDAY</b> February 12</p> <p><b>It's Pat!</b></p> <p>Tonight, Trekkies and theater buffs alike will be flying toward the intimate BAM Harvey Theater at warp speed to catch the opening night of Patrick Stewart in "Macbeth." The show runs through March 22, so if you haven't bought tickets yet, now is the time to engage.</p> <p>8 pm at the BAM Harvey Theater (651 Fulton St. at Rockwell Place in Fort Greene). \$30-\$90. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or <a href="http://www.bam.org">www.bam.org</a>.</p>	<p><b>THURSDAY</b> February 14</p> <p><b>A sweet Valentine's</b></p> <p>Whether you're celebrating today or simply waiting for the candy to go on sale, Valentine's Day events are happening all over the borough. Turn to page 7 to find out about Brooklyn's romantic meals and where to buy hand-crafted chocolates, like the Champagne truffles from Jacques Torres (pictured).</p>	<p><b>FRIDAY</b> February 15</p> <p><b>Prom night</b></p> <p>If Valentine's Day wasn't quite the event you were hoping for, stop by Studio B in Greenpoint tonight for a formal "prom party" featuring live DJ sets and a performance by rapper Princess Superstar (pictured). But leave your flask at home; this time around the punch is already spiked.</p> <p>10 pm at Studio B (259 Banker St. at Calver Street in Greenpoint). Price TBD. For information, call (718) 389-1880 or <a href="http://www.clubstudiob.com">www.clubstudiob.com</a>.</p>
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# NINE DAYS IN BROOKLYN

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay

<p><b>SAT, FEB 9</b></p> <p><b>OUTDOORS</b></p> <p><b>EARLY BIRDING:</b> In Marine Park, 8 am. Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U (718) 621-2021. Free.</p> <p><b>ICE SKATING:</b> at Prospect Park's Weillman Park, 55, 53 kids and seniors. An open rental. Sessions at 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 4 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm. Enter park at 6th St. and Ocean Avenue. (718) 945-8999.</p> <p><b>EXPLORE THE LULLAWAY:</b> Take a winter hike along the Lullaway. 1 pm. Audubon Center, Prospect Park. (718) 965-8999.</p> <p><b>TAKE A HIKE:</b> Join the Urban Park Rangers for a nature hike along Prospect Park's Lullaway Trail. Enjoy the beautiful winter scenery and learn about the park's flora and fauna. Wear comfortable walking shoes and dress for the weather. 1 pm. Call 311 for information. Free.</p> <p><b>PERFORMANCE</b></p> <p><b>MUSIC OFF THE SHELVES:</b> Brooklyn Public Library's Central branch presents "John Coltrane: Mr. Tamborine Man." Soprano Amy Burton and members of the Brooklyn Philharmonic perform. 4 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-4100. Free.</p> <p><b>BROOKLYN MUSIC WEEK OPEN:</b> Music and discussion event series. Today, Delta Proto Quartet, The Gentle/Romano Duo and The David Kelly Quartet perform. 7 pm. Helephant Church, 401 Atlantic Ave. (718) 369-4931.</p> <p><b>GALLERY PLAYERS:</b> presents "Wild Party," a Roaring '20s musical. See review, p. 9. 5, 8, 11, 14, 18, 21, 24, 28, 31, 34, 37, 40, 43, 46, 49, 52, 55, 58, 61, 64, 67, 70, 73, 76, 79, 82, 85, 88, 91, 94, 97, 100, 103, 106, 109, 112, 115, 118, 121, 124, 127, 130, 133, 136, 139, 142, 145, 148, 151, 154, 157, 160, 163, 166, 169, 172, 175, 178, 181, 184, 187, 190, 193, 196, 199, 202, 205, 208, 211, 214, 217, 220, 223, 226, 229, 232, 235, 238, 241, 244, 247, 250, 253, 256, 259, 262, 265, 268, 271, 274, 277, 280, 283, 286, 289, 292, 295, 298, 301, 304, 307, 310, 313, 316, 319, 322, 325, 328, 331, 334, 337, 340, 343, 346, 349, 352, 355, 358, 361, 364, 367, 370, 373, 376, 379, 382, 385, 388, 391, 394, 397, 400, 403, 406, 409, 412, 415, 418, 421, 424, 427, 430, 433, 436, 439, 442, 445, 448, 451, 454, 457, 460, 463, 466, 469, 472, 475, 478, 481, 484, 487, 490, 493, 496, 499, 502, 505, 508, 511, 514, 517, 520, 523, 526, 529, 532, 535, 538, 541, 544, 547, 550, 553, 556, 559, 562, 565, 568, 571, 574, 577, 580, 583, 586, 589, 592, 595, 598, 601, 604, 607, 610, 613, 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4775, 4777, 4779, 4781, 4783, 4785, 4787, 4789, 4791, 4793, 4795, 4797, 4799, 4801, 4803, 4805,</p>
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# THE SLO

## NEIGHBORHOOD REPORT

### BAY RIDGE



Plans to demolish the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church (background) also call for the demolition of the parsonage (foreground), a church-owned townhouse on 74th Street.

## More 'Green' to be torn down

**By Joe Jordan**  
*for The Brooklyn Paper*

Preparations to tear down the 108-year-old "Green Church" continue to move forward. But the Brooklyn Paper has learned that the Bay Ridge United Methodist Church's plans also include tearing down the church's limestone parsonage next door — and one family is praying for a higher authority to step in.

"We're afraid our walls are going to collapse," said David Kimball, whose 360 Ovington Ave. limestone townhouse shares a wall with the Green Church parsonage.

"It's had enough the church has to go, but they're also planning on taking down the corner limestone, which is next to our house, to make room for their new church building," Kimball added.

The current plan for the site calls for the erection of a new church for the Methodist congregation on land that overlaps a parking lot and the current parsonage at 362 Ovington Ave.

The remainder of the parking lot and the soon-to-be demolished church will be sold to Abe Betsch of Abco Management Corp. and turned into residential units on the corner of Ovington and Fourth avenues.

The crumbling Green Church has been at the center of a seawall battle over the past two years between the congregation — which wants to sell — and preservationists and local elected officials who adore the structure.

"There's a lot of confusion about what we're trying to do," said Bay Ridge United Methodist pastor Rev. Robert Einarick. "Someone said we're looking to take the money and run. Not so. We are a part of the community and want to continue serving Bay Ridge."

### KITCHEN SINK

**Greenpoint:** Our pal Konrad Gan, a resident of Greenpoint, just got promoted to operations manager at Sirene Cans, a major distributor of pre-cut veggies. Now, Konrad, about that shipment of baby corn we were discussing ... **DUMBO:** Great to see that the city has placed its new recycling cans on the corner of Front and Washington streets. But they made the Sink wonder how come they don't have the name of our local councilman on them? ... **Park Slope:** Run into our new filmmaking pal Josephine Decker as she made her way home to Park Slope on the B69 bus last week, which was sort of funny because her new documentary on bisexuality, "Bi the Way," has just been selected to be in the South by Southwest Festival in Austin, Texas in March. Check out Decker's work at [www.bitheway.com](http://www.bitheway.com).

**Brooklyn Heights:** Mariane Pearl, the wife of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, who was killed by Islamic fundamentalists in Pakistan in 2002, will speak at St. Francis College on March 10. It's free and open to the public. For information, call the Remsen Street-based college at (718) 489-5214. ... **Boroughwide:** Teen-age authors, get out your cameras! Brooklyn Independent Television wants two- to three-minute videos of the borough for a contest called "Show Us Your Reel, Brooklyn." Email [Steep@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:Steep@brooklynpaper.com)

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### PARK SLOPE

## Gethsemane church mystery solved

**By Dana Rubinstein**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

New details have finally emerged about a condominium project being built on a former churchyard that sparked a debate between a Park Slope reverend and neighbors who fought to preserve a greenspace that didn't belong to them.

The developers who purchased land adjacent to Gethsemane Church in September are making progress on their 10-unit condominium building, designed by a local architectural firm.

John O'Reilly, a managing member of the firm, told The Brooklyn Paper that each of the 10 units in the five-story building would range between 1,250 and 2,500 square feet,



Work at the lot next to the Gethsemane Church has begun.

and most of them would be three-bedroom "family" condos. Two will be "condo townhouses," while another two will be penthouse apartments with "spectacular views of the city and Prospect Park." All of the units will share rooftop space.

"We could build 20 units there, but we felt it was a family part of the neighborhood, so we wanted to build family units there," said O'Reilly. "It will be a lovely project [with] very high-end units equivalent to whatever is the best in the neighborhood."

News that Gethsemane Church, on Eighth Avenue between Ninth and 10th streets, would sell its weed-choked backyard to raise money for the struggling Presbyterian church sparked an outcry last summer, with complaints about the loss of green space — even though the churchyard sits a block from Prospect Park.

At the time, Rev. Liz Alexander said that she could either sell the lot or close the church, or sell the church and the lot, which would, presumably, lead to an ever larger development.

Alexander's church, surrounded by Brooklyn's landed gentry, caters to relatives of the imprisoned, and to former convicts and their families.

### DOWNTOWN

## Atlantic Avenue lots to go to highest bidder

**By Mike McLaughlin**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

The latest attempt to fill one of the last dead zones in Downtown Brooklyn is coming soon with an auction for Boerum Hill property.

Five contiguous lots — two on Atlantic Avenue and three on Pacific Street — between Smith Street and Boerum Place are remarkably mostly for being vacant so long amid an array of budding antique shops to the east and new condos, bars and restaurants to the west on Atlantic Avenue.

The parking lot, warehouse and empty lot — all across the street from the House of Dentition — may look bleak to the average passerby, but for developers, the Feb. 14 auction is a rare chance to acquire land in one of Brooklyn's hottest areas.

"This is a strategic location," said Michael Guerra, executive vice president at Prudential Douglas Elliman. "It's a fulcrum. The area pivots around Smith Street, the courts and Atlantic Avenue."

Not only are these properties blessed with a prime location, they are also zoned for a variety of uses.

The sites are zoned for residential and commercial use, with restrictions for contextual building on Atlantic Avenue. If a developer merges them into one uber-lot, zoning rules would allow bigger buildings than on the individual lots.

"Hopefully, the auction will bring in development that blends in nicely with what's over there and that caters to residents' needs," said Carl Hum, president and CEO of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce.

Initially, there was talk that a hotel would

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### CGARDENS

## Big projects raising CG ire

**By Mike McLaughlin**  
*The Brooklyn Paper*

Foes of unchecked development in Carroll Gardens claimed a partial victory last week, as the city agreed to consider restricting construction on several blocks in the heart of the neighborhood and reiterated its support for a study that could lead to a rezoning of the entire area.

The coalition led by Councilman Bill DeBlasio (D-Carroll Gardens) might have nibbled on a taste of success, but they didn't exactly bring the city to its knees.

The Department of City Planning reaffirmed it would evaluate zoning Carroll Gardens to prevent "out-of-scale" construction, a commitment it made to Borough President Markowitz in November, but said it would not immediately launch that process, contrary to a request by DeBlasio.

"We are committed to pursuing it, but ... we are unable to commit to a precise timeframe," City Planning said in a statement.

On another front, the Department of Buildings busted away the lawmaker's bid for an immediate moratorium on new construction over 50 feet tall, because, under state law, declaring a moratorium requires a lengthy environmental review and an amendment to the zoning code.

But the tangible, bright spot for DeBlasio was City Planning's announcement from that First through Fourth places — blocks where the houses are set back from the street, creating large lots that theoretically could be developed with taller buildings — could soon be zoned as "narrow" streets, which would reduce new building heights and densities on those blocks.

That change from the current "wide street" standard, would trim about two floors off the height allowed.

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94TH PRECINCT

DOWNTOWN / BOERUM HILL / K'NYN HEIGHTS The employee cook rack at the new HOJOP on Livingston Street was raised by a large-bodied man on Jan. 28.

POLICE BLOTTER

she realized that three pairs of gold earrings and a gold necklace had also been taken. There was no sign of forced entry. Cops said the burglar may have entered through a kitchen window.

Upside down

A burglar ransacked a man's Seventh Avenue apartment on Feb. 1 and left in such disarray that the victim couldn't identify what he had lost.

Stolen purse

A similar burglary took place the following morning, Jan. 16, two blocks away on Union Street.

Overnite larceny

Some things only make sense at 1:30 in the morning. For instance, in the wee hours of Feb. 3, a man harassed and robbed a 21-year-old and his girlfriend while they were walking through the drive-through of a popular fast-food restaurant at the corner of Gold and Tillary streets.

Suicide cash

A thief pinched \$1,600 from a suitcase in an apartment on Union Street on Feb. 2. The victim, a 49-year-old man, said somebody came through his back door between noon and 4:30 pm and stole the cash he kept in his suitcase.

Baby joey

Christy, a Prospect Park zoo kangaroo, has had a joey, which is a fancy way of saying her pouch has put up a "No Vagancys" sign. Christy is seen here with her new son or daughter, who remains unnamed until zoo experts can determine the tot's gender. The zoo's male 'roo, Junior, is the father.

Violent rob

Three unidentified perps violently beat a 38-year-old man on the corner of Ovington and 12th avenues on Jan. 30.

Rough customer

A routine transaction at an Atlantic Avenue drug store turned violent when the customer pulled a gun and emptied the register on Jan. 30.

Game on!

A man entered a popular chain sporting goods store on Fifth Avenue and walked out with 20 football jerseys just after 10:30 am on Jan. 25.

76th Precinct

GARROLD GARDENY/ CORNELL HILL / RED HOOK 2 men, 1 arm Two men, one carrying an automatic gun, robbed another man on West Ninth Street on Jan. 28.

Tools stolen

A thief broke into a car parked on 85th Street and stole construction tools on Jan. 31.

Fake bondsman

A man impersonating a bail bondsman fleeced a woman out of \$5,000 on Jan. 24 in the criminal court on Schermerhorn Street.

Stolen!

A hooligan broke into a Fifth Avenue apartment on Jan. 31 and stole a computer. The thief damaged the front door to get into the first-floor residence, sometime between 8:15 am and 9:15 pm.

68th Precinct

BAY RIDGE / DYKER HTS Held up Two gun-wielding men who were outfitted with two-way radios charged into a popular Fifth Avenue restaurant and threatened to kill everyone before making off with \$5,700 on Jan. 30.

Tools stolen

A thief broke into a car parked on 85th Street and stole construction tools on Jan. 31.

78th Precinct

PARK SLOPE Family feud A man's 15th Street apartment was sacked on Jan. 30 and he blames his estranged daughter and her boyfriend for the crime.

GOTCHA! A man's car is stolen, but he catches thief next day

By Dana Rubinstein The Brooklyn Paper A man was foolish enough to leave the keys in his Mercedes — but he got his revenge over the thief who drove off with the car the next day.

Violent rob

A thief made off with \$1,790 worth of jewelry, video games and sneakers from a 68th Street apartment on Jan. 31.

Watch that bag

A thief grabbed the 21-year-old alleged car-stealer and Staten Island resident.

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## SMART mom

By Louise Crawford

ended by the fact that she was alone and she had to set down the law. Consequently, she and Teen Spirit had a huge fight on Friday morning. Smartmom wasn't going to take no for an answer.

"Get up NOW. You're going to be late!" she screamed and she really meant it.

"Two more minutes," he begged.

"No," she said.

"Please," he pleaded.

"NO," she said so loud the upstairs and the downstairs neighbors probably heard her. Luckily no one complained.

Finally, Teen Spirit got out of bed and grumpily got into his skinny jeans, his father's old leather aviator jacket, his grandfather's wingtips and stormed out of the house.

Smartmom felt a mix of triumph and pain. She hates when Teen Spirit leaves the house that way (it probably reminds her of the door-slaming fights she had when she was an adolescent). No doubt, that's why she lets Hepcat be the bad cop while she gets to be the sympathetic one.

Indeed, Hepcat's absence is forcing Smartmom to have one heck of an insight. When he's not around, she has to exercise the parts of herself that she doesn't bother to face when he's around. Like remembering how to do math problems and giving Teen Spirit a piece of her mind.

Clearly, Hepcat not only comes in handy when Smartmom isn't quite remembering something mathematical, but at those more-important times when Smartmom doesn't want to face her anger. When Hepcat is around, she need use only a fraction of her power — just the way she likes it, apparently.

After Teen Spirit left for school on Friday morning, Smartmom felt lightheaded. There was a tingling sensation in her body mixed with a true sense of power.

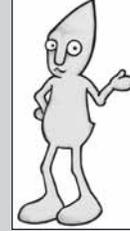
She was a toughie and it felt really, really good.

Teen Spirit might even have gotten to school on time.

Louise Crawford also writes "Only the Blog Knows Brooklyn."

## FAMILY CALENDAR

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal Jay



Gustafur Yellowgold performs at Southpaw on Feb. 10

**SATURDAY, FEB. 9**  
10 am-4:30 pm: Lunar New Year celebration. Prospect Park Zoo (enter park at 451 Flatbush Ave. near Empire Boulevard). \$6, \$2 kids. Call (718) 399-7339 for info.

11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. Brooklyn Museum (200 Eastern Pkwy. at Washington Avenue in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 230-1000 for info.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: Puppet show. "Cinderella." Puppetworks (238 Sixth Ave. at Fourth Street in Park Slope). \$8, \$7 kids. Call (718) 488-1628 for info.

3 pm: Dance performance. Kumble Theater (Long Island University Brooklyn Campus, Flatbush and DeKalb avenues). Call (718) 488-1628 for info.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 10**  
2 pm: Concert with Gustafur Yellowgold. Southpaw (125 Fifth Ave. at Sterling Place in Park Slope). \$10. Call (718) 230-0236 for info.

2 pm: "Flora and Fauna in the Chinese New Year." Brooklyn Botanic Garden (1000 Washington Ave. at Montgomery Street in Prospect Heights). Free. Call (718) 623-7200 for info.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 9.

3 pm: Dance performance. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

10 am to 4:30 pm: Lunar New Year. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

**MONDAY, FEB. 11**  
10 am and 11:30 am: Kid's theater. "The African Drum." NYC College of Technology (285 Jay St. at Tillary Street in Downtown Brooklyn). \$7. Call (212) 724-0677 for info.

**SATURDAY, FEB. 16**  
11 am and 2 pm: Art workshop. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 9.

1 pm: Craft workshop. Salt Marsh Nature Center (2302 Ave. U at East 32nd Street in Sheepshead Bay). Free. Call (718) 421-0201 for info.

**SUNDAY, FEB. 17**  
2 pm: "Jumpin' Jumper Show." Brooklyn Arts Exchange (421 First Ave. at Eighth Street in Park Slope). \$10, \$8 kids (2 and young are). Call (718) 832-0018 for info.

11 am and 2 pm: Kid's art workshop. See Saturday, Feb. 9.

12:30 pm and 2:30 pm: "Cinderella." See Saturday, Feb. 9.

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# ¡Ay! My ankle goes on vacation

**A**KUMAL, MEXICO — So whose brilliant idea was this? Oh, yeah, I forgot. It was mine. It's one thing to be puffing up Eighth Avenue to catch the B69, but it has turned out to be quite another thing to go on a beach vacation — crutches and all — when you have a broken ankle.

On the plus side, just as in Brooklyn, the people of this seaside paradise have opened their hearts to me and my tobillo to into the local argot for "broken ankle"). And unlike in Brooklyn, the love I'm feeling down here is pure: These people love my broken ankle for what it is, not simply because it's attached to the still-functioning leg of the man recently named "Editor of the Year" by the *Suburban Newspapers of America* (have I been mentioning that award too often?) Tough luck. No one asks Mariusa Tomez to stop talking about her Oscar for "My Cousin Vinny.")

On the negative side, where do I begin? Ever try to walk on a beach in crutches? Getting to the water involves a Herculean (actually Sisyphean) effort as my crutch poles sink deeper and deeper into the sand. The locals

## THE BROOKLYN ANKLE

By **Gersh Kuntzman**

point, calling me "El loco gringo," I'd like to think they're impressed by my attempt to make the best of a bad situation, but I fear they are just making fun of me.

Ever the optimist, my wife had told me from the start that my role on this trip would merely be to sit by the pool with a margarita and a book and she would take care of everything.

Loyal readers of this column know that I don't "sit" by anything, margarita or not, and just let other people "take care" of everything (though I am enjoying Park Slope author Nicole Krauss's "The History of Love").

And the margarita turned out to be a complete lie! The day we landed, all the bars, restaurants and supermarkets had police tape around every single bottle of booze. My Spanish isn't too good, but even I could read the sign: "No alcohol sales permitted until Feb. 4 due to the election."

Turns out, all of Quintana Roo was having its state presidential election and the authorities have banned alcohol sales (my limited Spanish left me unsure whether the two-day Prohibition was designed to encourage a sober decision-making process or to discourage a drunken revel when the winner — a choice between Senor Corrupto and Senora Incompetento — was announced).

My 6-year-old was savvy enough to take that something was wrong.

"No beer during the election?" she asked. "That's the OPPOSITE of what it should be." (Note to child welfare authorities: I have NO IDEA how she could possibly understand this central truth about al-



Despite an ankle injury that would deter lesser men, our Editor of the Year hits the beach in Mexico this week, cast and crutches be damned.

cohol. She's a smart kid, what can I say?)

Anyway, I showed at least six bartenders my American passport — an indication that I was ineligible to vote in their election and should therefore be allowed to waste myself away again in Margaritaville — but it was all for naught.

As a result, I watched the Super Bowl

In a related story, a bidding war has broken out over my first cast, the one signed by Borough President Markowitz.

To raise money for Markowitz's "Camp Brooklyn" charity, I put this priceless collectible — a journalistic, medical and political heirloom — on eBay with a starting price of \$2.

As I write this, the bidding, which closes on Saturday at midnight, has topped \$100, a frenzy of activity fueled, no doubt, by the rivalry between Councilmembers Bill DeBlasio (D-Park Slope) and Simcha Felder (D-Borough Park).

Both cops aspire to higher office — DeBlasio to the borough presidency, Felder to city comptroller — so it's clear that both men think that winning my cast is a springboard.

Indeed, nothing shows a deep interest in the concerns of the electorate more than winning my sweaty, Markowitz-signed cast.

But why let them get off easy? Help me raise money for "Camp Brooklyn" — and show up my wife, who said the auction wouldn't raise more than \$5 — by driving up the price. Bid today!

Kuntzman's wife is expected to be in a cast for at least four more weeks, putting in jeopardy whether he will be free of this fiberglass hell in time to collect his Editor of the Year award in Punta Vidra Beach, Florida, on Feb. 21. Watch for updates. In the meantime, you have until Saturday at midnight to bid on his cast, which is signed by Borough President Markowitz.

Go to <http://cgi.ebay.com/ws/ebaySAP:aff?from=item&item=2007970264> to bid. All money from the winning bid will go to Camp Brooklyn (no, really!). For information on the charity, visit [www.brooklyn-us.org/Pages/whats\\_happening\\_in\\_brooklyn/campbrooklyn\\_info.htm](http://www.brooklyn-us.org/Pages/whats_happening_in_brooklyn/campbrooklyn_info.htm)

# 40G raised for cyclist causes

By **Dana Rubinstein**

The Brooklyn Paper

In the two months since his son was killed cycling across the Manhattan Bridge, Brooklyn Brewery founder Steve Hindy has shepherded nearly \$400,000 in donations to a group working to make city streets safer for bikers.

Most recently, Bobby Gagnon, owner of the Gate, a park Slope bar that Steve Hindy called his "local pub," donated \$3,500 — from the sale of Brooklyn Brewery's Winter Ale — to Transportation Alternatives.

Hindy's son Sam accidentally biked onto the Manhattan Bridge's upper level, which is reserved for cars and trucks, on Nov. 16. When he realized his mistake, he turned around, struck a concrete barrier, and fell to the lower level, where he was hit by a car. The devoted cyclist was 27.

Indeed, the morning of his death, Sam Hindy sold his car to one of his father's colleagues at the Williamsburg-based brewery.

"He was committed to going totally green," said Steve Hindy. "So we immediately thought of Transportation Alternatives when his tragedy struck us."

Transportation Alternatives' Executive Director Paul Steely White promised that the money, donated by friends and colleagues of the Hindy family, would go towards preventing such tragedies.

# BEATEN...

Continued from page 1

All of 13th Street was shocked at the attack on Gabbur.

"He's so dedicated," said Eva, whose children have been going Gabbur for the 15 years. "You don't find doctors like him any more. Usually doctors put the money before the patient, but not him. He's the opposite."

For Gabbur, payment is less important than treatment. When patients cannot afford to pay, he doesn't charge. Because of that policy, many patients liken him to the St. Vincent of Albert Schweitzer.

"It doesn't matter to me whether they have money," he told The Brooklyn Paper. "I actually feel bad when I ask them for money — even when it's just a small amount."

Anyone with information about the assault are asked to contact the 78th Precinct at (718) 636-6411.

## Correction

Last week's story about the rise of concierge services in Brooklyn ("Jeeves, be a dear and get my laundry," Feb. 2) incorrectly referred to Sharon Beason, the owner of All About Brooklyn, as an "aspiring accountant." She is a former accountant. Also, the role of the Developers Group at One Brooklyn Bridge Park was mischaracterized. The company is doing sales and marketing for the development. The Brooklyn Paper regrets the errors.

# POLICE...

**Continued from page 4**

**Fake cop**  
A thug who impersonated a police officer stole a man's cash and dignity at 11:45 pm on Jan. 21.

The victim was on 85th Street near 17th Avenue at 11:45 pm when the impersonator pulled up in a dark-colored vehicle. The thief exited the car, told the victim he was a police officer, and without showing any identification, began searching him, removing a wallet which contained \$150, police said.

The thief followed the victim as he walked back to the apartment, but then quickly sped off down 84th Street, throwing back

handgun and said, "Open the register and take out the money."  
The terrified employee complied, and the hood grabbed \$150 and ran off down the street.

**Car jamming**  
At least three cars were stolen and another two were broken into in the Fort Greene area during another bad week for vehicle owners.

In the most brazen incident, a man's car was stolen at a car wash while he was paying his bill at 7 pm on Jan. 31. The victim had just gotten his 2001 Lincoln Towncar a thorough cleaning around 7 pm at a car wash on Flatbush Avenue Extension near Willowby Street, and was setting up at the register when a man wearing a green jacket ran into the vehicle and drove it away. Security cameras were present, but they did not get a clear view of the perp.

Another sedan — a 1995 BMW — was stolen earlier that day just a few blocks away on Navy Street near Tillary Street around midnight.

The third vehicle — a 1990 Jeep Cherokee — was parked at the corner of Cambridge Place and Gates Avenue around 6 pm on Jan. 30. When the owner returned round 8 am on Feb. 2, it was no longer there.

Earlier, cars were broken into but not stolen. On Jan. 27, a crook took \$2,400 worth of photography equipment from a 2000 Honda Civic parked at the corner of Willowby Street and Washington avenues. Also, a rear window was broken and a DVD player and stereo was ripped out of

Pathfinder that was parked on Downing Street near Gates Avenue on Jan. 28 around 8 am. The loss was valued at \$1,800.

**Mistaken ID**  
An innocent bystander was assaulted by an angry woman who was apparently looking for vengeance on Feb. 1.

The victim, a 48-year-old woman, was waiting in the Lafayette Avenue train station at 6:30 pm when a black-clad short woman approached and, without warning, punched her in the face.

"You took my life!" the attacker yelled, grabbing the woman's backpack before running away.

The stunned victim didn't receive serious injuries, but she did lose an iPod, credit cards, and keys she needed for work.

**Purse purloined**  
A purse-snatcher grabbed a woman's handbag as she was heading home early on Feb. 2.

The 31-year-old victim was walking along Carlton Avenue, near Lafayette Avenue, at around 1 am, when a man wearing a dark blue jacket asked for her help. The woman, rightly suspicious, said she couldn't help him and kept walking. The criminal decided to eschew tricking her, and simply ran behind her and grabbed her bag from her arm as he went past.

There were credit cards, a monthly Metrocard, and ID cards inside the purse, but the most valuable thing was the bag itself — it was a Gryson bag, worth \$715, cops said.

— **Harry Cheshire**

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# GO BROOKLYN

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

February 9, 2008

## Love bites

Heartbeats and good eats abound on Valentine's Day

By Adam Rathe and Linnea Covington  
The Brooklyn Paper

There's nothing romantic about spending Valentine's Day in front of the stove. And while making dinner for your sweetheart is certainly an admirable gesture, why not leave the cooking to the professionals? Across the borough, chefs are preparing meals that might prove once and for all that the way into someone's heart is through his stomach.

### Archives Restaurant

For \$150 per couple, including tax and gratuity, lovebirds can indulge in a gourmet, three-course meal — including a glass of “pink champagne” — at Archives Restaurant in the Brooklyn Marriott in Downtown Brooklyn.

Chef Ralph Romano is offering starters like a roasted chestnut soup with foie gras cracklings or a candied beet salad. Romano's main courses include braised pork shank with parsnip puree, a surf-and-turf plate or roasted cod. The dessert, however, is worthy

of being your Valentine all by itself: a chocolate, cream cheese pound cake with raspberry coulis and marzipan hearts.

Archives Restaurant (333 Adams St. at Willoughby Street in Downtown Brooklyn) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves breakfast and lunch daily, dinner Tuesday through Saturday and brunch on Sundays. For information, call (718) 222-6543 or visit [www.marriott.com](http://www.marriott.com).

### Chez Lola

With its low lighting, pressed tin ceilings and chic French charm, Chez Lola always oozes romance. This Valentine's Day, though, thanks to a special menu from chef Octavio Simanca, the Fort Greene restaurant will be creating an even more amorous setting. For \$32 per person, diners will get a three-course meal — with a bonus amuse bouche at the start of the meal and truffles at the end — with choices like spinach salad with watermelon and hearts of palm; chicken with mascarpone, polenta and mushroom sauce; a mint-pesto crusted leg of lamb; and desserts like molten chocolate cake or sweet



Valentine's day vittles: At Chez Lola in Fort Greene, chef Octavio Simanca will offer couples a special three-course menu on Feb. 14.

crepes with fruit compote.

Chez Lola (387 Myrtle Ave. at Vanderbilt Avenue in Fort Greene) accepts American Express. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner daily. For information, call (718) 858-1484 or visit [www.bistolola.com](http://www.bistolola.com).

### Dressler

Once seated at Dressler, which boasts one of the best looking dining rooms (and matching servers) in Williamsburg, maneuvering the three-course \$70 prix-fixe Valentine's Day menu will require all of your concentration. Options include appetizers like Hudson Valley foie gras with heirloom apples and white grapes, oysters or a warm artichoke heart salad and entrees such as grilled and braised duck with truffled potatoes or Scottish salmon. Desserts will be announced day of by chef Dopkin Polo and, if your date doesn't do it already, are sure to make you swoon.

Dressler (149 Broadway at Driggs Avenue in Williamsburg) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday

and brunch on weekends. For information, call (718) 384-6343 or visit [www.dressler.com](http://www.dressler.com).

### Laura's Gourmet Bistro

“We’re having a romantic dinner by candlelight,” said Laura Leone, owner of Windsor Terrace’s Laura’s Gourmet Bistro, and she wasn’t kidding. For \$45 per head, couples can perch at a table for two and tuck into a four-course meal of baked clams, homemade ravioli in a mushroom sauce, osso buco and chicken rollatini.

To finish things on a sweet note, Laura’s will be serving Italian gelato.

“A lot of people get engaged here, because they feel like this is a special place,” Leone said. “Once you come, you always want to come back again.”

Laura’s Gourmet Bistro (1235 Prospect Ave. at Reeve Place in Windsor Terrace) accepts American Express, MasterCard and Visa. The restaurant serves dinner Tuesday

See **VALENTINE** on page 8

## ART

### Kiss this

A good kiss is unforgettable, and to prove it, Lori Baker and David E. Brown are displaying 76 photographs of kisses from their personal collections at Williamsburg’s City Reliquary now through March 31. Baker and Brown, who live in Carroll Gardens, are committed amateur photographers. When they met, they discovered they were drawn to the strange allure of vernacular, or found, photographs.

Looking through their collections, they found a variety of photos with kissing as the subject, and decided to develop a collection that evolved into their first show.

“We would go into junk stores,” said Baker, “and spend hours sorting through bins of photos, hoping to come across a kissing photo. It was like panning for gold.”

The photos in the exhibition span the 20th century, the majority hailing from 1930s to the ‘60s. The photos include a couple kissing at a lake, an older couple smooching — while the woman holds a cigarette in her hand, and a man holding and bussing his pregnant wife.

“This exhibit is a new and strange thing,” added Baker. “It’s great, but my collections all feel so personal. There’s a vulnerability in showing these to the world.”

“We’re very happy that it’s up at The City Reliquary,” added Brown, “as it’s an organization dedicated to collections and collectors in New York.”

“76 Kisses” will be on display until March 31 at the City Reliquary (370 Metropolitan Ave. at Havemeyer Street in Williamsburg). For information, call (718) 782-4842 or visit [www.cityreliquary.org](http://www.cityreliquary.org).

—C.W. Thompson

## CINEMA



### Czech mates

It might not be everyone's idea of the perfect Valentine's Day date movie, but don't let that deter you from seeing Miles Forman's hit-or-miss Czech New Wave classic, “Loves of a Blonde,” a gentle but probing look at relationships that’s as far from those typically sappy Hollywood chick-flick romances as it’s possible to be.

In a small Czech town where the ratio of women to men is 16 to 1, young factory worker Andula (the delightful Hana Brejchová, sister of Forman's then-wife, Jana Brejchová) is desperate to find a man. First, she and her friends flirt with a trio of middle-aged reservists at a party, then Andula falls for a young piano player, whom she goes to bed with. However, when a smitten Andula arrives at his parents' home to continue their relationship, she discovers that true love is far more complicated than she thought.

Forman's breakthrough film — it was nominated for the 1966 Best Foreign Film Oscar — “Loves of a Blonde” explores first love with a frankness rarely seen onscreen, eschewing the sentimentality that later crept into even his better American films, with the notable exception of that underrated, bitingly satiric gem “The People vs. Larry Flynt.”

“Loves of a Blonde” plays at BAMcinematek in conjunction with a complete retrospective of Forman's films at the Museum of Modern Art in Manhattan Feb. 14-28, which includes his two Oscar-winning films for Best Picture and Best Director, “One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest” and “Amadeus,” along with early, pre-“Blonde” features from Forman's native Czechoslovakia, “Audition” and “Black Peter.”

BAMcinematek presents “Loves of a Blonde” Feb. 15-21 at the BAM Rose Cinemas, 30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene. Tickets are \$11; seniors, students and children are \$7.50. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). For information on the Museum of Modern Art retrospective, visit [www.moma.org](http://www.moma.org).

—Kevin Filipski



SWAK: At Jacques Torres Chocolate in DUMBO, sexy “Champagne Kiss” truffles are infused with Tattinger bubbly.

## Handcrafted hearts

Woo them with chocolate treats made in Brooklyn

By Linnea Covington  
for The Brooklyn Paper

As we write, the heady scent of homemade chocolate treats is wafting from every corner of the borough. Among the sweets emporiums we visited for freshly made Valentine's Day gift-giving ideas was a 61-year-old chocolate shop in Midwood that has been handed down from father to

son, to a less-than-year-old-kosher chocolate store in Park Slope.

If your sweetheart swoons for cocoa, Brooklyn offers seemingly endless forms of handmade temptation. You can ply your lover with a simple milk chocolate heart, or a white chocolate truffle infused with rose water or ganache bursting with Champagne flavor.

“Most of what we sell is for someone to give to someone else,” said Michale Rogak

of JoMat Chocolate in Marine Park. “We help people celebrate their lives.”

### CaryMo Chocolates

Confectioner Cary Becraft presents a trio of handcrafted chocolate hearts this Valentine's Day. Becraft, who learned to make chocolate while working at the River Cafe in DUMBO, started CaryMo Chocolate Candies and Con-

See **CHOCOLATE** on page 8

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 Continued from page 7  
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All Dressler-ed up: (Above) Williamsburg's Dressler restaurant will offer a \$70 prix-fixe dinner on Valentine's Day. (At left) Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone will offer a special menu a la carte in Carroll Gardens.

**All Dressler-ed up:** (Above) Williamsburg's Dressler restaurant will offer a \$70 prix-fixe dinner on Valentine's Day. (At left) Marco Polo chef Bruno Milone will offer a special menu a la carte in Carroll Gardens.

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**CHOCOLATE...**

Continued from page 7  
 feicians in 2000. This year, she will  
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 rose-scented marshmallow center; a  
 salt-and-pepper caramel wrapped in a  
 milk chocolate heart; and a dark choco-  
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 CaryMo is offering a chocolate tasting  
 on Saturday, Feb. 9, from 5 pm to 7  
 pm, at the Greene Grape (165 Fulton  
 St. at South Oxford Street in Fort  
 Greene). For more information, call  
 (718) 797-9463 or visit the Web site  
 www.greengrape.com.  
 CaryMo's chocolate heart trio is  
 available at Stinky Brooklyn (261  
 Smith St. at Degraw Street in Carroll  
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**Chocolate Girl**  
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 Owner Tzipora Avigayil Jaeger will  
 also offer heart-shaped boxes filled  
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 Chocolate Girl is located at 383 Seventh  
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**Chocolate Room**  
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 sexy bite of white chocolate with dark  
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 swirled milk and dark chocolate sur-  
 rounding a basil-apricot core; and Don-  
 na, a dark chocolate heart with a rich  
 currant center that glitters with copper  
 dust. Purchase these hearts individual-  
 ly or by the pound (\$40 per pound).  
 Also featured is the Fritz Knipschidit  
 Valentine box, which comes in two  
 sizes, large with 23 pieces (\$35) and  
 small with 17 (\$29).

Chocolate Room owners Naomi  
 Joseph and Jon Rayson are also offer-  
 ing, for the third year running, a three-  
 course chocolate tasting (\$28 per per-  
 son) by chef Jennifer Jupiter. The  
 tasting is held only on Valentine's Day  
 in their intimate cafe. There will be  
 three seatings at 7 pm, 8:30 pm and 10  
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 The Chocolate Room is located at  
 86 Fifth Ave. at Prospect Place in  
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 Michael Rogak happily tempts his cus-  
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# 'Wild' time

Gallery Players 'Party' all night long with hours of song and debauchery

By Deirdre Donovan  
for The Brooklyn Paper

It's off — from fedoras to cloches, from feathered caps to top hats — to The Gallery Players, for reviving the flamboyant musical, "The Wild Party." The production kicks off the New Year in high theatrical style and stirs up a real musical tempest in Brooklyn.

With music, book and lyrics by Andrew Lippa, plus lighting by John Eckert, Jazz Age costumes by Summer Lee Jack, this is racy stuff, made racy by choreographer Brian Swasey and musical director Jeffrey Campos. This musical is, mark you, a kind of dark parable about the Roaring Twenties, and how its razzamatazz

fast. Derived from Joseph Moncure March's 1926 narrative poem, the work is freshly imagined under the sane and sober direction of Neal Freeman.

Forgive my clabbering you with so many names, but credit must be given where it's due. In compensation, I'll briefly outline the party, which centers on a quartet of characters. In this new adaptation, Queenie, a gorgeous vaudeville dancer, and Burns, her abusive beau, decide to throw a wild party, which pushes their love-hate relationship over the edge.

The other couple? They are your stereotypical pretty boy with his hand-boiled dandy. The setting is the Big City. And, once the party gets underway, there will be a lot of two-sitting among this foursome.

I have no major quarrels with the current production. In fact, one of the main reasons it

pulled me in from the get-go was that it's — first and foremost — a true revival. That is, it breathes zesty, new life into the seven-year-old musical. Without being gimmicky, the show creates its own frisson.

Glancing back to the original production at the Manhattan Theater Club in 2001, the musical arrived like the proverbial rose with a thorn. The critics, without totally panning its premiere, were hesitant in giving it a thumbs-up. Many felt that its sizzling content and anything-goes attitude was too frivolous and verged on vulgarity. Nonetheless, the critics and public eventually came round. And the show went on to win the Outer Critic Circle Award for Best Off-Broadway Musical

## THEATER

The Gallery Players presents "Wild Party" through Feb. 24, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 pm, and Sundays at 3 pm. Also, 2 pm matinee performances will be offered on Feb. 16 and Feb. 23. The Gallery Players is located at 199 14th St. between Fourth and Fifth avenues in Park Slope. Tickets are \$18, \$14 for seniors. Tickets can be purchased by calling TheaterMania at (212) 352-3101 or by visiting the Web site [www.galleryplayers.com](http://www.galleryplayers.com).

and a Drama Desk Award for Best Music.

What I like about this particular revival is that the creative team seems to adhere more closely to the actual text of March's book-length poem. The former, and more lavish, MTC production seemed more intent on the high-gloss effects, or perhaps dramatically appropriating to the stage the fashionable illustrations of Art Spiegelman's 1994 publication of "The Wild Party." The Gallery Players production takes up that slack, and you get a much meatier rendering of March's work here.

March's poem is a slow burn. And its bebop verse rhythms (along with some doggerel) poses challenges to even the most astute creative team. Furthermore, its subject matter — sex (of all varieties), booze and hot jazz — makes any stage-adaptation a tough bet. To be sure, the work can turn trashy in a nanosecond under the wrong direction. But to Freeman's credit, he takes the spicy material and gives it lots of jazzy substance. Without taking the narrative poem verbatim, he's able to retain enough of the language, and injects the necessary adrenaline, to fit the two-act structure.



Ladies man: Jonathan Hack (center) as Burns in The Gallery Players production of "The Wild Party," on stage through Feb. 24 in Park Slope.

Not surprisingly, the music is the thing in the show. Forget spoken dialogue. This is a totally sung-through musical — and Andrew Lippa's music and lyrics coalesce like a charm. The opening number, "Queenie is a Blonde," sets the tone of the piece and calibrates the emotional energy of the rest of the scenes. But it is the second song, "The Apartment," that better captures the lack-advisal personality of Queenie (who sleeps till noon). This song strikingly spells out the sexual tension, and hidden jealousies, between her and Burns.

The show is a veritable feast of songs. Sixteen numbers zigzag through Act One, and Act Two brings the grand total to 19. My favorites? Perhaps the powerhouse solo, "An Old-Fashioned Love Story," belted out by veteran Gallery Players actor Lauren Hagens as Madeleine True, in Act One, as the predatory lesbian.

What works against the production, in my view, is its sheer length. After two-and-a-half-hours, the show sagged under its own musical weight. Aren't there a few scenes that might be cut, or trimmed, an iota? I realize I'm nitpicking. But even with the intermission, the show seemed like a marathon of songs.

I would have liked a more sangfroid finale as well. This is no happily-ever-after story, and perhaps a more visually chilling tableau in the last tragic scene would heighten the theatrical power.

This is my second visit to The Gallery Players this season. And I must admit that they have succeeded, once again, in bringing first-rate talent into their intimate, no-frills venue. This might not be a flawless production, but snub this "Wild Party" at your own risk.

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# What's up 'Next'

While The National will take the stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23, there are 175 shows that comprise "Brooklyn Next," and you can be sure to find your new favorite band at one of them.

Held across the borough at venues like Grand Dakar Cafe in Clinton Hill, Southampton Park Skye and Pete's Candy Store in Williamsburg, the series — now in its second year — is designed to create a sense of community between the up-and-coming bands of Brooklyn and BAM, one of the borough's cultural behemoths.

Groups like Turnables on the Hudson (playing a Feb. 20 party at Southampton) and The A-Bones (playing Feb. 23 at Magnetic Field in Brooklyn Heights) are drawn into the clubs thanks to a grant that makes it possible for smaller venues to pay the bands more than just a cut of the bar's business.

"It seems like BAM's mission is to nurture the Brooklyn music scene," said Andy McDowell, owner of Pete's Candy Store. "There are a lot of great acts that aren't necessarily getting the kind of attention or pay that they should, and this provides for the bands to perform. It's also a chance to attract acts that might not play at a place as small as ours."

Similarly, in putting the series together, BAM is able to work with nightclub and musicians that it might not otherwise have a chance to, such as the White Rabbits (pictured) which will play the BAMcafe on Feb. 16.

"Brooklyn Next" runs through Feb. 24 at venues around the borough. Prices vary. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). — Adam Rathe

# Super National

## 'Boxer' band sells out two nights at BAM

By Adam Rathe  
The Brooklyn Paper

When local rock bands begin selling out the usual venues — Galapagos, Southampton, The Music Hall of Williamsburg — they tend to move on to the super-sized concert halls of Manhattan and stadiums across the country.

The National, however, is taking a step sideways. Instead of playing for a room of wild, crowd-surfing fans — like they'll do on tour with Modest Mouse and R.E.M. this summer — on Feb. 22 and 23, everyone who goes to see the band will be seated, and a mosh pit will definitely be discouraged.

On those evenings, the band will be taking the stage at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's opera house to play two sold-out shows as part of BAM's "Brooklyn Next" series. But for a group that's used to playing at rock clubs, BAM's guided halls can be a bit daunting.

"We were really flattered when they asked, so it's something we're nervous about, because we're used to loud clubs where people are drinking a lot," said Matt Berninger, the band's singer and a Prospect Heights resident. "We never expected to do that kind of a show. It seems

**MUSIC**  
The National will play at 8 pm on Feb. 22 and Feb. 23 at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Howard Gilman Opera House (50 Lafayette Ave. at Ashford Place in Fort Greene). Both shows are sold out. For information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).

a strong musical community — making the borough fertile ground for up-and-coming bands. I don't have a sense of there being a Brooklyn scene now. It's just a huge place where a lot of people live and make music," he said. "There's not this tight-knit

community of musical cross-pollination. Everybody sees shows, but it's not that kind of scene."

And while Brooklyn might not have a small-town indie rock infrastructure, the National isn't exactly small-time. "Boxer," the band's other record, Berninger's fifth full-length, was released in May and has become a staple on top 10 lists and the iPods of chock-in music fans. With Berninger's deep voice and remarkable lyrics and the tight talent of the rest of the band (Dessner and his brother Aaron as well as Bryan and Scott Devendorf, also brothers), the National has gained national attention and a rabid local fan base.

"We're starting to worry that we're playing New York too much," said Berninger. "We've played 25 venues in the city, and we've done them all once or twice." Still, the Feb. 22 date at BAM sold out, and the second show, which is also completely full, was added to meet still-strong demand.

Fans might be surprised to learn that despite the songs of love and loss that fill "Boxer" and the band's other records, Berninger isn't writing autobiographical lyrics.

"I look for lyrical inspiration [everywhere]," he said. "I don't have a process, and it actually takes me quite a long time to write lyrics that aren't bad. I will steal from wherever I can find it, conversations or eavesdropping on people at a bar. That's where

the most interesting stuff comes from, the awkward little details of normal people talking about something."

Berninger cited influences like Nick Cave and Tom Waits — "people who have no fear of sounding like an a-h-ole" — and said that his band is too often pegged as precious and sad by critics.

"We've been described as a dark, morose band, but I've always thought that while there are moments like that in our songs, it was never accurate," he said. "I don't think of 'Boxer' as being a depressing record at all. We might be darker than some bands, but I never thought of us as moosey."

And with a sold-out crowd packing the seats in BAM's opera house, it's unlikely that the audience will be mopey either.

"I don't know what the atmosphere will be like," said Berninger. "But we're looking forward to it."



National goes local: The National will play the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Feb. 22 and 23.

## The algo-rhythm

The Nationals' "Boxer" has topped plenty of "Best of 2007" lists, but if you've never heard them, you won't understand why. GO BROOKLYN breaks it down for you, explaining the charm of one of the best bands in the borough.

Take the sensitive, slightly maudlin sound of the Cure, which was epitomized by 1989's "Disintegration," and add...

the anthemic, edgy sound of Interpol, another band of New York gloomers. Toss in... the swagger of former Smiths frontman Morrissey, whose wit made albums like 1988's "Viva Hate" classics, and you'll have



The National's "Boxer."

## 9 DAYS...

Continued from page 2  
fession, \$25, \$15 members, 7 pm to 8:30 pm, 250 Baltic St. (718) 637-1892

### Tues, Feb 12

**SENIOR EVENT:** Bay Ridge Chapter of AAUW meets, 2:30 pm, Shore Hill Housing, 9000 Shore Rd. (718) 748-9114.  
**BUSINESS TALK:** CAMBA offers a business workshop, 7:30 pm, Home-Based Business. Learn what steps are involved in the planning and execution of a business based out of your home. 6 pm to 8:30 pm, 884 Flatbush Ave. (718) 282-2500. Free.  
**NEXT WAVE:** Brooklyn Academy of

Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth." Benefit performance, 8 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. See for ticket info: (718) 636-4102.  
**TEMPING TAPAS:** The Center for Koster Culinary Arts offers a class in 2008 production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, St. Patrick's Auditorium, 178 St. Patrick's Avenue, (718) 482-3173.

### Wed, Feb 13

**SENIOR ACTIVITIES:** Adults 60 and older are invited to an art class, 1 pm to 3 pm, 115 pm, St. Charles Church, 450 4th Ave. Services, 55 Piermont St. (718) 855-0324. Free.  
**AFRICAN HERITAGE:** Exhibit hosted by the Urban Ovens Diversity Conservancy, The Harlem River Ecology Center and the Eniron Media Mobile Project. Documentaries, art and more, 3 pm to 9 pm, Governors Community Center, 420 Baltic St. (718) 797-7752 or (647) 224-5626. Free.  
**MEDITERRANEAN COOKING:** The Center for Koster Culinary Arts explains how to prepare variations of the traditional regional cuisine and street foods, 5:30 to 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm, 1407 Coney Island Ave. (718) 692-2442.  
**AUDITION:** Community Theater holds auditions for its Spring 2008 production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None," 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm, Salem Lutheran Church, 450 67th St. (718) 482-3173.  
**NEXT WAVE:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth," 5:30 to 8:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.

### THURS, FEB 14

**SUPPORT:** New York Methodist Hospital offers a support group for individuals who are affected by osteoarthritis. The group is led by both a physician and a chaplain. 2 pm to 4 pm, Radiation On-

## Black History Month events

### Sat, Feb 9

**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Queens Conservatory of Music and the Brooklyn Museum present jazz legend Taj Mahal, \$25 and \$50, students and seniors \$15. Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy., (212) 209-3370.  
**MUSIC:** Brooklyn Library's Central Branch hosts a celebration of composer and violinist Leroy Jenkins. Wadada Leo Smith, Myra Melles, Thomas Burrows and Flavio Quaresima perform, 3:30, 37 students and seniors, 7 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100.  
**MUSEUM TOUR:** The New York Transit Museum breaks a guided tour highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to transportation, 3 pm. The New York Transit Museum, at the corner of Borsari Plaza and Schermerhorn Street, (718) 694-1000. Free.

### SUN, FEB 10

**MUSEUM TOUR:** Highlighting the contributions of African-Americans to transportation, 3 pm. See Sat, Feb. 9.  
**SAT, FEB 16**  
**AUTHOR TALK:** Ahmad Behar, author of "A Long Way Gone," and his mother, Laura Simms, will speak at the Brooklyn Public Library's Central Branch, 4 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.  
**CONCERT:** Brooklyn Public Library's central branch hosts a concert by Sweet Baby's, a kid-friendly band, 6 pm, Grand Army Plaza, (718) 230-2100. Free.

### SAT, FEB 16

**GOOD COFFEEHOUSE:** Third Street Coffee House and Slice Food Co-op presents Rufus Cappadocia, 8 pm to 10 pm, 33 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-2972.  
**NEW WORK FEST:** Brooklyn Arts Exchange hosts a festival of new works, 5:15, 55 students and seniors, 8 pm, 421 5th Ave., (718) 632-0218.  
**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Wild Party," 8 pm, See Sat, Feb. 16.  
**SP4 DAY:** Brooklyn offers a holiday weekend of free activities on Valentine's Day. Also, jazz from 6 pm to 9 pm, 275 Park Ave. For details, visit [www.brooklyn.org](http://www.brooklyn.org) or call (718) 569-3000.

### SAT, FEB 16

**OUTDOORS**  
**EARLY BINDING:** at Marine Park, 8 am, Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U, (718) 421-2021.  
**ICE SKATING:** at Prospect Park's Weillman Park, 55, 53 kids and seniors, 56 date rental. Sessions at 10 am to 1 pm, 2 pm to 6 pm, 7 pm to 10 pm, Enter park at Lincoln Road and Ocean Avenue, (718) 965-8999.

### SUN, FEB 17

**METROPOLITAN OPERA:** Live transmission of the Metropolitan Opera Live in HD, Today: "Manon Lescaut," 8 pm, 54 students and seniors, 8 pm, 421 5th Ave., 2 hours prior to the opening screening at 1 pm, Sun's 3:00, 41 minutes with 3 intermissions. BAM Rose Cinema, 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4129.  
**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth," \$30 to \$90, 3 pm. Also, post-show discussion, 4 pm, 651 Fulton St. Free for ticket holders. BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. (718) 636-4100.  
**ENGLISH SWORD DANCING:** Half hour sword dancing, 6:30 pm, other English folk dance groups around the country perform, 58, 54 students and seniors, free for members, 6:30 pm, Brooklyn Museum, 200 Eastern Pkwy. (718) 638-2000.  
**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Wild Party," 3 pm. See Sat, Feb. 16.  
**PET ADOPTION:** Shelter dogs, puppies, cats and more available, 11:30 am to 4 pm, 1258 60th St. (718) 381-3622.  
**POINT AND SHOOT:** Brooklyn Artists Gym hosts a camera workshop. Learn about lenses, film, memory cards, how not to accidentally delete photos, lighting, on-camera flash, and more. \$20, 5 pm to 7 pm, 168 Seventh St. (718) 658-9059.

## Impress that Special Someone this Valentine's Day with...

Valentines for Two includes a relaxing soak in rose scented water, a full body massage, and champagne

Cupid's Wish includes a full body massage, a rose petal foot treatment, and Champagne

For more info, please visit [www.cynergyspa.com](http://www.cynergyspa.com) Tel 718.403.9242



colony Conference Room, 506 6th St. (718) 788-3393.  
**BROOKLYN SWEETHEARTS:** Brooklyn President Marty Markowitz and his wife, Jamie, invite Brooklyn residents married for over 50 years to a vow re-affirmation ceremony and champagne reception, 2 pm to 4 pm, Brooklyn Marriott, 333 Adams St., RSVP necessary (718) 602-4488. Free.  
**HOLIDAY MOVIE:** Valentine's night popcorn and movie: "How to Succeed in a City in 10 Days," 7 pm, Salt Marsh Nature Center, 3302 Ave. U, (718) 421-2021. Free.  
**MUSIC:** Singer/songwriter/guitarist Jay Fee Brown performs folk, jazz and world music at Congregation Beth Elohim, 510 B. Pkwy., 274 Garfield Pl., (718) 788-3814, on 218.  
**VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER:** Love is in the air at BAM Cinema and BAM Cafe partner to host a dinner and movie package for Valentine's Day, "His Girl Friday" (1939), Directed by Howard Hawks, with Cary Grant, Ronald Reagan, Ralph Bellamy, 6 pm to 9 pm screening and 8:30 pm dinner at 6:45 pm dinner and 8:30 pm screening, 30 Lafayette Ave. Call for price: (718) 636-4100.  
**BAM:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents Patrick Stewart in Shakespeare's "Macbeth," \$30 to \$90, 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. Also, Soules, Ciccio, and The National perform as part of Brooklyn Next. See story, this

page, \$20, \$25, 8 pm, Howard Gilman Opera House, 50 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.  
**LESBIAN HOLIDAY Party** at Herstory, Music, and Art, photo booth, more, \$5, 8 pm, 484 14th St. (718) 768-3953.  
**GALLERY PLAYERS:** "Wild Party," 8 pm, See Sat, Feb. 16.  
**SP4 DAY:** Brooklyn offers a holiday weekend of free activities on Valentine's Day. Also, jazz from 6 pm to 9 pm, 275 Park Ave. For details, visit [www.brooklyn.org](http://www.brooklyn.org) or call (718) 569-3000.

### Fri, Feb 15

**SENIOR CINEMA:** Brooklyn Academy of Music presents "Macbeth," \$30 to \$90, 7:30 pm, BAM Harvey Theater, 651 Fulton St. Also, Soules, Ciccio, and The National perform as part of Brooklyn Next. See story, this

### LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Nine Days In Brooklyn, please give us two weeks notice. Send your listing by e-mail: [calendar@brooklynpaper.com](mailto:calendar@brooklynpaper.com); by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Paper, 65 West Broadway, Suite 1208, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 634-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot list things over the phone.

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## Preferred Health goes paperless

### Electronic medical records system provides huge patient benefit

Patients are getting better, quicker care and more face time with their doctors at Preferred Health Partners (formerly called Central Brooklyn Medical Group, PC). The network of 10 medical offices throughout Brooklyn is one of the very few across the country to offer this service, which many hospitals do not yet comply with.

The pluses of electronic medical records include fewer errors, the ability to instantly send prescriptions to the pharmacy, doctors at any center can view a patient's chart instantaneously, lab tests can be ordered and results viewed easily, X-rays and other images can be shared or sent to any specialist immediately, and doctors spend less time on paperwork and more time interacting with their patients.

"Patients show great sophistication and more face time with their doctors at Preferred Health Partners (formerly called Central Brooklyn Medical Group, PC). The network of 10 medical offices throughout Brooklyn is one of the very few across the country to offer this service, which many hospitals do not yet comply with.

As examples of how electronic records can be used, Dr. Valdes says, "We can easily run a report of all diabetic patients and their Hemoglobin A1C results in our 10 offices, and see how many are being well managed by their physicians. Or, if a physician were to prescribe a medication that is known to interact adversely with a threatening situation with a key-stroke."

"We can also run reports on all our physicians and know how well they are adhering to national treatment guidelines for a number of chronic disease conditions," Dr. Valdes added.

Preferred Health Partners now accepts most major health insurance plans including HIP, AETNA, Blue Cross Blue Shield, Health Plus, Health First, Metroplus, Oxford, and many others. Dr. Valdes says, "Our medical offices are completely open for you to walk in. We even make same day access available."

For more information about Preferred Health Partners Center locations, call (888) 761-9088 or check online at [www.brooklyndocs.com](http://www.brooklyndocs.com).

## Quality, Reliable Healthcare For The Entire Family

### Preferred Health Partners offers quality healthcare at 10 convenient center locations throughout Brooklyn with one in your neighborhood. Most major insurances accepted.

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- Coney Island Center-1230 Neptune Avenue
- Downtown Center-345 Schermerhorn Street
- Empire Center-546 Eastern Parkway
- Flatbush Center- 1000 Church Avenue
- Kings Highway Center-3245 Nostrand Avenue
- Lindenwood Center-2832 Linden Boulevard
- Brooklyn Heights Center- 200 Montague Street
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# Fashion forward

Across the East River, New York Fashion Week is happening beneath the tents in Bryant Park, but back in Williamsburg, designer Arthur Arbit claims he's already sewing the future.

"Mainstream fashion works two years behind [us]," Arbit, the organizer of the Williamsburg Fashion Weekend, told *GO Brooklyn*. "You want to come to these shows to see things on the edge. [Don't] wait around for the watershed-down version."

Kicking off on Friday, Feb. 15, the weekend — the second such event Arbit has put together — will feature shows from five up-and-coming Williamsburg designers including Mandate of Heaven, Sovereign Beck, SDN, French Me and Arbit's own line, King Kungu.

"I have a lot of friends who are designers," Arbit said, "and I decided to launch my own line. I wanted to do a live event instead of just my show."

"An ideal show for us is a surprise," said Arbit, explaining that the Williamsburg Fashion Weekend featured models tying ribbons to a Maypole in a room filled with stuffed animals. "The designers will come in on a whole different trajectory," he added.

So, if you're thinking of heading to the tents in Midtown for a peek at what's in for Fall 2008, forget it because according to Arbit, "If you're going to mainstream shows, you're seeing what's already been ripped off."



The Williamsburg Fashion Weekend will be held on Feb. 15 and Feb. 16 at 7 pm at the Monster Island Building (210 Kent Ave.) at Metropolitan Avenue in Williamsburg. Admission is free. For information, visit [www.secretproject.org](http://www.secretproject.org).

—Adam Rathe

# Too close for comfort

We have it on good authority that "Liasons" will soon be taking place in living rooms around Park Slope. Beginning Saturday, Bedford-Stuyvesant-based choreographer Edyta Witek's Delirious Dances will be presenting her latest work, "Liasons," within the intimate confines of Brooklyn apartments.

"I got tired of hearing complaints that audiences aren't going to the theater anymore," said Witek. "I thought, 'why not bring dance to people in their homes?'"

"Liasons," whose themes include relationships, connections and intimacy, puts the performers and audience in close proximity, with the dancers occasionally using audience members as part of the show.

"I love being able to shift and stretch boundaries," said Witek. "Inspired equally by her former partner being hospitalized and immobilized with cancer and by attending a screening of the film 'Outfoxed' — 'I'd go from a screening of the movie in someone's home,' she said, 'and what would wonderful for me was talking with a group of strangers I didn't know. I started to wonder if I could create a similar experience with dance.'"

Witek decided to mount "Liasons," a 50-minute performance, in apartments. While Witek was turned off by the cost of renting a theater, creating a piece to be performed in a living room presented other obstacles for the dance-maker. "Living rooms generally do not have a lot of space," she said. "I had to radically reduce how I dance, move, create work. Each space has its own quirks. The dancers have to figure out how to orient themselves in the new environment." Witek performed "Liasons" in living rooms in Berlin and has performed other works in Newark, Staten Island, Manhattan and Martha's

Vineyard. If funding permits, she would like to take "Liasons" to living rooms around the world.

"It is a way for modern dance to interact with ordinary people's lives," said Witek, "so it's not an elitist or inaccessible art."

"Delirious Dances' 'Liasons' will be performed at 8 pm on Feb. 8 and Feb. 9 at a private home (14 Prospect Pl.) between Fifth and Sixth avenues in Park Slope) and on Feb. 16 at a private home (240 Eighth St., apartment four, at Sixth Avenue in Park Slope). For information, call (917) 714-1293 or visit [www.myspace.com/liasons](http://www.myspace.com/liasons).

—C.W. Thompson

# BROOKLYN Nightlife

Compiled by Chiara L. Cowan

## BAY RIDGE

**The Salty Dog**  
509 Third Ave. at 25th Street in Bay Ridge. 718 238-9260. [www.saltydogbar.com](http://www.saltydogbar.com)  
Friday, Saturday, Live DJs, 7 pm, FREE; Wed, Tuesday, Karaoke, 9 pm, FREE.

**The Wicked Monk**  
6475 87th Ave. at 84th Street in Bay Ridge. 718 921-0001. [www.wickedmonk.com](http://www.wickedmonk.com)  
Thursday, Live Thursdays with Dog Vines, 10 pm, \$5, \$6, \$7, \$8, \$9, \$10, \$11, \$12, \$13, \$14, \$15, \$16, \$17, \$18, \$19, \$20, \$21, \$22, \$23, \$24, \$25, \$26, \$27, \$28, \$29, \$30, \$31, \$32, \$33, \$34, \$35, \$36, \$37, \$38, \$39, \$40, \$41, \$42, \$43, \$44, \$45, \$46, \$47, \$48, \$49, \$50, \$51, \$52, \$53, \$54, \$55, \$56, \$57, \$58, \$59, \$60, \$61, \$62, \$63, \$64, \$65, \$66, \$67, \$68, \$69, \$70, \$71, \$72, \$73, \$74, \$75, \$76, \$77, \$78, \$79, \$80, \$81, \$82, \$83, \$84, \$85, \$86, \$87, \$88, \$89, \$90, \$91, \$92, \$93, \$94, \$95, \$96, \$97, \$98, \$99, \$100, \$101, \$102, \$103, \$104, \$105, \$106, \$107, \$108, \$109, \$110, \$111, \$112, \$113, \$114, \$115, \$116, \$117, \$118, \$119, \$120, \$121, \$122, \$123, \$124, \$125, \$126, \$127, \$128, \$129, \$130, \$131, \$132, \$133, \$134, \$135, \$136, \$137, \$138, \$139, \$140, \$141, \$142, \$143, \$144, \$145, \$146, \$147, \$148, \$149, \$150, \$151, \$152, \$153, \$154, 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\$1886, \$

OUR OPINION

Pols must hit Ratner in wallet

After hearing two major lawsuits — one challenging the state's unjustifiably lax environmental review, the other decrying the state's use of condemnation power to hand privately owned property over to the profit-making Forest City Ratner — judges have turned a blind eye to egregious misuses of state power surrounding the \$4 billion Atlantic Yards project.

With judges punting, the most potent challenge to Ratner's taxpayer-funded payday rests in the legislature, which has the power to turn off the torrent of taxpayer dollars.

For Ratner, Atlantic Yards has always been about the money — not jobs or housing, not urban design or athletic excellence, but the massive sums expected to flow from the public trough.

[M]y statement in my prior affirmation that the "environmental impact statement for the project estimates that the project will create ... \$4.4 billion in net tax revenues for the city and the state over 30 years" is mistaken, because [t]here is simply no projection at all regarding the net tax revenues contained in the EIS.

ALL DRAWN OUT



LETTERS

Councilman DeBlasio is no fan of our Armory story

To the editor, I strongly disagree with your misleading article about the Park Slope armory ("Week center: Park Slope armory is empty after \$10M rehab." Jan. 26).

Yasky and Assemblywoman Joan Millman, and their diligent staff people, working at the behest of the Southwest Brooklyn Local Development Corporation and the Atlantic Avenue Betterment Association, did all the groundwork and led the meeting that got Sanitation to re-think this issue.

What are the city's contingency plans to evacuate the city in the event of the next terrorist attack, blackout, transit strike or natural disaster? The ferries provided the only means in and out of the city (besides walking over the bridge) when these emergencies occurred.

Residents of the block are children, children who will have to pass through broken glass, cigarette butts and puddles of vomit on their way to PS 32.

As I lay on my bed before going into surgery, I asked Dr. Lyon if I would ever run again (I'm a runner). He told me that within a year, I would be at 99.5 percent, and, yes, I should be able to run again.

Send a letter By e-mail: Letters@BrooklynPaper.com By mail: Letters, The Brooklyn Paper, 55 Washington St., Brooklyn, NY 11201.

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# Poly wanna raincheck

## Some Technic trustees don't trust NYU

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

Plans for a takeover of Brooklyn Polytechnic University by NYU University could be an eventful attempt to postpone the decisive vote by Poly trustees unconvinced the engineering school was making a wise decision.

Several members of the Polytechnic board sent a memo to their fellow trustees on Jan. 30 urging them to delay their decision until they could review all the terms of the deal that would put the college, based at Metrotech, under the purple banner of NYU.

Year history of independence and self-sustainability, why is Poly's administration rushing to "merge" with NYU on terms which remain questionable and without reviewing the alternatives Poly has to offer? asked three trustees in the memo, provided to The Brooklyn Paper.

The New York Times that a case of "pre-emptive jitters" afflicted some board members and that he was confident the decision would be made on Thursday, as scheduled.

# Slope Y bids to run the Armory

By Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Prospect Park Y in Park Slope is one of just two bidders vying for the chance to operate an enormous recreation center inside an old Eighth Avenue armory that the city spent \$16 million to rehab.

member of the Park Slope Civic Council's Armory Committee. "This complex is directed toward sports programs for younger people. The Y fits that [mission] better than anyone else."

The Y will be the chosen one. The YMCA has a long-standing presence in Park Slope. It began operating in 1891, and has been at its present site, on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, since 1926.

The news that the armory-turned-recreation center could be run by the Y cheered one civic leader who has grown frustrated by years of delays and the city's inability to keep neighbors informed.

They decided to stick on, which is good news," said Cesar Fuentes, who acts as spokesman and advocate for the 13 vendors.

DeBlasio said that a formal announcement should be coming soon. "I was written to by the existing vendors most get mobile sites, licensed by the Health Department, which cost \$15,000-\$30,000.

announcement — and that the Y will be the chosen one. The YMCA has a long-standing presence in Park Slope. It began operating in 1891, and has been at its present site, on Ninth Street between Fifth and Sixth avenues, since 1926.

DeBlasio said that a formal announcement should be coming soon. "I was written to by the existing vendors most get mobile sites, licensed by the Health Department, which cost \$15,000-\$30,000.

# Heights swastika bomber is indicted

The Brooklyn Paper

A Brooklyn Heights man — arrested last month for having an apartment filled with bombs that were discovered after he accidentally shot himself — was slapped with a 132-count indictment stemming

from the explosives and his connection to a swastika graffiti attack in September. The bomb charges against Ivalyo Ivanov, 37, carry a maximum sentence of 25 years.

He would aggressively prosecute Ivanov, calling his crimes "attacks against the whole of society, not just the individuals or groups targeted."

Ivanov's court-appointed attorney, Adrian Lesher, from Legal Aid, criticized the indictment as a public-relations stunt.



Red Hook food vendors discuss new rules for licensing with NYC Parks and Melissa Auerbach.

# Viva el mercado!

By Mike McLaughlin  
The Brooklyn Paper

The Latin American food vendors in Red Hook Park will continue their struggle with the city to set up stands in a one-outcast location that became a weekend haven for foodies.

The decision to dig in culminates months of hand wringing that began after the city decided to put the vending sites where the food vendors have been operating for decades, up for open bid.



Photograph of a person in a car, likely related to the 'So. Slope meters' article.

# PAY-TO-PARK

Continued from page 1

Neighbors throughout that fit the bill include Brooklyn Heights, Boerum Hill, Downtown and Park Slope.

Other people in the audience said the permit plan won't make a dent unless the city cracks down on parking abuse by government employees in Downtown Brooklyn.

# So. Slope meters

Parking is giving some South Slopers even more of a headache than usual, thanks to 68 new parking meters being installed along Seventh Avenue, between 10th and 15th streets.

"Free parking is not a divine right," said Jo Anne Simon, a Boerum Hill activist. "This is about residents having the ability to park in their own neighborhoods without being crowded and having non-residents use their neighborhoods as a commuter parking lot."

But some critics say the program is just another handout to denizens of well-heeled neighborhoods.

The city will be hard-pressed to convert its concept into a workable system by next spring.

# Foes eye 'supreme' after a Ratner win

By Gersh Kuntzman  
and Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Opponents of Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards mega-project vowed to take their fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court after a federal appeals court ruled unanimously in favor of the developer on Feb. 1. Experts say, however, that this latest defeat is most likely the end of the road for the lawsuit.

They also argue that the area around the Vanderbilt rail yards where Ratner plans to build his Xanadu is not bighted at all.

But New York state courts are notoriously unsympathetic to challenges to eminent domain law. And, while 42 states have passed legislation since 2005 designed to counteract the Kelo decision, New York State is not one of them.

In another decision, a state judge ruled last month that the ESDC's environmental review of the mega-project was legally sufficient. That decision is also being appealed.

The odds are extremely slim that the Supreme Court will hear the case," said Michael Rikon, an eminent domain expert who represented plaintiffs who fought the use of eminent domain when Ratner built the Metrotech office complex in Downtown a generation ago. "That's it."

Brinckerhoff added that the court would re-file the case in state court because the federal courts have consistently declined to take up the substantive issue in the case, preferring to rule on

jurisdictional grounds.

Johnston, an ESDC spokesman.

# What your lawmakers think about raises ... for themselves!

By Gersh Kuntzman and Dana Rubinstein  
The Brooklyn Paper

Amidst dire predictions of a looming \$4.4-billion deficit, Gov. Spitzer has signaled his support for a pay raise for New York's part-time legislators, who already earn more than their counterparts in 47 states. The base pay for a legislator is \$79,500, though many earn more than \$100,000, thanks to stipends for serving on committees or in leadership positions. We asked local elected officials, who haven't gotten a raise since 1999, what they think of voting themselves a pay raise:



**Sen. Velmanette Montgomery (D-Prospect Heights)**  
I am supportive of the pay raise.

**Assemblyman Joe Lentol (D-Williamsburg)**  
It's a good idea to give everyone raises, the judges and the legislators. We have not gotten a raise, not even a cost of living adjustment, in 10 years. ... I know how to do things that many junior members don't have the experience to do. So speaking for myself, I can say I'm worth it.

**Sen. Marty Golden (R-Bay Ridge)**  
I am not concerned about making raises for the legislature a priority of this legislative session. Raises for our judges should be among the priorities, [along with] an agenda that will create more jobs for New Yorkers, that will reduce the taxes, and address the needs that are pressing here in New York.

**Assemblyman Vito Lopez (D-Bushwick)**  
No comment.

**Sen. Marty Connor (D-Brooklyn Heights)**  
My real income is \$88,000 after 30 years on the job. ... If the bill had an extraordinary salary, I'd oppose it.

**Assemblyman Hakeem Jeffries (D-Fort Greene)**  
The overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the legislature are hard-working, decent and committed public servants whom I believe deserve a pay raise.

Anything that went significantly above what city councilmembers make [I'd oppose] unless we make the job full-time, which I have a bill to do.

**Assemblyman Janelle Hyer-Spencer (D-Bay Ridge)**  
I am a "no" vote. It's my first year, and I don't feel it's appropriate to come in and vote for a pay raise. I can understand colleagues, many of whom have done work, who feel they deserve a raise, but I can't, in good conscience, vote for it.

**Sen. Eric Adams (D-Park Slope)**  
Legislators have not received an increase in pay since 1999. This is an unacceptably long period without a raise for what should be considered a full-time job. The work of a state senator or state assemblyman is year-round endeavor.

**Assemblyman Bill Colton (D-Bensonhurst)**  
No comment.

**Sen. Diane Savino (D-Bay Ridge)**  
No comment.

**Assemblyman Jim Brennan (D-Park Slope)**  
Information available to us last year indicated that the legislative base pay proposal might range between \$96,000 and \$98,000, although as stated before, there is no proposal before us at this time. I would support a salary increase in that range.

**Sen. Carl Kruger (D-Brighton Beach)**  
No comment.

**Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill)**  
I have never had a job where I waited 10 years for a pay raise.

**Assemblywoman Joan Millman (D-Cobble Hill)**  
I have never had a job where I waited 10 years for a pay raise.

# BAM AND HILL...

Continued from page 1

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.



Jeanne Hefetz of Park Slope does some last minute campaigning for Barack Obama on Tuesday.

The whole idea that Obama is a movement is really appealing to me," said Denby, who once worked as the spokesman for Borough President Markowitz, a Clinton supporter.

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

Meanwhile, Fort Greene Councilwoman Letitia James, who was just as indecisive as Denby last week, went in the opposite direction.

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

"I voted for Hillary," said James. "I heard that Barack told people somewhere out west that he'd like to wave his arms away their guns, and I'm a staunch gun control advocate."

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

Aside from Clarke's and Towns's districts, the rest of the borough — from the Bay Ridge to Williamsburg — was a clean sweep for Clinton.

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

In the Bay Ridge portion of the largely Manhattan-based 9th CD, represented by Clinton supporter Jerry Nadler, Democrats voted 59 percent for Clinton and 41 percent for Obama.

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

In the 12th CD, which encompasses Williamsburg and Sunset Park and slivers of Long Island City, represented by Clinton endorser Nydia Velázquez, the hometown senator trounced Obama, taking 65 percent of the vote, to his 35 percent.

Obama also had a decisive win in the 10th district, which runs from Brooklyn Heights through East New York. Rep. Ed Towns also campaigned for Clinton.

# YARDS SUBSIDIES...

Continued from page 1

That revelation came in court papers asking for a stay of the resolution, not an amendment.

Times that "banks aren't completely out of the market and the bond market is still there. But the risk is continued delay."

Opponents scoffed at the developer's implicit suggestion that legal challenges to the controversial project were to blame for his financial woes.

In addition to the environmental review case, another pending lawsuit challenges the state's use of eminent domain.

Photo by Gersh Kuntzman

Photo by Gersh Kuntzman

Photo by Gersh Kuntzman



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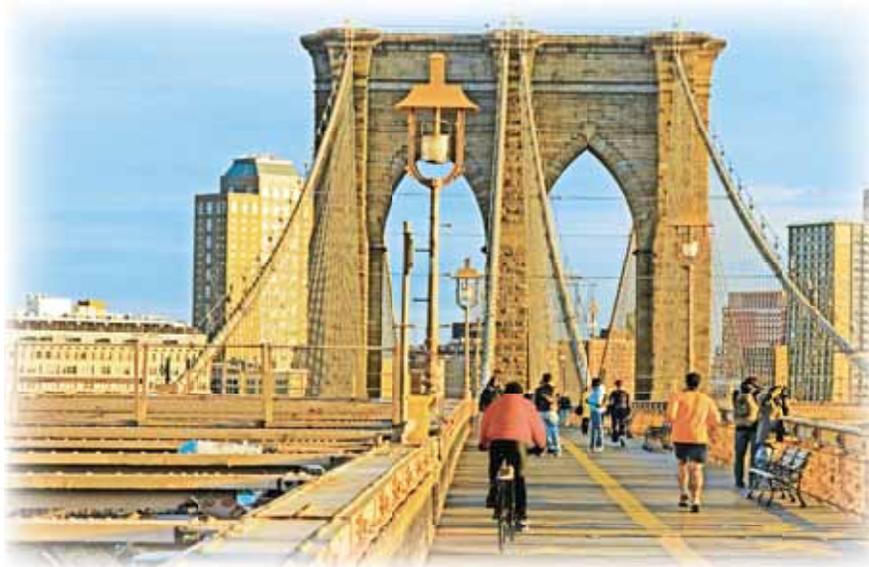
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More Home Improvement On Page 14

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