

# The Brooklyn Paper

Including Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, Downtown News, DUMBO Paper and Fort Greene-Clinton Hill Paper

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Papers  
Publication

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## RATNER PAYOFF

### Developer suggests he'd give victims of eminent domain new homes near arena

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

If you can't beat 'em, build 'em a new building.

Plowing ahead with plans to construct a \$2.5 billion arena, office and housing complex in Prospect Heights, developer Bruce Ratner is now looking to construct a new building to house some of the residents his plan would displace.

Ratner and architect Frank Gehry have been in discussions about the building, according to Ratner spokesman Joe Deplasco, who said "a number of sites" were

being considered for its construction.

"It's among the various options we're considering at this point," Deplasco said.

Gehry, in fact, told Newsweek online this week, "Bruce is asking me to design a new apartment building for them [neighbors whose apartments might be destroyed by the complex]. He's got a specific site nearby."

As part of the 21-acre plan, Rat-

ner would build a 20,000-seat basketball arena for his recently purchased New Jersey Nets, flanked by four sweeping office towers and buildings containing 4,500 residential units.

The plan is dependent upon the state's condemnation of more than two square blocks of privately owned property.

For the past several months, Ratner has been going head to head with Prospect Heights residents

who would be evicted or otherwise impacted by construction of his Atlantic Yards project. And few interviewed this week were thrilled with the idea of moving into one of his buildings. Others declined to talk about their discussions with Ratner.

"Personally, I would want to stay in my home. And if I had no other choice but to move, I would want to move into a home of my choice," said Dan Michaelson, who

owns a condominium at 24 Sixth Ave., the A.G. Spang Building, which would face the wrecking ball under Ratner's plans.

At the same time, Ratner is, according to sources, floating a new plan that would require less use of eminent domain.

According to one official, the new schematic would save half of the block between Flatbush and Sixth avenues.

See **RATNER** on page 16

NOT JUST NETS • THE NEW BROOKLYN • NOT JUST NETS

## CB2 sez 'No' to Walentas building

### Slams DUMBO plan for blocking views

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Developer David Walentas has spent the past 20 years building formerly industrial DUMBO into a residential and commercial neighborhood, but now the community says he is going too far.

Following a public hearing this week, a Community Board 2 committee voted down his proposal to construct a 16-story building with 200 apartments at Water and Dock streets, next to the Brooklyn Bridge.

"This would destroy the very neighborhood he is credited with creating," said Joan Craig, a resident of the Fulton Ferry Historic District, who is opposed to the project.

At the hearing, held at Polytechnic University Wednesday night, opponents blasted the proposal claiming it was "ill-conceived," out of scale with the existing low-rise buildings, and would cast shadows on the nearby

Brooklyn Bridge Park.

But chief among the concerns was that the new building — which would rise at the 38 Water St. site that is now home to the single-story St. Ann's Warehouse — would obstruct views of the iconic Brooklyn Bridge, just 70 feet away.

Jed Walentas, Walentas' son and a principal in their Two Trees Management company, defended the proposal at the April 21 hearing, explaining that the building would be consistent with the surrounding area.

"We try very hard to be good neighbors," Jed Walentas said during a presentation to the board.

Laura Cheng, an architect with Beyer Blinder Belle, the firm that is designing the building, described the Walentas plan as "sympathetic and respectful to the DUMBO community."

But neighbors who attended the meeting disagreed, saying they found the proposal disrespectful to the historic bridge.

Following a series of impassioned pleas from community members, including representatives of the Brooklyn Heights, Fulton Ferry Landing and DUMBO Neighborhood associations, the CB2 land use committee voted unanimously, with one abstention, to reject the proposal.

The committee also passed a resolution asking that it

See **WALENTAS** on page 7



By the bridges: Stained-glass windows craftsman Nancy Nicholson hosts one of the new booths at this year's Brooklyn Designs show in DUMBO.

## 'Designs' for living

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

"Brooklyn Designs," a three-day-long showcase for the borough's designers and manufacturers of furniture, lighting, linens, rugs and decorative accessories for the home, office and garden, returns to DUMBO on April 30.

And if you liked last year's event, the first-ever "Brooklyn Designs" show, event organizer Karen Auster says you'll have 50 percent more reasons to be thrilled this year.

"Last year we had one space and 30 exhibitors," said Auster. "This year we have two spaces and 46 exhibitors." A jury of design editors whittled down the number of exhibitors from 100 applicants to 46, but the show still needed to expand into a second venue.

"We were so pleased with the tremendous quality of all the submissions," said Kenneth Adams, president of the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce, in a statement. "Many of last year's exhibitors will be returning with their latest products, and they will be joined by an outstanding group of newcomers."

The show will be held at St. Ann's Warehouse at 38 Water St. and the Brooklyn Designs Gallery (the former Gale Gates et al. gallery) at 37 Main St., said Auster.

See **BROOKLYN** on page 14



The Queen Mary 2, the world's largest ocean liner, cruises past the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor Thursday morning.

## Queen Mary steams past B'klyn

By Richard Pyle  
Associated Press

The world's largest ocean liner, the Queen Mary 2, steamed into a hazy New York Harbor Thursday, just clearing the Verrazano Narrows Bridge and stopping near the Statue of Liberty on the way to its first-ever docking in Manhattan.

The opulent Cunard Line vessel ar-

rived nearly on schedule, just after 8 a.m., after making up time lost to the fog and to storms during the first two days of its inaugural trans-Atlantic crossing, which began in Southampton, England, last Friday.

Onlookers watched from vantage points in Bay Ridge and Red Hook as the ship's arrival was marked by post-Sept. 11 security measures and the customary Gotham greeting — fire-

boats spouting red, white and blue water. Earlier, it passed under the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, which links Bay Ridge and Staten Island, with less than 20 feet to spare.

Passengers stepped ashore on a dock on Manhattan's West Side raving about the QM2's amenities, from the art deco styling to computer and dance classes.

"Until you go on the ship, you can't appreciate the grandeur of it," said He-

len Smith, of Yorkshire, England, who made the voyage with her two sisters.

The docking came 92 years and a week after another New York-bound British ocean liner, the Titanic, sank after striking an iceberg on its maiden voyage, killing 1,503 people.

The QM2 had no iceberg trouble, but the rough weather — with 30-foot seas and force-10 gales gusting to 63

See **MARY** on page 6



Attorney Sanford Rubenstein, Vito Avvinti, his wife, Laura, and son Matthew walk past the state Supreme Court building on Court Street in Downtown Brooklyn on their way to the Municipal Building to pay the traffic ticket they claim helped kill Avvinti's father.

## New look for 'ticket to die' tape

Lawyer charges mayor & top cop distorted video of parking-ticket heart attack

By Jotham Sederstrom  
The Brooklyn Papers

A surveillance video obtained by the family of a Bensonhurst man who suffered a fatal heart attack after being issued a parking ticket appears to show that two traffic agents saw him clenching his chest but did nothing to help him.

A copy of the 20-minute grocery store surveillance video was played for The Brooklyn Papers by an attorney for the family of Onofrio Avvinti, who died 10 minutes after being issued a ticket for double parking outside the Met Foods grocery on 20th Avenue while his wife shopped.

The tape appears to contradict an interpretation of the video offered by police and City Hall last week, which had Avvinti showing signs of suffering only after the traffic agents drove away. Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly and Mayor Michael Bloomberg both said last week that the traffic agents did not appear to be at fault. Kelly discounted the notion that there was reason to believe the agents knew the man was suffering a heart attack. Bloomberg charged that the family's version of the events was inaccurate. Both said the tape seemed to show Avvinti loading groceries into the car after the agents had left.

"At no time after getting the ticket before the heart attack was Avvinti putting groceries given to him by his wife in the trunk of the car," said attorney Sanford Rubenstein, who is representing the family in a \$100 million wrongful death suit, a notice of which they filed with the state last week. "In fact, his wife, after learning her husband was stricken, ran to his aid without groceries."

[The Avvinti family] is outraged at the distortions and fabri-

See **TICKET** on page 6

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See story on back page

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See **LUTHERAN MEDICAL** ad on page 6





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# Thieves invade 2 Monty homes

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Burglars hit two apartments in the same building on Montague Street between Clinton and Henry streets this week.

One woman returned home at 7 pm on April 14 to find everything askew.

The victim, 27, told police that when she left the apartment at 10 am, she locked the door. But when she returned she discovered a slew of electronic equipment missing, including a portable CD player, Sony Walkman, DVD player and computer, with a total value of \$2,330. Police said \$100 was also missing from her apartment.

A 25-year-old neighbor, who had left her apartment at 8:45

## 84/76 BLOTTER

am that day returned just three hours later to find she had been burgled.

The thief made off with a green suitcase, checkbook, printer, DVD player, Walkman and a passport, police said.

### 20 for a 40

Malt liquor will make a man do funny things.

One street tough looking to score a bottle of Colt .45 stopped a resident on the corner of Bond and State streets at 4:20 am on April 14.

"Give me \$5 for a 40," the boozing bandit instructed, referring to a 40-ounce bottle of malt liquor, before pulling out a knife. The man handed over \$20.

The 50-year-old victim, who did not wait around for change, was not harmed in the exchange.

### Remsen burglar

A bandit broke into a Remsen Street apartment near Clinton Street and made off with a batch of electronic equipment.

The victim, 47, told police that he left his apartment at 9:30 am on April 16 and when he returned at 3 pm many items were missing.

Those included \$2,400 in cash, a Nikon camera value at \$100, and an Omega watch worth \$1,300, police said.

### F-train mugger

He would have had to have been blind not to see the 6-foot-6-inch hunting knife shoved in front of his face, but that didn't stop an assailant from asking the ridiculous question of his victim on a Manhattan-bound F train near Jay Street.

"You see this?" the suspect asked as he flashed the knife at a fellow passenger after the train pulled out of the Jay Street station.

"Gimme your wallet," the attacker added before grabbing it from the victim and hopping off the subway at the next stop, York Street.

The victim, 28, was returning home from work in Manhattan. The bandit made off with his wallet and monthly MetroCard, police said.

### Polite for thugs

They might have been polite but they still robbed him blind.

Just minutes after boarding an A train at the Broadway/Nassau stop, at 3 pm on April 15, a group of eight teens approached a 15-year-old boy sitting by himself.

A man sat down on either side of the teen and pressed something hard into his side. "Act calm, don't move or anything. Do you have money or a wallet on you, son?" asked one of the avuncular suspects.

The victim handed over his wallet, which he told police, held \$125 in cash.

One of the street-toughs then

stood to shake the victim's hand and the entire group promptly exited the subway at the Hoyt/Schermerhorn station.

### Video haul

A pair of bandits looking to score some recent films marched into a Court Street video store April 13 with two gray laundry bags in tow.

Heading straight for the "New Releases" section, the pair proceeded to fill the bags with loads of DVDs. That was just after 4:30 pm.

As they headed for the front door, an employee tried to stop the duo.

But when one of the robbers pulled up his shirt to reveal what appeared to be the handle of a handgun, the employee moved aside.

The men fled southbound on Court Street and headed east on Degraw Street, police said.

### 'No talking'

Apparently perturbed that another bloke was "tapping to his wife," a pugnacious husband bonked the offender on the head with a liquor bottle.

The allegedly flirtatious victim, 38, was walking past a liquor store at Atlantic Avenue and Nevins Street when the assailant approached him at 8 pm on April 16, police said.

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**Deadline: April 30, 2004**

The After-School Corporation (TASC) has been selected to administer AIDP funds on behalf of, and in partnership with New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE). The programs will take place in schools during after-school hours, be operated by qualified community-based organizations (CBOs), include academic programs and other activities and be designed in partnership with school principals to reflect the needs of their school communities.

TASC seeks program operators who are interested in bringing comprehensive and culturally sensitive programming to students in AIDP-eligible schools.

CBOs interested in applying for AIDP operating grants should send an email to [proposal.aidp@tascorp.org](mailto:proposal.aidp@tascorp.org). A full RFP and application will be sent to you immediately.

Proposals must be returned by April 30, 2004.  
Questions: Call TASC's AIDP hotline: 212.547.6972.

# FUNDING ALERT



## Free parking under bridge

With the temperature reaching near 80 degrees on Monday, "beachgoers" made their way out to Brooklyn Bridge Park near the Manhattan Bridge overpass in DUMBO to soak up the sun, gaze out on the East River and or just sit around and relax.



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**4**

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For more details, pick up a take-one at your station.

Look for our Weekend Service Changes posters every week. They are located near the station booth; also check our website for information.

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## Count trees for CB2

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 2 seeks volunteers to participate in a local tree inventory to help determine where new trees should be planted. Volunteers will learn to identify trees by leaves, measure height and diameter and generally assess the condition of trees. Training will be held May 4 and May 11, from 6 pm to 9 pm, in rooms LLC 122 and LLC 116, respectively, of Long Island University, at the corner of Dekalb and Flatbush avenues. An outdoor practice session will be held on May 15, from 10:30 am to noon. Because of concerns that the area needs more trees, the community board has organized efforts to act as a pilot for an upcoming citywide tree census. "We're very excited about

this project — it's for the health of our community," said CB2 Chairwoman, Shirley McKee. Using Palm Pilots that are to be donated by companies in Downtown Brooklyn, the board will organize efforts to note every seedling, sapling and conifer on public space. In addition to tracking the type of tree, volunteers will note the height, diameter and overall health of each specimen. That information will be directly downloaded into Department of Parks and Recreation computers, said Fiona Watt, chief of forestry and horticulture for the agency. "This effort will essentially be a preview of what's to come when we do a citywide census in 2005," said Watt, who led the first tree census in 1995. For more information, call (718) 596-5410.

### LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 21st day of April, 2004, leaving the Index Number N020282004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Galdina Moore. My present name is: Signa Teneal Torres Rodriguez aka Signa Teneal Torres aka Signa Teneal Torres aka Signa Moore. My present address is: 251 Pacific

Street, #5, Brooklyn, NY 11201. My place of birth is: Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras. My date of birth is: 03-11-75. BP14

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 26th day of April, 2004, leaving the Index Number N020282004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Assunta De Jesus Sanchez. My present name is: Assunta De Jesus Sanchez. My present address is: 134-17th Street, Apt. 3F, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: August 29, 2001. BP14

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 16th day of April, 2004, leaving the Index Number N020282004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Assunta De Jesus Sanchez. My present name is: Assunta De Jesus Sanchez. My present address is: 134-17th Street, Apt. 3F, Brooklyn, NY 11215. My place of birth is: Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is: August 29, 2001. BP14

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Articles of Organization of IT - 3400 LLC ("IT-3400") were filed with Sec. of State of NY ("SDNY") on 3/5/04. Office Location: Kings County, SDNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SDNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 722 Carroll Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Payment: Any lawful business person may do so.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 7th day of April, 2004, leaving the Index Number N020282004, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 007, grants me rights to Assume the name of: Barbara Bailey Ruz. My present name is: Lucia Bailey Aguilar aka Lucia Ruz. My present address is: 1230 Bay Ridge Avenue, Fl. Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is: Brown, NY. My date of birth is: 08/18/1964. BP14

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**TWO TREES**  
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# Fake utility workers hit Slopers

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Following several deception crimes in the Park Slope area, police are asking residents to pay special attention when service workers appear at the door.

"Before you open the door, check the credentials," cautioned Sgt. Jacqueline Bourne, of the 78th Precinct.

This week, police arrested a man who allegedly posed as a Con Edison worker to talk his way into a house on 11th Street between Sixth and Seventh avenues. The sneaky thief and an accomplice knocked on the door around noon on April 15.

The 75-year-old man who had recently called Con Ed for service, allowed the men to enter.

The resident accompanied one of the men to the basement to inspect the meter while the other slipped upstairs.

But another resident of the three-story walk-up, who was upstairs, shaving, heard a noise and walked into the bedroom to find the rifting through the drawers.

When he questioned him, the thief ran out of the house.

The resident then headed downstairs where he confronted the other scam artist, who also ran out the front door.

The victims gave chase and flagged down a police officer on 11th Street who caught up with one of the burglars at 11th Street and Fifth Avenue.

"You're here for the guy down the block," said the bandit. "I was just handing out business cards."

The suspect was found with a stack of business cards for assorted construction companies.

Police arrested the 37-year-old Kensington man and charged him with burglary, criminal trespass and criminal impersonation.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio and community affairs officers are now distributing fliers and meeting with senior citizen centers to advise them about the crime.

"These deception crimes are almost as easy to prevent as they are to perpetrate. But it requires awareness," said DeBlasio.

"If someone claiming to be a utility worker comes to your home without an appointment, demand identification and also confirm their identity by telephone with the home office."

**11th St attack**  
A man making his way home at 5 am on April 12 was attacked by a group of three men, who knocked him to the ground and demanded cash.

The victim, 33, was stopped by the trio of punks as he approached Fifth Avenue on 11th Street. They kicked and punched him.

One suspect reached into the victim's pocket and rifled around for something to steal. But the pack fled five minutes later when they apparently did not find what they were looking for.

The victim, who lives just

## POLICE

### Broken glass

Something went bump in the night, and that something was a tall man wearing a hooded sweatshirt.

A resident at Seventh Avenue and Lincoln Place stuck his head out to see what happened when he heard a crashing noise at 2:45 am on April 15. In the hallway stood a tall man in a hooded sweatshirt who fled out the front door.

The front glass door was shattered, police said.

### Saving grace

An incompetent thief looking to knock off a church and its nearby rectory was in for a surprise when a resident suddenly appeared.

As the bungling burglar tried to break into the second-floor window of the rectory on Ninth Street near Fourth Avenue, the 64-year-old resident heard the commotion and yelled out.

The suspect fled towards Eighth Street, police said.

That same crook also tried unsuccessfully to gain access to the church through the basement door by breaking the door window with a hammer.

The incident occurred at 2:15 am on April 14.

### Thug life

Police arrested a pack of punks after they held up a 16-year-old at the Grand Army Plaza subway station.

The trio approached the teen just before 9 pm and pulled out a small pocketknife.

"Give me your wallet, money and everything," one suspect demanded before reaching into the victim's sweater pocket and helping himself to a watch and MetroCard.

The incident occurred on April 15.

### Bon Voyager

A woman's Plymouth Voyager went on a little voyage without her this week.

The victim, 52, parked her 1995 Voyager at Prospect Park West and 12th Street at 7:30 am on April 12. But when she returned at 4:45 pm that same day, the vehicle was nowhere to be found.

### PC poacher

A woman returned to her Union Street apartment to find a burglar had slipped in through the kitchen window and made off with a host of her belongings.

The victim, 24, left her apartment near Fifth Avenue at 8:30 am. But when she returned at 9 pm, she noticed many things missing, including a Dell laptop computer, charger, Ethernet card, modem and computer bag.

### No bat needed

A trio of would-be thugs were talking tough when they swagged into a grocery store at Sixth Avenue and 10th Street at 6:45 pm on April 18.

One suspect paced to the back to look for other employees before approaching the counter.

"I want the money I'll jump over there," he said, motioning towards the counter.

In fear of being robbed, the employee reached for a baseball bat. But as it turned out he did not need to.

When a woman walked into the store just moments later, the bandits all fled.

Three teen suspects from Prospect-Lefferts Gardens were later picked up by police and arrested.



## "Annuities: A solution for funding a long retirement"

Contributed by: Chanie Schwartz  
Financial Advisor, Morgan Stanley

If you retire at age 65, how will you fund the next stage of your life? Annuities offer a flexible way to fund lengthy retirements.

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Annuities above a certain threshold will require insurance company approval.  
<sup>1</sup>Ordinary income taxes on accrued earnings are due upon withdrawal. If you make withdrawals before age 59½, you may also incur a 10 percent federal early withdrawal penalty. Many annuities also charge surrender fees for withdrawals during the early years of the contract.

This article does not constitute tax or legal advice. Consult your tax or legal adviser before making any tax- or legally related investment decisions. This article is published for general informational purposes only and is not an offer to sell securities or to buy any securities or commodities. Any particular investment should be evaluated based on its terms and risks as they relate to your individual investment goals and objectives.  
<sup>2</sup>Variable annuities are long-term investments whose designed for retirement purposes and are subject to market fluctuations, investment risk, and possible loss of principal. Tax performance does not guarantee future results.

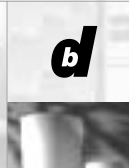
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Articles of Organization of H - Harbor LLC ("HARBOR") were filed with Sec. of State of NY ("SSNY") on 3/5/04. Office Location: Kings County, SSNY has been designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 722 Canal Street, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Purpose: Any limited business agreement.

Notice of Formation of CHIMANIZZE PRODUCTIONS FILM DEVELOPMENT SLATE, L.L.C., a domestic Limited Liability Company (LLC). Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State on 3/5/04. NY office location: Kings County. Secretary of State is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC, served upon her/him to 328 Fulton Avenue, PMB 341, Brooklyn, NY 11218. Latest date to dissolve there is no specific date of dissolution. Purpose: To engage in any limited act or activity.

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For more details, pick up a take-one at your station.

Look for our Weekend Service Changes posters every week. They are located near the station booth; also check our website for information.

*This work is part of MTA New York City Transit's ongoing effort to upgrade and maintain the subway system. We regret any inconvenience you may experience.*



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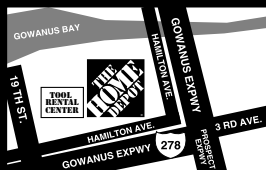
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## TICKET...

*Continued from page 1*

cations in the interpretation by police and City Hall of a videotape of the incident," Rubenstein said.

Chris Coffey, a spokesman for Bloomberg, said this week that while the mayor expresses his condolences to the family, the city employees did no wrong.

"The mayor stands by his statements," said Coffey. "He offered his condolences to the family and he obviously is very sorry about this tragic accident. But the tape shows, in our opinion, that everything has been done by the books."

A police spokesman said this week that they were still investigating and had no new comment.

The lawsuit, which also names as defendants the agents who issued the \$115 summons, claims that Avvinti might have survived had the agents called an ambulance. Aside from the name L. Hinkson, police have not revealed the identities of the traffic agents, who issued the ticket at 12:07 pm. The family contends that Avvinti pleaded with the agents to call for help.

Rubenstein and police and city officials have been grappling since last week over the video's content, which is grainy. Taped by a surveillance camera outside the Met Foods store on 20th Avenue between 72nd and 73rd streets, Rubenstein has had the tape "cleaned up" and slowed down. Despite those improvements, the images remain skittish and choppy, at times dissolving pedestrians entirely as they skip fuzzily past the camera.

On Tuesday, Rubenstein led members of the Avvinti family from his office at 16 Court St. to the Brooklyn Parking Violations Bureau office inside the Municipal Building, on Joralemon Street, where Avvinti's 39-year-old son, Vito, paid the fine. Flanked by Bensonhurst Councilman Domenic Recchia and family members, including a 19-month-old grandson, Rubenstein marched the three-block stretch followed by a phalanx of television news cameras and newspaper reporters.

"The family believes they have a responsibility to pay this ticket and is fulfilling that responsibility," said Rubenstein, who has also represented the Rev. Al Sharpton and police brutality victim Abner Louima. "This is a good, hardworking family. They should not have been maligned by City Hall and the mayor as they have been. They are still awaiting an apology from the mayor."

Rubenstein's video seems to show Avvinti, a 61-year-old tailor, gripping his chest and waving his arms animatedly as cars swerve to avoid him and the traffic agent's vehicle on 20th Avenue. In that span, sped up in the video but estimated at 10 seconds, he appears to walk from the cruiser to his truck and then back, at one time leaning against his vehicle to take a breath before shaking his arms, either in fury or pain.

The video, shown to The Brooklyn Papers in Rubenstein's office this week, begins as Avvinti drives his SUV past the supermarket on 20th Avenue, making a U-turn on 73rd Street before double-parking beside a white automobile directly in front of the store at 12:02 pm. He waits there for about three minutes while his wife, Carmela, shops next door and then walks in front of the camera on her way into the supermarket.

About three minutes after she walks inside, the agents pull up behind Avvinti, who after receiving the ticket gets out of his SUV and begins waving his arms wildly, apparently out of frustration at first. Asked by a reporter if Avvinti was swinging at the agent, Peter Dinicola, the victim's cousin and a family spokesman, said, "No, he's just... He's Italian," explaining that he normally gesticulates when he's excited.

Avvinti remains in constant motion, gesturing animatedly in front of the agents' vehicle for another minute before the two drive away. Less than a minute later, two passersby come to his aid as he gets into his car.

"After he went into the car, he never came out," said Dinicola, who lives in Queens. "He was a dying man."

Soon after, 20th Avenue becomes the scene of pandemonium. More than a dozen passersby surround the vehicle. The man whose car is blocked in by Avvinti briefly opens his passenger-side door, closes it, and joins the crowd. Someone leaving the store drops several plastic bags on the sidewalk to investigate the commotion. An employee appears soon after with a cart, which she loads with those bags and wheels back inside.

The camera snaps Carmela Avvinti running outside, where, without bags, she dips out of view behind the SUV. Dinicola believes she dropped the bags inside the store before darting past the camera. He also believes that police have surveillance tapes shot from inside the supermarket.

By the time Avvinti succumbs to the heart attack, just before 12:20 pm, about 40 people are seen crowding his vehicle while two ambulances and a fire truck flash their emergency lights nearby.

## MARY...

*Continued from page 1*

mph — gave the passengers some nights to remember. According to accounts published by reporters on board, many passengers stayed in their quarters rather than go to the dining rooms.

The ship arrived under extra-tight security that has been in effect for all major events in New York since the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Emerging ghostlike from an early morning fog, the QM2 paused near the Statue of Liberty and sounded its deep-throated horn four times in salute. A passing Staten Island ferry tooted back.

Nearly four football fields long at 1,132 feet and 21 stories tall, the massive, black-hulled vessel left England last Friday for the six days and nights of luxury living and sumptuous dining for its 2,600 passengers, attended by a crew of 1,250.

After three days in port on Manhattan's West Side, the Queen Mary 2 will depart Sunday night, rendezvousing near the Statue of Liberty with the Queen Elizabeth 2, outbound on its final trans-Atlantic run. With the new ship replacing it on the Atlantic run, the QE2 will be used mainly for Southampton-based shorter cruises.

The Queen Mary 2 revives the name of the liner about half its size that debuted in New York on June 1, 1936. The Queen Mary was retired in 1967 and turned into a seaside tourist attraction in Long Beach, Calif.

In the realm of seagoing behemoths, the 151,400-ton QM2 is the world's biggest passenger ship in every way: its closest rival is the 142,000-ton Voyager Of The Seas, in service since 1999 with Royal Caribbean Cruises. But it's a virtual rowboat next to the largest of all ships — a 564,700-ton supertanker built in 1979 as the Seawise Giant, and now called *Jahre Viking*.

The first pure ocean liner built in 35 years, the QM2 is three times the size of Titanic, which at 46,300 tons and 800 feet was called the "largest movable object built by man" when launched in 1911.

While radar and other state-of-the-art technologies help to tame the turbulent North Atlantic, QM2's designers acknowledged the ghost of that "unsinkable" vessel, using "extra thick steel for strength for trans-Atlantic crossings," and two whistles audible at 10 miles — one of them borrowed from the original Queen Mary, according to Cunard.

The Queen Mary 2 first visited U.S. shores last January, ending a 14-day cruise through the Azores and Caribbean at Fort Lauderdale, Fla. The ship goes into regular trans-Atlantic service with 12 crossings scheduled this year and 26 next year.

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Continued from page 1

ture proposals for the site be lower than the Brooklyn Bridge roadway and be consistent with the adjacent buildings.

The application will come up for a full board vote at the board's monthly meeting on May 12.

Because the area is currently zoned for manufacturing, Walentas is seeking a variance from the city, which requires that it pass the city's rigorous land use review process.

After the community board makes its recommendation, the application will go before the borough president, City Planning Commission and City Council. Borough President Marty Markowitz will hold a public hearing on the application at 6:30 pm on May 27, in the ceremonial courtroom at Borough Hall, which is on Joralemon Street at Court Street.

The 178-foot-tall residential and commercial building would rise at the corner of Water and Dock streets and include approximately 8,000 square feet of retail space along Water Street and an 8,000-square-foot performance space that would be rented to a non-profit arts group, Walentas said.

A 327-space public parking lot is also included in the plan with an entrance and exit along Front Street.

As part of the proposal Walentas is also seeking to knock down a four-story, red-brick building — which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. That building currently houses the Smack Mellon Studios art gallery.

Jay Platt, deputy director of the Historic Districts Council, pleaded with the developer to preserve the building.

**Board OK's factory apartments**

Just across the street, Walentas and home improvement guru Bob Vila renovated 85 Water St. for Vila's television show last year, converting an old pepper factory owned by Walentas into three gleaming apartments and a retail space.

Those apartments have sat vacant because they are not approved for residential use. But at Wednesday's meeting the land use committee recommended approving the conversion.

Jacques Torres, the chocolatier whose famous chocolate factory is part of the 66 Water St. retail space, will open a bakery in the ground-floor 85 Water St. space, Walentas said.

# 'Spore' rooms in DUMBO

## Former residents concerned Bridge Street condos are moldy

By Deborah Kolben

The Brooklyn Papers

Once home to painters and sculptors who moved to Vinegar Hill and DUMBO decades ago attracted by cheap rents and plentiful space, lofts at 50 Bridge St., at the corner of Water Street, are hitting the market this week for upwards of \$800,000.

And while conversions of that type are hardly news in this cobblestone area that has been undergoing a major transformation from industrial to hipster chic, some former residents of the building are raising concerns about potentially toxic mold in the building.

Seven years ago, a group of former tenants took owner Joshua Guttman to court claiming that he took drastic measures to drive them out of the building including cutting off the sewer system and removing doors. As part of the lawsuit, they hired an environmental consultant who found high levels of mold, including some toxic mold.

Ed Olmstead, the certified industrial hygienist who conducted the study for the residents, identified "heavy mold contamination" and found that "serious health hazards" existed in the building, according to a survey Olmstead conducted in 1998.

Asked about the mold, Israel Goldberg, an attorney for Brick Condominium Developers LLC, the sponsor of the 50 Bridge St. condo, said any problems had already been taken care of.

"The building has been totally rehabbed," said Goldberg, who added that the property was inspected before it was issued a Certificate of Occupancy at the end of last month.

"I'm certain whatever happened back in 1998 has been addressed," said Goldberg.

Jennifer Givens, a spokeswoman for the city Department of Buildings, said the agency does not inspect for mold before it issues a Certificate of Occupancy, or "C-of-O" as it is known in the buildings trade.

"We're looking for structural stability," said Givens.

Among the mold detected during Olmstead's 1998 survey



Former residents of 50 Bridge St. fear the building still contains toxic mold.

was "stachybotrys chartarum," also known as black or toxic mold, the study states.

This type of mold produces hazardous byproducts called mycotoxins which, when breathed in, can cause serious health effects including damage to the lungs, central nervous system and immune system.

Removing the mold can be a difficult and arduous process, akin to removing asbestos, according to Ken Burns, a hazardous materials specialist with Wantagh-based Action Remediation.

If not removed properly, the spores can reproduce when moisture is reintroduced, Burns said.

"If you don't clean those surfaces there are a lot of spores there just waiting for moisture," he said.

The building, recently painted green and purple, is hard to miss. The address has been changed from 223 Water St. to 50 Bridge St. and now instead of just cement floors, tenants will have such amenities as a baby carriage storage room and part-time security

guard.

The 58 condo apartments are outfitted with hardwood floors, stainless steel appliances, and some also come equipped with wood-burning fireplaces and private roof decks.

And then there are the sweeping views of Manhattan.

Not all of the units are hitting the market at once, according to David Behin, a broker with The Developers Group, which is brokering the sales.

The first three floors are still under construction for conversion into apartments.

Built in the early 1900s the six-story building, designed by architect William Tubby, was once home to the Kirkman & Son Borax Soap Company.

Standing outside the building with his dog, Willie Rodriguez, a 25-year resident of Vinegar Hill who lives across the street, looked up at the purple facade and sighed.

"I have mixed reactions," said Rodriguez. "It won't be what I know of the neighborhood."

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## New Sunset Park HS gets hearing on Wed

By Jotham Sederstrom

The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 7 will host the first of a series of public hearings on a new public high school proposed for Sunset Park this Wednesday, April 28, at 6:30 pm, at PS 24 (38th Street between Fourth and Fifth avenues).

The new school is expected to impact both Sunset Park and Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights, where high schools are extremely over-crowded.

Members of the community board are hoping for a huge turnout to send a message to Department of Education officials, who have included the project in previous budget proposals only to have it squeezed out due to city financial woes, of the importance of the school to the neighborhoods.

"It is extremely important that the people of

the community come and voice their opinions," said Joseph Longobardi, the board's chairman, who noted that 27 percent of the district's 120,000 residents are 18 or younger. That segment of the district has grown by 12 percent since 1990, according to the 2000 census.

First proposed in 1969, the school site has moved between at least four areas within a 10-block radius, said Jeremy Laufer, district manager of the board.

Slated at one time for as far west as Seventh Avenue, just south of Green-Wood Cemetery, the proposed school was moved in March for the second time this year to a site near Fourth Avenue at 35th Street, where it is currently planned.

It is proposed to hold between 1,100 and 1,600 students.

Construction could begin as soon as next September and finish by the end of 2007.

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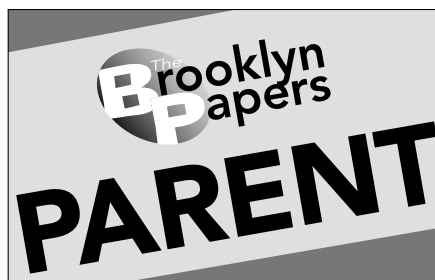
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## Teach kids to grieve

Parent-to-Parent  
By Betsy Flieger

Q: Our 9-year-old granddaughter is having a terrible time — failing nearly every subject in third grade, not able to make friends, not fitting in with her dad and stepmother. Her mother died when she was 1 and we raised her until she was 3, until her dad, my son, remarried. Now she keeps asking about her mother. — a grandmother

A: This girl is long overdue for heartfelt connections to her birth mother and a secure sense of family. Without attachments at home early on, kids have a wobbly foundation for learning at school and

making friends.

Julia Wilcox Rathkey, author of "What Children Need When They Grieve" (Three Rivers Press, 2004), thought her daughter, 12, and twin sons, 10, would have an emotional burden for the rest of their lives after their father died in the 9-11 tragedy.

"It always worked so hard at being a great mom, and after my husband's death I felt my efforts had been wasted," she recalls. "Then I realized all the work we had put into parenting actually would enable our children to heal."

Any child, but particularly one in crisis mode, needs what Rathkey calls the four essentials: routine, love, honesty and security. That solid foundation before her husband's death became the basis for the family's healing, she says, and the basis of her new book.

For a 9-year-old girl whose mother died when the girl was 1, her young parents never had the chance to build routine, love and security. On top of that, there's a lot of grieving for a mother she never knew, says Rathkey.

Lark Eshleman, PhD, a psychotherapist and author of "Becoming a Family" (Taylor Pub., 2003) agrees. "Losing your mom is the No. 1 anxiety-producing experience. You carry it with you forever."

Pamela Adams, author of "Once Upon a Family: A Son's Journey of Love, Loss and Hope" (Henderson Publications, 2003), knows from experience that no matter the age or stage, children need guidance through their grief.

When Adams' husband died at 39, their 12-year-old son didn't cry or talk much about the loss.

"It was only at the end of his sophomore year, at age 16, when a lot of his behaviors showed his grieving was delayed — skipping school, not caring about his homework," recalls Adams.

Caught skipping school after a week, her son told his mom in the principal's office: "I feel like I have a ball and chain around my neck." Adams understood why, and helped her son regain connections to his daddy and build a foundation for healing.

"Children don't know how to grieve and don't have life experiences to put losses into perspective," Adams says. "We have to give them the tools to regain a connection with the person who died."

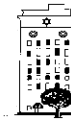
Her son got comfort from carrying his dad's pocketknife and wearing his dad's pajamas, plus carrying some special rocks from his grandparents.

For the 9-year-old girl, Adams suggests relatives tell the child as much as they can recall about her mother's favorite TV shows, movies,

books and hobbies. What was she like as a child? Giving the child as many opportunities as possible to talk about her mother will help.

"Once Upon a Family" is geared for upper elementary through middle school children. Adams' Web site is [www.sonsgriefjourney.com](http://www.sonsgriefjourney.com).

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 24, 2004



1

# Stuff of dreams

By Lisa J. Curtis  
GO Brooklyn Editor

It seemed that fairy dust was in the air at Tuesday night's gala fundraiser for the Brooklyn Academy of Music, as well as on the Opera House stage in choreographer Philippe Decouffe's whimsical production, "Tricodex."

Overflowing with floating ballerinas, imaginative flora and fauna and exhilarating world music, "Tricodex" proved to be a triumphant, magical return to BAM for the Lyon Opera Ballet.

At the pre-show cocktail reception in the BAMcfe, gala chairman Roberto Pesaro, chief operating officer of Giorgio Armani, passionately gushed about the experience of supporting this season of dance programs at BAM.

But partygoers and BAM President Karen Brooks Hopkins were just as impressed by the Armani gift bags, each of which included a small key. One of them unlocks a safe which holds a \$10,000 Armani gift certificate, so there's little doubt about whether the revelers will be storming the Emporio Armani store on Madison Avenue this weekend to find out if their key is the one to unlock the lavish shopping spree.

Celebrities from all the arts came to Fort Greene Tuesday night for the fundraiser, which raised \$600,000 for BAM's general operating expenses. Among them were actress Glenn Close, artist Christo and Jeanne-Claude, composer Philip Glass, musician Lou Reed, performance artist Laurie Anderson, actress Kitty Carlisle Hart and Brooklyn Museum head Arnold Lehman, among others.

Close, who told GO Brooklyn that she is a great friend of Giorgio Armani and has had "a very lucky relationship with him for many years now," came to BAM at his invitation. The visit to Brooklyn

## Choreographer brings fanciful work to BAM; Armani dangles \$10,000 key

brought back memories for Close, an Oscar-nominated actress ("Fatal Attraction," "Dangerous Liaisons") and Broadway star ("Sunset Boulevard").

"I actually performed a play at BAM years ago, called 'The Crazy Locomotive,'" recalled Close. "I came to BAM before the whole thing is as fabulous as it is now."

In BAM's current production "Tricodex" the company's classically trained dancers moved about gracefully despite having either large fins, blocks of wood or enormous discs attached to their feet. Two dancers struggled in what appeared to be large, air-filled pastry bags. Balloons-turned-acrobats cavorted from bungee cords and moved about while attached to curved bases that transformed them into wobbling human Weebles.

Costumes by Philippe Guillot morphed some dancers into insect-like creatures, with undulating appendages, and others into cave-dwelling straight out of a Natural History Museum diorama.

The third in a trilogy of works inspired by Italian artist Luigi Serafini's "Codex Seraphinianus," a fanciful encyclopedia published in 1981, Decouffe's "Tricodex" has costumes as fantastic as those in Crique du Soleil, the acrobatic virtuosity

of "De la Guarda," and as Lyon Opera Ballet artistic director Yorgos Loukos told Time Out New York this week, the mechanical devices incorporated into the production are reminiscent of "Jules Verne beginning-of-the-century technology." Think "The Notebooks of Leonardo da Vinci" meets the illustrations of Dr. Seuss.

And then there was an utterly unexpected homoerotic beauty-pageant-of-sorts with preening, posing men on pedestals.

At the \$600-a-ticket post-show dinner, catering company Great Performances transformed the Brooklyn Museum's Beaux Arts court with a riot of fresh spring flowers, that dangled from centerpieces, and

lingerie-colored lenses that infused the room with a warm glow.

While the gala dinner was originally slated to take place at Manhattan's Spirit New York it was later moved to the Brooklyn Museum just in time for gala patrons to see the museum's recently unveiled front entrance.

The last performance by Lyon Opera Ballet of Philippe Decouffe's "Tricodex" will be April 24 at 7:30 pm at the BAM Howard Gilman Opera House (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$25 and \$50. For more information, call (718) 636-4100 or visit [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org).



2



3



4



5

Who's who: (1) Lyon Opera Ballet dancers in a scene from Philippe Decouffe's "Tricodex" at the Brooklyn Academy of Music on Tuesday; (2) actress Glenn Close with Erika Albies; (3) Giorgio Armani COO Roberto Pesaro; (4) Jeanne-Claude and artist Christo; (5) musicians Laurie Anderson and Lou Reed with composer Philip Glass.

## THEATER



## The boys are back in town

Sunday marks a special reunion at Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts — it's Frank, Sammy and Dean together again!

Set in the Las Vegas Sands Hotel, circa 1961, "The Rat Pack Encore!," a retro comedy and musical tribute, celebrates the music and lives of the legendary Rat Pack, pictured above with fellow "Rat Pack" Peter Lawford in a scene from "Ocean's 11."

Performed by a cast of three actor-comedians — Michael Levin (Frank Sinatra), Paul Rick Michel (Dean Martin) and Doug Starks (Sammy Davis Jr.) — and a mini-orchestra, the "Rat Pack Encore!" directed by Levin, recreates this celebrated nightclub act with songs like "You're Nobody Till Somebody Loves You" and "The Best Is Yet To Come."

"The Rat Pack Encore!" will be performed at Brooklyn College's Whitman Theatre on April 25 at 2 pm. Tickets are \$40. The theater is located at Hill Place and Campus Road, one block from the junction of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. For tickets or more information, visit the Web site at [www.brooklyn-center.com](http://www.brooklyn-center.com) or call (718) 951-4500.

## ART

## Gowanus art suppliers



Painter Regina McFadden and 10 other Gowanus artists will open their studios to the public on April 24 and April 25, from 1 pm to 6 pm.

Take advantage of the opportunity to see these artists' latest works — and works-in-progress — including painting, photography, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and mixed media. Painter Ella Yang, whose work is pictured above, will display her landscapes. Children are welcome, says McFadden, and they'll have an opportunity to make a mural together.

The studios are located at 295 Douglass St. between Third and Fourth avenues. The open studio tour is free. For directions and more information about the artists, visit the Web site [www.gowanusartists.com](http://www.gowanusartists.com).

—Lisa J. Curtis

## CINEMA

## 'Secret' is out

The Fourth Annual Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival kicks off April 28 at BAMcinematek (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place) with a screening of Ademar Kenovic's 2002 film, "Secret Passage," which stars Park Shloper, John Turturro and Katherine Borowitz. A Q&A with Borowitz, who is married to Turturro, will follow the 7:30 pm screening of the film, set in 15th-century Venice.

Another highlight of the festival, which runs through May 2, is a tribute to actor Theodore Bikel, who starred as the Russian captain in Norman Jewison's 1966 Cold War comedy "The Russians are Coming! The Russians are Coming!" This May 1 event is a celebration of the 80th birthday of the actor-musician. Bikel and his colleagues will be on hand at a reception following the screening.

For a complete list of festival films and screening dates and times, visit the Web site at [www.bam.org](http://www.bam.org). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (718) 636-4100.

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# BROOKLYN ites

Neighborhood  
Dining Guide

This week:  
**COURT STREET**

## Blue Star

254 Court St. at Kane Street, (718) 858-0309 or (718) 858-5806 (Cash only) Entrees: \$12-\$19.  
"There are no clichés on my menu," boasts Blue Star chef and owner Marc Elliot. "I'd rather do something creative and interesting."

That's exactly what Blue Star's menu offers.

For dessert, try the "Chocolate Sash" round slices of fudge rolled in sweet, shredded coconut (a rice look-a-like). It is served with a silver cup full of Kahlua for dipping. Tiny scoops of homemade wasabi ice cream and sticks of crystallized ginger. Look for "Roscoe's Fried Chicken and Waffles" this summer, says Elliot.

On the last Sunday of every month, Elliot offers a cooking class for \$75 including lunch and wine. After class, invite a friend to join you at Blue Star to enjoy the fruits of your labor.

Hear live bluesgrass on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons. Blue Star serves dinner daily. Lunch is served from noon to 3 pm, Wednesday through Friday. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 3 pm.

## Cafe Scaramouche

524 Court St. at Huntington Street, (718) 855-9158, www.cafescaramouche.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$15-\$19.50.

In true Argentine style, Cafe Scaramouche is more worldly than its Carroll Gardens locale lets on. Chef Grace Martinez draws on her native country, Argentina, for inspiration as well as French, Italian and American cuisine. Yet at the heart of this cafe and patisserie — which specializes in confections, but also serves a full menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner — is a commitment to all things homemade. They even add ingredients to the butter to make it their own. Try the parillada, traditional Argentinean barbecue, covered in homemade chimichurri sauce and arriving at the table on a portable grill with salad and vegetables. On the weekends Cafe Scaramouche offers a hearty brunch menu including homemade orange peel waffles. They also serve traditional oven-baked or deep-fried empanadas with chicken, beef, tuna, spinach or corn. Open daily at 6 am.

## Cody's Ale House Grill

154 Court St. at Pacific Street, (718) 852-6115 (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$6-\$30-\$16.95.

Since 1989, owner Kevin Cody has been serving up burgers, pastas, steaks, baked clams and other tasty Americana at his very own bar and grill. The cozy, no-frills, emporium looks like it supports a steady diet of regular customers, but let's not forget the sports fans that pack into Cody's daily. With baseball season in full swing, Cody's television, equipped with Direct TV, are all set to broadcast every Yankees and Mets game, as well as out of town games, for baseball lovers throughout the area. Open daily.

## Fragole Ristorante

394 Court St. at Canal Street, (718) 522-7133, www.fragoleristorante.com (AmEx, Disc, MC, V) Entrees: \$9-\$50-\$13.95.

At Fragole, Chef Pasquale Veronica cooks up a mix of northern and southern Italian cuisine. Still a favorite among customers at Fragole is the fettuccine alla Elena, homemade noodles with sweet sausage, tomato, cream and peas. For dessert, try Fragole's orange tiramisu, a refreshing "pick-me-up" in the warmer weather. Also, the homemade cannoli are stuffed with buffalo ricotta. For \$9.95, Fragole offers a prix-fixe lunch special that includes your choice of pasta and soup or salad. Fragole is open for lunch and dinner daily. Brunch is served Saturday and Sunday. Check Web site for daily specials. Delivery available.

## Hill Diner

231 Court St. at Baltic Street, (718) 522-2220

★ = Full review available at

**Brooklyn  
papers.com**

Abbreviation Key: AmEx= American Express, DC= Diner's Club, Disc= Discover Card, MC= MasterCard, Visa= Visa Card

Another busy night at the new Blue Star restaurant on Court Street.

(Cash only) Entrees: \$8.95-\$13.95.

In spirit, this Cobble Hill hangout is closer to the coffee shops of the past — unpretentious, friendly and inexpensive — than the greasy spoon or retrofitted diners of today. Chef-staffed Hill Diner serves traditional bacon and eggs alongside veggie-friendly fare like a grilled marinated tofu sandwich in soy and cranberry sauce with fresh vegetables, avocado and arugula. Salads are numerous and heaped with fresh, market produce. Appetizers like garlic-sautéed shrimp with avocado mousse should please carnivores. For dessert, try the sour cream crumb cake, baked from a traditional leavening recipe handed down by owner-chef Rafi Haid's mother. Now that the warm weather is here, enjoy dining in Hill's outdoor garden. Open daily.

## Le Petit Cafe

502 Court St. at Luquer Street, (718) 596-7000, www.lepetitcafe.us (Cash only) Entrees: \$4.95-\$8.25.

At Le Petit Cafe, customers have choices. Chef Joe offers an array of soups, salads, omelets and sandwiches to satisfy every appetite. A proud producer of the panini, Le Petit offers 19 different panini sandwich combinations. Many customers flock to Le Petit for the chili, a delicious blend of vegetable and beef chunks served hot and spicy with warm ciabatta bread on the side. Customers also love the choices they have in creating their own omelets (served with a choice of salad or home fries on the side). For vegetarians, Le Petit offers a homemade veggie burger. Open daily from 6 am until 8 pm. (Kitchen closes at 7 pm.)

## Marco Polo Ristorante

345 Court St. at Union Street, (718) 852-5015, www.marcolopolaristorante.com (AmEx, DC, Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$15.95-\$29.95.

One of Brooklyn's most elegant dining rooms, Marco Polo boasts valet parking, a formally dressed and knowledgeable waitstaff and a sophisticated menu that reflects the taste of its owner, Joe Chirico, a veteran restaurateur. Marco Polo has an Italian menu that includes an array of hot and cold appetizers, soups, salads, pasta, fish, chicken, veal, steaks and chops prepared by chef Bruno Milone. The dessert wagon offers pastries, cakes, tortes, fruit, soufflé and homemade gelato.

Marco Polo is best known for its tableside preparation. At your table, the fettuccine veal parmigiana is tossed in a Parmesan cheese wheel. For dessert, the strawberry flambé made with fresh berries, champagne and sugar, is heated over a pan and then rolled into a crepe and topped with ice cream right before your eyes. Zabaglione, Marco Polo's combination of egg yolk, champagne and sugar, is heated and whipped into a smooth and sweet creamy dessert at your table as well. Marco Polo is open daily for lunch and dinner.

## Osaka

272 Court St. at Douglas Street, (718) 643-0044 (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$10.95-\$43.95.

Don't be fooled by the splatter-painted sound baffles and the glimmering satsumi throw pillows when you enter Osaka. Interior design may not be high here, but taste clearly is. Osaka serves an array of sushi, sashimi and maki rolls that vary from simple to opulent. Sushi detractors may dive for kitchen entrees like the broiled black cod or sautéed rock shrimp. "Lunch Box" special is offered from noon to 3 pm. Delivery and takeout available. Open daily.

# Sake to me

New DUMBO restaurant Miso offers authentic Japanese menu

By Tina Barry  
for The Brooklyn Papers

That neighborhood Down Under the Manhattan Bridge Overpass, DUMBO, is slowly morphing into SoHo.

Once a gritty community with cheap rents for artists, the neighborhood is becoming a real estate developer's wet dream with huge lofts, commercial offices and boutiques. It's only moments before the makeup emporiums take root.

DUMBO's culinary scene, too, is a work in progress. In the past few years, good eateries like Superfine, Rice and Five Front have sprung up, drawing, if not a crowd, then at least an awareness of the neighborhood as a place to find a good meal.

Last September, Miso, a Japanese fusion restaurant, opened on DUMBO's Main Street. Its co-owner, Richard Mauro, a designer associated with the architectural group SITE, designed the restaurant's layout and decor. It's a long, narrow room, with a good light and yang of steel and warm, rough wood. In the evening, when the lights are dimmed and candles are on the tables, the high tech space becomes elegant.

Miso's chef and co-owner goes by the name Zeo. He specializes in the cuisine of the Shikoku area, also known as the "Magical Islands" in southern Japan. Mauro describes the cooking of Shikoku as "lighter and spicier than other areas of Japan." Right now, he's still in the process of sourcing many of the herbs and spices from the island. When they're satisfied with the ingredients, Le Petit offers a homemade veggie burger. Open daily from 6 am until 8 pm. (Kitchen closes at 7 pm.)

I don't think you'll miss them. The dishes that Zeo serves are superb. The seafood, bought early each morning in

Chinatown, is so fresh that the fish flavors are sweet and crystal clear. Cooking fish this unsullied seems pointless until you taste what tempura butter does to the juicy shrimp.

Zeo creates his own sauces. Their vibrancy made others I've tried seem muted in comparison. His fusions of greens with meat dishes, hot entrees like Chilean sea bass tempura with garlic butter sauce, and the special sushi rolls like the "Sweet Heart" — grilled eel, avocado and caviar wrapped around shrimp tempura and topped with shitake mushrooms — all work. The ingredients enhance one another; nothing seems forced.

It's a good idea to allow Zeo to select your sake. The chef knows his liquor, and can offer both hot and cold versions. Served warm, the sake is soothing; it's even better served chilled. Cold, the liquid takes on a creaminess and subtle fruit flavor — like plum but not sweet at all — that works as a refreshing palate cleanser.

Simple dishes like miso soup and tempura are the bread-and-butter of any Japanese restaurant. Zeo's miso soup has a rich soy flavor, not salty as it's sometimes served, and the tiny cubes of tofu in the broth are silken. The mixed tempura was expertly fried without a trace of oil. Slices of red pepper, eggplant and large shrimp benefited from their light, brittle coating.

A bowl of eggplant with ginger sauce, served with jasmine rice, is another great way to start the meal. There are shavings of dried ginger atop the sizzling slices that do a wily, quivering dance as the eggplant cooks. The eggplant is velvety and the ginger is pronounced but not sharp. Equally delicious is the sushi and sashimi platter. You can taste river stones and cold, clean water in the firm flesh of wild salmon; tuna looks like a huge, sparkling garnish; slices of chevre octopus, however, are an acquired taste

just as good. The big shrimp sprinkled with coarse salt and pepper and then sautéed in their shells. Suck off the salty, spicy coating before chewing on the tender shrimp. They don't make dainty eating, but they're wonderful.

Shikoku tuna is a heart-thumping, fireworks-in-the-mouth experience. Zeo takes slices of fish, sears them on one side over a hot black stone, then splashes the slices with sake. The fish remains deep red at its center while the flash cooking brings out its deep, meaty flavor. The aroma reminded me of burning cedar. This dish alone is worth the trip over.

Mauro promises more desserts in addition to the salt-and-pepper shrimp were



Cool off: At Miso restaurant in DUMBO, refreshing Ginjo and Nigori sakes, by Sho Chiku Bai, are served chilled.

that I've yet to acquire. I loved the eel sushi with the jewel-like beads of red caviar almost as much as the sweet, raw shrimp topped with tiny mounds of black caviar placed to look like little eyes.

A special, which didn't sound special to me, turned out to be one of the best dishes of the evening. The two words I think when I hear "teriyaki" are syrupy and sweet — not a bad combination for something that tops ice cream, but deadly over fish. This teriyaki however was delightful. Made with thick fillets of yellowtail, the sauce, which was not sweet at all, served to deepen the fish's delicate flavor.

The salt-and-pepper shrimp were

See MISO on page 14

# Malaysian persuasion

Can't find decent Indian food? Tired of Thai? Is every Chinese restaurant in your neighborhood disappointing? Time to give Malaysian cooking a try.

In October, chef Peter Howe opened Banana Leaf, a Malaysian bistro, in Bay Ridge.

Named after the region's natural serving dish, Banana Leaf offers the best of those cuisines with a little French thrown in for good measure. Howe's crab cake comes with curried mayonnaise. Skates is grilled and adorned with a pungent puree of chilies and ginger, and rack of lamb sits beside linguine, unmarinated rice. For lobster lovers, Howe stir-fries the crustaceans in a wok and then splashes them with lemongrass tea sauce.

The wine list is short — just a house red or white by the glass or bottle. But beer is better at taming the food's heat, so several Asian varieties are available. And that lame excuse for a sweet — the dish of green-tea ice cream — is about to become a thing of the past. Creamy lemongrass pudding, banana purfuit and coconut rice layer cake should please the fastest desert punt.

Banana Leaf (6814 Fourth Ave. between 68th Street and Bay Ridge Avenue) accepts Visa, MasterCard, American Express and Discover. Entrees: \$9.95-\$21. The restaurant serves lunch and dinner seven days a week. For information call (718) 238-5531.

— Tina Barry

Wok lobster: At Banana Leaf, lobster, stir-fried in lemongrass tea, served with corn rice cake.

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# Welcome homes

*House tours peek behind doors of boro's elite homes*

By Chiara V. Cowan  
for The Brooklyn Papers

Ready for admiring eyes and a chorus of oohs and aahs, the annual Brooklyn house and garden tours kick off this weekend with a display of Victorian homes in Flatbush, sponsored by the Flatbush Development Corporation.

On April 25, doors will open and a plethora of hidden treasures will be exhibited as creative owners welcome curious neighbors into their homes.

According to John Broderick, executive director of the Flatbush Development Corporation, "The houses are architectural gems," boasting impressive square footage and details.

Styles on the Victorian Flatbush House Tour range from Colonial Revival to Tudor to Arts and Crafts. The tour will also include the work of neighborhood artists, a farmer's market, and a food and wine tasting.

Admission prices of the self-guided tours benefit the corresponding neighborhood's grassroots community organizations and offer admittance into some of the borough's most historic and exquisite homes.

"Whether you have purchased a home and are looking for decorating tips or just have an interest in interior decorating, the tour provides a perfect collection of ideas," said Candace Woodward of the Park Slope Civic Council. Park Slope's tour will take place on May 16.

All of the tours are self-guided and are usually held rain or shine, but call to confirm in the case of inclement weather.

Some tours do not allow interior photography or children under 10, except for infants in front packs, inside the homes. Call to verify restrictions and to make reservations, which are highly recommended.



**Room to grow:** On the Brooklyn Heights Association house and garden tour on May 8, visitors can see twin, three-story brick houses, built in the 1840s, which have been combined at the ground floor to create, a double-wide living space resulting in a gracious playroom cum kitchen.

## Finding the perfect home: Upcoming tours

### Brownstone Brooklyn Garden District Sunday Garden Walk

June 13, 11 am-5 pm  
Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$12 day of tour. (718) 707-1277.

### Heights Association Landmark House and Garden Tour

May 8, 1-5 pm  
Tickets: \$30. (718) 858-9193.

### Park Slope Civic Council House Tour

May 16, noon-5 pm  
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. (718) 832-8227.

### Fort Greene House Tour

May 2, noon-5 pm  
Tickets: \$20 in advance, \$25 day of tour. (718) 237-9031.

### Victorian Flatbush House Tour

April 25, 1-6 pm  
Tickets: \$16 in advance, \$20 day of tour. Shuttle buses will be provided. (718) 859-3800.

### Prospect Lefferts Gardens House and Garden Tour

May 23, noon-5 pm  
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. (718) 284-6210 or (718) 462-0024.

### Boerum Hill House Tour

June 6, 1-5 pm  
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. (718) 858-3822 Ext. 100 or (718) 403-6094.

### Prospect Heights House Tour

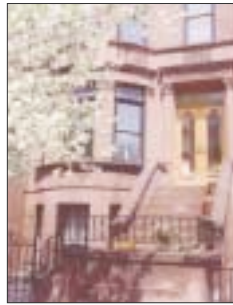
Oct. 3, noon-5 pm  
Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$15 day of tour. (718) 707-1277.

### Bedford-Stuyvesant House Tour

Oct. 16, 11 am-4 pm  
Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 day of tour. (718) 953-7328 or (718) 574-1979.



**Where the art is:** Also on the Brooklyn Heights Association house tour, an 1840s townhouse, which blends Greek Revival details and Beaux Arts updaters.



On the 34th annual Prospect Lefferts Gardens House and Garden Tour on May 23, eight late-19th and early 20th century homes will be open for touring, including a frame house with a new spa room.

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**Compiled  
by Susan  
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# Sources: Ratner seeks to stifle arena hearing

## Tentative date for Council inquest is May 4

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Although the state will provide the only formal review of developer Bruce Ratner's Atlantic Yards basketball arena, office and housing plan a Queens City Council member has

scheduled a hearing to investigate whether the plan provides the best deal for the city.

Councilman James Sanders, chairman of the Economic Development Committee, has tentatively set May 4 for a hearing on the \$2.5 billion plan.

But Ratner is trying to postpone the hearing because it is scheduled for the same day as a hearing before the same committee on the New York Jets football team's proposal for a West Side stadium in Manhattan, according to city officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Public opinion polls point to general

support for Ratner's construction of an arena to house his recently purchased New Jersey Nets, provided no public funding goes into the plan, but opposition to the Jets stadium, which is also a lynchpin of the city's push to host the 2012 Olympics. That plan would cost taxpayers about \$600 million.

According to the sources, Forest City Ratner executives fear that acrimony directed toward the Jets plan would extend to the Ratner plan if they are held the same day.

Joe Deplascio, a spokesman for Forest City Ratner, declined to comment. Ratner unveiled plans for the 21-acre

development in December when he announced his intention to purchase the New Jersey Nets and bring them to Brooklyn. As part of that project, Ratner is asking the state to use eminent domain to seize more than two square blocks of private land that according to some estimates holds more than 500 residents and workers.

The developer is also asking the state-run Metropolitan Transportation Authority to sell him air space over 11 acres of Long Island Rail Road storage yards stretching along Atlantic Avenue between Fifth and Vanderbilt avenues.

Several actions that would ordinarily go

through the rigorous city land use review process, including street demappings, will instead undergo the state's far less stringent environmental review process.

In addition to a 20,000-seat basketball arena, Ratner is proposing four sweeping office towers and 4,500 apartments. He hired architect Frank Gehry to design all the structures.

But Sanders says he wants to see if Atlantic Yards presents a "good financial deal for New York City" and plans to bring in development experts to critique the plan.

"I want to examine the economic con-

sequences of such a development," Sanders told The Brooklyn Papers.

Local residents applauded the move to hold the hearings.

"This is one of the largest development proposals in the history of Brooklyn and will forever change the very nature of Brooklyn and we therefore demand that the city council scrutinize the proposal," said Daniel Goldstein, a resident at 636 Pacific Street.

Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, a coalition of local residents, is asking the council to hold all-day hearings on the plan.

# Community boards want new lines

## CB2 wants the arena area, CB6 wants island

By Deborah Kolben  
The Brooklyn Papers

Every 10 years, community boards have the opportunity to request changes to their district lines based on the census.

This time around community boards 2 and 6 are seeking changes — the former asking for an arena while the latter seeks an island. And while it is unlikely that either request will be granted, they have stirred debate.

Community Board 2 voted this week to recommend amending its district lines to include the proposed Atlantic Yards arena

project at the intersection of Atlantic and Flatbush avenues and extending over to Vanderbilt Avenue in Prospect Heights. Developer Bruce Ratner wants to build a professional basketball arena there to house his newly purchased New Jersey Nets. The \$2.5 billion Atlantic Yards plan also includes four sweeping office towers and 4,500 residential units.

The site is currently divided between boards 2, 6 and 8.

"It makes sense to centralize the arena project within a single community board," said Councilman David Vasey whose district includes much of District 2, centered around Brooklyn Heights, Downtown Brooklyn and Fort Greene.

At last week's CB2 monthly meeting the board voted to extend its boundaries all the way over to Vanderbilt Avenue to include the entire Atlantic Yards arena site, pending the approval of CB8.

"As the board that currently covers the

rest of Downtown Brooklyn it is appropriate that this project be included in CB2," said Robert Perris, district manager of CB2.

But when the board reviewed the Downtown Brooklyn Plan — a sweeping rezoning to encourage business to build skyscrapers downtown — earlier this year, board leadership was adamant that the arena plan not be considered with it. That drew a lot of criticism from residents and activists concerned about the traffic, transit and pedestrian impacts of both plans together.

Perris said this week that despite being in the same general area, "They are different projects."

Board 6, meanwhile, is looking to take its district out of the arena footprint, and CB8, whose Prospect Heights neighborhood actually encompasses Ratner's Atlantic Yards development, has yet to decide what they want to do.

"I'm waiting until the board makes a decision," said Robert Matthews, chairman of CB8, which covers Prospect Heights and Crown Heights.

At the same time, CB6 is looking to acquire Governors Island, just off the Red Hook shore. The board's leadership is asking the city to transfer the jurisdiction of the island over to Brooklyn from CB1 in Lower Manhattan.

"Brooklyn is a stone's throw from Governors Island across the Buttermilk Channel, while Manhattan is at least twice as far away," wrote CB6 Chairman Jerry Arner in a letter to Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

Councilman Bill DeBlasio, whose district includes a good chunk of CB6, said he supported the board's motion and felt both were good ideas.

"If we don't do it now we would have to wait another 10 years," said CB6 District Manager Craig Hammerman when

asked about the request to be taken out of the arena footprint.

Not changing the lines could result in "confusion at best, and chaos at worst," said Hammerman, noting the importance of uniformity in the delivery of municipal services.

The board is also concerned that the free movement of police officers and squad cars of the 78th Precinct — located just across Flatbush Avenue, on Sixth Avenue, next to the proposed arena site — would be impeded by the arena development.

"We contend that it will be unsafe and irrational to maintain an active station-house around the corner from an active arena," Arner wrote in a letter to the mayor's office.

Noting traffic congestion with police department vehicles, the board is advocating that if the arena plans go through, the precinct should be relocated to Fourth Av-

enue and Union Street, a less densely populated section of the district, although they have proposed no specific building for the stationhouse.

Making changes to the district lines is no easy process and requires the approval of the community board, borough president and City Council, said mayoral spokesman Chris Coffey.

"For the lines to be changed would require a great deal of support from all parties involved," he said.

Just four other community boards put in requests for changes to their district lines this time around.

"It is unlikely at this point that any serious changes are going to be made, but we can't rule anything out, the process is still under review," said Coffey.

Bloomberg will decide by May 1 if the requests merit a more extensive review. If he decides they do not, the issues are dead. xxx

# 'Brooklyn Papers distorted my cruise pier view'

To the editor:

The quotes and opinions attributed to me in the April 17 article, "Dock cruisin' to Red Hook," bear no relation to my conversation with Deborah Kolben or my opinions.

Kolben called to ask if waterfrontmatters.org had a transcription of a CB6 Economic and Waterfront Development committee meeting that she did-

n't attend. I said the transcription wasn't ready yet but gave her the recap of who said what as she requested.

I said a stevedore expressed concern that cruise jobs were only two-day-a-week jobs. I did not question "how wise it would be to have Pier 12 set apart for cruise ships, which would only keep the pier busy part of the year."

As to Pier 6, I said, speaking for myself, not as waterfrontmatters, I make no recommendations about pier uses as I don't have all the facts; official studies are not announced yet, and I have not done my own re-

search into the matter. After that preamble, I said when it comes time to plan the future use of pier 6, some of the issues to consider are X, Y and Z. As the EDC said there might be a need for a

second cruise pier. I mentioned 6 as a hypothetical second pier option and outlined for Kolben what some advantages might be (that the cruise business pays for infrastructure that park users could use during the 300 some days that the cruise ship is not in port.) The latter was a sales pitch made by Carnival about the community benefit of having a cruise

ship on pier 7. The discussion of pier 6 was to provide Kolben with ideas to research in the future; what The Brooklyn Papers has done is twist this into some invented punditry about the relationship between piers 12 and 6 and attribute it to me.

Lastly, waterfrontmatters is a project of CB6. It is primarily a portal that shares informa-

tion said or published elsewhere. It provides original source material, it does not advocate planning visions.

As a journalist, I enthusiastically support the concept of local newspapers as they often cover what the big outlets don't, but the concept is worthless if the reporting isn't accurate.

—Carolina Salguero, waterfrontmatters.org

Editor's response:

Due to an editing error, an opinion expressed by another party, which questioned the rationale for using Pier 12 to dock cruise ships, was attributed to Ms. Salguero.

The Brooklyn Papers regrets the error.

However, in the course of recapping a CB6 waterfront committee meeting, Ms. Salguero, in response to specific, on-the-record questions, told Ms. Kolben that she believed it was "absolutely essential" to maintain maritime use along the waterfront and that Pier 6 should be considered as a cruise ship dock because of the mutual benefit it could provide to both the cruise industry and the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park.

Those points were correctly attributed to her in the article.

## LETTERS

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**All letters must be signed** and include the writer's home address and phone number (only the writer's neighborhood and street name are published with the letter). **Letters may be edited and will not be returned.**

## RATNER...

Continued from page 1

Freddy's, a beloved Prohibition-era bar at the corner of Dean Street and Sixth Avenue, and a co-op at 475 Dean St. would both be spared, but the Atlantic Art Building, a recently converted nine-story luxury condominium at 636 Pacific St. would still have to come down.

"Saving some people's homes is a good start, but it's not a solution," said Robert Pucca, a member of Develop Don't Destroy Brooklyn, a community group formed in opposition to the arena plan.

Civil rights lawyer Norman Siegel, the former head of the New York Civil Liberties Union, who is representing the residents facing eviction, confirmed this week that Ratner was in discussions with some of the residents, but said the group would continue to challenge the use of eminent domain for any portion of the Atlantic Yards project.

Constructing a new building for displaced residents is nothing new to Ratner, who is best known for developing the Metrotech office complex in Downtown Brooklyn, as well as the Atlantic Terminal retail, restaurant and office hub and the failed Atlantic Center mall, both of which would neighbor his proposed arena complex.

As part of the Metrotech development, Ratner converted a former firehouse into affordable housing for displaced senior citizens. He also converted a former schoolhouse at 279 Sterling Place into condominiums for displaced loft tenants in Downtown Brooklyn, Deplascio said.

"They are making efforts to preserve homes and businesses," said Salvatore Perry, an architect and resident at 475 Dean St. "But the question is, will that be enough and will those still left under the threat of eminent domain be treated fairly?"

"It's a gun to the head," he added.

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## REAL ESTATE

## May makes Albano senior veep of Park Slope office

William B. May

Mary Ann Albano has been named senior vice president of William B. May of Brooklyn's Park Slope office.

Albano has been selling real estate in Park Slope and its surrounding neighborhoods since 1982. She joined the William B. May Company in 1985 and quickly became one of its top producers. In 1996, she was promoted to vice president and sales manager of the Park Slope office.

"While Park Slope will always be our core business, as prices continue to rise in Park Slope, Prospect Heights and Fort Greene, we are helping buyers rediscover late-19th and early 20th century homes in such areas as Lefferts Manor, Crown Heights and Clinton Hill," Albano said. "Brooklyn is experiencing a renaissance and William B. May of Park Slope is pleased to

lead the way for newcomers into the Brooklyn residential market."

Albano's reputation in the field is characterized by honesty, consistency and repetition — buyers and sellers have returned to her over and over again as their real estate needs have changed," explained the owner of William B. May of Brooklyn, Peter Mann.

As a result, in countless cases, she has worked with the same buyers or sold the same property repeatedly, he said. "In her unassuming way, Mary Ann has been an incredibly strong and positive force in the development of William B. May of Brooklyn's Park Slope office," Mann said. "During her directorship, she has expanded the number of sales agents to 20 from eight, created a formidable rental department, marketed more and new offerings and significantly increased overall sales volume. 2003 was her office's best year ever."

William B. May is the oldest continuously operating family-owned real estate brokerage in New York City. It opened its first office in 1866, at Fifth Avenue and 54th Street, a year after President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated, and the year the first trans-Atlantic cable was completed.

After a partnership with Henry D. Winans, the original William B. May sold real estate to New York's most prominent families, as the firm does to this day, through various land deals and sales.

William B. May was the first broker to open on 57th Street, now a major commercial thoroughfare, the first major Manhattan brokerage to open in Greenwich Village and Brownstone Brooklyn, and the first with a presence on the Internet. Today, it exists as several separate companies, including William B. May of Brooklyn, with seven offices and 170 salespeople.

## Real Estate board provides a forum for B'klyn agents

REBNY

The Real Estate Board of New York's residential division has created a new Brooklyn committee to provide an open forum where Brooklyn residential members can promote and foster better working relationships between member firms, outreach to non-member firms, and to educate members and the general public regarding professional practices, new trends and developments in the Brooklyn marketplace.

Although the Brooklyn panel was established six months ago, the first meeting in Brooklyn took place in February at Polytechnic University. Appropriately, the topic

of discussion was the New York State redevelopment proposal for the Brooklyn Bridge Park with the outgoing executive director of the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corporation, Jim Moogan. "REBNY's presence in Brooklyn is not a new phenomenon," said Steven Spinola, president of REBNY. "REBNY member firms have over 20 offices in Brooklyn."

"Co-broking has become a very successful tool to service our clients in selling and buying property and REBNY, in addition to providing wonderful resources for agents, can help us to co-broke in a more professional manner," says Melinda Magnet, president of the Corcoran Group-Brooklyn, and "having our own committee can provide more opportunities for Brooklyn agents," commented Barry Dilury of Harbor View Realty.

All future meetings of REBNY's Brooklyn Committee will be held in Brooklyn and information can be obtained by calling REBNY at (212) 532-3100.

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Members of New York Methodist Hospital's new cardiac surgery unit in action.

## NY Methodist opens cardiac surgery unit

NY Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital has joined with the Weill Cornell Medical College to unveil a premier cardiac surgery unit in Park Slope.

"This facility ensures that you don't have to leave Brooklyn for the finest in healthcare," Borough President Marty Markowitz said after touring the unit last week.

New York State selected New York Methodist to create the comprehensive cardiac and interventional cardiology program for Brooklyn. After intensive planning, construction and the hiring of exceptionally trained and experienced staff, the center opened a new, cutting-edge cardiac surgery suite that includes two cardiac surgery operating rooms, an eight-bed cardiac intensive care unit, a comfortable area for patients awaiting surgery, and a well-appointed family waiting area.

Patients whose conditions can be treated with non-surgical procedures such as balloon angioplasty and stent placement, are treated at the center by a team of prestigious and interventional cardiologists. Terrence Sacchi, MD, chief of cardiology, and Joseph Pama, DO, chief of the cardiac catheterization lab, both experts in the field, oversee the interventional component of the center. Interventional cardiologists work closely with the cardiac surgery team to ensure that patients receive the highest quality and most appropriate care for their condition.

The cardiac surgeons heading the program are Anthony Tortolani, MD, director, and Leonard Lee, MD, assistant director. Both doctors are on the teaching faculty at the Weill Cornell Medical College.

The surgical team comes to New York Methodist with much experience in cardiac care. "All of our cardiac anesthesiologists, nurses and perfusionists have worked in the field for many years," said Dr. Tortolani. He added, "Cardiac surgery involves many people... but you're only as strong as your weakest link. So we had to get the very best we could in everything — our people have to be very good."

For a referral to a cardiologist affiliated with New York Methodist Hospital, contact the hospital's Institute for Cardiology and Cardiac Surgery at (866) 844-3278.

## Headed back to Iraq

Kathryn Falk and Kenneth Rubin (pictured seated below) hosted a party Wednesday, April 21, at their home on College Place in Brooklyn Heights for local troops on leave from northern Iraq. Falk and Ann Chapin started a program called Operation Shoebox to collect supplies for U.S. troops in Iraq. Pictured standing below (from left): 19-year-old Jonathan Isaac, Lorraine Mercier-Robertson, Sgt. Nicholas Rekoutsis, Sandy Faison, 18-year-old Khaimraj Bacchus and Ann Chapin. In bottom photo, Peggy Tsaltas views photographs from Iraq with the soldiers, who will return to Iraq this week.



## Weary Leary

On Water Street in DUMBO last Saturday, actor Denis Leary has soot applied to his face prior to being photographed for an upcoming television series tentatively titled "Rescue Me," about the lives of NYC firefighters.



## Like a glove

Members of the Red Hook Youth Baseball League break in their new leather during Opening Day last Saturday.

## Free Seminar Senior Concerns

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## Quality Of Life

### Parkinson's Disease Program

The Parkinson's Disease Program at New York Methodist Hospital offers comprehensive diagnostic and treatment programs for Parkinson's and other movement disorders. While there is currently no cure for the disease, our team of specialists provide many treatments which can improve the quality of life.

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