

The Brooklyn Paper

Including The Brooklyn Heights Paper, Carroll Gardens-Cobble Hill Paper, DUMBO Paper and the Downtown News



Published every Saturday — online all the time — by Brooklyn Paper Publications Inc, 55 Washington St, Suite 624, Brooklyn NY 11201. Phone 718-834-9350 • www.BrooklynPapers.com • © 2005 Brooklyn Paper Publications • 18 pages • Vol. 28, No. 16 BWN • Saturday, April 16, 2005 • FREE



Brooklyn Dodgers Duke Snider and Don Newcomb celebrate Dem Bums' victory over the New York Yankees in the 1955 World Series.

Dodgers' pennant restored

By Frank Eltman
Associated Press

Only a half-century old, it certainly doesn't have the provenance of a medieval tapestry. But it is a one-of-a-kind, and to millions of baseball fanatics it's probably more valuable. The 1955 World Series championship banner captured by the Brooklyn Dodgers — the only one the team ever won — was unveiled Wednesday following a \$16,000 restoration by experts at the Textile Conservation Laboratory at the Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine.

"It's just fantastic," beamed Jessie Kelly, president of the Brooklyn Historical Society, which will feature the banner as the centerpiece of its upcoming exhibit on the Dodgers.

The 8-foot by 17-foot, blue-and-white, cotton-and-nylon banner — inscribed "World Champions 1955 Dodgers" — received about three months worth of tender loving care, said Marlene Eidelheit, head of the cathedral's textile lab. She said after a "gentle cleaning" workers restored the tattered edges and some of the lettering.

"It's just such a great opportunity to be part of this history, because we were working on a historical icon of our time," Eidelheit said. "Our job is always to preserve

something so others can enjoy it for the future and that's an important thing for us." The banner was won when the Dodgers beat the despised cross-town rival New York Yankees following decades of frustrating defeats for the Brooklyn faithful, known as Dem Bums. It only flew for a brief time in Brooklyn before Dodgers owner Walter O'Malley packed up the team and moved to Los Angeles in 1957.

Where it went from there is a bit murky, but most accounts. It was believed to have been liberated from a Los Angeles hospitality suite by a team of New York sportswriters during the 1959 World Series. The banner was then secreted in a suburban basement, where it sat for decades, and eventually was turned over to the Hall of Fame — with the understanding that it would stay in Cooperstown until a deserving Brooklyn home could be found.

Thirty years after winning the pennant, O'Malley's son, Peter — then the owner of the Dodgers — came up with the idea of giving the flag back to the people of Brooklyn in 1995. The Brooklyn Historical Society exhibit will be the first time in decades that the banner gets a wide showing. The exhibit, at its headquarters on Pierrepont Street at Clinton Street in Brooklyn Heights, is scheduled to run from April 22 through the fall.

OFF THE HOOK

City pushes for working waterfront — in Jersey

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A top official with a German shipping company that took its \$1.6 billion trade deal to New Jersey after first considering Brooklyn's port, said this week that the decision came down to the city's refusal to back the Red Hook port's existence.

"There's usually other factors that are in play, but it is correct that the lack of a long-term lease agreement affected our decision," Rainer Debe, chief of operations for the international shipping company Hamburg Sud told the Brooklyn Papers this week. The company had hoped to ship to Brooklyn for the next five years at the Red Hook piers operated by American Stevedoring Inc. (ASI), promising the creation of 400 jobs here, he said.

The Brooklyn Papers first reported last week that the company instead signed a contract with a port in Bayonne, N.J., after city Economic Development Corporation officials refused to guarantee that the Red Hook port would remain open through 2009.

"It was definitely a factor that they have only a relatively short contract that extends only to 2007," added Debe.

After extensive negotiations, the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey last December granted ASI a three-year lease extension on piers 7 through 10, claiming piers 11 and 12 for conversion to a cruise ship port.

"That certainly hasn't helped [ASI] in securing long-term contracts," said Debe. "As a shipping line, we want to be sure that we have a terminal in five to 10 years, maybe even 20 years. Seeing as terminals everywhere are filling up very quickly, if we transferred our ships to Brooklyn we'd end up without a place to go when their lease expired."

But, he added, "It certainly makes sense from our position to maintain a viable active port in Brooklyn," given its proximity to truck routes, buyers, adequate water depth for docking large freighters and the international reputation of ASI's shipping container unloading operation.

"The operator of the terminal has a good reputation as well as being who is managing operations efficiently and fast," Debe said. **HOOK LOSES** on page 16



Queens for a day

Twenty-one-year-old Brooklynite Irina Krush (second from left), considered one of the best American women chess players of all time, poses Tuesday with competitors in the women's World Chess Cup in the Chinese provincial capital of Jilin. Krush, who attended Edward R. Murrow High School in Midwood, became the youngest woman ever to compete in the U.S. Women's Chess Championship, at age 11, and was the youngest ever to win the same event, at age 14. She's flanked (left to right) by Irina Skripchenko, of France; Schneider Veronika, of Hungary; and Veronika Machalova, of Slovakia.

\$1G a square foot

Ft. Greene condos hit record high

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn's real estate boom has reached a new plateau — the \$1,000-a-square-foot condominium apartment.

But according to an executive brokering sales at the building that is setting the new market high, what is surprising is not that wealthy New Yorkers are willing to fork over all that moolah to live here — a walkup on Columbia Heights along Park Slope.

Known for the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a slew of French restaurants and a burgeoning African-influenced strip

line-view stretch is on the market for \$20 million — it's where this new peak is cresting.

No, it's not the waterside loft-ridden DUMBO, where recent open houses held by The Developers Group and Leviev Boynelgreen Developers had buyers waiting for a peek at an offsite model home in overnight queues around the block. Nor is it in the tree-lined brownstone colonies of Park Slope or Brooklyn Heights.

Instead, it is leafy, hilly Fort Greene. Known for the Brooklyn Academy of Music, a slew of French restaurants and a burgeoning African-influenced strip

of stores and restaurants along Fulton Street, the once crime-ridden and still edgy neighborhood, settled around a landmark park, features quaint architectural variety, a thriving art scene and a rich ethnic mix of residents.

Jerry Minsky, senior vice president with Corcoran Properties, said the Greene House condominiums, at 283 Carlton St. at Greene Avenue, started listing units on Nov. 30, and since then, 22 of the 27 units have sold, the majority at more than \$1,000 a square foot. The three penthouse units sold for more than \$1.2 million each.

See **FORT GREENE** on page 14

Church dooms 'oasis'

Wants apartments on site of 30-year Boerum Hill garden

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A Boerum Hill community garden that survived for decades on little more than silver bells and cockleshells is now in the crosshairs of a battle between the neighbors who planted it and the church that owns it.

With spring summoning daffodils, bluebells and goldendro to poke through the Hoyt Street Garden's wrought-iron fence and buds to sprout on its knobby oak tree, the Iglesia Del Vivo Cristo, or Church of the Living Christ, has asked the Hoyt Street Association, which built and planted the garden, to get lost.

Margaret Cusack, founder of the Hoyt Street Association, who lives only doors from the little pink church on Hoyt Street between Atlantic Avenue and Pacific Street that abuts the garden, says she's **See DOOMED** on page 17



Sunset Park Rep. Nydia Velasquez addresses protesters at Battle Hill Monument in Green-Wood Cemetery at the conclusion of Sunday's march in protest of new real estate development in Green-Wood Heights that threatens the neighborhood's low-rise character and harbor views.

SHUT OUT AGAIN

Marty holds another closed-door arena meet

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Borough President Marty Markowitz has hosted another closed-door meeting about developer Bruce Ratter's Atlantic Yards proposal, continuing his policy of shutting out community members who have prominently voiced opposition to the plan to build a basketball arena as well as 17 residential and office high-rise towers.

Last October, Markowitz held a similar meeting, shutting out reporters as well members of neighborhood groups that openly protested the plans.

According to attendees of both meetings, the policy has resulted in excluding those living in the Prospect Heights footprint of the planned development, bounded by Dean Street and Atlantic, Flatbush and Vanderbilt avenues.

This time around, Markowitz re-entitled in allowing members of the anti-Atlantic Yards group Develop — Don't Destroy Brooklyn to attend the March 24 meeting, just not their chief spokesman, Daniel Goldstein.

"One reason they gave that I could not come is that I'm a figurehead of the opposition," said Gold-



Marty Markowitz

stein, the last holdout who has not sold or agreed to sell to Ratter his condominium in the Atlantic Arts building at 636 Pacific St. within the Atlantic Yards footprint.

"We eventually decided not to go at all, because we don't think Borough President Marty Markowitz has the right to say who represents our group," said Goldstein. "Instead of making a scene we decided to step back this time. We will attend the next meeting." The groups or individuals were

mailed invitations to the Borough Hall meeting.

Goldstein said DDDDB was not initially invited, but after asking another local group to urge their inclusion, "[Markowitz] said, OK, we could come, but Daniel Goldstein can't come. Also Ratti and Schellie [Hagan], and PHAC [Prospect Heights Action Coalition] can't come either."

Asked why certain people or groups were barred from attending the meeting, Markowitz said through a spokeswoman, "This community meeting brought together leaders of over a dozen civic organizations and elected officials from the neighborhoods adjacent to the Atlantic Yards and Nets arena who represented every point of view on the project. The size of the group was relatively small to create a working group for constructive dialogue."

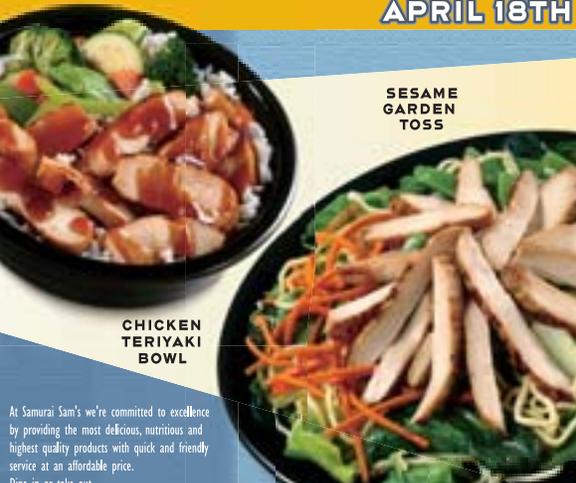
Local elected officials, including Councilman David Yassky, Councilwoman Letitia James, and state Senators Carl Andrews and Velmanette Montgomery attended.

Prospect Heights Community Neighborhood Alliance President Gib Veconi said Markowitz "made an effort to reach out to more **See MARTY** on page 15

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D'town jewelry heist

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Paper

A Downtown Brooklyn jewelry store was robbed of a variety of gold jewelry by an armed and masked bandit on April 5.

The robber entered Livingstone Jewelry on Livingston Street at Flatbush Avenue, at 11:16 am, and held up the two store workers at gunpoint.

"Put everything in the bag. Do what I say or you'll get shot. Do you want to die?" he said, pointing the gun at the employees.

The employees put jewelry in the bag, including steel rings with clear stones, gold rings with clear stones and yellow-and silver chains with stones, say police.

Both victims told police that the robber was a black male, wearing a ski mask, blue jeans, and a gray-and-blue sweatshirt with Roca Wear on the front of it.

The gunman took the booty and fled.

Bust shoplifter

A middle-aged woman was busted allegedly trying to swipe more than \$1,500 in clothing from the Macy's at Fulton Mall on April 4.

A security guard told police he saw the suspect, 49, attempting to smuggle women's clothing out of the department store between 8:10 pm and 10:20 pm.

By the time he stopped her, she'd nearly bilked \$1,518 in merchandise. The guard held the woman until police arrived. She was charged with grand larceny.

Shoes teacher

A 14-year-old boy attacked his teacher at a Boerum Hill public school April 4 as he left the classroom to get water, say police.

The incident occurred at 3 pm at PS 269, on State Street at Bond Street.

A security guard told police the young man asked to get water, and when he neared the doorway where his female teacher was standing, he shoved her into the wall.

The teacher refused medical attention, and the boy was arrested for assault.

The teacher refused medical attention, and the boy was arrested for assault.

The driver left the red-and-white 1989 GM truck bearded in Coca-Cola insignias locked at 12:50 am, in an-

POLICE BLOTTER

derground garage near Jay Street.

The driver told police that upon his return at 9:30 am, the vehicle was gone without a trace.

Search records revealed it had not been towed.

Police in the 83rd Precinct found the van at 6 pm.

Bad break

A fast-acting thief made off with a \$3,000 laptop computer in Downtown Brooklyn when the owner left it alone during a brief break on April 4.

The victim, 18, told police he was at a building at Polytechnic University in Metrotech and had been working inside for several hours.

When he briefly left to get a bite to eat at 11 am and came back less than 15 minutes later, he found the property was missing. The victim questioned people at the scene, but there were no witnesses to the theft.

Robbed at FDNY

A Fire Department employee had her wallet lifted from her coat at the FDNY headquarters in Metrotech on the morning of April 5.

The victim, 37, told police she'd left her jacket in the courtroom of the FDNY building at the Street of the Bravest near Flatbush Avenue Extension.

When she left the coat, at 9:30 am the wallet was in one of her pockets, she told police.

When she went for a lunch

break, at 12:45 pm, she noticed the wallet was gone. The courtroom is shared by 30 employees.

Among the items reported stolen with the wallet were \$12, a state ID, a disabled rider MetroCard pass, a \$20 MetroCard and an FDNY photo ID.

Computer caper

A burglar made off with more than \$200,000 in computer equipment from an investment firm in Brooklyn Heights between March 17 and March 24, say police.

Officials of the company, at Pierrepont and Court streets, found that dozens of Internet router cards had been removed from a cabinet where they were stored between 12:51 pm on March 17 and 12:36 pm on March 24. Company officials told police they suspect the perpetrator was a male employee who is no longer with the firm who removed the property while at work.

The citywide Computer Crimes Squad is investigating the case.

So young

A thief stole a flat-screen computer from a health facility in Downtown Brooklyn between March 30 and April 5, officials of the mental health and substance abuse clinic, at Jay and Nassau streets said.

The computer was only four months old, they said, and worth \$1,200.

Locker robber

A locker-room robber tapped into a Remsen Street health club and in only 30 minutes pillooned more than \$2,000 in goods on April 7.

At the club, on the corner of Court Street, the victim, 39, told police he had left his clothing, watch and cell phone in a locked gym locker at 7 am.

Upon his return half an hour later, the items were gone, he told police.

Reported stolen was a cellular phone, a necklace valued at \$1,800, a \$200 leather jacket, \$80 in cash, house keys and clothing, which he valued at \$2,430 altogether.

Cycle stolen

A bike thief stole a blue 1999 Suzuki motorcycle from in front of a house in Boerum Hill on April 8.

The victim, of Vermont, who was visiting his mother's home on Dean Street at Nevins Street, had parked the motorcycle in front of the home at 4 pm.

Only two hours later, he noticed the bike, valued at \$3,500, was gone.

Roomies robbed

A burglar broke into a Boerum Hill apartment of three 20-something roommates on April 4 and made off with a bevy of expensive computer equipment.

The victim, 28, reported that she left the apartment, on Bergen Street between Smith and Hoyt streets, at 8:45 am, and upon her return at 12:02 am she discovered the front door's plate glass was broken.

See **BLOTTER** on page 3

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Beat, rob girl in station

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

Four men mugged a 15-year-old girl on the F train platform of the Fourth Avenue and Ninth Street subway station at 7:50 am on April 14. The girl told police she was waiting for a train when the men — who she described as in their mid-20s, including one set of identical twins — approached her.

The first one, who stood 6-foot-1 and wore long dreadlocks capped off with a do-rag, punched her in the head. Another of the thugs punched her in her stomach, and together they forcibly removed her silver charm bracelets, hoop earrings and pume.

One of the men held the victim's arm while another removed her jewelry. When an 8 train pulled into the station, all four men ran onto the northbound train. From the station, the victim called her mother to pick her up. The police report was made by telephone from the mothers' job, so no canvass was conducted.

The victim told police that among the items stolen was a Cobble Hill High School ID card, gold hoop earrings, four silver bracelets with a variety of rhinestones and a charm bracelet. Together the property was valued at \$1,025.

Laptop snatch

A trio of bumbling hoodlaks who tried to leave a Park Slope real estate firm with a company laptop on April 10 were caught red-handed by one of the agents. Police arrested the suspects.

The agent was showing one of the three men property listings at the firm on Seventh Avenue near Garfield Place. The robber, masquerading as an interested renter, was joined by two friends.

LEGAL NOTICES

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 17th day of April, 2005, bearing the Index Number N502452005, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 202, grants me rights to Assume the name of Nasser Nasser Khavari. My present name is Olan. My present address is 102 42nd Street, Apt. 20, Brooklyn, NY 11219. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is October 26, 2002.

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Kings County on the 29th day of March, 2005, bearing the Index Number N50245105, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at CIVIL COURT, KINGS COUNTY 141 Livingston Street, Brooklyn, New York 11201, in room 202, grants us rights to: 1) Assume the name of Alexander Khan. My present name is Alexander Miraluz. My present address is 2223 East 57th Place, Brooklyn, NY 11224. My place of birth is Republic of the Ukraine. My date of birth is September 20, 1978. 2) Assume the name of Samanthia Alexa Shah. My present name is Samanthia Alexa Shah. My present address is 2223 East 57th Place, Brooklyn, NY 11224. My place of birth is Brooklyn, NY. My date of birth is January 21, 2004.

POLICE BLOTTER

While one of the men distracted the agent, the others placed two laptop computers underneath their clothing.

When the agent grew suspicious, one of the men dropped a computer, and all three fled. Police gave chase and apprehended the three, recovering the other laptop, valued at \$1,500.

The suspects, ages 17, 18 and 19, were referred to community court, and face charges of criminal possession of stolen property, larceny and resisting arrest. They were apprehended by 78th Precinct Police Officer Rigoberto Torres.

Cashed out

A Park Slope branch of Northfork bank on April 8 reported the theft of \$18,857 by one of its tellers who allegedly worked in collusion with others to tip them off.

The thefts occurred between 11:37 am and 11:59 pm at the Fifth Avenue branch between the 12th and 13th streets, branch officials told police.

Cops say the bank teller knowingly accepted stolen checks, and entered the deposits made with the checks as if they were cash so that the teller could then withdraw money immediately from other bank

branches and ATMs.

Four withdrawals occurred that day at separate locations.

The teller, 20, was arrested April 8, and faces charges of grand larceny in the second degree. The arrest was made by Detective Felix Padilla.

Warehouse rob

Burglars took more than \$2,000 in computer equipment from a factory warehouse on Ninth Street at the Gowanus Canal.

The warehouse was secured, according to the manager, on April 5 at 3:50 pm, but when he opened at 6:45 am the next day, he discovered that burglars had snuck in through an office door.

Police say the thieves forced open a door to the rear offices and removed a computer and monitor, each valued at \$1,000, as well as a printer and high-end calculator, totaling \$2,140 in stolen merchandise.

Gunpoint mug

A mugger held up a man at gunpoint on April 4.

The victim, 24, was approaching the First Street Bridge over the Gowanus Canal at 11:03 pm when the stranger, joined by another man, appeared out of the dark-

ness. "Give me your [expletive] wallet," the mugger demanded, and flashed a silver handgun.

The victim obliged and handed over the wallet. Both thugs fled on foot from the scene.

Immediately after the incident, the victim summoned police and officers on patrol arrested two suspects, one of whom had the stolen brown wallet, and a silver handgun in a left front pocket of his jacket.

Two men, 23 and 22, were arrested by Police Officer Paul Farella at Seventh Avenue and First Street, and charged with displaying a firearm, criminal possession of a weapon, displaying a weapon and grand larceny.

Bully for him

Two bullies beat up a teenager and mugged him of his iPod on April 4.

The 17-year-old victim told police he was walking on the southeast corner of Fifth Street and Seventh Avenue at 9:30 am, when two teens approached him on either side.

Both boys were scared off by the nearby presence of a police officer, who gave chase when the victim reported what happened.

The boys, 15 and 16 were arrested by Police Officer Terence Daly of the 78th Precinct.

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Intruder enters Slope girl's bed

By Jess Wisloski
The Brooklyn Papers

A psychopath who broke into a Park Slope apartment on April 7 climbed into bed with a 9-year-old girl, startling her awake at 1:30 am.

The break-in took place in the third-floor apartment of a family on Third Street at Sixth Avenue.

Police say the intruder gained access to the girl's room by way of a fire escape at her rear bedroom window.

Newspaper reports said the stranger, a middle-aged man, climbed into bed next to the girl and embraced her in a tight hug, saying he was her father. When the little girl realized it was not her daddy in the bed, she tried to get up, angering the invader.

The man pushed her down on the bed, and tried to hold her back from getting help.

The pervert fled out the window and back down the fire escape by the time the girl returned to the bedroom with her mother.

The victim's mother told police that when she entered her daughter's bedroom, she could smell the cologne the sicko wore still lingering in the air. She said it smelled "very bad."

The mother told police she remembered the same scent from a worker who the family had hired to replace the windows and safety gates. The mother said she once caught the laborer going through her underwear drawer.

Following the assault and break-in, the young girl was taken to New York Methodist Hospital, where doctors determined no sexual assault or abuse had taken place. A canvass was conducted following the invasion, but with negative results.

Slope auto shop fire

The Brooklyn Papers

Nine firefighters were treated for injuries Tuesday after a late-night blaze at a Park Slope auto body shop collapsed a wall of shelving holding heavy auto parts, pinning the men while rescuers searched for them in the cavernous warehouse.

More than 100 firefighters from Engine Companies 239 and 219, and Ladders 105 and

122, responded to the three-alarm fire inside the GB 500 Auto Body shop at 11 Denton Place - between Carroll and First streets off Fourth Avenue - at 10:50 pm on April 12.

A Fire Department spokesman said firefighters searched for more than 10 minutes before finding and rescuing the men under the metal shelves.

"It was a warehouse type building, a lot of the area was used to hold parts, so, yeah, it was a big fire," the spokesman said.

The mostly minor injuries, including ankle sprains, a broken wrist and several burns, are being treated at several local hospitals, including New York Methodist Hospital on Seventh Avenue.

Fire officials were still investigating what sparked the blaze. —Jotham Sederstrom

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2 pols war over FDNY exam bill

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Brooklyn City Council members James Oddo and Yvette Clarke are at odds over legislation intended to diversify the Fire Department.

Sponsored by Clarke to bring more non-whites to a department skewed heavily white and male, the legislation was blasted by Oddo this week for a stipulation that would allow cadets with the

lowest passing test scores to become firefighters.

"While your legislation might have a justifiable end, I cannot support it and, on the contrary, feel compelled to be a vocal critic of it," wrote Oddo in a letter he sent to Clarke on April 1. "If passed, this law will only ensure that the FDNY will be made up of a diversified group of individuals of all races and genders who simply will not be the best of the best."

The passing grade on the Fire Department written exam

is 85 and firefighter candidates cannot fail more than two of eight physical tasks. Those who pass are put on a list of potential hires and when slots open they are hired in descending order based on the test results.

What Clarke proposes is to break the pass list up into groups based on the test scores (for example, the top 10th percentile, then the next 10th percentile, and so on) and then when a hiring period comes up, choose only a percentage from each of those groups. That way, she says, the hire is

spread throughout the list of those who passed, instead of in straight order of test score.

Clarke, chairwoman of the Fire & Criminal Justice Services committee, explained in the legislation that because of bonus points allotted to family members of dead firefighters, war veterans and applicants living in the five boroughs, final test scores often fail to accurately reflect the skills of an applicant.

"As a result, one cannot say with any degree of confidence that someone with a total score of 99, and ranked at the top of

the FDNY's hiring list, would be a better firefighter than someone with a total score of 89, who may be too low on the list to ever be hired," wrote Clarke in the legislation.

"What were saying is the exam doesn't tell the full story," Clarke told The Brooklyn Papers.

According to the legislation, 91.6 percent of the uniformed members of the Fire Department are white. In contrast, 65 percent of all residents in the five boroughs are non-white. Of roughly 8,700 firefighters,

only 28 are women.

The bill is backed by Democratic council members Charles Barron, Sara Gouza-Lez, Letitia James, Dominic Recchia and Albert Vann, all of Brooklyn.

Oddo, a Republican, and Clarke, a Democrat, couldn't be more polar opposites. Representing conservative portions of Staten Island and Bensonhurst, Oddo is a white Italian; Clarke, meanwhile, is a black woman representing portions of Prospect Park South and Flatbush.



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Convention arrests were faulty

Associated Press

Police brass and protesters found common ground Tuesday, agreeing that the increasingly popular process of videotaping demonstrations qualified as a good idea — although predictably, they came at it from different sides.

Police Commissioner Ray Kelly, discussing videos that surfaced after last year's Republican National Convention, said they demonstrated the "outstanding performance" by the NYPD. And hundreds of protesters managed to prove their innocence after convention arrests by showing exculpatory video footage, said the head of the New York Civil Liberties Union.

"The camera is a powerful tool that has enabled us not just to exonerate individuals, but hold police accountable and document serious wrongdoings," said NYCLU President Donna Lieberman.

Kelly expressed his belief that the videos "are very beneficial to us" because they can show police officers dealing properly with protesters. "There may be instances where they're helpful to the prosecution, and instances where they're helpful to the defense," Kelly said of the videos.

Videos surfaced after the convention from citizens, volunteers and the police. During the event, 1,806 people were

arrested on charges like disorderly conduct and obstructing justice. Since then, 1,670 cases of the dropping of charges against 227 people arrested during an Aug. 31 demonstration at Ground Zero.

About 400 cases were dis-

missed outright. Lieberman said her organization found videotape that helped produce the dropping of charges against 227 people arrested during an Aug. 31 demonstration at Ground Zero.

"We looked at videos from a variety of sources," said Barbara Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Manhattan district attorney's office. "And in a number of cases, we have moved to dismiss."

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The Brooklyn Papers PARENT

Dealing with mental illness

Q: Mental illness, including bipolar disorder, runs in my family. How and when should I warn my 12-year-old son about his (troublesome) genes? — a mother

A: Share small doses of personal stories and clear the way for questions. Don't sound an alarm that overwhelms your son.

Tell your child in a gentle, age-appropriate way: "This is something you may have to deal with," suggests Ken Druck, PhD, a psychologist and parent educator.

Avoid abstract, clinical terms, suggests Druck, author of "How to Talk to Your Kids About School Violence" (Omnimacopa, 2003). Instead, use simple language and anecdotes your child can relate to: "Sometimes Daddy has a hard time. Sometimes his moods go up and down like a roller coaster." As you tell your own stories, ask: "Is this what you go through, too?"

Like all challenging topics, mental illness is not a one-time conversation at a certain age. Even from birth, Druck says, parents need to open the lines



By Betsy Flieger

of conversation. That way, long before you need to talk about something as emotionally charged as mental illness, your child already expects you will be honest and let him resist. And you'll have the kinds of connections with your child that will make it easier to recognize and cope with problems such as depression.

"Children need a safe place

to explore and ask questions as they try to make sense of what you've told them," he says. "They need to be able to express any emotion, from confusion to anger to curiosity."

If one or both parents have bipolar disorder, an ongoing cycle of extremely high and low moods, the chances are greater that their children will develop the mental illness, according to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry. With a variety of treatment options, including family therapy, bipolar disorder and depression are highly treatable.

"If a child is struggling with anything, from obesity to depression or bipolar disorder, it's important for parents to be able to talk about themselves openly, especially if we're parents who suffer the same challenge," Druck says.

But don't play the psychiatric expert, he says. Suggest that you and your child do research together about warning signs of depression, for example, and talk to a mental health professional if you have concerns.

Bebe Moore Campbell, who co-founded a chapter of the National Alliance for the Mentally Ill, suggests that parents put a discussion of mental illness within a broader context of overall health.

Children need to know that mental illness is treatable, she says, that a diagnosis is not a "sentence to hell."

"If you don't talk about it, there's no information, even within the family," says Campbell, who says her group includes many adults who were left clueless about the mental illness in their families.

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**Church near death
Fear landmark will be torn down**

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

Only a month shy of its 175th anniversary, Brooklyn's oldest Methodist congregation could be forced to celebrate its 176th on the street if parishioners of the Bay Ridge church fails to renovate its rapidly deteriorating sandstone facade.



The Bay Ridge United Methodist Church, at the corner of Fourth and Ovington avenues, may be sold to developers.

More than a decade after rain and wind began bruising the outer walls of the United Methodist Church, on Fourth Avenue at Ovington Avenue, officials say the historic building may finally be sold and, perhaps, demolished. A real estate agent emphasized that negotiations were ongoing, parishioners contend that a board of trustees has already begun meeting with developers to discuss the future of the 105-year-old church.

"This has been an albatross around this congregation's neck for quite some time," said Debra Janet, a parishioner who has lived less than a block from the church for 10 years. "For a few [trustees], they may have stars in their eyes, but for the majority it's simply exhaustion."

"My concern is that they aren't considering any option other than tearing the church down."

Listed as a landmark in the National Registry of Historic Places and boasting one of the borough's last surviving four-faced clock towers, the church has been plagued since the 1980s by the ravages of weather and a shrinking congregation. Although thousands of dollars have already been spent to protect and renovate its eroding facade, some say that the cost to restore the church, upwards of \$3 million, may be too much to bear.

According to several parishioners and Bay Ridge preservationists, trustees have been deliberating at least since October, though likely much longer, on whether to sell off a school building and parking lot on the same lot in order to finance further renovations or simply surrender the church itself.

Janet, a real estate agent, said that she and roughly 100 other congregants were told in October that trustees were considering at least five options with the help of brokers at Massey Knakal Realty.

Stated in a memo to parishioners, those options include: relocating after selling the entire lot — consisting of a school house, parking lot and the church; selling the school house and parking lot and using profits from those sales to finance renovations; selling a portion of the property and constructing a new sanctuary on the remaining property; selling the church, which would likely then be demolished, with an agreement that a place of worship would be reserved for whatever development arises on that land; or any other ideas that trustees could muster.

As of press time, no other ideas had been suggested. Mary Kate Spach, who lives near the church but is not a parishioner, said that the idea of destroying a building with such historical value was shocking to her and other neighbors along Ovington Avenue.

Spach, a real estate agent, said most developers would want to build condos on the lot, but added, "In my knowledge as an agent who has worked with big developers, any developer worth their salt would never be interested in a project if it included destroying a national landmark. So whoever's looking at this site, I don't know."

Church officials did not return calls seeking comment for this article.

he had discussed the future of the church with its trustees, Timothy King, a broker for Massey Knakal, contends that plans to sell or demolish the historic building have not been made. He declined, however, to divulge specific details.

"They're exploring their options, but it's not going away," said King. "Downsize? Relocate? Yes, that's possible. But it's not going away anytime soon."

Asked if a developer had been chosen, as some parishioners claimed, King answered no before deriding the question.

"Let's not say that," said King. "It's very early in the day and for some reason in Bay Ridge that word is linked with — I don't know what, but there's no developer."

State Sen. Marty Golden, whose district includes Bay Ridge, said that he had discussed the predicament with church officials as early as last year.

But faced with what he believed to be an insurmountable fight, Golden said that parishioners should resign themselves to either relocating the congregation or negotiating with developers in order to reserve for themselves a new place of worship.

Should the building be demolished, Golden said that senior housing should take its place.

"If they can save it, then God bless them, but I don't think so," said Golden. "I believe there's always that group that's out there [willing to fight to save historic buildings], and that's altruistic. I'd like to see it stay too, but you have to get real about the situation and come up with the funding."

He added, "Brooklyn was always the borough of bars and churches, but the bars are disappearing and so are the churches."

The congregation was formed in 1830 in a small church on Sixth Avenue at 65th Street. Containing two pews (one for men, the other for women), the church remained there only briefly before the congregation outgrew the small building.

Charles Neu, a historian who described himself as a former pastor of the church, said that he doesn't have records pointing to exactly when the next church, on Seventh Avenue at 78th Street, was built, but it subsequently burned down, leading to the creation of the current church.

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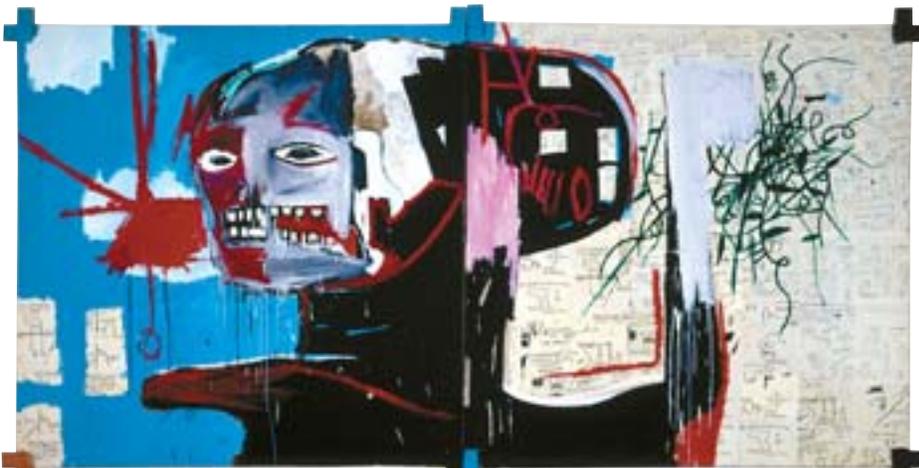
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Marina Godina RN, at 212-844-1491
Department of Pain Medicine and Palliative Care
Beth Israel Medical Center



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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

April 16, 2005



Homecoming

Fort Greene's poet-painter Basquiat is fondly remembered

By Lisa J. Curtis
GO Brooklyn Editor

With two floors of exhibition space showcasing more than 100 works by his hand, the Brooklyn Museum's latest show is a moving tribute to one of the borough's most famous sons, Jean-Michel Basquiat.

"Basquiat" is a comprehensive display of paintings and works on paper by the poet-artist who was born and raised in Fort Greene.

At the exhibit's opening last month, Brooklyn Museum Director Arnold Lehman said that the works are from 37 international lenders "and some have never been seen by the public before."

In addition to being a prolific visual artist, Basquiat, the child of a Haitian-American father and a Puerto Rican mother, was a multi-talented creative force who starred in a film loosely based on his own life ("Eldo Bertoglio's 'Down town 81'"), was a musician in the ska-punk band Gray, performed in Blondie's "Rapture" video, produced his own hip-hop record "Beat-Box," collaborated with Andy Warhol and dated Madonna before dying of a drug overdose in 1988 at the age of 27.

Although he was an artist who worked for a short amount of time before his death, 17 years ago, Basquiat continues to fascinate art historians, the public and celebrities. Not only does Haitian-American hip-hop artist Wyclef Jean read passages from Basquiat's interviews and poetry on the exhibit's audio tour, but superstars such as Bruce Springsteen and Leonardo DiCaprio have already made pilgrimages to

the Brooklyn Museum to see the show.

The museum's chronological exhibition is curated by Marc Mayer, former deputy director for art at the Brooklyn Museum and now director of the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal; Fred Hoffman of the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles; Kellie Jones, assistant professor at Yale University; and Franklin Simons.

The curators trace Basquiat's trajectory to stardom, starting with the artist as a 6-year-old boy who showed a precocious talent for drawing (so his mother enrolled him as a junior member of the Brooklyn Museum). The next year, at St. Ann's School in Brooklyn Heights, "[He] drew a lot

wherever he could and grinned when he came for more paper," his second-grade teacher, Coco McCoy, is quoted in the exhibit.

The teacher notes that his drawings then were "a thought process elaborated with raw figures, lines, icons, symbols, edicts and a message."

The exhibit recalls his early incarnation as a cryptic graffiti poet tagging the buildings of lower Manhattan with the phrases SAMO (for "same old, same old," according to the exhibition notes) to the darling of the '80s art scene that Basquiat became.

Basquiat's works reflect both his diverse Brooklyn heritage and the city itself. He incorporates symbols from American, Haitian and Puerto Rican cultures, and combines layers of media to achieve layers of meaning with his collages, paints and text.

In addition to paying homage to his heroes from the worlds of music (Charlie Parker) and sports (Sugar Ray Robinson, Joe Louis), racism is a recurring, afflicting theme in his works, such as in 1981's "Irony of the Negro



Believe the hype: Included in the Brooklyn Museum exhibit, "Basquiat," a retrospective of works by Jean-Michel Basquiat (top) and 1983's "La Colomba" (left) and 1984's "Trumpet" (above).

Policeman." Here the artist scratches through a surface of white paint to get at the colors beneath; the figure in a blue uniform, with a black skull for a face, enforces the rules of the white world.

In 1982's "Native Carrying Some Guns, Bibles, Amorties on Safari," a black man holds a crate above his head, his eyes wide with fright while the black outline of a white man in a safari hat holds a menacing rifle. On this canvas, Basquiat writes provocative phrases alluding to the slave trade including "Good money in savages" and "Cortez."

Fast forward to 1983's complicated composition for "Eyes and Eggs," which is a plea for help for the downtrodden, heavily paid employee. This figure, wearing a fast-food worker's hat and a nametag bearing "Joe," holds a frying pan with red eggs emitting red steam. His exhausted wide eyes are rimmed in red, and there are actual sneaker prints all over the work.

Many of Basquiat's canvases are effective because they illustrate the inner world of human figures juxtaposed with the chaos of their surroundings. In 1983's enormous work "La



Believe the hype: Included in the Brooklyn Museum exhibit, "Basquiat," a retrospective of works by Jean-Michel Basquiat (top) and 1983's "La Colomba" (left) and 1984's "Trumpet" (above).

Colomba" ("The Dove"), which employs acrylic, oil paintstick and photocopy collage on a canvas with wood supports, a head appears to melt gray paint in the face of a brilliant blue sky and a splash of red while the back of the figure's head and body are thought in the form of words and symbols.

Although the artist initially painted on anything he could due to financial constraints, even after he achieved success he continued to paint on unusual materials. One example is the humble, crudely stretched canvas upon which "St. Joe Louis Surrounded by Snakes" (1982) was drawn. In it, the boxer rests under a halo in the center of the composition, encircled by white faces.

The exhibition is supplemented by Lee Jaffe's photos of Basquiat at work. Those images help the viewer to remember the handsome young man at work and full of life, rather than dwelling on his too-early, tragic death. In one of Jaffe's shots, Basquiat works outdoors, applying paint to the canvas with a tube rather than a brush, squishing the turquoise pigment with his fingers.

THEATER

Daddy dearest

Kings County Shakespeare Company's home space, Founders Hall at St. Francis College in Brooklyn Heights, may still be under renovation, but that hasn't stopped the company from mounting its first production of the 2005 season: a double bill of Terry Quinn's verse adaptation of the Nathaniel Hawthorne short story, "Rappaccini's Daughter," and Quinn's own "Bad Evidence."

The two one-acts, directed by Deborah Wright Houston, will be performed at Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex in Manhattan April 16 and April 17.

Houston is staging the world premiere of "Rappaccini's Daughter" (at left) as an experimental drama with music by Quinn performed by a cellist, guitarist, three dancers and a soprano soloist.

Set in Bergamo, Italy, the play is about a young woman, Beatrice, who has been confined to her garden by her botanist father, Giacomo Rappaccini, because he wants to protect her from the evil of the world by raising her among perfumes of poisonous plants. Inevitably, his plans are foiled when a worldly suitor, Giovanni, falls in love with Beatrice and becomes immune to the deadly plants.

"Bad Evidence" (at right), in its New York premiere, is a contemporary play about a young married couple trying to cope with suspicions of infidelity. Talking in bed after hosting a party, each tries to tempt the other partner into humiliating confessions by the use of "bad evidence." This play also incorporates music by Quinn, who is an adjunct professor at St. Francis College.

"Rappaccini's Daughter" and "Bad Evidence" will be performed April 16 at 2 and 8 pm and April 17 at 2 and 7 pm. Tickets are \$15. Abingdon Theatre Arts Complex is located at 312 W. 36th St. between Eighth and Ninth avenues. For tickets, call (212) 868-4444 or visit www.smart-tix.com. To download an audio "Podcast" discussing the two-part show, visit www.kingscounty-shakespeare.org.

— Paulanne Simmons

CINEMA



First 'Look'

At long last, director Agnes Jaoui's second film, "Look At Me," which received a warm welcome when it opened at the New York Film Festival last fall, is being screened in Brooklyn.

Triple threat Jaoui has crafted a film that demonstrates her many talents — as writer, director and actress. ("Look At Me" garnered the best screenplay award at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival for Jaoui and co-writer Jean-Pierre Bauri.)

In her movie, Jaoui plays the role of singing teacher Sylvia, who is initially annoyed by the cloying enthusiasm of her heavyset, 20-year-old student, Lolita, but softens when she finds out that Lolita's father is a famous writer-publisher (played by Bauri).

Marilou Berry (pictured above right, with Jaoui) is riveting as the angry Lolita who is not only eclipsed by her father's celebrity but doesn't get any serious attention from him either. Lolita must even compete with his young, pretty wife Karine (Virginie Desarmats) for her father's attention.

As the cliver of Sylvia and her boyfriend, also a writer, intertwine with the lives of Lolita's family, Jaoui creates a film that mocks the sycophants who orbit celebrities; skewers the global obsession with weight and beauty; and celebrates the healing, transcendent power of the performing arts — especially the art of song.

Throughout "Look At Me," the viewer anxiously watches to see if Lolita will succumb to the pressure to remain miserable and petty or take responsibility for her own life and pursue the possibility of true love.

Just as Jaoui demonstrates the many ways people routinely demean their customers, colleagues and loved ones, she deftly applies a sprinkling of humor to help the medicine go down.

"Look At Me" is now playing at the BAM Rose Cinemas (30 Lafayette Ave. at Ashland Place in Fort Greene). Tickets are \$10. For more information, call (718) 636-4100.

— Lisa J. Curtis

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BROOKLYN ites Neighborhood Dining Guide

This week: CONEY ISLAND

Alex Deli Grocery

1418 Mermaid Ave. at West 15th Street, (718) 265-0675 (Cash only) Sandwiches: \$4.50-\$8.25. According to manager and chef Noe Uroza, the most popular item on the menu is the Mexican sandwich, which has a little bit of everything, it seems. Once the pork, chicken and steak are piled on top of a layer of beans, the concoction is spiced with hot peppers, covered with mozzarella cheese, garnished with lettuce and tomato, dressed in mayo and served to you on a roll of bread. Sounds like too much? Let the "Arnold Schwarzenegger" be your hero and save the day with grilled chicken, fresh sliced tomatoes and melted Monterey cheese. Or pick another sandwich named after a movie star. Can't make up your mind? There's always a good ol' taco from the wide selection of Mexican food the deli has to offer. Open daily from 7 am to 7 pm.

Gargiulo's

2911 W. 15th St. at Surf Avenue, (718) 266-4891; www.gargiulos.com (AmEx, DC, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$7-\$20-\$31. "It's the classic story of the immigrant family from Sorrento trying to get a better life in America," says Anthony Russo, whose family has owned this newly century-old Italian restaurant for the past 40 years.

Originally established in 1907 by the Gargiulo family, the restaurant's ballroom was the site of many wedding celebrations and other social functions throughout the '30s, '40s and '50s. The Russo family, who purchased Gargiulo's in 1965, kept the name, while implementing their Neapolitan hospitality and home-style cuisine.

Among Russo's recommendations are the "veal alla vittorio," grilled veal with sautéed anchovies, mushrooms, peppers and onions; and the "lettucine verde alla Gargiulo," green fettuccine in a light cream sauce with mushrooms, onions, chicken and prosciutto. Closed Tuesdays.

Nathan's Famous

1310 Surf Ave. at Stillwell Avenue, (718) 946-2202; www.nathansfamous.com (AmEx, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$2-\$4-\$16-\$28. The legendary Nathan's began in 1916 as a nickel hot-dog stand and has grown into a fast-food franchise with outlets as far as Israel and Egypt. The historic eatery continues to grab the spotlight with its annual July 4 hotdog-eating contest.

"We have the best hotdogs in the world," said Sandro Orsiga, a Coney Island resident and Nathan's manager for three years.

You can visit the original landmark and order its 300-calorie, 22-gram-of-carbs hotdogs at the sidewalk counter windows or go inside to order up the chicken sandwiches, "chargrilled" burgers, smores, "krispie cut," french fries, rotisserie chicken from Kenny Rogers, fresh-squeezed lemonade, shrimp boats and more. Outdoor seating is available. Open daily.

Peggy O'Neill's

1904 Surf Ave. at West 16th Street, (718) 449-3200; www.peggyoneills.com (Disc, MC, Visa) Entrees: \$5-\$15. Peggy O'Neill's, located next door to Keyspan Park, is the obvious choice for pre-game and post-game tailgates. And with 12 tap beers, 15 bottled beers, frozen drinks and a huge outdoor area with approximately 30 umbrella tables, it has more to offer than just location.

The menu of the two-year-old restaurant is mostly Irish pub fare.

Owner John Inbarile describes his place as a sports bar atmosphere with nightly live entertainment. A kid's menu is available upon request. The restaurant will re-open on Memorial Day.

Pete's Clam Stop

1320 Surf Ave. at West 15th Street, (718) 372-0302 (Cash only) Entrees: \$2-\$4-\$10 for the dozen clams. The same family has operated Pete's Clam Stop for 20 years, says owner Peter Agropoulos.

"We're not next to Nathan's, so we have to have quality food because we're in competition with them," said Agropoulos. "We take pride in what we do." Pete's Clam Stop has some of the best corn dogs (wieners on a stick, deep-fried in a cornbread batter) on Coney Island as well as sausage and peppers, fresh clams, oysters, corn on the cob and slush kebabs. They also offer Coors Light on tap.

★ = Full review available at



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



A comdog from Pete's Clam Stop.

and other canned and bottled beverages. The Clam Stop proprietors also own the neighboring Williams Candy. Open daily.

Ruby's Bar and Grill

Boerwalle at Stillwell Avenue. No phone (Cash only) Entrees: \$2-\$6. "People know Ruby's as a place of nostalgia," says co-owner Michael Samel, husband of the original Ruby — Rubin Jacobs' daughter. "It's been in the family many years."

In 1928, Ruby's was an underground cabaret, when Coney Island was "like the Riviera of the East," according to Samel. In 1940, it became a full-deli eatery, and it's been serving the boerwalle crowd a variety of drinks and food ever since. The drinks come from behind a long, stoop-lined bar, the wall of which is plastered with hundreds of century-old photos of Coney taken by Jacobs.

Couches, tables, and plastic booths fill out the back, but most customers take their cold beer and food outside to the white-plastic tables, where they munch on frankfurters, hot wings, fries and corn dogs.

Seaside Cafe

(At the New York Aquarium) 602 Surf Ave. at West Eighth Street, (718) 265-3474; www.ny-aquarium.com (MC, Visa) Entrees: \$2-\$9. The aquarium's new cafe, which opened on March 10, can seat 130 hungry folk beneath its chandelier dripping with glass and coral. The "American" menu is certain to please kids. They can choose from pizza, heroes, calzones, burgers and fries and hotdogs. The cafe also has a new three-level pizza oven. Adults will appreciate the platters on the "sustainable seafood menu" which includes Alaskan wild-caught salmon, Pacific cod, albacore tuna and more. Catering is available, and the space can be rented for special occasions. Open daily from 10 am to 5 pm.

Parties? Maybe.

But no partying. Not a sound emanated from that room just a few feet from where we sat.

W's from our side of the waitstaff and much of their clientele speak Russian, so conversing with us might be difficult, but why is there such subdued conversation with one another? As far as the hostess and some of the servers go, downcast eyes and faces without expression don't endear diners. I'm not suggesting that anyone at W grin like a cheerleader on speed, but a pleasant de-

tonatono specializes in coal-burning, brick-oven pizza. It has been rolling out its signature dish to thin-crust pie lovers since 1924. (Tonatono pizzas have since spread to additional locations: one in Yorkers and two in Manhattan [1544 Second Ave. at 80th Street and 462 Second Ave. at 26th Street].) Owner Louise Cimineri explained the pizzeria's enduring fame. "We use my grandfather's recipe here since 1924. We didn't change anything. We are the oldest pizzeria in America still run by the same family."

Choose a small or large pie, add a few toppings (the mozzarella is homemade) and eat in or take out. But there are no slices, just whole pies here. Closed Mondays and Tuesdays, except during Orthodox home games.

Williams Candy

1318 Surf Ave. between West 15th Street and Stillwell Avenue, (718) 372-0302 (Cash only) Candy: \$1-\$3. It is just as you would picture it: a quaint, old-fashioned candy shop, crammed with puffs of cotton candy, gooey caramel-coated apples, and sugary bins of sweets. The selection of sweet confections at this 75-year-old establishment is enough to make your teeth not just but by looking at it. Pick up a box of Coney Island saltwater taffy or gorge yourself on three different kinds of candy apples: jelly, caramel and chocolate. Children will be delighted by the whimsical display of cartoon character lollipops. Owned by the Clam Stop proprietors, the wholesale and retail candy store is sure to appease even the most resilient sweet-tooth with over 30 different kinds of sweets and an abundance of amusement park treats. Open daily.

Editor's note: These are a sampling of restaurants in the neighborhood. The list rotates, and it is not comprehensive. For more restaurants, go to www.brooklynpapers.com on the Web. If your restaurant is not listed and you would like it to be, please contact GO Brooklyn Editor Lisa Curtis via e-mail at Curtis@BrooklynPapers.com.



White bar Vino-themed Sheepshead Bay restaurant, W, could use more cheer, less ingredients

By Tina Barry
For The Brooklyn Papers

What is a Vinotique? If I base my definition on W Vinotique in Sheepshead Bay, I'd say it's an attractive restaurant-supper club with an impressive wine list (the W stands for wine), a so-so menu and a somber ambience.

Let's begin with mood. Upon entering the restaurant we were led silently back with a nod to the coat check woman who took our coats without uttering a word.

We were then steered to a table near the fireplace, and looked around. Near us a table of pretty young women murmured to one another. At another, a family dined without a moment of conversation, and in the back room, two private parties were in progress.

Parties? Maybe. But no partying. Not a sound emanated from that room just a few feet from where we sat.

W's from our side of the waitstaff and much of their clientele speak Russian, so conversing with us might be difficult, but why is there such subdued conversation with one another? As far as the hostess and some of the servers go, downcast eyes and faces without expression don't endear diners. I'm not suggesting that anyone at W grin like a cheerleader on speed, but a pleasant de-

meanor never hurts. And the music, I assumed there would be music, but nothing prepared me for the continuous soundtrack, just loud enough to be disturbing, and the saxophonist wandering from room to room playing Kenny G, and the theme from "Love Story."

There are four dining areas in the restaurant. The two main dining rooms have fireplaces, rough-hewn walls and floor-to-ceiling wine racks. Tables are wood and set with candles, oversized cutlery and glassware. Chairs are upholstered in floral tapestry, and the floors are laid with huge terracotta tiles. The back room continues the English inn motif with three long communal tables.

Our waiter was the one bright note in the room: warm and smiling, he was a delightful change from the others, but he upsold the wine and menus with a vengeance. After handing us the wine list — a book with an impressive, if expensive, collection of 450 international bottles — he asked, "Red or white," then suggested an \$80 bottle before we could say we'd like it by the glass.

He thought the foie gras, at \$21, the most expensive appetizer on the menu, was a good choice, and for an entree, we'd enjoy the \$43 Kobe beef, explaining how the cattle is massaged to

affect its incomparable tenderness. The menu reads like a compilation of ideas culled from old issues of "Bon Appetit." There's the "Flame Hama-Hama," one of four oyster preparations described as "oven-broiled oysters topped with scallops and toasted buffalo mozzarella cheese." Perhaps you'd prefer the "Tuna Martini?" A preparation of "fresh tuna with Cajun seasoning deep-fried in vegetable oil and served with sesame-flavored sauce."

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W's for wasabi: (Clockwise from top left) At W Vinotique, Yaaco Mayman wanders from room to room playing his tenor saxophone; wasabi oysters are served with fresh ground horseradish; and W's chef Yanto Gumawan.

W's for wasabi: (Clockwise from top left) At W Vinotique, Yaaco Mayman wanders from room to room playing his tenor saxophone; wasabi oysters are served with fresh ground horseradish; and W's chef Yanto Gumawan.

touch of wasabi but ruined by a crown of pallid chopped tomatoes and green peppers — a bruschetta gone awry.

As for the entrees, the skirt steak was served rare as we requested. However, the most memorable aspect of the dish, was its bizarre presentation. On one side of the tray-slated plate sat the steak, on the other was a huge rectangle of dull-tasting mashed potatoes mirroring the meat in size and shape. Because the dish did not have a vegetable, there was not a spot of color on the platter. Visually, it was as exciting as a column of newspaper.

Like a box of Cracker Jacks, the dish even came with a surprise: hidden beneath the potato mose was another steak!

The generously-sized tuna steak was better looking but blah, lacking the meaty taste that's so delectable when tuna is seared properly. Oddly our jus was splashed over the fish, a dollop of mashed potatoes and a small pile of mixed, julienneed zucchini and green peppers.

Deserts are courtesy of Payard bakery, and, thankfully, they don't budge from classic French recipes. A delicate, layered pastry of raspberry cream and yellow cake was enhanced with a lacy curl of white chocolate, and a tiny round of cheesecake atop another round of fudgy chocolate cake was marred by too much gelatin.

My advice: for W Vinotique to succeed, it needs to turn down the music, rethink the menu and smile, smile, smile.

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Ship shape

Bay Ridge production of 'Anything Goes' is a cheap ticket to a great escape

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

In the Narrows Community Theater production of "Anything Goes," there are many actors one would not find in a Broadway musical. There are old people and young people, thin actors and heavy actors, folks who have impressive resumes and those who have little experience. But thanks to director-choreographer John Sheridan's wonderful navigation, this "Anything Goes" sets sail on balmy seas and rides the crest to arrive safely at port.

A two-act musical comedy with music and lyrics by Cole Porter, "Anything Goes," has a nautical theme that had to be modified when the SS Morro Castle sank off the coast of New Jersey and made a play about a group of eccentric characters involved in a shipwreck appear to be in bad taste.

Producer Vinton Freedley then asked Russel Crouse and Howard Lindsay to revise the script originally written by Guy Bolton and P.G. Wodehouse. The resulting story dealt with the interactions of high society and criminals aboard a transatlantic liner.

The revised version opened at the Alvin Theatre on Nov. 21, 1934 and ran for 420 performances. The musical introduced such Porter standards as "I

Get a Kick Out of You," "You're the Top," "It's De-Lovely" and the title song, "Anything Goes." But the show's popularity was also due in no small measure to the trio of Ethel Merman as nightclub singer Reno Sweeney, William Galston as her friend, stockbroker Billy Crocker, and Victor Moore as Moonface Martin, Public Enemy No. 13.

In the Narrows Community Theater production, George Tsalkis plays Billy, Dawn Barry Hansen plays Reno and Rob Fahn plays Moonface Martin. It is a trio worthy of the original.

THEATER

Narrows Community Theater's production of "Anything Goes" has performances on April 16 at 8 pm and April 17 at 3 pm at St. Patrick's Auditorium, located at 97th Street and Fourth Avenue in Bay Ridge. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and seniors. For reservations and more information, call (718) 482-3173.



Criminal mischief: Rob Fahn as Moonface Martin and Ashley Westbrock as Bonnie in the Narrows Community Theater production of "Anything Goes" at St. Patrick's Auditorium in Bay Ridge.

Whether Hansen is singing "Friendship" with Tsalkis and Fahn, going solo with "I Get a Kick out of You" or blowing the audience away with "Blow Gabriel Blow," she fills the stage with her exuberant presence.

"Anything Goes" has a large ensemble of ship personnel, passengers and entertainers, all of whom sing, dance and generally add to the frivolity and fun of the story. Director-choreographer and Sheridan has given the ensemble dance steps that are sufficiently complicated to please the audience but not beyond the dancers' capabilities. His performing experience with the likes of Ethel Merman, Ruby Keeler and Angela Lansbury certainly shows.

Narrows Community Theater has a

large stage to fill at St. Patrick's Auditorium and set designers Mickey Dillon, Mickey Sullivan and Sheridan make good use of the space. They also have the benefit of a curtain, which allows them to change scenes on one side while action takes place on the other side.

A whole team assembled the costumes — suits and gowns, knickers and uniforms — an impressive array that gives the show color and sets the show's place in time.

It's hard to go wrong with "Anything Goes." But if the show seems unimpressive, it is not without its demands. Narrows Community Theater's "Anything Goes" assembles all the talent and energy that make everything go right.

Weak 'Women'

Heights Players production of Luce classic needs to pick up the pace

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

The 18th century had Richard Brinsley Sheridan. The 20th century had Clare Boothe Luce. Both playwrights excelled at comic ridicule of the upper class. This season the Heights Players played tribute to Sheridan with an excellent production of "The School for Scandal." Unfortunately, the Heights Players, despite a few exceptional performances, don't do quite as well with Luce's "The Women," which plays through April 17.

John Bourne directs a cast of 21 women, some of whom play multiple roles. It is a Herculean task for a community theater, and Bourne does an admirable job of moving the actors around the stage. He doesn't do so well moving the play along. "The Women" runs for a whopping three hours, which dulls the comedy as well as the senses.



Turning heads: In the Heights Players production of "The Women," Justine Campbell-Elliott is Crystal Allen and Kathryn Kinser plays Mary Haines.

The excessive duration of this production is partly due to the lengthy scene changes, which are executed with a good deal of style but nevertheless are all too frequent breaks in the action. But to an even greater extent, the play drags because the actors do not keep the banter quick, breathless and

without pause — as one would expect from women chafing to deliver the next barbed remark.

"The Women" is set during the Depression, but it is not about people living in Hoovervilles or selling apples on the street. It is rather the story of women in high society who have nothing better to do with

their lives than pamper their bodies and indulge in useless, vicious gossip.

Edith Potter (Christine DeMoor) is perpetually pregnant and perpetually complaining about it. Peggy Day (Magdalen Neuwald) is a rich woman who has married a poor man and come to rue that decision. Sylvia Fowler (Alexandra Lincoln) is a woman with loose morals and a looser tongue who delights in destroying other people's lives.

THEATER

The heroine, Mary Haines (Kathryn Kinser), is a happily married woman who addresses her husband and daughter. Little does she know that her husband is having an affair with a shop girl named Crystal (Justine Campbell-Elliott) and realizes that Olga has also told all her friends about it. Mary ignores the advice of her wise and experienced mother (Luce Luce) and takes off for Reno for a divorce.

There she meets several other women eager to untie the knot, including the delightful, often-married Countess De Lage (Laurie Muir who once again — she played Madame Arcati in the Heights Players' "Blithe Spirit" — steals the show). But two years later, after her husband has married Crystal, and Sylvia has lost her own husband to another woman, Mary has second thoughts and decides to get her husband back.

Although only women are onstage throughout "The Women," as the play's tagline says, "It's all about men." Or to be more precise, it's all about women's relationship with men — which Luce, despite, or perhaps because of her marriage to the wealthy publisher Henry Luce — holds in great contempt. The bitchiness of women and the fickleness of men are the sources of Luce's humor and scorn.

But whose side is she on anyway? "The Women" was first presented on Broadway in 1936, and revised in 1973 and 2001. A 1939 film version starred Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, Rosalind Russell, Paulette Goddard and Joan Fontaine. But the jury is still out on that question.

One thing's for sure, however — "The Women" is a variation of the romantic comedy in which love triumphs over adversity. Although Luce does raise some interesting points on marriage, motherhood, fidelity and self-fulfillment, for the most part, "The Women" is pure fun. The lines should be delivered in rapid-fire succession accompanied by grand gestures and grandstanding. But it is only in the scene between the Haines' domestics, Maggie (Margaret Sullivan) and Nance Jane (Anzella Toder), that both director and actors seem to fully understand Luce's comic intent. In the privacy of the kitchen, Sullivan and Toder discuss the foibles of their "betters" with the clarity only servants possess onstage. Their special combination of amusement, pity and mimicry are refreshingly hilarious.

One would be remiss to close any review of this production without mentioning the very functional and attractive set designed by Gary Vander-Patten, whose crowning achievement is a rolling bathtub filled with bubbles and a luxuriating and triumphant Crystal, the home-wrecker. Nor should one forget costume designer Albert Walsh, whose feathered hats, high heels, slinky gowns and tailored suits capture wealth in all its expressions — from the tasteless to the tasteful.

Nothing gets more quickly than a comedy of manners. But even the rustiest engine can be given new life by stoking the fire a little. As it is, except for a few sparks, this baby doesn't get out of the station.

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Where to GO

Compiled by Susan Rosenthal

SAT, APRIL 16

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

WILD FOOD TOUR: Naturalist Steve Brill leads a tour of Prospect Park. \$10. \$15 children under age 12. 9 am. Meet at Prospect Park's Grand Army Plaza entrance. (718) 655-2153.

CROSSING GOWANUS: Brooklyn Public Library Foundation hosts a tour of the Carroll Gardens Historic District and then through Gowanus. Highlights of tour include Monte's Vegetation Room and a refurbished public bath house. \$12. \$8 members. 11 am. Meet at corner of Smith and President streets. (718) 230-2465.

LIVING LOG: Urban Park Rangers offers a talk about what really lives in a "dead log." Meet at Field Audubon Center, Prospect Park. Call 311. Free.

BROOKLYN 101: New York Like a Native offers a tour which includes Brooklyn's history, architecture, flora and landscape. \$15. 1:30 pm. Call for meeting location. (718) 939-7537.

ATLANTIC AVE: Brooklyn Historical Society takes a walk along Atlantic Avenue. Learn about its landscape and the surrounding neighborhoods. Author and historian Francis Williams leads. \$15. \$10 members. \$10 children. 2 pm. Meet at north east corner of Atlantic Avenue and Hicks Street. (718) 222-4115.

FLOWER GARDENING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden Association hosts a talk about annuals. 2 pm. Ryan Vetter Center. (718) Bennett Field. (718) 338-3799. Free.

PERFORMANCE

NEW WORKSHOP THEATER: Brooklyn College Theater presents a festival of one-act plays directed by first-year MFA students and candidates. \$5. 2 pm and 8 pm. George Winthrop Theater, Brooklyn College. One block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

BARGEMUSEUM: Classical music concert features a program of Mahler, Brahms and Stravinsky. \$35. 7:30 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 626-2093.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents Jamaica's University Singers. \$35. \$40. 8 pm. Walk Wilmer Theater, Brooklyn College. One block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4500.

MUSICAL: Narrows Community Theater presents "Anything Goes." \$15. \$10 seniors and children. 8 pm. St. Patrick's Auditorium. 9th Street. Fourth Avenue. (718) 482-3173.

BRICK THEATER: Presents "Tippie-wear O'Gy." A feminist play for chavunitis pig. \$10. 9 pm. 275 Metropolitan Ave. (718) 907-3457.

CLASSICAL: Brooklyn Philharmonic performs Jennifer Higdon's "Brooklyn's Ode to Joy." \$20 to \$60. 8 pm. Preconcert chat at 8 pm. Howard Gilman Opera House. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 488-5153.

COMEDY: The Strevell Players perform the musical comedy "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." Call for ticket info. 8 pm. 8201 130th Ave. (718) 907-3422.

S&J PLAYERS: St. Simon and Jude Players presents the comedy "Bibb," a story about three couples in their 20s, 30s and 40s. \$15. \$12 children under age 12 and seniors. 8 pm. 294 Ave. T. (718) 518-3008.

THEATER: Brooklyn Theater Arts Project presents "Man of La Mancha." \$15. \$12 seniors, students, children. 8 pm. Christ Church Theater. 7301 Ridge Blvd. (718) 390-7189.

GREASE: George Westinghouse High School presents "Grease." \$10. 8 pm. NYC College of Technology. Kingsland Avenue. 285 Jay St. (718) 625-6130.

CHILDREN

BARNES AND NOBLE: Storytime with Mrs. Rosetta Noon. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 832-9066. Free.

CIRCUS: Universal Circus performs. 10 am. P.S. 150 Museum, 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Call of Annual Dispatches" film series. Today, "Playing in the Company of Men." 2:00-3:10. \$7 students. \$5 and younger, seniors and children under age 12. \$5. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

FILM AND VIDEO: Brooklyn Friends School hosts the sixth annual Bridge Film Festival, an evening of short films submitted by students from Quaker schools around the world. \$15. 6:30 pm. Pearl Street. (718) 852-1029.

ADOPTIVE PARENTS TALK: Adoptive Parents Committee holds its monthly meeting. 7 pm. St. Francis College. 180 Remsen St. (917) 432-0234. Free.

SUN, APRIL 17

OUTDOORS AND TOURS

EXPLORING FT. GREENE: Brooklyn Center for the Urban Environment hosts a tour of Ft. Greene and the Clinton Hill. Learn about these Brooklyn neighborhoods through the architecture and people of Green-Wood Cemetery. \$12. \$10 seniors. 11 am to 1 pm. Meet at Williamsburg Savings Bank. 1 Hanson Place. (718) 788-8500.

VERRAZANO DAY: Urban Park Rangers offers a tour and talk on the history of the Verrazano Bridge. 11 am. Meet at John Paul Jones Park, Fourth Avenue and Shore Road. Call 311. Free.

WALKING TOUR: Big Onion Tours offers an introduction to the history, architecture and people of Green-Wood Cemetery. \$12. \$10 seniors. 11 am. Meet at John Paul Jones Park, Fourth Avenue and Shore Road. Call 311. Free.

GREEN-WOOD CEMETERY: Tour this Victorian city of the dead. \$10. \$5 members. 1 pm. Meet at main entrance. Fifth Avenue and 25th Street. (718) 768-7300.

WILLIAMSBURG WALK: New York Like a Native offers a look at the neighborhood. \$18 includes admission to Williamsburg Art Center. 2:30 pm to 5 pm. Call for meeting place. (718) 393-7537.

VOLUNTEER DAY: Gowanus Dredgers Canal Club invites youth and their parents to learn about and get involved with the Gowanus Dredgers activities. 3 pm to 6 pm. Meet at Second and Bond streets. (718) 241-8849. Free.

FUNDRAISER: Civic Auxiliary of Veterans of Foreign Wars hosts "Tricky Tricky." \$12. 2 pm to 6 pm. 932 Fourth Ave. (718) 853-6069.

LECTURE: Our Lady of Angels presents Joanne Malick in a talk, "Be Transformed by the Renewal of Your Heart." 3 pm. 337 74th St. (718) 636-7200. Free.

BOOK COURT: Beth Teitel, author of "From Here to Maternity," reads from her work. 3 pm. 163 Court St. CBCC. Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents China's acrobatic troupe "The National."

PERFORMANCE

DANCE: Young Dancers in Repertory hosts a spring performance. 1:30 pm. 15 220, 4th Street and Ninth Avenue. (718) 567-9620. Free.

CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents China's acrobatic troupe "The National."

WEARABLE ART: "The Spring Fever Collection," saleable and wearable

art by Kathleen Laziza. Thirty-five hand-made floor and lava-encrusted jackets for sale. \$2 admission. 5 to 8 pm. P.S. 150 Museum, 123 Smith St. (718) 797-3116.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Call of Annual Dispatches" film series. Today, "Playing in the Company of Men." 2:00-3:10. \$7 students. \$5 and younger, seniors and children under age 12. \$5. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

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CBCC: Brooklyn Center for the Performing Arts presents China's acrobatic troupe "The National."

WEARABLE ART: "The Spring Fever Collection," saleable and wearable

Acrobats of Taiwan R.O.C. 5:20-2 pm. Walk Wilmer Theater at Brooklyn College. One block from the intersection of Flatbush and Nostrand avenues. (718) 951-4363.

CONCERT: The Brooklyn Music Works performs a program of Bach, Handel, Purcell, Telemann and Stravinsky. \$10. \$5 members. 8:00 pm. 111 Front St. (718) 636-4100.

CHORAL FEST: Browstone Brooklyn Jewish Choral Festival presents "In a Woman's Voice," music from seven Brooklyn synagogues. \$5. 3 pm to 5 pm. Congregation Beth Elohim, 818 Avenue C. (718) 768-3814.

RAISE THE ROOF: Organ concert at St. Ann and the Holy Trinity Church. \$25. \$15 seniors and students. 7 pm. Reception follows. Montague and Clinton streets. (718) 975-9960.

THEATER: "Man of La Mancha." 2 pm. See Sat., April 16.

COMEDY: "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum." 3 pm. See Sat., April 16.

S&J PLAYERS: "Baby." 5 pm. See Sat., April 16.

CHILDREN

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: Early Learn Performance Series presents "Spring in Pictures." \$4. free for members. 1 pm and 2 pm. Also, Xplorers Club holds a class on space exploration. 2:30 pm to 4:30 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

PUPPETWORKS: "Around the World in 80 Days." 12:30 pm and 2:30 pm. See Sat., April 16.

CIRCUS: Universal Circus performs. 10 am, 4 pm and 7:30 pm. See Sat., April 16.

OTHER

FLEA MARKET: at Bay Ridge Jewish

Center. 9 am to 4 pm. 405 81st St. (718) 636-3103.

CELEBRATE SPRING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a class on watercolor painting. Bring your own materials. \$54. \$49 members. 10 am to 3:30 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 623-7220.

LIDAR: Learn about the campus in Brooklyn and its faculty, administrators and students. 11 am to 2 pm. Corner of Flatbush and DeKalb avenues. (718) 488-1011.

WOMEN'S CLASS: Learn self-defense. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 643-6044.

WORKSHOP: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture hosts a platform on valuing family stories and memories. \$10. 1 pm to 3 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 768-2972.

OPENING: Grace Kennedy Gallery presents "Color and Texture." 1 pm to 4 pm. 111 Front St. (718) 636-5254. Free.

BROOKLYN AUTHORS: Brooklyn Historical Society presents author Charles Lockwood, author of "Bricks and Brownstones." \$18. \$15. 2 pm. 128 Pierrepont St. (718) 222-4111.

BOOK COURT: Beth Teitel, author of "From Here to Maternity," reads from her work. 3 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "In the Call of Annual Dispatches" film series. Today, "The Sentinel" (1992). \$10. \$7 students. \$5 and younger, seniors and children under age 12. \$5 members. 3 pm and 7 pm. 106 Court St. (718) 636-4100.

READING: Brooklyn Public Library Central branch hosts a Russian author series. Patricia Thompson and 150 years of "Leaves of Grass," live performance of Walt Whitman and 150 years of "Leaves of Grass," live performance of Walt Whitman. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

NETWORKING: hosted by Sowing Seeds Faith and Business Networking. 4 pm. Call for info. 14 E. 54th St. (718) 776-6288.

READING: Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a reading. 6 pm to 8 pm. Fall Cafe. 207 Smith St. (718) 632-6210. Free.

FILM: Independent film "Sleepwalk" 7:30 pm. Magnetic Field, 97 Atlantic Ave. (718) 634-0061. Free.

FILM: "The Producers" (1968). 10:30

Opera House. 422 Seventh Ave. (718) 369-7776. Free.

BRIDAL ROW: Michael C. Fina celebrates the opening of his store at 8211 Fifth Ave. In honor of the opening, couples that register or purchase engagement or wedding rings the week of April 17 will receive a book offering discounts at other bridal vendors in the area. (718) 748-5100.

MON, APRIL 18

BOOKSIGNING: Brooklyn College hosts a signing and talk with author Mark Stuart Ellison. 2:30 pm to 1:30 pm. Brooklyn College Bookstore, Campus Road and East 27th Street. (718) 434-0333. Free.

SCHOLAR LECTURE: NYC College of Technology presents Professor Candido Cabo. Topic of lecture: "The Reconstruction of the Bridge Building Bridges Across Cells and Disciplines." He focuses on how the development of computer models of complex biological systems is emerging as an important area of research. 5 pm. 300 Jay St. (718) 260-5560. Free.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP: South Bank presents talk "The Roadmap to Small Business Financing." 10:30 am. 101 Seventh Ave. (718) 253-5362. Free.

FILM: Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture presents "The 1813 Fragments of a Journey," a film on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. \$8. 6:30 pm to 9 pm. 53 Prospect Park West. (718) 418-2509. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" film series. Today, "Milk" (2001). \$10. \$7 students. \$6 members. 9:15 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

JAZZ SERIES: Long Island University presents jazz bassist Rufus Reid. 4 pm. DeKalb Avenue and Flatbush Avenue Extension. (718) 488-1668. Free.

BAMCINEMATEK: presents "Who's Afraid of Mike Nichols?" film series. Today, "Silkwood" (1983). \$10. \$7 students. \$6 members. 6 pm and 9 pm. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

NETWORKING: Long Island University presents Ken Adams of the Brooklyn Learning Center. Flatbush Avenue Extension and DeKalb Avenue. (718) 488-1122. Free.

SCARFHOOKING WORKSHOP: Learn the craft of album-making. Bring 25 to 50 photos and bring home a finished product. \$50 includes album. 6:45 pm to 8:45 pm. Families First, 250 Baltic St. (718) 237-1862.

CALMING YOUR BABY: Families First offers a class on how to calm a fussy baby. 7 pm. 250 Baltic St. Call to reserve and ticket info. (718) 237-1862.

FILM SERIES: Brooklyn Public Library Central branch, presents film hostess Winnie LeRoux, learn about the relationship between choreography and film editing, through excerpts from several well-known dance films. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Discussion daughter of Russian poet Vladimir Mayakovsky, a guest speaker. 4 pm. Also, in celebration of Walt Whitman and 150 years of "Leaves of Grass," live performance of Walt Whitman. 2 pm. Grand Army Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

NETWORKING: hosted by Sowing Seeds Faith and Business Networking. 4 pm. Call for info. 14 E. 54th St. (718) 776-6288.

READING: Spiral Thought Magazine hosts a reading. 6 pm to 8 pm. Fall Cafe. 207 Smith St. (718) 632-6210. Free.

FILM: Independent film "Sleepwalk" 7:30 pm. Magnetic Field, 97 Atlantic Ave. (718) 634-0061. Free.

FILM: "The Producers" (1968). 10:30

Opera House. 30 Lafayette Ave. (718) 636-4100.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Reading and signing with author Margaret Moore. She reads from her anthology on the art and craft of making "Luis Rey." "Darkling." "Sharon's Grace." and "The Summer King." \$15. \$10 students and seniors. 8 pm. 138 S. Oxford St. (718) 396-0242.

BUSINESS WORKSHOP: Church Avenue Merchants Block Association offers a talk on marketing basics. 6 pm to 8 pm. 1720 Church Ave. Call to pre-register. (718) 287-2600.

WEDS, APRIL 20

BUSINESS BREAKFAST: Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce and Education speaker Richard Mills, State Education Department Commissioner. 8:30 am to 10:30 am. Long Island University, Salinas Gallery Learning Center. 1 University Plaza. (718) 875-1000. ext. 116. Free.

MONEY RAISING: Office Ops hosts a talk for non-profit organizations "Raising More Money Model," a fundraising approach. 1 pm to 3 pm. 57 Thames St. (718) 418-2509. Free.

MEETING: NYC Board of Education meets. 6 pm. 4201 Fourth Ave. (718) 951-4500.

ARTISTS SEMINAR: Brooklyn Arts Council offers a seminar on artists grants and funding approaches. 1 pm to 3 pm. Williamsburg Art Center. 135 Broadway. (718) 636-4000. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Liquid Language Poetry. 7 pm. 267 Seventh Ave. (718) 636-4100. Free.

MEETING: Bay Ridge Historical Society hosts a meeting and discussion "Civil War Medicine and the Battlefield." 7:30 pm. Shore Hill Towers, 9000 Shore Road. (718) 745-5938. Free.

OPERA: New scenes from "The Bridge of San Luis Rey." "Darkling." "Sharon's Grace." See Tues, April 19.

BROOKLYN UNDERGROUND: Third annual event features 100 films from 12 countries. \$8 per ticket. Brooklyn Lynxum, 227 Fourth Ave. Call for time. (718) 599-1450. Visit www.brooklynunderground.org

THURS, APRIL 21

OPENING CEREMONY: Bay Ridge Mental Health Center opens its store "From Here to Maternity," reads from her work. 3 pm. 163 Court St. (718) 875-3677. Free.

DANCING: Stone Parkway Jewish Center hosts a social event. \$4 donation includes refreshments. 11 am to 3 pm. 8885 26th Ave. (718) 460-6303.

LUNCH AND LEARN: Congregation Mount Sinai hosts an interfaith Freedom Seder. \$5. 11:45 am. Reservations necessary. 250 Cadogan Place West. (718) 978-9124.

BROOKLYN BALL: Brooklyn Museum hosts its annual ball. This year's honoree is David Coulter, Vice Chairman, JP Morgan Chase. Gala features an opportunity to view exhibit "Basquiat." \$350. 6:30 pm. 200 Eastern Parkway. (718) 501-6423.

ROOF GARDENING: Brooklyn Botanic Garden offers a workshop on how to turn a barren roof-top into a green oasis. \$20. \$25. 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. 1000 Washington Ave. (718) 632-7220.

LIBRARY PROGRAM: Brooklyn Public Library Central branch, presents Group "Rock of Ages." \$20 to \$70. 7:30 pm. Tower Garden

Continued on page 13...

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in Where to GO, please give us two weeks notice or more. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 55 Washington St., Suite 424, Brooklyn, NY 11201; or by fax: (718) 834-9278. Listings are free and printed on a space available basis. We regret we cannot take listings over the phone.

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Candy exiles rip Brooklyn Heights Association: Thanks for nothing

By Jess Wisloski

The Brooklyn Papers

A group of exiled Brooklyn Heights residents is seething now that their former neighborhood association is trying to preserve the former candy factory from which they were evicted over the past year.

The six-story building at 20 Henry St., known as the Candy Factory for a previous incarnation, was until December a complex of 42 artist lofts. It now stands vacant for the first time in 30 years.

Meanwhile, the development company that bought the building after a previous owner opted out of the Mitchell-Lama housing subsidy program, has plans to build an adjacent high-rise on what is now an open courtyard to the building, at the corner of Poplar Street.

The Brooklyn Heights Association (BHA) testified before the city landmarks Preservation Commission last month that construction of the new building would threaten the character of the historic district, the city's first.

But many of the former inhabitants of the Candy Factory, who were evicted as their leases expired and are now struggling to situate themselves outside of the high-priced neighborhood, say they might not have been forced out if the powerful BHA had been as vigorous about their constituents as they are about the neighborhood's buildings.

"We worked very hard to get something concrete out of them," said Anita Karl, a graphic designer who has lived in Crown Heights since being evicted from the Candy Factory last April. "Here they're all worried about the courtyard but we couldn't get them interested even slightly in the plight we were facing."

Early this year, the rent-controlled units at the corner of Poplar and Henry streets still had a few tenants. But the final eviction last month, of musician and writer Cedric Turner, who is currently homeless, left the building vacant and facing redevelopment.

Like many tenants, Karl and Turner said they were promised by both city and borough officials that they would be relocated. But the help never came, they said.

Turner said he shied away from the court battles waged by the final tenants. "Protesting is for people who have time to protest," he said.

"They could've at least let him stay," said BHA Executive Director Judy Stanton. "They can't do anything anyway until they have permission from Landmarks."

"It's kind of creepy," said Stanton, who said she's passed the building recently and noticed the lights of one unit still on.

"That building is just sitting there, it's not going anywhere. They could've let us stay until the spring," said Minda, who added that the BHA could have allied with the tenants — many of whom, like Minda, could afford increased rent and had offered to pay market-rate for their units, but were pushed out just

the same. "That's what was remarkable," said Minda. "I got the feeling they were just as happy if the middle-class housing got moved out," he said. "They're more concerned about the aesthetics than the diversity of the community."

Minda added that he had appealed to housing court and the developers to let him stay, for the sake of keeping his 5-year-old daughter in school at PS 8, Heller recalled. "They really weren't supportive of us and could've been a force to say, 'Preserve this, and keep this part of the community.'"

As a result, many of the remaining Candy Factory residents say they suffered unlocked front doors, sporadic heating,

rodent infestation and dirty hallways as the super and landlord neglected the building through-out legal proceedings and settlement negotiations.

"There was sort of a settlement package, and that was that the landlord waived the legal fees against the tenants for going against the [eviction] proceedings," Pradrium attorney Kastner said The Brooklyn Papers.

Heller, who now lives in Bay Ridge and commutes between her job at Poly Prep Country Day School and her loft in DUMBO where she teaches privately and paints, said she was "disappointed" by the BHA's lack of effort on the tenants' be-

half. When the owners offered her and her husband \$5,000 to move last April, they took the deal.

In some cases, Kastner said, tenants were allowed to stay a few months after their leases expired, rent-free.

But Karen Zebulun, a clothing designer who owns Gumbo, a shop on Atlantic Avenue, and who used to be a leader of the 20 Henry St. tenants association, said the financial threats are what caused her to finally leave at the end of November.

"We were told they would come after us for everything that we had," she said. "Having my own business, I didn't want to take the risk of losing everything."

"We were really threatened," she added. "Minda said he moved out finally for the sake of his wife and daughter, as security and health conditions grew worse. He also spoke of 'arm-twisting' tactics used against holdout tenants. The owner, he said, blatantly neglected the building and threatened charging back rent inflated to the price of market at the point of their purchase if tenants stayed on."

"I had a series of requests to repair my apartment and they just completely rejected it. I complained about the absence of the window guards in the windows, I wrote them several letters about mice in the building and in my apartment. I had to go out and hire a plumber to fix my bathroom and I had to hire my own pest control service," Minda said.

Upon returning to the building the day after she moved out, to give back her keys, Zebulun said she went to visit a friend in the building and noticed her apartment wide open. "They already jack-hammered the wall around my apartment, but they don't understand that kind of behavior at all," she said.

"We became like criminals in our homes. The place we had lived for over 25 years," Zebulun lamented.

To that, Kastner said, "I don't believe that any doors were jack-hammered off that were in occupancy."

Turner said his door was also taken off and his deposit was and still is withheld because he was late returning his keys.

"They're making millions on the backs of the artists who built the neighborhood," he said.

"These people have made me homeless. The only people who can afford to live in this city now are the super-rich and the very poor."

Minda agreed, saying, "Brooklyn Heights is going to be just like Manhattan."

FORT GREENE GOES BOOM...

Rendering of the Greene House.

Continued from page 1

Paul Palazzo, an executive member of the Fort Greene Association, said he and several residents of Carlton Street organized demonstrations outside of the building during weekend open houses.

The association asked the Department of Buildings to audit the design for the 11-story Greene House, which towers over its walkup brick and brownstone neighbors.

While the Buildings Department audit, completed early last year, did provide a kind of community-level review of architect Marvin Metzler's design, Palazzo said that in the end it mainly served to address minor aesthetic and safety issues.

"There were some things that did come up in the audit that [the architects] needed to verify and change," he said. "Their response was to make it go higher." The Greene House site literally juts outside the Fort Greene Historic District, which bars such a tall building, so its views will never be hampered by future developments.

"The historic districts were drawn very poorly in the 1978 designation," said Palazzo, who chaired Greene House developers David Weiss and Jonathan Jacobs — who met their name with developments in Tribeca

and the East Village — for being "incredibly belligerent and not responsive to any requests from the community."

Minsky said, however, it was their responsiveness — to buyers, at least — that was able to lure such high prices in Brooklyn.

"They did understand this process, and they did understand because they'd been here in the East Village before they'd been here," he said. "I'll admit it's not cheap, but you're getting something. You're actually getting something for your money. They will sit down, literally for hours, to design the unit with [buyers]. They really don't have that Brooklyn kind of mentality."

"It was a slightly foreign concept, but these developers were ahead of their game," said Minsky, the exclusive agent for the condominiums.

A stalwart of the "brownstone generation" that bought up Downtown Brooklyn neighborhoods more than 20 years ago, Minsky — who lives in Fort Greene — said he hedged when first offered the listing.

Calling it "originally conceived of as a slightly ambiguous project for this area," he said he was eventually reassured after meeting the developers.

"What first seemed to be a little anxiety-producing for me — because I'm on the brownstone end — has turned out to be a very pleasant experience," he said, adding he came very close to buying one of the unit's himself.

Each of the 27 new units, which are situated three floors, feature 10-foot ceilings, central air conditioning and heat, new appliances and, says Minsky, "phenomenal" views of the neighborhood, the park and the distant harbor.

The gilded-in-entrance will have a "very lounge-like feel," and the building will have a 24-hour gym.

The south-, east- and west-facing views make for sunny one- and two- and three-bedroom apartments for the new owners, who Minsky said were "experienced, high-end Manhattan people who understand visible signs of growth in the area [and] they don't feel like they're compromising what they would have a few years ago."

Palazzo called those same gorgeous views the reason the neighboring buildings would depreciate in value.

"When the historic district was designated, the boundaries were done very poorly," he reiterated. "As a result there are three houses that were in the historic district that have basically degraded because of that building."

"Though he said the Fort Greene Association would remain vigilant with respect to future developments, and noted that a demonstration last weekend showed the neighbors' "unfitted stance," they had no plans to advocate their welcoming-committee responsibilities, either.

"We are going to welcome the people in the building into the community, because it is now in the community. We don't like the fact that the building — the edifice of it — is not sympathetic to the community — we hope that the people in the building are," he said.

Chris Havers, marketing manager of Two Trees, the DUMBO-based development company of David and Joel Weitzman, said that occasionally some of the company's more established DUMBO properties, "on some special new units," sell for \$1,000 per square foot.

Developers Group Executive Vice President Hugh Krasnow said that four weeks ago, a listed penthouse and ninth floor units in DUMBO for over \$1,000 a foot. She said she expects the trend to reverse.

Minsky said the Greene House condo has raised the bar for standards of design and construction, adding that he has had "so many Brooklyn developers call me on the fly to see how they did it."

"We are not going to be able to put together a spook building after this one," said the broker. "These are very, very sophisticated apartments."

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Looking, it's just not a park

To the editor:

Lately it's as if we in Brooklyn Heights and surrounding neighborhoods are the punchline of a George Carlin joke.

Carlin, always the student of language and the effect words have on us, loves to play the word game in his humor. In a famous routine he talks about the difference between baseball and football. "In baseball you play at THE PARK, and in football you play on THE GRIDIRON."

Well, that's the game we in the Heights are being handed by the Brooklyn Bridge Park Development Corp. (BBPDC). They want us to believe their plan is A PARK, but all it really is, is DEVELOPMENT, and big-time development at that.

In this very newspaper the word park is used to describe this project all the time. Make no mistake: This is a giant money-making land grab with no consideration for us living in the Heights or the impact on our lives. To think otherwise is foolish.

The latest insult is the addition to the plan of four residential high-rises with more than 730 apartments.

I urge this paper, the BHA and all those who feel as I do to stop calling this project a park and hope that we can open more people's eyes to what is really going on here.

— Linda DeRosa-Stream, Brooklyn Heights

The Heights spared, not Fulton Ferry

To the editor:

In your last edition's article headlined, "Angry 'park' opponents to meet at Borough Hall," Murray Adams, president of the Cobble Hill Association, is quoted as saying that the plan as presented "is really out of balance" and that "the interests of the very closely affected people have been put paramount to the interests of the park at large."

While I agree with many of his and his organization's cavils about the park, I take exception to his inclusion of Fulton Ferry Landing as a special interest group whose needs are being heard at the expense of theirs.

From the beginning, Fulton Ferry Landing was not meant to be built at a hotel away from the Cold Storage site at Pier 1. While not of the mass of that proposed for Pier 6 at Atlantic Avenue, the size of the hotel looms ever larger and more imposing, threatening encroachment on very limited green space, the Old Fulton Street entrance to the park, many of our views, etc.

I do feel that the core Brooklyn Heights area has been spared from sharing in the compromises entailed in raising revenues in order to make the park self-supporting. Already blessed with the promenade and guaranteed view planes, why then also the most favorable green-to-building mass ratio?

One corrective would be to shift some of the residential component to Furman Street. If I will thought-out this could also accomplish the enhancement of transport to and from the park and provide some

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sound barrier between it and the BQJ.

And many of my neighbors feel, therefore, as I believe Mr. Adams does, that whatever commercial burdens housing initiatives deemed necessary should be more equitably shouldered. What we least want is to divide neighborhoods — each with their legitimate concerns — or to signify that all is wrong with the park as proposed. It does have some excellent design features.

Robert Zimilis, Fulton Ferry Landing

Leader's not angry about the 'park'

To the editor,

Regarding the article "Angry 'park' opponents to meet at Borough Hall," the Boerum Hill Association is on record as supporting the Brooklyn Bridge Park.

We view this as a "work in progress" and we do believe that the park planners are listening to the communities' suggestions. For example, there now is a beautiful indoor soccer playing field that is a part of the park model.

The BBP designers have had well-attended public meetings for the public to speak with the park designers, such as the one in Boerum Hill at the Belmarian Church on March 19.

We want to work with those who are in favor of the park as well as those who have strong concerns about the park's design — to reach a consensus.

We want ALL of the parkland, including the piers, that is currently in the model. The Boerum Hill Association is on record as supporting the Brooklyn Bridge Park. We need more parkland — not less.

In an election year, we certainly do not want city and state to take away the funds allocated to the development of the Brooklyn Bridge Park because the local communities cannot work together to forge an agreement on park issues in a constructive and positive manner.

Sue Wolfe, president, Boerum Hill Association

DUMBO zoning: Don't simplify

To the editor:

We believe that City Councilman David Yassky's call for [a rezoning of] DUMBO [The Brooklyn Papers, March 26] is correct. We disagree with his reasons and his goal.

His opposition to changing the nature and character of the neighborhood is surprising. If one does-

n't want to change the nature and character of the neighborhood, then why rezone at all? There are even some, such as the DUMBO Neighborhood Association, who would preserve the area's industrial nature. Why this may seem charming to some, we are less easily charmed. As an industrial and shipping area, it is filled and antiquated.

Old is not the same as historic and it certainly does not automatically qualify a district as landmark. If there are some especially elegant warehouses in DUMBO, then by all means, let them be preserved as landmarks and vestiges of exemplary architecture. Let us not be sentimentally silly about an aggregate of run-of-the-mill 19th century factories. They have had their day. It is over. They should be replaced with housing, which this borough of nearly 2.8 million residents desperately needs.

Not the chic, "affordable" housing that serves the aesthetic values of a scant few, but rather that serves the needs of many. Even the introduction of luxury housing in DUMBO, in sufficient quantity, simply by its introduction into the market place, relieves pressures of demand in other areas.

Should DUMBO be rezoned? Yes! Should it be a thoughtful and careful rezoning, as opposed to the current practice of awarding variances? Yes! But let us achieve the optimum social and economic values for the area.

— Kevin D. S. Breslin, Republican contributor, 52nd A.D.

Another Marty shutdown

To the editor:

On March 24, Borough President Markowitz convened the fourth of his invitation-only, closed-door "community meetings" at Borough Hall to advance Bruce Ratner's LIRR arena/skyscraper plans for Prospect Heights [see story, front page].

This time, as before, the neighborhood groups Prospect Heights Action Coalition and Brooklyn Vision were expressly not welcome, and we two, as before, were personally not invited — by name.

On March 24, as during previous meetings we'd been locked out of, we stood outside on the steps of Borough Hall. On this occasion we sent a note inside to Mr. Markowitz by the hand of an invited emissary.

We reminded the borough president that we are engaged in the democratic exchange that we are equal with both Mr. Markowitz and his chief of staff, Greg Atkins, and everyone else they had handpicked to try to silence the voice of the community so as to deliver yet another Brooklyn neighborhood into the destructive hands of Mr. Markowitz's friend Bruce Ratner.

We regret Mr. Markowitz's inability — displayed over and over — to appreciate the true meaning of diversity among the citizens of Brooklyn. Mr. Markowitz has made his office look small and mean. What a shame. Borough Hall used to be the people's house in Brooklyn.

— Schellie and Patti Hagom Clinton Hill & Prospect Heights

'Park' little more than a 'land grab'

To the editor:

I have walked the walk and listened to the talk at six meetings of the Brooklyn Bridge Park (BBP) of which three had the ever-evolving model present. I have viewed the enticing pictures and booklets, I delved into the labyrinthine financials from June 2004 and the more recent batch. I studied the cluttered site from a friend's rooftop above Grace Court. Twice, I have walked down Joralemon Street from Furman Street and over to the Pier 6 gantryhouse.

After the model show-and-tell in DUMBO on March 12, I examined the route from the city park-let and Empire-Fulton Ferry State Park, past the River Cafe and along Furman Street to Joralemon Street. On the way, under the noisy BQJ, my companions and I had a shouted conversation comparing viewpoints.

Yes, I have heard the passion of the people discussing this plan; the rhetoric of the politicians; the fluid explanation of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) and the Brooklyn Bridge Park Conservancy (BBPCC) and the local media reports. I find no pleasure in raining on anyone's parade, BUT FOLKS, from where I stand, "this emperor has no clothes."

This plan as it has been put forth is a very clever, veridically enhanced, beautifully presented and beguiling boondoggle meant to hornswoggle the public. Basically, it covers a naked land grab that privatizes an isolated, seasonal public park into a luxury residential gated enclave.

There is precious little solid ground in the long, narrow BBP. The piers, we are told, are so fragile that it will take \$3.6 million yearly to keep the wicked works at bay. Really? The Port Authority must be ecstatic to unload them, and the River Cafe, on wood pilings, must lead a charmed life.

Adding existing structures, proposed buildings and roadways will remove 20 percent of the solid land. We are shown a budget of \$15.2 million staffed with personnel and expensive amenities for a seasonal, down-to-dusk park.

Reams of charts are paraded before us to justify all the luxury residential buildings. But there are too

many hard questions unanswered and too many obfuscating answers. Ninety-nine years is a long time to live with a mistake just because it is currently a hot real estate market. Are there really no other creative solutions to financing the BBP or is the politically appointed ESDC the wrong entity to answer that?

What exactly is the exchange between the BBP and the 360 Furman St. developer? The information differed at each meeting. It appears from the most recent model that 360 Furman Street via Old Fulton Street to Joralemon Street.

At one point we were told that this building and the proposed buildings in the park would have private parking. The buyers of [eventual] 360 Furman luxury condos would be getting access to a next-door playground, armed security guards and

acres of planted and tended parkland instead of a post-industrial seascape and acres of macadam. We were told the building is going to share 200 of its 600 indoor parking spaces with BBP. Exactly who gets these spaces differed from meeting to meeting. If the boat slips become a reality, it will complete the ambience of luxury for the future 360 Furman apartment purchasers. Of course, the legalities of this exchange appear to be still up in the air.

Between the two proposed buildings near Pier 6 and 360 Furman St., there are 900 housing units planned. That means about 1,800 to 2,400 people living and/or working at the Atlantic Avenue end. We have yet to see the studies showing the effect that these and the other proposed residential density, in DUMBO, will have on the sewers, utilities, schools and traffic.

I question the parking ratio used to determine that 600 spaces is adequate for 900 units of luxury apartments in such an isolated spot at the

end of Atlantic Avenue. Because of the entrances and exits of the BQJ, it requires four crossings to get there from Pier 6. At present, these crossings are dangerous. A safer and quicker path is to cross Furman Street and walk up Joralemon. One can envision hundreds marching up and down that block.

Interest rates are rising, the dollar is down, bonds are weak and inflation is inching upwards.

Just how long will this real estate bubble last? Will it be long enough for the BBP developers to build and cash in on the proposed luxury condos? At present, there are already over 1,000 high-end residential units in the pipeline in Downtown Brooklyn with more coming. I have lived long enough to have experienced several cycles of boom and bust in the stock and real estate markets. What protection does the BBP's revenue have if a long down-cycle results in foreclosures and bankruptcies?

— Patricia Kirkley, Downtown



Are children miniature adults? Do their opinions matter? Is there a magic moment when they stop being children?

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The Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson was preoccupied with the importance of children, even viewing them as role models for adults.

"The child is not merely an adult in the making, but a person with marked advantages of his or her own: the child's faith, trust, integrity, energy, enthusiasm, thirst for learning, conscientiousness, and sense of importance are qualities to be cultivated in the child and emulated by the adult."

Indeed, a child is not a caterpillar biding its time before becoming a butterfly. Children are not merely potential grownups. They are an indispensable part of the social fabric — a vital, organic, significant presence.

A CHILD'S POWER

From a spiritual perspective, children possess powers that tend to diminish in adulthood.

"The child naively believes that everything should be fair and everyone should be honest, that only good should prevail, that everybody should have what they want and there should be no pain or sadness. The child believes the world to discover be perfect and is outraged to discover it is not..."

— And the child is right."

Children bring out the best in adults. In an otherwise cynical and jaded world, our children can stir us to nobility, decency and kindness. All we have to do is hear them, and we become better people.

"CHILDISH" VS "CHILDLIKE"

Childish behavior is natural, and ultimately outgrown. At the same time it is so important to nurture and respect childlike qualities. Our responsibility as parents is to enable our sons and daughters to retain trust and

optimism, the very qualities that empower people to achieve great things as adults.

"The child delights in the simple things of life. Sometimes that delight may lead in the wrong direction. But the delight in itself is good... We need to embrace and nurture the delight while weaning it from things that are unwholesome."

NURTURING ENTHUSIASM

Children have unstopgable enthusiasm. Cynicism and doubt have no place in a child's world. Hence, as our children grow older, it is important that we channel, rather than cauterize, their unbridled energy.

Indeed, at some point every child realizes all is not perfect in our world. Our task is to explain that this realization is like an unfinished masterpiece. And we human beings created in G-d's image — are His partners in perfecting this creation.

"... A piece of the world has been waiting for your soul to purify and repair it. From the time it was first emanated, your soul has waited to descend to this world and carry out its mission."

The world's flaws and rough edges are our opportunity to bring it that much closer to perfection. We achieve this through acts of goodness and kindness. This is the most important thing we can teach our sons and daughters, because it tempers adult awareness of the world with childlike belief in perfectibility.

"Never underestimate the power of a simple pure deed done from the heart. The world was not changed by men who move mountains, nor by those who lead the revolutions, nor by those whose purse strings tie up the world. Dictators are deposed, oppression is dissolved, entire nations are transformed by a precious few acts of beauty performed by a handful of unknown soldiers."

Look at your child. Love your child. Respect your child. Learn from your child. Nurture your child. Teach your sons and daughters that they have an important role to play as G-d's partners in making this the best world possible.

You'll be amazed.

This message offers a glimpse of the Rebbe's insights on education and the child. For a more comprehensive understanding of this critical subject, please go to www.TheRebbe.org/Education.

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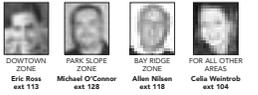
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Judges reject fix to judge-rick system

By Jotham Sederstrom
The Brooklyn Papers

A motion to reform the way the Brooklyn Democratic Party selects judicial candidates was voted down by a wide margin last week, drawing criticism from several district leaders who charged that reluctance to pass the referendum stemmed from fears of retribution by party boss Assemblyman Clarence Norman Jr.

The April 7 motion to scrap a decades-old method of voting on an entire slate of state Supreme Court candidates, rather than on individual candidates, was defeated 22-9 with 11 abstentions.

The current method presents a predetermined slate vetted by Norman. "Absolutely, this is driven by Clarence Norman, the county leader, who does not want to see the current system change," said District Leader Alan Fleishman, of Park Slope. "You know, the reason that this was done is because people turn over their right to vote to Clarence. That's a deeply flawed process as far as I'm concerned."

Rather than holding primaries for state Supreme Court candidates, delegates from a judicial convention pick the nominees. Members of the Democratic Party's executive committee, comprised of all 42

Assembly District leaders, vote to accept or reject a slate of candidates, the number of which depends on the number of vacancies on the bench. This November, two or perhaps three seats are expected to be open, depending on whether Justice Michael Garson is stripped of his judgeship following accusations that he illegally stole money from an 83-year-old aunt.

Fleishman said that Garson, a cousin of GOP embattled Supreme Court Justice Gerard Garson, is only one example of how the current endorsement policies in Brooklyn are flawed.

Gerard Garson, another Brooklyn Democratic Party selection, is accused of accepting bribes. As other examples, Fleishman pointed to former judge Victor Barron, who was convicted and sent to prison for soliciting a bribe, and Reynold Mason, who was accused of not returning escrow to a tenant who siphled his apartment.

Fleishman contends that other current judges are also beneficiaries of the flawed policies. Because district leaders have no way of determining the criteria on which they use to draw up his slate of nominees, he said it's difficult to say whether judges with blood ties to Democratic Party leaders are the most qualified candidates or simply the most well connected.

Brooklyn Supreme Court Judge Marcia Steinhardt is married to Jeffrey Feldman, the executive director of the Kings County Democratic Committee. Judge Lawrence Knipel is married to Lori Knipel, a district leader in Flatbush. Judge Arthur Schack is married to Bay Ridge district leader Dilia Schack.

Lori Knipel and Dilia Schack were, however, among the nine district leaders to vote in favor of the reforms.

Bob Liff, a spokesman for the Kings County Democratic Committee, said that district leaders have always had the power to reject the slate of candidates and build up an alternate slate. He said that before each election, Norman calls each district leader, asks for their choices and selects the candidates boasting the most support.

"Clarence is the broker of the process, not the boss of the process," said Liff. Still, said Fleishman, slate or no, the process needs to be more transparent.

"There has to be more transparency," said Fleishman. "Friends and relatives have become judges. It's not based on merit — it's based on who you know." Besides Fleishman, Knipel and Schack, other district leaders who voted for the reform are: JoAnne Simon, Jacob Gold, John Perle, Joseph Seminars, Amanda Bonilla and Councilman Lewis Falder.

HOOK LOSES...

Continued from page 1

ward worked for the Port Authority prior to serving as Mayor Michael Bloomberg's Environmental Protection commissioner. He left the administration last October to take over ASI.

The mayor's office declined to comment for this article. ASI executives say the Red Hook container port currently employs 600 New Yorkers, which includes drivers, maintenance crews, crane operators and longshoremen.

Unlike the Staten Island facility, which the EDC intends to wind up the 400 jobs lost to New Jersey, the Red Hook port, which the Brooklyn port was ready to take the account.

Both Hamburg Sud's Dehe, and the CEO of the New York Container Port in Staten Island's Howland Hook, said they were not sure if the land port would need an overhaul to accommodate container ships.

"When Hamburg Sud indicated that they were going to change piers, [after their contract with a carrier line in New Jersey ended] they said they were interested in coming here," explained Jim Deve, chief of operations at the New York Container Terminal, which also owns Global Terminal, the New Jersey port where Hamburg Sud will now unload its freighters.

"I said 'Well, we don't have [a deep enough channel], we won't have water this year, or until the very end of next year.'"

The Howland Hook port is currently only 35 feet deep, and according to Deve, the container ships need 39 to 40-foot depths in order to dock. The Army Corps of Engineers is dredging the surrounding waterway to reach a 43-foot depth, using money allocated by the state.

Deve said the "temporary" port at Bayonne, where Hamburg Sud signed a five-year operating agreement, is 45 feet deep.

"New York Harbor enjoys naturally deep water. You don't hit bedrock until over 50 feet. We could've accommodated Hamburg Sud's vessels immediately," said ASI spokesman Matt Yates.

At Howland Hook, said Dehe, 80 percent of the 475 workers live in New York City.

with 90 from Brooklyn, 280 from Staten Island and 12 from the Bronx, Manhattan and Queens.

That port has a long-term lease with the Port Authority, which although set to expire in 2019, according to Deve, is in the process of being granted an extension through 2030.

Staten Island hopes to accommodate Hamburg Sud by late 2006, at which point the company is expected to link a five-year contract with the city.

In the meantime, the trade and jobs go to New Jersey.

Heinenke beer, which Deve said was "the single largest commodity" in the city, costs "less than a penny [per bottle to ship], thanks to containerization."

"That's the positive side — goods are cheaper because shipping is so efficient, that the ships are bigger, you can move more cargo with less people on deck," said Deve.

"A container ship used to come into port five, six days; now it comes in for 10 to 12 hours," said Deve, noting that the money savings of the expedited shipping process. "The bad side is, unfortunately, it obsolesces some of the smaller piers."

But Dehe said that efficiency was what drew his company's interest in porting in Brooklyn with ASI.

"The time period is expensive, and we try to keep it brief as possible," said Dehe. "They brought to us what was a very attractive offer, but in the end, because of the lease expiration we had to look elsewhere."

Asked why the EDC was able to lure cruise lines to the Red Hook port, and secure lease agreements on those piers, but was unwilling to do so for the container ports, Patterson said, "It was a specific project we were working on."

Patterson insisted, "The jobs are coming to New York. The understanding is that they would be there when the channel was deep enough," she said, but added, "I don't know the terms of their agreement."

As to the long-term, Dehe told the Brooklyn Papers, "We indeed are planning to transfer the service to Staten Island, but that is some time away, we don't have a fixed timeline for that and it's not going to be within the next couple of months. Maybe the end of this year, maybe next year, but again, that's all tentative, and it depends on some external factors."

Asked about the city's turning away port business for Brooklyn, Councilman David Yassierli, who also sits on the New York Container Port committee, said, "We've had three hearings in the City Council about this. At every one the EDC won't say they directly want to get rid of 300 jobs, but putting cruise in place of the container ships is what the administration's policy has been."

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Brooklyn subway will drive itself

By Justin Gianville
Associated Press

A subway train rattles halfway into Manhattan's Union Square station and shudders to a halt. Over a crackle of static, a voice on the PA system announces congestion ahead and says it will be several minutes before service resumes.

Trapped commuters sigh and glance at their watches impatiently. Some simply close their eyes in resignation. This sort of thing — and much worse — has been happening quite a lot lately.

Entire subway lines have recently been knocked out for hours on end by failing equipment, including decades-old switches short-circuited by flooding.

So it's no surprise that commuters are greeting with ambivalence this month's launch of fully automated trains on a 24-station line connecting Manhattan and Brooklyn.

Trains on the L line —

which runs through Williamsburg en route from 14th Street to Canarsie — will run without conductors, except in emergencies, coasting at pre-ordained speeds and stopping automatically at stations, a lone train operator in the front car watching the controls.

San Francisco has had this technology for years, and Paris has one such line.

But the New York City Transit upgrade is a milestone. Never has a city with a subway so large or so old — it turned 100 last fall — tried to convert its existing infrastructure to automation.

"It all goes well, automation will be phased in on other lines over the next 20 years, and conductors will be phased out."

"We're moving from a 19th-century subway system," said Charles Seaton, a transit spokesman. "It's making the system more efficient, safer and allowing us to run more trains."

The new technology is not without its critics, many worried about safety.

Nor has it been fast or cheap. Studies on how to convert the L line began nearly 15 years ago, and more than \$250 million has been spent so far on upgrading the L, chosen partly because it is among the shortest and doesn't share track with other lines. If the program proves a success, it could take decades to implement the technology citywide.

Why go to the trouble? Nabile Ghaly, NYC Transit's chief signal engineer, said the new system lets traffic controllers know exactly where each train is at all times, and it tightly controls train speed.

With it, trains can run more closely together — and therefore more frequently — and with fewer accidents, transit officials say.

The new system uses "communications-based train control," or CBTC. Computers on trains, alongside tracks in special enclosures and at a new control center monitor a train's location and speed via radio waves.



School of rock
Bon Jovi keyboardist David Bryan joined fourth-grade teacher Judy Hudson and students of PS 133, on Butler Street in Park Slope, on April 8 for a music class sponsored by Time Warner Cable and VH1's "Save the Music" program, which encourages schools to maintain music education.

As in the subway systems in Washington, D.C., and London, screens installed in

stations will tell riders when the next train will arrive.

Train operators can adjust speeds themselves, but a warning flashes if they exceed limits set for specific sections of track. If the operator ignores the warning, brakes clench and the train stops — a precaution meant to head off driver-based accidents.

It was such an accident that first drove the city to try CBTC. In 1991, a motorist who had been drinking fell asleep at the controls of a speeding train. The train derailed, killing five people.

Yet for all its promised benefits, the plan has met some resistance.

Several city council members and Public Advocate Betsy Gotsbaum have joined the train conductors' union in raising safety concerns.

The union acknowledges that its opponents are mostly from the fact that 119 conductors will be made redundant in the first phase of the plan alone, while about 2,700 more could lose their jobs system-wide.

Opponents worry that without conductors, evacuation in emergencies could be slow and disorderly, and train doors could close on passengers.

Conductors typically ride in a middle car, checking to see that passengers get on and off trains safely and overseeing the safe opening and closing of doors.

Transit officials counter that in the new system, doors won't be able to close and trains won't be able to depart

a station if there's an obstruction.

Opponents are also wary of a system that puts so much trust in computers and automated signals, which they fear could be vulnerable to malfunction or terrorism.

"They're going to be sending signals via radio waves," said Councilman Lewis Fiore, a Democrat representing Marine Park and Canarsie, where the L train originates.

"I don't want to find out that someone hacks into the system and makes a train disappear and another train ramps into it."

Such a scenario is unlikely, said Tom Sullivan, an independent transit consultant with Transportation Systems Design in Oakland, Calif., who helped design the L-line upgrade.

The data carried on radio waves are encrypted, so only an internal leak could compromise its security, he said. Though it's possible to jam the radio signal, he said, that would only make the train stop.

Sullivan, who also helped develop an automated line for San Francisco's Municipal Railway in the 1980s, said he knows of no serious problems from hacking or malfunction.

He is more concerned that the piecemeal approach the city is now taking could mean technology becomes obsolete by the time new lines are upgraded in the future.

Compounding the problem, several different companies currently manufacture CBTC equipment, and parts from

one company are not compatible with another.

"To have a truly integrated system, the city would have to continue buying all its equipment from Siemens AG, effectively giving it a monopoly."

"The challenge is to get the companies to build equipment that's compatible with each other, so different trains can run on different lines," Sullivan said. "You don't want a winner-take-all situation."

DOOMED OASIS...

Continued from page 1

not moving any time soon and hopes the garden that she and others helped to plant doesn't have to, either.

"People talk about this as an oasis," said Casack, who described the past three decades of interactions with the church "fairly congenial."

"They never got involved with any of the work, any of the planting or any decision-making about the park," she said. "They had sort of a hands-off relationship."

So when the Hoyt Street Association received a letter from the church saying it would "re-take the complete and incompatible use" of the garden for sale and future development, Casack was shocked.

The letter, signed by Rosa Nieves, the church secretary on behalf of "The Elders of the Church 'Del Vivo Cristo' had the name of the pastor, the Rev. Alfredo A. Ferreras-Perez at the top, and was mysteriously dated Jan. 19, 2005.

"As you know, very soon it will be 30 years since we generously permitted you to use our property gratuitously," Nieves wrote. "We acknowledge that you've made a very positive development in the creation of the garden for the community, however presently this church has the urgent necessity to revise and re-launch its evangelistic mission."

"In so doing, we are reorganizing and re-evaluating our resources to this end. It is with our deep feeling of respect that we are giving you written notice of our unalterable decision to acquire the total undivided use of the considered property."

It was the first Casack had heard of the church's desire to be rid of the garden.

"When I called them I said, 'This is very startling news,' she recalled.

Over the years, Casack said, she remembered members of the



The community garden at Hoyt Street and Atlantic Avenue faces an uncertain future.

church occasionally enjoying the garden, and even holding a wedding there one afternoon.

"We give away keys to anybody who's interested," she said, noting that all the local schools had keys, along with the public library branch and all interested church members. "The rules are here — Pick up litter, and don't pick the flowers."

The once gravel-strewn empty lot was sold to the church in 1970 and had been vacant for five years until the community started the garden.

"They said they were indeed ready to sell the land and if we wanted to buy it we could certainly be on the list," she said, and hoped something could be done to raise enough money for the corner lot.

"She says, 'I need, to work something out with the church,

and exchange community labor and rent payments to subsidize the 'park in perpetuity.'"

Telephone conversations between Casack and the New York Presbytery — which owns the land — were only mildly reassuring, she said.

"They said they wanted 'nothing other than a courtyard garden' there," said Casack, who said she was told that all sale decisions have to go through the church's Grand Assembly, which would take time.

Casack said she understood an apartment building with a rectory for the pastor was being considered.

Ferreras-Perez deferred comment until after press time. The New York Presbytery did not return calls for comment by press time. Sue Wolfe, president of the

Boerum Hill Association, and a broker at Nancy McKiernan Realtors on Atlantic Avenue, just down the street from the garden, said her neighborhood organization was concerned, and it would affect the dog-leashes that block has received for winning "Greenest Block in Brooklyn" awards.

"For 30 years they've let the neighborhood use it, so the neighborhood loves the fact that it's been there," she said. "It's a wonderful neighborhood institution. Do we have a right to it? No. But maybe we can raise enough money that we can buy it. Who knows?"

"My daughter was read to there, and now she reads there. Wolfe said, and fondly recalled summer afternoons in the garden with her children at the Hoyt Street Garden summer reading program, for which the Hoyt Street Association provides stacks, books and an amplifier so the readings can be heard over the din of Atlantic Avenue traffic.

Assemblywoman Joan Millman, who represents Boerum Hill, called the readings just "one example of the various ways this small plot of land has been utilized to create a strong sense of neighborhood" in a support letter she wrote to the association, one of many received by the group including letters from the non-profit Project for Public Spaces, the Gowanus Community Center, State Street Catholic Block Association, local real estate broker Carol May, neighborhood shop, residents, neighborhood expatriates and even students from nearby PS 261.

Student Ely Figueroa wrote, "PS 261 is really concerned... We will do anything to let you stay in another place for you to build the building you want to build. Living things should live."

Miles, also from PS 261, distanced protest, writing, "I will not let you tear down the Hoyt Street Garden... Plants give us oxygen and in the city there is too much car fumes in the air. So keep the garden."

But whether the church will listen remains to be seen, and the letter from Ferreras-Perez conveyed a steady determination.

The decision to re-take the complex and incompatible use of the re-taken property is just legitimate, necessary and cannot wait any longer," the letter reads. "We ask for your understanding and cooperation."

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