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Chinese dishes at Maimonides

Maimonides Medical Center

It doesn't come in a white takeout box, and it's not accompanied by a fortune cookie, but patients at Maimonides Medical Center are now able to enjoy authentic Chinese cuisine during their stay.

As part of its ongoing effort to ensure that each patient's stay is comfortable, Maimonides recently introduced a number of Chinese dishes as a service to the rapidly growing Asian community in southwest Brooklyn. (According to U.S. Census data, the Asian Population in this area increased by more than 100 percent from 1990 to 2000.)

While the new menu options, which include beef stir fry with vegetables, subgung gingered fish, chicken lo mein and congee with meat, are available to any patient of the medical center, they were introduced specifically with the needs of the Asian community in mind.

"At Maimonides, we recognize that high-quality medical care demands respect for and attention to each patient's culture," says Maimonides President and CEO Stanley Brenzoff. "As such, we are constantly working with local leaders to create services and amenities that appeal to our local patient population, which is among the most diverse in the nation. Adding Chinese dishes is a prime example of this important mission."

Merely giving patients additional food choices was not enough for Maimonides. The medical center also brought in Rosa Ross, a certified culinary professional, caterer and Chinese cookbook author, to provide its food services personnel with an eight-week course on the art of authentic Chinese cuisine. Rather than merely exploring recipes, Maimonides cooks were given an in-depth instruction on ingredi-

ents and cooking techniques, such as steaming, as well as pointers on how to adapt the hospital's kitchen and equipment for Chinese cuisine.

According to Director of Food Nutrition Patrick Lamont, who oversees the preparation of 3,500 meals daily, the initiative has been a total team effort.

"Our Chief Dietitian Dr. Alvin Steinfeld adapted the meals to meet the nutritional needs of our patients, such as those cardiac patients who require a low-sodium diet. Justice Yang, our Director of Asian Community Outreach, provided feedback on samples and helped develop Chinese language menus. My colleague Eric Adkowitz, who is our resident expert on kosher food, ensured each ingredient and

preparation met with kosher requirements," said Mr. Lamont.

Once the cooking classes had concluded, the Chinese menus had been set, and each meal checked to ensure they met with strict dietary and kosher standards it was time to put all of the hard work and preparation to the ultimate test.

Maimonides invited prominent members of the Asian community, as well as executive staff members for a luncheon in the boardroom. The menu, of course, consisted of four new Chinese food items.

According to Mr. Lamont, who is quick to point out that a patient need not be Asian to order Chinese, the reviews were universally positive. In fact, he says that no one seemed to notice the differ-

ence in the food despite efforts to make it more nutritionally compatible with the dietary needs of hospitalized patients.

The introduction of Chinese dishes and menus printed in Chinese is one element in Maimonides' larger campaign. Maimonides also now has:

- Mandarin and Cantonese speaking patient representatives in the Emergency Department every day, around the clock.
- One-hundred-fifty-two staff physicians, nurses, medical assistants and support staff who are fluent in Chinese dialects and work throughout the hospital and in Maimonides clinics.
- Additional night hours at

the Eighth Avenue clinic for patients' greater convenience.

A new 24-hour, 7-day-a-week information telephone line — (718) 283-6998 — has been established to answer questions from Chinese-speaking residents about Maimonides' comprehensive range of services.

• Call LightHouse International's toll-free number at (800) 829-8500 or visit the Web site at www.lighthouse.org to locate vision rehabilitation services and other professional referrals in your area.

Low-vision awareness

Lighthouse International

In recognition of Low Vision Awareness Month during February, LightHouse International urges people with impaired vision, their families and friends to learn about the benefits of vision rehabilitation. In the United States alone, 16.5 million persons over age 45 report having vision loss, according to "Lighthouse National Survey on Vision Loss."

People who lose sight as adults can continue to pursue their daily activities safely and independently, when they are equipped with the training, counseling and employment services provided through professional vision rehabilitation services.

Vision loss that cannot be corrected by ordinary glasses, contact lenses, medication or surgery is called "low vision." While vision rehabilitation cannot restore lost sight, as well as equip individuals with the techniques to maintain an independent lifestyle. A team of professionals, including low vision doctors, rehabilitation teachers and orientation and mobility specialists, social workers and employment specialists, provide individual-

ized instruction and guidance to achieve your personal goals. They work with people who are blind or partially sighted, as well as with family and friends, to improve the overall quality of life and restore lost function.

In observance of Low Vision Awareness Month, LightHouse International offers some advice for people with vision impairment, their families and friends:

- See and eye doctor specialist in low vision. Low vision services, provided by specially trained optometrists and ophthalmologists, include an

eye exam to identify functional vision problems, an evaluation of remaining vision and the prescription of optical and other devices including, magnifiers and telescopes, suited to your eye condition, activities and lifestyle;

• Be "in-the-know" about how rehabilitation teachers can help you remain independent at home.

• Call LightHouse International's toll-free number at (800) 829-8500 or visit the Web site at www.lighthouse.org to locate vision rehabilitation services and other professional referrals in your area.

Diabetes?

Are you caught between these two health problems? Then you may qualify for Look AHEAD, a National Institutes of Health research project studying the long-term benefits of weight loss in people with type 2 diabetes.

Physical exams, medical tests, and educational programs are provided at no cost to volunteers who qualify.

For more information, call

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Overweight?

Ambulance at Methodist

New York Methodist Hospital

New York Methodist Hospital has unveiled a new service, "Pre-Hospital Care." Pre-Hospital care takes place immediately prior to and during an ambulance ride to the hospital.

The hospital has acquired two new ambulances, which will function as part of the New York City Fire Department's 911 emergency service and will primarily serve Park Slope and

its surrounding neighborhoods. One vehicle is equipped to provide basic life support and the other provides advanced life support.

New York Methodist Hospital, which has not had its own ambulances for many years, has partnered with New York-Presbyterian Hospital, which has its own fleet of ambulances. "This is an exciting and successful partnership which benefits the community," said Joseph Bove, MD, chairman of major medicine at New York Methodist Hospital.

The basic life support ambulance, staffed by Emergency Medical Technicians (EMTs), will be on call 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The advanced life support ambulance, staffed by paramedics with advanced training in cardiac and medical emergencies, will be on call 16 hours a day, 7 days a week.

At any given time, there are approximately 325 ambulances operating in the New York City 911 system. The 911 service is composed of New York City Fire Department units and hospital-based ambulances, such as the new New York Methodist Hospital vehicles.

"Time is critical when responding to an emergency. With these two ambulances, the Hospital can provide care as quickly as possible to members of our community," said Michael Guttenberg, MD, director of pre-hospital care at New York Methodist. Dr. Guttenberg added that 10 to 15 percent of hospital patients require or benefit from pre-hospital advanced life support.

The addition will also benefit students at New York Methodist Hospital's Paramedic Program. The students who complete 650 hours of classroom and lab work, and 600 hours of clinical rotations before graduation, will have greater opportunities for hands-on experience.

"Classroom work is important, but nothing beats real-life clinical experience," said Dr. Guttenberg. "This service will enhance our ability to respond to medical emergencies and give community members better access to the care they need," said Dr. Bove.

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The Brooklyn Papers' essential guide to the Borough of Kings

(718) 834-9350 • January 27, 2003

Miller's time

Makeover for one of boro's oldest diners

By Tina Barry
 of The Brooklyn Papers

Miller's Famous Restaurant in Borough Park has undergone a radical facelift. Joe Miller, son of Michael "Mike" Miller (the second owner of Miller's Famous Restaurant) and the grandson of Chris Miller (originally Christopher Mylanopoulos of Cypress), the restaurant's founder, is the new co-owner. With John Odorioso, a patron of Miller's since childhood and a butcher with 20 years of meat-cutting experience, the two transformed the aging restaurant, a neighborhood institution since 1947, into a gleaming replica of a 1950s diner.

"I was adamant that the new design should stand out from other diners," says Miller.

It does. Surrounded by stores whose facades were new 30 years ago, the refurbished restaurant, with its shining red-and-white tiled exterior edged in chrome, looks more like something you'd see along Route 66 than a diner nestled under the shadow of the old El train track.

"Even the design of the tiles on the wall are a replica of a subway station," says Miller, who sketched his ideas on a napkin before consulting an architect.

To expand the diner's seating capacity from 35 to 75, Miller designed two replica subway cars and had them built on site and attached to the outside of the diner. Patrons can now enjoy a hamburger, comfortably seated in one of the deep, red vinyl booths, while looking out the train window.

Continuing the subway motif, a miniature train runs along a track that hangs directly over the funky, '50s-style chrome counter.

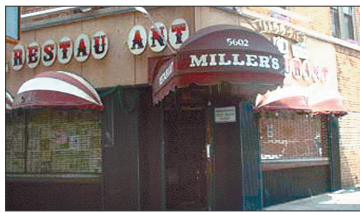
"We want people to be reminded of a Manhattan restaurant," Miller says of the renovation, then adds, "but we don't have Manhattan prices. Two guys can eat here like kings. We give a lot of food. That's what we're known for."

Chef Miller will do the cooking following the recipes handed down from his father and grandfather. His four-course dinner special, served each evening, features a fruit cup or cup of soup du jour, an entree of prime roast sirloin, turkey, ham or basket served with a potato and vegetable, coffee or tea and Jell-O or rice pudding — all for \$8.95.

"Never leave the restaurant hungry" was my grandfather's motto, and it's our motto as well," Miller adds.

Serving quality cooking in enormous portions is a practice Miller intends to continue.

"Everything here is homemade. We make our own corned beef, our own brisket. We cook our own roast beef, our own fresh ham and our own turkey. When someone orders a turkey sandwich, I'm cutting them turkey that I roasted that morning. Nothing is pre-made!" Miller says with pride.



New look for old friend: (Top) The newly renovated Miller's Famous Restaurant at New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street. (Above) The restaurant before its makeover. (Right) Owner-chef Joe Miller's cherry-lime Rickey.

He hopes that Miller's Famous Restaurant will be considered a destination for hamburger aficionados the way Nathan's lunch hot dogs to Coney Island.

"We closed [in June 2002] with our 9-ounce burger, and that's a pretty nice size. Now we have the biggest with our 9-ounce burger, and it's delicious — juicy and so fresh," he says.

Special bragging rights apply to the diner's Greek salad.

"We make a Greek salad like nobody else," says Miller. "We use hard-boiled eggs but no anchovies. We put in the eggs, and the feta cheese, and the oil and vinegar and the olives, and we turn the salad ourselves. We mix it together like they do in Greece, in the old town. We are famous for our Greek salads."

Disappointing customers who might compare him unfavorably to his predecessors isn't an option for Miller.

"People come in here, and they see a young kid — I'm 32 years old," explains Miller. "And if they say, 'Oh, the kid made it all fancy but the food stinks,' then I have no business. I'm feeding people who my grandparents served 50 years ago."

As if on cue, an older couple, with unmistakable Brooklyn accents, walks in.

"Hey, Hey Joey," they say. "Whaz Jimmy Bow's pictual?"

"Thaz hah brohlah," says the man pointing to his wife.

"Yeah," she says. "Jimmy was the balthend at the El-sh-got. Yaw fatha had thah pictuah hangin' behin' the counta for a thousan 'yeards."

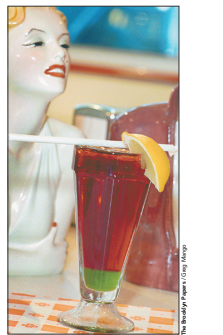
Miller promises to re-hang Jimmy Bow's picture before the diner's Jan. 18 opening. "If God is willing."

The couple leaves happy.

"This is perfect!" says Miller. "This is not staged! If you stay here all day, you'll see people dropping in saying, 'I remember your grandmother!' They tell me, 'When I came to America we couldn't afford to eat. Your grandmother used to give us french fries with cheese and a lime Rickey.' [The lime Rickey is still on the menu.] She never let anyone leave without being fed."

"Tell Tina how long you've been coming here," Miller asks Al, the diner's fruit man, who wanders in to say hello to Mike and "the boys."

"Oh," says Al. "Like, 40 years! I knew



Joe Miller's Famous Restaurant (Tina Barry)

his grandparents when his father was this big." He holds his hand near his knee.

Patrons who remember the original Miller's, which opened in 1947 on 13th Avenue at New Utrecht Avenue, and have seen the restaurant evolve since 1957 in its present location on the corner of New Utrecht Avenue and 56th Street, needn't worry about a rocky transition: After 36 years of 18-hour days, the still youthful Mike Miller has retired, but he plans to continue as a consultant, whenever "the boys" need him, and adds, "Joey and John are both young and they have a lot of incentive. The diner will be excellent."

When I visited, the kitchen was not yet open, so instead of food, Miller searched for gifts for "The train ride back home."

He gave me a large polo shirt with the Famous Miller's logo — a train — on its back; a wooden massager in the shape of a bird; a plastic key chain; and a denim snap-bracelet for my daughter.

"You have to leave with something," he says, "so you don't forget us."

DINING



Pre-show eats

Four-star, wanderlust chef Thomas Ferlesch (pictured), most recently of Cafe des Artistes and before that Vienna 79, has opened his first restaurant, Thomas Beisl, across Lafayette Avenue from the Brooklyn Academy of Music.

"In Vienna," says Ferlesch, "bistros serve the young and the old, intellectuals and students, plumbers, doctors, artists, everyone. It makes a wonderful atmosphere." It is just that "someone, come all" spirit that Ferlesch hopes his Thomas Beisl (beisl means bistro) will be to the Fort Greene neighborhood.

Ferlesch did most of the renovation himself, stripping and staining antique chairs that he picked up on Atlantic Avenue. The lighting is moody and romantic with amber-tinted sconces and candles on the tables.

Thomas Beisl's location — there's BAM of course, Mark Morris' dance studio is up the street, and Urban Glass, a glass-blowing studio, is a few blocks away — all but ensures an art-loving crowd. Plus on seeing black-clad diners eating velvety, eggplant terrine topped with goat cheese or a seafood salad with scallops, parsley and jalapenos. Wiener schnitzel with cucumber salad and parsley potatoes, and beef goulash made with braised beef cheeks and served with spaetzle, are among the entrees.

No one skips dessert in a Viennese restaurant. (What do you think inspired the Viennese dessert table at all those Bar Mitzvahs?) There's *palatschinken*, crepes stuffed with apricot jam or chocolate hazelnut cream, and a Linzertorte. Ask for the *rote mit schlag* — that's with whipped cream.

Thomas Beisl (25 Lafayette Ave. between Ashland Place and St. Felix Street) accepts American Express. Entrees: \$13-\$16. The restaurant is open daily from noon to midnight, and serves brunch Saturdays and Sundays, from 10 am to 4 pm. For reservations, call (718) 222-5800.

— Tina Barry

MUSIC

Pied piper

Omni Ensemble's flutist broadens audience for eclectic classical music

By Kevin Filipski
 of The Brooklyn Papers

"For our 20th anniversary season, we wanted to do music that we liked," explains flutist David Wechsler, a native of Midwest and founder of the Omni Ensemble, which has brought chamber music of all stripes to enthusiastic Brooklyn audiences for two decades.

Omni Ensemble's upcoming concert, Feb. 1 at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, pits two giants of the 18th and early 19th centuries — Bach and Beethoven — with a triad of French composers from the 20th century — Claude Debussy, Albert Roussel and Jacques Ibert.

The eclectic program is par for the course for the ensemble, as Wechsler says. "One of the reasons I started this group to begin with is that there are certain contemporary and 20th-century music that people would want to hear."

Along with Wechsler, the Omni Ensemble includes cellist Sara Wolan — who's been with the group for four seasons, and pianist Jim Lahit, a composer who joined the ensemble at the beginning of last season.

Wechsler and pianist John Creek started the group in 1983.

Pairing weighty works by two acknowledged masters with lesser-known but no less forceful music by three 20th-century Frenchmen is typical of the ensemble's programming method: its first concert this season included works by Ravel and Richard Strauss alongside Norman Dello Joio's 1948 Trio and pianist Lahit's own Trio for Clarinet, Cello and Piano.

Wechsler enjoys finding works that fit the players' sensibilities, including the great artists for this concert, violist Sam Kephart and harpist Laura Sherman.

The Bach G-minor sonata (originally for flute and harpsichord) is done with a transcription for harp, he notes. "Since the pedaled harp is relatively recent invention — it came into use in the mid-19th century — there's no baroque music written specifically for it."

Also being performed in a transcription for harp is Beethoven's "so you don't forget us."

See OMNI on page GO 4



Be our guest: Harpist Laura Sherman is one of the guest artists performing with the Omni Ensemble on Feb. 1.

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Play it again, Sam Mendes directs, and Emily Watson stars in top-notch double-bill at BAM Harvey

By Lisa J. Curtis The Brooklyn Papers

On Saturday night, at the Brooklyn Academy of Music's Harvey Theater, theatergoers gazed stary-eyed at actors Harvey Keitel, Bernadette Peters, Kate Winslet, Frances McDormand and Nathan Lane. And they were just in the audience.

The giants of the Great White Way came out for the Donmar Warehouse production of Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night." Both "Twelfth Night" and Donmar's "Uncle Vanya" are directed by Sam Mendes ("Cabaret"/"American Beauty").

Both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" will be presented in repertory at BAM through March 9. (On six Saturdays it will be possible to see both "Twelfth Night" and "Uncle Vanya" with a matinee and evening performance.)

physically, embodying the comedy of a Charlie Chaplin or Jerry Lewis.

Selma Cadell's metamorphosis turned on its ear by the arrival of Uncle Vanya to the saucy gentleman Marja in "Twelfth Night" has an equally jaw-dropping effect.

Of the two plays, Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" (newly updated by Brian Friel) is especially delightful — albeit in a mournful way. The workaday world of Uncle Vanya's estate is turned on its ear by the arrival of the professor and his young wife, Yelena, played by Helen McCrory.

The aptly named Mark Strong gives a commanding performance as Dr. Mikhail Astrov in "Uncle Vanya." It is an impeccable exhibition of barely restrained vigor, lust (for Yelena) and self-destruction, all of the while managing to create a sexy, dark confidence.



Top-notch cast: Simon Russell Beale (left) in the title role of Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya," and Emily Watson as Viola, disguised as Cesario, in Shakespeare's "Twelfth Night."

Beale is again excellent, this time as the supercilious, panicky servant Malvolio with his grand ambition of a union with his mistress, Olivia. When his love for Olivia is mistaken for madness, his anguished pleas for help — even while hidden behind a mask and straitjacket — are chilling. Beale becomes the victim of the nasty cruelty of which only humans are capable. His acting descent, from puffed-up steward, to preening peacock in his yellow socks, to the victim of the cruelly of which only humans are capable.

When in the role of the homely Sonya in "Uncle Vanya," after rejection upon rejection, she finally laments that even schoolchildren have called her "squirrel Sonya." Her reviewer was shamelessly unable to shut off the waterworks.

Beale plays the ambition-free Uncle Vanya, who charms with his cutting wit, generosity and consuming love for Yelena. He is magnificent as the victim of the cruelly of which only humans are capable.

"Twelfth Night" is a different animal altogether — it is light-hearted, almost stage in a suburban way with heavenly shrouded women in mourning clothes and an ocean of flickering

candles behind them. Beale is again excellent, this time as the supercilious, panicky servant Malvolio with his grand ambition of a union with his mistress, Olivia. When his love for Olivia is mistaken for madness, his anguished pleas for help — even while hidden behind a mask and straitjacket — are chilling. Beale becomes the victim of the nasty cruelty of which only humans are capable.

Whether you see both plays on separate evenings or on the same day, the opportunity to see such talented actors undertake such radical transformations and still render their performances in such a top important to us.

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WHERE TO GO compiled by Nevan Rosenthal
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Tiny dancers

Kids Cafe Fest features 'Pucci: Sport' and new work by Byrd

By Paulanne Simmons
for The Brooklyn Papers

Dancers aren't born but nurtured, often starting from a very early age. And that's exactly what Diane Jacobowitz has been doing—with a little help from a roster of celebrity choreographers—for nine years with Kids Cafe Festival.

The festival is produced by Dancewave, an organization Jacobowitz founded in 1979 to produce arts events, festivals and educational workshops for children and young adults. This year's Kids Cafe Festival, at the Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, included dance and sport workshops on Jan. 19, taught by the Peter Pucci Plus Dancers, a modern dance troupe whose namesake founder is a former all-American athlete and member of the modern dance group Phlobas.

There will be an opening night benefit concert on Jan. 24, featuring Jacobowitz's own Kids Company in the world premiere of "Memories of Bitterness Lives," a newly commissioned work created by modern dance

DANCE

"Kids Cafe Festival 2003" will be held at The Brooklyn Music School and Playhouse, 120 St. Felix St., at Lafayette Avenue in Fort Greene. The benefit concert, featuring "Memories of Bitterness Lives" by Donald Byrd, is at 8 pm on Jan. 24. Tickets are \$100.

Festival performances of "Pucci: Sport" are at 3 pm on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26. Tickets are \$10 for children, \$15 for adults.

For more information about the schedule, call (718) 522-4696. To make reservations for the festival performances or the benefit concert call (718) 622-2548 or visit www.kidscafe.com (NYC events) on the Web.

choreographer Donald Byrd. Kids Company has been working on the piece for an intensive 10-week rehearsal period with Byrd and his assistants.

The Peter Pucci Plus Dancers will also host Kids Cafe Festival performances and perform excerpts from "Pucci: Sport" on Jan. 25 and Jan. 26 at 3 pm. Kids participating in the workshops will perform in the part called "Basketball." And Nana Simopoulos,

another festival host, will perform her own Greek and Middle Eastern-influenced music at the festival.

Other festival performance highlights include the Shenandoah Contemporary Dance Theater and Gestures Ensemble from the Harbor Conservatory for the Performing Arts in Harlem.

Jacobowitz's Kids Company started in 2000 with "kids who really wanted to study dance more seriously," she says. Teenagers from throughout the city, who make it through an audition process, benefit from the program's professional environment that both challenges and encourages.

Using space in the Berkeley Carroll School in Park Slope and the Mark Morris studio in Fort Greene, the teenagers work with internationally known American choreographers like Twyla Tharp, David Dorfman, Doug Varone and Bill T. Jones. This spring Kids Company will again work with Morris, who since his group's move to Fort Greene, has been closely involved with the company, creating original pieces just for them.

Noah Weiss, a junior at Stuyvesant High School, has been with Kids Company for four years.

"Being a part of a company and not in a class makes me feel that what I'm doing is more important. You don't only have an obligation to yourself, but also to everyone else in the company. There's a sense of camaraderie," he told GO Brooklyn.

Noah, who lives in Park Slope, has danced in pieces by Mark Morris, David Dorfman and Donald Byrd.

"This gives me an opportunity to have a challenge in dance because we're working with professional choreographers and doing professional pieces," he said.

In December, Noah performed with Kids Company at the Dancers Responding to AIDS benefit concert at the St. Marks in the Bowery Church, and at a Christmas concert at the Tribeca Performing Arts Center.

These kinds of events help Noah "get a taste of what it might be like to be a part of a professional company." And he's excited, he says because "I get to share moments of work with an audience, and I get a feeling of accomplishment."

Noah is not sure whether he wants to be a professional dancer, but he does know that dance will always be a big part of his life. He is one of a group of 20 youths choreographer-dancer Jacobowitz is working with this year.

"I've worked with kids my whole life," she says. "I became a mother in the early '90s. I got the idea then of focusing on kids. It's an important focus now. It's close to my heart."

The festival gives youngsters in Kids Company and throughout the city and beyond the opportunity to learn, to share and to show off. And it gives proud parents the chance to see their kids at their most enthusiastic and graceful.

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PERFORMANCES

LIBRARY EVENT: Brooklyn Public Library, Central Branch, observes Chinese New Year and celebrates "Year of the Sheep" with performances and activities. 2:00-4:00 pm. Plaza. (718) 230-2100. Free.

BROOKLYN YECHEM presents "31 Bones," a play based on a 1981 anti-gay law in Virginia. \$40. \$15 students and seniors. 7 pm. 227 Fourth Ave. (718) 684-8699.

THEATER: XO Projects and Theater present "Craw," a play about four people crawling each other and the need to break free. \$15, \$10 students. 3 and 7:15 pm. Old American Can Factory, Third Street and Third Avenue. (718) 608-8336.

BARGEMUSIC chamber music program of works by Schnittke, Beethoven, Mozart, Dvorak and Debussy. \$20. 10 pm. Also free midday concert at 1 pm. Fulton Ferry Landing. (718) 624-2083.

BAM: Brooklyn Academy of Music

presents Donnar Warehouse's production of "The Twelfth Night," \$75, \$55, \$30, 2 pm. Also "Black Magic," \$75, \$55, \$30, 7:30 pm. Harvey Theater, 511 Fulton St. (718) 636-4111.

GALLERY PLAYERS presents "Don't Call Us," a musical revue. \$15, \$12 children. 12 and younger and seniors. 8 pm. 199 14th St. (718) 595-0547.

CONCERT: Frederick Ivins conducts a concert of works by Mozart, Albin, senior songs by Morley, Elgar, Rutter, Thompson and Dvorak. \$5 donation. 8 pm. All Saints Church, Seventh Avenue and Seventh Street. (718) 636-1492.

IMPACT THEATER presents Clifford Odets' drama "The Golden Boy." \$15, 8 pm. 190 Underhill Ave. (718) 392-7163.

ABOVE THE RIGHT BANK: Music by various artists. \$5. 8:30, 4:09 Kent Ave. (718) 388-3929.

VOYEURISTIC THEATER Collaborative Giraffe presents its new work "Meat a Floating"

LIST YOUR EVENT...

To list your event in **Where to GO**, please give us as much notice as possible. Send your listing by mail: GO Brooklyn, The Brooklyn Papers, 26 Court St., Ste. 503, Brooklyn, NY 11242, 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.

514 Second St. (718) 499-3253.

CONCERT: Citizen performs classic rock. 10:30 pm. Kelly's Tavern, 9229 Fourth Ave. (718) 745-9546. Free.

CHILDREN

AQUARIUM: Kids 12 to 18 are invited to participate in "So You Want to Be a Marine: Mammal Researcher" Learn what it's like to be a scientist from a marine mammal researcher. \$34. 5:30 members. 10 am to 1 pm. New York Aquarium, West Street at Surf Avenue. (718) 265-FISH.

STORY HOUR: Classic Raggedy Ann stories, told by Raggedy Ann stories, told by Raggedy Ann stories, told by Raggedy Ann stories. 11 am, Barnes and Noble, 106 Court St. (718) 246-9796. Free.

PUPPETWORKS: "The Prince and The Magic Flute." \$6, 57 adults. 12:30 and 2:30 pm. 338 Sixth Ave. (718) 965-3391.

BASEBALL REGISTRATION: 78th Precinct Youth Council hosts registration for spring season. 9:55, 1 to 5 pm. P5 321, Seventh Avenue between First and Second streets. (718) 246-9691.

BROOKLYN CHILDREN'S MUSEUM: UM - a workshop "Claynet Morgan and the Gas Mask." Learn how the first gas mask was used. \$4. 1:30 and 3 pm. 145 Brooklyn Ave. (718) 735-4400.

CONCERT: Plymouth Church presents Dan Zanes in a musical performance. 3 pm. Call for ticket information. 75 Hicks St. (718) 624-4743.

KIDS CAFE: Dancewaves Inc. presents its ninth annual Kids Cafe Festival, a performance of dance, music and theater hosted by Peter Pucci Plus Dancers and World Music of Nana. \$15, \$10 children. 3 pm. Brooklyn Music School, 120 St. Felix St. (718) 622-6548.

BEHIND THE SCENES: Brooklyn Museum of Art invites you to discover real and imaginary adventures that take place in the quietest corners of the museum. \$6, free for children

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The Mad Adventures of Rabbi Jacob
Sat. Feb. 1st 8-10:30pm

A New York rabbi travels to Paris and gets mixed up in a comedy of errors. This is complicated by a broad slapstick farce about a bigoted businessman (Louis de Funès as Victor Pivert) who is forced to disguise himself as a rabbi. With echoes of silent-screen humor, this film is regarded in some circles as one of the funniest films ever made. Nominated for the 1974 Golden Globe Award.

Featuring post-screening discussion with Mr. Paul Rothman, Independent filmmaker/Founder of the Brooklyn Jewish Film Festival.

Time of Favor
Sat. Feb. 8th 8-10:30pm

Winner of six Israeli Oscars including Best Picture, Time of Favor is a taut thriller about the tense relationship between Orthodox Jewish Nationalists and the military. An Orthodox soldier finds his loyalty torn between his Rabbi and his commanding officer.

Featuring post-screening discussion with a representative of the Israeli consulate.

Leon the Pig Farmer
Sat. Feb. 15th 8-10:30pm

In this very British satire, Leon Geller is a "nice Jewish boy" who accidentally discovers that his biological father is a gentle pig farmer in Yorkshire. As he considers the differing lifestyles of the two sets of parents, Leon has to make a decision about his future.

Featuring post-screening discussion with Simcha Weinstein, former associate of the British Film Commission.

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CB10 claims danger lurks at 'Net cafes'

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Community Board 10 said Monday night that it is monitoring three new Internet cafes that have opened in Bay Ridge. Noting an "arcade-like atmosphere" with "unusually characters" lurking outside, Police and Public Safety Committee Chairwoman Peggy Pierce said a letter to the board outlined some of the drawbacks to "these kind of businesses."

"It can be a fun place for kids to go and play online games, etc., but there is a drawback to the arcade atmosphere and the usual problems with the types of people congregating outside," Pierce said.

The committee is asking for stepped-up police involvement. "The cafes have not been a problem so far, said 68th Precinct Sgt. John Strype, who said police are "closely monitoring the cafes."

Two of the cafes are on Fort Hamilton Parkway, one by 62nd Street and one by 71st Street. The other is at Third Avenue and 76th Street.

CB10 Chairman Steve Harrison said the cafes in Bay Ridge are not like the ones in other places. "The typical cyber cafe in Manhattan tends to be a social place where adults can grab a cup of coffee."

"The ones were looking at here are of a completely different nature. They have closed in booths they're designed to make it difficult to peer in," he said.

Joe Kim, brother of the owner of Eclips, opened for the past two months on 6th Street, agreed that kids hang out at the store, but didn't think they were in any danger.

"On weekends, sometimes it gets really crowded, and kids gather outside making noise," he said. "But I know almost everybody here, and I watch out for the kids."

Beep boos 'roo movie



The Brooklyn Papers

An Australian marsupial has gotten Marty's goat.

Borough President Marty Markowitz is calling the box office hit, "Kangaroo Jack," "an insult to everybody who lives in Brooklyn."

In a letter to Chairman and CEO of Warner Brothers Entertainment, Markowitz wrote, "To imply that Brooklyn is riddled with crime and that Bensonhurst is a haven of mob activity is just plain wrong."

The film features Charlie Carbone (Jerry O'Connell), a Bensonhurst hair dresser whose Madonna step-father (Christopher Walken) sends him and a friend, Louis Fucci (Anthony Anderson), on a wild goose chase to the Australian Outback to deliver \$50,000 to a mysterious Mr. Smith.

On the way, the two encounter a bevy of pitfalls including flatulent canines. But the real stumbling block comes when Carbone and Fucci accidentally leave their mob money in the hands of an animated kangaroo wearing Fucci's red "Brooklyn" jacket.

Markowitz said, "We as Brooklynites have way too much respect for ourselves, and our borough, to support these types of movies."

But Bensonhurst native Steven Schripa, who plays Bobby Bacala on the HBO series "The Sopranos," said the Brooklyn Papers this week that it's time for Markowitz to wise up.

"I saw the movie. It stunk," said Schripa, who'd auditioned for the film. "Crime, is there mob activity? That's not what we're all about. And no, it's not riddled with crime. But don't tell me if you go to Bay Ridge that they're not around."

"I think Brooklyn is a good place to live, but let's not be naive, Marty." In his letter to Meyer, Markowitz urged Warner Brothers to refer to Brooklyn to film future movies that highlight the borough's better side, Markowitz wrote. "There is no more diverse place in America than Brooklyn, and that is why I was so distressed by these outlandish stereotypes."

"I realize the success of the movie might tempt you to make similar films, but to use a favorite Brooklyn expression, fuggelabautit!" — Kolben



Kangaroo Jack

Marty Markowitz

COUNCIL CANDIDATES SPEAK OUT ABOUT NATIONAL RESOLUTIONS

Stop wasting time

At Papers' debate, all say 'keep it local'



City Council District 43 candidates (clockwise from top left) Vincent Gentile, Steve Harrison, Daniel Maio, Joanne Semnara, Rosemarie O'Keefe, and Carlo Sciscusa in the offices of The Bay Ridge Paper on Friday.

By Patrick Galluane
The Brooklyn Papers

Whoever is elected on Feb. 25 to fill the City Council seat vacated by state Senator Marty Golden, don't expect to see the representative's attention stray too far from home.

While the current crop of freshmen in City Hall have eagerly used their legislative roles to discuss everything from the Palestinian Liberation Organization to plans for a war in Iraq — over which they have no authority — all six of the candidates vying to replace Golden vowed at The Bay Ridge Papers' candidates debate Friday to focus on matters within the council's jurisdiction, such as land use, the budget and local laws.

"We want to work hard on all the thousands [of things] that we can work hard on, from contracts and education to zoning," said Joanne Semnara, state committee woman in the 60th Assembly District who is making her third bid for a council seat. "We won't have time to debate on whether there should be wars outside our borders. We've got too much work to do."

In the past year members of the City Council, two thirds in their first terms, have debated reparations to the descendants of slaves, a moratorium on the death penalty and, in October, Harlem Councilman Bill Perkins and Flatbush Councilman Kendall Stewart authored a resolution urging the council to oppose a war in Iraq without the authority of the United Nations.

At times, it's as if the council is auditioning for Congress.

"Sounds like government waste to me," said Rosemarie O'Keefe, one of the candidates for Golden's seat. "I'm looking to streamline it as much as I can."

Another candidate, Daniel Maio, added that a town hall meeting might be a more appropriate forum to discuss issues outside the council's jurisdiction.

Candidate Steve Harrison, chairman of Community Board 10, said, "The reso-function should be limited to those issues where the city can do something."

See **CANDIDATES** on page 5

Hear it online

The Papers' debate is available in its entirety at www.brooklynpapers.com. Excerpts will be published in The Bay Ridge Paper next week.

Mystery Maio earns cheers at BRCC forum

By Beverly Wang and Vince DiMicoli
The Brooklyn Papers

Maio jumped from stage to a podium below while covering his face with placard with a large question mark on it. The crowd — most of whom had never seen or heard of Maio before — erupted with laughter.

Maio, a mapmaker by trade, then asked himself the one question everyone had been wondering.

"Why is it someone not born in New York City, who lives in Queens, runs for office in Brooklyn?" he pondered. "I say 'why not?' We live in America. Isn't it great to be an American?"

This time the crowd cheered.

"I'm not Italian, if you haven't noticed," Maio continued as the crowd roared. "It's not some county man. I want to serve the community and I want to have a chance."

The crowd again applauded wildly. Finally, Maio got the last laugh

Who's Maio?

of the evening when he interrupted candidate Vincent Gentile, who was proposing tractors traveling in city carry color-coded maps clearly showing where they can and cannot drive their vehicles.

"Vicent, it sounds like you are in favor of having a mapmaker on the City Council," he said to the crowd's delight.

But another, more familiar candidate, former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani commissioner Rosemarie O'Keefe, didn't have it so easy.

When asked by David Shalom, a 23-year-old Starbucks employee who lives on 72nd Street, to "describe the step-by-step process of having a bill pass in the council," O'Keefe answered with three words: "I don't know."

The remaining candidates, Gentile, Steve Harrison, Carlo Sciscusa and Joanne Semnara, all provided more thoughtful answers.

Later in the evening, O'Keefe promised she'd learn how bills move through the council "tomorrow."

Zippo for Grippo

Vinny retires after Dept. of Ed passes on him

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Community School District 20 Superintendent Vincent Grippo announced his retirement last week, just days before the mayor named the 10 regional superintendents who will run the reorganized school system.

Grippo was not one of the super 10 and his position, and those of all 22 district superintendents, will be eliminated July 1.

The regional superintendent position for the area that includes District 20 went instead to Michelle Fratt, the current superintendent of District 25 in Queens.

Districts 20 and 21, covering Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Gravesend, Brighton Beach, and Coney Island, will join with Staten Island to form Division 7, the largest of the proposed 10 divisions, with 137,186 students.

In a conference call with District 20's 20 principals and PTA presidents, Grippo said that after 35 years of service in the school system he was moving on.

Many parents said they were shocked that Grippo, who was being considered for chancellor of New York City schools last year, was not awarded one of the coveted regional slots.

Fratt will oversee Division 7 from Department of Education headquarters in the Tweed Courthouse in Manhattan, reporting to Deputy Chancellor of Teaching and Learning Diana Linn.

Grippo, who has a pending lawsuit against him by 28 teachers all over 50 years old

See **GRIPPO** on page 4

Library kicks off 'Year of the Ram'



Magician Jin Sheng delights children at the Central Library Saturday as part of Chinese New Year celebrations.

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

The Central branch of the Brooklyn Public Library ushered in the Year of the Ram a week early with a Chinese New Year celebration on Saturday.

Organizers estimated that nearly 300 people attended the hour-long event where musicians and dancers entertained families. A magician wowed children as he changed blank white paper into dollars.

Traditionally, every new year elders pass money in red envelopes to the younger generation for good luck. But Frank Xu, Division Chief of the Multi-Lingual Center at the Central Library and one of the organizers of Saturday's event, said the library distributed envelopes with candy instead.

"But nobody seemed to mind," Xu said. Brooklyn will be hosting a slew of other activities during the Chinese New Year, which officially begins on Feb. 1 and lasts for 15 days.

The Brooklyn United Chinese Association is planning a lion dance parade on Feb. 8 starting at 86th Street and 20th Avenue in Bensonhurst at 11 a.m.

Daniel Lun, the association's president, said the dancers, who are part of a professional martial arts school, will move along 86th Street all the way to 25th Avenue. They will then head over to Bay Parkway and 65th Street, where they'll march along Bay Parkway to 72nd Street. All the while, they'll be collecting "fortune money" from merchants and wishing them, *lung hei fai choi*, or happy new year.

The Brooklyn Chinese-American Association is organizing a New Year's parade on Feb. 9 at noon starting in front of 50th Street and Eighth Avenue and continuing on to 60th Street.

Betsy Lee, who teaches Chinese classes at the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association, said the parade is one of the traditions that marks hope and happiness for the new year.

"In the tradition, people like to learn how to act or do things like the animals of the year," Lee said, adding that the ram, this year's animal, is known for being intelligent and gentle.

Families also often plan a large feast together on the first day of the new year, but Alan Mok, of the Brooklyn United Chinese Association, said that tradition has been modified to meet modern lifestyles.

"The day of the dinner depends on the kids because they have to work," Mok said, noting that different parts of China have varying traditions.

New York City has included the Chinese New Year on the parking calendar this year due in part to legislation sponsored by Marty Golden in city council. On Feb. 1, alternate side of the street parking will be suspended.

Senior promises, little action

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A new player jumped into the fray over whether to build a new center for Bensonhurst senior citizens within the neighborhood or Borough Park.

With temperatures hovering

around freezing, Bensonhurst seniors are worried they will soon have to travel nearly a mile away to a center being built at the Angel Guardian Home in Borough Park, after the Narrows Senior Center, on New Utrecht Avenue at 79th Street closes, because it cannot be

brought up to handicap-accessible guidelines.

Borough President Marty Markowitz said this week that he would secure funding, to supplement state funding promised by Assemblyman Peter Abbate and state Sen. Marty Golden, to make sure that does not

happen.

"If additional funds are needed to complete the renovations at the Moose Lodge for the relocation of the Narrows Senior Center, I will be happy to set aside capital funds for the project," Markowitz said this week.

While Markowitz did not

11-digit dialing begins Saturday

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

New Yorkers better start flexing their digits.

Starting Feb. 1, all New York City residents will have to dial "11" plus the area code, plus the seven digit phone number when making any phone call.

In the past, area code dialing was only required when calling outside of your own area code.

According to Verizon, the city's largest phone service provider, the change is being made because Federal

Communications Commission rules require that 11-digit phone numbers be used when a geographic region has more than one area code.

Cell phones, fax machines, and separate Internet lines spurred the reorganization of area codes in New York City, which now include the original 212, along with 718, 917, 347, and 646.

The new area code structure can affect a wide range of programmed phone devices for both homes and businesses, including auto dialing systems, computer modems and security systems.

Those systems will have to be reprogrammed to dial 11 digits as opposed to seven.

The New York State Consumer Protection Board (SCB)—one of New York's top consumer watchdogs—tried to block the move claiming that it was a matter for the state, not the federal government to decide.

The SCB lost that lawsuit in 2001, but managed to secure an eight-month delay.

"It's not the worst of all consumer

inconveniences, but it's going to be a change for folks and for some business entities as well," said SCB spokesperson John Sorenson.

Verizon is putting a pleasant spin on the new procedure.

"Think of your phone number as a 10-digit number," it suggests on its on-line guide. "Now more than ever, when you give someone your phone number you save to include your area code. This includes business cards, stationery, advertising signage and voice messaging systems," Verizon said.

Mom's silent vigil for son

Every week, Gloria Collins remembers Det. Frank Collins

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Gloria Collins visits the site of her son's death every Saturday. Taking two buses and traveling over an hour, Collins makes her way from her home in Midwood to Seventh Avenue and 72nd Street, first stopping at the Orchard Flower Market to pick up a bouquet. The store always attaches the same card: "Frank R.I.P."

Frank Collins, an undercover narcotics officer, was killed on a motorcycle last June 12 when he swerved to avoid an 11-year-old girl who had wandered into the street just after school ended around 3 pm. According to police, Frank was off duty while riding a Harley Davidson motorcycle southbound on Seventh Avenue, when he gave a quick tug to his handle bars to avoid a collision with the young girl.

Frank's quick maneuver possibly saved the young girl's life. She was rushed to Lutheran Medical Center where she was treated for a broken leg. Frank, however, never regained consciousness and was pronounced dead on June 18 after being taken off life support. He was reportedly wearing a helmet and was traveling well under the speed limit.

While school crossing signs finally went up three months ago at the site, Collins has also been pushing for a crossing

guard to be placed along Seventh Avenue near PS 170 where her son was killed.

Frank, also a decorated military officer, grew up in Gravesend and began working for the NYPD in July, 1996. His career in the NYPD narcotics division started in 1999, and Frank was promoted to detective in August 2000. He was assigned to Brooklyn South Narcotics and worked out of the 68th Precinct.

His partner, who worked with Frank on the narcotics team for five years, said Frank, "Was one of the best." "Frank was one of the best guys you could ever want as a partner. He loved being a detective. It was probably one of the most important things in his life," he said.

Frank also loved music. As a student at Edward R. Murrow High School he played in several hardcore rock bands around New York City.

Some of those bands headed to CBGB in Manhattan on Jan. 12 for "A New York Hard Core Tribute to Frank Collins," an event to raise money for Lutheran Medical Center's trauma center, where Frank was treated. Some bands traveled from as far as Europe to pay homage.

Lutheran Medical Center Vice-President Miles Davis said the hospital was grateful for the \$3,000 raised by the event. "We do whatever we can to accommodate firefighters and police



Gloria Collins holds pictures of her son, Det. Frank Collins, at Seventh Avenue and 72nd Street, where he died in a motorcycle accident last June.

The Brooklyn Papers / Tom Cahan



Det. Frank Collins

and looked out for me like a brother," Braman wrote. "I remember shaving his head before he went to Bosnia in the Army. I remember going to my first out of state show in Connecticut with Frank's band years ago. If it weren't for Frank I think things would be a lot different. I know the way I play guitar would be a lot different. Frank was a huge influence on me."

Collins also organized an event in September at the Wicked Monk bar on Fifth Avenue between 84th and 85th streets in Bay Ridge. That event raised over \$2,000 in Frank's name for Drug Enforcement Agency widows and orphans from the approximately 150 attendees, mostly from the 68th precinct, Collins said. Frank also left behind his 26-year-old fiancée, Erin Sayer, who often visited him at the house he bought four years ago in Staten Island.

Collins said upon moving her son's belongings out of his Staten Island home, children in the area stopped by to tell her how Frank had changed their life by giving them pats on the back, enforcing their hard work in school, and by just making them laugh.

Frank's friends are still grappling with his death. Braman, who organized the CBGB event along with Rich O'Brian and a man named Animal, says he felt cheated by Frank's death.

"Frank was robbed from this world but he left all of us with a smile," Braman wrote in his online journal.

"Frank was a dude who just looked invincible, like nothing could ever stop him. He was larger than life. He had a sarcastic sense of humor that I admired and borrowed proudly, but he had a warm heart and was always looking out for his friends."

"Frank was a big, mean looking dude with a heart of gold. I went and spray painted 'RIP Frank' on the wall near where the accident happened and Frank's room puts new flowers there every weekend. It was the least I could do to pay tribute to a guy who had influenced me more than he probably realized."

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Sen. Seymour's in SunPark

Hurst pol's new district also includes part of Staten Island

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Sunset Park residents who live in the newly drawn 23rd state Senate district can now go to state Sen. Seymour Lachman's district office for help with constituent problems.

The temporary office located at 2424 Crosey Ave. at 24th Avenue in Bensonhurst is ready to help constituents with problems ranging from Medicaid and Social Security to consumer affairs and qual-

ity of life issues, said Lachman's chief of staff, Lorin Wiener.

"We are excited to be able to offer our services to our Sunset Park residents," Wiener said. "While the office remains a temporary space until we move to a more centralized location, we want Sunset Park residents to know that we are eager and available to help them."

Because of last year's redistricting, which went into effect Jan. 1, Lachman now represents 62nd to 67th streets between First and Eighth avenues. That area

was previously represented by state Sen. Marty Connor with slivers also represented by state Sen. Velmanette Montgomery and former state Sen. Vincent Gentile.

District lines are redrawn every 10 years. Lachman's office recommends that before coming in, constituents contact them at (718) 449-1443 to confirm that they live in his district.

The office hours are Monday through Thursday 9:30 am to 4 pm and Friday 9:30 am to 2 pm. The nearest subway is the W at 25th Street.

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Markowitz: Brooklyn could be nicer

By Patrick Gallaugher
The Brooklyn Papers

Better manners, a rematch for the best egg cream in Brooklyn, a National Basketball Association franchise and a new name for Fourth Avenue — in other words, it's Borough President Marty Markowitz's 2003 State of the Borough address.

While Gov. George Pataki's State of the State address was cast in shadow by the budget deficit and Mayor Michael Bloomberg's ensuing State of the City featured grim predictions about potential layoffs of municipal workers (see story, below), Markowitz's speech was a jovial affair that spent as much time discussing food as the budget crisis.

"When I came into office, I said that those of you who were not here, those you'll get to know, those you'll get to know, those you'll get to know," Markowitz said on Thursday at the Brooklyn Museum of Art only a few hours before the mayor's State of the City address at Borough Hall.

"I mean giving up your seat on the subway to someone else, it's not more than you do," he added. "And it means holding open the door for the person following you, instead of letting it slam in their face. Just think, it could be your mother."



The crowd at the Brooklyn Museum of Art cheers Borough President Marty Markowitz during his State of the Borough address Jan. 23.

The Brooklyn Papers • Greg Mufson

to respect themselves they will respect others," Markowitz said, adding that as for everyone else, it will "encourage greater civility, common courtesy and good manners in daily life."

Markowitz also announced a gospel festival coming to Borough Hall next month and restated his dream of bringing an NBA team to Brooklyn.

Markowitz said, "Major league sports over Brooklyn for the great theft of 1957 when the devil — his name is O'Malley — stole the Dodgers out of Brooklyn in the middle of the night. That's why, until the door is finally slammed in my face, I will continue to fight for an NBA team for Brooklyn."

Mike: B'klyn biz can become L.A. East

By Patrick Gallaugher
The Brooklyn Papers

Mayor Michael Bloomberg smiled on Brooklyn in his State of the City address Jan. 23, speaking glowingly about the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park development and his vision of a rezoned Downtown area, while holding the affair at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden in Prospect Heights.

Still cautious about layoffs, tax increases and the ongoing restructuring of the Department of Education, however, borough leaders responded with a watchful nod.

Bloomberg claimed that when Downtown Brooklyn's rezoning plan is complete, the amount of office space in the area will be comparable to that of Los Angeles, California.

"With the help of Borough President Marty Markowitz, we'll launch a Downtown Brooklyn development plan — a comprehensive rezoning of the city's third largest business district," the mayor said. "When completed it will make Brooklyn a rival of Los Angeles for office space. Take that for stealing our Dodgers!"

Bloomberg's highlighting of the planned Brooklyn Bridge Park 1.1 mile commercial and recreational development between Jay and Joralemon streets.

"During 2003, we'll begin construction on the north end of the Brooklyn Bridge, creating a continuous stretch of parkland between the Brooklyn and Manhattan bridges," he mayor said.

Work is proceeding on a petting beach surrounding Main Street Park, a playground completed in 2001 at the intersection of Main and Plymouth streets in DUMBO.

Bloomberg's broader initiatives, however, such as the 18.5 percent property tax hike, his plan to eliminate community school boards as means of streamlining the Department of Education's expensive and costly bureaucracy and the threat of layoffs to city workers.

"Everyone in this chamber and this city should understand, without productivity improvements, we will simply not be able to support the current labor force," the mayor said. "And we'll have no choice but to reduce our workforce faster than attrition and early retirement programs can accomplish."

"I think he has an appropriate and positive vision for the city in terms of economic future," said Park Slope Councilman Bill DeBlasio. "But I think he glossed over the pain that many New Yorkers are going through. He made very scant mention of poor New Yorkers who are finding that concessions for city workers were fairly easy in the past, these are many of the lower paid workers in the whole city. A family of four making \$30,000 and \$40,000 doesn't have a lot to give in this environment."

DeBlasio defended voting on behalf of the tax increase saying that it would protect city workers from layoffs. Personally, I don't think

he's pushing Washington or Albany enough," said Fort Green Councilman James Davis, who voted against the property tax hike and is organizing a march on Washington to push for more federal aid.

"It's the kind of guy, because he's built a billion dollar company himself... who believes in pulling yourself up by your own boot straps."

Bloomberg did attempt to appease his dissenters by addressing the property tax increase and imposition of Sunday metered parking and other revenue enhancers.

"I would not have asked the City Council to take these steps if it weren't absolutely necessary or if we had any practical alternative," he said. "The city likes the imposition of taxes or budget cuts, the only choices are, in fact, to raise taxes on the very services that make this the world's second home as far as what's paying more and doing with less."

"I think the mayor is starting to realize that New York City begins in Brooklyn," he said.

Brazen late-night jewelry snatch

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

A woman answered a loud knock at her door around 3 am on Jan. 25.

When she opened the door, two men burst in, brandishing a handgun, punching and kicking the woman, eventually knocking her to the floor where they ripped a necklace and pair of earrings off of her before fleeing to the apartment of a 78-year-old woman next door.

The elderly victim was in bed when she awoke to a man ripping a gold medal from her neck. Her bed was ransacked, a gold watch, and \$1,000 in cash, the medal valued at \$400 and the earrings worth \$900. The incident occurred on 14th Avenue at 66th Street.

White sale

Things used a beat sheet in rip off an elderly victim. On Jan. 22 at 1 p.m., a woman rang the doorbell of an 86-year-old woman on 94th Street between Ridge Boulevard and Third Avenue.

62/68 Blotters

and said she had a package for her. The woman proceeded to talk to the victim for about 10 minutes and discuss make-up and her boyfriend, police said.

The woman soon walked in and was introduced as the package-carrier's sister. The so-called sister opened a sheet and started folding it.

The victim asked them to lean in but the duo stayed for 40 minutes.

When they finally departed the victim said two diamond rings, a gold watch, and \$1,000 in cash were missing. She assumed somebody else entered when the woman folded the sheet.

Knock, knock

A 41-year-old man was left his apartment in the morning of Jan. 22 and returned that night to discover that \$25,000 was missing along with a necklace valued at \$3,000 and four credit cards.

A witness at the building on Drington at 11th Avenue said she saw an Asian man with glasses and a white cap knocking on several doors and showing some kind of unknown badge around 4 p.m.

Trashed salon

A metal New York City garbage can was hurled through the front glass door of a beauty salon on Third Avenue between 7th and 8th streets around 4:30 a.m. and 7 a.m. on Jan. 26, police said.

The menaces made with the cash register and \$125 in cash.

'Bless you

A 25-year-old woman was arrested after she hurled a wooden tissue box, striking his 26-year-old son on the forehead with an 18th Avenue between 210 boxes of sugar candy, and \$267 were pilloft.

Butt heads

Five thugs entered a deli on Bay Ridge and 12th Avenue at 8:46 p.m., displayed a knife, and made off with five packs of Newport cigarettes after punching the 19-year-old counterman in the face.

Parkway in Bay Ridge

"I would like to ask you Brooklynetes to come up with a new name for what I hope will become Brooklyn's next grand boulevard," he said. "From Downtown Brooklyn to Bay Ridge, Fourth Avenue has a great deal of unused and underutilized property, which could be transformed into attractive residential and retail development. Perhaps we'll have a borough campaign to rename it."

"It's the first I've heard of it," said Jerry Arner, chairman of Community Board 6, which contains a sizable portion of the avenue. "You give the avenue a better name than a number and it creates more appeal. I think it's a great idea. Arner does not have any suggestions."

Arner was among several hundred in attendance, including Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Assemblymembers Joan Millman and Helene Weinstein, Councilmembers David Yassky, Lew Fidler, James Davis, Simcha Felder, Yvette Clark, Tracy Boyland, Diana Reyna and Kendall Stewart, and an official from the "outer borough," as Markowitz referred to it, Manhattan Borough President C. Virginia Fields.

The borough president also lauded Carnival Cruise Lines' plan for a second annual "Light Up Brooklyn" exercise and diet campaign in June, a Brooklyn Bridge to the World event which had been derailed last year because of a terrorist threat to the event.

"Right now the city is helping us find a tourism marketing effort that includes Brooklyn-centered information kiosks at key locations," he said. "We are opening a tourist information center right in Borough Hall that will distribute maps, posters and brochures about Brooklyn's fabulous restaurants, museums, parks and cultural activities."

"I would not have asked the City Council to take these steps if it weren't absolutely necessary or if we had any practical alternative," he said. "The city likes the imposition of taxes or budget cuts, the only choices are, in fact, to raise taxes on the very services that make this the world's second home as far as what's paying more and doing with less."

"I think the mayor is starting to realize that New York City begins in Brooklyn," he said.

'Op Dumpster' takes effect in Ridge, City

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Walking down New York City's streets just got easier, not to mention a whole lot more aromatic.

In an attempt to eradicate the often ugly trash bins from public sidewalks, a pilot program known as "Operation Dumpster" went into effect citywide Jan. 27.

The program allows businesses to pay for the disposal of trash from \$50 to \$250 for storing garbage on sidewalks.

Designed by the Department of Sanitation (DOS) to manage excess refuse and trash resulting from overflow bins, Operation Dumpster prohibits the placement of trash containers on the sidewalk, mandates that refuse be placed out for collection no more than one hour before closing time; prohibits merchants from leaving refuse out over the weekend; and mandates that containers be properly stored after collection.

Trash bins are to be kept inside or in the rear of the premises, if feasible. Otherwise, merchants are asked to consider alternative receptacles, such as 65-gallon gray or brown heavy-duty plastic bags that can be rolled or carried out of the premises.

DOS Commissioner John Doherty, who started Operation Dumpster as a pilot program in Community Board 1 in Manhattan before extending it to nine other community boards throughout the city, has made trash containers a top priority.

"Over the last few years, as more of the law has been enforced, it has always required that Dumpsters be properly stored except when in use," he said. "The unsightly, smelly, and potentially hazardous sidewalk obstructions had become messy urban nuisances," said Doherty, who noted that large trash bins provided an "excellent hiding place for illicit and illegal transactions to take place and where, particularly at night, delinquents can lie in wait in the path innocent pedestrians."

Now that Operation Dumpster is being instituted in all 59 Community Boards, Fifth Avenue Board of Trade President Basil Capetanakis said most Bay Ridge businesses have already begun to comply.

"We want a nice clean neighborhood and clean streets because that's in our business," Capetanakis said. "I hope the businesses that will be affected will be careful not to cause any problems. I think most of the merchants understand that they have to comply with the law and I'm sure that they will."

The cheesiest

Almost \$800 in cash and \$400 worth of mozzarella cheese was taken from a pizzeria on Third Avenue between 73rd Street and Ovington Avenue on Jan. 20 sometime between 10:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. police said.

Tools to stay downtown

By Patrick Gallaugher
The Brooklyn Papers

They may be leaving their home on Jay Street, but the Metropolitan Transportation Authority is still looking for new digs in Brooklyn.

The agency is touring locations in Downtown Brooklyn, DUMBO and Fort Greene, sources told The Brooklyn Papers this week.

One of the most viable spaces the MTA may seek could be at 25 Elm Pl. between Fulton and Livingston streets after the city's Department of Finance (DOF) moves out.

In November, the DOF gave notice that it would relocate 540 employees from 136,000-square-foot over three floors to facilities in Lower Manhattan and at 45 Adams St. and 210 Joralemon St. in Downtown Brooklyn. The agency is expected to vacate its offices by May, 2004.

"The basic reason for the move is that based on the reorganization of the agency... we are consolidating some of our services," Roberto Roman, a spokesman for the DOF said.

The MTA toured 25 Elm Pl. said George Silva, of J.W. Mays Inc., which owned the building, in pursuit of 100,000-square-foot of office space.

Silva said it was only a preliminary search and that the MTA did not indicate what they would like to use the offices for, but he noted he felt it was a perfect match in exchanging one civic use for another.

"If they take over, they're going to be great tenants," Silva said.

The MTA also showed interest in another space owned by J.W. Mays at 9 Bond St., Silva said.

He indicated the MTA was only interested in about 25,000-square-foot of the building's 200,000-square-foot of available commercial space.

The MTA's search is cautious given its previously stated intentions of relocating the New York City Transit Authority (TA), an agency of the MTA, in Manhattan.

Last March, the MTA announced its plans to move its 1,800 TA employees from the dilapidated 730 Jay St. to 2 Broadway in Lower Manhattan where the agency has held a 20-year lease since July 1998.

The agency said it intended to consolidate operations into 2 Broadway, but then disclosed several months later that the building would occupy 123,000-square-foot, over three floors, of 180 Livingston St. by mid-2003.

"Times is an enormous agency and we consolidated much of [the] Bridge and Times [Authority] into 2 Broadway," MTA spokesman Tom Kelly told The Papers last August.

The development of 2 Broadway has been the subject of considerable angst over cost overruns and delays led to indictments last year.

In April the developers of the property and union officials were slapped with a \$5-out contract by the United States Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, Alan Vinograd, charging them with hitting the MTA out of \$10 million.

Developer Frederick Conti, contractor Constantine Valvas and five other men named in the indictment are currently awaiting trial.

Kelly, however, said last summer that the troubles at 2 Broadway were not related to the MTA's decision to keep some operations in Brooklyn.

"Times is a considerably smaller than the TA's previous 435,000-square-foot, 13-story headquarters at 370 Jay St."

The MTA did not return calls for comment this week. Sources say that besides 25 Elm Pl. and 9 Bond St., the MTA toured 470 Vanderbilt Ave. in Fort Greene and 55 Washington St. in DUMBO.

GRIPPO...

Continued from page 1

who allege he was responsible for replacing them with "young, thin, attractive women," did not return phone calls seeking comment.

Joseph Turco, the lawyer representing the teachers in his lawsuit said, "I don't know why Grippo resigned. I have a hunch that the pressure of the investigation by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the lawsuits by my clients probably played an important role in his decision."

Department of Education President Paul Rose said the lawsuit had no influence on their decision not to hire Grippo as a regional superintendent.

"We tapped the best evaluators in our system and looked for instructional ability and leadership ability to resolve problems and issues with creating solutions. Diana Lam spent a significant amount of time visiting schools and speaking with and observing current leadership and she made recommendations to the chancellor," Rose said.

Fratti, 52, has been working in New York city schools since 1972 when he began teaching in the Bronx. She was appointed Superintendent of District 25 in 1998 and last year she was named Senior Superintendent for Queens.

Lisa Bova Glick, PTA President for PS 247 called losing Grippo "a horrible thing."

"Fratti could be fantastic. She's probably a good hard working educator. I hope that she's as good as Grippo. And I hope that she will work with our principals and parents and that when I need to speak with her I can pick up the phone and call her. It's not her fault that Grippo's leaving," Bova Glick said.

"It sounds like it could be a good thing," said Dawn Ellwood, a District 20 parent. "One of the things that she mentioned is that they want to see a lot more parental involvement, and that's a good thing."

District 21 superintendent Ethel Tucker whose been at the district for over 30 years, was informed of the mayor's decision one hour before he made the announcement on Monday morning.

While she wished Fratti good luck, Tucker expressed some concern about the mayor's plan.

"I don't know what it will work as it's supposed to, but I just hope that it will be something that will help the children achieve their potential," said Tucker who has no plans to retire, but has not yet been offered another position with the agency.

District 21 community board president Carmine Santa Maria was distraught over the mayor's decision and accused both the mayor and the chancellor of having no education background and working solely on a business model.

"This administration does everything as-wise anyway," Santa Maria said. "You have two excellent Brooklyn people and you replace them with a lady from Queens?"

Mayor Bloomberg's latest move was just one part of his sweeping overhaul of the New York City school system.

Bloomberg's proposal will replace the city's 32 community school districts with 10 instructional leadership divisions called Learning Support Centers. Each center will be guided by one of the 10 regional superintendents who will work together at the Tweed Court House. Each of these superintendents will have 10 local instructional supervisors, who would oversee no more than a dozen schools.

The nine other regional superintendents include Irma Zandvo, Division 1, the Bronx; Laura Rodriguez, Division 2, the Bronx; Judith Chin, Division 3, Queens; Reyes Irazumi, Division 4, Brooklyn; and Queens; Kathleen Cashin, Division 5, Queens; and Brooklyn; Gloria Buckley, Division 6, Brooklyn; Carmen Farina, Division 7, Brooklyn; Shelley Harvany, District 9, Manhattan; Lucille Swans, Division 10, Manhattan.

CANDIDATES SQUARE-OFF...



Vincent Gentile BP / Mango



Steve Harrison BP / Mango



Danniell Maio BP / Mango



Rosemarie O'Keefe BP / Mango



Carlo Scissura BP / Mango



Joanne Seminara BP / Mango

Continued from page 1
wants to express an opinion on something that is important to the city.

"For example, if you want to express an opinion to Albany about a specific tax, I have no problem with using the reso-function in that fashion," Harrison said. "Using it to express our feelings on foreign policy, on the war in Iraq, I think it would be an absolute waste of time."

"I understand, sometimes, the need to use the position as

a bully pulpit," former state senator and candidate Vincent Gentile added. "But frankly, we're facing a budget crisis here, and to that extent, that's what we need to focus on."

"I'm being elected to provide services to my community, to address all city issues, to fund schools, to fund senior centers," said Carlo Scissura, vice-president of Community School Board 20. "Any time I have in the council, I really want to be doing what I've been elected to do."

The profusion of resolutions this past year is not to say the council's predecessors did not introduce their fair share of resolutions.

Some veterans of the office, however, believe that in 2002, it got a bit out of hand.

Second-term Councilman and Republican Minority Leader James Oddo, whose district includes Bensonhurst and Staten Island, called many of the resolutions "superfluous" and dubbed the committee hearings on certain subjects

"press conferences."

"The most divisive moments in the new council have been during these resolutions," Oddo told The Brooklyn Papers last August while a dozen members were on a fact-finding mission in Israel.

One such incident occurred last June, when East New York Councilman Charles Barron, a former Black Panther, introduced a resolution calling for the release of what he called political prisoners.

One such "political prisoner"

er" named in the resolution had been convicted of shooting two police officers.

The committee hearing erupted into a war of words between Barron and Councilman Dennis Gallagher of Queens, who said the resolution was "lowering the esteem and professionalism of this body."

On Jan. 8 of this year, Barron introduced a resolution calling on the U.S. to repeal the Patriot Act. It has since been sent to the Public Safety Committee.

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So who is Danniell Maio, anyway?

By Deborah Kolben
The Brooklyn Papers

Everybody keeping an eye on the Bay Ridge-Dyker Heights-Bensonhurst City Council race is asking the same question these days: "Who's Danniell Maio?"

Maio, who lives in Manhattan, and lived in Brooklyn briefly over 12 years ago, is now vying for the 43rd District seat vacated by Marty Golden when Golden took office as state senator this year.

Maio, 42, surprised his five opponents when he filed his petition at the Board of Elections with over 2,000 signatures hours

before the midnight deadline on Jan. 14, possibly securing a spot on the already crowded ballot.

The other candidates include former state Sen. Vincent Gentile, Democrat; District Leader Joanne Seminara, Community Board 10 Chairman Steven Harrison and Community School Board 20 Vice-President Carlo Scissura, and former city commissioner Rosemarie O'Keefe. Maio and O'Keefe are the only two registered Republicans.

The special election will take place on Tuesday, Feb. 25.

Maio, who owns Identity Map Company, ran for Manhattan borough president in 2001 and then for state Senate last year. While he lost both elec-

tions, Maio, born in Taiwan, said he was asked to run in Brooklyn.

"The Asian community basically felt... they'd really like to have someone who will not only speak their language, which I do, but be able to at least help bridge some of the problems they have with the current elected officials," he said.

Maio would not specify which Asian leaders in the community were supporting him. "I will give that information once I'm on the ballot," Maio said.

But longtime Chinatown community activist Paul Lee

said that he and a few of his associates had asked Maio to run.

"He had the experience and the guts and the desire. He brought all good qualities to the table even though he was a Republican," said Lee who is a Democrat.

Maio's spot on the ballot is not guaranteed since his petition with 2,147 signatures is being challenged by Gentile and Louise Benvenuto of Dyker Heights. They will face off in court on Feb. 5.

He does, however, say that he stands behind the signatures, which six volunteers helped him to collect. "I don't like to play too many tricks," said Maio who claims to have eliminated signatures not generated from registered voters in the district.

He is still looking for an attorney to represent him in court next week.

Neither the United Brooklyn Chinese Association nor the Brooklyn Chinese American Organization have come out in favor of Maio.

"I don't know how much he knows about politics," said

Daniel Lun, president of the United Brooklyn Chinese Association who met with Maio on Jan. 25 before the candidate hosted a press conference with four Chinese newspapers.

Maio's volunteer campaign manager, Marietta Lam, said she volunteered for two Marty Golden campaigns and joined on with Maio by the suggestion of Lee, who also supported Golden, calling him a "stand-up guy."

Maio, who currently lives outside the district, said he had secured a house in Bay Ridge, but has not actually moved in yet. Maio must move into the district by election day.

When asked what he can offer for the community as someone who does not live there, Maio said, "I'm someone who comes from, realistically, almost nowhere. I came into the Bay Ridge area with really no ties or affiliations. There's my advantage is basically I'm someone that really will listen to all the concerned individuals directly. And that's what I'm going to bring to the table."

NARROWS...

Continued from page 1
has offered up space in their facility for a new center. Meanwhile, the city Department for the Aging, and Catholic Charities, which runs the Narrows center, got city and state funding to move the center to the Angel Guardian Home, an adoption agency that is just a block from two other centers.

During Golden's senate race last November he secured a promise from Republican Senate Majority Leader Joe

Bruno for \$225,000 in matching funds to build a satellite center at the Moose Lodge. That money, however, would only become available if Golden defeated state Sen. Vincent Gentile for the newly drawn Bay Ridge-Bensonhurst-Dyker Heights seat. Bruno later amended that pledge and promised to match only what Abbate brought to the table.

Golden said the renovations would cost around \$450,000, but a spokeswoman for the Department for the Aging told The Brooklyn Papers in October that the price tag was closer to \$300,000.

In addition to winning the race, Golden was appointed chairman of the state Senate Committee on Aging, an appointment Abbate has called a "disgrace."

"You have a chairman of the Aging committee closing down a senior center," Abbate told The Bay Ridge Paper last week.

Flanked by seniors at the Moose Lodge, many of whom wouldn't be able to travel the long distance to Angel Guardian, Abbate signed a commitment of \$100,000 in funds on Dec. 19 to go toward the lodge being converted to a senior center.

While he previously said that money would only be available if the Angel Guardian site was not built, Abbate softened his stance this week and said he would release the funds unconditionally.

"But I would advise them against building both centers," Abbate said, explaining that the city would be hard-pressed to maintain three centers in one neighborhood when some neighborhoods don't have any.

"Especially with the current fiscal crisis," Abbate added.

"When they go to propose centers to close in July, they should close the one they are proposing to open," Abbate said.

Golden maintains that will not happen. "I wouldn't be leaping forward to make this happen if there wasn't funding for it. We can't afford to lose a senior center," he said.

The promised funding from the state, said with Abbate's willingness to release the money with no strings attached, might be the final push needed to ensure that the centers will not be left out in the cold.

Still, in a political game of the said, she said, Abbate is asking where the money is and Golden is saying that he's released it to the Department for the Aging.

"Now we just need Marty Golden," Abbate said.

"We've got the money," Golden said. "The only missing link is Peter. When Peter shows up we're done."

Meanwhile, Department for the Aging spokesman Theoni Angelopoulos, said this week that the agency had not received any of those funds and is going ahead with construction at Angel Guardian.

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Brooklyn-Boro Park February 11, 10:00 AM Avenue Plaza Diner 46-24 13th Ave. Cross St./47th St.	Brooklyn February 12, 10:00 AM Perry's Restaurant 3482 Nostrand Ave. Btwn. Ave. U & V	Brooklyn February 13, 10:00 AM Vegas Diner 1619 86th St. Cross St./16th Ave.	Brooklyn February 18, 10:00 AM Caraville Restaurant 1910 Ave. M Btwn. 19th & Ocean Ave.

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Slow speech can stem stuttering

Q: "How should parents and teachers handle stuttering problems of children who are about age 3?"
— a preschool teacher

A: Many preschoolers go through a stuttering-like phase as they get carried away with wild ideas, new words and endless questions. They need patient parents and teachers who give them eye contact, who don't interrupt, says Helen Kaye, a speech-language pathologist. "Language is really blossoming at age 3 in terms of grammar and vocabulary," says Kaye. Often, stuttering is a phase where a child gets stuck as he tries to figure out, "OK,

how do I say this?" Speech missteps often come and go in three to six months during a period of rapid learning, but if your child continues to have problems beyond six months, he needs to be screened by a licensed speech-language pathologist, experts say. Also, if your child's stuttering becomes rapidly worse or he's obviously frustrated about it, seek a professional opinion.

"We teach children to slow down their rate of speech," Kaye says. "Parents have to learn to slow down their speech, too, and model it for their children."

Be aware of what seems to bring on the stuttering — such

Parent-to-Parent



By Betsy Flieger

as when your child is excited or looking for your attention.

If your child needs a speech therapist, try to choose one who has had a lot of experience with preschoolers. Therapy should be fun and the therapist should use a variety of toys when working with your child, Kaye suggests. For preschoolers, she uses puppets and easy analogies.

"We talk about having b-b-b-bunny speech and having to smooth it out," she says. And there's Mr. Turn Taker the Bear, who can step in when students and siblings are vying to talk during circle time or at the dinner table. The person holding Mr. Turn Taker should be the only one talking, Kaye says, thus cutting down on interruptions that make speaking unbearable for some kids.

The Stuttering Foundation of America maintains a toll-free

hotline (800) 992-9392, or (901) 452-7343. Call for brochures and a nationwide referral list of speech-language pathologists who specialize in treatment of stuttering. The foundation's Web site, www.stutterfnd.org, offers books and videos.

Tips from the foundation:
• Speak with your child in an unhurried way, pausing often. Wait a few seconds after your child finishes speaking before you begin to speak. Your own slow, relaxed speaking style will be far more effective than advice such as "slow down."
• Reduce the number of questions you ask your child. Children speak more freely if they are expressing their own ideas rather than answering an adult's questions. Instead of asking questions, simply comment on what your child has said, letting him know you heard him.

• Use your facial expressions and other body language to convey to your child that you are listening to the content of his message and not to how he's talking.
• Set aside a few minutes at a regular time each day when you can give your undivided attention to your child. During this time, let the child choose what he would like to do. Let him direct you in activities and decide himself whether to talk or not. When you talk, during this special time, use relaxed speech, with plenty of pauses.

• Help all members of the family learn to take turns talking and listening. Children, especially those who stutter, find it much easier to talk when there are few interruptions and they have the listeners' attention.
• Observe the way you interact with your child. Try to increase those times that give your child the message that

you are listening to her and she has plenty of time to talk. Try to decrease criticisms, rapid speech patterns, interruptions and questions.
• Convey that you accept your child as he is. The most powerful force will be your support of him, whether he stutters or not.

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Green poetry

Poet laureate looking to reward borough's budding wordsmiths

By Paulano Simmons
For The Brooklyn Papers

What Whitman must be smiling. His beloved Brooklyn, the borough that inspired his greater work, is finally giving poets the recognition they need.

Borough President Mary Mawhood is launching Brooklyn Poetry Outreach, a monthly poetry reading series at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street. The reading will feature an adult poet selected by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman followed by an open mic and finally a young poet chosen by Siegelman.

Siegelman is inviting students from elementary through high school to submit their best work to him. The selected young poet's parents, relatives and friends, as well as community leaders and the public are invited to attend the readings, during which the youngster will be awarded a certificate of recognition from the borough president. [All winning poems will appear on the borough president's Web site at www.brooklyn-usa.index2.html, along with the poet laureate's poem of the month.]

The program is really the brainchild of Siegelman, who was appointed poet laureate on Jan. 24, 2002. "The position of poet laureate was left open to whatever ideas the poet laureate had," Siegelman told GO

POETRY

"Brooklyn Poetry Outreach," a monthly poetry reading series hosted by Brooklyn Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman, at the Park Slope Barnes & Noble, 267 Seventh Ave. at Sixth Street, begins Jan. 29 at 6:30 pm with poet-singer Marlon Palm. Open mic begins at 6 pm. For more information, call (718) 855-9649.

Poems will be judged by their artful use of poetic devices, sensitivity to social issues and the inventiveness of their personal search. Send entries to Ken Siegelman, 2225 W. Fifth St., Brooklyn, NY 11223.

Brooklyn. "I expanded it to include the reading series to make poetry a more inclusive vehicle for all Brooklynites."

Siegelman believes the position should not be merely an honorary one to advance the career of the poet.

"There are many different poet groups in Brooklyn, but they are localized and don't meet each other," he said. "I thought it would be a good idea to bring together all these groups in a prestigious place — Barnes & Noble — a beautiful, beautiful location. This will be a tremendous incentive that has not existed before for both professional and amateur poets."

Siegelman, who will be 57 in February, taught social studies for 34 years, 32 of them at Abraham Lincoln High School in Coney Island. While

he was teaching, Siegelman came up with the interesting innovation of using poetry to teach social studies to his students, many of whom were learning English as a second language.

"Poetry was the only thing that stood in their way," said Siegelman. "So I used my poetry to bridge the language gap."

All first teachers and publishers were skeptical. Siegelman said they asked, "What would a social studies teacher know about poetry?"

He showed them that poetry could personalize the subject and induce critical thinking.

"In two of my books, 'Urbania' and 'American Imprints,' for each poem I created a brief synopsis of the social and political context with which the poem was written and one or four critical thinking questions, which forced the reader to question what the poet was actually saying."

Despite the initial skepticism, "When it took off, it was extremely successful," said Siegelman.

Today, Siegelman is the author of nine books of poetry, three of which have been distributed by Teachers' Discovery, Discovery Enterprises and the Gifted Education Press, as well as being featured in the Education Information series for 34 years, 32 of them at Abraham Lincoln High School in Coney Island. While



Brooklyn's Poet Laureate Ken Siegelman

The Brooklyn Papers / Greg Margolis

One of Siegelman's favorite subjects is the neighborhoods of Brooklyn in all of their glorious diversity. In "Gerritsen Beach" he writes, "Green cut-out Shammocks still trial many of the front windows, clustering/A Easter-Mach the way some outside Christmas lights/Always seem to linger well into mid-February." In "Benessehult," Siegelman gives Brooklynites heroic grandeur: "It was the fathers/Grandfathers/And all their sons/Connected in parked Buicks with the passion/O' hot, bodied Romeros who never read/Shakespeare/Or heard of the Renaissance..."

The poetry series will begin on Jan. 29 with poet-singer Marlon Palm reading. Palm, who lives in Sunset Park with her son and their two cats, is the daughter of Swedish immigrants. Her work is archived in the Oral History collection at the National Museum of Naturalization and Im-

migration on Ellis Island, where she is recorded reading a poem about her grandmother Theresa coming to America with her son, Sven.

Palm is the author of six chapbooks. Her poetry speaks to the condition of recent immigrants: separation from family, striving to fit in, expectations and disappointments of those who must negotiate between two languages and two different cultures.

"After working with Markowitz on this project, Siegelman believes he and the borough president have something in common."

"All his life Marty agreed to be borough president," said Siegelman. "And all my life I've wanted to be poet laureate."

Now Siegelman is proud to be part of the borough president's efforts to "provide morale and a revitalized sense for Brooklyn and to reach out to Brooklyn's rich heritage."

OMNI...

Continued from page GO 1

"Eni" acts, a lovely miniature originally composed for flute and guitar. The Debussy Sonata for Flute, Viola and Harp and Howard's Trio for Flute, Viola and Cello are being performed, because, as the flutist says, "they're for odd combinations of instruments, and are really beautiful pieces to hear."

Interestingly, Wechsler and Wollan have never performed in concert the second Beethoven sonata for piano and cel-

lo — marked by a lengthy and exquisite first movement adagio — which should only add excitement to their interpretation.

The ensemble plays in the intimate confines of the renovated concert hall at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, where Wechsler teaches at the facility. With 100 seats, he considers it "the perfect size for this kind of music."

After 20 years of performing for loyal audiences in Brooklyn he also plays flute in the Brooklyn Philharmonic Orchestra — Wechsler weighs in on the continuing debate over the supposed demise of class-

ical music. "I don't think classical music is dying," he states. "I think it goes through phases, and part of the problem is that there's a proliferation of other entertainment sources that compete with what is essentially a finite audience."

"But it's not an entirely dead issue," he continues. "Opera is thriving and has been for the last 10 years. And with La Bohème on Broadway and Mark Morris' version

MUSIC

The Omni Ensemble, with guest artists Laura Sherman and Sam Kephart, performs Beethoven, Debussy, Ravel and Bartok's "Eni" at the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, 58 Seventh Avenue at Lincoln Place in Park Slope. Tickets are \$15, \$12 students and \$8 seniors. For more information, visit www.omniensemble.org on the Web or call (718) 859-8649.

of "The Nutcracker" [at BAM, it opens this week] is a standard piece to new audiences with a new look and sensibility. I think there's hope."

Part of that hope is a musical group that Wechsler has helped form at the Conservatory of Music.

"We've started a community group, and there's been a big response from people looking to participate in the music in a more hands-on fashion," he explains. "This, in turn, makes them better audience participants. The biggest challenge is to get a response from the younger generation, which we are — we're getting a range from high school kids to adults in their 50s."

Such groups take Wechsler back to his youth: "When I was growing up in Brooklyn, there were several groups like this, including one in Borough Park that I played in. Education is the key, and we are now bringing music education to schools. It's music through the ages, from baroque to contemporary."

Through its concerts and teaching, Wechsler is trying to ensure that audiences of all ages enjoy the delights that classical music can bring.

"When you're young, you think it's old-fashioned," he says. "But that always changes the more you learn, the more you know and the more you hear."

WHERE TO GO...

TALES OF THE TALMUD: Congregational members tell tales of the Talmud, 55 minutes tales of the Shabbat. Rabbi Aaron Raklin leads. Check out the new program, 17 Remsen St., (718) 596-4840.

EXHIBITION: Brooklyn Art Exchange presents writers reading poetry. 8 to 10 pm, 421 11th Ave., (718) 769-3211. Free.

COMEDY: Brooklyn Brew & Eat at East End Ensemble. 55 admission one drink minimum. 9 pm, 273 Smith St., (718) 624-8878.

SUN, JAN 26

PERFORMANCES

CONCERT: Brooklyn Philharmonic Chamber Series features music by Western composers who have been influenced by Indian and Persian musical forms. Presented in association with "The Adventure of Hamza," the current exhibit of paintings from the 16th century. \$15, 50 seniors and students. 3 pm, Brooklyn Museum of Art, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 620-3853.

BROOKLYN MUSEUM OF ART: curator talk by Charlotte Koop on "The Denver Fairy." Included in museum admission of \$6, free for members and children 12 and under. 1 pm, 200 Eastern Parkway, (718) 620-3853.

CIVIL LIBERTY TALK: Civil Liberties attorney Lynne Stevens speaks on "WVIA, Lush Post and Contra Gato." Stevens represents the militant and blind religious cleric Sheikh Cohan. 1:30 pm, Park Slope Community Center, 8th Avenue at Eighth Street, (718) 768-3814.

TIKLUN TALK: Misha Cohen, an organizer for Tiklun, Jewish magazine and social change organization, speaks at Brooklyn Society for Ethical Culture, 11 am, 53 Prospect Park West, (718) 768-2772.

BLOOD DRIVE: at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1701 Remsen St., 16:25 Ocean Ave., (800) 832-8200.

TALMUD CLASSES: Congregation B'nai Abraham, 200 Eastern Parkway, 11:30 am, 273 Smith St., (718) 596-4840.

OTHER

BLOOD DRIVE: at East Midwood Jewish Center, 1701 Remsen St., 16:25 Ocean Ave., (800) 832-8200.

TALMUD CLASSES: Congregation B'nai Abraham, 200 Eastern Parkway, 11:30 am, 273 Smith St., (718) 596-4840.

LECTURE SERIES: Congregation Beth Elohim hosts a learning series entitled "Jeremiah Was A Prophet." Reading is from the Book of Jeremiah. 7 pm, 37 pm, five consecutive weeks, 575, five consecutive weeks, 274 Garfield Place, (718) 768-3814.

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MON, JAN 27

REUNION: 37th semi-annual Subway Reunion Lunches. Noon to 4 pm, Leaf Tavern, 67th Street and Fifth Avenue, (718) 499-1100.

FILM: Brooklyn Public Library Central Book Leadership, 6 pm, 1:30 to 3 pm, 145, 230-2100. Free.

SING OUT PROUD: Brooklyn's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered meet to sing, 7-15 to

Show must go on



The fallout from 9-11 continues.

The Borealis String Quartet was scheduled to perform a Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music recital with pianist Sara Davis Buechner at 3 pm on Jan. 26, however, the Borealis, a Canadian-based group is unable to enter the country in time for the concert due to the indefinite extension of the visa application process put into place by the Immigration and Naturalization Service following the terrorist attacks, according to Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music on that date and Fleck.

Instead of attending the performance, Buechner will give a solo recital on that date and at the same location, the Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian Church, on Lafayette Avenue and Bedford Street. Buechner — a faculty member of New York University who has performed with the New York Philharmonic and has just returned from a Japanese tour — will perform a program encompassing music from the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries.

Opening with Mozart's Sonata in D major, Buechner then plays Chopin's No. 3 in B minor before entering the treacherous piano terrain. The six "Salon Pieces" of Rudolf Frlin are light-hearted works, as are George Gershwin's five "Fokianoles." Buechner wraps up her recital with Gershwin's waltzer "Rhapsody in Blue," in a solo piano version.

The Brooklyn Friends of Chamber Music hopes to have Buechner and the Borealis Quartet return to perform the canceled Schumann quintet next season, said Fleck.

Tickets are \$15, \$5 students. For reservations, call (718) 855-9653.

KEVIN FLECK

9:30 pm, 50 Monroe Place, (718) 595-2940. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Free poetry jam session featuring selected poets from Russell Simmons Broadway play "Def Poetry Jam." 7:30 pm, 207 Seventh Ave., (718) 832-9066. Free.

LECTURE: Congregation B'nai Abraham continues its lecture series, "Thanking You for Making Me a Woman." Learn about the status of women according to Jewish law. 8 pm, 117 Remsen St., (718) 802-1827. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Free poetry jam session featuring selected poets from Russell Simmons Broadway play "Def Poetry Jam." 7:30 pm, 207 Seventh Ave., (718) 832-9066. Free.

SEMINAR: M & T Bank hosts a talk on long-term care and elder law services. 7:00-9:00 pm, 145, 230-2100. Free.

HALCYON CAFE: Music collective. Mishpacha features fiddle, music, song, and dancing. CD burn and live. 9 pm to 1 am. No cover. 227 Smith St., (718) 260-WAY.

AUDITION: Narrows Community Center hosts auditions for "Hello, Dolly." Bring sheet music. 7:30 to 10:30 pm, OLA Auditorium, 74th Street at Third Avenue, (718) 482-3173.

TUES, JAN 28

PLANT-DRAMA: Brooklyn Botanic Garden presents a horticultural trade show and symposium. 40 of the northeast's leading nurseries, growers and suppliers show their products. 9 am to 4 pm, 1000 Washington Ave., Call for tickets, (718) 632-4400.

SUPPORT: Manhattan Medical Center's "Caring Together," a support group for family caregivers, 9:30 to 11 am, Registration at the New York City Hematology, 6322 Seventh Ave., (718) 283-6955. Free.

WEDS, JAN 29

BLOOD DRIVE: at Metrosouth Community Center, 10:30 am to 4 pm, 209 Jerusalem St., (908) 653-0100.

REPAIR WORKSHOP: Gowanus Garage presents "Strategies for Getting Repairs in Public"

Show must go on

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Tickets are \$15, \$5 students. For reservations, call (718) 855-9653.

KEVIN FLECK

Heating, 4 pm, 515 Court St., (718) 858-0357. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: hosts an open mic poetry night featuring a prominent Brooklyn poet. 8 pm, 207 Seventh Ave., (718) 832-9066. Free.

MEDITATION: Learn simple practices. 6:30 to 7:45 pm, Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Gateway Branch, 396 Clinton St., (718) 833-5751. Free.

KABALAN TALK: Brooklyn Heights Synagogue hosts Yitzhak Ben-Zion in a talk, "Kabbalah as a Pathway to the Divine." Free. Members, 10 to 8:30 pm, 131 E. 17th St., (718) 227-2007.

POLICE TALK: 68th Police Precinct works a talk on kidnapping and abduction. Learn how to protect your children. 7 pm, St. Patrick's School, 6211 Fourth Avenue, (718) 439-2524. Free.

MEETING: Community Board Board, District 15, 7:30 pm, Middle School, 610 Henry St., (718) 330-9283.

BARBERS BAR: Leona Darling plays electronic music. 9 pm, 375, 145, 230-2100.

HALCYON CAFE: Music collective. Mishpacha features fiddle, music, song, and dancing. CD burn and live. 9 pm to 1 am, No cover. 227 Smith St., (718) 260-WAY.

OPEN STUDIO: Smack Mellon Art Studio presents "Misa Sat." BAM presents "Uncle Varva." 7:30 pm, See Sat.

FIRST WEDNESDAY: Brooklyn Arts Exchange presents "Misa Sat." in dance and theater followed by a conversation. Misa Sat. with Executive Director Mary Wolkstein. 5:15 to 10:00 pm, 421 Fifth Avenue, (718) 832-0018.

PLAY: RURAL: Theater Company presents "Misa Sat." 8 pm, See Sat.

IMPACT THEATER: "The Golden Boy." 8 pm, See Sat.

THURS, JAN 30

SKATE FOR FREE: Prospect Park Skate offers a free skate. Deal: two people skate for the price of one. Every Thursday, 4

to 8 pm, William Roca, Prospect Park, (718) 287-4431.

HEALTH SCREENING: Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz's office offers a vascular screening. 10 am to 3 pm, 1000 Sheepshead Bay Road, (718) 743-4076. Free.

RECEPTION: To see the exhibit, "Brooklyn Artists Exploring the City in the Urban Environment," 3 to 5 pm, Five Metro-Library, (718) 260-3330. Free.

BARNES AND NOBLE: Kids are invited to Uncle Ben's Skycrime. 2:30 to 5 pm, (718) 832-9066. Free.

RECEPTION: The Brooklyn Gallery presents an exhibit, "Critical Consumption." 4 to 6 pm, 33 Clinton St., (718) 879-4600. Free.

SUPPORT GROUP: Union Center for Women begins an open support group. 5:45 to 8 pm, 7 to 9 pm, (718) 965-9177. Free.

BAM: presents "Uncle Varva." 7:30 pm, See Sat.

PLAY: RURAL: Theater Company presents "Misa Sat." 8 pm, See Sat.

IMPACT THEATER: presents "The Golden Boy." 8 pm, See Sat.

OPEN STUDIO: Smack Mellon Art Studio Program presents works by its 2002 Studio Artists. Noon to 5 pm, See Sat.