

Handwriting expert deciphers Xmas cards

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QGuide Page 25



Operator sought for Forest Park carousel by city

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

The carousel in Forest Park has been shut for three years, but that may change soon after the city Parks Department announced last week it is requesting proposals for bids on the historic structure.

Those interested in the Forest Park carousel will also have to submit bids to take over operations of the carousel at Flushing Meadows Corona Park, whose contract expires in April.

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DOUBLE THE FUN

This view from the second floor of the entertainment stage at Resorts World Casino New York City shows the gambling and entertainment aspects of the new facility. **See story on Page 3.**

Photo by Ken Maldonado

MAILING ADDRESS GOES HERE

Haggerty gets up to four years in larceny case

Boro GOPer stole \$1.1M from mayor

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

The Queens Republican operative convicted of stealing more than a million dollars from the mayor was led off to prison Monday to begin serving a sentence of at least a year.

Manhattan Supreme Court Justice Ronald Zweibel denied the request made by John Haggerty's attorneys to give the Forest Hills resident probation for his October conviction on grand larceny and money laundering charges and ordered that he be held in prison for 1 1/3 to four years.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg,

who testified against Haggerty during the trial, gave the state Independence Party \$1.1 million, which was meant to pay Haggerty for hiring poll watchers on Election Day. The 41-year-old, however, used almost all of that money to buy out his brother's share of their late father's Forest Hills Gardens home.



Queens political operative John Haggerty of Forest Hills was sentenced in Manhattan Supreme Court on Monday.

AP Photo/Richard Drew

Haggerty was motivated to commit the theft because he wanted the Forest Hills Gardens home.

At the sentencing, Haggerty

Continued on Page 16

Glendale trains to go green

\$2M grant will pay for cleaner technology on Fresh Pond locomotives

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

A \$2 million federal grant awarded to the city will help outfit two freight trains that pass through the Fresh Pond Terminal in Glendale with cleaner technology.

The grant comes from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Diesel Funding Assistance program and the two trains are expected to be operational by 2013, the city said.

Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions, a group formed over conditions at the Fresh Pond Terminal, said the grant will improve the quality of life for residents who live near the terminal.

"These two new locomotives are a great start," said Mary Parisen, co-chairwoman of CURES. "We appreciate the upgrading of [the city Sanitation Department's] piece of the core freight rail system."

The city said the two trains will remain in the city's freight rail network and that CSX Transportation, New York & Atlantic Railway and Waste Management of New York will partner to upgrade the locomotives.

Parisen said the partnership has "demonstrated a successful model for pooling resources to upgrade locomotive technology."

Deputy Mayor for Operations Cas Holloway said the state-of-the-art green locomotives are "in line with



Mary Parisen (l.) helps clean up debris from along the railroad tracks in Glendale during a CURES event.

several of the Bloomberg administration's key priorities: making our solid waste management plan more sustainable, investing in infrastructure and using innovative technology.

"Thanks to the grant from the EPA, these locomotives will help us make New York City greener and greater," Holloway said.

Borough President Helen Marshall said the \$2 million grant "is good news for Queens.

"Not only is this move consistent with the city's solid waste transfer

program, which removes trucks from our roads and highways, but it also ensures that the emissions from railroad engines will be reduced," Marshall said. "However, even as these changes improve our rail system and help protect our environment, they must be implemented in such a way as to minimize the impact on the quality of life of those who live near active railroad tracks and railyards."

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) said the quality of life around Fresh Pond

Terminal has been a major issue.

"As train use increases throughout the city, I have received many concerns from constituents living around the rail corridor," she said. "This grant will help bring these train engines into the 21st century and help create a rail infrastructure that will be quieter, safer for residents and protect the environment."

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

Juniper Valley Park modernizes design

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Elected officials, civic leaders and city Parks Department officials helped cut the ribbon earlier this month on \$750,000 in renovations to the Juniper South Playground.

The project, funded by Borough President Helen Marshall, brought two slides, a variety of climbing equipment, a sitting area and a spray shower to the playground.

The new spray shower is designed to look like a pond with shower heads in the shape of cattails and a dragonfly perched on a read, and depictions of Mallard ducks swimming in the water.

"Juniper Valley Park is one of the jewels of the Queens parks system," said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "This new playground features the latest in 21st-century playground design, with eco-

friendly stormwater capture, challenging climbing equipment and a wetland-themed spray shower that reflects the site's history as a former swamp. We are grateful to Borough President Helen Marshall for her generous allocation that allowed us to renovate this playground, and her staunch support for parks throughout Queens."

Marshall said the playground was designed for children ages 5 through 12.

"It has been my pleasure to work with Queens Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski and her staff to provide new improvements to our more than 400 parks, playgrounds, triangles and malls throughout the borough," she said.

City Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village) said she appreciated the support the park has received.

"Juniper Valley Park
Continued on Page 14



The newly renovated playground in Juniper Valley Park was made possible through funding by Queens Borough President Helen Marshall.
Photo courtesy Parks Department

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Aqueduct racino opens 2nd floor of electronic gaming

3

FH

Just for Silver Club cardholders, Fifth Avenue Casino contains 2,500 VLTs and restaurants

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Resorts World opened the doors of the second floor of its racino Friday that will allow players to dine in style and possibly break the bank.

The second floor, known as the Fifth Avenue Casino, includes 2,500 video lottery terminals and electronic versions of roulette, baccarat, sic bo and craps and is open to Silver Club cardholders and up.

Resorts World spokesman Stefan Friedman said the floor is more upscale and spacious than the first floor's Times Square Casino.

A high-limit section on the second floor dubbed the Crockfords Club contains 78 VLTs and electronic table games.

One of the machines in the club, Triple Stars, pays

out as much as \$375,000 on a \$50 bet and Wheel of Fortune VLTs feature a \$750,000 jackpot on a \$75 wager.

Crockfords, named after the private London casino considered to be the oldest in the world, can only be accessed by players who receive an invitation from Resorts World.

The second floor also features Uptown Express for grab-and-go food as well as a steakhouse, RW Prime, and a signature Chinese restaurant, Genting Palace.

In the middle of the space lies the Liberty Bar, where patrons can watch television on the largest screen in Queens while they sip drinks and play video poker.

The bar also gives customers views of an entertainment space below the



Genting Palace features Asian cuisine for visitors of the Resorts World casino.

Photo by Ken Maldonado

bar where Resorts World expects to have musical and singing acts.

"It's sort of a bird's-eye view for what's happening with our entertainment," Friedman said of the Lib-

erty Bar.

erty Bar. State Sen. Joseph Addabbo (D-Howard Beach) said the opening of additional space at Resorts World will be a boon to Queens and noted that the racino has other amenities besides gambling.

"Given Genting's track record ... this is just great for the community. When I see a second floor opening like this, I see jobs," he said. "Now people have a reason to come to Resorts World and they don't have to gamble."

Addabbo said the coinciding opening of the Central Park Events Center, billed by Resorts World as the largest event and catering venue in the borough, is another attraction of the racino.

"I think it's a space that our area has never seen," the senator said.

State Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) said the racino is "great for Resorts World but, more importantly, it's great for the community."

"The jobs, the eco-

nomics development, the ability to raise revenue for New York state education is unmatched," he said. "The community is going to see a great benefit."

City Councilman James Sanders (D-Laurelton) tried his luck at a nickel machine during the opening, which he said was his first gambling experience.

"There's no question it's an economic boom," he said of the racino. "There's no question it has led to thousands of jobs. The food is fantastic and it has been an economic engine to New York City as a whole and, God willing, to southeast Queens."

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

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Western Qns wins along with Cornell bid

Mayor picks university to build tech-campus on Roosevelt Island with expected business boon for boro

BY REBECCA HENELY

The new applied sciences campus that will be coming to the city may be on Manhattan's Roosevelt Island, but state Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) said Tuesday the announcement of two universities planning to build on the island was great news for Long Island City.

"It's going to mean a massive economic development over time in western Queens," Gianaris said.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced Monday that Cornell University and Israel's Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa were the winners of the mayor's and the city Economic Development Corp.'s Applied Sciences NYC Plan.

The city set up a contest for universities to pledge to create a job-producing, higher education campus in exchange for free real es-

tate and \$100 million in city capital.

Bloomberg announced the winners at Manhattan's Weill Cornell Medical College with Cornell President David Skorton and Technion President Peretz Lavie in a news conference that was beamed to Cornell students in Ithaca, N.Y. and Technion students in Israel.

The mayor also announced Cornell had received a \$350 million donation in support of the project. Charles Feeny, founder of Atlantic Philanthropies, announced he was the grantee on Atlantic's website Monday.

A Roosevelt Island tech campus was heavily touted by western Queens officials, who believe a campus a bridge away from Long Island City could encourage technology startups and other growth in the community.

Gianaris said in his



Cornell University has produced renderings of the campus it plans to build with Technion-Israel Institute of Technology on Roosevelt Island. Rendering courtesy Cornell

talks with Cornell leadership they indicated they intended to work with the community.

"This is a tremendous investment in the future of our city," said U.S. Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria).

The mayor said Cornell and Technion's bid had the largest number of students,

faculty and building space. He said their bid is expected to bring jobs and will act as a magnet for technology industry growth for the city.

"This is an endeavor with incredible potential," Bloomberg said. "History will write that this is a game changing time in New York City."

The universities plan to build a 2-million-square-foot grad school on Roosevelt Island. The first phase of the campus is scheduled to be completed before 2017, and it will house up to 2,500 students and about 280 faculty members by 2043. Cornell and Technion also plan to open

a temporary, off-site campus in 2012.

Cornell said it expected the tech campus to create 30,000 permanent jobs through spin-offs, licenses and corporate growth; up to 20,000 construction jobs; and 8,000 permanent campus jobs.

"This is an exercise in inclusion and having all the ships rise in New York City," Skorton said.

Cornell and Stanford University, which is in California, had both been vying to build a campus on Roosevelt Island, but Stanford dropped out Friday, saying in a statement that it decided building was not in its best interest.

"We were looking forward to an innovative partnership with the city of New York, and we are sorry that together we could not find a way to realize our mutual goals," Stanford University President John Hennessy said in a statement.

Van Bramer tops boro in Council on report card for human rights

BY RICH BOCKMANN

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) is going to have to make some room on his fridge.

The chairman of the Council Committee on Cultural Affairs, Libraries and International Intergroup Relations had the best record of the Queens delegation on human rights issues last year, according to the Urban Justice Center's 2011 Human Rights Report Card.

The report card identified 72 bills introduced over the past year that focused on housing, voting, disability and workers' rights as well as issues concern-

ing criminal and juvenile justice, health and government accountability.

Each Council member was graded on his or her votes and sponsorship of these bills as well as their response to a questionnaire.

Van Bramer voted in favor of eight bills, sponsored 52 — including two he was the primary sponsor of — and returned his questionnaire, all of which earned him an "A."

He fared particularly well when it came to housing rights and government accountability.

On the other end of the spectrum, Councilman Peter Vallone's (D-Astoria) score of 12 earned him a

grade of "D+," the lowest in the borough.

Vallone was the primary sponsor of two human rights bills and sponsored three others. He voted in favor of four bills and did not respond to the questionnaire.

The councilman criticized the methodology of the report, calling into question the voting records of other Council members who scored higher than he did.

"Apparently, supporting brutal and repressive dictators gets you an 'A' from this supposed human rights group. I'm proud to be at the bottom of any list Charles Barron is at the top

Continued on Page 42

New legislation designed to reform BSA practices

BY REBECCA HENELY

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) announced last week he was introducing four pieces of legislation dedicated to reforming the city Board of Standards and Appeals.

The councilman said the BSA, which he calls a "bogus agency," regularly ignores community protests against out-of-character developments and dismisses community board recommendations to satisfy the wants of developers. Van Bramer said that of the 2,855 appeals to the BSA by developers between 2001 and 2005, only 2.7 percent were rejected.

"These folks to go the BSA, claim a hardship and boom, they're able to be approved," Van Bramer said.

The BSA said they had no comment on the legislation.

Van Bramer's first piece of legislation, called Intro 678, would create a standard procedure for the BSA that would incor-



George Stamatiades (c.), of the Dutch Kills Civic Association, speaks at a press conference held by Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (third from l.) calling for BSA reform. Also attending were Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (second from l.), CB 2 Chairman Joseph Conley (fourth from r.) and other civic leaders.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

porate City Planning, community boards, borough boards, leasees and tenants into the BSA's decision on whether to grant a variance to a developer. These groups can currently comment on a variance, but their

Continued on Page 42

IS 59 students win battle over obesity

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Cohen Children's Medical Center received a large donation last week to boost its new program to fight childhood obesity and a group of Springfield Gardens students from IS 59 showed the hospital's administrator a creative way of fighting the problem.

Kohl's Department stores gave the New Hyde Park hospital \$387,165 for its various programs to build young people's self-esteem. Cohen's executive director, Kevin McGeachy, said obesity has become a growing epidemic among young people and damages one's health beyond the high cholesterol count.

"It has a lot of connotations, not only in the physical problems but also the psychological problems," he said.

Instead of having a simple check presentation ceremony, the hospital and Kohl's wanted to send a positive message that addressed the issue and partnered with the school, at 132-55 Ridgedale St. Students who were part of the dance group at IS 59 wrote and performed their own play that addressed obesity's negative effect on teens and offered solutions on how to prevent the epidemic and the bullying associated with it.

In the play, a teen girl

talks about how ostracized she has become due to her weight, but her pals encourage her to block out the bullying and start exercising. The girls then performed several dance numbers to music and told the audience that similar activities not only get kids into shape, but also create ways for them to get together and share interests.

Cohen's programs seem to be making a difference, according to new data released last week by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. Over the last five years, the number of New York City public schoolchildren from kindergarten through eighth-grade who are obese dropped from 21.9 percent to 20.7 percent, according to the agency.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg touted several city initiatives, including adapting school lunch menus to include more fruits, vegetables and low-fat options. Like the IS 59 play suggested, city schools are also pushing more gym and recess time to make students more active, according to the mayor.

"Children who are more physically fit have fewer health problems — and fewer trips to the hospital. That's great news for kids and their families, and for taxpayers, too," he said in a statement.

Continued on Page 42



IS 59 students present a check to Cohen's Children Medical Center after they performed a skit about fighting obesity.

Photo by Ivan Pereira

SE Queens kids in the lights

9-year-olds thrilled to perform in Radio City's annual extravaganza

BY IVAN PEREIRA

Two budding performers from southeast Queens have hit it big this holiday season as they landed a major role in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular show.

Nine-year-olds Erica Simone Barnett and Madison Zamor both play the role of Kayla in the annual extravaganza and both said they were excited when they learned they had beaten out hundreds of other girls for the part.

Although they have been away from school since October when the rehearsals began and extremely busy performing multiple shows a week, they said it has been a memorable experience.

"I really wanted to get this role. It was a dream come true," Erica said in an e-mail.

Erica, who attends PS 51 in Richmond Hill, and Madison, who attends Our Lady of Lourdes in Queens Village, tried out for the part back in April. Both girls said the audition was



Erica Barnett (l.) and Madison Zamor both play the role of Kayla in the Radio City Christmas Spectacular show. Photos courtesy of MSG Entertainment

nerve-racking not only because they were competing with so many other girls their age, but also because they were doing it in the same place where other famous stars performed.

"I had to sing a song of my choice by myself in the large rehearsal hall where

the Rockettes practice!" Madison said. "I have only been auditioning for a little less than two years, and this is the biggest thing I have ever done."

The girls were called back for another round of auditions in the summer and both girls were told

they got the part, sending them and their families into an excited frenzy.

"I started crying and my mom started crying and my dad — he literally ran around our entire house yelling, "No way! No way! Oh, my gosh! Oh, my gosh!"

Continued on Page 42

Group to FAA: Revisit transfer station

BY JOE ANUTA

A Queens advocacy group hopes that developments surrounding the aviation industry and LaGuardia Airport will draw renewed attention to what it said are the dangers of a planned garbage facility in College Point.

The aviation advocacy group Friends of LaGuardia Airport said the new blood at the top of the Federal Aviation Administration could mean a fresh look at the proposed North Shore Marine Transfer Station in College Point and its effects on the airport.

Earlier this month,

Randy Babbit, head of the FAA, resigned after he was arrested and charged with drunk driving. His second-in-command, Michael Huerta, took the helm, which the group said could bode well for their cause.

"What I hope will happen is that the FAA will look at this with a new set of eyes," said Ken Paskar, president of Friends of LaGuardia Airport.

Paskar maintains that the station — where trash from the borough will be collected and then floated out on a barge before being transferred again to a train — is a hazard and money-draining measure



Opponents of a revamped garbage transfer station in College Point hope recent developments in the aviation world will bring attention to what they say is a hazard to planes landing at and leaving from LaGuardia Airport.

for LaGuardia Airport. The station lies directly in the flight path of one of the runways at the airport and

sits less than a half mile away.

If the station is built, *Continued on Page 42*

4 Queens men charged in Bklyn cop's slaying

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

Four Ozone Park men were indicted Tuesday in the murder of a police officer who was shot and killed during a robbery last week in Brooklyn, the Kings County district attorney's office said.

The four men had 20 prior arrests among them.

Police Officer Peter Figoski was killed, allegedly by 27-year-old Brooklyn resident Lamont Pride, after he responded to a burglary in progress in Cypress Hills, Brooklyn, in the morning Dec. 12.

The four Queens men were charged that day in connection with the murder, police said, and they were indicted on those charges Tuesday, Brooklyn DA Charles Hynes said.

One of the men, 21-year-old Michael Velez, of 86-03 102nd Ave. in Ozone Park, was identified as a driver

in the murder by police.

It was unclear how the other three men were allegedly involved in the killing, police said.

Velez was arrested four previous times since 2009, including three for criminal possession of marijuana and one on attempted murder involving a knife, police said.

Velez and the three other Queens men were charged with second-degree murder in Figoski's death and two charges of criminal possession of a weapon, police said.

Also arrested were 30-year-old Kevin Santos, of 133-16 85th St.; 22-year-old Ariel Tejada, of 132-28 89th St.; and 27-year-old Nelson Morales, of 97-35 84th St., police said.

Of the four men, Santos has the lengthiest rap sheet with 11 arrests, including two for robberies and three drug-related charges, ac-



Michael Velez (l. to r.), Nelson Morales, Kevin Santos, Lamont Pride and Ariel Tejada appear in Brooklyn Supreme Court to face charges in the murder of Police Officer Peter Figoski.

AP Photo/John Roca, Pool

cording to police.

Police said Morales has five prior arrests: two on drug charges, two for robbery and a DWI charge.

Tejada does not have any prior arrests, police

said.

Figoski was the father of four daughters and lived in West Babylon, L.I.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a fierce advocate of gun control, lashed

out at a Brooklyn judge who set Pride free on bail Nov. 3 following a drug arrest despite Pride's also facing charges in a North Carolina shooting.

"The reason he was

not behind bars the last time is that a judge here in New York not only didn't put him behind bars, she didn't even think it was appropriate for bail," the mayor said.

"I was born to be a nurse at Calvary."



"I realized as a young child my greatest pleasure was to help people in need – the elderly, the young, and the injured. It's a gift from God that I'll never take for granted. Not surprisingly, I became a nurse. When it came to choosing a hospital, there was only one place to call home – Calvary. It's where I strive to bring comfort and laughter to dying patients and their families. Calvary encourages me to handle fear and loneliness with hope, happiness and hugs. Speaking Spanish fluently also helps me with Latino patients and families. My rewards each day are smiles of joy and knowing that my patients need me. Being a nurse at Calvary – what better gift from God can anyone ask?"

– Andrea Mejia, LPN

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POLICE Blotter



Police investigate the stabbing of a mother and son on 56th Street in Maspeth Tuesday afternoon.

Photo by Ellis Kaplan

Man throws self in front of train after fatal attack

MASPETH — A 43-year-old Maspeth woman was stabbed to death in her apartment Tuesday by a man who later threw himself in front of a Long Island Rail Road train, police said.

Maureen Biermann was pronounced dead at Wyckoff Hospital in Brooklyn, according to a statement released by the NYPD late Tuesday.

Police identified the suspect as 33-year-old James Peck of Glendale.

Officers had responded at about 6 a.m. to a report of an assault at 56th Street near Arnold Avenue and found Biermann inside

with a stab wound to the neck, police said. Outside and to the back of the house, they also found a 22-year-old man with multiple stab wounds in the back, police said.

The New York Post reported the assailant was the woman's boyfriend and the injured man was the woman's stepson.

After the attack, the assailant was struck by a westbound train near Fresh Pond Road and Metropolitan Avenue in Middle Village, police said.

The 22-year-old man was taken to Elmhurst Hospital and listed in stable condition, police said.

Police seek suspect in attempted boro robbery

WOODSIDE — The NYPD was looking for a suspect in a robbery attempt in Woodside last month.

Police said that on Nov. 21 at 9:40 p.m., a man came up to a 37-year-old woman as she was entering her apartment near 65th Place and Woodside Avenue and threw her to the floor. The man then tried to yank the woman's purse off her shoulder, police said.

When he was unsuccessful, he ran away, police said.

The suspect is described as a black or Hispanic man with a light complexion in his late teens to early 20s, police said. He stands 5 feet 2 inches to 5 feet 3 inches tall and has black, shoulder-length hair, police said.

Those with information should contact NYPD's



Police are looking for a suspect in a robbery attempt in Woodside. Sketch courtesy NYPD

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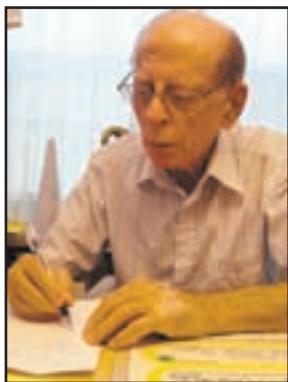


Psychologist analyzes holiday handwriting

BY COLIN DEVRIES

With each seemingly mindless cross of a “t” or dot of an “i,” the deepest psychological characteristics of the writer’s subconscious are revealed — at least that’s what Dr. Elias Samas will tell you.

Around the holidays each year, Samas eagerly awaits the arrival of greeting cards sent by loved ones from afar. The 78-year-old handwriting expert examines each heartfelt message of yuletide blessings with the greatest of care, parsing all the inscribed notes with a sharp, analytical eye, but without seeing a single word.



Dr. Elias Samas analyzes a subject’s handwriting in his Jamaica home.

Photo by Colin DeVries

“When I get holiday cards, I don’t read them. I just like to see how people are doing,” the Jamaica resident told a small handwriting analysis class in the basement of College Point’s Poppenhusen Library.

One letter of the alphabet, Samas said, can provide more than 30 interpretations of an individual’s mental condition. By simply noting the placement of a writer’s “t” crossbar, a graphoanalyst can discern how the writer’s well-being may have changed from a year earlier.

A high t-bar indicates a strong will and a positive outlook for the future. A low t-bar, or one that is curved or shortened, may show signs of depression,

confusion or frustration. A “t” with a centered crossbar indicates an individual with practical goals, while a t-bar that is not fully formed may indicate procrastination.

As a student of psychology, Samas became interested in graphoanalysis, or the practice of handwriting analysis, as a vehicle toward a better understanding of people and the human condition.

“You can get as much information from a psychological test as a sample of handwriting,” said the Alexandria, Egypt, native, who immigrated to the United States in 1967, studied psychology at Columbia University and eventually earned a doctorate. He went on to earn a certificate by mail through the International Graphoanalysis Society when it was located in Chicago during the late 1960s.

As president and founder of the Queens Graphoanalysis Center, Samas has applied his expertise in a variety of capacities since being certified. While much of his work has involved testifying before court on civil matters involving forgeries or contract disputes, he is on occasion called upon to provide insight on high-profile cases, including an examination of the ransom note in the mysterious, unsolved killing of JonBenet Ramsey, a 6-year-old Colorado beauty queen whose death gripped the hearts of a nation.

In 1977, when a serial killer was terrorizing New York City and writing cryptic, rambling letters to police and the media, Samas said he might have known the killer. He found similarities in the Son of Sam’s handwriting with that of a patient he was counseling.

“He matched most of the traits,” Samas told *Newsday* in 2000, noting the bizarre religious symbols he observed on the patient’s walls when he went to see

Continued on Page 36

X-mas decorating made easy

House of Holiday in Ozone Park is one-stop shop for trees, adornments

BY IVAN PEREIRA

The Christmas season may be winding down, but an Ozone Park store is going to continue to help shoppers ring in the spirit with its enormous selection of holiday decorations, trinkets and gifts.

For the last 15 years, House of Holiday, at 90-02 Atlantic Ave., has offered holiday gifts from September to January but unlike other shops that offer a few cards, ornaments or lights, the store has two full floors of merchandise.

Its owner, Larry Gurino, said people from as far as Connecticut have flocked to his store to pick out the right decoration that would add that extra sense of cheer to their Christmas.

“It’s a fun, exciting time of the year,” the 46-year-old father of two said as he was tending to customers last week.

Among the items available for purchase are ornaments of all sizes, artificial trees, lights that hang from roofs, walls and ceilings and homemade wreaths and centerpieces.

The second floor is filled with a wide selection of trees, including ones with themed ornaments already set on the evergreen. Some of the choices include a New York Yankees-themed tree, an Elvis-themed tree and a Christian-themed tree.

“You can’t get all of these ornaments in one place anywhere else,” Gurino said.

The store’s most sought-after gifts are the pieces for miniature Christmas villages. The owner said many customers make their villages personal and they always seek the right piece.

“Say if your son is a police officer, you want to put a police station in the village. It’s all sentimental,” he said.

Gurino said he has a long experience with



The House of Holiday has many speciality Christmas trees, including this sports-themed one.

Photo by Ivan Pereira

Christmas sales. He used to sell trees outside the store’s location and at the time the three-story building used to be a factory that created artificial trees.

When the factory closed down in 1996, Gurino bought the property to create a piano store, but he wanted to keep the location’s holiday traditions alive. Every September

through the end of January, the store scales back on its piano showroom, which turns into a winter wonderland.

Initially, House of Holiday was secluded to one room on the first floor, but over the last 15 years it has grown to include two floors. Gurino said he is not done with the expansion and has recently launched houseof-

holiday.com to include online sales.

The owner said he would love for customers outside the tri-state area to purchase items from his store because he enjoys spreading Christmas cheer without having to ride a sleigh.

“It’s about the birth of Christ and giving and receiving,” he said.

TIDINGS OF COMFORT AND JOY

The Queens publishing family wishes our readers a holiday season filled with joy and hope.

We can think of no greater tidings than the news that thousands of American soldiers are on their way home from Iraq. For the soldiers and families that have waited for their safe return, this will be a special holiday.

Welcome home.

REVERSING HOSPITAL CARE DECLINE

Brooklyn has taken a step forward in dealing with its hospital crisis. A group has been established to examine the borough's diminishing health-care resources. The Brooklyn Health Systems Redesign Work Group, or the Berger Commission II, released a report with recommendations for increasing financial resources and quality of care.

The same thing needs to happen in Queens. A group similar to the commission needs to be formed to study the decline of hospital resources in the county. In particular, a commission must address the shortage of emergency rooms.

If that does not happen, lives may be needlessly lost.

In recent years, four hospitals in Queens have closed. They include St. John's Queens Hospital in Elmhurst; St. Joseph's Hospital in Flushing, which became a drug abuse facility; Parkway Hospital in Forest Hills; and Mary Immaculate Hospital in Jamaica.

There are differing and complex reasons why this happened, but the result was the same: The people of Queens have less access to medical care.

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley has written a letter to Gov. Andrew Cuomo asking to "start a conversation" on how the hospital problem in Queens and the Bronx can be addressed.

We have no doubt the governor understands the problem Queens is facing, nor do we imagine there are any easy answers. We applaud Crowley for getting the ball rolling.

One thing is certain: In recent years, the borough has been moving in the wrong direction when it comes to hospital care. Health-care jobs have been lost along with hospital beds.

The problem has to be addressed on a boroughwide level before it gets any worse.



OTHER VOICES

Fight against secondhand smoking

Fresh air is a precious commodity and a right for all New Yorkers, but many multi-unit dwellings are not smoke-free environments.

Tenants and property owners are subjected to the harmful effects of secondhand smoke even when they have chosen not to smoke themselves. According to the journal *Nicotine and Tobacco Research*, secondhand smoke

cannot be contained. Even cleaning the air and ventilating buildings cannot eliminate the health hazards of secondhand smoke exposure.

We need to protect our most vulnerable residents: our children. In New York City, more than 200,000 children are exposed to secondhand smoke in the place they should be safest: their own homes. Some of these children are entering hospital emergency

rooms suffering from asthma attacks induced by the cigarette smoke they are forced to breathe.

From a purely economic standpoint, the cost of rehabilitating a residential unit occupied by heavy smokers, totals more than \$3,500. A no-smoking policy can reduce the cost of physical property damage while a 100 percent, smoke-free, multi-unit dwelling means higher property values, lower fire risk and

lower insurance rates.

Exercise your right to breathe smoke-free air in your home by contacting your landlord and local city officials to request a smoking ban in your complex. We can all enjoy the long-term benefits to our health and property.

*Joan M. Bush
Health Educator
North Shore-LIJ Health
System
Great Neck*

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City must do better in how it treats nonprofits

As many in Queens will tell you, there are many nonprofits throughout the borough that have helped thousands of people get back on their feet. Nonprofits have traditionally been exempt from paying property taxes on buildings they own and provide services in, like churches and nonprofit affordable housing developers.

But the city has recently decided to require these organizations to verify their nonprofit status or risk losing their property tax exemption. In some cases, these organizations would cease to exist without the property tax exemption.

Within the last month,

the city has sent two notification letters with forms that the organizations are required to fill out to keep their exemption status. Out of the thousands of letters that were sent out, there are still 3,928 organizations the city is waiting to hear from and 738 of them are in Queens.

For small organizations that do not have dedicated administrative staff, like many churches, this can be burdensome as they prepare to help people during the holiday season, especially considering the short notice they received. All verification forms were due Dec. 5.

One of them is Oneness Pentecostal Tabernacle on Linden Boulevard in

Queens. It has a small staff, but has been a staple in the community for many years. It fed people who were looking for meals on Thanksgiving and every Saturday it assesses the needs of the neighborhood and gives away food to the homeless.

Unfortunately, it does not currently have a staff person dedicated to handling finances, taking time away from the pastors from running these programs.

While verification of these facilities may be necessary, it comes at a precarious time. It is during these hard economic times that members of our community seek out these services most. Yet the city has so suddenly required these organizations to verify their

property tax exemption status and the use eligibility of their facilities and only provided a small window of time to do so.

Whether this was done intentionally or not to capture future revenues is uncertain, but what is certain is that organizations will be required to exert what little time, energy and resources they have in turning around these forms instead of concentrating on providing needed services.

The struggling economy has forced those of us in government to make tough decisions, and many of these organizations have seen their funding dramatically slashed. At the same time, families in Queens have also had to tighten

their belts, and many are desperately looking for any help they can get.

With so many people unable to afford their mortgages, rent, health insurance and other necessities, this is not the time to impose onerous information requests from organizations that help people in need.

Accountability, transparency and accurate reporting are essential to ensure compliance, but there has to be a better methodology employed that allows organizations, particularly ones with little staff, to respond to these requests in an efficient and timely manner. Some 738 Queens organizations had yet to respond to the city's notice.

While I work with my fellow City Council colleagues to reach out to these groups, I will not only advocate for more time to complete these forms, but ask why, while we are still struggling to get the economy moving again, we are suddenly burdening institutions that have been serving people for years by threatening to take their resources away.

For any questions, please contact my office by calling 718-776-3700.

*Leroy Comrie
City Councilman
(D-St. Albans)*

Save city after-school programs

Recently, the city after-school community celebrated the work being done in after-school programs in the area and around the country, joining in the national Lights On After-school celebration.

But we all know there is more to do before every child who needs an after-school program has access to one. Our city Department of Youth & Community Development recently released a request for proposals for all of its Out-of-School Time programs. These programs are a source of support for children and families, and the major source of funding for after-school programs throughout the five boroughs.

More than \$68 million is identified to be awarded through this competitive bidding process, and while this seems to be a large sum, it is a catastrophic reduction from previous years. Approximately \$125 million feeds the same

system now. Since these awards are to begin in September 2012, our community residents will have no idea what hit them until school starts and they find that the many established after-school programs will have disappeared.

Additionally, the current PEG reductions to the city budget continue to reduce the size and scope of other important youth and community serving programs, such as Beacon Centers. For many providers that have honorably delivered these crucial services, there is now the warning that some of these centers will be closed, depending on the need and exhibited by the ZIP code in which the program sits.

While we understand the need to tighten the belt, the continuous reduction of funding to programs that provide a lifeline to some families demonstrates a complete shift in priorities away from our most vulnerable. That means that

despite the progress we celebrated in October, we still have miles to go.

And some of those miles need to be traveled in our minds and what we hold dear in our hearts. As a lifelong New York sports fan, I cannot help but do the math and note that these reductions to youth programs in the city budget, which will affect thousands of families, are equal to the salaries of maybe five of the top-tier athletes on some of my favorite teams.

After-school programs keep kids safe, inspire them to learn and help working families. In tough economic times like these, we need to be doubly sure that our children get the education and support they need to succeed in school and life.

*Deepmalya Ghosh
Director of Youth
Development Programs
The Child Center of NY
Woodside*

City shows gall in Willets sewer plan

In its mishandling of Willets Point, the city Economic Development Corp. has qualified for the Chutzpah Award of the Year.

Notwithstanding the lack of sewers in Willets Point, the city not only ignored repeated requests from property owners for many years to install sewers, but collected sewer rent for the non-existent sewers.

It made a mockery of the understanding that eminent domain was to be used for public purposes and not to subsidize fat-cat real estate developers.

It willfully allowed the area to fall into structural disrepair and then mislabeled it as substandard. Now comes the pinnacle of absurdity in that the EDC has awarded the sewer contract to a New Jersey-based company ("Avella, biz group slam EDC," Flushing Times, Dec. 1-7).

EDC's claim it could not lawfully discriminate based upon geography is feeble since it could have waited for legislation permitting the jobs to remain in New York. So much for creating jobs for New Yorkers, whose taxes will subsidi-

dize the mayor's well-connected real estate friends, who will surely be awarded the development contract.

By no stretch of the imagination can the proposed Willets Point development in its concept, planning and implementation qualify as democracy in action. Machine politics would fit the bill.

The time has come to remove the EDC's jurisdiction from the mayor and make it accountable to the City Council.

*Benjamin M. Haber
Flushing*

LETTERS POLICY

Letters should be typed or neatly handwritten, and those longer than 300 words may be edited for brevity and clarity. All letters must include the writer's name and phone number for verification. Names may be withheld from publication if requested, but anonymously sent letters will not be printed. Letters must be received by Thursday noon to appear in the next week's paper. All letters become the property of Queens Publishing Corporation and may be republished in any format.

Holiday season is mad dash with parties spread over Queens



Dee
Richard
Dishing
with Dee

This week was more non-stop holiday party running around. "Ho! Ho! Ho!" is beginning to wear a little thin. I think the week between Christmas and New Year's I will go to bed and hibernate for the whole week.

Fat chance that will ever happen — sure as God made little green apples, some events are sure to pop up! What's a chronicler of the Queens passing parade to do? Why, cover the events for posterity — what else? While I am tired now and in a complaining mood, consider the alternative.

Dec. 13 was a killer day. It started out at 8 a.m. with a political seminar at Fordham University' Columbus Circle facility. At 11:30 a.m., I cut out early for lunch and drove to Russo's on the Bay in Howard Beach to cover Bishop **Nicholas DiMarzio's** annual Christmas luncheon.

The emcee was **Maurice DuBois**, newscaster from Channel 2 and a super nice guy, very apropos for a bishop's luncheon. The honorees were **Clarissa Elgarten**, **Martin J. Cottingham** and **Joseph Ferrara**. Representing the Diocese of Brooklyn was Monsignor **Jamie J. Gigantiello**. A great luncheon. Sorry I didn't have time to stay, but I had to drive back to Manhattan for the afternoon session of the Fordham seminar. Three of its more interesting speakers were **Hank Scheinkopf**, **Roger**

Stone and Daily News blogger **Celeste Katz**.

That event was over at 5 p.m., which gave me enough time to drive to Riccardo's by the Bridge in Astoria for the Queens County Republican Party's holiday party and reception. It was an interesting and fun event.

Some of the luminaries were **Ed Cox**, the state Republican Party chairman. The keynote speaker was **Rich Lowry**, editor of the National Review. The special guest was **Andrew Wilkow**, host of the "Wilkow Majority" on Sirius XM Radio. There was a guest appearance by Miss New York **Kaitlin Monte**.

Do you get the picture of what one of my killer days is like? My husband says that even though I complain loud and long, I must love it or I wouldn't do it.

Democrat **Issac Sason** was a guest at the GOP party. From what I remember a few years back, he was considering becoming a Republican. Could that be his game plan in trying to beat **Toby Stavisky** for her Senate seat? As long as he and fellow Democrat **John Messer** run against each other as Democrats, the result is they cancel each other out and insure a win for Toby. If that's his game plan, maybe he will have better luck running as a Republican. What fun political speculations are, but of course everyone has to wait to see what the redistricting will look like.

On Dec. 14, the Stevenson Democratic Club held its 45th annual dinner-dance honoring **Steve Sadofsky** and **Nettie Mayersohn**. I am glad that they honored Nettie. She has been one of my favorite female electeds

and during her 29-year tenure as state assemblywoman for the 27th District, she was admired for the passage of the landmark Baby Aids Bill and the Partner Notification Law and as the prime sponsor of the Victim Impact Bill. Not too shabby a record, my dears. It was a lovely party and held at the Douglaston Manor.

Last Thursday evening, U.S. Rep. Gary Ackerman held his annual holiday party at the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in Kings Point, L.I. It was packed with everyone from the lowest to the highest in attendance.

One of the more interesting guests was **Ilan Grapel**, who was there with his parents **Irene** and **Daniel Grapel**. He was the young man held in solitary confinement in Egypt and accused of being a spy. Ackerman was instrumental

in obtaining his release. The words describing what a great party it was would only be redundant.

At the end of the evening, after Gary thanked everyone for their support, he gave a thought-provoking speech. After Gary's party, it was off to the Douglaston Manor again to cover the Queens Bar Association's annual holiday celebration. More details about that party next week.

A last minute entry: U.S. Rep. **Bob Turner** of the 9th District held a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of his new office on Eliot Avenue in Middle Village. It is a street-level store front, which is better for constituents to be serviced.

I look forward to your voice mails at 718-767-6484, faxes at 718-746-0066 and e-mails at deerrichard@aol.com.

Bomb scare at LaGuardia Airport in 1960 fizzles out



The Greater Astoria Historical Society

In 1960, Queens boasted more than 35 movie theaters. In the Forest Hills Theatre, see "The Magnificent Seven," in Jackson Heights is "The Apartment," in Sunnyside view "Hell to Eternity" and at the Polk see the original "Ocean's 11."

Looking for a place to spend the holidays? Try Queens Terrace on 69th Street in Woodside and Bay-side's Imperial or Flushing's Pilgrim Inn — both on Northern Boulevard. There is Kneer's Hofbrau, on Broadway in Astoria, or nearby Steinway Brauhall, on Steinway Street.

Get ready for the sea-

son at Horn & Harget Retail Shops in 52 convenient locations. Pumpkin pies at 69 cents, potato salad at 39 cents per pound, frankfurters at 69 cents per pound, a jar of sweet mixed pickles at 33 cents and coleslaw at only 31 cents.

The "topflight" structure that graced the Queens building scene in 1960 was the airy Pan-American Airways Passenger Terminal at Idlewild — now John F. Kennedy International — Airport. The Queens Chamber of Commerce selected the futuristic terminal, which gave the impression it may take off along with the planes that use it.

Built to "bring the plane to the passenger," the "upside down umbrella building" covers more than 4 acres. The building "grounded" all other competitors for the title of Most Outstanding Structure in the Borough.

The mammoth new Throgs Neck Bridge, whose 12,300-foot span cost \$90 million, should put an end to the bumper-to-bumper nightmare on the Whites-tone Bridge and help ease congestion on the Triborough Bridge.

In an editorial, the Star-Journal pushes for a grander idea: "Now what is needed is a bridge across the Long Island Sound to Connecticut or Rhode Island. It has been pooh-poohed as far fetched, but it too will be built some day."

A brutal winter storm buried Queens. A slashing

blizzard measures more than 18 inches by noon. Sweeping through the metro area, it kills at least five people on Long Island as it paralyzes transportation, closes schools and keeps others from work.

Trains derail, autos crash, snow shovelers drop from heart attacks and fishermen stagger into port. National Guard trucks tow abandoned cars. Packing a howling 35 mph wind, the killer storm is called the worst of the year, stripping the title from the 14-inch blizzard of March 4.

Within 24 hours, the mercury dips to a frigid 7 degrees. The deep freeze slows the borough from digging out. Long Island tallies 26 dead, with 130 fatalities across the country. The Long Island Rail Road erases the day off its calendar.

An unclaimed airline

suitcase at LaGuardia Airport was thought to contain explosives after a baggage inspector at Hanger 3 opens it and sees what he thinks are sticks of dynamite. The Bomb Squad, Fire Department and Port Authority police are summoned.

They find balloons, feathers, horns, a kettle and trick matches. The "dynamite" turns out to be an entertainer's make-up powder.

The bag is a magic entertainer's kit.

A few shots of whiskey and four or five cigars a day are Joseph Deitsch's formula for longevity. Deitsch grew up the heir to a large retail clothing business in Philadelphia, but his most vivid memory of a young man was as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard — the Homestead Strike of 1892 in Pittsburgh.

He witnessed the carnage that set the union movement back a generation.

"Those were grim days," he recalled with a shudder.

Deitsch also remembered every election back to the 1880 James A. Garfield campaign.

The spry resident of 146-29 Laburnum Ave. in Flushing traces his ancestry back to Aaron Levy, the Revolutionary War banker and financial wizard who gave his entire personal fortune to the American fight for freedom. Deitsch was also related to the late Supreme Court Justice Benjamin Cardozo.

The nonagenarian claims that life begins at 80. He is the father of six "youngsters" aged 52 to 63, has 12 grandchildren and at least 10 great-grandchildren.

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Continued from Page 1

"Taking the family on a carousel ride in a park is a treasured New York City experience," said Parks Commissioner Adrian Benepe. "We hope to receive proposals from companies with strong backgrounds in developing, operating and maintaining carousels and amusement venues so that the carousels at Forest Park and Flushing Meadows Corona Park can continue to delight New Yorkers for many generations to come."

Ed Wendell, president of the Woodhaven Block Association, said he was hoping someone would be interested in operating and maintaining the Forest Park carousel, which is near Strack.

"The carousel's been an important issue to us for the last couple of years ever since we heard that it wasn't going to open in the summer of 2009," he said.



The city Parks Department is looking for a new operator of the Forest Park carousel (inset), which was last open in 2009.

New York One LLC is the vendor of the Flushing Meadows carousel and subcontracts the attraction to Sal Napolitano, who was turned down by Parks to operate the Forest Park carousel even though the

agency lists Napolitano as a "carousel expert" on its website.

"There's not many of those around," Wendell said. "I'm hoping [Napolitano will] come back. I'm hoping he'll be there and

resubmit his proposal."

The Forest Park Carousel holds some of the last surviving creations of master woodcarver Daniel Carl Muller, Parks said.

Muller crafted figures for 12 carousels in his life-

time and the Forest Park carousel is one of only two that remain.

The Flushing Meadows Corona Park Carousel is one of the city's four vintage carousels, Parks said.

That carousel is a combination of two earlier Coney Island carousels, the Feltman Carousel, which was constructed around 1903, and the Stubbman Carousel, which opened around five years after the Feltman Carousel.

The Flushing Meadows hybrid debuted at the 1964 World's Fair, Parks said.

The agency is holding a walkthrough of both carousels to those interested in submitting a bid Jan. 12.

Also up for grabs under the RFP process are snack bars in both parks.

Continued from Page 2

was my local playground as a child, and it continues to improve with each passing year," she said. "Children can now play on the new slides in an impressive design that captures the historical significance of this area's past as a former swampland. As an added bonus, the playground is eco-friendly and built to be sustainable for future generations."

The \$750,000 upgrade comes a year after \$933,000 in renovations were made to the park that was funded by Crowley and Mayor Michael Bloomberg that added play equipment designed for younger children.

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WISHING EVERYONE A
MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY AND HEALTHY
NEW YEAR



Council Member Peter F. Vallone Jr.
www.petervallone.com

Haggerty

Continued from Page 1

attorney Dennis Vacco said Seidel was correct but that Haggerty was not driven by greed to steal Bloomberg's money, explaining that Haggerty was 15 years old when his mother died and his father was rarely home.

"The house clouded his vision. The house clouded his judgment," Vacco said. "This was a desperate attempt to hang on to a family life that passed him by and [he] never had since the death of his mother."

Prosecutors wanted Haggerty to be sentenced to four to 12 years. Zweibel said his sentence was needed "to restore the public's confidence in the electoral process."

In addition to the prison time, Haggerty was

ordered to pay \$750,000 in restitution and will have a three-year conditional discharge following his stay in prison.

He was apologetic in court during the proceeding.

"If I could do it all over again, I'd do it much differently," he said before being handcuffed and escorted by court officers for processing.

In arguing for probation, Vacco said the blow to Haggerty's reputation and the loss of his home were punishment enough. He pointed out that Haggerty had no living parents, lived alone, had no children and was divorced.

"What a terrible sentence that is," Vacco said.

Seidel asked Zweibel to sentence Haggerty to four to 12 years in prison.

"This defendant just flat out lied, misrepresent-

ed, covered up," Seidel said. "It's a significant amount of money and it wasn't just stolen, it was laundered."

Jurors found Haggerty stole the money and laundered it through a company he created called Special Election Operations.

Raymond Castello, another attorney for Haggerty, said 48 people wrote letters to Zweibel seeking leniency for his client, whom he called "a man of integrity."

Castello disputed prosecutors' claims that Haggerty showed no remorse for his crimes.

"Certainly he has expressed that he is very sorry for what has happened here," he said, noting that Haggerty plans to make full restitution of \$750,000 by selling the Forest Hills Gardens home he bought with the stolen funds.


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Mysterious donation resounds with Queens College music dept.

BY JOE ANUTA

Educators were pleased to find the Queens College music department \$1.6 million richer after a mysterious donation from the estate of a deceased Forest Hills woman.

Beatrice Schacher-Meyer died and left the college's Aaron Copland School of Music a hefty chunk of money from her estate.

But officials at the school only found out after they were contacted by an attorney handling Schacher-Meyer's will in 2007.

"A huge weight lifted when I heard the news," music department Director Edward Smaldone said in a statement. "State funding for public colleges has been declining, so this gift couldn't have come at a better time."

Not much is known about Schacher-Meyer, according to Smaldone. She was a musician herself, since she was a member of Local 802, a union. Smaldone said she believed she was a singer, and although she was likely an educated one, she did not attend Queens College.

But Smaldone envisioned her in the

audience at Queens College performances.

"Quite possibly over the years she attended some performances here," he said.

Schacher-Meyer's donation is the largest single gift the department has received and will go toward scholarships for music students — to whom even modest amounts of money can make a huge difference, according to Smaldone.

Since the school charges more than \$5,000 for undergraduate tuition, a \$2,000 gift puts a huge dent in costs, according to Smaldone.

And by the close of the 2011 fall semester, about 150 students will have benefitted from the surprise donation.

In addition to scholarships, the money will also allow students to travel to China and England for professional engagements.

And to ensure that Schacher-Meyer is not forgotten anytime soon, the Black Box theater in the music building will be renamed after her.

Schacher-Meyer's serendipitous gift is not limited to scholarships: Her donation enabled Queens College music students to travel to China and England this past summer.

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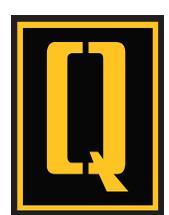
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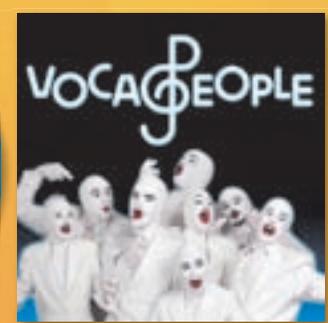
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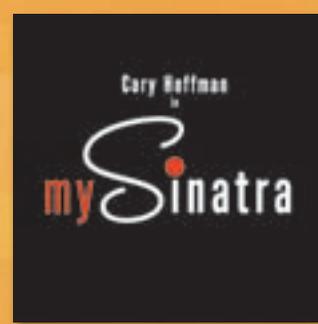
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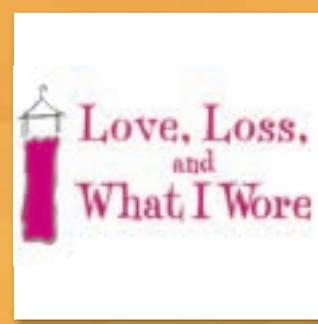
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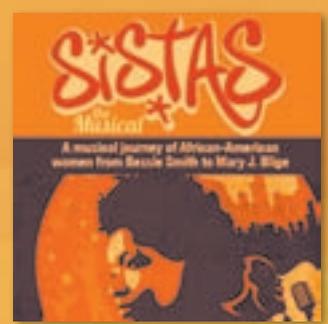
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Bob Turner opens new office in Middle Village

BY REBECCA HENELY

After spending his first few months as a congressman in the Kew Gardens office of former seat holder Anthony Weiner, U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) cut the ribbon on his long-promised new digs Sunday.

"There's a lot of work to be done here," Turner said. "There's been a big gap in our constituent services because of the special election."

Turner won New York's 9th District seat in a special election last September after Weiner resigned amid a sexting scandal in June. Turner's win over state Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Little Neck) was seen as an upset in a district that elected Democratic representatives for 90 years.

The new office is at 80-20A Eliot Ave. in Middle Village and has been operating for about two weeks.

Turner, who was joined by about 40 supporters at the ribbon-cutting, said he is temporarily housing his entire staff in this office, although he will be opening another in Brooklyn in February.

"The one that we inherited was a little too expensive, and I would have rather hired more staffers to do outreach," Turner said.

Turner's district includes Middle Village, Kew Gardens, Forest Hills, Maspeth, Ridgewood, Ozone Park, Rego Park, Howard Beach, Glendale, Fresh Meadows, Oakland Gardens, Rockaway Beach and Woodhaven, as well as neighborhoods in Brooklyn.

The district is so sprawling that the two Republican councilmen who came out to support him at the ribbon cutting — Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) and Dan Halloran (R-Whites-



City Councilmen Dan Halloran (l.-r.) and Eric Ulrich attend the opening of U.S. Rep. Bob Turner's Middle Village office. Turner's wife Peg applauds.

Photo by Rebecca Henely

tone) — have district lines that overlap with his despite their districts being practically on opposite sides of Queens.

"It's a very good central location and it's convenient," Turner said of the Middle Village office, "And the rent is good."

Former Republican state Sen. Serphin Maltese said he approved of the new office because he lives 12

blocks away.

"He's across from the best deli," Maltese said, referring to Andy's Delicatessen, at 82-17 Eliot Ave.

Maltese said he and Turner were both veterans

of the U.S. Army, and he thinks Turner will support veterans.

Halloran praised Turner, a former television executive, for his business acumen. He also touted the coalition Turner was able to build. Turner drew the support of the typically Democratic-leaning Jews in his district as well as earned the endorsement of former Mayor Ed Koch.

"We wish we could get so many people on board as Bob is able to do," he said.

One constituent, Walter Connolly, who comes from Breezy Point, where Turner lives, said the location of his new office was not a great concern for him.

"I'm glad to be here at the opening," Connolly said.

Reach reporter Rebecca Henely by e-mail at rhenely@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4564.

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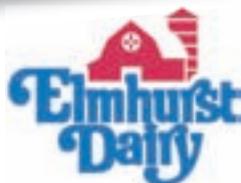
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GUIDE

TO THE ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT AND DINING



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The Mary Louis Academy students from Jenny Limberg-Durkin's advanced art class who participated in illustrating "The Best Christmas Present Ever," authored by the head of TMLA's foreign language department, Rita E. Piro.

Photo by Rita Piro

All You Need is Love

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Jenny Limberg-Durkin's Advanced Placement art students at The Mary Louis Academy in Jamaica Estates were given an unusual assignment back in September. Each student was asked to reach into a hat and take out a piece of paper describing a segment from a new children's book, written by Rita Piro, the head of the school's foreign language department.

"The Best Christmas Present Ever" was originally going to be published as part of a Christmas collection, but I wanted to do something bigger with it," said Piro. So she approached the art teacher, and they decided that the girls would each illustrate a portion of the story, using their imagination — as well as watercolors, pastels and charcoal pencils. The book was released Nov. 15.

When their project was completed almost three weeks later, 13 talented seniors at this all-girls Catholic high school would become published artists.

A Mary Louis graduate, Piro, 44, has been teaching there for 20 years. Her book is in a sense, her Christmas gift to the school she loves, as all proceeds will go to the 75-year-old private academy,

'The Best Christmas Present Ever' was illustrated by the girls of The Mary Louis Academy and written by a faculty member

which does not receive public funding.

This unique Christmas story is told in the first person and takes place in Queens Village, where the author grew up and still lives now. Sts. Joachim and Ann School and Church, which are still standing today, are mentioned, as well as a few other familiar neighborhood streets and sites.

"I wrote an inspirational reflection recounting the events of the last Christmas I spent with my maternal grandmother, when I was 7," said Piro, who spent a month home sick after Thanksgiving that year beside her beloved Italian grandmother, who was terminally ill. She died shortly after that sad Christmas. "Much later in life, I realized that the best Christmas present I had ever received had been the gift of time that the two of us were able to share together.

"The story is moving, but the artwork is dynamic and exciting — the illustrations make the book," said Piro. "TMLA's art students are phenomenally talented."

Camille Gregory, 17, of Jackson Heights said, "I still can't believe my piece was chosen for the cover. This is a very exciting time in our lives — seniors in high school — and we're published!"

Lisa Krulasik, 17, of Glendale decided to pursue illustration in college: "I feel this gave me a jump-start." And Julia Szaniawska, 17, of Middle Village was thrilled to see two of her pieces published: "My mom wants to send copies back to our family in Poland."

"When Mrs. Durkin read us the story in September, I couldn't imagine that it would all come together. The book looks amazing," said Ashlyn Salig, 17, from Maspeth.

"Christmas is a time for slowing down — a time to just be nice to people. I love winter and the Christmas season, and as cheesy as it sounds, I look forward to singing Christmas carols in the snow, then coming in for hot cocoa," said 17-year-old Tanya Caldas of Ozone Park.



"Have you ever just stopped and looked up at the scene around you when it snows? It's magical. Even bus stops can be beautiful."

Durkin couldn't have been more excited to have her talented students involved in the project.

"I was over the moon when Rita told me about this idea. What a tremendous opportunity for the girls. They

Continued on Page 27

'It's a Wonderful Life:' Radio play fun in Corona

BY ARLENE MCKANIC

We know the story of "It's a Wonderful Life." George Bailey, the mensch from Bedford Falls, comes on some hard financial times and decides to end it all when a Level 2 angel named Clarence is sent to let him know what a wonderful life he's had. In the movie he's played by Jimmy Stewart, with his Everyman charm and peculiarly American verve. In the Queen Theatre's delightful radio play version, he's portrayed on the broadcast by Jake Laurents, acted by the very good Duke Lafoon.

It's a nice little conceit to have a radio play based on a film based on a

short story performed on a stage, but here it works. This is thanks to director and Queens Theatre director Ray Cullom, playwright Joe Landry and the stellar cast, who with the exception of Lafoon and Sarah Stevens, play actors voicing several parts, from little Zuzu to the miserable, rotten old creep Mr. Potter.

Stevens plays the eager Sally Applewhite, who voices Mary Hatch, George's wife. Tim Jerome plays Freddie Fillmore, the announcer of sonorous voice, who also voices Potter, Ernie and a few other people. Erin Maguire plays Lana Sherwood, who voices the sultry Violet Bick, George's mother and Joseph, Clar-

The play is at least as fun as Frank Capra's iconic movie.

ence's supervising angel. James Barry plays Harry "Jazzbo" Heywood, who voices both the confident Harry Bailey and the befuddled and sweet-natured Clarence. Alex Mandell rounds out the cast as the unnamed Foley artist who handles the sound effects, with some help from the brilliant sound designer Joshua D. Reid. Cullom's

cast not only makes the characters of "It's a Wonderful Life" come alive, but they make the characters who play the characters come alive as well.

The play is set during Christmas of 1946 in "the auditorium of Studio A at WQTR in New York City." Michael Hetzer's set is magical, with lighted signs above everything that read "On Air" and "Applause." When the "Applause" sign lights up, we in the audience happily obey. There's a sparkling little Christmas tree stage right and the back of the stage is full of stuff for sound effects, like a wind machine and clodhoppers and other ordinary things that make ex-

traordinary noises. Reuben Rosenthal makes great use of the lighting in Queens Theatre's main stage and is adept at both bathing the stage in a cheery holiday glow and plunging it into darkness during the depths of George Bailey's despair. Sydney Maresca's costumes are era-perfect, especially that little hat worn by Sarah Stevens' Sally and her long-waisted, full-skirted dress with the dusting of sequins on the collar.

The Queens Theatre's

"It's A Wonderful Life" is at least as much fun as Frank Capra's iconic movie. It will be up till Dec. 24.

IF YOU GO

It's a Wonderful Life: A Live Radio Play
Queens Theatre
14 United Nations Ave.
South
Flushing Meadows
Corona Park
Corona, NY 11368

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sudoku

Answers in Sports

Easy #43

	2	8	7		9	4	6	
			8	1	4			
5								9
1		7				9		4
			1		2			
4		2				8		3
2								6
			4	9	6			
	8	9	3		1	5	4	

Hard #43

		8	5	7				4
	3		4					7 5
								6
					4	2		
3								7
		1	8					
	1							
4	5				6			1
	6			5	8	9		

Fill in the grids so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. There should be no repeats; which means that no number is repeated in any row, column or box.

Tips at www.sudoku.com
 © Puzzles by Pappocom

All You Need is Love

Continued from Page 25

work so hard and it's so nice for their talents to be recognized by the outside community," Durkin said proudly. "We're so blessed to have such an intense art program here that would allow the girls the needed time and materials to accomplish such a task.

"The book talks about a tender, loving relation-

ship between a grandmother and grandchild; about the beauty of appreciating the simpler things in life. It's a complete honor to be a part of such a wonderful project."

Piro said, "The message is simply that the greatest gift we can give each other is time spent together, doing things full of great love."

Piro is also the author

of "Judy Garland: The Golden Years" and "Elizabeth Montgomery: A Bewitching Life."

"The Best Christmas Present Ever" can be ordered through the school with a donation. And after Dec. 22 it will be available in retail stores and on Amazon.com.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers
Dec. 22-28, 2011

By Pete Canty

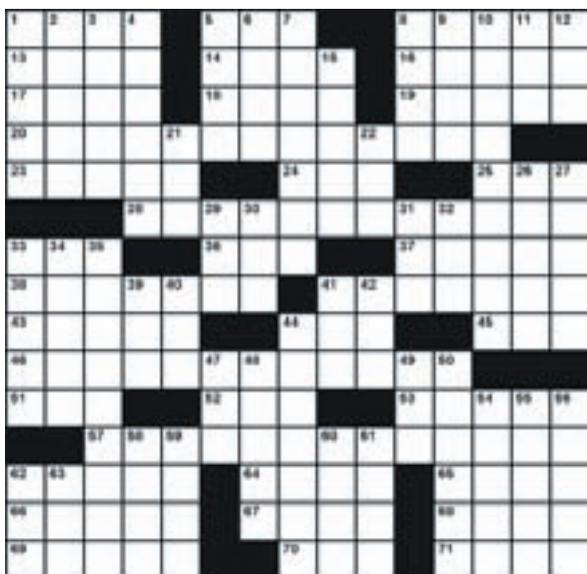
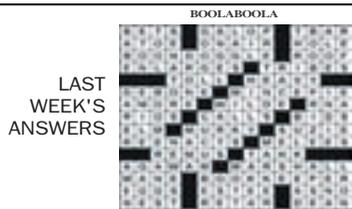
Notable Firsts

Across

1. Stun, in a way
5. Refuse to share, perhaps
8. Prefix with red
13. Small amphibians
14. Declare
16. 1988 Olympics host
17. Knight's neighbor
18. City near Lake Tahoe
19. Clothing size
20. Cinematic first
23. Plant parts
24. Finished a marathon, say
25. Collection agcy.
28. Play's first showing
33. "60 Minutes" network
36. Disney dwarf
37. "Tomorrow" crooner
38. Speech
41. Give permission
43. Taxi ticker
44. Turkey Day mo.
45. ___ judicata
46. Ship's first journey
51. TV spots
52. DDE opponent
53. Fancy tie
57. Retailer's first foray into the market
62. Less welcoming
64. Little bit of Mexico?
65. Serves well
66. Drained
67. M.P.'s quarry
68. Horn sound
69. Blues man Waters
70. NBC staple since 1975
71. "Piece of cake!"

Down

1. School sessions
2. In progress
3. Pilot's place?
4. Igloo dweller
5. Irish instrument
6. Done
7. Plain
8. ___ of Man
9. Approach
10. Many a tourist
11. Toupee, slangily
12. Lager cousin
15. Numeral preceder
21. 6th sense
22. NYC Marathon sponsor
26. German wine valley
27. Editor's marks
29. Tokyo, formerly
30. Prefix with profit
31. Indian bread
32. Connections
33. Pause punctuation
34. Restaurant basketful
35. Content
39. Turner or Kennedy
40. Anger
41. Playing hard to get
42. Reproductive cells
44. Reservation neglecters
47. Bother
48. Italian scooter maker



49. Kind of station
50. What you will
54. Winter warmer
55. Sandwiches for dessert
56. Irritable
58. Extend credit
59. Culturally pretentious
60. Desktop feature
61. Opinion survey
62. Belief
63. PC core

Quotable Quote

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••• Emo Phillips

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When: Through Dec. 24
Cost: \$39-\$44
Where: Queens Theatre in the Park, Flushing Meadows Corona Park
Website: www.queenstheatre.org

MEETINGS

North Shore Playwrights Circle Meeting – Formerly

known as the Playwrights Circle of Great Neck, this open group features discussion, workshopping and writing exercises for playwrights in Queens and Nassau counties.
When: Every other Wednesday, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm
Where: Sterling Glen of Great Neck, 96 Cutter Mill Rd., Great Neck
Cost: Free membership
Contact: Robin Gorman Newman - robin@lovecoach.com (516) 732-0911

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When: Thursdays, 7 pm; sign-

up starts generally at 7:30 pm
Where: Rockaway Center for the Arts, Fort Tilden, Gateway National Recreation Area, Rockaway
Contact: Dominique Roberts, info@raa116.org or (718) 474-0861
Website: www.rockawayartistsalliance.org

and ecosystem. The movie is approximately 30 minutes long and is suitable for children 6 years and older.
When: Through Dec. 31, Fridays, 3:30 pm, Saturdays and Sundays, 1:30 and 3:30 pm
Where: New York Hall of Science, 47-01 111th St., between Avenue of Science, Corona
Contact: (718) 699-0005 X353
Website: www.nyscience.org
Discover at Queens Library – The Children's Library Discovery Center is located adjacent to the Central Library at 89-11 Merrick Boulevard in Jamaica.
When: Mondays through Thursdays, 10 am to 8:45 pm; Friday, 1 pm to 8:45 pm; Saturday, 10 am to 5:30 pm; Sunday, 12 pm to 5 pm (except holidays)
Cost: Free
Where: Queens Central Library, 89-11 Merrick Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11432
Contact: Joanne King, associate director of communications joanne.king@queenslibrary.org (718) 990-0704
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Middle Village, NY - The popular Christ the King Regional High School Theatre Group performed selections from their recent Beatle's Revue "All Together Now" for residents of the Dry Harbor Nursing Home on Monday December 12, 2011. The group's choreographer Amanda Millwater is a Physical Therapist at the Nursing home and extended the invitation to the group. Musical Director Heather Arzberger shared, "We are so proud of our students at Christ the King. They are always willing to share their talents! Watching these young people spread joy to these valued members of our community is the best gift a teacher can receive!"

Watch for Christ the King Regional High School's production of the Broadway musical "Pippin" this Spring 2012. Check facebook.com/ctkny or www.ckny.org for more information.



Pictured from Left to Right:

Emanuela Concordia, Ivona Vasquez, Alexis Massa, Carrie-Ann Bruno, Alessandra Norman, Matt Dulle, Nina Laluz-Rivera, Belgys Felix, Joseph Ortega, Ricardo Laluz-Rivera, Jeffrey Tierney, Travis Verbil, Michelle Ricciardi, Caroline Baclawski, Geraldine Byron, Brittany Neiss, Richard Cantoral, Michelle Meditz

About Christ the King Regional High School

Christ the King Regional High School is a private, co-educational Catholic High School with a 4-year college preparatory curriculum. Located in Middle Village, Queens, Christ the King Regional High School draws students from all areas. The school is accredited by The Board of Regents of the State of New York and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Christ the King's current enrollment is approximately 1000 students. The faculty numbers 45.

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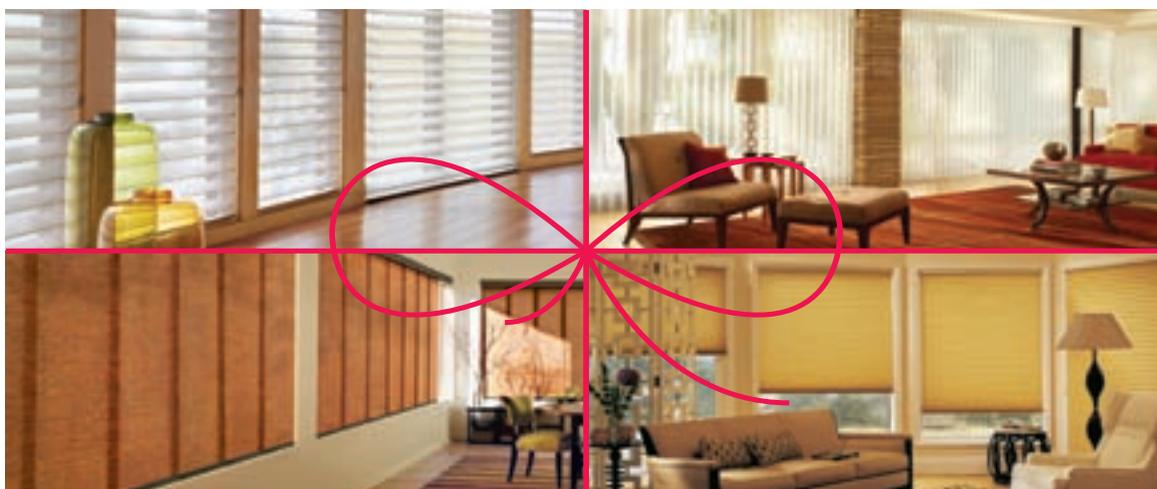
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Turner pushes gov to cut Cross Bay Bridge toll

BY HOWARD KOPLOWITZ

U.S. Rep. Bob Turner (R-Middle Village) reminded Gov. Andrew Cuomo of his Queens roots after writing the governor in an effort to end the toll on the Cross Bay Bridge.

Then-Mayor Rudolph Giuliani instituted a rebate program in 1997 for Broad Channel and Rockaway residents who used the Cross Bay Bridge that gave residents a \$2.26 rebate on their E-ZPass statements each time they made a round trip.

But in July 2010, citing budget woes, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority partially rescinded the rebate, only reimbursing residents after they made one round trip in a day.

"Quite simply, the toll is a discriminatory fee



U.S. Rep. Bob Turner wants Gov. Andrew Cuomo to eliminate the toll on the Cross Bay Bridge.

Photo by Christina Santucci

against Queens' residents," Turner wrote to Cuomo. "It forces them to pay a toll to travel from one part of the borough to another. It is a dubious and expensive distinction that my constituents who commute to New York City, who visit friends and family in Queens, and who travel throughout the

area have to pay this toll."

Turner referred to Cuomo's roots to the borough — he grew up in Hollis — in the letter.

"You and I were raised in Queens. We understand and appreciate the area's wonderful cultural and geographical diversity, particularly along the coastal

areas in the Rockways," Turner wrote. "I am sure that you would agree that this geographical diversity should not come at an unfair cost to the residents of the borough.

"I ask you to make this a top priority on your agenda for relieving the economic burden on the citizens of

my district," Turner said. "I look forward to working with you and other elected officials as we try to end the toll."

The congressman's letter comes three weeks after state Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (D-Ozone Park) appealed to MTA Executive Director Joseph Lhota to

get rid of the toll.

The toll was implemented to pay for construction of the bridge, which has long been paid off.

Reach reporter Howard Koplowitz by e-mail at hkoplowitz@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4573.

East River ferry service to Queens deemed success after six-month test

BY PHILIP NEWMAN

A group of elected officials and transportation executives have proclaimed the first six months of a trial project providing East River ferry service to Long Island City, Brooklyn and Lower Manhattan a success — far exceeding expectations.

"The fact that East River ferry ridership is shattering projections in only six months is proof that consumers and tourists alike are discovering both the beauty and convenience of traveling borough to borough on the East River by ferry," said City Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan).

Borough President Helen Marshall said "our rivers and ferries provide an attractive alternative for commuting that helps com-

munities like Long Island City and others to grow."

"Easy Access, affordability and reliability are keys to successful ferries and subsidies help keep fares down. I applaud the operation of this ferry since service began in June and look forward to its continued success," Marshall continued.

The officials, as well as Paul Goodman, CEO of Billybey Ferry Co., which runs the East River ferries for NY Waterway, congregated last Thursday at Pier 11 in Lower Manhattan to observe the six-month milestone of the service with a day of free service on the ferry routes.

Officials said nearly 500,000 passengers had ridden the ferries in the first six months, far more than had been projected.

"The ferry has served

as a vehicle to link together the communities along the city's waterfront," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. "The success of the ferry service to date denotes that when provided a variety of transportation options, New Yorkers avail themselves of such opportunities in great numbers."

Councilman James Vacca (D-Bronx), chairman of the Council Transportation Committee, said, "I think people often forget that New York is a city of islands. I look forward to working with Speaker Quinn and Economic Development Commission President Seth Pinsky on the next phase of the program."

The ferry service was launched June 13 as part of a three-year pilot program to provide year-round fer-

ry service from East 34th Street and Pier 11 in Manhattan to Long Island City, Queens; Greenpoint, North Williamsburg, South Williamsburg and DUMBO in Brooklyn; and, seasonally, to Atlantic Avenue in Brooklyn and Governors Island.

The service costs \$4 for a one-way ticket, \$12 for an unlimited, all-day pass and \$140 for an unlimited monthly pass. Ferries accept bicycles onboard for an additional dollar. Ticket machines are available at all commuter locations along with staffed ticket agents at some stops.

Reach contributing writer Philip Newman by e-mail at timesledgernews@cnglocal.com or phone at 718-260-4536.

Handwriting

Continued from Page 9

him after the discovery. "I got really scared then. There were a lot of similarities.... But the next day they caught the real killer. So I didn't save humanity that time."

To Samas, handwriting reveals the innermost qualities of a person, including his or her individuality.

"Handwriting is like fingerprints: No one can imitate your handwriting," he said. "Whether your mouth, your foot or your hand, your writing will reveal the same characteristics."

The slightest loop in a "y" or slant of a t-bar can expose even the most cunning of forgers.

Samas was once asked by the National Enquirer to compare the signatures

of crooner Frank Sinatra. Though many of the same nuances remained from Ol' Blue Eyes' 1940 autograph to his others in 1951, 1965 and 1982, some changes in horizontal slant revealed his demeanor had remarkably transformed.

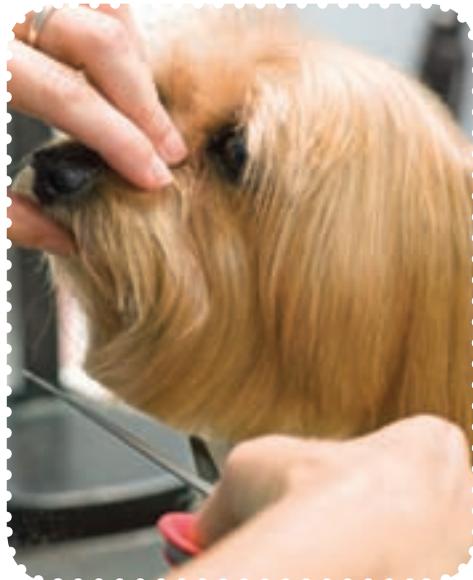
"Sinatra's handwriting reveals he was more domineering, close-minded and secretive when he was young," Samas told the Enquirer. "But now that he has matured, he's more honest, open-minded and talkative."

Handwriting, however, can also act as a self-fulfilling prophecy, Samas said. If a person consciously works at changing the way letters are written, he said, it may command the writer's personality — making the case for keeping "i's" neatly dotted and t-bars high and strong.

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Photos by Dee Richard

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1 Master of ceremonies Maurice Du Bois



2 Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio



3 Maurice Du Bois, Monsignor Jamie Gigantiello, Joseph Ferrara, Bishop Nicholas Di Marzio, Clarissa Elgarten and Martin Cuttingham



4 Joe Mattone Sr. his wife Mary Ann, luncheon co-chair, and a friend

QUEENS COUNTY REPUBLICAN HOLIDAY RECEPTION AT RICCARDO'S



1 Ed Cox, Frank Padavan, Bob Bishop and Herb Stupp



2 Bob Beltrani, Dan Halloran, Ed Cox and Vinny Tabone



3 Phil and Nelly Ragusa



4 Keynote speaker Rich Lowry

GARY ACKERMAN'S KINGS POINT PARTY



1 Congressman Gary Ackerman



2 Ilan Grapel and parents Irene and Daniel



3 Gene Kelly, Bary Grodenchick and Santa Frank Skala



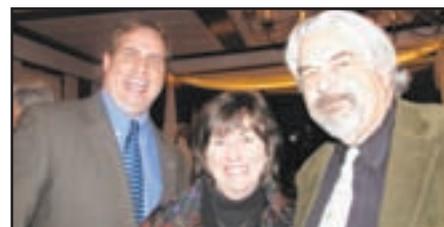
4 Chet Szarejko, Margie and Frank Milewski



5 Jim and Maura Wrynn



6 Gary and Ed Braunstein



7 Steve Behar, Terri Thompson and Mike Schenkler



8 Rochalle and Corey Bearak

BAYSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S HOLIDAY PARTY AT FORT TOTTEN



1 The three honorees: Dominick Brucconeri, Helen McDaniel and Mark Boccia



2 Carol Marian and former Senator Frank Padavan



3 Cheryl Cummings and Mimi Burnham



4 Alexandria Dunne and her son, Jonah Torreano

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Easter Sale – April 5-8

Mother's Day Sale - May 10-13

Father's Day Sale – June 14-17

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Summer Sale – August 2-5

Labor Day/Back to School Sale – Aug. 31 - Sept. 3

Columbus Day Sale – October 5-8

Fall Sale – November 21-25



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Business

Flushing chef brings excellent track record

Laura Lam's Lan Kwai Fong opens on bustling 40th Road with dishes inspired by East Asian cuisine

BY JOE ANUTA

Google one of Flushing's newest restaurateurs, and this longing post from February appears in the results: "Chef Laura Lam — anyone know where she is these days?"

In the 1990s and 2000s, Lam accrued a dedicated fan base as the darling of Vietnamese cuisine in Manhattan. Her critically acclaimed eatery Monsoon — whose reviews in the Daily News and New York Times were so flattering they could have been written in saliva — was packed to the brim on weekends.

But Lam, a Vietnamese native who moved to New York in the late '70s after fleeing her country, decided to retire and closed up shop last year.

But she could not stay away for long.

Her daughter convinced her to open Lan

Kwai Fong, a self-proclaimed Asian café, at 135-23 40th Road in downtown Flushing.

"Maybe all my old customers will come looking," she said with a laugh.

Lam graduated from a prestigious culinary school in Vietnam and even taught cooking classes there. But after the Vietnam War, she was forced to give up her life and flee the country with her husband and young daughter.

They eventually ended up in New York, where Lam was turned down for job after job in Chinatown kitchens.

But after she took another cooking course and got a big break as the assistant chef in Manhattan's tony Rainbow Room, she started impressing curious pallets with a menu of her own in a tiny place called, fittingly, Laura's Kitchen.

Lam made her name



Laura Lam has opened her latest Vietnamese restaurant, Lan Kwai Fong, at 135-23 40th Road in Flushing.

Photo by Joe Anuta

with Vietnamese food, sometimes with a French influence, but Lan Kwai Fong is much more than a two-country combo.

Lam often spends her free time traveling around the world learning new cooking techniques and urges her chefs to eat out in order to get new ideas.

And that hunger for knowledge is reflected in the menu.

sandwich.

To accommodate some of her herbivorous friends, Lam cooked up a string bean salad with the veggie version of bacon: thinly sliced fresh mushrooms roasted until slightly crispy and extremely savory.

Of course, there is plenty of Vietnamese food as well with traditional meals like Pho, a fortifying and slightly spicy beef noodle soup, or spring rolls.

Since her restaurant is just starting out, she offers a tasting menu to sample some of her creations and will be expanding the offerings in the near future.

The results will probably please the pallets of Lam's future fans, but according to the recently retired chef, there is no secret to making delicious dishes.

"You need fresh, good ingredients," she said, adding that a chef cannot take shortcuts.

But behind it all is the belief that food brings people together and is a force for good in the world.

"Good food should be shared, and can bring happiness to everybody," she said.

Lan Kwai Fong is open for lunch and dinner.

BUSINESS CALENDAR

Holiday Networking Party – Serving homemade food and cake and wine.

When: Dec. 22, 5:30 pm

Where: Old Vienna Cafe, 108-22 Queens Blvd., Forest Hills

Contact: (718) 268-6565

Powerful You! Women's Network – A new Queens chapter of the national organization that empowers and supports women in their business, personal and spiritual lives.

When: Third Tuesday each month, noon to 2 pm

Cost: Members and first-time attendees \$30, nonmembers \$40; includes lunch

Where: Giardino, 44-37 Douglaston Pkwy., Douglaston

Contact: Gayle Naftaly, gnaftaly@accessoffice.net, (718) 217-0009

Website: www.powerfullyou.com

Power Networking Group –

Led by Harvey G. Beringer

When: Every Wednesday, 7 am

Cost: \$10 for breakfast

Where: Jackson Hole Diner, 35-01 Bell Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Harvey G. Beringer at HGBCPA@aol.com or (718) 423-0427

BNI T.N.T. (The Networking Titans) Weekly Meeting –

BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact chapter president Martin Koos to arrange a visit.

When: Thursdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Clearview Park Golf Course, 202-12 Willets Point Blvd., Bayside

Contact: Martin Koos (516) 488-8877, Ext. 15

BNI Peak Professionals Chapter –

BNI is a business and professional networking organization that allows only one person per professional classification or specialty to join a chapter. BNI Provides positive, supportive and structured environment to further business through word of mouth marketing. Contact Lydie Pellissier, chapter president, to arrange a visit.

When: Wednesdays, 7-8:30 am

Where: Fame Diner, 176-19 Union Tnpk., Fresh Meadows

Contact: Lydie Pellissier, (718) 276-8986

Website: www.bniotherboros.com



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Author shares Queens History with Christ the King Regional High School Students

Middle Village, NY - Christ the King Regional High School students received a glimpse into the past with author/historian Jason D. Antos. Projecting images from his book *Queens: Then & Now* (Arcadia Publishing), Mr. Antos captivated Mr. Salerni's U.S. History class (and school Principal Peter J. Mannarino) with a journey of Queens from its founding through the present. Students saw images of Queens with trolleys, barns and landmark buildings. Students Maria Paglinawan said, "It made all of us who live in Queens feel extra proud. Besides being the home of the Mets, it was also the site of two World's Fairs and is home to the only working farm in the city."



Pictured from Left to Right:

Carly Eldred, Emily MacNeil, Desirae Luciano, School Principal - Peter J. Mannarino, Angelica Rakowicz, Joshua Senford, Llazi Ambo, Stephanie Capranzano, Maynard Grant, Author Jason D. Antos, US History teacher - Paul Salerni

About Christ the King Regional High School

Christ the King Regional High School is a private, co-educational Catholic High School with a 4-year college preparatory curriculum. Located in Middle Village, Queens, Christ the King Regional High School draws students from all areas. The school is accredited by The Board of Regents of the State of New York and the Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools. Christ the King's current enrollment is approximately 1000 students. The faculty numbers 45.

More information is available www.ckny.org - Find Christ the King on Facebook at facebook.com/CKNY



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Despite having a full-time job, Jean cannot afford healthcare for himself or his children, Alexander, Jashawn and Jasmine.

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Human rights

Continued from Page 4

of," he said.

Councilman Barron (D-Brooklyn), who praised the late Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi, earned an "A" on the report card.

Council members James Sanders (D-Laurelton) and Julissa Ferreras (D-East Elmhurst) both received a "B" and Councilman Daniel Dromm

(D-Jackson Heights) got a grade of "B."

Receiving a grade of "C" were Council members Karen Koslowitz (D-Forest Hills), Elizabeth Crowley (D-Middle Village), Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) and Leroy Comrie (D-St. Albans).

Councilmen Peter Koo (R-Flushing), Eric Ulrich (R-Ozone Park) and Mark

Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) each scored slightly lower: a "C-."

Councilman James Gennaro (D-Fresh Meadows) got a "D+" and Councilman Ruben Wills (D-Jamaica), who took office last November, did not receive a grade.

While the report assigned each Council member a grade, its primary criticism was of the political power of the speaker and the Council's failure to

challenge that power.

Of the 72 bills introduced, only eight were brought to a vote, and the report implied this was because Council Speaker Christine Quinn (D-Manhattan) did not support them.

Quinn's office did not respond to a request for comment.

The report cited two rules that allow the Council to advance the process of legislation that does not

have the speaker's support.

"There are no clear reasons for the Council's reticence in taking advantage of these two rules. However, based [on] reports that the speaker readily wields political power internally, and on conversations with advocates, we speculate that failure to do so is linked with the desire of most Council members to maintain a relatively friendly relationship with the speaker," the report

read.

"However, given its impact on human rights in New York City, business as usual is not sufficient to protect our human rights. Council members should act — individually and as a collective — to challenge the status quo even in the face of political reprisals," it continued.

Van Bramer

Continued from Page 4

concerns often do not factor into the decision, Van Bramer said.

Intro 679 to 681 would expand the BSA to include appointees from the city public advocate, each borough president and each community board; create a formal complaint procedure for community

members; and require the mayor's appointees to be approved by the Council.

State Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D-Jackson Heights), Community Board 2 Chairman Joseph Conley, CB 1 District Manager Lucille Hartmann and numerous civic leaders joined Van Bramer for his announcement Dec. 14 at a site at 64-01 Woodside Ave.

in Woodside.

Van Bramer said the developer of the site has filed to create an eight-story building with 27 apartments, although the new Sunnyside-Woodside rezoning only allows for five stories and 17 apartments. The building will sit on a block with residential houses and some small businesses across the street.

"You have to ensure the quality of life in the

neighborhood," said Rose Daraio, president of the Communities of Maspeth and Elmhurst Together, "and you have to build in the context of the neighborhood."

A number for the owners of the property, listed on the city Department of Buildings' website as 64-01 Woodside Realty, was disconnected.

Van Bramer's proposals are similar to two

pieces of legislation Councilman Dan Halloran (R-Whitestone) introduced in August.

Halloran's bills would require the community board and the borough president to have advisory input into a BSA decision, have the BSA notify property owners when they need to apply for new variances and make the BSA levy fines if owners operate without a variance for six

months.

Halloran said he was worried that Van Bramer's idea to have the Council appoint BSA members would violate the separation of powers between the city's executive and legislative branches, but hoped the best part of the six bills could be merged in committee meetings.

"I think Jimmy's got some great ideas," he said.

Obesity

Continued from Page 5

Despite the decrease in obesity in the schools, the rates are still higher among minorities, according to the CDC study. The city health commissioner said his office will continue to help the city's inner-city youth adopt healthier habits through other school programs, advertising and other initiatives.

"While we believe we are on the right track, we

have much more work to do to further reduce obesity rates of children and adults," Commissioner Thomas A. Farley said in a statement.

IS 59's Carleton Gordon said he will also continue to do his part. When Cohen's and Kohl's approached him to do the skit, he immediately signed on to the project because he always wanted to promote healthy living and community service.

"They're not getting anything for this," he said of the students who participated in the play. "They are not doing this for a grade. They are doing this to help benefit society."

McGeachy said the grant will go a long way and the hospital would be partnering with other schools and corporations to tackle obesity among youth.

Reach reporter Ivan Pereira by e-mail at iper-eira@cnglocal.com or by phone at 718-260-4546.

Stars

Continued from Page 5

I can't believe it!" Madison recalled.

Since October, the girls have taken off from school while they rehearse and perform in the show. Erica said she will be a part of 70 out of the 210 performances of the show between November and next month and Madison said she is in 12 shows a week.

During their time at Radio City, both have tutors who help them with their studies and their fourth-grade teachers send them class assignments every day so they will not lag

behind once the show ends.

"It's not too hard — I miss school, but I am having so much fun at Radio City," Erica said of her course work.

The show's larger-than-life story has kept the girls on their toes over the last two months. In the show, Kayla and her mother embark on a long adventure and ultimately get to meet Santa Claus at the North Pole.

"Santa Claus wants Kayla and her mother, Natalie, to know that Christmas isn't just about presents but about spending time together and experiencing the joy of Christmas," Erica said.

This year, the show

added a new element that capitalizes on the 3D craze that has been hitting movies and video games recently. Although the girls said they have not been trained to be the next Wonder Woman, they were able to show off their action skills.

"I get to battle the Humbugs and gingerbread men and this giant snow monster with the Rockettes. It's so much fun," Madison said.

Both girls said they will miss the cast and crew once the final curtain comes down next week, but they said they would be happy to return to their classrooms and share their adventures with their friends.

www.TimesLedger.com

College Pt.

Continued from Page 5

Paskar is worried that birds will be attracted to the garbage and present a risk for planes departing and landing.

In January 2009, Canada geese were blamed for bringing down US Airways Flight 1549 on the Hudson River in what was dubbed the "Miracle on the Hudson," since all 155 passen-

gers lived.

But the city has long maintained that the facility will not increase the bird population.

Nevertheless, Paskar hopes the issue will be re-examined now.

U.S. Reps. Gary Ackerman (D-Bayside) and Joseph Crowley (D-Woodside) had sent a letter to the

FAA in August urging the administration to take a second look at bird strikes and the fact that the College Point facility was given the go-ahead.

But in a Nov. 18 response, Babbit reiterated that the FAA already recommended some modifications to the station, though beyond that could not comment on the situation, since the transfer station is the subject of a lawsuit,

which was filed by Paskar's group.

Ackerman conceded that Babbit might not have been able to comment, but he took issue with the former FAA head's position that the facility lies a safe distance from the runway.

Ackerman, along with Paskar, said that Delta Airlines' announcement Friday of its plans for exactly how it will increase service at LaGuardia.

The airline said it will be adding an additional 100 new flights and 29 new destinations, according to Delta.

In addition, the group is planning a \$100 million addition to its terminal at LaGuardia, all of which could increase plane traffic at the airport, according to Paskar.

"It certainly has an impact on the Delta expansion," he said.

Over the summer, the group issued a report about the lack of a Low-Visibility Precision Instrument Approach, which is used to guide planes down to the tarmac in inclement weather or fog, on Runway 31.

Since planes cannot use that runway when visibility is low, it costs the facility time and money, which could be exacerbated by the Delta expansion, Paskar said.

Sports



Flushing's Andrew King is the New York Post's all-Queens football Player of the Year. Photo by William Thomas

Flushing's King gets pigskin crown

BY ZACH BRAZILLER, MARC RAIMONDI AND JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

For the first time in a long time, three Queens teams made the PSAL City Championship division playoffs.

Campus Magnet advanced to the quarterfinals and both Flushing and John Adams fell in the first round. But it was a good showing for the borough. August Martin made the Bowl division finals, Bay-side also reached the Bowl playoffs and Cardozo debuted as a varsity program in the Cup.

In the CHSFL, Holy Cross started out as a chic pick to make a deep run in the playoffs, but ended up struggling down the stretch as injuries mounted. St. Francis Prep fell in the 'A' final.

All-Queens football Player of the Year: Andrew King, Flushing

One of the best players in the city college coaches are not aware of, King did it all this fall for Flushing. He ran for 963 yards and 10

touchdowns and was arguably the team's top defensive player at outside linebacker.

Yet still the 6-foot, 215-pound senior has no Division I scholarship offers of any kind, though there are College Football Sud-division programs sniffing around.

A humble, hard worker, King was as responsible as anyone for Flushing getting back to the PSAL City Championship division playoffs. The best example was a 29-16 victory over Canarsie when he ran for 113 yards and scored a pair of defensive touchdowns.

All-Queens football Coach of the Year: Gerry Weitzen, John Adams

The coach was criticized when he said before Week 3 that his team would lose to Tottenville 50-7 — but he was almost right. Adams actually lost 49-6.

That wasn't all the longtime coach did correctly this year. He guided the Spartans to the playoffs in their first year up at the PSAL City Championship
Continued on Page 46

Storm ends skid, loses star

Nurideen Lindsey quits team, St. John's responds with victory

BY MICHAEL CANFAROTTA

So far this year, nothing has come easy for St. John's men's basketball team.

That would include the Red Storm's 56-50 win against Fordham at the Madison Square Garden Holiday Festival that snapped a three-game losing streak.

On Dec. 8, it was announced that sophomore guard Nurideen Lindsey would transfer from St. John's after playing just one semester, leaving the Storm with only six players who have played substantial minutes for their contest against the Rams. It didn't help that junior Malik Stith sat out the first half of the game for a minor violation of team rules.

The team came together, however, and rallied around assistant Coach Mike Dunlap, who has stepped up in the last five games to replace Steve Lavin while he continues to recover from Oct. 6 surgery to treat prostate cancer.

With all the setbacks, Dunlap has been happy with the team's progress.

"We're moving forward, the intensity of practice has been at a high level, communication is up, they're maturing nicely," said Dunlap.

That progress was tough to spot early on in their matchup with Fordham until they erupted for an 11-0 run to end the first half and take a nine-point lead. The Storm would extend that lead to 16 in the second half.



St. John's Phil Greene shoots over Fordham's Devon McMilan during the second half of the matchup at Madison Square Garden.
AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams

With the unexpected transfer of Lindsey, every player has had to step up — perhaps no one more so than freshman Phil Greene, who has taken the reins of the point guard position. He has adapted well to the change by stepping up his communication with team-

mates and distributing the ball.

After the game, D'Angelo Harrison spoke about how Greene has already started taking on that leadership role.

"Right before he shot free throws, he was like, 'Even if I miss, these we're

going to get a stop, because everybody is together,'" said Harrison.

Harrison was talking about the two free throws that Greene took with 26 seconds left in the game. One of the two was made to give the Storm a four-
Continued on Page 46

Campus Magnet coach notches 700th victory

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Like he has for most of his career, Charles Granby was more concerned about others on a day that was supposed to be all about him.

The legendary Campus Magnet basketball coach spent the majority of pregame warm-ups worried about getting spectators into the game, because of a restrictive policy at Forest Hills, than his possible milestone win.

"I think it's a front," senior forward Samuel Durodola said. "He acts like he doesn't care about it, but I know he does. Before the game he was worried about the spectators coming in, parents coming to watch the game, when he is supposed to be worried about the 700 wins."

The fans were eventually allowed into the game. State Assemblywoman Barbara Clark, whose district includes Campus Magnet, planned on watching the contest and called a high-ranking city Department of Education official from Forest Hills lobby to complain. The same thing happened at Campus Magnet early this week. She was one of many special guests for Granby. His daughter Robyn Granby-Poole invited his brother, his nephew and his great-niece to his surprise.



Campus Magnet Coach Charles Granby is congratulated after winning his 700th career game.

Photo by Joseph Staszewski

"When they walked in I said, 'This is wow,'" Granby said.

They got to watch Campus Magnet fend off a game Forest Hills team 67-59 in a PSAL Queens AA boys' basketball game last Thursday. The win pushed the 77-year-old Granby's all-time record to 700-198 in his 43rd year on the bench. He is the PSAL's all-time leader in wins and is third in the state behind former East Hampton Coach Ed Petrie (754). His daughter, flashing a sign

reading 700, gave her father a big hug after the game.

"As far as basketball is concerned, it ranks right up there with the city title," said Granby, dressed in a green running suit.

The longtime mentor has still found a way to connect with players. He's always stressed the importance of going to college and even has a famous "ugly life" speech to illustrate to the kids what would happen if they don't. Durodola didn't know much about

Granby when he moved from Brooklyn to Queens and attended Campus Magnet (8-2). Now, he said, he's greatly influenced his life.

"He knows what we are going through," he said. "He knows how we feel about certain things. He helps us. He knows the feeling about being young. He still wants to be a teenager. Him having a teenage state of mind helps us out a lot."

The energized crowd at Forest Hills gave the ultra-athletic Durodola all the motivation he needed. He dominated the glass in the fourth quarter and scored 10 of his 17 points in the frame, including a putback with 3:37 remaining to put his team up 61-55. Tarik Raynor scored 15 points and Greguan Carter added 13.

"I was fortunate to be in a situation where I had players and knew a little something about the game," Granby said.

One of those is New York City legend Greg "Boo" Harvey, who is now Granby's assistant. The Bulldogs lost just seven games during his four seasons there and are off to a 5-1 start in league play this year, including a home win against rival Cardozo.

Raynor and Nohan Vickers shot Campus Magnet back in a frantic-paced game that Forest

Hills (3-3) led by nine in the first quarter and trailed by just two at the half. Shamoy Allen had 19 points for the Rangers and Arif Mehmetaj scored 16. Benjamin Batah added 10.

"He is a great coach, a legend," Harvey said. "You can't do it no better. He's still got a little left in the tank."

Granby isn't sure how much longer he will coach. He started in 1969 when the school was named Andrew Jackson, won a city title in 1985 and has made 40 playoff appearances, including four trips to the final. Granby didn't miss a game while battling kidney cancer in 1976 and prostate cancer in 1993.

Granby-Poole, who often calls her father "Coach" and was given the title of "Coordinator of Coach's Affairs," said his faith, his love of the game and his family's support keeps him going.

"I could leave tomorrow or I could leave in two years," the coach said. "I do not know."

What he was certain about was how he would celebrate his milestone.

"I'm going to go home and take me a hot bath, get something to eat, say my prayers and thank God I'm still alive," Granby said.

Mary Louis gets 'groove back' against Bergtraum

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Mary Louis can take a collective deep breath.

"It was just like a load off their shoulders," TMLA Coach Joe Lewinger said. "When we went in [the locker room], it was almost like a unique situation."

It had been a while since Mary Louis got to enjoy a good vibe after a game. The Hilltoppers' lone win came in Georgia at the Big Apple vs. Big Peach Battle in late November and was followed by a four-game losing streak. They got a much-needed 50-41 win over PSAL power Murry Bergtraum in the Francis Lewis Winter Ball Dec. 11. Jasmine Nwajei scored a game-high 21 points, including nine in the third

quarter.

"I feel like we got our groove back," Nwajei said.

Lewinger said the game against the Lady Blazers (4-4) was similar in many ways to his team's losses to athletic, pressing teams like Bishop Loughlin, Nazareth and Bishop Ford. He just felt they were more composed and just played better than on those days.

TMLA (2-4) shot a better percentage from the free throw line (9-of-14) and got contributions in the paint. Elisabeth Gully scored seven of her eight points in the first quarter, Kate Goldman chipped in six, including a big hoop early in the fourth and Reana Mohamed had seven.

"Losing all that was



TMLA's Jasmine Nwajei scored 21 points in a win over Murry Bergtraum.

Photo by An Rong Xu

such a learning experience," Gully said. "We were just finally like we don't want to lose any more."

Mary Louis opened up

the game in the third quarter behind Nwajei. The star junior scored six points during an 8-0 run to start the frame to put TMLA up

31-19 with 5:00 left. Bergtraum's Shequana Harris, who is headed to UNC Charlotte next season, did her best to pull her team back by scoring 11 of her 12 points in the third quarter. The Lady Blazers were within 33-28 late in the period, but Nwajei answered with a three-pointer. Ashanae McLaughlin added 12 points and Kimberly Viafara had seven for Bergtraum.

"We just have to find a rhythm," Nwajei said.

Bergtraum was unable to disrupt the Hilltoppers' flow for any extended period of time with its signature pressure, something Coach Ed Grezinsky credited to having steady ball handlers in Nwajei, Mohamed and Mei-Lyn Bautista. His

team on the other hand, he believed, forced shots at times on offense.

"When you hold a team to 50 points, you are supposed to win the game," he said. "We have to do better offensively than we did."

The Mary Louis effort was certainly improved. Gully said the team has tried to stay upbeat the last few weeks and believes the efforts not to let it overwhelm them paid off against Bergtraum. Unlike against Bishop Loughlin, TMLA didn't let a lead get away and they hope it's the start of a new trend.

"I just think we didn't let it happen this time," Gully said. "It really got us to thinking if we can do it now we can keep doing it."

Patroits triumph in unity

Francis Lewis girls share the load to rise to the occasion

BY MARC RAIMONDI

Jasmine Davis had the ball at the free throw line with the clock winding down. Francis Lewis was up just two points with under a minute remaining in the game. All of a sudden, Tyese Purvis cut to the basket on the baseline.

"I didn't know whether to shoot it or pass it," Davis said. "But I saw her right there under the basket and I just dipped it into her."

Purvis made the layup, got fouled and converted the three-point play. The sequence was the perfect example of unselfishness from Francis Lewis in a 51-46 win over Banneker in PSAL Class AA girls' basketball Dec. 12 in Fort Greene.

"We shared the ball more," Purvis said. "We looked for each other more. In our system, when we look for each other more, everyone is open in the right spots. There's wide-open shots."

Her layup wasn't necessarily wide open, but she went up strong and put it in while getting hit with 23.6 seconds left. That would be the last basket of the game for either team. Previously, Banneker superstar Africa Williams pulled her team within 46-44, but Jazmine Hamlet knocked down an 18-foot jumper with 1:01 left to give Lewis (3-2, 3-1 'AA')



Francis Lewis senior Tyese Purvis had 21 points.

Photo by Lauren Marsh

some breathing room.

"It's not just about winning the game," Lewis Coach Steve Tsai said. "We have to get better. This is

a good sign. It's nothing to celebrate yet, but I think it's progress."

Lewis was still smarting from an embarrassing

loss to Kellenberg (L.I.) in which it trailed 33-15 at halftime. That performance was a far cry from the ones put in by last year's team, which advanced to the PSAL Class AA semifinals. The Patriots were more like that team against Banneker (4-1, 4-1 'AA'), which already owns a win against 13-time defending city champion Murry Bergtraum.

The way Lewis moved the ball, especially late in the game, was a sight to behold against Banneker's zone. It's not quite Pete Carril's Princeton offense, but the Patriots' motion set is difficult to defend when they are unselfish.

"They were moving

Continued on Page 46

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Pigskin

Continued from Page 43

division and mentored electric wide receiver Shane Hubbard. If starting running backs Devven Baker and Antoine Arnold were not ineligible late in the year, maybe Adams even wins a game in the postseason — at least it would have gotten a better seed.

FIRST TEAM

Offense

WR Antoine Allen,

Campus Magnet

When the ball was in his hands, Campus Magnet was in scoring position. Speedy and strong, Allen made 24 catches for 408 yards and five touchdowns, leading the Bulldogs back to the PSAL City Championship division quarterfinals.

QB/RB James Coleman, Christ the King

The talented and hard-to-tackle junior took over at quarterback a few games into the year and the Royals played their best football of

the season. He was third in the CHSFL in total offense with 2,108 yards to go along with 20 total touchdowns, helping to make the players around him better.

OL James Driver, Campus Magnet

One of the city's top left tackles, Campus Magnet made a habit out of running behind the 6-foot-7, 270-pound mountain of a man. Replacing skill-position standouts, while difficult, is doable; finding guys like Driver is near-impossible.

QB Yianni Gavalas, Holy Cross

The accurate, left-handed senior was second in the CHSFL in yardage (1,702) and tied for sixth in touchdown passes (11). One of the top pocket passers in the league, Gavalas was a big reason for Holy Cross' early success.

QB Jason Gonzalez, Flushing

The senior transformed himself into a dual threat over the summer and saw the results this fall. Not just a runner anymore, though he did account for 363 yards and six touchdowns on the ground, the tougher-than-nails quarterback threw for 648 yards and eight touchdowns. His progression made it tougher for defenses to key on Flushing's punishing ground game and helped the Queens school get back to the City Championship division playoffs.

Storm

Continued from Page 55

point lead and effectively end Fordham's second-half run.

A common trend for the rest of the season will include a substantial increase in playing time for the St. John's starters. Dunlap didn't make a single substitution in the first half and Stith saw only four minutes in the second. Out of the six-player rotation, four players battled for the entire 40 minutes.

Harrison talked about the physical effects after the game.

"Actually, I'm feeling

pretty good. We got a W so my energy is at a high right now, so I like it," said Harrison.

That attitude might change through the duration of Big East play, which will begin Tuesday against Providence.

But Dunlap sees it another way, comparing his team to a "fine wine" that is maturing rapidly.

Freshman Moe Harkless, who finished with 13 points and 16 rebounds, seems to be up for the challenge.

"Once you get that second wind, I could keep playing another 40 minutes probably," said Harkless.

Patriots

Continued from Page 55

[the ball] and we weren't rotating correctly," Williams said. "They were going backdoor and we weren't reading the defense."

Tsai was happy with how things went for the most part on that end of the

floor, despite many missed chances from 8 feet and in. On defense, he wasn't as pleased. Williams dropped in 30 points and Diara Adger added 11 points. Banneker senior point guard Jenipher "JayAre" Rodriguez played through painful kidney stones — a recurring problem for her — in the second half.

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4	6	2	9	7	5	8	1	3
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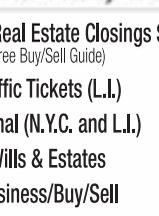


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NOTICE OF SALE
BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP F/K/A COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING L.P. in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 248 shares of stock of ACROPOLIS GARDENS REALTY CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 21-27 33RD ST 1H, ASTORIA, NY 11105. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on January 13, 2012 at 10:30 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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NOTICE OF SALE
Chase Home Finance, LLC, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 200 shares of stock of LAURELTON GARDENS CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 131-04 LAURELTON PARKWAY, LOWER UNIT, ROSEDALE, NY 11432. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on January 6th, 2012 at 10:15AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured

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NOTICE OF SALE
Chase Home Finance, LLC, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 650 shares of stock of GOTHIC TENANTS' CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 84-50 169TH STEET, UNIT 603, JAMAICA, NY 11432. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said

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premises. The sale shall be on January 13th, 2012 at 9:45AM at the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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NOTICE OF SALE
CitiMortgage, Inc., in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 172 shares of stock of ALLEY POND OWNERS

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CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 226-45 A KINGSBURY AVE APT 45A, BAYSIDE, NY 11364. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on January 13th, 2012 at 10:00AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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NOTICE OF SALE
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 366 shares of stock of HYDE PARK OWNERS CORP. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 6934 138TH ST B, KEW GARDENS HILLS, NY 11367. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on January 6, 2012 at 10:45 AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The secured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occu-

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NOTICE OF SALE
JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, in accordance with its rights as current secured party, will conduct a public sale of security: the proprietary lease and 293 shares of stock of THE BEVERLY HOUSE, INC. Said security is appurtenant to premises: located at 84-51 BEVERLY ROAD, APT. 5W, KEW GARDENS, NY 11415. Said sale includes the fixtures and articles of personal property now or hereafter affixed to or used in connection with said premises. The sale shall be on January 6th, 2012 at 10:30AM on the front steps of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Queens, located at 88-11 Sutphin Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11435. The se-

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cured party reserves the right to bid. The secured party makes no representations or warranties as to the title or premises being sold herein. The sale is subject to any conditions of transfer set by the cooperative corporation or its board, and subject to any tenants or occupants of the subject premises and the Terms of Sale to be read at the sale. Victor Rawner, Auctioneer, License # 1224356
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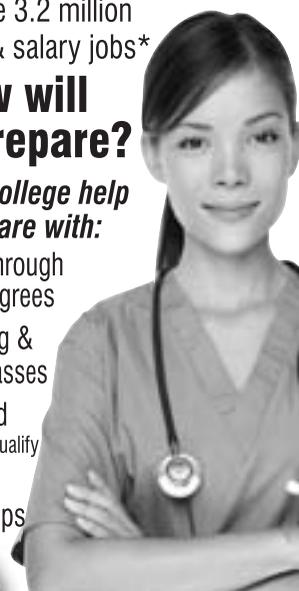
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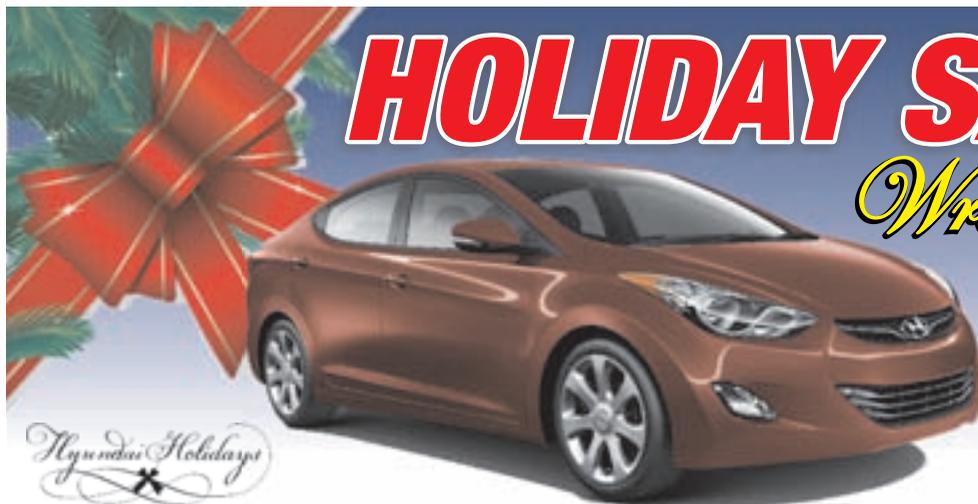
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CHRISTMAS EVE MENU

*Come Join us on Christmas Eve
December 24, 2011*

APPETIZERS:

Sauteed Calamari with Spinach
with spinach in a spicy marinara sauce

Tri-Color Salad
with grilled shrimps & scallops

Seafood Salad
*mixed seafood, with/celery, roasted peppers
and onions in a lemon, wine dressing*

ENTREES:

Paella from Spain
mixed seafood, chicken, chorizo

Surf & Turf-Rib Eye & 1 1/2 lb. Lobster
*served with vegetables & scalloped potatoes in a
brandy crab sauce*

Herb Crusted Salmon
*in a lemon, butter wine sauce served with
scalloped potatoes and vegetables*

Chicken Rollatini
*stuffed with ham, fontina cheese and spinach served with
scalloped potatoes and vegetables in an alfredo sauce.*

DESSERTS:

Snow Balls
vanilla ice cream balls enrobed with coconut

Christmas Bells
*vanilla ice cream enrobed with white chocolate,
drizzled with red and white chocolate*



CHRISTMAS DAY MENU

*Come Join us on Christmas Day
December 25, 2011*

APPETIZERS:

Sauteed Calamari with Spinach
with spinach in a spicy marinara sauce

Tri-Color Salad
with grilled shrimps & scallops

Eggplant Rollatini
stuffed with ricotta cheese and spinach

ENTREES:

Paella from Spain
mixed seafood, chicken, chorizo

Surf & Turf-Rib Eye & 1 1/2 lb. Lobster
served with vegetables & scalloped potatoes in a brandy crab sauce

Lamb Chops
served with portabella mushrooms and polenta

Stuffed Brasicoli
*ham, prosciutto, seasoned bread crumbs, hard boiled eggs and raisins
in a tomato sauce served over pappardelle pasta*

Salmon & Shrimp
*sauteed in a garlic & oil sauce with black olives, artichokes, capers
and tomatoes served over black linguine*

DESSERTS:

Snow Balls
Vanilla Ice Cream Balls enrobed with coconut

Christmas Bells
*Vanilla Ice Cream enrobed with White Chocolate, drizzled
with red and white chocolate*

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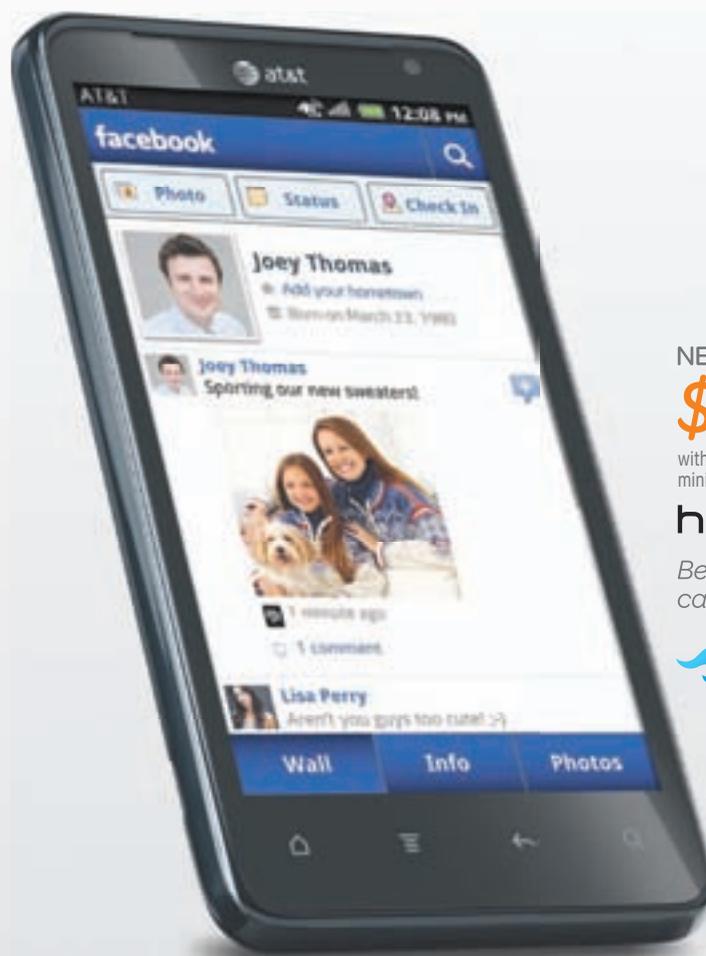
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