

## Plane group proposal met with criticism

BY MADINA TOURE

A new Port Authority proposal for a roundtable to address jet noise and pollution around Queens' two major airports has drawn mixed reactions from advocates and residents.

The PA has proposed one New York Airports Community Roundtable with two separate airport committees, one for JFK and the other for LaGuardia.

Each airport committee will have 32 voting members, with representative geographic coverage of communities affected by the airport. The combined membership will vote for an executive committee, which will be charged with formulating and approving the roundtable bylaws. Committee members would vote on the adoption of the bylaws.

The PA and the Federal Aviation Administration will attend each of the committee's meetings as well as the executive committee's sessions and serve in an advisory capacity, but will not be voting members.

"After extensive outreach to stakeholders in Queens, Brooklyn, the Bronx and Nas-

*Continued on Page 61*

# Baysiders torture maid: DA

Police seek help in search for third suspect in alleged kidnapping, assault

BY TOM MOMBERG

The Bayside couple accused of holding their maid against her will and torturing her appeared in Queens Criminal Court this week for a scheduling hearing. The third suspect still

had not been apprehended.

After setting a plea hearing for April 8, the couple's Manhattan attorney, Lawrence Fisher, tried to appeal to the judge, Dorothy Chin-Brandt, to set bail for defendant Devanand Lachman.

During the couple's arraignment, Lachman was held without bail. His wife, Ambar Lachman, who is four months' pregnant, was released on \$50,000 bail. The judge extended Devanand Lachman's bail waiver to April 22, denying Fisher's request.

The Lachmans are charged in a Feb. 13 incident in which Devanand Lachman, 32, allegedly proceeded to beat, burn and torture the couple's 54-year-old house maid until she admitted to stealing items from the couple's home, according to the criminal complaint filed by the Queens district attorney's office.

It was unclear whether the maid had actually stolen anything from the Lachmans,  
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## LET IT (NOT) SNOW



Outside the Queens Museum, a maintenance worker clears the path to the Unisphere yet again this week.

Photo by Michael Shain

## Halloran gets 10 years for bribery

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Disgraced former City Councilman Daniel Halloran, red-faced in a charcoal gray suit, sat in federal court Wednesday in front of Judge Kenneth Karas listening to

the arguments leading up to his sentencing. Halloran was found guilty by a White Plains jury of bribery, fraud, and perjury back in July. The judge sentenced Halloran to 10 years and one month in prison, two years of probation and chas-

tised him for taking bribes as a public official. He is scheduled to report to prison April 17 at noon as his lawyer appeals the verdict.

See story on Page 2

# Halloran heads to jail

Judge hands down 10 years for bribery conviction

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Former Bayside City Councilman Dan Halloran was sentenced to 10 years and one month in prison Wednesday for his role in a bribery scheme to secure a spot on the Republican line for former state Sen. Malcolm Smith in the 2013 mayoral race.

Halloran showed up at federal court in White Plains in a dark-colored suit and a baby blue tie alongside one of his brothers and lawyer Jonathan Edelstein, who was hired after the trial was over.

Federal Judge Kenneth Karas imposed the prison sentence following Halloran's jury conviction last summer on five counts involving Smith's mayoral bid and the councilman's plot to direct city money to a sham charity in exchange for support for his failing congressional campaign.

The sentencing hearing began with examining the level of charges against Halloran, which were doubled because he took bribes as a public official, had the intent of taking additional bribes, and he perjured himself repeatedly during the five day trial.

"The jury clearly found Mr. Halloran dishonest. I had a front row seat. I watched his body language, his body languages said everything and his answers were even worse," Karas said. "There is no question about his level of involvement."

The judge presided over the original trial of Halloran, Smith and former Queens GOP leader Vincent Tabone, but granted a mistrial June 2014 because some of the evidence was in Yiddish and the defense needed time for translations to examine the evidence. Halloran chose to continue with the trial alone and was found guilty in July. Smith and Ta-



Former city councilman Dan Halloran (r) and his lawyer leave the courthouse in Westchester after sentencing for his role in a bribery scheme. Photo by Sadeef Kully

bone went on trial in January on charges of bribery and fraud and were convicted after a five-week trial.

Halloran played the liaison between Smith and Tabone in the bribery scheme to get Smith the Republican nomination for the 2013 mayoral race. In exchange Halloran accepted almost \$25,000 in bribes and also promised to reallocate \$80,000 from public funding to bribe other players.

Edelstein, Halloran's defense attorney, contended the penalty and fines Halloran was facing should be lessened because he did not know he was committing a crime by accepting a bribe, which Halloran viewed as a political consultant fee.

Karas disregarded the argument due to hours of video and audio evidence that showed Halloran well aware of his position he was playing in the maneuver to get Smith, a former Democratic majority leader in Albany, a spot on the Republican ticket.

Edelstein even tried arguing that this was the test case for a Wilson-Pakula certificate, a way to run for office on another party line, and Halloran should not be punished harshly because the legality of the Wilson-Pakula is "a gray

area." Towards the end, Edelstein fell back on Halloran's years of public service, which included his experience as an Eagle Scout, to try to gain sympathy from the court.

"He lied and lied, for five days, it was troublesome and offensive," Karas said before he announced the sentence. "Public officials need to understand that they cannot take bribes."

The judge said the 121-month sentence was well below recommended guidelines.

Throughout the hearing, Halloran sat with his hands folded over his mouth at the defense table next to his lawyer.

He also will be required to serve two years' probation after his sentence is completed, but the judge said the disgraced Republican legislator would not be charged any fines because he does not have the money to pay them.

Halloran was scheduled to turn himself in April 17 to begin serving the sentence. His lawyer is appealing his conviction.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cnglocal.com](mailto:skully@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

# CB 11: No clubhouse at Windsor Oaks site

BY TOM MOMBERG

Community Board 11 shot down Windsor Oaks Tenants' Corporation's application Monday night, which would amend a 1950 variance and allow new construction to abut 77th Avenue residences in Oakland Gardens.

The strip of land in question is between Bell Boulevard and Springfield Boulevard across from the bike path.

Strong community and shareholder opposition was apparent during the community board's regular monthly meeting. Many were against a site plan for a 5,000-square-foot club house and 98 additional parking spaces as well as to clear cutting a 100-foot-wide section of trees that Windsor Oaks agreed to maintain as part of the original variance.

The tenants' corporation secured a loan in 2011 to be able to provide additional amenities. The loan was just refinanced in its fourth and final year to build the club house.

Only one of roughly two dozen board members voted in favor of the amendment, which had been previously denied by the Central/South Bayside Zoning Committee, 5-2. The two committee members who had previously voted in favor of the project flipped their votes during CB 11's motion to approve the amendment. They

said new information brought forward during Monday's public hearing had made them change their minds.

Windsor Oaks may take the amendment directly to Queens Borough President Melinda Katz next. Upon her review, the site plan may yet go in front of the city's Board of Standards and Appeals. Representatives from Katz' office attended both the committee and community board meetings. If a hearing takes place before the BSA, residents said they would continue to argue their case.

Windsor Oaks President Ronald Kaye was prepared for overwhelming opposition, having said that such opposition would have arisen out of any similar project in any geographic location.

"The objection here is simple: 'not in my backyard.' But, as far as residents of Windsor Oaks are concerned, that land belongs to all shareholders," Kaye said. "If this project was proposed for another property, we would have had an entirely different group of residents expressing 'not in my backyard.' It isn't a good enough reason not to have this project go forward."

As many as 15 residences border the proposed site plan where trees would be de-

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This strip of heavily wooded land off 77th Avenue in Windsor Oaks is being eyed for a parking lot. Photo by Julie Weissman

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# Holy Cross community supports alum's wife

## High school students, faculty join #OomphforKaty campaign for woman fighting cystic fibrosis

BY MADINA TOURE

Students and faculty at Holy Cross High School in Flushing are showing support for an alumni's wife who is currently battling cystic fibrosis.

Katy Starck Monte, 30, the wife of Joe Monte, 27, a 2005 Holy Cross graduate who is working as a firefighter, has been fighting cystic fibrosis since early childhood. Her family and friends started the hashtag #OomphforKaty to keep hope alive after her first failed transplant.

Holy Cross' Class of 2015 seniors participated in an assembly last Friday focusing on the school's tradition of brotherhood and service, where Art Department Chairman Rob Botero discussed Katy Monte's condition and the issue of organ donation.

The assembly also marked the one-week anniversary of Katy Monte receiving her second double lung transplant.

"We took the opportunity to combine what we try to teach students on a daily basis anyway about service and brotherhood and being connected and use that as the vehicle to really do something positive for the family of an

alum and someone local in town who is kind of out of options," Botero said.

Katy was diagnosed with cystic fibrosis when she was 13 months old.

In 2011, she had a double lung transplant. She went into chronic rejection a few years later and remained in the hospital until she received her second double lung transplant Feb. 19. She is still in the hospital.

Katy's friend from Florida told her that people were wishing her well and Katy said that people's wishes gave her extra "oomph" to keep fighting, which sparked the creation of the hashtag #OomphforKaty.

The social media campaign has gone viral, with strangers including celebrities, posting photos and messages on Instagram, Twitter and Facebook. The Facebook page currently has more than 11,000 followers.

But Joe Monte said the real goal behind the campaign is to raise awareness about organ donation.

"We just want to get the message across about how important organ donation is," he said.

Students in his studio art class also designed hand-drawn letters posted on the Internet to express solidarity



Holy Cross High School students and faculty are showing support for the wife of alum who is fighting cystic fibrosis.

Photo Courtesy Holy Cross High School

with Joe Monte as a graduate of the school. The letters put together spell out #OomphforKaty.

Holy Cross senior Anthony Salazar, 17, said when he and his classmates discovered the project involved raising awareness about organ donation, they became even more motivated to put it together nicely.

"All of us put in that much more effort," Salazar said. "We weren't just doing it for a grade. We were doing it because we wanted to do it for the cause."

Another senior, Brandon Nascimento, 17, who attended the assembly, said Katy Monte's situation opened his eyes to the challenges that individuals with her condition face in getting organ donations.

"It's just really an eye-opening situation for this lady and she's really in my prayers a lot," Nascimento said. "I just really hope for the best for her."

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

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# Bus service examined

NE Queens residents analyze transportation at MTA workshop

BY MADINA TOURE

About 70 northeast Queens residents flocked to Queensborough Community College last week to voice concerns about bus service in the area at a public workshop run by the MTA.

State Sen. Tony Avella (D-Bayside), who initiated the Northeast Queens Bus Study last year, said the workshop was a chance for residents to speak on the specifics of bus-related issues in the area.

"My hope is that after this study is done, it shows we need more bus service, we need to change routes, we need to improve service, we maybe need some new routes, but this is your opportunity to say exactly what the problems are and what your needs are," Avella said during the workshop.

Transportation planners for NYC Transit and MTA Bus Company presented the study. Facilitators led groups in which residents placed stickers on a map of northeast Queens indicating specific areas with bus problems.

Concerns raised during the workshop included students arriving to school late due to bus delays, schedules posted at bus stops not reflecting accurate bus times, bus bunching



Residents put stickers on a map to indicate where they have had problems with bus service. Photo by Madina Toure

and buses that stop running after a certain time in the day.

The \$500,000 study, money allocated in the state executive budget, looks at service primarily in the neighborhoods of Flushing, Whitestone, Bay Terrace, Bayside, College Point, Oakland Gardens, Douglaston, Glen Oaks, Fresh Meadows and Little Neck.

Its study area centers on Van Wyck Expressway and Queens Boulevard to the west, Hillside Avenue to the south, the Nassau County line to the east and the East River to the north.

The study area currently has 41 bus routes, which includes 22 local New York City

Transit bus routes, one NYC Transit express route, seven local MTA Bus Company routes and 11 express MTA Bus Company routes.

MTA New York City Transit operates public transportation in the city, including the subway, buses and the Staten Island Railway and the New York City Bus, according to the MTA website. The MTA Bus Company oversees bus routes that used to be run by private companies.

Existing local coverage covers 99 percent of northeast Queens. Existing express bus service, which includes subway and LIRR stations, covers

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# Traffic experts revive congestion tax debate

BY TOM MOMBERG

Transit advocates affiliated with the regional grassroots campaign, Move NY, have finalized a plan to place electronic tolls and license cameras on all bridges crossing the East River, and on 60th Street in Manhattan.

If approved by city and state governments, the plan would introduce \$8 cash tolls and \$5.54 E-ZPass tolls on the now free bridge crossings, and on every avenue crossing 60th Street. The plan simultaneously calls for a \$1 to \$2.50 toll reduction on all other bridges into Manhattan.

Supporters estimate the plan would generate an additional \$1.125 billion in annual revenue, which could help fund upgrades to mass transit.

State Assemblyman David Weprin (D-Fresh Meadows) joined other elected officials and major Queens civic groups for a news conference Sunday, expressing opposition to what's being rebranded as a "toll swap."

"Let's call it what it is. It's nothing but a renewed congestion pricing initiative," the assemblyman said at the conference.

Weprin said the plan would put a financial burden on seniors who cannot easily ride the subway; middle-class commuters who do not have easy access to public transportation; and small business owners who must drive back and forth from Manhattan for pickups and deliveries, perhaps passing along the expense to their customers.

"The Williamsburg, Manhattan and Brooklyn bridges have been free since they

were built over 100 years ago," Weprin said. "Once there are tolls, they won't be going anywhere and the prices will go up over time. There is no commitment from this plan that the other tolls being lowered won't go up again."

The assemblyman said the "toll swap" is a regressive tax and burdens his constituents. He said he would instead favor a progressive tax on commuters and a non-residential income tax.

"We in Queens pay our fair share. We pay income and property taxes like everyone else, which in general support roads and transit," Weprin said. "I think this plan is less about reducing congestion, and more about creating another revenue stream."

Weprin said that even if congestion were to be reduced, there would just be congestion elsewhere as a result. He said people would then drive to the residential areas of Brooklyn to ride the subway, creating more traffic issues.

City Councilman Mark Weprin (D-Oakland Gardens) - his brother - stands on the opposite side of the "toll swap" debate. He said the 4 percent mass transit fare hikes, scheduled to go into effect this month, would not be necessary if such tolls were in place.

"This is the solution. It's outrageous that there are now seven proposed toll fare increases and these bridges remain free. They cost money to maintain, so the financial burden is on everyone else," Mark Weprin said. "Many of those commuters can af-

*Continued on Page 61*

# New bank account for NYers

BY MADINA TOURE

For New Yorkers who have been relying on check-cashing services as an alternative to bank accounts, the city Department of Consumer Affairs has partnered with financial institutions to offer an affordable bank account.

The product, known as the New York City SafeStart Account, has no upfront fees, no overdraft fee and accepts a minimum balance of \$25. The agency has partnered with 11 institutions, including Carver Federal Savings Bank, Popular Community Bank and TD Bank, where people can access the account.

New Yorkers in two unbanked neighborhoods, Melrose in the Bronx and Jamai-



JULIE MENIN

ca, spent about \$19 million per year in check cashing fees, according to a 2008 study conducted by DCA's Office of Financial Empowerment. New Yorkers across the city spend \$225 million in check-cashing fees each year.

Individuals can open a SafeStart account at participating bank and credit union branches throughout the city

or schedule a free one-on-one financial counseling session at one of the city's financial empowerment centers to learn about opening an account.

"If a consumer tried on their own to go into the bank and negotiate this, they wouldn't be able to, so that's why this was great that the city negotiated this product for consumers," DCA Commissioner Julie Menin said in an interview at the TimesLedge offices last week.

Several years ago, the agency issued a request for proposals to financial institutions in order to get individuals into bank accounts and away from check-cashing services, Menin said.

Out of 825,000 New York-  
*Continued on Page 61*



Assemblyman David Weprin speaks at a news conference on Sunday at 25-01 Bridge Plaza North, opposing Move NY's "toll swap" plan. Photo by Michael Shain



# Meeks boycotts Netanyahu speech

Rest of Queens delegation attends address challenging Obama's negotiations with Iran

BY THE TIMESLEDGER STAFF

U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica) joined almost 60 other congressional members and senators to boycott Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech to a joint session of Congress Tuesday on negotiations with Iran.

Netanyahu's trip, scheduled through House Speaker John Boehner's (R-Ohio) office without notifying President Obama in advance, has drawn fire from Democrats who have argued it was intended to undercut the White House and its position on nuclear talks with Iran.

Before the Netanyahu speech, Meeks released a statement saying: "Just two weeks shy of an election in Israel, and without advance notice to the administration, the House Republican leadership has broken protocol and invited the prime minister to speak before Congress. It is a breach of decorum for Republicans to break established norms and the bipartisan spirit of cooperation that we have had toward



Members of the Queens congressional delegation came away with different views of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial speech to a joint session of Congress. Andrew Harnik/AP

Israel, and I am disappointed in my colleagues for engaging our allies in domestic partisan

politics."

Meeks insisted he was still a strong supporter of Israel.

On Monday morning there were more than 30 House members and senators who

were not attending the speech, but in less than 24 hours the number jumped to nearly 60, according to tabulations made by the TimesLedger.

The Israeli leader's U.S. visit took place as two important dates loomed: March 17 when Israel will hold parliamentary elections and March 31, the deadline in the U.S.-led negotiations over Iran's nuclear program.

"These negotiations are but one possible means of addressing Iran's nuclear aspirations, and the administration has been clear that all options are on the table," Meeks said after the Netanyahu speech. "I hope that Congress can move forward with the tradition of bipartisan support for Israel, and work closely with President Obama in our national security interests above all else."

The rest of the Queens delegation attended Netanyahu's speech in which he warned against the "bad deal" being negotiated with Iran and criticized Obama's decision to

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## Two Flushing HS grads testify in trial of al Qaeda operative

BY MADINA TOURE

Two former Flushing High School students who pleaded guilty to plotting to bomb the city's subway system back in 2010 testified in the Brooklyn federal trial of an al Qaeda operative who was convicted this week for his role in an international terrorism scheme targeting the United States and Europe.

Following a two-week trial, Abid Naseer, 28, a Pakistani national who joined al Qaeda and plotted to commit a terrorist attack in the United Kingdom, was found guilty by a jury in Brooklyn federal court Wednesday. He was convicted of providing and conspiring to provide material support to al Qaeda and conspiring to use a destructive device, the U.S. attorney for the Eastern District



NAJIBULLAH ZAZI

in Brooklyn said.

Najibullah Zazi, the Flushing grad who was asked to testify in the trial, said that after he was trained on how to use explosives in Pakistan, he was directed by the same al Qaeda leader as Naseer, according to the U.S. Attorney's Office. Zarein Ahmedzay, another one

of the Flushing trio, also testified.

In September 2008, al-Qaeda leaders in Pakistan recruited Zazi, Ahmedzay and Adis Medunjanin, three friends who met at Flushing High School, to conduct a suicide bombing attack in the city, federal prosecutors said. The al-Qaeda leaders communicated with Zazi about the plot through an al-Qaeda facilitator named "Ahmad" in Peshawar, Pakistan.

In early September 2009, after the three chose the city's subway system as their target, Zazi emailed "Ahmad" in Pakistan about ingredients for the main charge explosive, which included flour and oil.

Zazi pleaded guilty to his role in the plot in February 2010. Ahmedzay, another

*Continued on Page 56*

## Residents assess state of Flushing Mds. Park

BY MADINA TOURE

At least 55 residents weighed in on the state of the Flushing Meadows Corona Park at a community forum at the Queens Museum over the weekend.

The forum, held at the museum Sunday, gave residents the opportunity to provide input on ways to improve the park as part of a project that the nonprofit Design Trust for Public Space, in conjunction with the Queens Museum and the city Department of Parks and Recreation, is working on to improve the access, circulation and connectivity of the park. Community advisers presented preliminary design concepts for feedback.

The project's goal is to better engage community members in the planning design

and management of the park.

"It was inspiring to see the creative process of our community advisers in developing a diverse set of design concepts for the park's enhancement, and the great attention from the public at this first community forum," Susan Chin, Design Trust's executive director, said in a statement.

Janice Melnick, the park's administrator, said it was a good opportunity for the community to come out and voice their opinions.

"I thought it was great," Melnick said. "The snow probably kept some people away, but the people who came were really enthusiastic and interested in the project and what was being presented."

The forum consisted of

*Continued on Page 56*

# Willets Pt. group asks city to repair streets

BY MADINA TOURE

Willets Point United is calling on the Queens Borough Board to allocate funding to repair streets that will not be affected by the \$3 billion Willets Point Development plan in the immediate future.

Irene Prestigiaco, a WPU member and a private property owner in Willets Point for the past 26 years, testified at the Feb. 23 budget hearing for the Queens Borough Board, which is chaired by Queens Borough President Melinda Katz.

During her testimony, she commended Community Board 7 for including the reconstruction of Willets Point streets in its list of top capital priorities for fiscal years 2015 and 2016.

But she questioned the city Department of Transportation's \$15 million price tag for the project and accused the Queens Borough Board of neglecting the area.

"I don't know how they arrived at that figure," Prestigiaco said. "I think their

arithmetic is really bogus."

Gerald Antonacci told the TimesLedger in December that problem areas are in the northern and eastern ends of the area, noting 34th Avenue, 126th Place, 127th Street, 127th Place and 35th Avenue and Willets Point Boulevard. Concerns include the large number of potholes, uneven roads and a dearth of litter baskets and sewers.

The \$3 billion plan, which expanded from 62 acres to 108.9 acres, includes a megamall to be built on parkland, mixed-income housing, a convention center, a hotel and community facilities.

Because the current Willets Point Development Plan refers only to the first phase of Willets Point — 23 acres of the entire 62-acre site — the remaining 39 acres will not be affected in the immediate future. About 100 businesses operate outside of the first phase.

In a letter dated Dec. 20, 2012 to City Councilman Peter Koo (D-Flushing), the DOT said the \$15 million estimate



Willets Point United is asking the city to fund the repair of streets in Willets Point not part of the development plan. Photo by Michael Shain

covers costs for the agency and that funds would also be required from the city Department of Environmental Protection for sewers and storm-water management, which would increase the cost.

"Streets in the Willets Point area are in severe disrepair and require substantial work beyond basic reconstruction and as a result, would require more than \$15 mil-

lion for repair," a DOT spokeswoman said in an email. "DOT is working on an updated estimate for infrastructure repair at Willets Point."

David Antonacci of WPU wrote a letter dated Feb. 23 on behalf of WPU to Katz requesting that the city dedicate the \$15 million to the project. Marilyn Bitterman, CB 7's district manager, also sent a letter dated Oct. 8, 2013 to then Borough

Commissioner Dalila Hall asking the DOT to perform a "wear and tear" on streets within the second phase of the development plan.

CB 7 declined to comment on the matter.

Ralph St. John of St. John Enterprises, Inc., a general contractor in Willets Point with 30 years of experience specializing in excavation, shoring, concrete, structural and site work, said the company could undertake the street repairs, regrading and new asphalt paving at a cost less than what the DOT projected.

"We can perform this work with our own forces and equipment," St. John wrote in a letter dated Jan. 9, 2013. "This service can provide an upliftment for our own neighborhood, as well as provide a cost savings to the NYC DOT, the City of New York and its taxpayers."

WPU is currently appealing a case in which City Group, wanted to take property to the left of the stadium, which is parkland. The appeal will be heard in April.

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# Rego Pk. man admits threatening Muslims: FBI

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

A Rego Park resident has pleaded guilty in federal court in Brooklyn to sending threatening communications from New York to an employee of the Council on American Islamic Relations, a civil rights and advocacy group, in Washington, D.C., the Federal Bureau of Investigation said.

Bernhard Laufer, a 58-year-old resident of Rego Park, has pleaded guilty to another hate crime. In November 2012, Laufer allegedly stabbed a Flushing Muslim imam while yelling anti-Muslim slurs at him and was charged with attempted murder and assault, according to the Queens district attorney's office. The case has not yet gone to trial.

In the latest episode, Laufer admitted that he sent threatening communications to the employee of the Council on American Islamic Relations in June 2014, according to the criminal complaint filed by Justice Department. These communications threatened



Bernhard Laufer of Rego Park has pleaded guilty to threatening the head of the Council of American Islamic Relations in Washington D.C., according to the FBI.

the staff with significant bodily harm and death, the complaint said.

"Those who make violent

threats to others because of race, religion or national origin must be held accountable," said Acting Assistant Attor-

ney General Vanita Gupta of the Civil Rights Division. "The Justice Department is committed to vigorously prosecuting

those who engage in such conduct."

CAIR, the nation's largest Muslim civil rights group, said Laufer allegedly sent a number of death threats to Executive Director Nihad Awad and other CAIR staff over the past week.

"We thank all the state and national law enforcement authorities whose swift and professional action made this arrest possible," said CAIR National Communications Director Ibrahim Hooper. "This is yet another incident demonstrating the actual, imminent harm that can result from Islamophobia."

He also mentioned that CAIR launched a campaign promoting interfaith unity to counter anti-Islam ads placed on Washington, D.C., area buses by a hate group led by Pamela Geller.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cn-glocal.com](mailto:skully@cn-glocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

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# POLICE Blotter

## Man robs College Point Blvd. spa: NYPD

COLLEGE POINT — Police were looking for an individual who robbed a spa in College Point, the NYPD said.

The individual entered the Jessica Holistic Spa at 42-26 College Point Blvd. Feb. 19 at about 6:48 a.m., police said.

The individual allegedly simulated the possession of a firearm and demanded cash, they said.

The suspect then fled the location with about \$400 in cash. There were no injuries sustained, they added.

The suspect is described as a 25-year-old black male, about 5-foot-9 and 170 pounds, police said.

No arrests have been made yet, according to an NYPD spokeswoman.



Police are looking for a suspect wanted in connection with a College Point robbery.

Photo courtesy NYPD

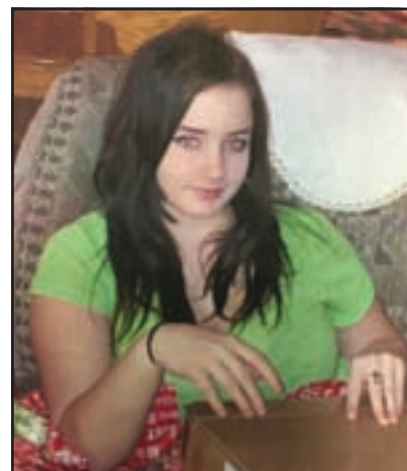
## Police searching for missing Bayside teen

BAYSIDE — The New York Police Department's 111th Precinct is seeking public assistance in locating a missing teenager who was last seen on Saturday, Feb. 28, at about 10 p.m. on the corner of Bell Boulevard and Northern Boulevard.

The 17-year-old girl, Brandie Leigh Gray, was last seen wearing a black Northface jacket with a fur hood, a black V-neck shirt, light blue jeans and gray Nike high-top sneakers.

Gray is white with black hair, green eyes. She is about 5-feet-4-inches tall, weighs roughly 170 pounds and has a cross tattoo on her left middle finger.

Gray is a resident of 36th Avenue, in Queens.



BRANDIE LEIGH GRAY

## Jamaica man used machete in attack: Cops

JAMAICA — A Jamaica man was arrested and taken to the hospital after attacking a female victim with machete knife after a verbal dispute turned into a physical assault.

Jose Hernandez, 29, from 148-48 on 88th Avenue, allegedly took a machete to female victim after dispute after being accused of abusing the victim's dog.

The 103rd Precinct responded to

the incident and the officer on scene requested two ambulances, one for the perpetrator and one for the victim, who suffered from a laceration on her left arm.

Hernandez was charged with assault, criminal possession of a weapon, menacing and harassment at Queens criminal courts. Hernandez is due back in court on April 23.

**Got tips?**

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# New lighting scheme could save Pavilion

BY BILL PARRY

Motorists on the Long Island Expressway and the Grand Central Parkway were treated to a free light show last Friday evening. The observation towers of the New York State Pavilion were illuminated in a variety of colors as borough and city officials ran the first test of what might become a permanent installation.

"It was a very successful test for two hours," Alex Herrera, the director of Technical Services at the New York Landmarks Conservancy said. "We used LED floodlights on the roof of the Queens Museum with a few more around the Pavilion. It was really interesting."

It was the first step in a \$5.8 million restoration project for the

More photos on  
**PAGE 42**

New York State Pavilion and the adjacent Tent of Tomorrow, two of the structures designed by legendary architect Philip Johnson for the 1964 World's Fair. The 50th anniversary drew 60,000 people to Flushing Meadows Corona Park in May, leading Queens Park Department Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski to say, "We realized just how important the Pavilion is to the public."

Last month, Borough President Melinda Katz made restoration of the Pavilion a centerpiece of her State of the Borough Address.

"Bringing back these structures is a high priority for her," Herrera said. "She thinks it's important for the borough and important for the city. This test went so well she's even more interested in the project and wants it to go forward."

Stabilizing the Pavilion as a monument is expected to cost over \$43 million, without allowing public access. A complete restoration that would rebuild the stairs and elevators and allow visitors to return to the observation decks would cost \$52 million.

"The hope is that lighting the towers will raise awareness and help raise more funding for further restoration," Herrera said.

Matthew Silva, co-founder of People for the Pavilion, a non-profit advocacy organization, called Friday's devel-

opment "exciting" and feels momentum growing for the restoration project. Silva has just completed a documentary film, two years in the making, called "Modern Ruin: A World's Fair Pavilion."

The film explores the vibrant history of the structure through interviews with historians, architects and fairgoers and is expected to make its debut screenings around the borough this spring.

On Saturday, author Christian Kellberg is scheduled to have a lecture and book signing for his photo book about the New York State Pavilion. "The book covers the history from construction to where it is today," Kellberg said. "Fortunately, it's still standing after all these decades without maintenance."

Kellberg grew up in Flushing and spends time volunteering with the Pavilion Paint Crew even though he is currently living in Washington, D.C. His lecture and book signing will take place March 7 at the Queens Historical Society, 143-35 37th Ave. in Flushing, at 2:30 p.m.

"The book has 160 photographs," Kellberg said. "And a chapter dedicated to all the pop artists who showed their work on the Pavilion's walls, people like Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein and Ellsworth Kelly. That structure has some history."

"The joyful energy and exorbitant spirit of the crowd made up for its sparsity."



The staircase from the first deck to the top floor.

# De Blas hears critics

Mayor matches in St. Pat's with horse carriage foes



Steven Malone and members of the horse carriage industry march for the first time in the St. Pat's for All Parade in Sunnyside. **More photos on Page 44.** Photo by Bill Parry

BY BILL PARRY

One of the smallest crowds in recent memory turned out for the 16th annual St. Pat's for All Parade in Sunnyside. Organizer Brendan Fay put the blame on the heavy snow that began falling an hour before the parade stepped off at 2 p.m. after the route was shortened by three blocks by the NYPD.

"It was probably our smallest crowd in many years but we never considered postponing it, not for a moment," Fay said. "The joyful energy and exorbitant spirit of the crowd made up for its sparsity."

City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside), who lives in the neighborhood, praised the crowd for coming out in a "blizzard" and "despite the MTA," which had suspended the No. 7 subway line during the weekend for ongoing repairs. "Shame on the MTA for not having the 7 train running today," Van Bramer said. Bad service on weekdays, no service on the weekends, unacceptable.

Mayor de Blasio led the parade for the second straight year and he got an earful from pockets of spectators along Skillman Avenue who object to his plans to deck over the Sunnyside Yards and build more than 11,000 units of affordable housing. Shouts of "Say no to the Sunnyside Yards" and "Build it in Brooklyn" could be heard clearly by the marchers.

"I did hear them," de Blasio said. "In a democracy, people have the right to their opinions. I happen to believe

that Sunnyside Yards opens an opportunity for a huge amount of affordable housing so people can continue to live in Queens, many of whom are being forced out right now by rising prices."

The mayor was seen having an animated conversation with Van Bramer as they marched. The councilman opposes high-rise buildings that would be out of character with the Long Island City and Sunnyside neighborhoods that surround the yards. Boths are in his district.

"As we've said many times - and the elected officials who've said this, to their credit - any development in Sunnyside Yards will have to be done with the community in a way that really considers the needs of the community and the height - and the scale of the communities around it," de Blasio said. "But it's a huge site. Some parts of that site can accommodate some height and density, others less so. But I think it's the kind of thing we should have a real conversation about --- how to get it right because we need the affordable housing."

The mayor's attempts to ban the horse carriage industry from city streets was another subplot during the parade. Steven Malone, the spokesman for Historical Carriages of Central Park, drove his horse-drawn carriage up Skillman Avenue. Many of the shops and restaurants along the route had signs saying "We Support NYC Carriages" on doors and windows.

"It was magical to go back

to the neighborhood and be recognized by the community and the elected officials up and down Skillman Avenue," said Malone, who was born and raised in Sunnyside. "I really appreciate it, and we hope to go back and do it every year. It may have been freezing but the snow made the day that much more magical."

Malone doesn't think his group's reception along the parade route would do anything to change the mayor's opinion. "I don't know if he hung around to talk to any of the people that were supporting us," he said. "I hope he does come around and reaches out to us for a discussion, of which there's been zero."

De Blasio stood by his efforts to enforce the ban and promised that there would be a "vigorous debate" in the City Council.

The mayor said that he will march in the 40th annual Queens County Parade in Rockaway Saturday but that he would not take part in Manhattan's St. Patrick's Day Parade unless this year's event becomes more inclusive. He suggested the parade organizers should include more than one group of LGBT NBC employees.

"I hope for some more progress with the parade in Manhattan, but there is still time," de Blasio said. We look forward to some additional discussion and I certainly welcome any discussions with anybody who wants to make it more inclusive."



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# Police train residents like academy recruits

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

The NYPD has been making strides to reconnect with communities by giving the public a chance to see the officer training experience at the police academy.

The training program, Fire Arms Tactical Simulator, known as F.A.T.S., was held Feb. 23 at the Greater Springfield Community Church on 129th Avenue where more than 35 residents gathered to see and participate in the demonstration.

"This is a training modality with our recruits," said Inspector Raymond Caroli, part of the NYPD training and firearms section. "This video-based training shows their sense of judgment in stressful situations."

Fire Arms Tactical Simulator, a training program for the NYPD, uses video simulation to create real-life scenarios for police officers. It includes characters that respond in real time to a command from the officer. Scenarios can turn violent or a situation can be handled peacefully depending on the how the training officer handles the conflict.

"The idea is that there are real consequences to your actions. This is about judgment calls under stress, specific to the use the force," said Caroli. "It is a very critical training. We raise the stress level to see their response and then critique them. The idea that the NYPD is on a shooting rampage is just not true."

There are three major forms of training; lecture-based training, video-based training, and actual scenario training, where role-playing instructors play criminals and officers armed with paintball guns said Caroli.

The demonstration required participants to wear a gun belt with a modified .99mm gun and a baton. The participants, playing officers, are put into situations where they must deal with a drunkard holding a brick or a

large man who jumped the turnstile or someone with a weapon. The demonstration was entertaining for most participants, but the reality of police relations in their community was not past them.

"I basically think this is to cover their backs with all the chaos that's going on," said Dr. Reba Perry, who owns a child day-care center in Springfield Gardens. "I have seen them stop and frisk young men in front of my day-care center. But I am not angry like most people. I get it. For instance, I don't think that cop who shot the kid in the staircase should be charged. I know that neighborhood and it is a bad neighborhood, especially with a stairwell with no lighting. I don't think the cop did it purposely. I don't think he should be charged."

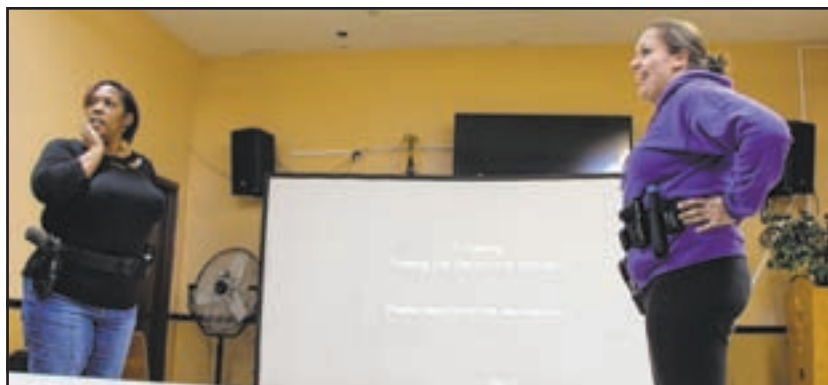
Perry was the first participant in the demonstration where she played an officer, who has to deal with a large size, aggressive male civilian who did not pay his metro fare.

After the demonstration, Perry said, "He was a big guy, I thought he was going to try something."

Perry's colleague, Denise Rodriguez, came to the event for different reasons.

"I have a 25-year-old year old son and I worry every time he walks out that door, because of the stereotype," said Rodriguez, whose son is a college student at Morehouse College in Atlanta, Ga. "He looks like any other other kid from this neighborhood and it is important to know what is going on in our community."

In January, the NYPD announced it would be re-evaluating its training program and putting pilot programs into select precincts to address the rift in community relations since the death of Eric Garner from a chokehold by a NYPD officer in Staten Island, and the fatal shooting of Akai Gurley, who was shot in a stairwell in Brooklyn in November.



Participants of the Fire Arms Tactical Section demonstration wore the NYPD police belt which included a modified .99mm and a baton for the training software used by NYPD officers for training at the Greater Springfield Community Church in Jamaica on Feb. 23rd.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

TIMESLEDGER.COM



# Kew Gardens Hills death ruled homicide: Examiner

BY MADINA TOURE

The death of a man in Kew Gardens Hills home on Valentine's Day was ruled a homicide, the Queens district attorney said.

Popal Rahmatullah, 21, of Kew Gardens Hills was charged with burglary, robbery and criminal possession of stolen property, according to the criminal complaint filed by the Queens DA.

Lopyan, 56, was found dead in his home at 141-27 77th Ave. in Kew Gardens Hills Feb. 14 at about 8:37 a.m. He was pronounced dead at 8:50 a.m.

The cause of death was cardiac arrhythmia during the physical altercation due to hypertensive and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, according to Julie Bolcer, a spokeswoman for the city med-



The death of Kevin Lopyan, 56, found on Valentine's Day in the basement of this house on 77th Avenue in Kew Gardens, is being classified as a homicide,

Google Earth

where he is accused of kicking Lopyan in the stomach, the complaint said. Lopyan allegedly punched Rahmatullah in the face, picked up a piece of plastic roofing and used it to shove Lopyan away from him, the DA said.

Rahmatullah saw Lopyan hit his head on the door and fall to the floor onto his back, the complaint said. He allegedly got on top of Lopyan as

he had a seizure and held him down with the piece of roofing until he stopped moving, according to the complaint.

Between 9:50 a.m. and 10:07 a.m., Rahmatullah yelled and screamed at a Mobil gas station at 67-20 Main St. and refused to leave the location, according to another criminal

ical examiner.

Between 8 a.m. and 8:50 a.m. Feb. 14, Rahmatullah went to Lopyan's house to collect \$200 Lopyan owed him, according to the criminal complaint. Lopyan gave him a blank check and threw him out of the house, the DA's court papers said.

He allegedly re-entered the house through the basement,

# Meng's Lunar bill passes U.S. Senate

BY MADINA TOURE

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a measure by U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) calling on Congress to formally recognize Lunar New Year.

The measure, a congressional resolution, asks Congress to recognize the cultural and historical significance of Lunar New Year and honor Asian Americans and other individuals worldwide who celebrate the holiday.

Out of the 2.2 million residents in Queens County, 24 percent are Asian, according to the 2010 U.S. Census. In Flushing, 57 percent of residents are Asian.

Meng said the bill is an effort to bring about more awareness of the holiday nationwide.

"Resolutions are a tool for us to use to be able to inform people that there is a holiday that exists," Meng said in an interview with TimesLedger.

"In New York, a lot of people know, but that's not necessarily true in other parts of the country."

The measure is now waiting for a vote in the House of Representatives. The resolution has been referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, which has jurisdiction over the issue.

Gov. Cuomo signed a bill Meng first introduced when she was in the state Assembly that requires school boards to consider closing schools on a day when many students will be absent due to religious or cultural observances. The law also applies to Chinese New Year and Diwali, the festival of lights celebrated by Hindus every year.

Mayor Bill de Blasio and Schools Chancellor Carmen Fariña announced the city would recognize Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as holidays on the official school calendar.

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# YOU CAN BANK ON IT

There is a hidden banking crisis in Queens as immigrants flock to expensive check-cashing services rather than using traditional financial institutions such as banks.

A survey of immigrant communities in western Queens from Corona to Long Island City found a deep distrust of mainstream institutions because of language barriers and a lack of services tailored to their cultures.

Many in the study conducted by the Northwest Queens Financial Education Network said they had bank accounts at one time, but nearly half had closed the accounts because of excessive fees and language barriers in the services offered. The Nepali and Tibetan communities were among the most isolated because banks did not have services available in their languages.

Even though the immigrants have turned to predatory check-cashing services and remittance agencies, nine out of 10 put aside some money into savings each month, the survey found. The network pointed out that these so-called fringe institutions are considered mainstream in many immigrant communities.

What the immigrants lose by operating outside the traditional financial networks is access to reasonable loans to start businesses, the chance to build a credit history and a means of financing education.

In fact, City Consumer Affairs Commissioner Julie Menin estimates that check-cashing services charge individual customers between \$500 and \$1,000 a year.

Queens immigrants are not alone in shunning traditional banks. Menin said 825,000 New Yorkers do not have bank accounts and her agency has launched an aggressive campaign to bring affordable banking to all the neighborhoods across the city.

The New York City SafeStart Account requires a minimum balance of \$25. Period. There are no up-front fees and no overdraft fee. The department has chosen 11 larger banking partners, including Carver, Popular and TD Bank, where people can open the accounts.

Her agency is using interpreters of many languages to alert 250,000 eligible New Yorkers to the Earned Income Tax Credit program, which can produce tax refunds from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Individuals who make about \$18,000 a year and families with a combined income of \$52,400 or less qualify for what Menin told the TimesLedger is "real money."

Kudos to Consumer Affairs for taking a front line role in tackling income inequality at the base line in Queens and the rest of the city.



## CUB REPORTERS

Members of Cub Scout Troop 49, Den 3 in Bayside recently dropped into the offices of the TimesLedger to see how newspapers are produced.

Photo by Bill Parry

## OTHER VOICES

# Bayside Times: Octogenarian

Happy 80th Anniversary, Bayside Times. Flushing Times and TimesLedger newspapers. It could not have come at a better time with the New York Daily News closing its Queens Bureau. Daily newspapers such as The Times, Post, Newsday and Daily News concentrate on international, Washington, Albany, City Hall, business and sports stories. They have few reporters assigned to cover local neighborhood news stories. These reporters have to compete against colleagues for limited available print space. As a result, daily newspapers miss significant news and political

stories from the outerborough communities.

We continue to be fortunate to live in one of the few remaining free societies, with a wealth of information sources available. Sadly, most American cities and suburbs are down to one local daily or weekly newspaper. Newspapers have to deal with increasing costs for newsprint, delivery and distribution along with reduced advertising revenues and declining readership.

Please join me along with your neighbors who read the Bayside Times, the Flushing Times and the TimesLedger newspapers

and other local weekly community newspapers. Patronize their advertisers; they provide the revenues necessary to keep them in business. Let them know you saw their ad. This is what helps keep our neighbors employed, the local economy growing and provides space for your favorite or not so favorite letter writers.

*Larry Penner  
Great Neck*

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# Horse carriages have sustained Queens' Irish

Last Sunday Queens celebrated our Irish heritage with the St. Patrick's Day for All Parade through Sunnyside. It was an opportunity for us to show our support for an Irish and Queens institution that is under threat: New York City's horse carriages.

Many Irish immigrants settled in Queens, and our families remain there today. Our parents and grandparents brought more than their families across the Atlantic. They brought their food, their culture, their humor, and their values, including the special connection between the Irish and their horses.

In County Louth, my father was a blacksmith, like his father, like his grandfather. He built the streets of his village

with teams of horses. In New York, he kept that homeland tradition alive, fixing carriages, shoeing horses, and finally driving a carriage in Central Park.

The horse carriages have given so much to Queens' Irish. Many of us got jobs right off the boat in this industry and were able to put down roots, buy a house and raise a family. When we were able to invest in a carriage and horse of our own, we had a job-creating small business that we could pass down to our children, as my father did. In the succeeding years, Queens has become more diverse, and immigrants from Central America, the Caribbean, and Asia have joined the carriage trade.

If Mayor De Blasio gets his

way, Queens and New York's Irish will lose this dear tradition. Jackson Height's Council Member, Daniel Dromm, has unthinkably sided against his constituents and sponsored the ban in the City Council.

Thankfully, many elected officials want to keep these family-supporting jobs alive. Queens Council Members Crowley, Constantinides, Lancman, Koslowitz, Miller, Weprin, and Ulrich have led the opposition that has thus far stalled the ban in the City Council.

Council Members Koo, Wills, Ferreras, Richards, and Van Bramer, whose Sunnyside was the site for Sunday's parade, have inexplicably remained silent.

Queens' carriage drivers

marched to celebrate our Irish roots and remind our elected officials what the horse carriages mean to our neighborhoods. We are also proud that Queens hosts the city's inclusive St. Paddy's parade, which is open to all: men and women, gay and straight, Irish or not. Like our industry, St. Patrick's Day for All honors its Irish roots by welcoming the diversity that is today's New York.

For me, the parade is a homecoming. I grew up in Sunnyside, which has always had a strong tie to the carriage industry. Hundreds of immigrants who grew up working with horses settled here, and St. Patrick's for All is a major event for my parents and all the carriage drivers who still live in the neighborhood.

Walter McCaffrey, who represented Sunnyside in the City Council during the 1980s, was as good a friend that a carriage driver could have. He taught us how to advocate for ourselves at City Hall and stand up to wealthy Manhattanites who know nothing about horses and have long hated our business.

I hope today's elected officials will remember the legacy of Councilman McCaffrey and support their constituents' jobs and the carriage horses that have supported Queens families for so many decades.

*Stephen Malone  
Central Park carriage driver  
Sunnyside*

## Broken windows affect physical education by cutting back on instruction

Law-enforcement's popular "Broken Windows" theory holds that permissiveness of small quality-of-life infractions invites larger breaches of the peace, including violent criminality. Seen this way, there is no such thing as a minor violation.

This theory also applies to education. In education, the violence is of a different nature, but it's still violence. One example of "broken windows" is the cutting back of physical education instruction in our public schools by the city's Department of Education. This widespread flouting of the state's regulations that mandate a specific number of hours and days per week for physical education instruction will not lead to civil unrest. But it is ominous nonetheless. And very unsettling.

Physical Education may not be considered a major subject in a narrow academic sense, but it is crucial to the well-being of the total child. It helps combat the current epidemic of obesity among chil-

dren. Exercise helps clear the head, aids concentration and efficiency in mastering many types of intellectual challenges, fights depression and apathy, develops self-discipline, and imbues sportsmanship. A fit body fuels a fit mind.

If we could replicate in the classroom the typically high level of motivation and personal responsibility that athletes (or anybody else who works out) dedicate to their training, not only would test scores rise, but far more importantly, so would love of learning and self-esteem.

I have a clear image of driving by a large Queens high school a few years ago and witnessing their track team, in T-shirts and shorts, running in cold, blustery and damp weather, high on endorphins and clearly luxuriating in the thrill of it. But I'm not lamenting an absence of a "no pain...no gain" structured gym program in our schools. I am, though, deploring the fact that physical education has been largely sacrificed in order to

accommodate test-preparation priorities and other morbid reformist hobby-horses.

Physical education is not the only area of neglect. The arts, music and foreign language disciplines have also been eclipsed. Not many years ago many middle schools had a chorus, band, orchestra, painting studio and multiple foreign language offerings.

Chancellor Farina has rolled back some of the abuses of her recent predecessors, but much more awaits and demands her immediate attention. She can begin by enforcing the state regulations concerning physical education instruction and firmly supporting Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley's bill, which would require that the Department of Education furnish annual reports verifying their compliance. Your readers should make their agreement known to their elected representatives.

*Ron Isaac  
Bayside*

## It's time for Giuliani to leave political stage

Former New York City Mayor Rudolf Giuliani has been receiving media coverage over his statement at a fund-raiser for Gov. Scott Walker of Wisconsin that President Barack Obama does not love America. Not only was his remark intemperate, but false.

The record is replete with the many times the president has stated his love for America.

It is Mr. Giuliani who has difficulty with a love for America and its values as witnessed by his attempt to cut off city funding for the Brooklyn Museum because

he did not approve of one of its exhibits; being anti labor (Hence his support for Gov. Scott Walker); and his inability to accept criticism.

The trouble with Mr. Giuliani is that he cannot accept the fact he is a political has-been with no political future.

"Like old soldiers who never die they just fade away," the time has come for Mr. Giuliani to follow suit. I doubt he will be missed.

*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.

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# Netanyahu's purpose lost among drama



Tom Allon  
■  
*Mayoral Spin Cycle*

It's unfortunate when partisan politics gets in the way of a lively debate about profoundly important decisions that will influence the future of civilization.

We're speaking about the political brouhaha that erupted around Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's decision to accept the Republican-controlled Congress' invitation to speak. Netanyahu will voice Israel's existential concerns about the American-led peace negotiations with Iran, a country that has been a source of global friction for the better part of the last century.

America – and our staunch Mideast ally, Israel – have had a troubled relationship with Iran since the late 1970s, when the Iranian revolution held hostage dozens of Americans. The inability of President Jimmy Carter to gain the hostages' release led to his

loss to Ronald Reagan in 1980. I remember vividly the split screen inauguration of Reagan and the homecoming of the hostages that day.

Think about it: a relatively small country in the Middle East, without nuclear capability and with a small army, bloodlessly toppled an American president and began its four-decades long ascent as a behind-the-scenes world power.

Since then, Iran has gone to war with neighboring Iraq, built and funded proxy terrorist organizations in Lebanon and the West Bank (Hezbollah and Hamas) and successfully suppressed a revolution during the brief Arab Spring. It is the most powerful Arab country in the Middle East and its tentacles reach far beyond its borders.

Iran is once again in the news because it is driving a wedge in U.S.-Israeli relations as the world debates how to halt its seemingly inexorable march to develop nuclear weapons, a prospect that even Israel's foes in the Arab world like Saudi Arabia and the United Emirates do not want to see happen. Netanyahu has

become desperate to sound the alarm that Iran is on the verge of developing a nuclear bomb, a prospect that leaves many Israelis with the kind of existential dread they have not had since the state of Israel was created in 1948 in the wake of the Holocaust.

I recall an event from the summer of 1981 when I was visiting Israel after my freshman year in college. Saddam Hussein, an Israel-hating dictator in Iraq, Iran's neighbor, was rumored to be trying to develop a nuclear bomb that would allow him to execute his threat to annihilate the 33-year-old state of Israel. But one night, Israeli planes secretly flew over Iraq and surgically destroyed that country's underground nuclear arms reactors, thus eliminating Hussein's threat to Israel's future. I recall that President Reagan initially publicly chastised Israel for its bold military action. My Israeli aunt, after watching Reagan on television, wisely said: "The world is mad at us today. But in ten years they will be thanking us."

Think about it. If an unstable dictator like Hussein had

a nuclear bomb in the early 1990s, he would have wreaked havoc in the Middle East. And two years ago, Israel quietly knocked out a nuclear reactor in Syria. Can you imagine what would be happening in that country's civil war now if a nuclear bomb had been developed there?

It is imperative now, more than ever, for the world to put safeguards in place to make sure that Iran cannot develop a bomb. There is a March 24 deadline for a treaty that the United States is now trying to negotiate.

Which brings us to Netanyahu's speech to Congress this week. He was invited to speak by Republican House Speaker John Boehner, who did not tell President Obama in advance. For that reason, Netanyahu is being criticized by the administration and top Dems in Congress. Some will not attend as a show of protest.

All of this controversy is clouding the substance of Netanyahu's planned speech, which should raise the world's awareness of the imminent danger Israel – and perhaps the world at large – is facing if Iran is able to develop a bomb.

When you live within a few hundred miles of the leaders of a country who have repeatedly vowed to destroy Israel, then it is your right – actually, your duty – to speak up as loud as you can to stop this.

There is no bigger pulpit and bullhorn than the halls of the U.S. Congress for Netanyahu to make his extremely important case against the proposed treaty. This is the ultimate test of free speech. If the leaders and citizens of the United States and the rest of the world don't find his case persuasive, then his argument will fall flat. But, if he presents information that is compelling and stands up to great scrutiny, then he will have added a valuable voice to this important debate.

Let's put politics, partisanship and party aside to try to get to the truth. The security of the Middle East – and a potential world war – may be at stake.

*Tom Allon, the president of City & State, NY, is the son of Holocaust survivors and has many relatives in Israel.*

## Winter has played havoc with the civic agenda, too



William Lewis  
■  
*Political Action*

This year's winter snowstorms with ice and high winds have cut down political meetings and social evenings in Queens, in addition to the rest of New York City. Fortunately, this is not a very active political year and the political cycle will not be as seriously threatened as it would be during 2016.

There have been comparisons of this year's winter weather with the blizzard of 1888 when most of the large cities in the Northeast from Washington, D.C. on up were

hit with the worst snowstorm we ever had.

It is interesting to note that the great storm of 1888 occurred on March 12 of that year. Most people in the Northeast considered the winter almost over. The temperature reached into the 60s a few days before the storm. The blizzard hit by surprise. Back then they didn't have the means to fight the weather that we have now. For instance, only a handful of police precincts had the use of telephones. However, New Yorkers worked together to fight the effects of the snow.

Hopefully, the political party schedules will resume during the spring.

The issue of horses and carriages continuing to use Central Park is expected to be voted on by our City Council in late spring. The horses and

Hopefully, the political party schedules will resume during the spring.

carriages have been in use in Central Park since the park first opened for public use in the 1850s. It has become a tradition of New York City. It has become an attraction for visitors to New York. As far as we know, no past New York mayor before Bill de Blasio has called for the Central Park horses and carriages to be abolished.

According to polls that have been taken during the last few months, New Yorkers by a significant margin favor keeping the horses and car-

riages in Central Park. One more important reason to maintain this tradition is that it will save 300 jobs.

If de Blasio is able to get a majority of City Council members to support his view that horses and carriages should be removed from Central Park, then that will show that the mayor has more influence over the City Council than could be expected over this kind of issue. When the time comes, this will become a hard-fought topic. There may be legal challenges by the side that loses the Central Park vote. Regardless of the outcome, it seems that if the City Council votes to eliminate the horses and carriages, a New York tradition that goes back 150 years will be lost.

In 2017 elections for the City Council will take place.

The members of the Council who have served two four-year terms will not be eligible to run for a third four-year term because of term limits. The mayor at that time will have served one four-year term, and will most likely be running for re-election to achieve a second term.

It would be helpful if all incumbent members of the City Council facing term limits could run for re-election, if they chose to, and let the voters decide.

Another aspect of City Council term limits is that the City Council speaker is now being replaced usually every four years. Before term limits the Council speaker could serve for a longer period of time.

In all, our City Council will reflect the will of the voters.



# Adding tolls to crossings is wrong turn



**Bob Friedrich**

On Point

he highway robber barons have unveiled another heavy-handed tolling scheme being foisted upon the motoring public. This elaborate plan is being orchestrated by former NYC Traffic Commissioner Sam Schwartz (Gridlock Sam) and a well-heeled organization called Move-NY, which lists the Ford and Rockefeller Foundations among its financial backers. Vehicle owners may remember being peddled a false narrative years ago that existing bridge tolls would be removed once the bonds that paid for them were satisfied. Move-NY is betting we can be hoodwinked again. It's a wake-up call to all vehicle owners asleep at the wheel.

Imposing \$16 round-trip tolls on the East River Crossings that have remained free for more than 100 years is a cost burden that families simply cannot afford. As president of Glen Oaks Village, New York's largest garden apartment co-op, I speak with families and seniors every day who travel into Manhattan for medical care or a doctor's appointment and cannot afford this budget-busting expense.

The tolling shakedown doesn't stop at the bridges and tunnels. An invis-

ible toll booth using license-plate reading scanners will be erected along 60th Street in Manhattan, from the FDR Drive on the east, to the Hudson River on the west. Every time you cross this invisible line it will cost you a hefty \$8 – until, of course, the toll is raised again. Travel into Manhattan on the Brooklyn Bridge to get to work or a doctor's appointment, you're hit with your first \$8 toll. Head north and cross 60th Street for lunch or to pick someone up and you're hit with your second \$8 toll. Reverse direction and cross 60th Street as you head downtown to your doctor's appointment or simply to visit a friend or relative in the hospital and you're hit with your third \$8 toll. And if that's not enough, when you leave Manhattan, crossing the 59th Street Bridge on your way home, you're slammed with a final \$8 toll, bringing your single-day total to \$32.00. Easy to see how this adds up quickly for those with multiple medical appointments or without the same transit options of others.

Inexplicably, the latest supporter of this toll fiasco is Mark Weprin, a councilman from Eastern Queens, which has no subways and no weekend or late night bus service. He recently said, "This is a proposal his constituents can get behind" Not quite. I urge Mr. Weprin to listen to the civics of his own district, including the Queens Civic Congress, an umbrella group of more than 100 civic associations that

The taxpayers of this region are tapped out and do not have any more to give.

strongly oppose this confiscatory tolling scheme. His brother, Assemblyman late David Weprin, along with state Sen. Tony Avella, are leading the charge to quash this toll plan.

The proponents of this shakedown promise to lower tolls on some of the city's less-traveled bridges. Sadly, we all know that those lowered tolls will soon rise again and ultimately exceed their pre-existing levels. Only then, we will be stuck with high tolls and NO free East River crossings.

We have been sold this same snake oil before. First it was the \$15 NYC Auto Use Tax imposed on every vehicle registered in the city to fund local transportation. Then it rose to \$25 and was renamed the Metropolitan Commuter Transportation District Supplemental Registration Fee. We were told this would create the sustainable revenue stream needed by the MTA. When this was not enough, the MTA Sales Tax Surcharge – an add-on to the city's already high sales tax, was imposed.

We were told that this would create the sustainable revenue stream needed by the MTA. When this was not enough, the MTA Payroll Mobility Tax on self-employed individuals was imposed to finally create the sustainable revenue stream needed by the MTA. When this was not enough, a 50 cent Taxi Surcharge on every yellow cab ride was imposed to create the sustainable revenue stream needed by the MTA. Now, once again, we are being told it is not enough and if we could only toll the Free East River Crossings, we could create the illusory revenue stream that the Auto Use Tax, Supplemental Registration Fee, MTA Sales Tax Add-on, MTA Payroll Mobility Tax and the 50 cent Taxi Surcharge, all failed to do.

Enough is enough. The taxpayers of this region are tapped out and do not have any more to give. But we can stop this rapacious congestion toll tax grab if enough New Yorkers get mad enough to call or email their city and state elected representatives and tell them to Keep Our East River Bridges Toll-Free! Do it now before Move-NY begins using its hefty war chest to silence your voice.

*Bob Friedrich is President of Glen Oaks Village, a Civic Leader and former City Council Candidate.*

## Not all the news during the Depression was depressing

In 1931 we were in the heart of the Great Depression, undoubtedly the worst financial crisis in our country's history. Nearly a third of the workforce was unemployed. A decade of progress was wiped off the map and it took nearly a generation before the country reached the same level of economic activity achieved in the 1920s.

Yet reading the Long Island Star gives readers a surprising impression. That year the city spent a fortune on acquiring land for public parks, newspapers groaned from advertising as hundreds of homes were built – and sold – in just one year, and breathtaking civil projects were announced, and, in most cases, actually built.

In March 1931, the Triborough Bridge got its first

### QUEENS LINE

The Greater Astoria Historical Society

\$1 million appropriation and major funding was discussed for Grand Central Parkway. The city purchased as public parks both the Clearview Golf Course (nearly \$1 million) and 66-acre Juniper Valley Park (\$400 thousand).

Plans were discussed to build a third bridge over the upper East River – this time between Broadway in Astoria and 86th Street in Manhattan. There was agitation to build a civic center to keep the courts and government in Long Island City, and serious talk on building a cross-town subway

line between Whitestone and Jamaica.

The last blocks of undeveloped land were being gobbled up for development as more than \$1 million changed hands in a series of land transfers in Flushing. The old Lott farm of 53 acres in Fresh Meadows was sold for \$330,000 and was soon to be transformed into 660 homes. A few thousand feet north, the 32-acre Schumacher farm on Rocky Hill Road was sold at \$15,000 per acre. Also that month, the 63-acre Boose farm was sold at Hollis Court Boulevard and Horace Hard-

ing Boulevard.

Homes on the Ridgewood Plateau were being snapped up. Overlooking the New York skyline, just 22 minutes from Times Square, and near schools, churches, a shopping center, and theaters, more than 400 one-family homes with garages, sewers, sidewalks, paved streets, and shade trees were recently completed and sold. They were priced between \$7,000 and \$11,000. Two-family homes were \$13,000.

Over in Jackson Heights on 90th Street, the Island Housing Corporation offered 'solid brick and stone studio homes' with separate garages between \$8,000 and \$9,000 (the mortgage was only \$66.50 per month). In one month, 77 homes sold.

M. Krauss Building Corporation, at 51st Street near Skillman Avenue, Sunny-

side offered two-family brick homes with heated two-car garages and oil burner for \$15,750. Since the rent from the second apartment covered the mortgage, the homeowner was 'guaranteed to live rent free forever.'

And finally, in what was advertised as the lowest price in a single fare zone, Baysview Homes at 20-65 46th St., a development of nine-room semi-detached brick homes on a 25 x 100 lot, were offered for only \$9,900 (two families for \$12,500.) They went for only \$500 down and carried a mortgage of just \$35 per month.

For further information, call the Greater Astoria Historical Society at 718-278-0700 or visit our website at [www.astorialic.org](http://www.astorialic.org).

# City Council holds hearings on truck safety

BY BILL PARRY

The City Council Transportation Committee held hearings Tuesday on truck traffic and its impact on pedestrian and cyclist safety. The Department of Transportation data shows that trucks are three times more likely to be involved in the death of a pedestrian than any other vehicle.

"Too many cyclists and pedestrians fall victim to speeding and unsafe trucks in our city," Committee Chairman Ydanis Rodriguez (D-Manhattan) said. "Through truck side-guards on the city fleet will undoubtedly increase the safety on our streets, we must ensure that the Council and the Department of Transportation is armed with information it needs to better strategize as to making our streets even safer."

A delegation from the DOT attended with Deputy Commissioner for Transportation Planning and Management Ryan Russo saying, "The Mayor's leadership, and all of our combined efforts, have

begun to change the way New Yorkers think and act on our streets. Support for this program continues to grow across the city, and our partnership with the Council is pursuing this bold vision is a key piece in furthering our progress."

The Transportation Committee heard two pieces of legislation intended to make New York's truck system more efficient and safe. INT 315, introduced by Councilman Paul Vallone (D-Bayside), is aimed at curbing the illegal truck traffic that plague his and many other districts. Trucks are generally not allowed to use non-designated routes, but many do use residential streets to speed up routes knowing that the NYPD will often not issue violations for lack of DOT signage.

"Enough is enough. It's time for the DOT's policy to be changed to reflect the true quality-of-life concerns of our constituents," Vallone said. "Unfortunately, in an attempt to beautify the neighborhood by avoiding negative signage, you end up instead with trucks



The City Council's Transportation Committee holds hearings on truck traffic as part of the Vision Zero Initiative.

and tractor trailers plowing down residential streets, polluting with fumes and noise and endangering residents."

The DOT would be required to compile a list of the top ten blocks within each community district in which the greatest number of truck drivers did not obey truck route designation. The agency will then be required to post signs stating "No Trucks Except Local De-

liveries" on these blocks.

"The bottom line is that designated truck routes were established for a reason, and we need to ensure that the NYPD is able to enforce these restrictions," Vallone said.

Another bill, INT 641, was introduced that would require the DOT to conduct a study every five years on the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on truck routes. This study will

include information regarding the impact of tolling on congestion, the number of crashes involving pedestrians and bicyclists, the number of charges brought against individuals involved in those crashes, the type and amount of calming measures installed, and strategies as to how to improve safety along these routes.

"A comprehensive analysis by the Department of Transportation of our city's truck routes will help protect lives," City Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer (D-Sunnyside) said. "Intro 641 strengthens our City's Vision Zero initiative by improving traffic safety for pedestrians and cyclists along our city's truck routes. By using the data we receive through these comprehensive studies we can enhance our city's transportation network and minimize disruptive truck traffic through our residential neighborhoods."

Reach reporter Bill Parry by e-mail at [bparry@cnglocal.com](mailto:bparry@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4538.

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# First part done on Linden Place

BY MADINA TOURE

Although the first phase of the long-delayed Linden Place construction project in College Point is expected to open to the public this spring, residents and community leaders are up in arms about the project delays.

Joseph Femenia, president of the College Point Civic and Taxpayers Association, said he does not understand why it has taken so long for the project to come to fruition. It is designed to reroute traffic in the area.

He said the city has made a number of promises to College Point in addition to the Linden Place project, including the marine transfer station, the police academy and a special zoning district, but it has yet to deliver.

"Nobody's keeping their promises to College Point," Femenia said.

Reconstruction of Linden Place started in the spring of 2009 and was expected to be completed in the fall.

The first phase of the project, between 28th Avenue to 23rd Avenue, is nearing completion and is expected to open to the public this spring, according to an EDC spokesman. This is expected to provide direct access to the Whitestone Expressway and alleviate traffic flow within the College Point Corporate Park.

But the second phase, which covers 132nd Street from 23rd Avenue to 20th Avenue, will start this spring, the spokesman said. This would connect 20th Avenue and Linden Place and help alleviate traffic.

Work on the second phase requires the construction of a surcharge, which has to settle, he added. It also needs to pass a review process before construction of the roadway can begin.

The EDC spokesman said constructing a brand new roadway alongside a wetland is a complicated process that would require extensive mediation and new surcharge work.

## CB 11

Continued from Page 2

stroyed on 77th Avenue.

"In our last meeting before coming in front of the community board, it was suggested that we sit down with the residents of 77th Avenue and see where we could come together," Kaye said. "Sadly, they wanted no part of that. They just don't want the project at all."

Out of 25 individuals who spoke during the public hearing, only a few were in favor. The great majority of those who spoke were bordering residents. They said Kaye was lying and that they had responded to all attempts to compromise.

The proposal also includes drive access to Springfield Avenue. Community members

were concerned the drive would add to already significant congestion problems.

Independent Queens realtor Julia Shildkret gave substance to residents' concerns.

"WOTC is citing that this new community center and parking lot will increase shareholder and property value ... but I do have to say that the homes along 77th Avenue, whether abutting the development or across the street, will all be adversely affected by this development," Shildkret said. "Most of those residents there bought those homes because of those trees."

Several environmental advocates also spoke against the site plan due to its proposed destruction of trees and animal habitat.

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# NYHQ merger likely



New York Hospital Queens is soon to become a subsidiary of New York-Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan.

BY MADINA TOURE

The NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital has submitted an application seeking approval to take over New York Hospital Queens in Flushing.

NYP Community Programs, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation, filed a certificate of need application with the New York State Department of Health asking to become the active parent and co-operator of NYHQ, according to the application.

NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital is the only member of NYP Community Programs. NYHQ has been a corporate member of the New York-Presbyterian Healthcare System since 1992.

"A closer alignment will benefit Queens' residents by creating expanded services and further enhancing

quality of care," NYHQ said in a statement. "The transaction will occur after all regulatory requirements and other conditions are met."

The hospital would be renamed NewYork-Presbyterian/Queens, or NYP/Q.

The goal of the takeover is "to establish a coordinated, highly integrated system with the objectives of improving quality, increasing access and lowering the costs of health care in the communities served by NYP/Q," the application said.

There are no projected changes in the utilization, revenues or expenses of NYP/Q. The project would not incur any costs or changes in staff, authorized services, or the number or type of beds.



## Christ the King High School

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## Christ the King Teacher Running for the Environment

Sets Example for Christ the King Community

Christ the King High School teacher, Paul Salerni, has run 44 marathons. This year, he is running to raise awareness for the Hale Reservation, an organization that educates schoolchildren about nature and the environment.

Mr. Salerni, an avid runner for more than 40 years, will be running in this year's Boston Marathon on April 20th. Although he has run in many marathons over the years, this is his first time running to raise money for an organization. His team has seventeen members and is looking to raise \$75,000.

"After reading many environmental headlines lately, I have learned that half of the world's wildlife has been lost over the last forty years and that the oceans now contain over five trillion pieces of plastic. As educators, we know how important it is to raise awareness through educa-



Mr. Salerni running in the Boston Marathon.

tion. Hale Reservation does this," said Mr. Salerni.

Serphin R. Maltese, Chairman of Christ the King said, "We at Christ the King are proud of our faculty members who teach through example in shaping the leaders of tomorrow."

"Mr. Salerni is an inspiration to all of us who care about our environment, as well as our own personal physical fitness," added Principal Peter Mannarino.

Mr. Salerni has been a member of the Christ the King faculty for more 27 years. He teaches Social Studies and English. He is also an adjunct professor of English at CUNY.

*If you are interested in helping Mr. Salerni support the Hale Reservation so that future generations will have a sustainable planet, please visit his page at [www.razoo.com/story/Paul-Salerni](http://www.razoo.com/story/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 900 students. The faculty numbers 45.

Christ the King High School is governed by its Board of Trustees: Serphin R. Maltese, Chairman; Thomas V. Ognibene, Vice Chairman; Robert A. Normandia, Vice Chairman; Bernard G. Heldorfer, Counsel/Trustee; Anthony Como, Esq., Treasurer; Brenda Evans, Trustee; Dolores St. Louis, Trustee; Peter J. Mannarino, Principal; Michael W. Michel, President; Arthur Spanarkel, Financial Advisor; and Veronica Cokley, Executive Assistant.

More information is available <http://www.ckny.org/>.

Find Christ the King on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/CKCampus](http://www.facebook.com/CKCampus).

## Walmart raises pay

BY SADEF ALI KULLY

Walmart, the largest private employer in the United States, recently introduced a wage increase of at least \$9 an hour for its employees at Walmart stores across the nation by April this year.

At the Walmart located in Valley Stream, L.I., on the border near south-east Queens, almost 60 percent of the employees are Queens residents who will see an increase in their income, according to a Walmart spokesperson.

Over the last several years, Wal-

mart has made several attempts to open up a super store within the five boroughs, like Queens and Staten Island, and the most recent effort was in September for a Brooklyn property which fell apart.

Walmart has constantly been faced with opposition from community leaders and elected officials in the city due to controversies associated with its employees and company policies.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cnglocal.com](mailto:skully@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

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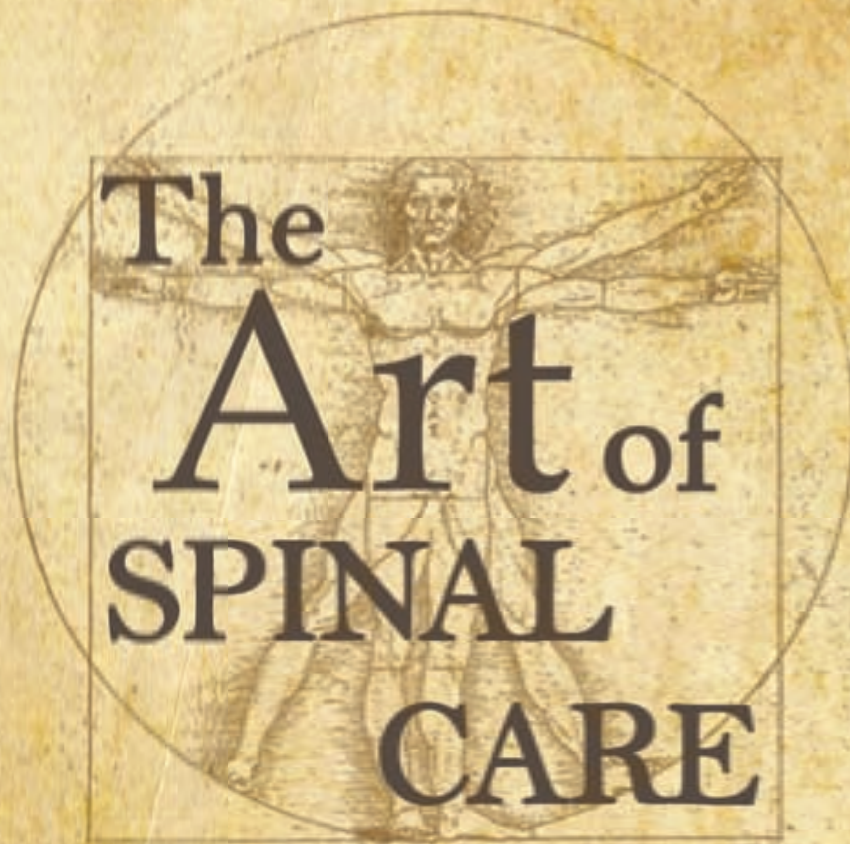


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# Eldercare

## TODAY

## HOW TO AVOID GROWING BORED IN RETIREMENT

**F**rom the moment young men and women first walk into the office for their first day as a working professional until the day they officially retire, the notion of planning for retirement is never far from their minds. But when the day to hang up the briefcase and donate all those business suits arrives, some retirees wonder what to do next. Some retirees know exactly how they will spend their days when they no longer have to work, while others who decide to play it by ear may find themselves battling boredom.

For those among the latter group, it's important to understand that many retirees find themselves bored once they no longer have to focus on a career. Jobs keep men and women busy and provide a sense of purpose in their lives, so it's understandable that retirees feel bored once those jobs are no longer a part of their lives. But just because you no longer have an office to go to every day does not mean life cannot be as fulfilling or even more fulfilling than it was when you were still working. You just need to find something to avoid succumbing to retirement boredom.

**Work part-time.** Though it might seem odd to start working right after you retire, a part-time job can provide the type of structure you have grown accustomed to without all of the responsibility that comes with a full-time career. Part-time jobs can range from consultancy work that makes use of your professional experience to something entirely different like landscape maintenance at a nearby golf course that gets you out of the house and enjoying the warmer seasons. Whichever you choose, make sure it's something you find fun and interesting.

**Embrace a new hobby.** Working professionals often say they wish

*Continued on Page 26*





## Popular sports for seniors

Age doesn't have to stop older men and women from enjoying their favorite sports. In fact, remaining active can improve physical and mental health.

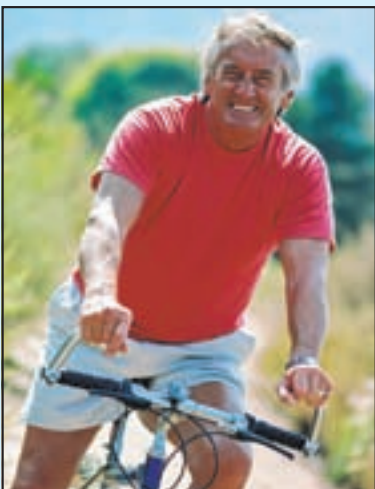
If a doctor has confirmed that it is okay to participate in sports, these activities can help men and women 50 and older enjoy friendly competition and physical activity.

### Fishing

Fishing is more than just a leisurely day at the lake. Casting and reeling in your catch provides a good workout for the arms, legs and core muscles of the body. If you fish on the water, rowing out to your lucky spot provides additional cardiovascular exercise.

### Golf

Golf is enjoyed by people of all ages. Requiring a combination of strategy and skill, golf also pays several physical dividends. Play at your own pace, taking your time walking from hole to hole so you can enjoy the sunshine and soak in the beauty of the course.



Age doesn't have to stop older men and women from enjoying their favorite sports.

### Cycling

Many seniors are avid cyclists. You can ride a bicycle in competition or for pleasure. You can even vary your route depending on how physically intense you want the ride to be.

# Sheltering seniors from rent increases

BY JOANNA LEEFER

My mother-in-law Lillian celebrated her 98th birthday last month. The weather was too frigid to go out so my husband, son, and my in-laws decided to celebrate her birthday in her spacious one-bed room rental apartment located on the fashionable Upper West Side. The building is a 12-story luxury doorman residence with a marble-floored entrance and plenty of brass railings, doorknobs, and accessories. It is quite a desirable find.

Most of my readers already know that my mother-in-law lives on her Social Security and receives 24-hour home care through Medicaid. How can she afford to live in a luxury building? The answer: she participates in a little known New York State program called Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption.

New York State's senior exemption program allows tenants aged 62 years old and older with an income of \$50,000 a year or less to live in their rent-controlled or stabilized apartments without paying rent increases. Before they become eligible, they must prove that they pay at least one-third of their disposable income toward rent. Once a senior is accepted into the program, it makes up the difference between the frozen rent and the increase. No matter how much the rent increases, the tenant's rent remains the same. If a tenant applies for the program while paying \$1,500 a month in rent, her rent will remain at that rate for the rest of her residency. If the rent increases by \$100 a month, the tenant pays the original rent, and the state pays the increase. The same is true if the rent increases by \$200 or \$300 a month — or even \$1,000 a month.

Lillian moved into her current apartment back in the 1980s, when her neighborhood was considered a little too edgy for many people. Her rent was \$350 a month, a bit of a stretch for a woman who sold coats in a clothing store on W. 72nd Street. I remember looking out her bedroom window and seeing trash and drug paraphernalia strewn around the back courtyard. I worried about her safety.

Lillian retired when she turned 62. Knowing her income would be limited, she applied and was accepted into the program. At least she knew her rent was secure. Every two years when she signs a new lease, she submits a copy to the program's office and continues to pay the same \$350 a month rent. The program pays the difference between the rent increase and her original rent. Thirty-five years later, she still pays the same rent she paid when she first moved in.

Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption was created in 1970 to protect low-income seniors from rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments. In 1976, the income requirement was extended to eligible tenants in certain rental and cooperative apartments in buildings that are now referred to as Mitchell-Lama apartments. When the program was first introduced the eligibility income cut off was \$29,000, but in July 2014 the income requirement was increased to \$50,000.

**Senior Citizens Rent Increase Exemption was created in 1970 to protect low-income seniors from rent increases in rent-controlled and rent-stabilized apartments.**

To apply for the program, an applicant must fill out an application and submit it along with required documents, which include proof of income and a copy of the prior and current lease. The form is available through the New York City Department of Finance office, online at the NY ACCESS website, [www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/tenants-scrie.page](http://www1.nyc.gov/site/finance/benefits/tenants-scrie.page), or at many senior citizen centers. The completed application is then sent to the Department of Finance, where it is processed. A participant must reapply every time a new lease is signed.

New York State offers a similar program to people with disabilities called Disability Rent Increase Exemption. It was established in 2005 through an amendment to the senior rent law. The requirements are the same; but the applicant must have an income level of \$50,000 or less and proof that he pays at least one-third of his disposable income for rent.

Not everyone can be lucky enough to pay only \$350 a month rent for a desirable apartment in Manhattan, but if you know of some one who might be eligible for the program, she might continue to live in the same place without rent increases going forward.

Joanna R. Leefer is a senior care advisor/advocate and founder of Elder-CareGiving, a service that helps families find and get the best care for their aging loved ones when family care is no longer enough. She has been working with seniors and their families for 10 years. Her book "Almost Like Home: A Family Guide to Navigating the Nursing Home Maze," is now available. To order, go to <http://joannaleefer.com/book-preview>.



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# Depression and our Seniors

While there is a common belief that depression is a normal part of aging. It's not. But unfortunately it is prevalent among the elderly. It is not uncommon for people of all ages to experience bouts of sadness but amongst the elderly the results can be debilitating and life threatening. Some examples of the devastating effects of depression can be increases in the risk for cardiac diseases and exacerbates a person's ability to recover from other illnesses. Increases in the risk of mortality and feelings of hopelessness may dissuade older individuals from following their treatment. Clinical depression is a disorder that effects mood, feelings, behavior and potentially physical health and is diagnosed when sadness is persistent or begins to affect a person's ability to function normally.

Depression is the most significant risk factor for suicide. And suicide is more common among older individuals than any other age group in the U.S. The elderly make up about 13 percent of the U.S population, but they account

for 20 percent of deaths by suicide, according to the National Institute of Mental Health.

Fortunately, depression is highly treatable.

## Symptoms

Depression is often overlooked among the elderly. The problem lies in that it is often hard to spot and distinguish from other conditions or treatments which cause similar symptoms.

Family members should look for the following signs in their loved ones:

- Agitation or Anxiety
- Persistent feelings of guilt
- Social withdrawal
- Appetite disturbance
- Unexplained weight loss or gain
- Lack of attention to personal care
- Sleep disturbance
- Loss of interest in normally pleasurable activities
- Feelings of discouragement or hopelessness

## Triggers

Roughly Six million Ameri-

cans over the age of 65 struggles with depression. Changes to body (biological) and or mind (psychological) factors that often accompany the aging process may contribute to depression among our seniors. Examples are:

- Social isolation and loneliness
- Onset of a serious illness like Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, Stroke or Cancer
- The use of certain medications (which can trigger depression or worsen existing conditions)
- Stressors like the loss of a spouse or close friends
- Struggling with loss of independence
- Living with a chronic medical illness
- A change in environment such as moving into a new home

These factors can all trigger or increase depression.

## Treatment

Patients can be successfully treated with their depression in a number of ways. In general the treatments for depression in

younger patients are the same in the elderly. Medications (antidepressants) and/or psychotherapy are usually the techniques Professionals will treat their patients with successful results.

Physical activity, staying busy by keeping the mind and body occupied, and maintaining social interactions through activities and time spent with family and friends can be key to warding off serious bouts of depression.

## If You Suspect a Problem, What Should You Do?

- Talk with your physician. Explain how you feel and describe what is not normal for you. Have a list of all medications, vitamin, mineral, and herbal supplements
- Talk to a trusted friend, family member, or spiritual advisor

## Talking with Your Doctor, Pharmacist, or Other Health Care Providers

- Have a list of all medications, herbal remedies, vitamin, mineral and herbal supplements
- Ask questions. Take a list if necessary.
- Don't be shy or embarrassed. Explain how you feel.
- Remind your doctors and pharmacist about your medical

history

- Ask for advice and instructions in clear writing
- Ask for a follow-up visit if all your questions cannot be answered during your appointment

A healthy mind contributes to a healthy body. Depression is a treatable illness and physicians and family members should not mistake it as normal symptoms of aging.

*Rabbi Ronen Fuksbrumer, has a Master's degree in Applied Clinical Psychology and Education from Columbia University and is a Certified Life/Executive Coach. He is the Executive Vice President at Homecare Services of NY, a Licensed Home Care Agency. HCS founded by Jeff and Agnes Shemia is licensed in the 5 boroughs and Nassau county. HCS prides themselves in finding the right match for the patients they service and treating their patients like family. Ronen can be reached at 917-238-9393 or [ronen@hcs-homecare.com](mailto:ronen@hcs-homecare.com) for any questions regarding homecare.*



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# HOW TO EAT AFTER AGE 50

As people age, their dietary needs begin to change. Foods that were once staples of your diet as a youth may be restricted once you hit a certain age, while other foods you may have always avoided may now be necessary to fuel and support a healthy body.

Eating healthy foods and exercising may not be enough to sustain health, as hormonal changes and other health effects as a person reaches age 50 can have a profound impact on his or her nutritional requirements. The following are a few things men and women over 50 may want to consider as they look to eat a healthy diet for years to come.

## Vitamin D

Both men and women age 50 and up have a reduced ability to produce vitamin D through exposure to the sun. Extra vitamin D will be needed from foods and supplements. Everyone over the age of 50 should take a daily vitamin D supplement of 400 IU (10 µg), according to

Canada's Food Guide. Without adequate vitamin D, bone strength and health can deteriorate because vitamin D promotes calcium absorption. Vitamin D also has other roles, including helping neuromuscular and immune function and reducing inflammation.

## Friendly fats

People over age 50 should increase their intake of unsaturated fats and reduce consumption of saturated fats. Nutrient-rich unsaturated fats can guard against heart conditions, protect against stroke, keep skin supple, and even help men and women maintain good neurological health. Omega-3 fatty acids can be found in nuts, olives, seeds, and fatty fishes.

## Increase protein

According to Dr. Christine Gerbstadt, a spokeswoman for the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, as they age, men and women need more protein in



Dietary recommendations change for people age 50 and older.

their diets to maintain their muscle mass. The amount of protein needed at a younger age no longer may be adequate. Look for lean sources of protein from fish and poultry. Beans are also a low-fat source of protein that can help fulfill daily protein requirements.

## More fiber

Eating more fiber can help with digestive and intestinal problems, such

as constipation. Constipation can occur when fiber intake is not enough, coupled with a more sedentary lifestyle. The best way to get fiber is through diet. Leave the skins on fruit and vegetables and choose whole fruits over juices. Whole-grain breads and cereals also are good sources of fiber. Dry beans and lentils can add a fiber boost. Always increase fiber slowly to determine your tolerance.

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# SENIOR LIVING OPTIONS ABOUND



Embracing a new hobby is one way for recently retired men and women to avoid growing bored during retirement.

## RETIRE

*Continued from Page 21*

they had time to pursue a hobby. Now that you are retired, you have all the time in the world to do just that. Whether it's perfecting your golf game, writing that novel, learning to cook like a gourmet chef, or whatever else you might have always wanted to do, retirement is a great time to do it.

**Get in shape.** If retirement boredom has started to negatively affect your mood, one great way to conquer your boredom and improve your mood at the same time is to start exercising. Exercise is a natural mood enhancer. When the body exercises, it releases chemicals known as endorphins, which trigger positive feelings in the body. In addition, regular exercise has been shown to reduce stress, boost self-esteem, and improve sleep. Working out at a gym also is a great way to meet fellow retirees in your community, and the energy you have after exercising may give you the boost you need to pursue other hobbies.

**Volunteer.** If a part-time job is not up your alley, then consider volunteering in your community. Volunteers are always in demand, and volunteering with a local charity can provide a sense of purpose and provide opportunities to meet like-minded fellow retirees, all while helping to quell your boredom. Retirees who love to travel can combine their passion for volunteering with their love of travel by signing up to work with an international relief organization that travels abroad to help the less fortunate.

Upon retiring, many retirees initially find themselves coping with boredom. But there are many ways to avoid the restlessness of retirement.

be covered in one fee. Clubhouses, golf courses, lakes, card rooms, and many other offerings are designed to appeal to residents of many ages.

Now that baby boomers have reached the age where retirement communities are a consideration, there has been an influx of interest. Those considering a move to one of these communities should research some information before purchasing a unit.

- Determine the fees associated with a community. Can Medicaid or long-term care insurance pay for all or a portion of the fees? Which types of services does the monthly fee cover?

- Who is eligible to live in the community? Some restrict all residents to a particular age, while others do not. Rules may be in effect that include an age cut-off limit.

- Investigate the types of residents and who would be your immediate neighbors. What percentage of people live in the community all year long, and how many are part-time residents?

- Look into the particular home owner's association rules. Bylaws may indicate that the property must be kept in a certain manner. You may not be able to paint exterior items a certain color, nor put up fencing or set up outdoor patio furniture. Get the details before you sign anything.

- Is this the type of community where you can age in place? Meaning, are there separate accommodations if you eventually need assisted living care? Some communities offer living options that vary depending on residents' ages.

- Be sure there are activities or amenities that appeal to you. You eventually want to find your niche and get together with a group of friends who share the same interests.

ties. Residents may be able to enjoy organized outings, recreation, shopping, and socialization without having to venture far from property grounds. Some communities offer food services or an on-site restaurant.

Fifty-five and older communities offer conveniences that many find irresistible. They're frequently located close to shopping, dining and healthcare providers. Taxes, insurance, utilities, and maintenance expenses may

Although they are often moderately priced and offer a variety of amenities, senior living communities sometimes suffer from a bad reputation. But such communities are not the "old age homes" that some people purport them to be. Rather, they're entire living neighborhoods that cater to the needs of an active resident base. These communities can range from independent living private homes or condos to managed care facilities.

Senior communities may have amenities that appeal to a wide variety of interests. These can include beach access or golf courses to enjoy with the grandkids.

Senior living communities often present an affordable and comfortable option for adults over the age of 55. Filled with like-minded and similarly aged residents, these communities can be the right fit for individuals no longer interested in or capable of taking care of a larger home. Senior communities are located all across the country. Finding one that meets your needs takes only a little research.



# Retirement Living with a Personal Touch

## Make Our Home Your Home!

Perhaps this will be the year you or a loved one decides to move into our secure and comfortable home. A **quaint home-like atmosphere** is visible as soon as you enter the Fritz Reuter Retirement Community. You'll find residents chatting in the temperature-controlled solarium, or watching fish in our aquarium while listening to our cockatiels chirping in their cage, or just relaxing and viewing their favorite television shows. A very congenial ambience is present in all 3 levels of our community: Independent Apartments, Residential, and Skilled Nursing.

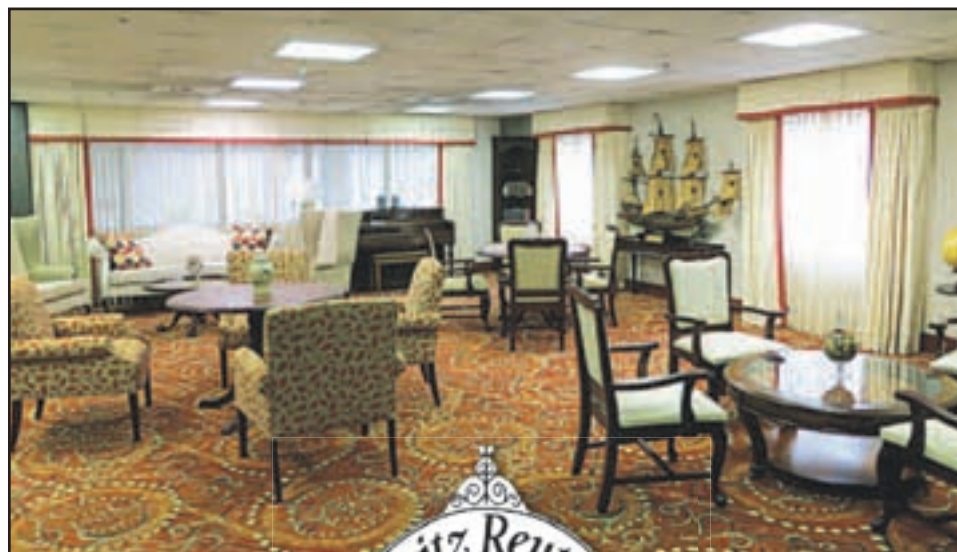
### Continuous Care

Whether our Independent Apartments or Residential or Skilled Nursing suits your lifestyle, our facilities meet your personal needs. Our modern, Independent Apartments comprise **studios, and 1 and 2 bedrooms and each has a private balcony**. Residents moving into the apartments may live independently for as long as they are able. The main meal is included in the entrance fee and is served in our beautiful dining room. Housekeeping and laundry services are available as well as an emergency call bell system in each bedroom and bathroom.

Our Residential facility is for residents who need some assistance. One may enter directly into our Residential community if assistance is needed. Residents live in a private room or 2-room suite with bath, receive three (3) meals daily served in our dining room, and all housekeeping and laundry is included. Also, **all medical and assistance with bathing, dressing, ambulation and medications is all provided at no extra cost.**

Specialists that visit our community on a regular basis include our medical director, dentist, ophthalmologist, physical therapist, podiatrist, psychiatrist, psychologist, social worker, speech and occupational therapists, and lab and x-ray technicians.

Home cooked meals are prepared daily in our state-of-the-art kitchen, which is su-



pervised by our state-certified dietician who makes sure that all meals are well-balanced and nutritious. If residents require special diets, we provide meals to fit their special needs.

Upon availability, one may enter directly into our Skilled Nursing Care at a very reasonable 1-time entrance fee and monthly service charge. Most importantly, *there are no additional charges for whatever care you may need.*

Our Recreational Staff makes sure that our residents are motivated both physically and mentally. We have regularly scheduled exercise classes and an exercise room with toning equipment, circulation table, treadmill, stationary bicycles with back supports, etc. Literary discussions, artistic presentations and lectures, bridge, and trivia, are available on a monthly schedule.

### One Move Removes Your Worries

Making the decision to move out of your house can be traumatic. However, moving twice could be even more traumatic. For example, if you move into a retirement community and then need to move again into a nursing home, it is very difficult especially after one has become acclimated to the community. **One move to Fritz Reuter is all that it will ever take, and your worries are over.**

Why Fritz Reuter? According to David Kolk, Administrator of Fritz Reuter, "What sets Fritz Reuter apart from other lifecare communities is the personal, family-like atmosphere. Unlike the larger, corporate-owned communities, our staff is able to know the individual needs and preferences of our residents. Our residents thoroughly enjoy the personal

attention and the sense of security in knowing that they are an integral part of a community where high quality care is a hallmark."

We have 24-hour security, 2 beauty parlors, 3 dining rooms, banking facility, billiards and a community room, arts & crafts, chapel, greenhouse, library, ballroom/theater, and a climate-controlled solarium plus a beautiful garden with relaxing pond for our residents' enjoyment.

### What Our Residents Say

According to Robert Jones, "I loved my home on Staten Island. It served me well for 30 years... however, the house seemed to become bigger than necessary with burdensome responsibilities - shoveling snow and mowing the lawn - and expenses. Add to that equation my retirement coupled with loneli-

ness and isolation, it was burdensome. I needed a life change in a very a big way."

"That change came when I was introduced to Fritz Reuter Life Care Retirement Community on a tour by Noreen Wendt a year ago. **I was impressed then and am in love with the home now that I'm a permanent resident.** I never ate nutritious food at home (I don't cook). Something magical about the preparations in the Fritz Reuter kitchen makes these dishes delicious," enthuses Mr. Jones.

Our residents' relatives are also appreciative of the continuous care provided under the Fritz Reuter family of residences. Gene Savettiere, whose family members have joined the Fritz Reuter Community, says, "As my relatives progressed from independent living to assisted living, through to nursing care, we were so very thankful for the nutrition, tenderness, cleanliness and concern shown by all your staff."

### Accessible and Affordable

One move to Fritz Reuter is all that it will ever take to be taken care of for your entire life. Isn't that what you or your loved ones deserve? Most importantly, don't wait until something happens to you. Make the move when you are mentally and physically able to enjoy the rest of your life without any worries.

Fritz Reuter is **the most affordable community** due to the fact that we are tax exempt and not for profit. Most importantly, we do not "nickel & dime" you if any additional care is ever needed. Our **flexible entrance fees and monthly service charge guarantee TOTAL LIFE CARE** with no additional charges except beauty parlor/barber, telephone and cable. Should a resident move into the Residential unit, they drop their secondary health insurance since **all medical bills will be paid for by the Fritz Reuter Community.**

*Private tours are gladly provided weekly and upon request. Please call Noreen Wendt at 201-867-3585 for further information and to schedule your private tour. Please visit our website [www.fritzreuter.com](http://www.fritzreuter.com).*



# CB 12's first health fair draws crowds of seniors

BY SADEF ALI KULLY



Hundreds of seniors gathered at the Christ Church International Ministries for the first-ever Community Board 12 health fair event for the elderly in Jamaica.

Photo by Sadeef Kully

healthy lifestyle for seniors," said Celeste James, a Community Board 12 member, who spearheaded the Health Fair.

The inaugural health fair was sponsored by Queens Community Board 12, Comrie, U.S. Rep. Gregory Meeks (D-Jamaica), Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Council Members Daneek Miller (D-Jamaica), Ruben

Wills (D-Ozone Park) and Rory I. Lancman (D-Fresh Meadows) and Pathmark Supermarket.

"We have issued a challenge to make southeast Queens the healthiest community in the city and today's health fair is consistent with that vision," said Miller.

Professionals also provided counseling on healthy eating options, low-

cost health plans, and a number of medical conditions.

"I threw together some spinach and avocado, added papaya, banana, and organic chocolate chips - they were amazed," said Carolyn Aird, a certified holistic health coach, who was armed with a blender and baskets of vegetables and fruits to make smoothies for visitors.

The Feb. 19 event had experts in medical, dental, vision, holistic wellness, personal fitness, mental health, hygiene and nutrition available for questions and concerns.

"I look for challenges with circulation and gastric problems, which is very common in seniors," said Shai Hankins, a reflexologist from the African Holistic Health Chapter of New York, who provided foot oil massages to participants.

For seniors, their health, resources and safety were a major concern for their well-being.

"It is important that I am safe, but it is just as important that I control my blood pressure," said Jessie Carter, 76, a resident of the Allen Senior Citizen Housing in Jamaica.

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cnglocal.com](mailto:skully@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4546.

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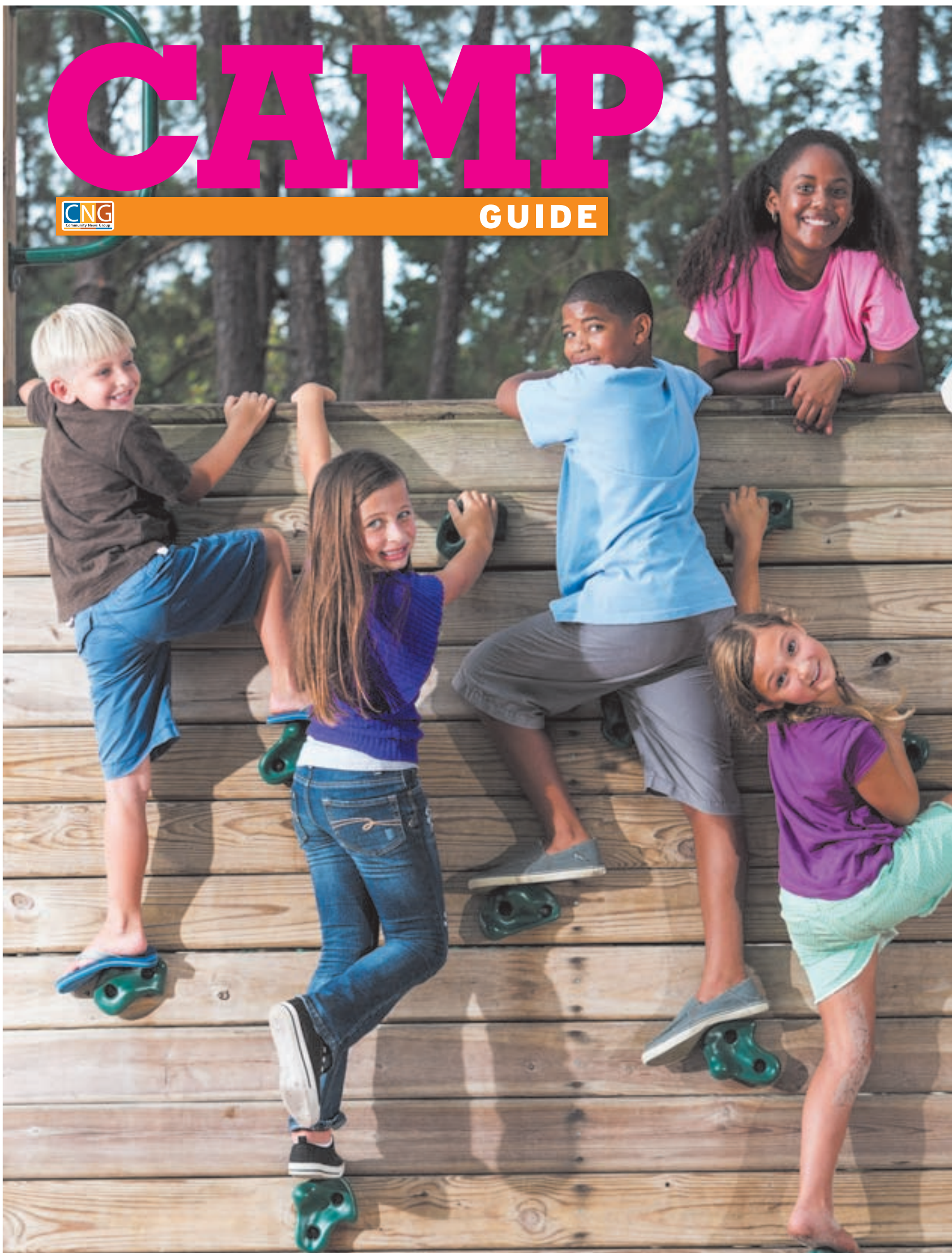




# CAMP



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Many camp professionals will describe their camp community as a family.

# Strength training

*Camp can give kids a second family*

BY DR. ETHAN SCHAFER

When I was 15, I was in my sixth summer at a traditional camp for boys in New Hampshire. One night after dinner, my counselor from the year before (a 6-foot-5 English rugby player) asked me if I wanted to throw a baseball around. We spent an hour or two playing catch and talking about whatever came up. I don't remember the specifics of our conversation, who else was there, or what was going on around us. What I do remember, and still enjoy thinking about, are the positive feelings that resulted from having

more like it over the course of my camp career. As a former counselor with 15 years of experience, and now as a mental health professional specializing in working with children, I am convinced that the cumulative power of small moments like these illustrate the unique manner in which camp helps children reach their full potential.

## Why is camp so good for children?

Many camp professionals will describe their camp community as a family. I can't think of a more accurate description. One of the reasons that well-run camps are so good for children is that they emulate the processes found in what psychologists call authoritative families.

Parents who are authoritative provide their children with a great deal of structure and have high expectations of their children, while simultaneously providing a high degree of emotional warmth and encouragement. They can be distinguished from parents who

*Continued on Page 39*

**CAMP HELPS KIDS**

**REACH THEIR FULL**

**POTENTIAL.**

the undivided attention of someone I essentially worshipped. For some reason, this particular event stands out in my mind, though there were hundreds

## IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

*How camps help children care for the earth*

Whether a child makes his home in the heart of the city or the fields of the heartland, daily life can make getting "back to nature" hard for any family. Yet experiencing the outdoors helps children gain enhanced abilities to learn, lead, and experience contentment, as well as gain a lifelong interest in caring for planet earth.

### A toad or a frog?

Parents who want to be sure their kids know a toad from a frog and a catfish from a crawfish don't need to go it alone. Camp programs are among the very best ways for children to get to know first-hand a very important family member — Mother Nature.

Take James, for example. Despite being included in many family travels, James and the natural world had only a passing acquaintance, and his parents were wise enough to send him into the woods for camp.

"We have a little potato patch down by the river, and the kids can catch



a trout in the river and dig up potatoes and bring them back to camp, learning what it's like to live off the land," explains Sandy Schenk, owner

and director of Green River Preserve

### HERE ARE FIVE PLANET-FRIENDLY IDEAS YOU CAN DO IN YOUR OWN YARD:

- 1 Start a recycling program at home.** Find out what your community recycles and what happens to the recyclables.
- 2 Save three to five gallons of water** when you brush your teeth — no need to keep the water running.
- 3 At the store, consider the packaging** — is it disposable or reusable/recyclable?
- 4 When cleaning, choose rags** that can be reused after washing.
- 5 Plant a tree** in your backyard or neighborhood — help keep the air clean.

*Continued on Page 39*



# Spend summer on campus

*Queens College offers camp programs focusing on sports and theater performances*

BY MERLE EXIT

Summer camps may conjure up the images of hiking through the great outdoors or jumping into a clear, blue lake.

Queens College, however, offers a different type of venue — its campus.

What started as a two-week, half-day sports camp in 1988 with about 80 campers, has grown into a huge summer operation offering sessions lasting up to eight weeks that run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

“Queens College is one of the first college campuses to run our type of summer camp,” program director Brain Demasters said. “This summer is expected to bring 1,200 children and 350 adult staff due to both Queens County’s large as well as diverse population.”

Demasters knew Queens College had tapped into a need when the second year’s camp attracted 600 participants.

The camp has also expanded beyond its sports origins and now offers programs in computers, science, art and theater.

“Once we started growing we realized that we needed a larger variety of activities as the parents wanted their children to be involved with more than just sports,” Demasters said. “We do have children experience some physical activity, having come from being in school all year and they have a need to run around, play and have fun.”

Campers have access to many of Queens College’s facility during the summer.

Sports programs are held at the Fitzgerald Gymnasium, one of the largest college gyms on the East Coast, which houses 18 basketball courts on one floor, Demasters said.

“In addition there are four outdoor fields: a soccer field, baseball field, softball and regulation lacrosse field,” he said.

Children ages 9 to 14 can choose a major/minor program that allows them to concentrate on one sport while experiencing a number of different sports as well. Sports variety can include field and gym games, modified for age groups. Field games may include soccer and softball. Indoor games may include basketball and volleyball.

But there is plenty of action happening indoors as well.

PS/IS 499, Queens College School for Math, Science and Technology, is located on campus and serves as the hub for many of the other activities, including the ever popular theater



Campers can take part in plenty of athletic opportunities, including soccer, at the Queens College Summer Camp.

Photo courtesy Queens College Knights

program.

Children between the ages of 9 - 14 have the chance to experience a full theatrical production. They can take part as one of the actors on-stage or fill a back-stage role building sets or making costumes.

“We started the theater aspect 10 years ago as the children had skills in dance, singing and music,” Demasters said.

The younger children, ages 5 - 8, have a half-day showcase to present what they have learned during the sessions.

Demasters points out that the ratio of campers to counselors is about 8-to-1. And many of those counselors include upperclassmen, graduate students and even faculty members.

Queens College coaches sometimes offer to help out during the sessions. For example, Bet Naumovski, head coach of the women’s basketball team,

has been working two weeks each summer along with many of her athletes.

“We have top quality care from the moment the child is dropped off,” Demasters said. “They get breakfast, hot lunch and snacks during the day.”

*Queens College Summer Camp has planned open houses on the following dates: March 7, March 8, March 21, March 22, March 31, April 11, April 12, April 25, April 26, May 9, May 23, May 24, June 6, June 7 and June 20. For more information, contact the camp at (718) 997-2777, or visit the website at [queensknight.com/camps](http://queensknight.com/camps).*

Counselors offer swimming lessons to campers at the Queens College Summer Camp, held on the campus.

Photo courtesy Queens College Knights







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# Be a good sport in Bayside

*World of Discovery Summer Day Camp helps turn youngsters into real team players*

BY MERLE EXIT

Steve Bonomo and Paul Winter have been running the World of Discovery Summer Day Camp of Bayside for more than 20 years.

Bonomo has worked as a principal at a private school on Long Island. Winters has served as an assistant principal in Queens.

"We provide a safe environment for kids of all backgrounds with positive role models while developing their social skills as they make new friends," said Bonomo. "The staff consists of gym teachers and varsity coaches from New York City and Long Island Schools. All of the children live in Queens as well as 90 percent of the staff."

With most of the activities take place outdoors, the weather is no deterrent to fun.

They have a large indoor facility in Bayside, where the children participate in a rotating schedule of movies, talent shows, arts and crafts, sports, magic shows, bingo and many other activities in their spacious gymnasium, cafeteria, auditorium and classrooms.

Discovery Sports Academy offers two-to-four-week sessions, where the goal is to motivate, improve skills, enhance competitive spirit, develop team players and have fun.

"Our program is designed to instruct campers in the basic techniques of a variety of sporting activities and to advance the experienced player in skills and knowledge of the game," Bonomo said.

Instructors design instructional drills to enhance and stress basic fundamental techniques and practice these skills through intra-camp tournaments and events. The idea is for every camper to become part of a team, which participates in a series of round robin tournaments in basketball, baseball, soccer, kickball and football.

They offer individualized instruction to encourage the athletic advancement and development of each camper.

Activities are not limited to



Campers are decked out in colorful outfits and wigs at the World of Discovery Summer Day Camp.

Photo courtesy World of Discovery Summer Day Camp

sports alone. There are trips and adventures taken to area amusement parks, Citi Field,

laser tag and other great places for kids to explore.

"We want the kids to

simply have fun on these trips," Bonomo said.

A private pool is provided

and located at 32nd Avenue off Union Street. The program stresses safety, fun, and most importantly, instruction by certified staff.

"To further encourage safe, enjoyable swimming, we rely on the 'buddy system' approach," Bonomo said. "This insures that no child is in the water without a friend and safety partner. Our instructors are lifeguards who are carefully chosen and sensitive to the needs of children."

Campers receive swim instruction three to five days per week in 30-minute intervals, accompanied by time to practice their skills during the recreational swim. All swimmers are individually tested and evaluated, then placed into small groups based on their individual needs.

World of Discovery Summer Day Camp is located at the John Golden Ball Fields (32nd Avenue & 215th Place), the camp is open to children ages 4-16. Campers are placed in groups by age, gender and ability.



The World of Discovery Summer Day Camp places an emphasis on sports like softball.

Photo courtesy World of Discovery Summer Day Camp



# Summer camp options abound

Summer camp is a beloved tradition in many families. Many parents of young children fondly recall spending their summers at camp, where they made life-long friends and learned the finer points of roasting marshmallows and competing in three-legged sack races.

Parents looking for the right summer camp for their kids will soon discover there are various types, each offering youngsters something different. The following are some of the options parents can expect to encounter as they search for the right camper for their kids:

## Day camp

Day camps are not overnight camps, which means kids will return home each

night rather than sleep over at camp. Day camps typically offer many of the activities people have come to associate with camps, including crafts, sports, and even day-trips to experience local culture or attractions. Many day camps are co-ed, and counselors typically live within the community.

## Faith-based camp

Faith-based camps offer many of the same activities as more traditional summer camps, but do so while simultaneously offering campers the opportunity to celebrate and further explore their religious beliefs. Some faith-based camps may focus heavily on religion, incorporating faith into daily camp activities, while others may be more subtle with regard to integrating re-

ligious beliefs and lessons into camp activities.

## Sports camps

Some summer camps focus on a particular sport, catering to young athletes who want to further develop their athletic talents. Sports camps may feature guest lectures and lessons from notable local athletes and coaches, while some camps may provide instruction from current or former professional athletes. Some sports camps are overnight, while others are day camps.

## Family camps

Family camps are opportunities for the whole family to enjoy the summer camp experience. Family camps typically tailor their activities around tasks families can complete



Some sports camps focus on a particular sport.

together, with counselors providing assistance when it's needed. Family camps may be faith-based or secular, and families typically stay overnight, sleeping in facilities on the campsites or in lodging away from home.

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# QUESTIONS TO ASK CAMP DIRECTORS

**W**hen you receive a camp's brochure, you will invariably have questions for the camp director. Get to know the camp director as a person through telephone conversations, correspondence, and a personal visit. Have the director describe the camp's philosophy and how the staff implements it. Here are some questions to ask:

## What is the camp's philosophy and program emphasis?

Each camp has its own method of constructing programs based on its philosophy. Does it complement your own parenting philosophy?

## What is the camp director's background?

American Camp Association minimum standards recommend directors possess a bachelor's degree, have completed in-service training within the past three years, and have at least 16 weeks of camp administrative experience before assuming the responsibilities of director.

## What training do counselors receive?

At a minimum, camp staff should be trained in safety regulations, emergency procedures and communication, behavior management techniques, child abuse prevention, appropriate staff and camper behavior, and specific procedures for supervision.

## What is the counselor-to-camper ratio?

American Camp Association standards require different ratios for varying ages and special needs.

## What are the ages of the counselors?

The Association's standards recommend that 80 percent or more of the counseling and program staff be at least 18 years old. Staff must be at least 16 years old and be at least two years older than the campers with whom they work.

## What are desired qualities in camp staff?

The same qualities of trustworthiness and dependability sought by any employer are valued commodities in camp employees.

## What percentage of the counselors returned from last year?

Most camps have from 40 to 60 percent returning staff. If the rate is lower, find out why.



# Letting go

## Parents and camps help foster children's self-reliance

BY MARLA COLEMAN

**I** have witnessed, first-hand, the incredible journeys of children who come to recognize their own power in steering their own destinies.

Camp is a stepping-stone to self-reliance! It is one community in which children can learn to navigate on their own without well-intentioned parental courseplotting to avert choppy waters. Over the years, as a camp director, I have witnessed, first-hand, the incredible journeys of children who come to recognize their own power in steering their own destinies. Opportunities for decision-making and problem-solving at camp allow children to discover their strengths and their abilities to make good choices and to influence positive outcomes for themselves.

Ariel, a second-year camper, casually asked me during camp, "Does my mom still call every day?" She and her mother had fallen into a predictable pattern: Ariel would tell her mom about "what was wrong" (we know that kids tend to "save" things for their parents!), and her mom would dutifully call the camp to "fix" the prob-

lem. Carefully and slowly, with appropriate guidance, her mom came to understand that she was perpetuating a cycle that was prevent-

### COACHING KIDS TO FEEL CAPABLE IS WHAT CAMP DIRECTORS DO.

ing her daughter from being independent. As trust increased, she started encouraging her to speak with someone at camp who could more quickly and efficiently help her resolve the situation — yet still validating Ariel's feelings.

I was gratified to answer Ariel's query: "Actually, no," to which Ariel quickly responded: "That's because I stopped complaining to her!" Lessons learned for both parent and child! "Aha" moments like this happen every day at camp.

How can parents and camps cooperate to help children gain just the right degree of independence? Here are few ways:

- Many camps have a design-

nated contact person. During the decision-making process of "which camp," ask questions that give you an idea of the partnering and communication philosophy of the camp and learn who the primary contact person is — build rapport early.

- Remember that camp directors have a reservoir of experiences to back their counsel to you. Know, too, that they have your child's best interests at heart and the skill to guide your child towards an appropriate level of independence, self-confidence, and success.

- Keep in mind that kids often triumph over their adjustment to a new environment before their parents can accept the next stage of their development! Do not offer to rescue your child; that only confirms for him that you believe he cannot cope with something that is difficult.

- Get on board with the notion of supporting kids to solve their own problems or asking a trusted counselor for help; let her experience the real world in the camp setting.

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# CAMP'S POWERFUL SECRET WEAPON

*The buzz about emotional intelligence and your child*

BY POSIE TAYLOR

Why consider summer camp for your child? Perhaps you hope to raise another Michelle Kwan or Tiger Woods. Maybe you are desperate for an alternative to a summer of day care, chauffeuring, and video games. There is another even more compelling reason to consider a high-quality summer camp, according to the child development experts at the American Camp Association. This reason, while it has been true for decades, is finally getting the attention it deserves. Children at summer camps are learning vital life skills that will help them grow — and will make their lives healthier and happier all along the way. It's the new buzz word in educational theory that's been at work in quality summer camps for years: Emotional Intelligence.

Jeremy and Tony are excited to go fishing. Their counselor helps them to work out a way to share the one rod fairly without arguing. Their new-found ability to share without anger carries over to their cabin and who will operate the only working flashlight.

Sarah's nature counselor watches with delight to see this shy 9-year-old gently and competently organize her camp friends into teams for a wildflower search. At the beginning of camp, Sarah was too nervous even to express an opinion about whether she preferred hot dogs or burgers on the grill.

Matthew and Valerie watch out for Robert as he maneuvers the climbing wall. They yell encour-



agement, cheering on their camp friend, who, unlike his cabinmates, struggles daily with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. On Opening Day, these two teased Robert about his unstable walk and slow progress across the field. Cabin discussions about disabilities, a counselor's careful example of kindness and respect, and just spending time together have helped the three form a strong friendship.

## Emotional Intelligence: Nature or nurture?

These children all demonstrate sophisticated skills in areas scientists are suddenly watching closely. Observers are finding that a set of abilities, collectively called Emotional Intelligence, has much to do with how children grow and succeed. These skills — self-awareness, self-control, empathy, the ability to wait (delayed gratification), the ability to listen, cooperate, share, and work well with others — are actually better predictors of adult suc-

cess and happiness than traditional IQ scores. In Emotional Intelligence, clinical psychologist and author Daniel Goleman makes two important assertions, assertions that parents may not find surprising. He reports on new research showing that children whose Emotional Intelligence skills are well-developed tend to be more successful at school, have deeper and healthier relationships, grow up to have more fulfilling work lives, and become valuable and contributing members of their communities.

Goleman's second assertion is that these Emotional Intelligence skills can be taught. Children can learn and practice these wonderfully valuable qualities under the guidance of thoughtful and aware adults — parents, teachers, and youth leaders of all sorts. The importance of this assertion is hard to overemphasize. Parents have long tried to teach courtesy and politeness to their children, but were never sure their teaching could overcome in-born capabilities.



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# The boy in the boat

## Life lessons learned at camp

BY STEPHEN WALLACE

**A**mong other things, camp provides children with the opportunity to connect with nature, to participate in human-powered activities, and to benefit from personal relationships. Many young people who attend camp experience an increase in their self-esteem (independent research has found 92 percent of them say that the people at camp helped them feel good about themselves) and are able to establish a true sense of independence. Kids also say that because of camp ... “I developed lasting friendships”... “I became a team player”... “I learned how to care.”

Ben was the boy in the boat. A gregarious go-getter whose journey through camp was inextricably linked to sailboats on the water. The lessons he learned at camp originated from,

or were reinforced by, the challenges he faced as a skipper, navigating the uncertain and constantly shifting conditions of wind, tide, crew, and competition. Learning lessons about self-reliance, self-confidence, exploration, and responsibility — all important metrics of a successful summer camp experience and harbingers of what follows.

Below, Ben talks about what those metrics mean to him.

### Self-reliance

When my parents' sports utility vehicle moved out of sight, I was, for the first time in my nine years of life, on my own. It didn't hit me right away that the next morning my mom wouldn't be there to wake me up, my dad to help me sail, or even that I wouldn't come home at the end of the day to find my bed nicely made. My camp counsel-

ors introduced me to something new: adults who would show me the way but not hold my hand the entire time. I did a lot of active learning. I would always try something the first time and if I couldn't figure it out on my own, my counselors would be there for guidance.

### Self-confidence

At my summer camp, activity awards were handed out at assemblies. Campers' names were read aloud as they walked onstage to the sound of applause. In retrospect, I realized this simple act served a much greater purpose than just handing out certificates. It is not always essential for campers to become the best at whatever they choose to do, but it is essential that they feel they've accomplished something. Publicly recognizing a camper

for his or her accomplishments builds self-confidence.

### Exploration

My counselors were always pushing me. Pushing me during unit games, pushing me in the cabin towards new activities, pushing me to be a better sailor, and pushing me towards girls at dances. In their own ways they encouraged me to step outside of my comfort zone and take a risk. I developed a trust with them and in turn with the entire camp community. Whether I was on the water, on a field, or in my cabin, I always knew that my counselors and the camp would have my back.

### Responsibility

I met some of the greatest people in the world at camp. In fact, I made such real friendships that the time I spent at camp each summer was enough to make me feel good the entire year. One of many lifelong things I learned at camp is a conscious responsibility to always be there for my friends and for others. Away from camp, I have volunteered as a peer leader, facilitating discussions about alcohol and drug use with middle and high school students and their parents, and I have joined fellow athletes in performing community service.

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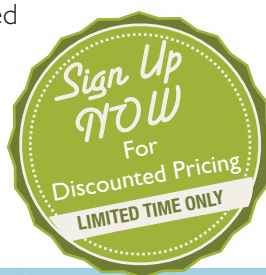
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Our Teen Camp girls always stop to smile for a pic on the road.

Sports Camp shows us the meaning of teamwork.



The members of the Junior Camp Art Elective show off their gorgeous creations.





# STRENGTH

Continued from Page 31

are permissive (high emotional availability, but little structure and low expectations), or authoritarian (high expectations and structure, but low on emotional warmth and encouragement).

When I work with parents, I often describe permissive parents as the “spoilers,” and authoritarian parents as the “dictators.” There are literally decades of psychological research supporting the conclusion that authoritative parenting is most likely to result in children who are happy, independent, and secure in themselves. Good camps are like good families: clear expectations are given, rules are enforced in a fair and sensitive manner, and campers are given warmth, respect, and encouragement. Substitute “camp counselor” for “parent,” and we get the “big picture” reason for why camp is so good for children.

## What about my child?

Good camps also help children by matching their programs to the developmental level of the child. Psychologists will often speak of “developmental tasks” or “age-appropriate challenges” when discussing what children of different ages need to learn in order to develop appropriately. Camp is one of the few areas of your child’s life where

the program can be matched to specific needs and developmental tasks, helping children make the most of their natural strengths. In my opinion, the camp experience is superior to most schools in this regard, as camps make no assumption that all third graders, for example, need to learn the same things or be treated the same way.

Keeping in mind that children of the same chronological age can vary widely in terms of emotional, social, and intellectual development, the following can be used as a general set of guidelines for what you can expect your child to get out of camp whether your choice is a day camp close to home or an overnight camp in a neighboring state.

## Children – 4 to 6 Years

Although children of this age may seem too young for camp, almost all of them can benefit from day camp, and in more precocious cases, overnight camp. Young children are learning how to explore their world, gradually spending more time away from their parents’ side.

Day camp, or a brief, overnight camp is an ideal place for young children to experience being away from their parents in a safe, nurturing environment. Good camps will have many structured, productive activities such as crafts and field trips that also help children get used to following a schedule.

# GREEN

Continued from Page 31

camp of Cedar Mountain, N. C.

“When James’s parents came to pick him up at week’s end, he dragged his duffle bag across the parking lot, gave his mom and dad a big hug, and fished out his prize from camp, a huge potato, and gave it to his father. He was so proud. This was a first — he made a connection between the earth and food, and you could just see the light bulbs turn on.”

Almost all camps incorporate hikes and nature activities, and some go an extra mile to immerse kids in nature and the environment. Green River Preserve is one such camp. It specializes in helping gifted children better understand the earth through daily activities with professional naturalists on a 3,400-acre nature preserve.

“We find that getting kids into the natural world is transformational,” says Schenk. “Nature’s a magnificent teacher because everyone is treated the same. Pushing yourself is something that happens naturally in the out of doors. And when you see kids helping each other over a slippery rock wall, it’s amazing. We see each child come out of the program with a greater understanding of nature and better sense of self.”

Eagles’ Nest Camp of Pisgah Forest, N. C., has been teaching kids to take care of their natural world for decades. “In our Explorer’s Club class, kids are out in the woods, streams,

and bushes, really getting a feel for the amazing biodiversity of the Northern Appalachians,” explains Noni Waite-Kucera, executive director of Eagle’s Nest Foundation. “To have kids be able to explore and be a part of that is a real gift for them.”

Eagle’s Nest also sponsors camp craft classes, helping children learn to read a map, build a fire, and leave no trace. “We teach every camper how to respect and avoid making an impact on the environment,” she says. Even an earth art class uses items found in the forest for woodland sculptures, which campers then leave behind to biodegrade and contribute to the health of the forest ecosystem.

## You are what you eat

Environmental programs don’t always take place exclusively in the outdoors. Enter the kitchen! The Whole Kitchen program uses holistic ingredients, fresh foods, whole grains, and local produce. “We grind our flour from wheat berries, and the kids make the bread,” Waite-Kucera says. “It’s all a way to show how nature provides for us, and why we need to return the favor.”

Sometimes, a camp’s location can provide built-in environmental lessons. At Windsor Mountain (formerly Interlocken), camp life centers around a small farm and camp garden nestled in the foothills of New Hampshire on the edge of a 4,000-acre nature preserve.



# QUEENS ZOO



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## Coverage of Islamic State, Ebola, VA and Secret Service failures Recognized as Top Investigative Works

**Brooklyn, N.Y.** (Feb. 15, 2015) – Reporters who risked their lives in 2014 to cover the Ebola epidemic, traced the rise of the Islamic State, and revealed secret ransoms paid for the release of hostages are winners of Long Island University's 66th annual George Polk Awards in Journalism. Additional honorees include reporters who uncovered systemic failure in two federal agencies, the Secret Service and the Veterans Administration, as well as journalists who exposed brutal treatment of prison and jail inmates.

Awardees will be honored at a ceremony at The Roosevelt Hotel in Manhattan on Friday, April 10.

"The excellent work across a variety of media platforms reflected by 558 nominations from news organizations, individual journalists, and members of our advisory panel suggests that journalists are adapting well to a landscape no longer dominated exclusively by print," said John Darnton, curator of the awards.

The George Polk Awards are conferred annually to honor special achievement in journalism. The awards place a premium on investigative and enterprising reporting that gains attention and achieves results. They were established in 1949 by Long Island University (LIU) to commemorate George Polk, a CBS correspondent murdered in 1948 while covering the Greek civil war.

Reporting by the 2014 award recipients also laid blame for a deadly mudslide in Washington State on lax environmental enforcement, sparked the successful prosecution of a 10-year-old Chicago homicide by authorities reluctant to charge its well connected perpetrator, and connected the deaths of more than 300 domestic abuse victims in South Carolina and 400 migrants in Texas to inadequate laws, insufficient resources, and indifferent responses.

Garry Trudeau will be the 33rd recipient of the George Polk Career Award and is the first cartoonist in

the program's history to be so honored. He has cut political pretension down to the size of his *Doonesbury* comic strip for 45 years. Four other cartoonists—Jules Feiffer (1961), David Levine (1965), Jeff MacNelly (1977), and Edward Sorel (1980)—have also been cited for their work in specific years.

Trudeau, Feiffer, and Django Gold, senior writer for *The Onion*, will discuss the role and impact of comics and satire in journalism in light of the Paris terrorist attacks on Charlie Hebdo in early 2015 at the David J. Steinberg Seminar of the George Polk Awards, "Dangerous Lines: Cartoonists and Other Subversives." The seminar takes place on Thursday, April 9, at LIU Brooklyn's Kumble Theater for Performing Arts. The event is free and open to the public.

"LIU is proud to honor excellence in investigative journalism that spans the globe with the George Polk Awards," said Dr. Kimberly R. Cline,

president of LIU. "This year's winners are true heroes who risked their lives uncovering the truth behind some of 2014's most incredible stories, and we salute their courage and determination."

### About LIU

*LIU is one of the nation's largest private universities. Since its founding in 1926, LIU has provided high quality academic programs taught by world-class faculty grounded in the liberal arts and sciences. LIU offers 500 accredited programs to 18,500 students in the New York City metropolitan region. LIU has an active network of more than 180,000 alumni that includes leaders in industries across the globe. LIU is recognized for its commitment to experiential education, service learning, and entrepreneurial thinking. LIU empowers students with skills they need to excel in the classroom and in their careers. Visit [liu.edu](http://liu.edu) for more information.*



Long Island University  
[polkawards.org](http://polkawards.org)



## Long Island University is Pleased to Announce and Congratulate the 2014 George Polk Award Winners

### International Reporting

Rukmini Callimachi  
Ransom for Hostages  
*The New York Times*

### Foreign Reporting

Rania Abouzeid  
"The Jihad Next Door"  
*PoliticoMagazine*

### Health Reporting

Adam Nossiter, Norimitsu Onishi, Ben Solomon, Sheri Fink, Helene Cooper and Daniel Berehulak  
Ebola in West Africa  
*The New York Times*

### National Reporting

Carol Leonnig  
Secret Service Scandal  
*The Washington Post*

### Local Reporting

Tim Novak, Chris Fusco and Carol Marin  
"Who Killed David Koschman?"  
*Chicago Sun-Times*

### Business Reporting

International Consortium of Investigative Journalists  
Tax Havens in China and Europe  
*The Center for Public Integrity*

### Environmental Reporting

Staff  
Oso Mudslide  
*The Seattle Times*

### Justice Reporting

Julie K. Brown  
Florida Prison Deaths  
*Miami Herald*

Michael Schwartz and Michael Winerip  
Rikers Island Expose  
*The New York Times*

### Magazine Reporting

James Verini  
"Should the United Nations Wage War to Keep Peace?"  
*National Geographic*

### Military Reporting

Dennis Wagner  
VA Hospital Scandal  
*The Arizona Republic*

### State Reporting

Doug Pardue, Glenn Smith, Jennifer Berry Hawes and Natalie Caula Hauff  
"Till Death Do Us Part"  
*The Post and Courier*  
(South Carolina)

### Television Reporting

Marisa Venegas, John Carlos Frey, and Solly Granatstein  
"Muriendo por Cruzar"  
("The Real Death Valley")  
Telemundo, The Weather Channel, Efran Films and The Investigative Fund  
(Melvin McCray)

### Commentary

Ta-Nehisi Coates  
"The Case for Reparations"  
*The Atlantic*

### Career Award

Garry Trudeau



# Rust and Ruin

## SECRETS OF THE WORLD'S FAIR NY STATE PAVILION

BY MICHAEL SHAIN

You are not supposed to be seeing these pictures of what has happened to the New York State Pavilion. The doors to the inside of the iconic building designed by architect Philip Johnson 50 years ago were chained shut in the late 1990s while the city tried to figure out whether to rebuild it -- or tear it down.

A small but passionate group of Queens fans of the building are behind a major push to convince city and state officials that the NYSP is an irreplaceable piece of the borough's (and New York's) history that must be preserved. They have drawn parallels to the demolition of Penn Station in Manhattan in the 1960s and warned that future generations will never forgive us for not saving their legacy.

These photos were taken by a 19-year-old Queensborough Community College student, who got into the pavilion in January by means he'd rather not reveal.

"I can't give away my secret to getting in, but I will say that I wanted to do it because I want to give the public the view they're missing,"

says the photographer, who asked that his name be withheld.

Little wonder the public is barred. These photos, with their eerie, last-man-on-earth quality, capture the sad disrepair of the place.

The photos are "a double-edged sword," he concedes. "On the bright side, I'm documenting history, answering questions and promoting restoration.

"But on the dark side, people say I'm trespassing and putting the building at risk."

No matter, a drumbeat for preserving the pavilion seems to be growing louder.

This week, it was announced that the first of \$5.8 million earmarked for the site will be spent to install new lighting around the wreck. The hope is that the new lighting will make it easier to raise the remaining \$15 million or so in restoration costs once people realize how captivating the building is,

Also, final editing on a feature-length documentary on the pavilion, "Modern Ruin," has been completed, filmmaker Matthew Silva said last week. All that remains is setting a date and place for its first screening, he says.



The staircase from the first deck to the top floor.



The elevators brought visitors to the top floor.



The view of the Tent of Tomorrow is seen from the tower.



These doors in the VIP suite once led to a private observation deck.





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## A Common Cause of Pelvic Pain: What You Need to Know

*If you feel an urgent or frequent need to urinate, along with pain or discomfort coming from the bladder, you may have interstitial cystitis, also known as bladder pain syndrome or IC/BPS. Robert Moldwin, MD, FACS, and Sonia Bahlani, MD, urologists at the Arthur Smith Institute for Urology, part of North Shore-LIJ Health System, discuss what you need to know about this condition.*

### Are there different types of IC/BPS?

Yes. About 5 to 10 percent of IC/BPS patients have inflammation (called "Hunner's lesions") that can be seen on the bladder surface. In most patients, the bladder wall looks perfectly normal. Further testing will make sure you don't have signs of infection or any other obvious bladder disease.

### How can IC/BPS affect me?

In mild cases, you may only have to deal with the discomfort and urinary frequency. However, moderate to severe symptoms can include the constant need to have bathroom access, limited ability to travel and lack of sleep due to the pain and constant need to urinate. Pain with sexual activity is common and often adds another dimension of misery.

### How common is IC/BPS?

We used to believe that IC/BPS was relatively rare. However, new studies suggest that the condition may affect 3 million to 8 million women, and 2 million men, in the United States.

### Who gets IC/BPS?

Anyone in any age group can get IC/BPS, but it's usually found in people in their late 20s through their 70s. Heredity may also play a role: if your parent or sibling has IC/BPS, you are about 17 times more likely to also get the condition.

### What causes this condition?

The etiology of IC/BPS is unclear but appears to be multifactorial. The various causes of IC/BPS may include changes in the surface lining of the bladder, nerve abnormalities of the bladder wall and autoimmune problems. The symptoms may also be related to diseases affecting other parts of the body, because 40 percent of patients have other disorders such as irritable bowel syndrome, fibromyalgia, migraine headaches and even depression.

### How is IC/BPS diagnosed?

A doctor will review your medical history and physical, including a urine test to rule out problems like urinary tract infection. Other tests such as cystoscopy (viewing the bladder surface with a special telescope) may be performed if abnormalities of the bladder wall are of concern.

### How is IC/BPS treated?

Because every IC/BPS patient can have a different range of symptoms, our pelvic pain experts at the Smith Institute for Urology will develop a unique plan for you. Therapy generally progresses from the most conservative forms of care (dietary changes and physical therapy) to more "aggressive" management (oral medications, medications placed directly into the bladder and even surgery). Using a variety of approaches significantly improves quality of life in the vast majority of our patients.

If you or a loved one have any of these symptoms, make an appointment today by calling (516) 734-8500. For more information visit [NorthShoreLIJ.com/icbps](http://NorthShoreLIJ.com/icbps).





# SNOW STOPPING

## WOODSIDE ST. PAT'S PARADE



Borough President Melinda Katz speaks while a hooded U.S. Rep. Joe Crowley tries to stay dry.  
Photo courtesy of Borough President



In kilts, no less, the FDNY's Emerald Society marches on bravely.  
Photo by Walter Karling



What's a St. Pat's Parade without some colorful characters, both in feathers?  
Photo by Walter Karling



Mayor de Blasio marches at the head of the St. Pat's For All parade.  
Photo courtesy of Flickr

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# Queens leads boroughs in school overcrowding

BY TOM MOMBERG

City Department of Education Acting Deputy Chancellor Elizabeth Rose spoke at an oversight hearing Tuesday in front of the City Council Committee on Education to address the city's overcrowded schools.

Rose said some of the most significant overcrowding problems are happening in two Queens' districts: District 24, which covers schools in Ridgewood, Glendale, Elmhurst, Maspeth, Corona and Middle Village, and District 30, which includes Jackson Heights, Long Island City and Astoria.

The city is on track with its \$13.5 billion capital plan to create 33,000 new school seats by 2019. But an Independent Budget Office analysis estimated that the city was 75,000 seats short in the 2014-15 school year.

The IBO defines a school as overcrowded if its utilization rate exceeds 102.5 percent, as opposed to the 100 percent used by comptrollers and the DOE. Therefore, by IBO standards, very few of the city schools are overcrowded.

The Council's Education Committee chairman, Councilman Daniel Dromm (D-Jackson Heights), said the IBO often overstates school capacities, which in the 2013-14 Blue Book, were at a system total of 93 percent utilization.

"While the 93 percent utilization

figure suggests that the DOE has sufficient capacity to meet demand, we know that in districts across the city, the supply of seats is not perfectly aligned with where students live or wish to attend school," Rose said at the hearing. "As a result, we have individual buildings, and in some cases, entire neighborhoods, that are overcrowded. And in other cases, we have buildings and neighborhoods that are underutilized."

Rose attributed some of the factors in this disparity to close proximity of district and charter schools as well as increased pre-kindergarten enrollment.

Last year, five schools and more than 5,000 seats were created, and 42 new locations are expected in September in time for the next school year. Those additional 13,000 seats are not enough, according to Rose.

"Even with new seats, we recognize that overcrowding exists in certain geographical pockets across the city," she said.

Roughly 44 percent of city schools have a utilization rate that exceeds 100 percent. The utilization rate is its highest in Queens, which averaged out at 105 percent.

Reach reporter Tom Momberg by e-mail at [tmomberg@cnglocal.com](mailto:tmomberg@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4573.

## Boro renters pay 41 percent of their household income

BY TOM MOMBERG

Zillow Real Estate's editorial team created a blog for its StreetEasy real estate guide in February, and within it, published its own comprehensive study on rent affordability in New York City.

StreetEasy predicts the city's median asking rent will rise to \$2,700 in 2015, or just above 58 percent of the city's median income. Though that rent burden is estimated at its highest in Brooklyn, the study estimates that the average renter in Queens will spend over 41 percent of his income on housing. Those figures also factor in income-based, subsidized and stabilized-rent housing.

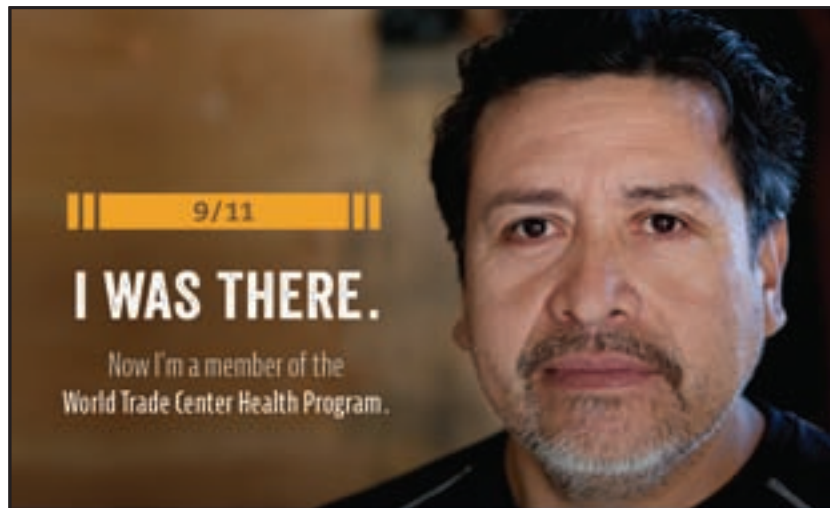
In the United States, housing is considered affordable when it consumes less than 30 percent of a household income. According to the New York State Comptroller's office, between the 2000 Census and the 2012 American

Community Survey, the percentage of renters who pay prices above the affordability threshold, increased by 10 percent. That increase was nearly double for city residents.

The city's rental vacancy rate is 3.45 percent, according to the 2014 New York City Housing and Vacancy Survey, meaning that there are more people moving to New York than there is housing available to them. Competition between renters' bids forces rent prices to inflate and lowers an apartment's time spent on the market.

Rent in Queens, though still high, is substantially more affordable than the rest of the city, in part due to new housing opportunities created by new developments. The availability of additional rental units eased some pressure on the city's rental market, according to StreetEasy.

Find the full study online at <http://streeteasy.com/blog/new-york-city-rent-affordability/>.



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Image is a model portraying an actual member of the World Trade Center Health Program.

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Photo by Ellen Dunn

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## Flushing shop is about to turn 20

Chung Hwa Bookstore celebrates third decade catering to Chinese and Korean clientele

BY MADINA TOURE

Next year, Flushing's Chung Hwa Bookstore will celebrate two decades in business as a pioneer in bringing a second source of Asian culture to the area.

The three-floor bookstore at 135-29 Roosevelt Ave. caters especially to the area's Chinese and Taiwanese residents.

It stocks a variety of genres such as economics, business, health, cookbooks, dictionaries, anime, fiction and history as well as magazines on topics like fashion, cosmetics, business and economics.

They also sell test preparation books for examinations such as the SATs, the New York Regents, the GRE and the GMAT as well as Chinese painting and calligraphy materials.

"Some come just to read, some come just to buy," said Peter Wang, the bookstore's general manager, who has been working at the bookstore for 18 years. "They say here is much better than the Queens Library because we've got more choices, all kinds of books we carry."

Nearly 20 years ago, Wang's brother-in-law founded the bookstore because many immigrants in the area came from China and Taiwan, a demographic that was served by only one other bookstore owned by The World Journal at the time.



The Chung Hwa Bookstore in downtown Flushing sells books, stationery and magazines. Below, Peter Wang, the store's general manager has worked at Chung Hwa Bookstore for 18 years. Photos by Madina Toure

"More people come into Flushing," Wang said. "That's why we think maybe we need more books so we opened a second bookstore."

The bookstore mostly imports books from agents in

Taiwan, Hong Kong and China who ship the books, which are brand new. Roughly 80 percent of the books are Taiwanese.

At least 300 people — mostly Chinese and Taiwanese — come into the bookstore every

day, Wang said. The store currently has 10 employees.

They also get a large number of tourists, who are typically surprised to see a bookstore like Chung Hwa in the United States. The most popu-

lar books are the business and health books.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cn-glocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cn-glocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

## BUSINESS CALENDAR

**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](mailto:gnaftaly@accessoffice.net), (718) 217-0009  
**Website:** [powerfullyou.com](http://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](mailto: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:** [bniouterboros.com](http://bniouterboros.com)

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# Immigrants' stories *on* film



## MOVIES BY FEMALE DIRECTORS FOCUS ON LIVES OF FOREIGN-BORN WOMEN NOW LIVING IN NEW YORK

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

Relocating to a new country can be overwhelming, so several immigrant and first-generation American women filmmakers were inspired to capture the struggles and obstacles faced by oth-

er newcomers living in New York City.

And now, thanks to New York Women in Film & Television, a new independent movie series "Immigrant Women: Sharing Our Voice Through Film," will bring these stories to audiences around the borough.

The series kicked off last Friday with a screening at Maspeth Town Hall.

"It's important that NYWIFT has a chance to highlight the voices of immigrant filmmakers, and I love that I am able to help their work be shown to a broader audience," said producer Elizabeth Estrada. "When City Council

member Elizabeth Crowley selected NYWIFT to be the recipient of funding for the citywide Cultural Immigrant Initiative, I was incredibly excited. As a first-generation Cuban-American and Queens resident, this project immediately felt personal."

Three filmmakers captured the

challenging journeys of the immigrant women in gritty and touching documentaries.

In "Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor," director Zahida Pirani showed viewers how one Guatemalan woman was chasing the American Dream.

*Continued on Page 53*

Elva Ambia Rebatta (l. to r.) is the subject of Christine Mladic Janney's documentary "Living Quechua." One of the women in Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel's documentary, "Claiming Our Voice," goes shopping in Queens. Director and producer Zahida Pirani's film, "Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor," is part of the New York Women in Film & Television series "Immigrant Women: Sharing Our Voices Through Film."

Photos courtesy Christine Mladic Janney, Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel/Fine Grain Films and Tanbir Haque



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## ALICE DOESN'T LIVE HERE ANYMORE

David H. Friedman (L.) portrays Lewis Carroll and Jillian Smith is Alice in the Gingerbread Players' production of William Ryden's musical "Through the Looking Glass." The show opens March 14 at Saint Luke's Church in Forest Hills Garden.

Photo courtesy Gingerbread Players

## THEATER CALENDAR

### PRODUCTIONS

"Legally Blonde, Jr." – Rockaway Theatre Co. presents the musical based on the Reese Witherspoon movie about a young woman who loses her boyfriend but finds herself at Harvard Law School.

**When:** Thorough March 8, Friday at 7 pm, Saturday at 2 pm and 7 pm, and Sunday at 2 pm

**Where:** The Post Theatre, Building T4, Fort Tilden, Rockaway

**Cost:** \$10

**Contact:** (718) 374-6400

**Website:** www.rockawaytheatrecompany.org

"Legally Blonde" – Catch the grown-up version of the musical based on the hit movie about a young woman who loses her boyfriend but finds herself at Harvard Law School.

**When:** March 7 - March 22, Saturdays at 8:30 pm, Sundays at 3 pm

**Where:** Marathon Little Theatre Group, 245-37  
*Continued on Page 52*

# sudoku

## Answers in Sports

### Easy #37

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

### Hard #37

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

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](http://www.sudoku.com)  
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Week 45





## Join us for St. Patrick's Day!

**Tuesday, March 17th**

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# Artistic passage to India at Queens Museum

'After Midnight' looks at works from the Asian subcontinent divided by historic eras

BY TAMMY SCILEPPI

## IF YOU GO

**"After Midnight: Indian Modernism to Contemporary India 1947/1997"**

**When:** March 8 - June 28  
**Where:** Queens Museum, New York Building, Flushing Meadows Corona Park  
**Cost:** Suggested - \$8/adults, \$4/students and seniors, Free/children under 12  
**Contact:** (718) 592-9700  
**Website:** [www.queensmuseum.org](http://www.queensmuseum.org)



ASIM WAQIF

awareness of certain social and global issues the artist is passionate about, including sustainability, consumerism and urban planning.

"I am making a site-specific installation around the grand staircase. It is made of trash left over from the act of displaying art. Mostly from the Queens Museum, but also from art crating companies," Waqif said. "The installation is integrated with an interactive acoustic system that is designed to reward curiosity, even irreverence towards art. This is a critique of the undue emphasis of preservation of art and cultural artifacts, so much so that the experiential value of art has been eclipsed by its perceived commercial value."

The multi-disciplinary artist's creative process remains fluid and open-ended, and he hardly ever makes drawings of his pieces because that would limit his creative vision.

And, while constantly exploring the artistic potential of diverse materials designat-

*Continued on Page 52*

when the country celebrated 50 years of sovereignty, said guest curator Dr. Arshiya Lokhandwala.

"The exhibition also highlights a connection with New York City, particularly the 1960s, a moment when [India's] progressives artists witnessed the western avant-garde practices that took place during that period," Lokhandwala.

The exhibit also presents a critical reflection on the nation's past and present, highlighting the current challeng-

es it faces today, as a nation, said the curator.

The ad hoc assembly of Waqif's massive, freestyle installations and his spontaneous, irreverent artistic attitude challenges art that he perceives as rigid, limited and viewed from a distance, i.e. more traditional, visually pleasing pieces.

His work, therefore, can of-

ten be found in unpredictable locations and his spur of the moment style is evident in the interactive architectural intervention he's been building on site at the Queens Museum for over a week.

Once it's completed on March 5, the "Enter at your own risk" structure is bound to spark lots of animated conversation, while raising

# Rockaway Beach's Thai Rock restaurant is in spotlight

BY MERLE EXIT



Thai Rock in Rockaway Beach was recently on the Cooking Channel program "Restaurant Redemption."

Photo by Merle Exit

and sometimes on Thursday. It isn't a fancy restaurant, by no means. I have always just wanted to have a place that has great food and a more than welcoming atmosphere."

The episode focuses on Huang introducing her recipes of a steak entrée, chicken lard appetizer and a coconut dessert, which Kaskel fully intends to add to the menu.

As for the redemption itself, Kaskel said that the Cooking Channel concentrated on the outside deck that simply got a bit of a makeover "being painted and adding ornaments."

What was Kaskel's reaction to the program when aired?

"Watching the show brought back good memories of the week we filmed and the opportunity it gave me to reflect on the business we built and the journey we've taken," he said.

*Thai Rock is located at 375 Beach 92nd St., Rockaway Beach. For more information, call (718) 945-5111, or visit its website at [thairock.us](http://thairock.us)*

she'd ever had," Kaskel said. "I was more than thrilled to hear this. The recipes have been passed on through my wife's family as if you were eating at her home."

Prior to the hurricane,

Kaskel had sunken everything he owned into Thai Rock. After Sandy, he was left with about \$1.5 million in total debts related to the cleanup.

Two years have passed and the surrounding neighbor-

hood hasn't fully recovered from the devastation.

"At this point I have only gotten about \$5,000 from the government," said Kaskel. "Aside from the food we have live bands on the weekends

When the producers of the Cooking Channel show "Restaurant Redemption" went looking for an eatery that needed a makeover, they opted to seek out a place hit hard by Hurricane Sandy.

Their search led them to the Rockaways and Robert Kaskel's Thai Rock, which suffered heavily during the 2012 superstorm.

"Once they decided on focusing on my restaurant, they sent a whole team consisting of designers, consultants and cooking experts," said Kaskel. "There were several meetings and a week of filming in which we had to close down the restaurant."

The show's host, Ching-He Huang usually shakes up the chosen restaurant's menu, but not at Thai Rock, where she simply added three new dishes.

"She told me that she had spent four months in Thailand and after doing a tasting, said that it was the best Thai food



For the most up-to-date listing of events happening in Queens, check TimesLedger's website at [www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar](http://www.timesledger.com/sections/calendar)

## EVENTS

**Gardening Workshop: Start Your Summer Vegetables Indoors** – With spring less than three weeks away, it's not too early to start thinking about your summer garden. This adult program is an introductory workshop

that will offer something to beginners and seasoned gardeners.  
**When:** Sunday, March 8, at 1:30 pm  
**Where:** Queens Botanical Garden, 43-50 Main St., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$6 per person  
**Contact:** (718) 886-3800

Website: [www.queensbotanical.org](http://www.queensbotanical.org)

## TALK

**Christian Kellberg** – Author and photographer Christian Kellberg volunteered during the last three years to repaint the New York Stage Pavillion's mezzanine. Kellberg chronicled this experience in words and pictures for a historical book "New York State Pavillion."  
**When:** Sunday, March 8, at 2:30 pm  
**Where:** Kingsland Homestead,  
*Continued on Page 52*

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE

TimesLedger Newspapers  
 Mar. 6-12, 2015

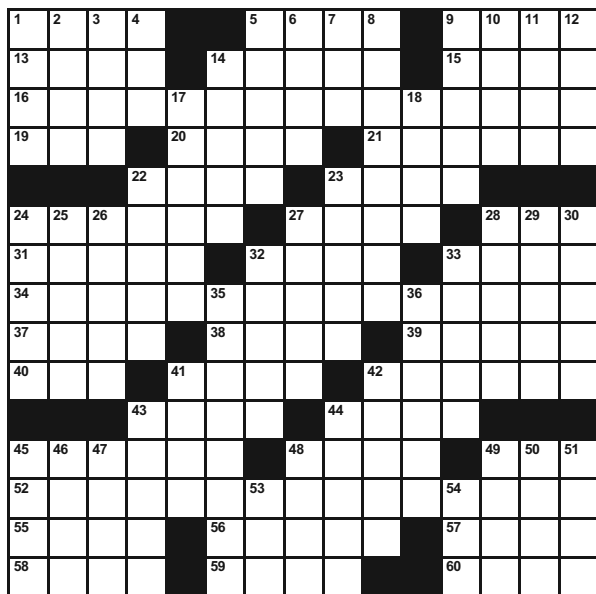
By Bill Deasy

## White Out



### Across

1. Does one's part?
5. Barely made it home?
9. Tarzan's transport
13. Seal in juices
14. R.E.M. singer Michael
15. Words to an "old chap"
16. \*Christmas
19. Alien subj.
20. Molding style
21. Online music mart
22. Supply center?
23. Egypt's early goddess
24. Without fear: Var.



27. "How Sweet \_\_\_\_"
28. Bodybuilder's sixpack
31. Clogs or pumps
32. AARP or NAACP
33. Taj Mahal locale
34. \*CAPS
37. Suffixes with sultan
38. Poetic sundowns
39. Cries from the flock
40. \_\_\_\_ Moines, IA
41. Beach bird
42. Hardly modest
43. \_\_\_\_ mater
44. \_\_\_\_ Lang Syne'
45. Bring down
48. Horse's parent
49. "--- Clear Day..."
52. \*FLAG
55. "Fits to \_\_\_\_"
56. Basic precept

57. Absolutely first-rate
58. Emulates Queen Latifah
59. Tests for srs. and jrs.
60. Substandard marks

### Down

1. Stadium in which to see Venus?
2. Biz bigwigs
3. Like most N.B.A. stars
4. \_\_\_\_ Lanka
5. Eye sores
6. We wish we knew its meaning
7. Kind of beer, for short
8. Constructing

9. Computer illness
10. The doctor \_\_\_\_
11. "Great" detective of kid lit
12. Watches closely
14. Wise guys
17. Reply to a taunt
18. Elevator name
22. Hammer heads
23. "Here we are!"
24. President of Syria
25. \* in 16A, 34A, and 52A
26. Theater areas
27. "This \_\_\_\_ of those things..."
28. Writer James and family
29. Some cereals
30. Brazen
32. Scene of sports action

33. \_\_\_\_ as a March hare
35. Agitates
36. Motorcycle maker
41. Women's magazine
42. Explosion
43. Ski lead-in
44. Suffix for the wealthy?
45. Bygone monarch
46. "Go \_\_\_\_ winner"
47. Slicing, dicing, etc.
48. Conveyed
49. Clarinet's cousin
50. "Love" in tennis
51. Part of 7D
53. Agcy. for narcs
54. Affected with rabies

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# Easter Dinner

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**Sunday, April 5, 2015**

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## Easter Menu

**Adults: \$49.95**

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**Kids: \$25.00**

per person plus tax

## TUSCAN TABLE

Prosciutto, Salami, Mortadella, Pepperoni, Soppressata, Fire Roasted Peppers, Pepperoncino, Fresh Mozzarella & Vine Ripe Tomatoes, Parmigiano Reggiano, Fontina Swiss and Cheddar, Mediterranean Olives Medley, Marinated Artichokes, Grilled Seasonal Scented Mix Vegetables with Tomato Bruschetta, and Pasta Salad

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### FRIED CALAMARI

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### STUFFED SHELLS

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# Museum

Continued from Page 50

ed as waste, Waqif is always dealing with issues of sustainability and ecology.

"'After Midnight' is the third exhibition of Indian art the Queens Museum has mounted in the past 20 years, yet it provides a fresh look at two key periods in that nation's cultural production," said Director of Exhibitions Hitomi Iwasaki. "The works on view include three being viewed for the first time and many others making their New York debut, and represent the finest from India, created over the past seven decades."

Waqif has exhibited extensively in Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata — usually in abandoned spaces, with his signature site-specific projects. His *raison d'être* took shape when as a young man, he made set designs for films back in India.

Fascinated with the light scaffolding used on film sets, the artist was inspired to create his spectacular installation for a show held in Mumbai.

"I think one can speculate on the lifestyle of a people by looking at the trash they generate, almost like archaeol-



This picture shows the progress of installing artist Asim Waqif's mixed media piece "by-production" 2015, which is part of the Queens Museum's new exhibition "After Midnight." Photo courtesy Queens Museum

ogy," said Waqif,

Giving new life to old rubbish takes imagination and vision, and one gets the sense that Waqif wants to see how far he can push the envelope — the boundaries of art —

without getting people too nervous. So far, he has been very successful at it and one of his main goals is to bring his work to the attention of folks who wouldn't necessarily visit museums or galleries.

# 'After Midnight' artists

Other notable artists whose works are featured in the "After Midnight" exhibit include:

Anita Dube, "The Sleep of Reason creates Monsters," 2001. Installation of enameled eyes.

Atul Dodiya, "Three Brothers," 2012 – 13. An installation with three cabinets (treated with polyester putty and zinc powder) glass, enamel paint, framed photographs (archival digital print on hahnemuehle bamboo paper), cloth, iron hanger and iron crutches.

CAMP collective, "From Gulf To Gulf To Gulf," 2013. Video installation, 83 minutes with sound.

Jitish Kallat, "Public Notice," 2003. Burnt adhesive on acrylic mirror, wood and stainless steel, in five parts.

Mithu Sen, "(Sexualized) Museum of Unbelonging," 2014. Vitrine with objects.

Prajakta Potnis, "The Kitchen Debate," 2014. Video installation and chopping board.

Raqs Media Collective, "Strikes at time," 2011. Two synchronized video projections with sound.

Sharmila Samant, Mrigajal, "The Mirage," 2012. Single channel video, 10 minutes with audio.

Sheela Gowda, "Untitled," 1997. Thread, pigment and 64 needles. One single cord measuring 84 inches.

Shilpa Gupta, "28 hours by foot via National Highway No 1, east of the Line of Control," 2013. Interactive Installation. More than 1,275 etched marble slabs.

Subodh Gupta, "What does the room encompass that is not in the city?" 2014. Found boat, found objects, found utensils, fabric, steel, found fishing net, bamboo, rope, plastic pipe.

## Twin Rinks & Ferraro Brothers To Host Israeli National Team Proceeds to Benefit Ice Hockey Federation of Israel

The Twin Rinks of Eisenhower Park, along with the Ferraro Brothers USA All-Stars are proud to host the Israeli National Team on March 7, 2015. The exhibition game will be on the Twin Rink's Main Arena, with a 7:30pm start time. Proceeds of the game will go the **Ice Hockey Federation of Israel**, to support the growth and development of Ice Hockey in Israel.

"In 2015 Israel hockey celebrates 25 years of development and hard work. We now reached a figure of nearly 1200 registered players mostly young kids and we can proudly say 99% Israeli", stated **Evgeny Gussin**, President of the Ice Hockey Federation of Israel. Mr. Gussin also added "Being a member of the IIHF the International Ice Hockey Federation and participating in its development programming helps us in maintaining National Teams such as U18, U20 and Mens. Our National Team players are now gaining vast experience. They do it for other people, for their children and for the future. I am glad that the Twin Rinks and Ferraro Brothers are helping us to develop this beautiful sport."

Some of the team members for the Ferraro Brothers All-Stars include former NY Rangers **Chris** and **Peter Ferraro**, NY Ranger alum **Arron Asham**, Edmonton Oiler alum **Glenn Anderson** and many others. Team Israel will feature some of its long time veterans including **Tal Avneri**, **Sergei Frenkel**, **Daniel Spivak**, **Shlomi Levy**, **Itzik Levy** and **Daniel Mazour**.

"We came to NY to play against Team Ferraro for a few reasons, first we want to expand Israel hockey and show everyone

that there are Israelis that can play hockey at a high level. We also will use the game to prepare for the IIHF World Championships we are playing in, in April in Cape Town South Africa" remarked **Tal Avneri**.

"Hosting the Israel National Team at our home base, Twin Rinks, is an unbelievable honor. I look forward to the challenge of competing against Israel's finest talent and getting together with old friends to put on a great show, remarked Peter Ferraro, co-Captain for Ferraro Brother's Team USA. Chris Ferraro added "when they approached us with this opportunity, Peter and I thought this would be a great opportunity to raise awareness and funds for the Israel National Team program. Israel is new to international competition and showcasing this talent in New York and at Twin Rinks will only help promote the game even further in Israel."

Tickets are available at the Twin Rinks Box Office for price of \$10 and all seats are general admission. Or you can go the Twin Rinks website and purchase tickets online, as [www.twinrinkseisenhower.com](http://www.twinrinkseisenhower.com) and look for **UPCOMING EVENTS** – March 7th. There is an additional handling charge when purchasing online.

Israeli National Team memorabilia will be available and the Ferraro Brothers USA Allstar Team Jerseys will be auctioned following the game. Immediately following the game, players will be available for pictures and autographs.

For additional information, please contact **CJ Nizich** at the *Twin Rinks of Eisenhower Park* – (516) 441-0070.

## Arts

Continued from Page 51

143-35 37th Ave., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$8/general admission, \$5/Queens Historical Society members, students and seniors  
**Contact:** (718) 939-0647  
**Website:** [www.queenshistoricalsociety.org](http://www.queenshistoricalsociety.org)

## MUSIC

**"Tan Dun Ghost Opera"** – Presented by the Momena Quartet, this five-moment work for string quartet is inspired by childhood memories of the ghost operas of Chinese peasant culture.

**When:** Sunday, March 8, at 2 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$15/general admission, \$10/FTH members and students  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700  
**Website:** [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)

**"The Rape of Lucretia"** – The Queens College Opera Studio presents the 1946 chamber opera written by Benjamin Britten. The work is based on the legendary tale of how the monarchy was overthrown and the Roman Republic established.  
**When:** Friday, March 13, at 8 pm and Sunday, March 15, at 3 pm  
**Where:** LeFrak Concert Hall

at the Kupferberg Center for the Arts, 65-30 Kissena Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** \$15, \$10/Queens College students with valid ID at box office only  
**Contact:** (718) 793-8080  
**Website:** [kupferbergcenter.org](http://kupferbergcenter.org)

**"Spring Mix"** – This medley of classic hits and contemporary compositions peppered with beloved jazzy tunes.  
**When:** Saturday, March 28, at 3 pm  
**Where:** Flushing Town Hall, 137-35 Northern Blvd., Flushing  
**Cost:** Free  
**Contact:** (718) 463-7700  
**Website:** [www.flushingtownhall.org](http://www.flushingtownhall.org)

## Theater

Continued from Page 48

60th Ave., Douglaston  
**Cost:** \$20 donation/adults, \$18 donation/seniors and children under 13  
**Contact:** (718) 229-4644

**"The Sound of Music"** – The hills are alive with arguably the world's favorite musical as Theatre by the Bay presents the Rodgers and

Hammerstein classic.  
**When:** Through March 22, Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 3 pm  
**Where:** Bay Terrace Garden Jewish Center, 13-00 209th St., Bayside  
**Cost:** \$22/adults, \$20/seniors and children under 12  
**Contact:** (718) 428-6363  
**Website:** [www.theatrebythebayny.com](http://www.theatrebythebayny.com)

**"The Fox and Boulder"** – Queens' newest theater

company, Ophelia Theatre Group, presents an original play about what happens when your dreams don't turn out like you want them to.  
**When:** March 13-29, Friday and Saturday at 8 pm, Sunday at 6 pm  
**Where:** Ophelia Theatre, 21-12 30th Road, Astoria  
**Cost:** \$18, Sunday performances are pay what you can  
**Website:** [www.opheliatheatre.com](http://www.opheliatheatre.com)



# Immigrants' Stories

Continued from Page 47

Pirani, who lives in Jackson Heights, tapped into own experiences growing up in an Indian family in a Mexican-American neighborhood south of San Diego.

"It made me conscious from an early age of the social and economic inequities that many immigrant communities face," she said.

Having worked around immigrant and worker rights issues as a community organizer in New York City, Pirani's film is greatly influenced by her activist background. After studying nonfiction filmmaking at Columbia University, she became a filmmaker because she wanted to share the many stories she heard both growing up and in her role as a community organizer.

"From an early age, I was inspired by the stories of family and friends around me, who came from different countries and backgrounds, but who all shared in their struggle to achieve the American Dream," she said.

When asked why she thinks there are not more immigrant women filmmakers, Pirani replied, "as with all underrepresented communities, immigrant women, especially those coming from low-income

or working class backgrounds, have not traditionally had access to the resources that filmmakers of the past had. As access to digital filmmaking technology increases, I'm hoping that changes."

"Judith" is currently being distributed for educational purposes by Third World Newsreel.

Although she lives in Bedford Stuyvesant, filmmaker Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel insists she has a lot of love for Queens.

Her film, "Claiming Our Voice," was also shown at the Maspeth premiere of the series.

In her documentary, Samuel follows a group of South Asian immigrant women, who meet through a multilingual theater performance, and unite against exploitative work conditions to form their own union.

"I'm first generation Sri Lankan American, so stories of the South Asian community, narratives of migration, movement, displacement and diaspora communities are always what I've been drawn to — they're very familiar and close to my heart," Samuel said. "Audiences are hungry for this kind of subject matter. I also think there are a growing number of first genera-



Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel's documentary, "Claiming Our Voice," (above) focuses on a group of Southeast Asian women now living in New York City. At left, filmmaker Christine Mladic Janney.

Photos courtesy Jennifer Pritheeva Samuel/Fine Grain Films and Christine Mladic Janney



ry films for PBS' "Frontline" series.

Christine Mladic Janney is another Brooklyn-based filmmaker, whose film, "Living Quechua," tells the story of Elva Ambía Rebatta as she leaves her home in Peru and resettles in New York City. Rebatta's struggles include her push to learn not only English, but also Spanish. Her first language is Quechua, which is spoken in parts of South America.

"The discussions that the film provokes have been eye-opening and powerful, un-

derscoring the importance of publicly and positively recognizing indigenous language speakers in New York City—a population that is quite large and still growing," said Janney.

By focusing on Elva's own personal story, the film helps to reveal some of the challenges and promises of trying to keep Quechua alive, Janney said.

"The film premiered only last fall, yet we've had some incredible screenings since then, both at festivals and community events," she said.

Janney's interest in Peru can be traced back to her childhood, when two Peruvian infants joined her family in the early 1990s through adoption.

While working in New York City and pursuing graduate studies at NYU, the young filmmaker became involved in many Quechua language-related community initiatives. Janney said she made the film to offer a new point of view on what it means to be a speaker of an endangered language.

"I'm proud to help today's diverse communities share their stories. New York City was built by immigrants and it continues to grow stronger, thanks to their unique contributions," said Crowley (D-Middle Village). "It is my hope that this film series will not only empower other immigrant women and filmmakers, but also challenge the perceptions of New Yorkers across our city."

More information about New York Women in Film & Television, along with a list of upcoming screenings, can be found on its website, [www.ny-wift.org](http://www.ny-wift.org).



Director Zahida Pirani captured the subject of her documentary, "Judith: Portrait of a Street Vendor," preparing food in the kitchen.

Photo courtesy Zahida Pirani



# Guide to DINING

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call for information: **718.260.4521**



# Borough Beat

COMPILED BY MICHAEL SHAIN



Chief Joseph Fox, who heads the NYPD's Transit Bureau, has an eye for a good photo. He tweeted this shot taken by Officer Park (no first name given) of three colleagues -- Officers Flores, Lopez and Holland -- in the Queens Impact unit heading out into the snow the other day. Brrr!  
Courtesy of Twitter



Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (c. in green tie) attends the 40th Annual Queens County St. Patrick's Day At Parade and Cultural Committee Ball at Antun's in Queens Village with the Tubridy family, who run many local businesses in Rockaway. Photo courtesy of Assemblyman Goldfeder



On a recent frigid night, the commanding officer of the 109th Pct., Deputy Inspector Thomas Conforti, walked with the Flushing Neighborhood Watch Team along Main Street. Courtesy of 109th Pct.



State Sen. Tony Avella (c) rallies with residents to keep Capitol One Bank from closing its branch on Utopia Parkway in Whitestone. Seniors are worried they will no longer have a bank within walking distance.  
Photo courtesy of State Sen/ Avella



As part of the NBA All-Star game, community affairs officers from the 113th Precinct gave out food for the NNA's "Feed the Children" program at the Hope Church on Rockaway Boulevard. Photo courtesy of 113th Pct



Assemblywoman Nily Rozic (l) welcomes Yesenia Abreu, a constituent and student at the Fashion Institute of Technology, who was presenting in Albany her research on the use of sustainable design to reconnect New York City with nature.  
Photo courtesy of Assemblywoman Rozic



Borough President Melinda Katz meets with New York City Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver (l) and Queens Borough Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski for a briefing on a city initiative to rebuild playgrounds in underserved neighborhoods.  
Photo courtesy of Borough President



Mardi Gras time at the Bourbon Street Restaurant on Bell Boulevard in Bayside calls for a Dixieland band to get everyone in the right frame of mind. Photo by Michael Shain



Don't try this in April! Assemblyman Phil Goldfeder (r) tours a frozen section of Jamaica Bay right off Broad Channel with Jamaica Bay Ecowatchers member and Broad Channel Civic Association President Dan Mundy, Jr.  
Photo courtesy of Assemblyman Goldfeder



# Mount Sinai Queens opens cancer center

Infusion facility part of \$125 million expansion project that also adds ambulatory care annex

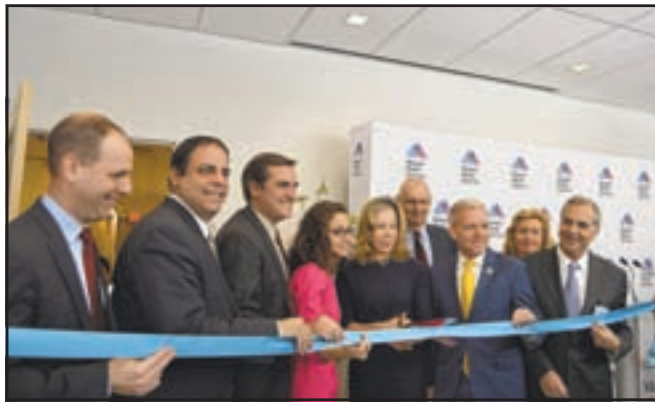
BY BILL PARRY

Mount Sinai Queens opened a new medical facility which treats cancer and blood disorders as part of a \$125 million expansion. Community leaders, elected officials and the hospital's administration held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Mount Sinai Queens Infusion Center last Friday, across the street from the main hospital, at 25-10 30th Ave. in Astoria.

"When it comes to providing comprehensive outpatient cancer care, Mount Sinai is second to none," Mount Sinai Queens Executive Director Caryn Schwab said. "This newly renovated center is just the latest example of our commitment to patients and their families during the most difficult fight of their lives."

The new center will provide a quiet and comfortable place for treatments such as chemotherapy and blood transfusions in seven infusion bays with updated examination rooms. There is also a large open-concept waiting room with a patient nutrition center.

"Our new center fills a need for the community by bringing together as many cutting-edge cancer treatments available in one, easy-to-access location," Dr. Howard Greenberg, the director of the Mount Sinai Infusion Center, said. "The center allows me and my colleagues, including Dr. Che-Kai Tsao and the rest of our expert medical staff, to continue to provide a level of cancer care usually seen only in large tertiary care hospitals, right here in Queens."



Elected officials help administrators at Mount Sinai Queens open their new Infusion Center in Astoria.  
Photo courtesy Mount Sinai Queens

State Sen. Michael Gianaris (D-Astoria) called the center a great example of the outstanding care and service Mount Sinai Queens "continues to offer residents of this community." City Councilman Costa Constantinides (D-

Astoria) said, "Our borough is a growing and thriving community, and one that deserves the type of world-class care offered by Mount Sinai. That is always what your hospital has delivered, and I look forward to continuing to support that."

He added that the City Council had allocated \$2 million to the hospital during the past budget cycle.

The \$125 million construction project includes a new building annex called the Ambulatory Care Pavilion, a five-story building with an enlarged emergency department, new operating suites, a multispecialty outpatient care and advanced imaging and laboratory services. The extension to the original hospital is expected to be completed next year.

Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas (D-Astoria) said, "Because of Mount Sinai Queens, people in this community no longer have to go through tunnels or cross bridges to receive world class treatment and care."

## Netanyahu

*Continued from Page 5*

pursue a diplomatic initiative to curb Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley (D-Jackson Heights) said, "While I strongly disagree with how Speaker Boehner tried to politicize the situation, Israel remains one of our most important allies and I felt it was important to attend Prime Minister Netanyahu's address."

U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D-Flushing) also attended Netanyahu's speech and called it "strong," although the process of inviting him to speak to Congress lacked protocol. "I think it's important to place yourself in Israel's shoes and (know) how they feel with this threat of an Iranian nuclear bomb," she said. "I think he conveyed a message to Congress that needs to be conveyed."

In western Queens, U.S.

Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-Astoria) said she agreed that the U.S.-Israeli relationship should remain above politics. "I appreciate the sincerity of the prime minister's views," she said. "Democrats and Republicans agree that an Iran with nuclear weapons is unacceptable. As the next deadline for the talks approaches, I am hopeful for a strong agreement, but I am equally prepared to join my colleagues to support additional sanctions if such an agreement is not reached."

U.S. Rep. Steve Israel (D-Melville), who represents a portion of northeast Queens, was part of the official escort committee for the prime minister. "I've been skeptical of a deal with Iran before Netanyahu's speech," he said. "I was skeptical during his speech and I remain skeptical after the speech."

Reach Reporter Sadeef Ali Kully by e-mail at [skully@cn-glocal.com](mailto:skully@cn-glocal.com) or by phone at (718)

## Park

*Continued from Page 5*

four groups focusing on the themes of access, navigation, learning and opportunity.

Last spring, Design Trust requested projects for what it named "The Energetic City: Connectivity in the Public Realm." The nonprofit had more than 90 expressions of interest but boiled it down to four projects.

The winning project was a proposal from the Queens Museum and the city Department of Parks and Recreation called "The World's Park: Reconnecting a Regional Park with its Neighbors."

The access team proposed "The Green Thing," a collection of vegetated way finding arrows that would lead people into the park and "Art-trances," art installations that would mark the entrances.

The navigation team suggested multilingual welcome

maps to be positioned in or near entrances to the park and a creative signage system that would pair existing place names with bold symbols.

The learning team called for a multilingual GPS-based smartphone application that would alert a passerby to major points of interest by tagging upcoming events at those specific locations.

The opportunity team proposed the "Sensory Space Playground for All Children," a play area targeting the five senses that would be created in underused open space buildings in the park.

Jean Silba, president of the Flushing Meadows Corona Park Conservancy, said people's suggestions included making the entrances more visible, better signage in the park and directions for people who are walking as opposed to driving.

"The whole thing was to give an update to the public so the public could see what we're doing and spark something in

their brain," Silba said.

Anandi Premllal, founder of Sustainable Queens, who is one of 23 community advisers, was on the opportunity team. She said members of her group noted that the setup of the park is not conducive to seniors and people with mobility.

"When you come off any mode of transit in that area, there's at least a 15-minute walk from transportation to the park or museum in that area," Premllal said. "Someone who has limited access might find that a little difficult to maneuver."

Premllal said the residents seemed happy to be included in the conversation and that it has helped her to become aware of other issues pertaining to the park.

"I definitely think this is one of the more inclusive ways in which development has been happening around that area," she said.

Final design concepts will be exhibited at the Queens Museum from April to May 3.

## Zazi

*Continued from Page 5*

Flushing High School student, pleaded guilty in April 2010. Medunjanin, a third Flushing High School friend who pleaded not guilty, was convicted after a trial in May 2012. All

three are serving lengthy prison sentences.

Trial evidence indicated that Naseer and his Pakistani accomplices had been dispatched by al Qaeda to Britain in 2006 to prepare an attack there. Naseer and his co-conspirators went to Britain on student visas and dropped out of the university where they

had enrolled.

Naseer returned to Peshawar in November 2009, at the same time that Zazi and his friends received weapons and explosives training from al Qaeda.

When he returned to the United Kingdom, he sent messages to the email "Ahmad" was using to communicate

with the American-based al Qaeda cell.

Naseer used coded language to indicate different types of explosives. In early April 2009, Naseer told "Ahmad" he was planning a big "wedding" and that "Ahmad" should be ready.

During the two-week trial, Zazi testified that "Ahmad"

told him to use the same code of "marriage" to refer to the planned attack on the city's subway. He said he emailed "Ahmad," saying that "the marriage is ready" just before he drove to the city in early September 2009 to conduct the attack.

Naseer faces life in prison.



# Sports



Christ the King coach Bob Mackey hoists the Champion Trophy after defeating Archbishop Molloy for the Catholic high school girls' championship. Photo by Steven Schnibbe

## Kinder leads Royals to second title win

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

The more important the games get the better Kaela Kinder seems to play.

The Christ the King junior has taken her game to the next level in the last two weeks. She turned in her most complete performance to date in the top-seeded Royals' 52-37 victory over No. 3 Archbishop Molloy in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens girls' basketball final at Molloy Sunday afternoon.

Kinder scored 15 of her 19 points in the second half and grabbed 16 rebounds to help the Royals claim their second straight crown and 28th in the last 31 tries.

"I'm speechless. That was a hell of a performance," junior guard Dominique Tous-saint said. "I think if there was an MVP award, she would have got it."

Christ the King led just 20-16 after a sloppy first half before quickly establishing things would be different after the break. The Royals clamped down even more on defense. They ripped off a 17-6 run over the third and fourth quarters to go ahead 42-26 with 6:32 to go in the final frame. Kinder scored 12 of those points and Sydney

Zambrotta (19 points) converted a 4-point play during the spurt.

"Playing like this and helping my team out feels good because we are advancing, we are blowing teams out and everyone is happy," Kinder said.

Christ the King coach Bob Mackey again called Kinder the X-factor. She scored a career-high 25 points and eight rebounds to help CK beat Bishop Loughlin, to enable her team to secure the regular season crown and to roll up 15 points against Mary Louis.

"You know what Dom does. You know what Sid does," Mackey said. "Kaela is the difference. This year she grew up."

His team also succeed in refocusing and rededicating itself on defense, an area Mackey was unhappy with after a 61-59 victory over Mary Louis in the semifinals. CK (20-6) made it hard to find uncontested shots and driving lanes for Molloy. Toussaint and Raven Dowling helped hold Stanners point guard Kaitlyn Mahon to just three points.

"The defense in the second half was tremendous,"

*Continued on Page 60*

## CK's Alkins shines

Junior star sparks his squad past Xaverian for crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Rawle Alkins completed his domination of the fourth quarter and walked over to Christ the King coach Joe Arbitello in the final seconds. The Royals junior star put his hands on Arbitello's shoulders and smiled from ear to ear and simply told his coach just how much he wanted to win after ensuring a diocesan title.

"Brooklyn/Queens, people don't really talk about it, but it's still a championship to me," Alkins said. "It's still a game. I don't like losing."

Alkins lived up to his billing as New York City's best boys' basketball player when his team needed him most. With CK down six in the fourth, he scored eight straight points and blocked two shots. It sparked top-seeded Christ the King's decisive run in an eventual 66-59 victory over Xaverian in the CHSAA Brooklyn/Queens final in Middle Village last Friday night. Alkins scored 27 points and hit six three-pointers despite early foul trouble.

"He played like an MVP on both sides of the floor," Arbitello said.

Second-seeded Xaverian went on a 7-0 run capped by a Doyin Isaac 3-pointer to grab a 56-50 lead with 6:52 to go in the game. Alkins took it from there.

The Clippers' game plan was to turn Alkins into a jump shooter and it worked early. He buried consecutive treys to tie the score and added a two-handed follow slam to put the Royals up for good. On the defensive end, Alkins twice blocked 6-foot-7 Clippers forward Najee Larcher. Christ the King closed the game on a 14-3 run.

"I was kidding around with the kids on the bench, 'We are going to make him a jump shooter,' Xaverian coach Jack Alesi said. "Great game plan. I



Rawle Alkins of Christ the King goes up for a shot during the CHSAA Brooklyn-Queens Championship Game with Xaverian. Photo by Robert Cole

made him a great jump shooter."

Winning the diocesan title for the second time in four years meant a lot to the Royals, the two-time defending state Federation Class AA champion. Bishop Loughlin routed them in this game last year. Winning earns them the top seed from the dioceses and a bye in the CHSAA Intersectional quarterfinals March 8.

Arbitello also credited his team's effort on defense late. CK (22-4) held Xaverian (20-6) to just three points over the final 6:52. Jared Rivers, who scored 16 points, was a big part of that. He and Jose Alvarado shared the duties of making life difficult for Issac Alesi said. "Great game plan. I

points and Tyrone Cohen added eight for CK. Larcher paced Xaverian with 21 points and Sayon Charles chipped in 13.

Christ the King managed just fine with Alkins in foul trouble in the first quarter. The Royals went on a 13-0 run to close. Alvarado capped it with a three-pointer at the buzzer to give CK 25-13 and control of the game Xaverian went up six in the fourth. It was then Alkins turn to pick up his teammates.

"He had to step up tonight," Rivers said. "We really need him. He's our MVP. He's our captain, our leader. He had to come out and show them. We needed him the most in the championship."



# Franny Lew guard makes her big break

BY WILL SAMMON



Taliyah Brisco of Francis Lewis drives down court and looks for an open teammate.

Photo by William Thomas

like it was going to go in," Green said.

Yeah, Sierra Green is back.

"In the beginning of the season she was putting pressure on herself to make plays for everyone," Francis Lewis Coach Steve Tsai said. "The first couple of years, what made her successful was our team zipping the ball and it eventually getting into her hands as she's wide open. That's what she's best at: shooting and just being aggressive from that point on and not having to handle the ball and make plays for other people."

Dominique Williams scored 14 points and Taliyah Brisco added nine points and a slew of steals for Lewis.

The Patriots led by as many as 33 in their first game after the controversial 117-8 first round playoff win against Brooklyn Collegiate.

Despite receiving national attention about the game and some backlash, Tsai and players said they weren't distracted at all.

"We brushed it off," Green said. "Everyone is going to talk."

The conversation now is about Green thriving once again and Lewis defending its title with gusto. It faces top-seeded South Shore in the semifinals this weekend at a day, time and site still to be determined.

"This was very important," Green said. "Everyone's been sleeping on us this year, but we're opening their eyes now."

to close the first quarter.

But she wasn't done.

Green made a deep three-pointer from the left wing 10 seconds into the

second quarter to break the game open and give Lewis a commanding 28-8 lead.

"Every time I threw the ball up I felt

Inconsistent production. A thumb injury. A move from the starting lineup to the bench.

It wasn't the regular season Sierra Green envisioned for herself after the junior led Francis Lewis to the PSAL Class AA girls' basketball city championship last year.

"It was hard at first," Green said. "Not starting ... coming off the bench, it was hard to accept. But I got my mind set right."

It took time, but her game has followed. The regular season is over. It's the playoffs now and Green is back to doing what she does best on the court offensively, which, was pretty much everything in Francis Lewis' 73-53 quarterfinal win over Curtis Sunday at Lehman College. She scored a game-high 22 points.

Green checked into the game with about three minutes left in the first quarter and Lewis leading 16-8.

On her first touch, she made a spin move inside the paint to break free from one defender, crossed-over another defender then made a reverse layup.

Less than 10 seconds later, she made a steal and scored another layup. Then Green nailed a deep three from the top of the key. Ten seconds later, it was another steal, and another layup for Green. She scored nine straight unanswered points in a span of two minutes

## Kia Wright put St. John's woman's hoops on map



Joseph Staszewski

Block Shots

once she rounded into form and sat out a year for transferring. Barnes Arico remembers her almost never missing a layup in practice and called her the best defender she's ever coached.

St. John's doubled its win total from the previous season. It won 20 games for the first time in 17 years during-Wright's first season in 2004-05. A year later she averaged 14.8 points per game to help the Red Storm reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 1988. St. John's nearly knocked off eventual national champions Maryland in the second round. Wright scored 23 points and dished out nine assists.

"She helped change the face of St. John's women's basketball and really put St. John's back on the map," Barnes Arico said.

That accomplishment and her stellar career earned Wright induction into the St. John's University Athletic Hall of Fame Feb. 22. She ranks fifth on St. John's all-time scoring charts with 1,536 points and is the only player in program history to record 1,500 points and 400 assists in a career.

"Once I met the girls and saw the potential in the program I just knew



Kia Wright ranks fifth on St. John's all-time scoring charts with 1,536 points and is the only player in program history to record 1,500 points and 400 assists in a career.

Photo Courtesy of St. John's Athletics

something special could happen there," Wright said.

Wright was shocked and honored when she was told she was going to be inducted. It has also brought a sense of closure to her playing career. Injuries kept Wright from ever playing ball professionally after St. John's. She had herniated disks in college, a torn meniscus after graduation and a torn Achilles three days before a WBNA free agent camp in 2012. Opportunities to play in Croatia and Puerto Rico also fell through.

"I questioned why me," Wright said. "God gave me this talent. Why am I not about to pursue my dream? I struggled after college for a while. With this Hall of Fame induction it's evident that it wasn't my path to play professionally."

Wright, now an assistant women's basketball coach at Adelphi University, added she is happy just looking back on the impact she made at St. John's, which was considered the worst women's program in the country when Barnes Arico took over in 2002. It's now reached five straight NCAA tournaments and a Sweet 16 spot in 2012 because of the foundation and message

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# Red Storm rolls past Georgetown

After routing Hoyas, St. John's squad now likely assured berth in March Madness tourney

BY WILL SAMMON

Amid a standing ovation in the final seconds of Saturday's game a chant could be heard loud and clear: "Thank you, seniors."

It was directed toward the St. John's seniors in the team's final home game of the season.

It likely will be heard again once the NCAA selection committee makes official on Selection Sunday what many believe St. John's sealed Saturday.

The senior-led St. John's men's basketball team likely clinched an NCAA Tournament berth for the first time in four years after defeating rival Georgetown, 81-70, at Madison Square Garden.

St. John's (20-9, 9-7) has won six of its last seven games. The Red Storm will close the regular season with road games at Marquette and Villanova, followed by the Big East Tournament. Many believe St. John's NCAA tournament chances should be safe even without winning another game.

"I feel we did a good job of



Sir'Dominic Pointer scored 24 points and grabbed seven rebounds in a win over Georgetown.

Photo courtesy St. John's Athletics/Vincent Dusovic

winning today," Sir'Dominic Pointer said. "I hope this was a resumé builder. I feel like it's right there."

One person who labeled the Red Storm a tournament team was Georgetown coach John Thompson III.

"St. John's was 11-2 out of conference," he said. "That's a very good, senior-laden team that has been in the trenches and is hungry. They don't just pose a problem – they can go deep in the tournament."

St. John's earned the win despite the struggles of star guard D'Angelo Harrison. He played only the first 25 seconds of the game before being benched with two fouls and finished with a career-low one point. Yet St. John's, behind Pointer, who was serenaded with "MVP" chants, and Phil Greene IV, played unfazed.

Greene scored a career-high 26 points and had seven rebounds, and Pointer tied a career-high with 24 points.

D'Vauntes Smith-Rivera tallied 29 points for George-

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## Cardozo overcomes slow start to reach semis

BY STEPHEN ZITOLO

Cardozo is moving on in its quest for back-to-back PSAL city championships, but not without hitting a few bumps in the road.

In a game where offense was not at a premium, the No. 2 seeded Judges defeated No. 7 George Westinghouse 41-28 in the PSAL Class AA boys' quarterfinals at Lehman College Saturday.

"Our shots weren't falling early," Cardozo's junior guard Rashond Salnave said. "We just had to keep believing in each other. We knew our shots were going to fall sooner or later. The more we shot the more they went in."

Both teams played sloppy offense in the first quarter, but the mistakes didn't lead to any points. Cardozo led just 10-5. In the second quarter, both teams scored a combined total of eight points as Cardozo went on a 6-0 run, capped off by a layup from junior guard Tareq Coburn, to end the half with a 16-7 lead.

"We've hit a little bit of a slump late in the season," Cardozo head coach Ron Naclerio said. "We didn't shoot well against Bowne, we shot worse against Francis Lewis, we had a ter-



Rashond Salnave of between Cardozo shoots a jumper during PSAL Quarter Final Game with Westinghouse, at Lehman College, in the Bronx.

Photo by Robert Cole

rible second half against Construction and last game we shot 22-for-54."

Westinghouse used a 9-0 to start to tie the score at 16-16 in the third quarter. Cardozo wouldn't score its first basket in the second half until the 2:07 mark of the third quarter, but somehow found a way to still lead 22-19 going into the game's final quarter.

Cardozo's big game experience finally took over as it outscored Westinghouse 19-9 in the fourth to secure the victory and a spot in the semifinals. Naclerio acknowledged the offensive struggles of his team, but was happy with the way his defense has been stepping up.

"If you talk about the last six quarters we've only given up a total of 47 points, so hopefully that will continue," he said.

Salnave paced Cardozo with 12 points and senior guard Richard Knowlin led Westinghouse with eight points. Cardozo faces No. 6 seed Boys and Girls team in the semifinals 3 p.m. March 7 at a site to be determined after the Kangaroos upset Lincoln.

"I respect Boys & Girls," Naclerio said. "After the obvious first four seeds I feel they are right there with Con-

struction."

Wings 85, Construction 58: Construction didn't have any answers for Wings points guard Desure Buie. The senior and Hofstra University-bound guard had a career night with 42 points and nine three-pointers in the PSAL boy's basketball quarterfinals.

"Desure is a heck of a player," Construction's Hofstra-bound and senior guard Justin Wright-Foreman said.

Construction immediately got its fans into the game as Wright-Foreman was found for an alley-oop dunk on the first possession. Wings quickly took the wind out of Construction's sails and went on a 10-0 spree that seemed to level the confidence of the Red Hawks.

"Once it was 10-2, as a team we just weren't together," Wright-Foreman said. "We didn't amount to what we could've done today."

Wings continued to pour it on in the first half as Buie had seven three-pointers for 27 total points. At the break Wings led 48-23.

Construction was able to slow Buie down somewhat in the second half as he only had 15 points. But Buie was

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# St. John's

Continued from Page 59

town (18-9, 10-6), which never led after an early 11-0 run gave St. John's a 16-6 lead. Only 11 days earlier, St. John's lost to the Hoyas by 22 points in Washington, D.C. "It was a complete reversal," St. John's coach Steve Lavin said. "We slugged them from start to finish. ... Our group is just a group that keeps getting better."

Rysheed Jordan had 15 points, three assists and three steals, and Jamal Branch, who filled in admirably while Harrison sat on the bench, added 10 points and five rebounds before suffering a hip flexor injury with just over seven minutes left.



St. John's seniors Sir'Dominic Pointer (l. to r.), D'Angelo Harrison, Jamal Branch, Khadim Ndiaye and Phil Green IV pose before their final home game against Georgetown.

Photo courtesy St. John's Athletics/Vincent Dusovic

He and his fellow seniors likely accomplished their season's goal and just have to wait for it to become official.

"We're just waiting for Selection Sunday," Pointer said. "Once we get in, it'll feel great."

# Kinder

Continued from Page 57

Mackey said. Ashlie Howell controlled the paint. The only Molloy player in double figures was Quinnipiac-bound forward Aryn McClure with 10 points. She was hampered by thigh cramps throughout the game. Emily Peckham added eight points and Nicole Teta had seven. Toussaint chipped in

eight for the Royals.

Molloy (19-7), especially its seniors, was left disappointed after not playing its best in the program's third straight Diocesan final. McClure believed her team didn't execute as well as it used to and didn't make shots that normally go down. It was the Stanners' third loss to Christ the King this season. "We weren't very efficient," McClure said. "We weren't very cohesive."

Both teams' seasons contin-

ue into the Catholic Class AA state tournament. Christ the King gets a bye into the semifinals March 13 at home and Molly takes the court again in the quarterfinals March 10 at St. Francis Prep. The Royals think they have plenty of momentum as the team looks to book its ticket to the state Federation tournament in Albany.

"We are going on a run and hopefully it continues," Kinder said.

# Wright

Continued from Page 58

players like Kia Wright sent to the kids who came after her.

"I can look back and say I made an impact on people and the game of basketball," she said. "I'm complete. I'm happy."

She showed going to one of the power programs isn't always the best fit even if you are a high level player. You can come to St. John's and win and have a career that gets national attention.

"We got that class in 2009 that was mostly all local kids, which was due to a kid like Kia taking a chance on a place like St. John's," Barnes Arico said. "It was not only taking a chance, but then proving you can be one of the best teams in the country."

Seeing St. John's continue

I can look back and say I made an impact on people and the game of basketball. I'm complete. I'm happy.

to win makes Wright look back even more fondly on her time and her "feisty" team that got it all started.

"I'm pretty happy to see where the program is now," Wright said. "I'm very proud, especially for the girls who took a chance to come to St. John's and keep their tradition going."

The tradition she helped start.

# Dozo

Continued from Page 59

garnering so much of the defensive's focus that it opened up lanes for the rest of his teammates. The Red Hawks trailed 71-34 after three.

Wright-Foreman led con-

struction with 17 points and Jordan Wright pitched in with 11. Construction may have lost in the quarterfinals for the second straight season, but Semper was optimistic and proud of the season his team had. "We had a great run and there's nothing anyone can take away from us," Semper said.

Body language can tell you all sorts of things. Like someone is having a **stroke**.

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Easy #37								
7	6	4	1	5	2	9	3	8
8	1	9	3	4	7	5	6	2
3	2	5	8	9	6	1	7	4
6	7	8	4	3	1	2	9	5
9	4	3	7	2	5	6	8	1
2	5	1	9	6	8	7	4	3
1	9	6	2	8	3	4	5	7
5	8	7	6	1	4	3	2	9
4	3	2	5	7	9	8	1	6

Hard #37								
2	9	6	8	4	3	7	5	1
1	7	8	2	6	5	9	3	4
4	5	3	9	7	1	8	6	2
9	8	2	3	1	7	5	4	6
3	6	7	5	9	4	2	1	8
5	4	1	6	8	2	3	7	9
8	1	5	7	2	6	4	9	3
7	2	4	1	3	9	6	8	5
6	3	9	4	5	8	1	2	7

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# Roundtable

Continued from Page 1

sau, the Port Authority believes it is presenting a roundtable format and voting structure that will be effective in ensuring that all airport noise issues pertinent to the communities affected by JFK and LGA Airports can be addressed," Ed Knoesel, senior manager for environmental and noise programs in the PA's aviation department, wrote in a letter outlining the proposal.

Warren Schreiber, chairman of Community Board 7's aviation committee, said if civic groups are to be involved, they have to meet certain criteria. He praised the decision as a good way to get things started.

"I think that the Port Authority has come up with a proposal that's reasonable and workable and I think that stakeholders on both sides of the argument have to make a good faith effort to work together," Schreiber said.

He noted that the proposal may not be set in stone as the bylaws still have to be formed.

But Susan Carroll, a Flushing community advocate, had a number of concerns about the proposal, including the lack of representation for civic groups and the vagueness of the list of elected officials given representation in the committees.

She said she is "cautiously optimistic" about the proposal.

"I think that's a fair compromise," Carroll said.

The committees include seats reserved for lawmakers, community boards, airlines, city agencies and the airports themselves, but no representation for civic or neighborhood groups.

Residents and advocates who were in favor of either one roundtable or two



Two separate roundtables, one for JFK and the other for LaGuardia, are being proposed to handle community complaints about noise and pollution at the airports.

AP/Mark Lenihan

roundtables were dissatisfied with the proposal.

Janet McEaneaney, president of Queens Quiet Skies, which was in favor of one roundtable, disapproved of the proposal, saying the PA should revise it before the next meeting. She said the proposed voting system and membership on the roundtable was "very unusual."

"Airport committees should be subordinate to one big roundtable," McEaneaney said. "They can be part of it, but they cannot be independent."

Barbara Brown, chairwoman of the Eastern Queens Alliance, which supports separate roundtables, criticized the lack of representation for average citizens or civic groups.

She said the committees ultimately have to answer to the executive committee so it does not satisfy their desire for separate roundtables.

"The difference is where the locus of decision-making rests," Brown said.

The next meeting will be held April 7 at 6:30 p.m. at York College.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Buses

Continued from Page 4

87 percent of northeast Queens.

Restored service changes since 2010 include Q14 service, weekend Q13 service, Saturday Q76 service, and Q79 service. Service improvements include Q76 Sunday service, the Q30 to Queensborough and the proposed Flushing-Jamaica SBS corridor.

Douglaston resident Robert Baker, 70, who teaches at Queensborough, interrupted the group sessions with a public announcement criticizing the cost of the study.

"It is a true boondoggle to be spending a half a million dollars to find out something that's already known," he said. "There's no way in the world that \$500,000 of taxpayer dollars needed to be spent on determining that which is already clearly known: there aren't enough buses."

Daniel Dragan, 26, of Jamaica Estates, said Q17 offers the best service while Q76 might have only four buses in one hour during rush hour. He said the MTA should concentrate its efforts on eliminating bus bunching.

Oakland Gardens resident Sonia Rodriguez, who teaches Spanish at

Benjamin Cardozo HS in Bayside, takes the Q27 to work and sometimes sees four buses pass by her bus stop without stopping.

The workshop was well-organized, she said, although noting the facilitator could have given more information about resources the agencies have to improve bus service.

She understood Baker's financial concerns, but said it is a good start.

"The reality is that probably he's right, probably it's too much money, but on the other hand, if we don't start to call the people from the community, nothing will change," Rodriguez said. Mark Henry, president of Amalgamated Transit Union Local 1056 in Rosedale, questioned the lack of representation for students in the study.

"They needed to be considered in the survey because they ride the service," Henry said.

The agencies had initial meetings with Community Boards 7, 8, 11 and 13 in November and December. They plan to follow up with the boards in March or April and then release the final report by May.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.

# Weprin

Continued from Page 4

ford to pay their part, and they should. There is currently a \$15 billion transit deficit. This proposal would fill that gap and then some."

Councilman Weprin said commuters from Brooklyn and Queens create congestion on bridges, often affecting

traffic in residential areas on either side of the river. He said a toll would be a common sense way of addressing the issue.

"My brother is still very much a part of that old guard believing the East River bridges should be free," the councilman said. "The truth is that several thousand commuters go into Manhattan without paying anything, which causes congestion, pollution and a hazard to pedestrians."

# Torture

Continued from Page 1

though she admitted to it under pressure, the complaint said.

In his two-family home on 217th Street, Devanand Lachman and an unknown accomplice accused the maid of stealing a sum of money and a gold chain, according to the DA's office. Armed with knives and a firearm, they kept her from attempting to leave, the complaint said.

Devanand Lachman and the unknown accomplice are accused of punching the maid, causing bruising to her face, arms and legs, the DA said. They then apparently used a hand torch to burn parts of her body and her eyebrows until she admitted to stealing, according to the complaint.

Ambar Lachman, 31, then drove a white GMC Acadia to the maid's home to search for the missing items, the DA said. She then waited in the car with the maid, while Devanand Lachman and his accomplice searched the home, according to sources at the NYPD.

After reporting the incident to NYPD's 111th Precinct, the victim was released and treated at a hospital for bruising and burns to her face, arms and legs, the NYPD said. The unknown accomplice was described by the victim as a dark-skinned man between the ages of 30 and 35, 6 feet tall with a medium build.

Police said no more arrests have been made, but that the investigation was ongoing.

Both Lachmans are being charged with kidnapping and criminal possession of a weapon, while Devanand was accused of assault, the Queens district attorney said. The most serious charge of assault with a deadly weapon is a Class B Felony, which is punishable by a minimum five-year jail sentence and a maximum of 25 years.

Devanand Lachman was born and raised in Queens, and has a background in business management and finance, according to the couple's lawyer. Devanand had most recently been working for an auto mechanic that does work for the NYPD. The couple also has a 2-year-old child together.

# Consumers

Continued from Page 4

ers who currently do not have bank accounts, roughly half used to have accounts, she said. Check-cashing services charge \$500 or \$1,000 per year.

She also noted the agency's recently launched \$3 million outreach campaign centered on the Earned Income Tax Credit program.

The campaign consists of advertisements in buses, subways and newspapers throughout the city and the agency's first-ever phone-a-thon, in which 2,000 volunteers called 100,000 New Yorkers eligible for EITC based on micro-targeted data obtained from other city agencies. There are currently 200 sites around the city where people can get their taxes done for free.

Individuals who make about \$18,000 or less and families that have a combined income of \$52,400 or less are eligible for the program, Menin explained. Tax refunds are anywhere from \$2,500 to \$10,000.

"We know that one in five New

Yorkers who are eligible for the earned income tax credit simply are not taking it," Menin said. "That's 250,000 New Yorkers who are eligible for EITC and are just leaving it on the table. And we're talking about real money."

DCA secured more than \$3.3 million in money for consumers in the first six months of the fiscal year, an 85 percent increase from last year. The agency received 406 complaints, 242 claiming to have not received the Notice of Employee Rights, 166 saying they were not paid for sick time and 77 claiming retaliation for using sick leave. So far, DCA has mediated or is in the process of mediating the majority of the complaints.

It has also issued subpoenas to 200 used car dealers and reached a settlement calling on the National Credit Adjusters, a debt collection agency that collected on illegal payday loans from New Yorkers, to pay \$962,800 in restitution to more than 4,600 New Yorkers.

Reach reporter Madina Toure by e-mail at [mtoure@cnglocal.com](mailto:mtoure@cnglocal.com) or by phone at (718) 260-4566.



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**351 BROADWAY RETAIL PARTNERS LLC.** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 2/6/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 18-35 130th St., College Point, NY 11356. General Purposes.

**AB&J GROUP LLC.** Articles of Org. Filed NY Sec. of State (SSNY) on September 12, 2014. Office in Queens Co. SSNY Design Agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 135-27 40th Road, Ste 301, Flushing, NY 11354. Purpose: Any lawful purpose or activity.

**C2 Realty LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/6/15. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 148-22 Booth Memorial Ave, Flushing, NY 11355. Purpose: General.

**CG255 LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 12/19/14. Office loca-

tion: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 120-08 97th Ave., Unit 7A, Richmond Hills, NY 11419. General Purposes.

**HAMILTON SURGICAL SUPPLIES, LLC,** a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 10/26/12. Office location: Queens County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The LLC, 170 Frank Ln., Paramus, NJ 07652. General Purposes.

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### LEGAL

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### LEGAL

on 01/21/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: NEETA SAMPADARIA 9826, 64TH AVE, APT #5A REGO PARK, NY 11374. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: TRAD MEDIA, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/27/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS INC. 7014 13TH AVE SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: Nigel Rampersaud Events LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 09/08/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Nigel Rampersaud 3101 Bessemond Ave, Far Rockaway, NY 11691. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: BIG BRAWL STUDIOS, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 02/11/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: CORONA 93 REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/23/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to:

### LEGAL

ZHUI ZHENG 32-38 83RD STREET JACKSON HEIGHTS, NY 11372. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: PLANIT NEW YORK LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/18/2014. Office location: Kings County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: GIOVANNY VARGAS 108-21 51ST AVE 2ND FLOOR CORONA, NY 11368. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: FARM-STOCKNY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/06/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: MICHELLE ZUBAL 4341 44TH STREET APT# 2F SUNNYSIDE, NY 11104. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of limited liability company (LLC). Name: LDW ENTERTAINMENT, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/02/2014. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: C/O UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**NOTICE OF FORMATION** of M7 MANAGEMENT LLC. Art. of Org. filed w/Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/23/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent for service of process. SSNY shall mail process to: 187 Wolf Rd. #101, Albany, NY 12205. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of Formation** of Point Garde LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 08/19/14. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process

### LEGAL

against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: National Registered Agents, Inc., 111 Eighth Ave., NY, NY 10011. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**Notice of Formation** of Queensboro Development C LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/5/15. Office location: Queens County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: c/o Mega Contracting Group LLC, 22-60 46th Street, Astoria, NY 11105. Purpose: any lawful activity

**Notice of formation** of Walk off Baseball LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the Sec'y of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/10/2014. Office location: County of Queens. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: The LLC, 86-30 103rd Ave., Ste. B, Ozone Park, NY 11417. Purpose: any lawful act

**Notice of formation** of W&Q REALTY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secy. Of State of NY (SSNY) on 01/14/2015. Office location: Queens County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC. SSNY shall mail process to 122-02 POWELLS COVE BLVD APT C COLLEGE POINT, NY 11356. Purpose: any lawful activities.

**Notice of Qualification** of PARISNOIA LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 11/12/14. Office location: Queens County. Princ. bus. addr.: 62-87 Woodhaven Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374. LLC formed in DE on 10/15/14. NY Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o CT Corporation System, 111 8th Ave., NY, NY 10011, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. DE addr. of LLC: 1209 Orange St., Wilmington, DE 19801. Cert. of Form. filed with DE Sec. of State, 401 Federal St., Dover, DE 19901. Purpose: all lawful purposes.

**Saint Marks NY Holding LLC** Arts of Org. filed NY Secy of State (SSNY) 12/9/14. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to 205-10 26th Ave. 2nd Fl. Bayside, NY 11360. Purpose: any lawful activity.

### LEGAL

**Notice of Qual.** of KB Astoria LLC, Auth. filed Sec'y of State (SSNY) on 11/12/14. Office loc: Queens County. LLC org. in DE 10/23/14. SSNY design. as agent of LLC upon whom proc. against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of proc. to c/o Kushner Co., 666 Fifth Ave., NY, NY 10103. DE office addr.: 160 Greentree Dr., Ste. 101, Dover, DE 19904. Cert. of Form. on file: SSDE, Townsend Bldg., Dover, DE 19901. Purp: any lawful activities.

**SC&C Solutions, LLC** Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/9/14. Office in Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served & shall mail process to 54-01 Van Horn St Fl 1, Elmhurst, NY 11373. Purpose: General.

**Viva Pharmacy & Wellness, L.L.C.** Arts of Org. filed SSNY 1/20/15. Office: Queens Co. SSNY design. agent of LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy to Latchmin Raghunauth Mondol 196-40 67th Ave. Fresh Meadows, NY 11365. Purpose: any lawful activity.

### LEGAL

**Notice is hereby given** that an on premises license #1284089 has been applied for by Steven Brown Caterers, Inc dba Browney's Cafe, to sell beer, wine and liquor at retail, in an on premises establishment, under the ABC Law, for on-premises consumption, located at 38-03 24th Street, Long Island City, NY 11101.

### LEGAL

**Notice is hereby given** that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Queens County on JAN 14 2015, bearing Index Number NC-000617-14/QU, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 89-17 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, NY 11435, grants me the right to: Assume the name of (First) HYEON (Middle) HO (Last) KIM. My present name is (First) NA HYUN (Last) KIM AKA NA H KIM. My present address is 67-38C 190TH LN, 1C, Fresh Meadows NY 11365-. My place of birth is KOREA. My date of birth is January 12, 1994.

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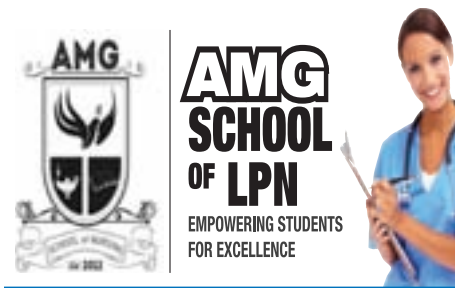






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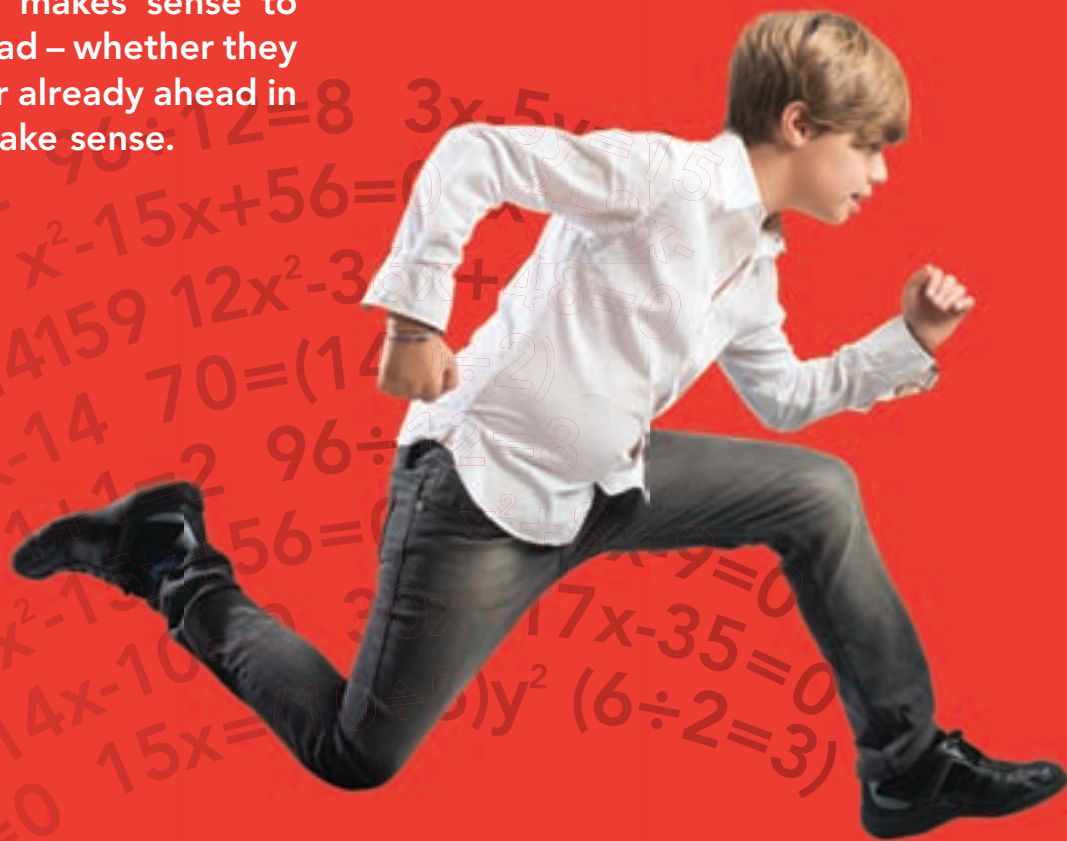
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