

## Street renaming for Batman co-creator

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

The co-creator of Batman who helped develop the comic book character in the 1940s while living near the Grand Concourse is finally getting much-deserved recognition.

Family members of Bill Finger, one of Batman's original creators who helped develop the character and the original story lines, revealed the ceremonial street sign on Friday, December 8 that co-named part of East 192nd Street in memory.

Batman comic book and movie aficionados and P.S. 46 students cheered the unveiling, which gave recognition to a man who for seven decades had been relatively unknown.

According to experts on the subject who attended the event outside of Poe Park, Finger was the co-creator of the Batman character along with Bob Kane, but never received credit or recognition for it until recently.

He passed away in 1974.

Councilman Ritchie Torres sponsored legislation to have part of the street near Poe Park named in Finger's honor, who was placed on a list of notable Bronxites by the Bronx County Historical Society in 2009.

Torres said he first came to know of Finger through Marc Nobleman, who wrote a book called 'Bill the Boy Wonder: The Secret Co-Creator of Batman.'

The councilman then said he learned that Finger worked on the Batman character at Poe Park and was a graduate of DeWitt Clinton High School.

"I never knew that the co-creator of Batman had roots in the Bronx," said Torres, adding

*Continued on Page 4*

# MP BID CLEARS FIRST HURDLE

## City Council approves; final OK months away

BY BOB GUILIANO

The City Council gave a major boost to the Bronx when it approved the Morris Park Business Improvement District during its session on Monday, December 11.

The Morris Park BID encompasses 188 businesses in a 1.06-mile stretch of Morris Park Avenue, between Unionport Road and Williamsbridge Road.

The BID would have a first-year budget of \$390,000 and will fund marketing and promotion

services, beautification, economic development initiatives, and advocacy for local businesses.

The BID Steering Committee met regularly to discuss the BID formation process, including forming a board of directors composed of property owners, merchants, residents, and local elected officials.

Al D'Angelo, president of the Morris Park Community Association, said the new BID is "go-

*Continued on Page 4*



## Santa Visits The Square

The Westchester Square Business Improvement District welcomed the holiday season at the fifth annual Holidays in the Square on Friday, December 8. Two-month-old Alyanna Estrella enjoyed her first meeting with Santa Claus.

Photo by Laura Stone

## Local canines are barking for proposed Bronx Park dog run

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Some Bronx residents will soon have a place where they and their pets can socialize.

NYC Parks Department officials and community members were on hand on Monday, December 4 to announce the construction of a new dog run in Bronx Park near Boston Road, adjacent to a recently completed greenway.

A groundbreaking for the project, which is currently in its procurement process, is expected to take place in spring 2018, said a Parks spokeswoman.

The new 17,700 square-foot dog run will include two separate sections for larger and smaller four-legged friends and came to fruition after a meeting between members of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association and outgoing Councilman James Vacca, PPPA members said.

Jacqueline Lutnick, a PPPA board member who spearheaded the effort along with fellow members, said she and a co-worker who lives in nearby Morris Park met while walking their dogs in

*Continued on Page 19*



**WELCOME TO THE NEW**  
***BRONXNET***

All of your favorite BronxNet programs streaming live on our brand new website



**Visit us at [BRONXNET.TV](http://BRONXNET.TV) today**


Also available in the Bronx on channels

**Optimum 67 - 68 - 69 - 70 Fios 33 - 34 - 35 - 36**

*Sherbee Antiques*

**POT of GOLD**

*Est. 1940*



Sherbee Antiques is a family-owned business that has been serving the tri-state area for over 60 years. We buy from the full contents of homes and estates to single items. We specialize in high-end goods such as antiques, art, fine porcelain, lighting, bronzes and sculptures. We have particular interest in fine jewelry, timepieces, diamonds, gold and silver.

*If you call we will come to you, free of charge, and evaluate what you are selling. We know the value of your possessions and are willing to pay top dollar on the spot. Please feel free to call seven days a week for a free same day consultation.*

**You may be sitting on a large fortune.  
 Call Sherbee Antiques. They'll tell you how much.**

**CALL TODAY 917-748-7622 OR 718-762-7448**  
*You'll be glad you did.*

# Growing Up BX makes the tale of 2 cities become 1

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

Retired teacher Ted Mieszczanski is telling his story of his upbringing in the Bronx after coming to the borough as a refugee from Germany.

Growing Up BX, Tevye's Story is a fictional account, according to Mieszczanski.

But, the book touches on factual events from Mieszczanski's life and the hardships he faced as a kid growing up in the south Bronx in the 1950s.

"The problems don't really change," said Mieszczanski, who is now 71 and lives in Riverdale.

"The basic problems like being bullied, feeling lonely, being made fun of because you're different, made fun of because you're interested in things other people are not interested in, made fun of because you look different haven't changed," he said.

"I wanted to write something that would show kids that there is a way to survive and that way is to find good friends and those friends can be people that don't necessarily have to look like you and they don't even have to be people."

Mieszczanski, who practices Judaism, said growing up, some of his best friends were the books at the New York Public Library.

In the book, Mieszczanski introduces another character, Wilson 'Sweets' Short, the friend he made who also faces similar problems. Wilson's character is based on two friends



Ted Mieszczanski

Photo courtesy of Ted Mieszczanski

Mieszczanski had growing up.

The characters in Growing Up BX, Wilson, who is black, and Mieszczanski, who is referred to as Tevye in the book, helped each other through the difficulties of being different.

"Friendship, racism and how different ethnic groups need to understand each other," Mieszczanski said of the themes found in the book. "Anti-intellectualism is a big part because in my experience sometimes if you strive, others make fun of you because they're jealous or they see that as a betrayal of what they consider the ethic they live by."

"Most of the 'isms' we're dealing with now are in that book."

Mieszczanski initially finished writing Growing Up BX in 2005, but had not published it until this No-

vember.

Over the course of those 12 years Mieszczanski wrote and published another book called Star Crossed, which is actually part one of Growing Up BX, along with a few other works which he plans to publish in the coming year.

Growing Up BX is part three of his planned book trilogy, with part two still remaining unwritten.

The non traditional sequence of his book releases were the result of personal difficulty that came with writing Star Crossed, which discussed his parent's story of escaping a concentration camp during the Holocaust.

Growing Up BX was written because of Mieszczanski's testament to helping children like the ones he taught for about 40 years at P.S. 11 and C.E.S. 126, though children are not his only target audience.

"There's lessons there for adults also," said Mieszczanski. "We have to be kinder to one another, that's the answer to everything. But sometimes we don't understand it. We don't see it, but if we were a little kinder to one another a lot of the problems would disappear, a lot of unhappy people out there would be better."

Growing Up BX can be purchased on Amazon.

The next book Mieszczanski plans to release, 37 Cents and a Song, is unrelated to this series and is expected to be released in the new year.

**YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD - YOUR NEWS**

The Bronx Times On-Line  
 Your world is **24/7... NOW** so are we.

**[www.bxtimes.com](http://www.bxtimes.com)**



**BRONXTimes**  
 REPORTER INC.

*'Tis the season to enjoy  
the holiday festivities at*

**PINE**  
**BAR & GRILL**

*Host your holiday celebration in one of our private dining spaces.  
From cocktail party to sit down dinner, we do it all.*

*Let us cater to your home or office party.  
Choose from menu packages or customize your own.*

*Spend Christmas Eve with us to experience the traditional Feast of the Seven Fishes,  
or dine off the regular menu. Santa will be spreading holiday cheer  
with gifts for the children. Make reservations early, space is limited.*



**A Pine Bar + Grill gift card makes the perfect stocking stuffer,  
so we are offering 10% off any gift card purchase of  
\$50.00 or more. Offer valid until 12-31-17.**

**1634 Eastchester Road • Bronx, New York 10461 • T 718-319-0900 F 718-319-0910  
www.pinebargrill.com**



**PINE**  
**BAR & GRILL**

**CHAMPAGNE  
CELEBRATION**

**PARTY STARTING  
AT 9:00 PM**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR  
2018!**  
**COME CELEBRATE  
WITH US!**

**4 HOUR OPEN BAR**

**CHAMPAGNE TOAST AT MIDNIGHT**

**ENTERTAINMENT BY DJ ISH**

**FOOD STATIONS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE**

**FESTIVE PARTY FAVORS**

**ROOFTOP CIGAR LOUNGE**

**BOTTLE SERVICE (ADDITIONAL)**

**HOOKAH SERVICE (ADDITIONAL)**

**CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST STARTING AT 2:00 AM**

**VALET PARKING**

**\$90 PER PERSON + TAX & GRATUITY**

**FOR DETAILS AND RESERVATIONS  
PLEASE CALL LOUIS 917.217.8166**



# Morris Park Business Improvement District clears first hurdle - City Council approves; final OK months away



Morris Park Avenue at the intersection with Paulding Avenue is near the heart of the Morris Park Business Improvement District that was just approved by the NYC council.

Community News Group/Bob Guiliano

from Page 1

ing to be great for the community."

The BID will help the MPCA, which has had to collect money from local businesses to pay for holiday lights and other things in the past.

"This way it will be taken care of by the BID," D'Angelo said. "Hopefully, it will improve our business district, get more businesses to come in by advertising."

He said that the BID will arrange for streets and storefronts to be cleaned, along with walkways on corners which become a mess during storms.

John Bonizio, chairman of the Westchester Square BID, said he thinks "it's great for Morris Park. I'm glad to see the business community and commercial property owners

banding together to help provide a business plan for the business district."

Bonizio said the BID is long overdue and he's proud to have his neighbors in Morris Park join in the process of creating solutions to the struggles of small businesses in New York.

After Mayor de Blasio signs the BID into law, the state comptroller has 30 days to review it, then it goes through a steering committee, which will act as its first board of directors, according to Bonizio, who is familiar with the process.

The steering committee will meet, elect its executive board, officers, subcommittees and begin a selection process to choose an executive director to run the BID, incorporate, draw up bylaws and go for-

ward from there.

"It's a long process, but it's well worth the effort at the end of the rainbow," Bonizio said.

From a property owner's perspective, Sonny Vataj called the new BID "an amazing thing. We've been working hard for that. I own property in that neck of the woods. There comes a time in life when you have to give a little bit before you get."

Vataj, broker/owner of Exit Realty Group, acknowledged that property owners' taxes will go up a few cents per linear foot per month. That amount has not been made available yet.

"But if I'm going to get the neighborhood to be safer, more prosperous, I feel there's nothing wrong with it," Vataj said.

He said he heard there

was concern about the increased taxes, but he'd rather have the streets cleaned, and not see small mom and pop businesses fail because of sanitation tickets and constant bombardment of fine after fine after fine.

"If we could implement things long-term that would protect our (commercial) corridors, I think the records have shown that if it's managed properly, it will be a success," Vataj said.

For a few extra tax dollars, the Morris Park business district will get their annual holiday lights, clean streets, and a thriving business corridor, according to Vataj.

Vataj, who gives about \$300 to \$1000 a year to Morris Park for their holidays programs and other projects, said, "If we could stop other abuse or waste that we get hit for, \$300 is not going to change my lifestyle."

The legislation was introduced by Councilman James Vacca whose funding support was vital in establishing the 75th business improvement district in New York City.

"Anybody who visits Morris Park can see its unique charm of family owned restaurants, small shops and a vibrant community of residents and merchants," Vacca said.

"The Morris Park Business Improvement District will benefit the community as whole, building on the successful model that has led to the improvement of commercial strip throughout the city. I thank the merchants for all their hard work," he concluded.



Councilman Torres joined by Finger's relatives and Batman.

Photo courtesy of Councilman Ritchie Torres' Office

## Street renaming honor for Batman comic book co-creator

from Page 1

"The irony here is even though the creation is iconic – everyone knows Batman – the creator is largely obscure; few people know Bill's name, and we aim to change that."

Nobleman said that the street renaming was part of an effort get Finger's name out into the limelight, and that he had visited Poe Park before the book on Finger was under contract in order to research the author.

"Before I knew any of this was possible, I was lobbying to get Bill a memorial in the Bronx in Poe Park," said Nobleman, adding that after the release of his book and a related documentary film called *Batman and Bill*.

Interest in recognizing Finger was growing when he met Torres in 2015.

Nobleman said he was pleased to learn in late-2016 that legislation to authorize the street co-naming was moving forward.

"I wanted it to be in or near Poe Park because I felt that it would make it

more likely that people would go there or just come upon it on their own," said Nobleman.

Nobleman said that a change was made in 2015 that gave Finger credit on the comic.

People from as far away as Utah attended the street co-naming event adjacent to Poe Park, many seeking autographs from Kevin Conroy, the voice of Batman in the animated series.

Conroy said that Finger's name had, until recently, been lost to history.

"I have benefitted so much from the character that Bill Finger helped create," said Conroy at the ceremony. "History makes lots of mistakes, we can't change history but we can make amends."

Steven Simmons said that Finger, his stepfather, told him about "giving the character a cape, bat-mobile and creating the bat cave."

"I can see his big smile now as he looks down on this gathering with pride," said Simmons at the ceremony.



**PRESIDENT & PUBLISHER:**  
Jennifer Goodstein

**General Phone:** (718) 260-4595  
**By Mail:** Bronx Times Reporter  
3604 B E. Tremont Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10465

**NEWS**  
**Fax:** (718) 518-0038  
**E-Mail:** bronxtimes@cnglocal.com

**DISPLAY ADVERTISING**  
**Phone:** (718) 260-4593  
**Fax:** (718) 518-0038  
**E-Mail:** lguerrero@cnglocal.com

**CLASSIFIED**  
**Phone:** (718) 260-2555  
**Fax:** (718) 260-2549  
**E-Mail:** classified@cnglocal.com

**BXTimes.com**

**MEMBER:**  
NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION  
**NYPA**

This newspaper is not responsible for typographical errors in ads beyond the cost of the space occupied by the error. All rights reserved. Copyright © 2017 by Bronx Times Reporter, Inc., a subsidiary of News Community Newspaper Holdings, Inc. The content of this newspaper is protected by Federal copyright law. This newspaper, its advertisements, articles and photographs may not be reproduced, either in whole or part, without permission in writing from the publisher except brief portions for purposes of review or commentary consistent with the law. Postmaster, send address changes to Bronx Times Reporter, 3604 B E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465



**HOUSE  
CALLS**

**SERVING BRONX  
AND THE ENTIRE  
TRI-STATE AREA**

**SAME DAY  
SERVICE  
AVAILABLE**

**TOP \$ PAID  
FOR JUDAICA  
COLLECTIBLES**

# ANTIQUES & ESTATE BUYERS

**We Pay *\$CASH\$* For**

***Paintings, Clocks, Watches,  
Estate Jewelry & Fine China,  
From Single Items  
to Entire Estates!***

- Coin & Stamp Collections
- Costume Jewelry
- Antique Furniture • Lamps
- Bronzes • Paintings • Prints
- Chinese & Japanese Artwork & Porcelain
- Sports Collectibles
- Comic Books • Old Toys • Records
- Cameras • Sterling Flatware Sets

**HUMMELS & LLADROS**

**Military  
Collections  
Wanted**

**Swords,  
Knives,  
Helmets, etc.**

**Top \$ Paid  
for Antique  
Sterling!**

**SEE OUR AD EVERY SUNDAY IN THE POST**

**516-974-6528**

**ASK FOR CHRISTOPHER**

# ANTIQUA & ESTATE BUYERS

**WILL TRAVEL  
ENTIRE  
TRI-STATE!**

**We buy anything old. One piece or house full.**

**WILL TRAVEL. WE MAKE HOUSE CALLS.  
1029 WEST JERICHO TURNPIKE, SMITHTOWN, L.I.**

**FREE  
Estimates!**

# New York Yankees™ HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

## WEDNESDAY, DEC. 20, 2017

YANKEE STADIUM'S GATE 2\* FROM **9:30AM-3PM**

Donate 30 lbs. of non-perishable food such as canned goods, pasta, canned sauces, and oatmeal to receive a voucher\*\* for two (2) tickets to see the Yankees in 2018.

\*Gate 2 is located near the corner of 164th St. & Jerome Ave.

Presented by:



Special thanks to:



### RICE & BOTTLED WATER WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

\*\*VOUCHER DISTRIBUTION IS LIMITED TO THE FIRST 100,000 LBS. OF FOOD COLLECTED ON DECEMBER 20, 2017. EACH VOUCHER IS VALID FOR TWO (2) COMPLIMENTARY TICKETS IN DESIGNATED SEATING AREAS TO SELECT 2018 REGULAR SEASON HOME GAMES SCHEDULED TO BE PLAYED AT YANKEE STADIUM. OFFER VALID FOR SELECT, NON-PREMIUM SEATING AREAS. OFFER IS FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY, HAS NO CASH VALUE, IS NOT VALID ON PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED TICKETS, AND IS NOT GOOD IN CONJUNCTION WITH ANY OTHER PROMOTIONAL OFFER. CHECK [YANKEES.COM/THANKYOU](http://YANKEES.COM/THANKYOU) FOR GAME DATES AND OTHER VOUCHER REDEMPTION INFORMATION. VOUCHERS MUST BE REDEEMED BY APRIL 30, 2018.

FOR THE SAFETY OF EVERY GUEST, ALL PERSONS SPECIFICALLY CONSENT TO AND ARE SUBJECT TO METAL DETECTOR AND PHYSICAL PAT-DOWN INSPECTIONS PRIOR TO ENTRY. ANY ITEM OR PROPERTY THAT COULD AFFECT THE SAFETY OF YANKEE STADIUM, ITS OCCUPANTS OR ITS PROPERTY SHALL NOT BE PERMITTED INTO THE STADIUM. ANY PERSON THAT COULD AFFECT THE SAFETY OF THE STADIUM, ITS OCCUPANTS OR ITS PROPERTY SHALL BE DENIED ENTRY. ALL SEAT LOCATIONS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. TIME, OPPONENT, DATE AND TEAM ROSTERS AND LINEUPS, INCLUDING THE YANKEES' ROSTER AND LINEUP, ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. GAME TIMES LISTED AS TBD ARE SUBJECT TO DETERMINATION BY, AMONG OTHERS, MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL AND ITS TELEVISION PARTNERS.





# Grand Opening!

**Come Visit us At Our New Location**  
**1711 Crosby Avenue, Bronx NY 10461**  
*(Across the Street From Rite Aid)*  
**718.409.4431**



APPLY NOW FOR  
 6 MONTHS  
 INTEREST FREE

**Start Your Holiday Lay-A-Way Now! "Your One Stop Gold And Diamond Shop! The Best Quality At The Best Prices!"**

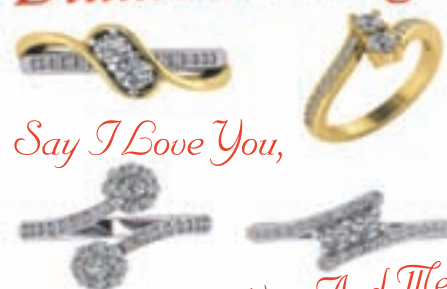
*GIA Certified Diamond  
 Custom Designs*



New and  
 Pre-Owned  
 Rolex, Breitling  
 & Cartier  
 Custom Diamond  
 Dials and Bezels



**Diamond Rings**

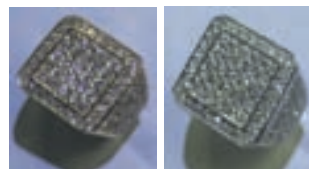


*Say I Love You,*

*2 Stone Rings You And Me...*



*Special  
 Discounts  
 We Beat  
 The Net!*



*Men's Cuban  
 Link Necklace*



*Moving  
 Diamond  
 Pendants*

*Same Hot Look  
 Lower Prices  
 Than  
 Zales or  
 Kays!*



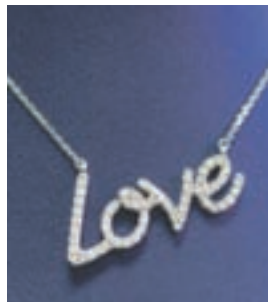
**MICHAEL KORS**

**CLEARANCE OUTLET**

**35% OFF**

LADIES AND MEN  
 ALL STYLES IN INVENTORY

*Custom Special  
 As Low As \$59.99*



*Order Now It  
 Takes 2 Weeks  
 To Arrive*



**BULOVA**



**35% - 50% Off**  
*On Select Men and  
 Women Watches!*



**SEIKO**



**OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK FOR THE HOLIDAY SEASON!**



# Tenants take landlord to court in aftermath of fire

BY BOB GUILIANO

Tenants of a five-story building at 851 E. 163rd Street took their landlord to court on Thursday, December 7, in the aftermath of a fire in July that left 12 residents injured.

A trial being held at Bronx Housing and Civil Court, 1118 Grand Concourse, involves tenants testifying about their experiences living under poor conditions, including their accounts of a fire in the building that resulted in one tenant jumping from a blazing fire escape.

Half of the building's tenants are involved in the case, testifying about needed repairs, dangers in the building, as well as harassment from the landlord, according to an official familiar with the case.

According to a fire incident report, dated Sunday, July 3, 2017, from the Bureau of Fire Investigation, Fire Marshall Thomas Driscoll determined that

the fire was caused by an electrical outlet.

The fire started in apartment 23 on the second floor, in the southeast bedroom on the west wall in a combustible material, plastic-wire insulation, according to the report.

It spread to a mattress and couch, then the ceiling, floor, all four walls and contents, the hallway ceiling and walls, kitchen ceiling, walls and contents, public hallway ceiling and walls, and exterior of south wall and fire escape, the report said.

More than a month after the fire, Colon still had 225 open violations at the building, records show.

Residents say electrical problems in the building still persist and they fear for their safety.

One such resident, Natasha Tosca, said that workers making repairs to electrical outlets in her apartment did a shoddy job.

Electricians installed

more outlets in Tosca's apartment and rewired half of the apartment: the hallway, bedroom and bathroom.

The kitchen, living room and bedroom are all on one circuit, she said.

So while installing new outlets, they left the old outlets in the walls, which could become overloaded if a TV or a hair dryer is turned on, the tenant explained.

Tosca said, "They broke open the walls and connected the old outlets to the new outlets."

Afterward, no one from the NYC Department of Buildings came in to inspect the work done by Colon's electricians, according to Tosca.

At the trial Thursday the DOB inspector testified that violations he noted in September 2017, two months after the fire, could cause a fire in the future.

"With the violations in the building, if there was a



Tenants of 851 E. 163rd Street protest against their landlord/building owner Hiram Colon Jr. over their residence's unsafe living conditions at a rally held outside Bronx Housing and Civil Court on Thursday, December 7.

Photo by Silvio Pacifico

short due to the way the circuits were not grounded in the building, in the worst case scenario it could cause the wires to burn inside the walls and cause a fire," the inspector testified.

Also, smoke alarms in the building did not work or were not hooked up, causing a delay in tenants being alerted to escape.

The tenant who jumped from a fire escape did so because flames were shooting out of a window below the fire escape, according to an official familiar with the incident.

The tenants are being represented by the Community Development Project at Urban Justice Center, which provides legal support to

dismantle racial, economic and social oppression.

Funding for the tenant litigation is provided through the Office of Civil Justice, NYC Human Resources Administration.

Several calls by the Bronx Times Reporter to landlord/building owner Hiram Colon Jr.'s attorney were not returned.



At Providence Rest we provide the following services:

Adult Day Health Care, Child Day Care Program  
Long Term Skilled Nursing Care, Respite Program  
Outpatient Rehab Services, Transitional Care,  
and Short Term Rehabilitation

We are Joint Commission accredited



"Exceptional health care in an environment that honors the human spirit, focuses on the needs of the individual and fosters vitality."

3304 Waterbury Avenue • Bronx, NY 10465  
718.931.3000 • [www.providencerest.org](http://www.providencerest.org)



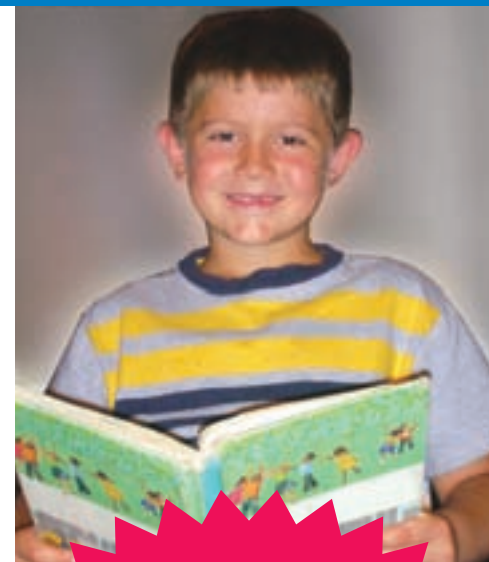
# SOLVE YOUR CHILD'S READING PROBLEM

## ACHIEVE 3 TO 6 YEARS OF READING IMPROVEMENT IN ONE YEAR!!!

**“A Miracle In The Making!” - CBS TV**

- One on One Tutoring for K–12th grade
- Below, At or Above Grade Level Students
- LD - ADD - ADHD - Dyslexia - Special Needs
- Your child will read better, faster with greater fluency and comprehension advancing one year every 4–8 weeks
- Grades, confidence and self esteem will soar as they learn to love reading and school
- Your 3, 4, & 5 year old will learn 15–30 words in the 1st session
- No contracts – Open 7 days a week
- **FREE** Consultation – 35 Years Certified Experience

**WATCH OUR VIDEOS TO LEARN MORE** [www.DickerReading.com](http://www.DickerReading.com)



**CHILDREN AT OR  
BELOW GRADE  
LEVEL WILL BECOME  
THE BEST READERS  
IN THEIR CLASS**



**Dicker Reading Method**

75 Brook Street, Scarsdale | 914.472.0600 | [www.DickerReading.com](http://www.DickerReading.com)

# Seabury Park reopens following renovations

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A 20-year-old local park reopened to much fanfare following vital renovations.

On Thursday, November 30, NYC Parks Commissioner Mitchell Silver, Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, NYC Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Vincent Sapienza, Councilman Rafael Salamanca and East Bronx Academy for the Future students cut the ribbon for the recently renovated Seabury Park.

The park design is based on feedback obtained directly from the community at public input sessions.

Funded with \$777,000 by Mayor de Blasio, Seabury Park is the first Community Parks Initiative site to open in the Bronx after undergoing full reconstruction.

The completely transformed 0.19 acre park now features a new multi-use court designed for basketball, volleyball, street games and other sports; a seating area with benches and picnic tables and new trees and foliage.

"Before this renovation, eighty percent of Seabury Park was closed to the public because of sinking

pavement and other unsafe conditions," noted Silver. "I know this revamped park will be heavily used by children at the East Bronx Academy who have played on these courts for many years."

To facilitate water runoff, green infrastructure has been added throughout Seabury Park in coordination with DEP. The parks' green features include a rain garden, underground storm chambers, permeable concrete and flood-tolerant plants.

"The newly installed green infrastructure at this playground will help to reduce stormwater runoff, improve the health of the surrounding waterways and beautifying the neighborhood," expressed Commissioner Sapienza.

DEP has committed approximately \$50 million in funding for green infrastructure installations at CPI sites throughout the city, helping to reduce sewer overflows that sometimes occur during heavy rainfall, improve air quality and lower summertime temperatures.

"These are the types of investments needed in the south Bronx," said Councilman Salamanca. "The Mid-Bronx Desperadoes saw the



Councilman Salamanca (4th from l), NYC Parks Commissioner Silver (c), Bronx Parks Commissioner Rodriguez-Rosa (2nd from r) and community members were excited to open the newly renovated Seabury Park. Photo by Aracelis Batista

need for greenspace here 20 years ago and I'm pleased that the city is building on their commitment to the community by this sizable investment to renovate Seabury Park."

MBD Community Housing Corporation was founded in 1974 as a coalition of volunteers determined to save their Crotona Park East community from overwhelming incidents of arson, disinvestment, abandonment and population loss.

The non-profit organization has been the driving force behind Seabury Park's inception and development since 1994 when MBD met with residents to transform the L-shaped lot into a community park.

"It's a beautiful park and we highly commend Parks on its wonderful renovation," said Derrick Lovett, MBD president.

Formerly an abandoned lot, Seabury Park was permanently

designated a park under Parks' jurisdiction on April 4, 1997.

It was officially opened to the public on October 29, 1997.

Seabury Park is also known as 'Mid-Bronx Desperadoes Community Park' and 'People's Park' in recognition of the community effort that made the park a reality.

Its official name commemorates Dr. Samuel Seabury III, a rector of St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church at Westchester Square.

## Christmas Classics Performed by Kristin Kelleher



This live music performance  
will take place on  
Wednesday from 6PM—8PM

## visions

services for the blind and visually impaired

**Our vision is for everyone  
to see what is possible**

**Website: [www.visionsvcb.org](http://www.visionsvcb.org)**

**Are you legally blind or totally blind?  
Having trouble with everyday living? Having  
trouble finding a job? Raising a blind child?**

**VISIONS can help.**

**We provide FREE services to individuals of  
all ages who are blind to help them live as  
independently as possible. Services are  
offered in 10 languages, in the home, at our  
senior center in Manhattan, and at our  
year-round short term residential facility in  
Rockland County.**

**To learn more, call VISIONS intake  
department at (212) 625-1616 Ext. 134.**





# Westchester Square Welcomes The Holiday Season

In keeping with tradition, Westchester Square became a Winter Wonderland to welcome the upcoming holiday season. The Westchester Square Business Improvement District and Councilman James Vacca co-hosted the fifth annual Westchester Square Holiday Celebration on Friday, December 8 at Owen Dolen Park which featured a Christmas tree lighting ceremony and surprise visit from Santa Claus. Adding to the merriment were the Yuletide Carolers who gave a rousing performance of classic Christmas carols as eager guests sang together well into the night. Above, Aria received a bear hug while enjoying some refreshing hot chocolate. Photos by Laura Stone



(l-r) Security Anthony Garcia; John Collazzi, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto's chief of staff; Laura Guerriero, Bronx Times Reporter publisher; Yuletide Singers Katie Zaffrann and Hannah Kurtz; Santa Claus; Yuletide Singers Kanan Vasudevan and Darren Lougee; John Bonizio, WSBID chairman and Lisa Sorin, WSBID executive director.



The Abominable Snowman, an illuminated Christmas tree, the Ice Queen and one of Santa's elves entertained the crowd.



Santa; event volunteers from Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology; WSBID mascot Wes and Yuletide Singers Kanan Vasudevan, Katie Zaffrann and Hannah Kurtz wished everyone a merry holiday season.



Owen Dolen after school program children celebrated the holidays with the Abominable Snowman, illuminated Christmas tree, Ice Queen, Santa's elf, Wes and John Bonizio.



Sisters Rosalina (l) and Rosaura Agosto traveled all the way from Parkchester to meet Santa.



Renaissance High School for Musical Theater and Technology volunteers Erika (l) and Jael were ready to hand out holiday gifts.



# Santander Bank cuts ribbon on new south Bronx location

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

Santander Bank officially cut the ribbon on its new location in the south Bronx on Wednesday, December 6.

Though this is only the bank's third branch in the Bronx, the company promised to generously contribute to its host communities.

"It is really just a demonstration of our commitment to a borough that's vibrant," said Santander's Metro New York and Northern New Jersey region president, Elsie Leon-Cruz. "It's up and coming and there's a lot of tremendous opportunity there and we want to be a part of that."

The bank has branches in all five boroughs of New York City.

However, its new location at 220 E. 161st Street near Yankee Stadium was especially notable for Leon-Cruz, who grew up in the south Bronx.

"To come back and be able to give back in a small way, it's very powerful and I'm very proud of that," Cruz added.

Though the ribbon cutting took place in December, Santander's 161st Street branch actually opened for business on November 13th.

Since then, the bank has seen more customers than anticipated.



Santander Bank executives and branch colleagues celebrated the ribbon cutting of the new location which includes local artwork reflective of the immediate community inside of the branch.

Photo courtesy of Santander Bank

They have assisted with everything from answering financial questions of those who do not bank with Santander, to helping others open accounts or provide regular banking services for existing customers.

In the same area as the 161st Street branch, there are two larger banks that have had their locations in the vicinity for many years.

In fact, many pedestrians who were passing by the new branch were not fully aware of Santander's

presence.

"I didn't even know this was a bank," said one gentleman who worked as a security guard in the shopping center where the bank is located.

"I don't bank here, I'm just using the ATM," said a shopper who walked out of the neighboring Food Bazaar supermarket.

Some, however, said they had benefitted from the opening of Santander in this location.

"My mom banks here," said a high school girl who stopped by the branch to ask about depositing paychecks. "It's definitely convenient. Their other location isn't near here and the other ones are in the city."

While the company said their work is not focused on big marketing at the local level, one of the ways Santander is helping the community is by staffing their banks with experienced local workers who

know the people from the community.

"It's not necessarily about the brick and mortar but about how we help our customers," Leon-Cruz explained. "There's a very warm environment and a smaller footprint to really support our customers at whatever stage they are in their life, whether it's to open an account or get more information about loans, that's what we're there for."

During the ribbon cutting, Santander presented checks to two local organizations, Bronx Works and the Women's Housing and Economic Development Corporation.

"Getting that support from Santander, who's shown they are invested in supporting Bronx communities and Bronx businesses, that's really meaningful and really exciting," said Alix Fellman, a WHEDCo manager.

Santander plans to leverage already existing financial literacy programs at local public schools during 2018.

Santander Bank is owned by the larger Spanish Santander Bank, Banco Santander.

Though Santander's home base is in Boston, MA it has locations throughout the northeast part of the country.

## Amendola Plaza beautification project officially completed

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

On Tuesday, December 12, the ribbon was officially cut on Amendola Plaza to commemorate the completion of the beautification project.

Construction on the project began in October 2015.

The initial contractor defaulted and a string of other problems arose, causing the re-construction to slow, according to NYC Parks Bronx Parks Commissioner, Iris Rodriguez-Rosa.

"The intent of this project was to design a space that communities and local residents can enjoy while waiting for their bus or train," Rodriguez-Rosa said during the ceremony.

"This project converted a large expanse of formerly unattractive paving into a pedestrian friendly transportation hub. The design is both sustainable and maintenance friendly."



Councilman James Vacca (c), NYC Parks Bronx Borough commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa (3rd from r), District 10 manager Matthew Cruz (r) with the construction team, cement mason, blacksmith and other community members.

Photo by NYC Parks / M. Pinckney

The major components of the project required installing iron fencing around the gardens and finishing the cement work in the plaza, which slowed after the first contractor defaulted.

The project was

funded by Councilman James Vacca.

The councilman said, "There were times I thought this project would never get through."

Vacca allocated over \$900,000 for green relief,

according to the councilman and NYC Parks.

"I didn't see this process from the beginning from the community board level," said Cruz who replaced Kenneth Kearns after he retired in the spring of 2017. "It's

pretty important that this project came to a close."

Amendola Plaza has thousands of commuters a day, and though the public transit hub is under the jurisdiction of the NYC Department

of Transportation, the NYC Parks department has the ability to develop horticulture in certain areas, according to Rodriguez-Rosa.

Commuters that pass through the plaza agreed the project was appreciated.

"It looks nice. It's about time they brighten up the area," said John Rodriguez, a commuter admiring the gardens while standing near a bus stop.

"All you've got to see are the walls (that line the Bruckner Expressway), so it looks nice like this," he added.

"The beautification looks nice, but I think it takes up some of the space that was used to wait for the bus, but otherwise I understand it. It's nice," said another commuter, Keke LeBron, who was walking by the gardens at the same time the ribbon was being cut.



# Throggs Neck Christmas Tree Lighting Brightens Spirits

The Throggs Neck community had a merry time celebrating the holiday season with a Christmas tree lighting sponsored by Assemblyman Michael Benedetto, Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj and Senator Jeff Klein on Sunday, December 3 at DeRosa and O'Boyle Triangle. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus traveled all the way from the North Pole to meet local children and help distribute gifts supplied by the Throggs Neck Merchants Association.



Local youth joined Assemblyman Benedetto (back, 3rd from l), Senator Jeff Klein (back, c), Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj (back, 2nd from r) and Councilman Andrew Cohen (back, r) in welcoming North Pole natives Santa and Mrs. Claus to Throggs Neck.

Photo by Fernando Justiniano



Fr. Stephen Norton (front, c), St. Benedict's pastor, and the St. Benedict's Children's Choir welcomed everyone to the Yuletide celebration.



(l-r) Tanasia Hamilton, Ashley Resto, Zwquan Anthony, Angel Viera, Kayla Smalls, Emily Romero, Kevin Egan and Aripul Haque, volunteers from Lehman High School, got into the holiday spirit.



(l-r) Tracey Madio, Nick Madio, Dina Bell and Stephen Kaufman distributed tasty treats to guests.



# Two boro teachers take home the coveted citywide Sloan Award

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

Two borough school teachers are being recognized for excellence in sparking their students' interest in math and science and for getting positive classroom results.

Jason Garofalo, a mathematics teacher at Marble Hill School for International Studies at the JFK High School campus and William Lynam, a science teacher at Gotham Collaborative High School at the Adlai E. Stevenson Educational Campus were announced the winners of the prestigious Sloan Award for Excellence in Teaching Math and Science.

Garofalo and Lynam are two of seven teachers from around the city who won the honor, which comes with \$5,000 prizes for the teachers and \$2,500 awards for their schools to strengthen science or math departments.

These were the ninth annual awards Sloan awards, which are sponsored by the Fund for the City Of New York. They were awarded on Monday, December 4.

Garofalo and Lynam were selected after interviews with school officials, students and colleagues.

Garofalo teaches Algebra 2, mostly to 11th graders, and is in his tenth year at his school and his 13th year teaching.

The teacher said he likes to engage the students by encouraging them to experiment with mathematics and learn to solve problems in



William Lynam

Photo courtesy of Sloan

different ways.

"A lot of my students come in thinking they need to memorize steps to learn mathematics," said Garofalo. "I want my students to have the mindset that they can figure out mathematics based on knowledge they already possess."

He encourages a collaborative classroom setting where interaction can take place between students.

"When it comes to mathematics, (my educational philosophy) is basically to have my students be mathematicians," said Garofalo.

The collaborative environment in his classroom also is helpful for many of his students who are English language learners, he added.

"It not only helps their communication skills, but sometimes I think they can explain things to each other better than I can," he said.

Garofalo said just being

considered for the award was both humbling and an honor.

He added that he works with an excellent staff of fellow teachers and that any of his colleagues could have won the award as well.

An administrator at his school nominated him for the award. Garofalo is a Math for America Master Teacher.

Lynam teaches Environmental Science to 11th and 12th graders and helps run a student internship program with a three-acre outdoor 'laboratory,' a garden on the school's campus.

His teaching methods involve bringing out non-stressful moments of learning in the school's vast outdoor garden that includes an orchard he created from an abandoned lot that now boasts over 250 fruit trees, as well as an organic vegetable garden and other bucolic facilities with rabbits and chickens.

Lynam said that when he was in high school he got great grades and was on the honor roll, but he recalls nothing really all that remarkable about the experience. He doesn't want his students to have that same memory.

"I want my students to think back on high school about crazy, instructive moments that they can carry with them and potentially use to their own betterment," said Lynam.



(l-r) Warren Bub, Joanna Bonaro, and Anna Whitty at the American Filmatic Awards on Friday, December 8.  
Community News Group/Sarah Valenzuela

## Good N' Screwed brings Bronx influence to the big screen

BY SARAH VALENZUELA

A Bronx native is trying to subtly change the negative stereotype of the Bronx through film. The results: Good N' Screwed.

Screenwriter and actress, Joanna Bonaro, who is known for her roles in Law and Order: SVU among other flicks, wrote the comedy series in 2015 and dedicated it to her mother, Grace, who passed away in 2016.

After she passed away, Bonaro started filming the show's pilot.

"We (my sister and I) had just come from the cemetery for the first time, St. Raymond's Cemetery," said Bonaro. "We were going to go to Patricia's, and we were walking around looking at my old neighborhood, so to speak, and we passed a cigar store (Avenue Cigar Lounge)."

"We had a cigar store scene and we were looking for a cigar store to film in," Bonaro continued. "The owner said come inside and we started to talk and it was like being home. Dominick Principato (the owner) he offered the store for free and I just thought it was mom coming down and helping us."

The pilot for the show debuted in New York City on

Friday, December 8 in the American Filmatic Awards at St. Francis College.

Some of the main scenes in the show takes place in locations Joanna was familiar with growing up, like the cigar shop on Morris Park Avenue.

While not all of the scenes are in the Bronx and the show is not about the Bronx or even about New York City, the subtle exposure of the borough was included for good reason.

"I'm very proud of coming from the Bronx but sometimes it wasn't easy saying I grew up in the Bronx because people have this rather tainted viewpoint about it sometimes," Bonaro explained.

"For me to represent what I consider my borough, for me to be able to show locations around the Bronx, and just tell the story about how I got the site just shows what wonderful people live there."

The plot of the show revolves around the main character, Nina, who is also played by Bonaro, trying to find love after filing for divorce.

Nina is a middle aged woman who soon realizes the 'love game' is not the

same as it was when she was younger.

The show features different love scenarios that play out through other middle aged woman, and even through Nina's teenage daughter, Mia Monte, who shows the disparity of love and relationships at a younger age.

Bonaro is not the only member of the ensemble with ties to the Bronx, however.

Anna Whitty, who plays Mia Monte, is actually the daughter of Bonaro's best friend from Christopher Columbus High School.

Another actor, Warren Bub, who plays Father Anthony, the priest Nina develops a crush on, is also a Throggs Neck native.

"A lot of times the Bronx gets a bad rap and is forgotten about," remarked Bub about filming in the area. "Everything is either done in Queens, Manhattan or Brooklyn and the Bronx seems to get pushed out. I love that more stuff is coming back to the Bronx."

The pilot has been pitched to various streaming websites like Netflix and Hulu. Bonaro could only confirm there was interest in the piece.



Call 718.260.2555

..to sell your **car** in our  
**CLASSIFIED SECTIONS**  
& get... **Real Results!**



**SHOP OUR CLASSIFIED  
PAGES EVERY WEEK AND  
SAVE MONEY**





# P.S. 304 Hosts Tree Lighting Ceremony

P.S. 304 students and their families celebrated the holidays in festive style at their school's annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 1. The time honored Yuletide festival featured a surprise visit from jolly old Santa Claus.



P.S. 304 students and their families' spirits were merry and bright this holiday season.

Photo by Miriam Quin



P.S. 304 Parent Association members and their children welcomed the Yuletide season.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Michelle Proscia (l) and her daughter Laura enjoyed meeting Father Christmas this year.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Roxanne Vacco (l) and Rylee Smith Corrado told Santa what they wanted for the holidays.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Michael Pisanti (r) high-fived jolly old St. Nick.

Photo by Miriam Quin



Lucas Infante enjoyed seeing Frosty the Snowman and his friends at the celebration.

Photo by Miriam Quin



# Veterans mark Pearl Harbor Day, renovated monument

BY BOB GUILIANO

Local veterans marked the anniversary of Pearl Harbor Day and the completion of a memorial at Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park at Weir Creek near Edgewater Park on Thursday, December 7.

The ceremony was a joint event between Silver Beach, Theodore Korony and Throggs Neck American Legion posts, according to Pat Devine, Bronx County American Legion leader.

A \$200,000 project funded by Councilman James Vacca enhances the plaza area around a monument dedicated to veterans, with interlocking stones replacing granite-like pavement that was chipping and cracking.

The increase in concrete surfacing will al-

low veterans to accommodate larger crowds at such events as Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, Memorial Day, and at the conclusion of the Throggs Neck Veterans Day parade.

"The park is a living memorial to veterans that died in our community," Devine said. Relatives of fallen veterans select a tree and make it a living memorial to them.

The bicentennial park was created in 1976, when it was dedicated to veterans in all the wars to the present, according to Devine.

Every year several posts get together at the park and lay a wreath, talk about the Pearl Harbor attack, how many planes were involved, how many people were killed, and play taps.

Another veteran, Tony Salimbene, Bronx County American Legion Commander, said that "the American Legion will not forget things like the sinking of the USS Maine, Pearl Harbor Day, the 911 attacks. We were there to commemorate those who died in the sneak attack against our country."

Salimbene added that "we can be Christian and forgive, but we're not going to forget."

The American Legion built the park in a grass-roots effort, according to Salimbene.

"If it wasn't for Pat and some of the other guys, this area would have been a garbage dump."

In an official statement, Governor Cuomo spoke about the anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

"Today, we observe

the attack on Pearl Harbor 76 years ago and we honor the memories of those who made the ultimate sacrifice," Cuomo stated. "The date that lives in infamy changed the course of our nation's history, and following the attack, Americans came together as one to fight for our freedom, our democracy and the values this nation was founded upon."

Cuomo noted that nearly 1.7 million New Yorkers went on to serve in World War II, more than from any other state in the nation.

"These courageous service members put their lives on the line for our country, and their service continues to deliver freedom that we are grateful for each and every day," Cuomo stated.



The completion of a monument featuring a flag pole flying several flags honoring veterans was marked during a dedication ceremony at the Bicentennial Veterans Memorial Park at Weir Creek on Thursday, December 7. The event also marked the anniversary of military personnel lost in the attack on Pearl Harbor.

Community News Group/Bob Guiliano

## Sanitation Salvage Corp.

Residential - Commercial - Industrial

**"We will meet and exceed your expectations"**

421 Manida St.  
Bronx, NY 10474

(718) 893-9300  
Fax (718) 893-1167



### OFFERING ON-SITE SECURE DOCUMENT & HARD DRIVE DESTRUCTION

Our mission is to ensure business professionals and their clients/patients peace of mind that their personal information will be disposed of in a proper & legal manner.

Serving:  
Accounting Firms  
Healthcare Facilities  
Law Firms  
Doctors' Offices

**Shredding Consoles & Storage  
Containers Offered Upon Request  
718-893-9300**

Benefits:  
Prevent Identity Theft  
Workplace Privacy  
Security Compliance  
Privacy Act  
Environmentally  
Friendly

(References Upon Request)

Serving N.Y., N.J., CT. • NAID Certification Pending

## YANKEES UNIVERSE



**\$295**

- **FOUR (4) FIELD LEVEL TICKETS** - to a select 2018 regular season home game\*
- Nike Short Sleeve T-shirt
- JBL In-Ear Headphones
- Tervis Water Bottle
- All the Rookie Package benefits included, excluding the 200 Level tickets.
- **MUCH MORE** — see website for details!



**\$99.95**

- **TWO (2) 100 LEVEL TICKETS** - to a select 2018 regular season home game\*
- New York Yankees Golf Head Cover
- New York Yankees Golf Towel
- New York Yankees Golf Umbrella
- **MUCH MORE** — see website for details!



• Yankees Universe Baby Package



**\$59.95**

- **TWO (2) 200 LEVEL TICKETS** - to a select 2018 regular season home game\*
- New Era Trucker Hat
- Aaron Judge Bobblehead
- Sunglasses
- **MUCH MORE** — see website for details!



**\$19.95**

- **TWO (2) GRANDSTAND TICKETS** - to a select 2018 regular season home game\*
- Welcome Letter
- 2018 MLB.com® Gameday Audio
- **MUCH MORE** — see website for details!

For more information on 2018 packages:

Call (800) GO-YANKS or visit [WWW.YANKEES.COM/UNIVERSE](http://WWW.YANKEES.COM/UNIVERSE).

\*Terms and conditions apply. For a complete list of benefits and discounts, visit [www.yankees.com/universe](http://www.yankees.com/universe). A portion of Yankees Universe proceeds goes to the Yankees Universe Fund at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center.







# WEDDING DIRECTORY

## BRIDAL FASHION

### KLEINFELD BRIDAL SAMPLE STUDIO

123 West 20<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011  
(2<sup>nd</sup> floor across from Kleinfeld Bridal)  
(917) 388-2341  
www.kleinfeldbridal.com/sample-studio

## TUXEDOS

### TUXEDO WORLD OF STATEN ISLAND

2791 Richmond Avenue, #6,  
Staten Island, NY 10314, (718) 698-4859  
www.tuxedoworldsi.com

## CATERING & VENUES

### ATLAS STEAKHOUSE

943 Coney Island Avenue  
off 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn, NY  
(646) 494-7227, www.AtlasSteak.com

### BAY RIDGE MANOR

476 76<sup>th</sup> Street, Brooklyn  
(718) 748-8855  
www.bayridgemanor.com

### CELEBRATE AT SNUG HARBOR

(718) 442-2700  
www.celebrate-snug.com  
events@celebrate-snug.com

### EDIBLE ARRANGEMENTS

133-22 Springfield Blvd., (718) 528-3344  
158-18 Cross Bay Blvd., (718) 848-3344  
1357 Fulton Street, (718) 622-3344  
1557 Ralph Avenue, (718) 451-3344  
www.ediblearrangements.com/  
stores/StoreLocator.aspx

### GLEN TERRACE

5313 Avenue N, Brooklyn, (718) 252-4614

### GRAND OAKS COUNTRY CLUB

200 Huguenot Avenue, Staten Island  
(718) 356-2771, www.grandoaksnyc.com

### GRAND PROSPECT HALL

263 Prospect Avenue, Brooklyn  
(718) 788-0777, www.grandprospecthall.com

### HUNTERS STEAK HOUSE

9404 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 238-8899  
www.HuntersSteakhouse.com

### IL FORNETTO

2902 Emmons Avenue in Brooklyn  
(718) 332-8494  
www.ilFornettoRestaurant.com

### MARBELLA RESTAURANT

220-33 Northern Boulevard  
Bayside, NY 11361, (718) 423-0100  
www.marbella-restaurant.com

### PARADISE CATERING HALL

51 Avenue U, Brooklyn, NY 11223  
(718) 372-4352  
www.theparadisecateringhall.com

### THE PEARL ROOM

8518 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue  
Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 833-6666  
www.pearlroombklyn.com

### SCHNITZEL HAUS

7319 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Bay Ridge, NY 11029  
(718) 836-5600, www.schnitzelhausny.com

### ROCCO'S TACOS

339 Adams Street, Brooklyn, NY 11201  
(718) 246-8226, roccostacos.net

### SIRICO'S CATERERS

8015-23 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Brooklyn  
(718) 331-2900, www.siriscocaterers.net

### SOTTO 13

5140 West 13<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY  
(212) 647-1001, sotto13.com

### TERRACE ON THE PARK

52-11 111 Street, Flushing, NY 11368  
(718) 592-5000  
www.terraceonthepark.com

### THE VANDERBILT AT SOUTH BEACH

300 Father Capodanno Boulevard  
Staten Island, NY  
(718) 447-0800  
www.vanderbiltssouthbeach.com

## FAVORS & INVITATIONS

### THE BRONX DESIGN GROUP

2914 Westchester Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10461  
(718) 409-9874, Ext. 106  
danielles@bronxdesign.com

### UNFORGETTABLE EVENTS

2049 Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn,  
(718) 377-4535

## FLORISTS

### FLORAL FANTASY

3031 Quentin Road in Brooklyn,  
(718) 998-7060 or  
(800) 566-8380  
www.floralfantasynyc.com

### FLOWERS BY MASSENET

Jamaica, Queens, NY  
(347) 724-7044  
(718) 526-3725

### HENRY'S FLORIST

8103 Fifth Avenue in Brooklyn  
(800) 543-6797 or (718) 238-3838  
www.henrysfloristweddingevents.com

### MARINE FLORIST AND DECORATORS

1995 Flatbush Avenue in Brooklyn  
(800) 447-6730 or (718) 338-3600  
www.marineflorists.com

## LIMOUSINE SERVICES

### MILA LIMOUSINE CORPORATION

(718) 232-8973, www.milalimo.com

### ROMANTIQUE/DOUBLE DIAMOND LIMOUSINES

1421-86 Street, Brooklyn, NY, (718) 351-7273  
2041-Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island  
(718) 351-7273, www.rddlimos.com

### SOPHISTICATED LIMOUSINES

Serving the Tri state area & NJ, (866) 455-5466

## PHOTOGRAPHY & VIDEO

### FANTASY PHOTOGRAPHY

3031 Quentin Rd., Brooklyn NY, (718) 998-0949  
www.fantasyphotographyandvideo.com

### NY PHOTO VIDEO GROUP

1040 Hempstead Tpke, Franklin Square, NY 11010  
(516) 352-3188 www.nyphotovideogroup.com  
info@nyphotovideogroup.com

### ONE FINE DAY PHOTOGRAPHERS

459 Pacific Street, Massapequa Park  
(516) 690-1320  
www.onefinedayphotographers.com

## SALONS

### PILO ARTS SALON

8412 3 Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 748-7411, www.piloarts.com

## SERVICES

### COSMETIC & LASER CENTER OF BAY RIDGE

9921 4th Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209  
(718) 833-2793 or (718) 833-7616  
www.BayRidgeDerm.com

### ELITE WEIGHT LOSS

1316 Kings Highway, Brooklyn, NY 11229  
(917) 444-3043  
EliteWeightLossNY.com

### JOSEPH LICHTER, D.D.S.

1420 Avenue P in Brooklyn  
(718) 339-7878  
www.josephlichterdds.co

### OMNI DENTAL CARE

313 Kings Highway in Brooklyn  
(718) 376-8656  
www.omnidentalcare.com

### THE VEIN CENTER OF THE VASCULAR INSTITUTE OF NY

Dr. Natalie Marks  
960 - 50 Street, Brooklyn, NY 11219  
(718) 438-0067  
www.vascularnyc.com

## WEDDING CAKES

### WHIPPED PASTRY BOUTIQUE-WEDDING CAKES

(718) 858-8088  
www.whippedpastryboutique.com

## WEDDING EXPOS

### BRIDAL AFFAIR

(718) 317-9701, www.bridalaffair.com

## WEDDING INSURANCE

### TRI-STATE INSURANCE BROKERAGE

610 Crescent Ave., Bronx 10458  
277 Tarrytown Rd., White Plains 10602  
(718) 618-7666, ww.tsinsbk.com

**TO BE INCLUDED IN THIS DIRECTORY CALL (718) 260-8302**

## ► EMPLOYMENT

To Place Your Ad  
Call 718-260-2555

► MEDICAL  
HELP WANTED

► MEDICAL  
HELP WANTED

**Home Health Aides  
Personal Care Aides  
Live-In's FT/PT Positions**  
Immediate Hire! Choose your hours.

Great hourly & live-in cases.  
Excellent Vacation & Holiday pay!

**PRIME CARE, Inc.**  
56 W. 45 St, Rm. 1404, NYC  
**212-944-0244**

# Call 718-260-2555 To Advertise Here

## START YOUR CAREER

With A Job That's Right For You!



Try Real-Time Job Matching™ & Get Hired Fast

**[www.DreamJobsNYC.com](http://www.DreamJobsNYC.com)**

 **DreamJobsNYC**

**EMPLOYERS:** To Place an Ad Call 718 260 2555



# Fetal heart care center opens on Montefiore's Hutch-Metro campus

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A new medical facility to treat neonatal heart conditions opened with fanfare at Montefiore.

Montefiore held a ribbon cutting on Monday, December 4 for its John H. Gutfreund Fetal Heart Program at Montefiore's Hutchinson Campus, dedicating a new cardiac care center to serve pregnant women and their families.

The program goal is to provide mothers with the most advanced, comprehensive and state-of-the-art cardiac care in the fetal stage and for newborns, said Dr. Nadine Choueiter, program director and an assistant professor of pediatrics at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

"The Bronx is an underserved community and (the idea for the center) came from a need to provide the community access to fetal cardiac care," said Choueiter. "It is very important in this

time and era to diagnose especially critical cardiac disease before children are born because it definitely affects the chance of survival after delivery."

Heart disease is the most common inborn condition affecting newborns, with some 40,000 cases each year in the United States, said Choueiter.

"Diagnosing cardiac disease before a baby is born decreases the chances of a baby being very sick," she said. "It allows us to counsel the parents and families and to prepare them not just from a medical standpoint but from a social standpoint."

The care and preparation before birth allows families to better prepare to manage the needs of a child with heart disease, as well as avoid more serious cases of new-born heart disease which can sometimes worsen and affect other organs if not



Susan Gutfreund (c), wife of the late John Gutfreund, a board member at Montefiore for decades for whom the new pediatric heart center is named for, cuts the ribbon on the new facility on Monday, December 11. She is standing next to her son JP Gutfreund, a current board member, on her left and Dr. Steven Safyer, Montefiore CEO.

Photo courtesy of Montefiore

treated in utero.

Mothers who are especially prone to having children in need of fetal heart care, something that is typically determined in the second trimester, include moms who have diabetes or lupus, said Choueiter.

The center's team includes cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons,

social workers, child-life specialists, quality-in-life specialists, obstetricians, maternal-fetal medicine specialists, neonatologists and nurse practitioners in decision making from pre-natal diagnosis to post-birth surgery.

The center, situated in the Hutchinson Metro Center, is part of the Children's Hospital at

Montefiore and is close to Weiler/Einstein hospital.

Weiler Hospital is home to Montefiore's labor and delivery services and neonatal intensive care unit, making for easy collaboration and transport between the facilities.

Funding for the program came from a \$1 million grant from the Stav-

ros Niarchos Foundation, an international foundation that makes grants in medicine, as well as arts, culture and education.

The fetal heart program is named after Gutfreund, a Montefiore board member for decades who had a strong commitment to serving the medically under-served.

His son J.P. Gutfreund is now a Montefiore trustee, and said that he and his family are thrilled about the opening of the center.

"In my father's more than five decades of devoted board service to Montefiore, CHAM was always a part of the organization that held a special meaning to him," he said. "I know he would have been a great supporter of the amazing work that will be done at this center by heart specialists Dr. Daphne Hsu, Dr. Giles Peek, Dr. Nadine Choueiter and their team."

## Local canines are barking for proposed Bronx Park dog run

from Page 1

the park and discussed the idea.

"I think this is something that is needed in the community," said Lutnick. "People take their dogs to the park and in the park there are many children, so maybe it will make it safer for everyone."

She said she also hopes that having a central location where two- and four-legged friends can mix and mingle might also encourage dog owners to clean up after their pets, which is sometimes a problem.

Lutnick, the owner of a Shih Tzu named Kelev (Hebrew for dog), said that dogs need socialization as much as their masters, and there are services which sometimes charge dog owners for the privilege, so the dog park will provide a needed amenity.

Because much of the Pelham Parkway community lives in apartment buildings, it will provide a much-needed place for

dogs to be dogs, she said.

Edith Blitzer, PPPA president, said she believes that when the facility is completed, the dog run will provide a place for neighbors to socialize.

"Pelham Parkway is a real melting pot of a community and this a great way for neighbors to meet neighbors while walking their dogs," said Blitzer, adding, "I think it is terrific because people of different backgrounds will be able to meet and talk, and I believe this will make for better relations."

Both Vacca and Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. allocated funding to the project — \$300,000 and \$150,000 respectively.

"Once completed, the new dog park is going to be a great opportunity for neighborhood residents to meet and engage with each other right outside of their homes with their dogs," said Diaz. "By building facilities like this, my hope is they will



Community residents, four-legged friends and NYC Parks Department officials join Bronx Parks Commissioner Iris Rodriguez-Rosa (3rd from l), Councilman Jimmy Vacca (5th from r) and Andrea Siegel (3rd from r) and Edith Blitzer (2nd from r) of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association who spearheaded the project.

Photo courtesy of NYC Parks Dept.

help to enhance the social experience not only for dogs but for their owners as well."

Vacca said that many parks have strict regulations regarding where

dogs can be allowed off their leashes. Dog runs provide space in parks for the pets to be able to exercise and socialize without a leash.

"It's important for our

four-legged Bronxites to have a place to run and play," said Iris Rodriguez-Rosa, Bronx Parks commissioner, adding the agency is excited to make the idea a reality.

**Call**  
**718.260.2555**

..to advertise  
your business in our  
**Classified Section**  
and get..

**Real Results!**





# Wine and Spirits

## Discount Warehouse

18 Joyce Road, New Rochelle, NY 10801 • 914-712-3111

102017 

BRING IN THIS AD AND

**GET 50 POINTS**

(\$2 OFF) with email sign up



# Johnnie Walker Blue

750ml

# \$169<sup>99</sup>

## Cash & Carry!

## Now Until 12/31/17

\*Cash or debit only on featured items. No mix & match on sale items. We will match printed prices from other NewYork City liquor stores. Coupon must be present at checkout. Webprices not accepted. Not responsible for typographical errors. Prices Expire 12/31/2017.