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February 19-25, 2016

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CNG



Strike A Pose At Freedman

The Dollhouse 'Emancipation' was held on Friday, February 12, at Andrew Freedman Manor, 1125 Grand Concourse, where Aval & Company presented its first Annual Fashion Show, an event that included art, networking, spoken word and high fashion. Models Marly Lotus (l) and Dira Ve strike poses during the fashion show.

Photo by Miriam Quin

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YOUNG WOMAN SLASHED IN VN

Attacked while talking on cell phone

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

A young woman on her way home after a night out with friends was slashed across her face during a mugging.

The horrific incident took place on Holland Avenue near Morris Park Avenue at about 12:15 a.m. on the morning of Friday, February 12, after 20-year-old Paula Delos Santos had just gotten off of the IRT #2 train and was walking home alone while talking to a friend on her cell phone.

About four blocks away from her home Delos Santos felt that she was being followed by a man, who was described as 5'5" or 5'6" and Hispanic.

In an instant, the man snuck up behind her and grabbed for her cell phone.

When Delos Santos resisted, the man slashed her on her left cheek with a cutting instrument, believed to be some sort of blade.

After being slashed, Delos Santos was shoved to the ground and kicked.

The assailant then fled with her pocketbook, keys and credit cards.

Delos Santos was treated at Jacobi Medical Center, where the three-inch laceration to her left cheek required 26 stitches to close.

According to multiple reports and sources, Delos Santos was more than likely distracted and unaware of the impending dangerous situation before it unfolded because she was on her cell phone.

As a result, many community leaders are recommending that children and young adults traveling alone, especially women, take the proper precautions when encountering a similar situation to this one or the one where a 23-year-old victim who was sexually assaulted in daylight by 21-year-old Brandon Gonzalez in Morris Park earlier this month. The victim was also on her cell phone when the incident took place.

"When an individual is walking alone, especially at night, it is important that their head is not buried in their cell phone or electronic device so they can be aware of their surroundings at all times," said Captain Keith Walton, commanding officer of the 49th Precinct.

"We (the 49th and NYPD) suggest, in fact encourage, that pedestrians travel with additional people, and, if they are indeed traveling alone, they should carry a whistle, scream, or anything that can send an alert out in case they find themselves in a similar

Continued on Page 61

Only 6 candidates make CD 17 ballot

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

Only six candidates remain for the District 17 City Council special election.

The vacancy was created when Maria del Carmen Arroyo took a high-paying job at a not-for-profit.

Over the past few weeks the list of candidates has dwindled from 11 to the following: Rafael Salamanca, Julio Pabon, George Alvarez, Marlon Molina, Rev. Loren Russell, and Joann Otero.

Amanda Septimo, who is the district director for Congressman Jose Serrano, saw her hopes to win the seat vanish due to a designating petition error.

Septimo circulated petitions with the name of her independent party as 'Democratic Values'.

According to state election law, the use of a name that can be confused with an existing political party is prohibitedt.

Helen Foreman-Hines, a retired 1199 SEIU advocate and organizer, who vowed to bring her many years of experience to the table, was eliminated from the race for failing to file a certificate of acceptance on time.

Carlton Curry, an activist, was kicked off the ballot for the same reason - in his case he filed the certificate one day too late.

Army veteran John Perez and Elliot Quinones, a businessman, were ruled off for not filing an adequate number of petition signatures. The required amount is 450.

The remaining candidates all feel sure of their chances to gain the seat - but Salamanca still appears to be the front

Continued on Page 61

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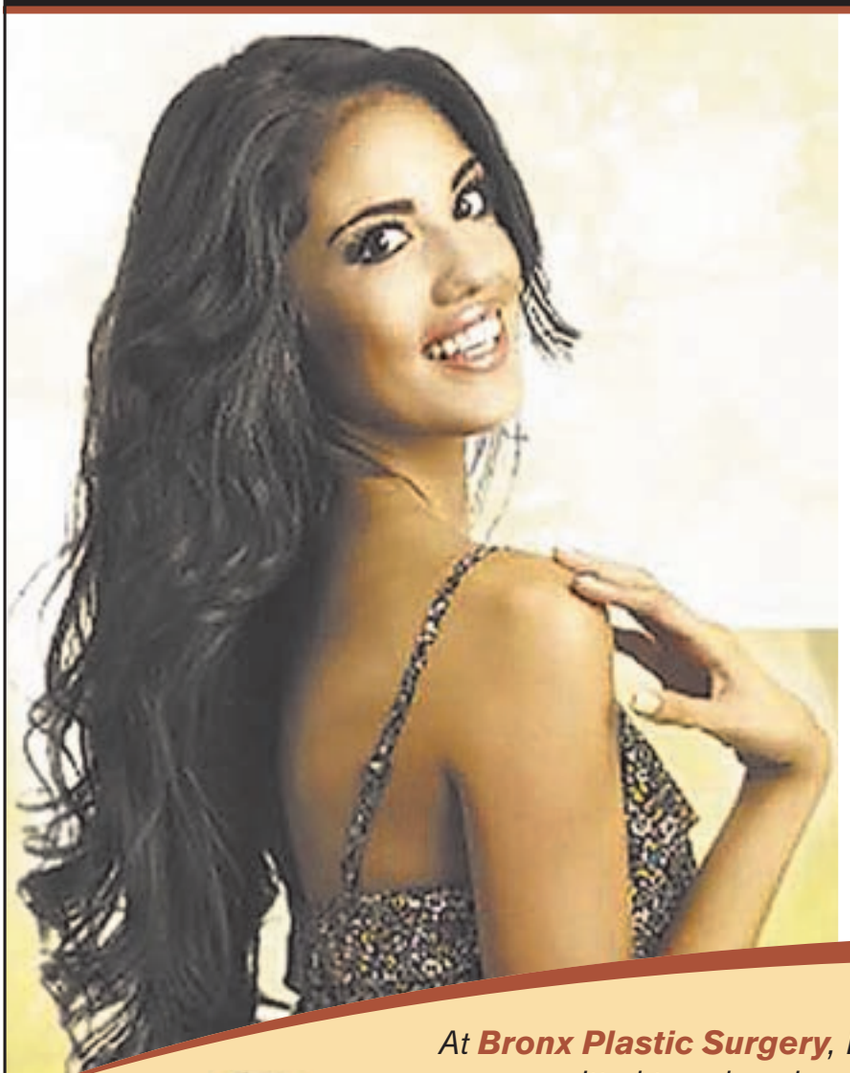
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(l-r) Iftekar Siraj; Raymond Maldonado; Joanne Savino; Dr. Mazeda Uddin, SAFEST president and founder and Senator Diaz were among the many concerned people protesting the Parkchester Management's proposed 15% monthly increase in common charges at last Wednesday's rally. Photo by Miriam Quin

Parkchester South protests hefty monthly charge hike

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Parkchester South Condominium owners and elected officials voiced their displeasure with the recently announced common charge increase.

On Wednesday, February 10, Senator Ruben Diaz, Sr., Assemblyman Luis Sepulveda and Parkchester South Condominium owners and tenants converged in front of Parkchester Preservation Management's office to protest the 'draconian' hike.

The group rallied at 2000 E. Tremont Avenue office to express their opposition to management's plan in impose a 15.19% monthly common charges increase on the Parkchester South Condominium owners.

In addition, the senator and assemblyman announced plans to file an injunction to block imposition of the monthly hike. Owners were asked to contribute $15 for legal costs.

"Fifteen percent is abusive for people working two or three jobs to support their families to pay," said Senator Diaz. "I own an apartment at Parkchester South Condominium and I've seen first hand how many of the condos' senior citizens struggle to afford living there."

Senator Diaz said they are in the process of hiring an attorney to take the case to court.

Last Wednesday's rally drew over 100 Parkchester participants.

Among the protestors was Dr. Mazeda Uddin, South Asian Fund for Education Scholarship Training president, who is representing over 2,000 PSC owners who signed a petition against the increase.

Uddin noted every year Parkchester management has increased PSC's maintenance fee by 3% to 4%, but this year's raise is a 'record breaking amount'.

"The Parkchester South Condominium Board, after carefully reviewing all options, acted in the best interests of our fellow owners by temporarily increasing common charges to address critical repairs that could potentially lead to safety issues for our residents," said Abu Shakoor, PSC president. "These repairs are necessary and critical to the structural integrity of the Parkchester South buildings, the safety of our community, and the security of our investments," he added.

Shakoor explained the 15.19% temporary common charge increase will pay for critically needed repair after management discovered wide-spread water infiltration and roof slab damage which must be handled immediately.

If not addressed, Shakoor said this could lead to a possible ceiling collapse resulting in potential injuries, owner displacement and leaving units in a state of disrepair rendering them unsellable.

He said while PSC understands this increase will be difficult for many residents, he said it will be a short-term sacrifice.

Once work is completed in 2017, PSC's board intends to revert the common charges back to 2015 levels.

The board will review the budget needs of 2018 and may increase common charges only to cover increases in non-discretionary expenses such as heating fuel and other utilities, union contract wages and unforeseen capital needs.



Rendering of the projected new 40th Precinct stationhouse on East 149th Street and St. Anns Avenue in Melrose. Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction

$70 mil makeover for the 40th Pct.

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

The police precinct serving Melrose is about to get a new $68.9 million home.

In June 2014, Mayor l de Blasio earmarked this sizeable chunk of change for the construction of a new 40th Precinct stationhouse in the south Bronx as part of his 2015 Executive Budget.

Recently, the funds have been put into action, and preliminary designs of the project have been made public- Bronxites can expect to see a new police headquarters by 2020.

The Bjarke Ingels Group, a Copenhagen and New York-based architecture and building firm, was commissioned by the NYC Department of Construction and Design to build the precinct from the ground up, on a vacant lot owned by the city at the corner of East 149th Street and St.Anns Avenue.

The new building, which some may confuse as an art museum rather than a police precinct, will stand in stark contrast to the current station which sits one mile away in the Mott Haven Historic District at Alexander Avenue and East 138th Street, a building erected in 1923.

From the street, the new building will resemble a stack of bricks criss crossed atop each other, which according to the designer references the rusticated bases of early NYC Police Stations.

Each rectangular block will contain specific elements of the development, and all blocks, program areas, and entrances will be stacked around a central atrium.

The Copenhagan firm's modern design includes an energy-efficient green roof - a first for any NYPD station - which will be built using non-reflective materials like sandblasted concrete.

The 43,500 square foot structure (over 30,000 s.f. larger than the current building) is set to surpass requirements for LEED Silver certification.

Amenities for officers will include an exercise courtyard, a training area, a climbing wall, and relaxation areas.

Despite all this, the new station isn't just meant to be innovative - a major goal of the new precinct is to strengthen community policing in an area where the relationship between the community and the police has been strained at best.

The new station will include additions meant to enhance dialogue between the two, including the first ever community meeting room inside a precinct.

The multipurpose room will have it's own street level entrance and will contain informational kiosks and areas to hold classes and events.

This initiative goes hand-in-hand with the new Neighborhood Community Officer program that the 40th recently began participating in this January, in an effort to bring down high crime rates.

The Neighborhood Officer program assigns two trained community officers to each section of Mott Haven and Melrose, to open a direct line of communication between residents and the local police.

Unfortunately, according to some members of the community, altering the look of the precinct only does so much.

"You can change the appearance of the precinct, but if you don't change the policing policies nothing will change," said Ramon Jimenez, of the South Bronx Community Congress. "It's good to see money being spent for a new precinct, but it's not just the facade, it's the type of community policing...you have to change the whole

Continued on next page

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$70 mil makeover for the 40th Pct.

From previous page

package."

However, Jimenez feels that there have been positive changes made lately, specifically under NYC Police Commissioner William Bratton.

"I think the door has been pushed open a little bit, and I think there may be some more changes coming," he said.

Will the new community program and precinct really bring residents and police together? "With extraordinary effort," said Jimenez.

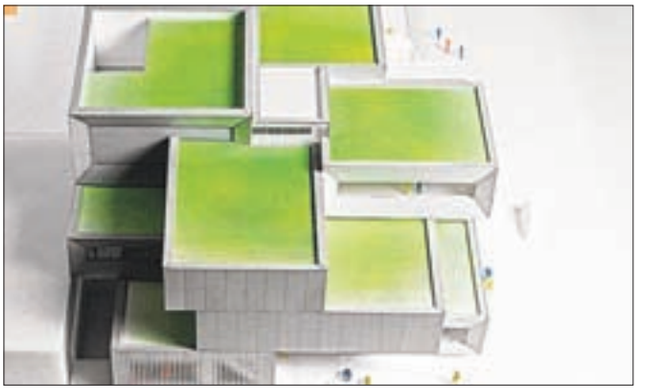
City Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, who represents the eighth district including Melrose, supports the project, saying it will "support critical enforcement strategies".

The 40th Precinct command consists of Port Morris, Melrose and Mott Haven.

The future use of the current precinct station have not yet been decided.



The new precinct will have a private first floor entrance for the community room, to enhance community-police relations.
Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction



This will be the first NYPD precinct to feature a green, energy-efficient roof.
Courtesy of NYC Department of Design and Construction



The building will resemble bricks, in a reference to the rusticated bases of early NYC police stations.
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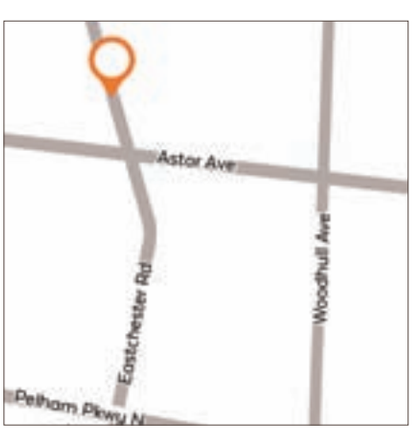
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around town

by Patrick Rocchio

The Bronx Times Reporter will publish your announcements. Send announcements along with photo, to: Bronx Times Reporter, 3604 E. Tremont Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10465 or e-mail Bronxtimes@aol.com. Please include a phone number or a way to contact you in case of questions.

Hi Readers! Welcome to another edition of Around Town.

Happy Valentines Day

Special good wishes to my wife **Maria Gaffney** *for Valentine's Day from your husband John. Happy Valentines Day love and best wishes.*

Happy Birthday

Happy 11th birthday to our son **Nicholas Soli** *on Sunday, February 7. Your birthday is on Super Bowl Sunday and we scored a touch down because you are our 'super' son!*

You make us so proud and you put smile on our faces and we love you to infinity and beyond! God bless you!

Love Always Mommy, Daddy, Grandma, Diesel & Spanky! Woof woof and Xoxoxo.

Hello Grandparents

An area hospital reports the recent birth of **Madison Marie Imperati** to **Vanessa Imperati** and **Angelo Imperati**.

All four grandparents are from the borough: **Angel Santana**, **Ada Santana**, **Matteo Imperati** and **Elia Imperati**.



Nicholas Soli

Gjonaj hosts smoke/CO alarm give away

On Monday, February 22, from 5 to 7 p.m., the FDNY will be giving away free smoke alarms at Assemblyman Gjonaj's district office, located at 1126 Pelham Parkway South.

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Attendees are also eligible to sign up for free installations in their home.

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POLICE BLOTTER

40 Precinct

Saturday, January 30, 5:10 a.m. - A horrific assault occurred at a subway station when a male Hispanic, approximately 50-years-old and 250 pounds, assaulted a 51-year-old woman. The victim was waiting for the northbound 2 IRT train at Westchester Avenue and Simpson Street when the suspect started hitting her in the train station. He hit her with a closed fist on the face and on other parts of her body. The suspect is light-skinned and just shy of six feet tall, according to police. He was last seen wearing a a black hat, black waist length coat and black jeans.

42 Precinct

Friday, January 29, 6:25 p.m. -- A larceny occurred at a bodega where a quick-handed thief stole $3.25 from the hand of a clerk and ran away. The crime occurred at 3273 3rd Avenue.

44 Precinct

Sunday, February 7, 9:15 a.m. - Two men entered two grocery stores at 1361 Ogden Avenue and 1398 Ogden Avenue with guns and demanded cash. They took about $400 cash from the store at 1361 Ogden Avenue and an undetermined amount of money from 1398 Ogden Avenue and fled. No one was shot or injured during the robberies. One of the culprits is described as a male Black wearing a black long-sleeved shirt, blue jeans, black sneakers and a gray baseball cap. The other is male Hispanic last seen wearing a red sweater under a black jacket, black sweatpants, white sneakers, a gray baseball cap and a black mask over his face.

46 Precinct

Friday, February 5, 9:44 p.m. -- A woman was assaulted and raped in a building on East 183rd Street. She was approached by a man who followed her into the elevator. As the elevator door opened, he grabbed her from behind and began to assault her, and continued to rape her in a stairwell. He then took cash and two cell phones from his victim before leaving. He is described as an 18-year-old male Black last seen wearing a grey hooded sweatshirt.

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Councilwoman Gibson stands in front of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, which is believed by many to be the birthplace of hip hop. Photo courtesy of Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson's office

Sedgwick Ave. is now 'Hip Hop Boulevard'

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

An historic moment in the borough's contribution to urban music will soon be recognized.

The NYC City Council recently approved the street co-naming of a portion of Sedgwick Avenue as HipHop Boulevard, permanently establishing its role as the birthplace of hip hop.

The co-naming would cover the stretch of Sedgwick Avenue, which runs parallel, north and south, to the Major Deegan Expressway and the Harlem River, from Depot Place to 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, an apartment building that is considered the birthplace of hip hop, located less than a mile away from the River Park Towers.

The Sedgwick Avenue high rise was dubbed the birthplace of hip hop after resident Clive Campbell, later known as DJ Kool Herc, held a house concert and a back-to-school party in the building's recreation center for his sister, Cindy, on August 11, 1973.

The ceremony will include a sign reading 'Hip Hop Boulevard' being placed in front of 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, making passersby aware of the building's significance.

The Hip Hop Boulevard designation has received support from Windows of Hip Hop, a non-profit, Bronx-based economic development project which promotes the educational and historical perspective of hip hop.

The organization's goal is to create a state of the art, fully interactive, educational institution dedicated to hip hop in the borough.

Along with the street co-naming, WOHH hopes to open either a hip hop museum or a hip hop educational campus in the near future.

Earlier this month, WOHH was honored by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. during the inaugural Elements Awards for their hip hop activism at 1779 Webster Avenue.

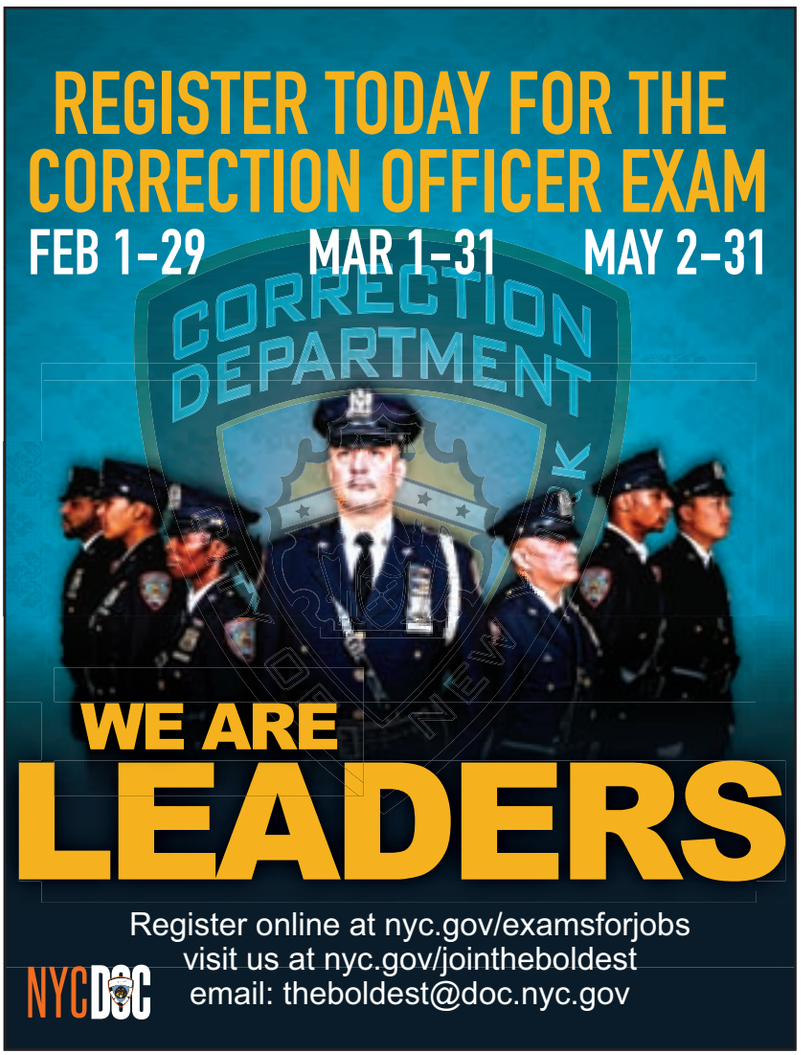
Other hip hop pioneers from the area, including Grandmaster Caz, Melle Mel and DJ Grand Wizard Theodore, as well as members from the hip hop awareness group Zulu Nation, are all supporting the renaming.

"This is a great way to acknowledge the Bronx as the birthplace of hip hop and highlight the building where the genre is believed to have originated," said Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, referring to 1520 Sedgwick Avenue. "The Bronx is resurgent and resilient - and this showed in the hip hop music that was being created during that time."

"It is important that we recognize the borough, hip hop and its pioneers - and what better way to spread awareness on this history by renaming this stretch of Sedgwick Avenue in honor of this movement," she added.

According to Councilwoman Gibson, Mayor de Blasio is expected to hold a public hearing on Thursday, February 25 in the Blue Room of City Hall, where he will officially sign the street co-naming legislation.

"There is no Drake, there is no Kanye, there is no Kendrick Lamar without the hard work of those on Sedwick Avenue in the 1970s. Hip hop was born in the Bronx, on Sedgwick Avenue, and the street being recognized as 'Hip Hop Boulevard' is a great way to honor the genre's pioneers," Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Appoint Supreme Court Judge

(The following letter was sent to President Obama.)

Dear President Barack Obama,

As the elected President of the United States of America you have the constitutional authority to make 'recess appointments' of judges while the U.S. Senate is not in session.

Thus, I urge you to exercise your constitutional powers before Monday February 22 by making an appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States to replace the late Justice, Antonin Scalia.

The U.S. Senate leadership has shown their hands and has pledged to say "No" to anyone that you nominate, regardless of his/her qualifications. We've all been through this before.

So please, President Obama, save us the 3 to 6 months of futile media coverage of another long, drawn-out Senate confirmation process.

Let us use those months to instead focus the public's attention on global climate change, campaign finance reform, immigration, and other issues where some progress can be perhaps be made without the guaranteed gridlock and roadblocks that are the Senate confirmation hearings.

Raphael Schweizer

Slaughterhouse clarification

Dear editor,

The opposition to Vivero Macca Market is not the business, or its hard-working employees but its location. Van Nest is a residential neighborhood made up of two- and three-family homes with a few apartment buildings. Vivero's location is on the main business thoroughfare of Morris Park Avenue.

The opposition to Vivero has also been painted as a racial issue.

The customers that purchase there are not just Muslims but Spanish, black and white!

Why does everyone pull out the race card when Muslims are involved?

Fact: No matter how hard Vivero tries, the nature of this business will always have the smell of animals, feces and blood. It is the nature of this business. That is why this business should be in an industrial location just as auto body businesses are located in non-residential locations i.e., Stillwell Avenue off of Eastchester Road and the meat-packing district in Manhattan.

Fact: If I owned property next to this location, or across the street or down the block, I'm sure my property's resale value would be greatly affected. If you owned property there first, and later, Vivero opened up across the street or next store, would you oppose it? Is this fair to home owners who live right there?

Fact: The gateway to Van Nest is 180th Street train station. People make a left turn; walk down towards White Plains Road and are taken back when they have to pass this slaughterhouse. What a great welcome into our community.

Spring time brings school groups who are horrified when having to pass this place. I have personally stopped and watched this happen more than once.

Fact: If there is a slight breeze in the air, you can smell the animal, feces and blood smell on Van Nest Avenue. If you turn onto Garfield Street, it gets stronger and the breeze just carries throughout. This is now, in the wintertime. In the hot days of summer, it is even worse.

Fact: If Vivero was to open a second location on Morris Park by Lurting or Paulding avenues, do you think there would be extensive opposition because of these same facts listed here? If other locations would oppose it, why should Van Nest accept it?

The smell of the E&V Bread Bakery throughout Van Nest is pleasant! The smell from Vivero is offensive and no community should accept this as okay.

This type of business does not belong in any residential neighborhood. It does not belong in Van Nest. If you agree respond to this column or post on our Facebook page.

Bernadette Ferrara
President, Van Nest Neighborhood Alliance

A humane scorecard

Dear editor,

On behalf of the Humane Society Legislative Fund and our many members and constituents in the 16th Congressional District in New York, I commend Congressman Eliot Engel for his leadership and support of animal welfare issues considered by Congress.

Engel received a perfect score of 100+ on the Humane Scorecard for 2015. The congressman is a lead sponsor of the Global Anti-Poaching Act to support anti-poaching efforts, strengthen the capacity of partner countries to counter wildlife trafficking, designate major wildlife trafficking countries, strengthen law enforcement tools by applying provisions of the federal criminal code concerning money laundering and racketeering to wildlife trafficking violations, and make other needed reforms.

The full Humane Scorecard is available at www.hslf.org.

Sara Amundson

Waste of our tax dollars

Dear editor,

Drip, drip, drip your tax dollars are going down the drain. Have you seen all the 'Don't Let Tax, Water, Or Repair Charges Come Between You and Your Property' full page ads in your daily and weekly neighborhood newspapers?

Even worse, was the 100-page recent supplement which appeared in the New York Daily News on Wednesday, February 10. It lists line by line the name of every New Yorker who owes real estate tax water sewer, emergency repair or other property - related charges "the City of New York may sell a lien on your property" advertisement. Is this the best way the NYC Departments of Finance, Environmental Protection along with Housing Preservation and Development can spend taxpayers dollars?

Why can't all three agencies compare their respective lists of people who owe money with those filing city and state tax returns? Surely the technology exists to place a lien on any tax refunds? You could also extend citizens the courtesy of a telephone call or letter or email informing them of their overdue obligations.

What's next, will the city send out marshals to serve subpoenas?

Larry Penner

More money to spend

Dear editor,

Tom Allon article "Time for elected officials to fix this city up" (BTR February 5-11 2016) states us taxpayers should be more than willing to support a gas tax increase to fund the rebuilding of our infrastructure. Taxpayer to Allon: "we're not willing". There is no argument that New York State's infrastructure is in need of repair. According to information published by the federal Department of Transportation, 6,775 of New York's 17,442 bridges, or roughly 39 percent, are "structurally deficient" or "functionally obsolete."

No thanks to our elected officials, New Yorkers pay the highest state and local taxes in the nation. On gas alone we pay 70 cents per gallon plus an additional federal tax of 18.4 cents per gallon. I am sure our representatives in Washington are also chafing at the bit to raise the federal tax rate.

Allon wants us to cough up another 25 cents per gallon to give Albany "a bountiful supply of funds to begin the important work of rebuilding New York". Hog wash!

The gas tax is a user tax. We buy gas, pay the tax with the understanding that the funds go into a dedicated fund for infrastructure. Not in Albany. That money is siphoned off for other purposes.

As reported in Comptroller Tom Di Napoli recent audit, $3.8 billion was collected from the gas tax, of which only $836 million went to road projects. Almost $3 billion was swept into the state's general fund. We taxpayers have paid billions in taxes and fees into a fund that was created to keep our roads and bridges in good repair, only to see it wasted.

Do you really think Allon's proposed 25 cents a gallon boost will go to rebuilding the infrastructure? What our elected officials need instead of more of our money, is more fiscal discipline. It is sorely lacking in Albany.

Carl J. Cannizzaro

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TN Parade honors Irish pride

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

No one is as psyched up for the upcoming Throggs Neck St. Patrick's Day Parade as the grand marshals and honored clergy.

The cherished parade in Throggs Neck celebrating the patron saint of Ireland and all things Irish will step off at noon on Sunday, March 13 at Lafayette and East Tremont avenues.

When it does, it will pay high honors to three grand marshals and an honored clergy member.

The all-volunteer parade committee chose community leaders Noreen and David Kilkenny as its grand marshals and Father Christopher Devron, a Jesuit priest who is Fordham Prep's president, as honored clergy.

The Kilkennys, who live in Waterbury-LaSalle, are very involved in the St. Raymond's Gaelic Football Club, where they celebrate Irish heritage and sports at the youth league. They march under the club's banner every year.

Noreen Kilkenny said that it's great to see children of all nationalities play Gaelic football and march in the parade.

David added that the parade serves as a way to reunite all of the children prior to the start of the season in April.

"Our kids deserve our time and deserve our attention, he said. "They should be out in the sun and having fun."

David Kilkenny said that he has fond memories of growing up in Ireland in County Sligo, and that his heritage plays an important role in his everyday life.

The Kilkenny's are also very involved in St. Theresa Parish and the Chippewa Democratic Club.

Noreen Kilkenny called the parade the heralding of spring, and said that she hopes that the religious aspect of the parade, which will include a Mass for the marchers before they line up, is truly remembered.

Father Devron, who started his teaching career at Cardinal Spellman High School, said that this would be his first year attending the parade.

"I feel honored not only for me but for Fordham Prep, which has a 175-year-old tradition of scholarship in the Bronx," said Devron. "It is a place where many Irish-American immigrants in the Bronx have come to see their lives transformed."

His participation in the parade comes with all of Fordham Prep's tradition and history in the community, he said.

"I had heard about this parade but never had the opportunity to attend," said Devron. "I think for me personally just given my own love for the Bronx and what it represents in my own formation as a teacher and educator, I am very happy to be a part of it."

The parade committee also selected more than a dozen honorary grand marshals, notable people from the community who passed away during the past year, according to the committee.

Honorary grand marshals include: Margaret Babcock, Carol Boyle, Monica Burns, John Byrne, Charlie Capezuti, Robert Connolly, Dan Cotter, Ann Devany, Elizabeth Kelleher, Thomas Laughlin, Michael 'Mickey' Martz, John Mullins, Joseph Murphy, Teresa O'Hara, Daniel O'Shea, George Peragine, Benny Randazzo and Anthony Riccardella.

As is the case every year, a reviewing stand will be located towards the end of the parade route, at Harding and East Tremont avenues.

Thousands are expected to line the parade route.



Noreen and David Kilkenny

Photo courtesy of St. Patrick's Parade Committee

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Superfan pushes idol for Walk of Fame

BY MADELINE ANTHONY

One Bronxite is taking his devotion to his favorite artist to the next level.

Seventeen-year-old superfan Ruben Germosen of Fordham, is working tirelessly to get his idol, singer-songwriter 'Prince Royce' inducted into the Bronx Walk of Fame.

> He [Prince Royce] comes to the Bronx for his albums, he comes back and gives advice.
>
> **Ruben Germosen**

The Bronx is the only borough to have a walk of fame.

Today, 90 Bronxites who have made it big grace the walk, including Rita Moreno, Fat Joe, Regis Philbin and Tony Orlando.

Young Germosen sees Royce, a Bronx born-and-bred self-made star as the perfect addition.

Geoffrey Royce Rojas, now known as 'Prince Royce', has topped the US Billboard Latin Albums and Tropical Albums charts.

Royce Rojas also received three awards at the Billboard Latin Music Awards in 2011, and is currently signed with Sony Music Entertainment.

The Dominican, Spanish-speaking crooner, recently told his story and gave some words of wisdom to kids who are in the same position he was in as a kid, at the Urban Assembly Bronx Academy of Letters on Morris Avenue in Grand Concourse.

"He always comes back to the Bronx, he loves his borough," said Germosen with tangible excitement, "He comes to the Bronx for his albums, he comes back and gives advice... we [fans] need to find a way to help him get this award and show him we appreciate it."

Ruben has written letters to Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and has assembled social media accounts to gain momentum for the Walk of Fame movement.

He has also started a petition in support of Royce.

"He reps the Bronx and really cares about his people," said Germoson, recalling that the last time Royce was in the Bronx to visit his family, he took the bus and train to get around, rather than take a car like most celebrities.

In contrast with many other Bronx-bred celebrities, like J.Lo, who got out of the Bronx as soon as she gained fame, the singer continues to stay true to his roots.

Royce may get his humble ways from his mother, who hasn't changed her lifestyle due to her son's success.

She still lives in the Bronx and owns a west Harlem beauty salon, where she intends to keep working.

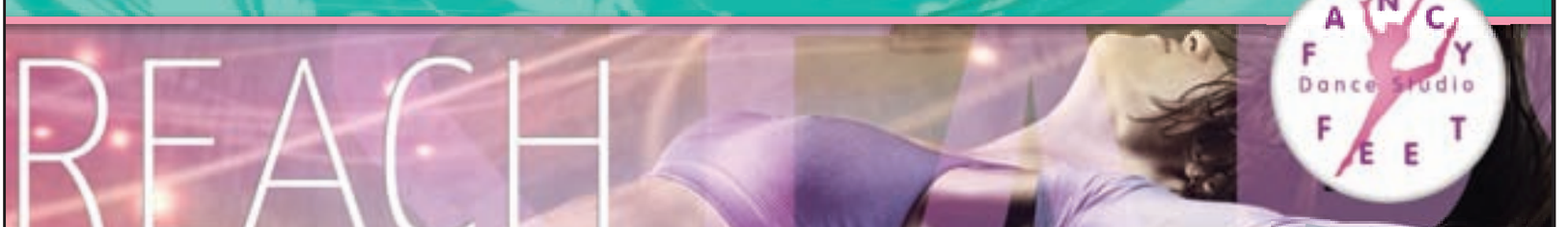
For now, young Geoffrey awaits this year's Bronx Walk of Fame nomination list, keeping his fingers crossed for his role model.



Ruben Germosen (r) with his idol, singer Prince Royce.

Courtesy of Ruben Germosen

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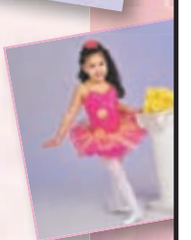
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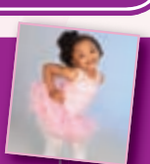


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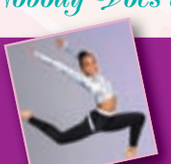
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Lettuce Eat doesn't stop at salads

BY STEVEN GOODSTEIN

Its name may sound limiting, but its menu tells quite a different story.

Lettuce Eat, a food establishment located at 1633 Crosby Avenue, is quickly proving that the business is more than just an everyday salad bar.

The eatery held its grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony on Saturday, February 6, when the Lettuce Eat staff created a wide selection of dishes for its eager first-day customers.

Included on its menu are burgers, wraps, hot dogs and even breakfast options such as egg platters, omelettes and pancakes.

And don't forget the selection of over 20 milkshake flavors and different choices of iced and hot coffee, tea and other soft drinks.

The journey to starting a successful business in Pelham Bay wasn't easy for owner Wendy Marino, who tried to purchase a property on the same block and transform it into a restaurant in early 2011.

The deal eventually fell through, however, before Marino was presented with the opportunity to purchase 1633 Crosby Avenue.

After purchasing the property in August of last year, Marino renovated the vacant storefront.

"The best part of this experience has been seeing the smile on my customers' faces and making them happy when I make their favorite dish," said Marino, originally a native of Charlotte, NC, who moved to the Bronx in 1989 and has lived here ever since.

"It's not about the money for me - it's about providing for the customers as well as the neighborhood and satisfying them," Marino said. "This makes me so happy - I love connecting with others and I just hope I'm able to continue to serve this community."

Marino, whose son Daniel is "her right-hand man" behind the counter and in the kitchen, has worked previous restaurant jobs as a waitress in Manhattan, as well as the Paulding Restaurant (now Doyle's Pub).

She also has experience in catering. She worked for her cousin's Connecticut-based catering company.



Marino finally has her own eating establishment on Crosby Avenue after a previous deal five years ago fell through.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein



(l-r) Daniel Marino, Alexis Diaz, Ana Kay, Wendy Marino, Jerry Kontonaris and Tommy Novellino in front of Lettuce Eat during their grand opening.

Photo by Robert Benimoff



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‘Billions’ filmed at City Island’s Artie’s

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A renowned City Island restaurant served as host to a Golden Globe winning actor starring in a new television cable series.

Artie’s Steak and Seafood located at 394 City Island Avenue, will be featured in an upcoming episode of the television series, ‘Billions’ which filmed a scene featuring co-star, Damian Lewis dining at the eatery.

This new Showtime series follows actor Paul Giamatti as U.S. Attorney Chuck Rhoades pursuing Lewis’ hedge fund king character, Bobby ‘Axe’ Axelrod, in a battle between two powerful figures.

Spiros Chagares, Artie’s owner, said the scene sees Lewis’ character enjoying shrimp and scallop over glazed tomatoes with a glass of red wine as he listens to a musician performing a humorous Italian song.

Artie’s owner said the scene will appear in the series’ seventh episode titled ‘The Punch’ slated to air on Sunday, February 28 at 10 p.m. on Showtime.

He added an additional scene was shot outside in the restaurant’s parking lot, but it does not contain any exterior shots of the eatery.

Previously, two episodes of the VH1 reality television series, ‘Basketball Wives’ were filmed at this restaurant.

Producers from ‘Billions’ reached out to Chagares to ask for his permission to film there.

The restaurant owner said he heard of ‘Billions’ prior to the producer’s call because he is a fan of both Giamatti and Lewis’ work.

The film shoot, which took place on a Tuesday last November, began at 7 a.m. with the crew entering Artie’s to prep it for the shoot.

Chagares explained the crew altered the restaurant’s appearance to fit what they envisioned for the scene.

The crew removed booths, placed checked table clothes over every table, changed mirrors and lighting and replaced the Artie’s artwork and vases with their own for the scene.

“It was a little nerve racking to see them come in and moving everything, but they were very careful and did an excellent job,” said Chagares.

Once the restaurant was fully prepared, the crew called in a bus filled with extras dressed as waiters, waitresses and guests to appear in the scene.

“There were over 200 people here just to shoot a few minutes of the show,” said Chagares. “We were all very excited to be a apart of this and enjoyed every minute.”

The scene featuring Lewis was filmed inside Artie’s main dining hall and took four hours to shoot, he added.

Artie’s chefs were on-site preparing meals for the cast and crew during the film shoot.

“Both the crew and Lewis really enjoyed dining on our shrimp and scallops over glazed tomatoes,” he noted.

The filming lasted all day.

After wrapping up, Chagares, Laura Vandenberge, Artie’s general manager and restaurant staff had the opportunity to meet the ‘Billions’ co-star.

“We met Damian Lewis afterwards and he was very gracious to all of us,” said Chagares. “He spoke about the show and took photos with everyone.”



‘Billions’ co-star Damian Lewis (r) takes a break from filming to pose with Artie’s owner Spiros Chagares and Artie’s general manager Laura Vandenberge. Photo courtesy of Morris Gut Reactions

This episode of ‘Billions’ will also be viewable on Showtime’s website, www.sho.com/sho/billions/home.



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Baychester principal in recruitment ad

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A principal who helped found a Baychester public school in 2011 has dedicated himself to attracting new talent to the teaching profession.

Shawn Mangar, the young administrator at Baychester Middle School at John Philip Sousa recently appeared in a subway advertisement for New York City Teaching Fellows, part of an ongoing effort to recruit new qualified teachers to the profession.

NYCTF, which launched Mangar's career in education, seeks to attract potential teachers who may have had successful careers in other fields and who now looking to give back in a different way.

The advertisements featuring principal Mangar can be found around the mass transit system, and include mention of the fact that he was a legislative aide prior to becoming a teacher and a principal.

He had interned for an elected official and a political organization in Connecticut and Washington D.C., respectively, he said.

Mangar, a Williamsbridge native who grew up near East 233th Street and White Plains Road, endorsed NYCTF, but also supports the idea of getting new teachers with fresh perspectives into the classroom through a variety of different stategies.

> Shawn represents the diversity of teaching fellows, having become a teacher after working in nonprofit, government and business sectors.
> **Shauna Hart**

"I think that there a lot of good teaching programs, but I think (NYCTF) is…always striving to get better," he said. "It is very reflective in terms of accepting feedback and always looking to become better every single year."

In addition to being a NYCTF graduate, Mangar has also served as a mentor for other new teachers, helping to prepare new educators for the classroom, he said.

He got his start at Truman High School in Co-op City in 2004, where he learned a lot from his principal and was successful in having a high percentage of students achieve proficiency on standardized tests.

After a three-year stint as a special education lead teacher at a Brooklyn school and at another in Wisconsin, he said that he began to aspire to be a part of an educational start up.

After a couple of years of planning with others, he became founding principal of BMS, he said, stressing what sets the school apart is its holistic approach to education.

"(Our committee) would meet, plan and think about what would be a great school for students, parents and teachers," said Mangar about the BMS founding.

Founding the school in the northeast Bronx afforded Mangar the opportunity to come back and work with students from communities near where he grew up.



Shawn Mangar, the founding principal of Baychester Middle School, recently appeared in a subway recruitment advertisement for New York City Teaching Fellows. Photo courtesy of Shawn Mangar

BMS focuses on collaboration among adults, and providing a safe and secure environment that makes students want to be in school, he said.

The school also features an advisory program at the start of every day where adults 'check in' with children before educational instruction occurs, he said.

Shauna Hart, NYCTF program director, stated that the program was excited to feature Mangar in its subway advertisements and celebrate his contributions to excellent teaching. "Shawn, as a special education teacher and founding principal of Baychester Middle School, has dedicated his career to educating the students of the Bronx," stated Hart. "Shawn represents the diversity of teaching fellows, having become a teacher after working in nonprofit, government and business sectors."

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45th Precinct CC to honor 5 leaders

BY ROBERT WIRSING

Five unsung community leaders will be honored at an upcoming 45th Precinct Community Council tradition.

On Thursday, February 4, the council announced five local leaders who will be honored at their fifth annual community breakfast.

This year's honorees include Church of God's Children Archbishop Angel Rosario, Bronx Clergy Task Force CEO; Lynn Gerbino Throggs Neck Homeowners Association president; Hannah Acompora, Westchester Square Civic Association secretary; Fr. Robert Grippo, former St. Theresa Church pastor now serving on the Archdiocese of New York's Making All Things New advisory council; Brenda Prohaska, City Island Community Center president and Al Carena, Spencer Estate Civic Association president.

"Every year the council goes to great lengths to find people who really exemplify the community and work closely with local law enforcement," said John Doyle, council board member.



Lynn Gerbino, Throggs Neck Homeowners Association president, is one of five honorees nominated by the 45th Precinct Community Council for their service to the community.

Photo courtesy of Lynn Gerbino

Bob Beider, 45th Precinct Community Council president, further elaborated that each honoree represents their community which they have selflessly aided throughout the years.

In addition, these leaders have worked hand in hand with the 45th Precinct to help keep their neighborhoods safe.

"These folks are the best of the best that their respective communities have to offer and they do so much without receiving anything in return," said Beider.

Beider noted the cultural diversity of the 45th Precinct's service area and how this annual breakfast serves to connect everyone.

"This breakfast is a great opportunity for everyone from different neighborhoods within our precinct to come together, break bread and honor the many men and women who give so much of themselves to help," he shared.

A Throggs Neck resident for nearly 41 years, Gerbino said her extensive resume includes serving as the Bronx Times editor-in-chief from the late 1980s to early 1990s, a coach for Throggs Neck Girls Softball League, a Fort Schuyler House committee board member, a girl scout leader for St. Frances de Chantal, acting chief of staff for the late Councilwoman Madeline Provenzano and chief of staff for former Assemblyman Stephen Kaufman.



Brenda Prohaska, City Island Community Center president, will be recognized for her various contributions to the community.

Photo by Ron Turner

Gerbino added she served as an organizer for Throggs Neck's St. Patrick's Day Parade for the last 18 years and was part of a committee that were instrumental in getting a September 11, 2001 memorial constructed near Engine 72.

Born and raised in City Island, Prohaska said her work includes PTA fundraising for P.S. 175, fundraising for CICC, working as a Part of the Solution family club coordinator, participating in beach clean up days around the island and Orchard Beach in addition to participating in the American Cancer Society's Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Bronx Walk with her group, 'Team Rose'.

For 33 years, Carena protected the Bronx as an officer in the 41st and 42nd precincts and as an officer in the Police Benevolent Association.

In addition to his role as SECA president, he is president of Morris Park Kiwanis Club which provides food to local families in need and is an adjunct criminal justice professor at John Jay College.

The 45th Precinct Community Council's breakfast is slated for Wednesday, May 11 from 8:30 to 11 a.m. at Villa Barone Manor.

The event will feature a $15 donation fee to pay for the breakfast's expenses.

For tickets and more information, contact Beider at (718) 828-4400.

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Community Board 10 members congratulated Yankees Youth Leadership Awards recipients Rachel Hall (l-r), Samantha Omolaiye, Shaquille Henry, Alyssa Velazquez and Adalis Lopez during their Tuesday, February 16 meeting. Photo by Silvio Pacifico

Community Board 10 honors NY Yankees Youth Leaders

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A new generation of volunteers were formally honored for their service to the community.

This past Tuesday, Community Board 10 recognized select Bronx youth who have stepped up to the plate.

Five Yankees Youth Leadership Awards recipients from CB 10 were honored during the board's Tuesday, February 16 Youth Services and Education Committee meeting held at 3165 E. Tremont Avenue.

The honorees included high school seniors Alyssa Velazquez, Rachel Hall, Samantha Omolaiye, Adalis Lopez and Shaquille Henry who were each awarded $750 scholarship checks.

These youth leaders will also receive on-field recognition during a pre-game ceremony at Yankee Stadium at one of the Bronx Bombers' games this season.

Born and raised in Throggs Neck, Velazquez is a Preston High School senior who devotes her spare time to assisting those in need.

As a Bronxchester Challenger League volunteer, Velazquez enjoys guiding children with autism through learning how to play baseball while teaching them social skills.

"There was one child who wouldn't look at or speak to me when we first met, but after I began teaching him about baseball he really started to open up," she said.

In addition, she assists sixth, seventh and eighth graders prepare for their high school journey by serving as a teacher's assistant for Preston's Project Prepare.

Velazquez dreams of becoming a physics teacher and is looking at Fordham University.

Hall, a Monsignor Scanlan High School senior lives on White Plains Road and is the vice president of her school's student council assisting with dances and various academic events.

Accepted into Dominican College, Hall wants to study business management in hopes of one day opening her own real estate agency.

Omolaiye, a Co-op City resident and Truman High School senior, has volunteered her time helping her parish, Church of God's Children for four years which inspires her service to others.

"Whenever you help someone and you see them smile it makes you happy knowing that you've helped someone in need," she said.

The Truman High School senior aspires to become an attorney and has applied to several colleges including, SUNY Albany, SUNY Buffalo, John Jay College, Kingsborough Community College and Queensborough Community College.

Adalis Lopez, a Thoggs Neck resident attending Renaissance High School, volunteers with the 45th Precinct Explorers Program and Calvary Hospital.

Working at S&W Supermarket as a cashier, Lopez said she aspires to become an oncologist after volunteering her time working with nursing home residents.

She has applied to the College of Staten Island, Hunter College, Lehman College, John Jay College and Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Henry, a Baychester resident and Westchester Square Academy senior, volunteers at his school's open house and his parish Bronx Bethany Church of the Nazarene's annual Thanksgiving community give back event.

He has been accepted into Mercy College, Wheelock College, and BMCC among others.

"A lot of people tend to knock this generation, but this is next generation that is going to bring about real change," said Bob Beider, CB 10 YSEE chairman. "Their volunteerism and commitment to education is nothing short of awe-inspiring and this shows what their generation is capable of achieving."

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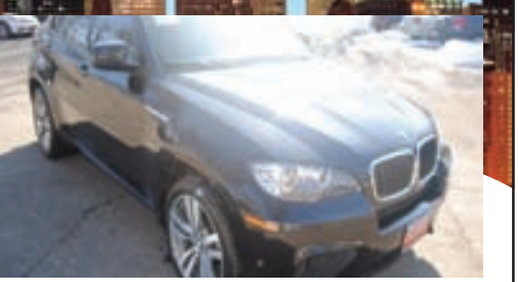
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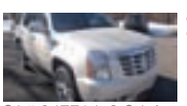
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Former Bronx boy scout becomes leader

BY MADELINE ANTHONY



Bronx boy scouts enjoy a fall outing at Van Cortlandt Park. Courtesy of Boy Scouts of America

Twenty-six-year-old Manuel Piedia enrolled in boy scouts as a young child living near the Grand Concourse.

After a few years, the two volunteers who ran his troop, Troop 300, needed to to work more hours, had to quit scouting and consequently the troop disintegrated, ending Manuel's scouting days.

Boy scouting had become a huge part of his life, and in it's absence, Piedra continued to stay true to scout law - a list of 12 moral codes that scouts are sworn to abide by.

"I thought to myself 'maybe I can steer myself back onto the right path,'" explained Piedra, who said his neighborhood choices often complicated his life at that young age.

Problems like this arise fairly often in areas where parents work multiple jobs to keep families afloat, leaving them little extra time to volunteer for programs like the boy scouts.

This serious lack of volunteers was identified by the Greater New York Council of Boys Scouts leading to the concept of hiring paid leaders for troops in underserved areas. Th program was called 'Scoutreach'.

Piedra, by age 11, was able to begin scouting again through Scoutreach.

"My journey was full of experiences and memories, it definitely steered me in the right direction," he said, reminiscing about when he discovered he would be able to scout again.

Today, as a specialist and a scout leader himself, Piedra provides the same training and mentorship that he once received as a young man.

He works at different schools throughout the boropgh each day of the week, and believes his work brings to kids the same effect that being a boy scout had on him at an early age.

"I walk into schools and people say 'hey Mr. Manny can't wait till program'" said Pieda, "I think being relatable helps these kids."

Piedra is currently working on a early childhood education degree at Boricua College.

"A lot of people take it as an outdoors program, yes it is, but it's big on character development, and mentorship" said Piedia.

Adrian Kennedrew of Fordham is a 16-year-old Scoutreach beneficiary who began scouting at six-years-old. Now, after having stuck with scouting for more than ten years, he looks back at his experience as a scout.

"It's hard to explain, but they want you to succeed... and it gives you a very nice feeling you really don't get anywhere else," said Adrian, who feels proud of what he is doing, especially when he observes his peers getting caught up in the streets.

"A lot of important people are Eagle Scouts and it got them to where they are today," Adrian continued, "and many people don't know that."

Scoutreach has programs at 33 public schools throughout the Bronx.

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* Maximum of $50 per month. Unused amounts do not carry over.

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Bronx YMCA's Annual Fundraising Campaign

The Bronx YMCA celebrated the official start of its annual fundraising campaign on Thursday, February 11 at F & J Pine Restaurant to support the local branch. Hosted by the Bronx YMCA's Board of Managers, the event featured an evening of fun, food and fellowship for all to enjoy. Pictured. Board members with special guests Curtis Harris, Jr.; Assemblyman Benedetto and honorary board member Eugene Oliver, deputy adminstrative judge of the criminal division Bronx Supreme Court.





(l-r) Bronx YMCA's Deborah Adams, executive assistant and Bharathi Iyer, membership director, gave out shirts .

Photo by Laura Stone



(R) Sharlene Brown, executive director. (l) with Fiordaliza Rodriguez, Bronx County Family Court judge.

Photo by Laura Stone



Bronx Y Property manager Franklin Belen (l), Bronx YMCA Board of Managers member Matthew Harms (c) and Reggie Redzeposki share a toast last Thursday evening.

Photo by Laura Stone



(l-r) YMCA executive director Brown; Desiree Thomas, Bronx Y Annual Campaign chairwoman; Geri Sciortino, YMCA Board chairwoman and guest speaker Curtis Harris, Jr., a Y Roads youth representative, had a great time at the event.

Photo by Laura Stone



YMCA board chairwoman Sciortino (l) stands proudly with board member Eliezer Rodriguez, Esq. and Bronx YMCA's vice president of operations Tiffeny Forrest.

Photo by Laura Stone

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BRONXWORKS OPENS ANOTHER OFFICE

BronxWorks united with Triborough Preservation Partners, a partnership of L+M Development Partners, Preservation Development Partners and New York City Housing Authority, celebrated the Wednesday, February 3 grand opening of its newest BronxWorks office inside Bronxchester Houses.



(l-r) Jean Smith, Bronxworks board of directors member; John Weed, BronxWorks assistant executive director; Eileen Torres, BronxWorks executive director; Debbie Kenyon, L+M Development Partners vice chairwoman, Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene and Steven Berisha, C&C Management general manager cut the ribbon for the new Bronxchester office.

Photo by Walter Pofeldt

ST. RAYMOND FDNY MASS OF APPRECIATION

In honor of Catholic Schools Week, St. Raymond Elementary School held a Monday, February 1 Mass of Appreciation for the Fire Department of New York inside the school's auditorium. Firefighters, EMTs and paramedics were in attendance for the ceremony meant to express gratitude toward the FDNY for its dedication to the community. As a sign of thanks, the fire department brought its special 150th anniversary fire truck to the school for students to see.



Lieutenant Juliette Arroyo (c) and Deputy Assistant Chief Joseph Woznica joined by other FDNY members hold cards students made thanking the firefighters for their service and for keeping them safe.

Photo courtesy of St. Raymond Elementary School

BENEDETTO SPONSORS AARP SAFE DRIVING

On Saturday, February 13, Assemblyman Michael Benedetto visited the AARP Driver Safety Class he sponsors at Ft. Schuyler House. Benedetto spoke to the course's attendees and met with driving instructor Charlie Hamlet Jr., who teaches the class.



Assemblyman Michael Benedetto (l) with Charlie L. Hamlet, Jr., who teaches the defensive driving course.

Silvio J. Pacifico



COMMUNITY PROTESTS GUN INCIDENT

Community members gathered and made their voices heard at the Stand Up to Violence rally held on Friday, January 22 on the corner of White Plains Road and East 221st Street. The protest was held in response to the shooting of a 27-year-old man at the same location.

Pictured, Joseph Thompson, 49th Precinct Community Council president, speaks out against gun violence.

Miriam Quin

BP DIAZ CONGRATULATES TRAVESIAS RESTAURANT

Last week, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. stopped by Travesias to congratulate the restaurant after it was awarded the 'Best New Bronx Restaurant of 2015' by Tasty Ladies NY.



Restaurant owner Brian Martinez (l) with Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., who stopped by Travesias to congratulate the restaurant on its accomplishments.

Photo courtesy of Tasty Ladies NY

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Bronx beat

• Key Food Stores Acquire SuperFresh Banner

• Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade 30th Anniversary Celebration

• US Naval Academy Summer STEM Applications

23rd AnnualBreavment Course at Calvary Hospital

Calvary Hospital announced that their 23rd Annual Bereavement Course will take place on Mondays, 6 to 8 p.m., from March 7 through May 9, at the hospital's Bronx Campus. The course is designed for those who work in the helping professions (social workers, nurses, funeral directors, etc.) who may need to address bereavement and grief related issues in their professional lives. (The course is not for bereaved family members.)

The hospital's 10-week course is taught by various specialists from Calvary Hospital and from Calvary@Home (Home Care and Hospice). See attached syllabus. Upon completion, each participant will receive a Certificate of Attendance. Continuing Education Credits are pending from the NYS Department of Health, Bureau of Funeral Directors. These courses have been approved for contact hours by ADEC (Association for Death Education and Counseling); the ANCC for nurses (American Nurses Credentialing Center); and CSAC (Certified Substance Abuse Counselors). .

Fees are as follows:

• $225 per person to attend all 10 sessions; $200 each for 2-4 people registering from the same institution; $175 for five or more people. Special offer for graduate students is $50 for the complete course.

• People may also choose individual sessions for $50.

To register for the entire 10-session course, or for individual sessions, go to www.calvaryhospital.org to download a copy of the registration form. Completed forms must be received at Calvary by February 26. Individuals can also register at the door. Checks should be made payable to "Calvary Hospital."

Send all registrations and payment to: Walesca Marmolejos, LMSW, Bereavement Services, Calvary Hospital, 1740 Eastchester Road, Bronx, New York 10461. Questions may also be directed to Walesca Marmolejos, LMSW at wmarmolejos@calvaryhospital.org.

* * *

Key Food Stores Co-Operative Inc., a supermarket co-operative with 217 stores which are primarily member-owned, is pleased to announce that it has acquired the "SuperFresh" banner name and related intellectual property assets from the Great Atlantic & Pacific Tea Co. ("A&P"). Key Food is planning to open several stores under the SuperFresh banner in the near future, the first of which may be as early as this month.

Over the last five years, Key Food has been one of the fastest growing retailers in the Northeast. It most recently purchased 24 stores from A&P, adding approximately $400 million dollars in annual retail sales and bringing total annual retail sales to $2.3 billion dollars.

Key Food plans to "better" the SuperFresh banner and build on its strengths. This banner will be primarily used for larger format stores in suburban areas, where, Key Food plans to rebrand certain existing stores that fit this model, as well as with new store acquisitions.

* * *

The **Bronx Puerto Rican Day Parade** will present their 30th anniversary celebration on Saturday, March 26. The gala will take place at the scenic Villa Maria Academ, from 7 p.m. to midnight. The evening will be hosted by Artie Rodriguez and live performance by Ralph Sabater Y Su Orchesta.

The Gala will serve as a fundraiser and therefore, all donations will go directly towards the annual scholarships and community events.

Tickets include a dinner buffet, light refreshments, live DJ and entertainment and free on-site parking. Bottle Services available.

Advance ticket price is $50; $60 at the door.

Reserve your tickets now at: bxprgala.eventbrite.com

For more details, contact MAS at (718) 828-2880|info@masmarketingny.com .

* * *

Partnerships For Parks announcse the upcoming Partnerships Academy series: How to Start or Join a Community Park Group, which will offer workshops on the topic in each of the five boroughs this spring.

Partnerships Academy is a year-round, free training program that supports community-based park groups and individual volunteers to achieve success. Beginning February 18 in Brooklyn, New Yorkers interested in joining an existing local park group, or starting a new one of their own, can attend one of five planned workshops in this introductory Academy series.

Participants will learn the first steps and best resources in starting a new group, and will hear from experienced park group leaders in their borough.

The workshops will also touch on how community parks stewards bring programs and funding to their parks, and advocate for political support.

For additional information on Partnerships Academy and to register for upcoming workshops, visit www.PartnershipsForParks.org.

* * *

Applications are now being accepted through April 15 for the **United States Naval Academy** Summer STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Program. The Summer STEM Program is held in three sessions: June 6-11 for rising 9th graders; June 13-18 for rising 10th graders; and June 20-24 for rising 11th graders.

The Summer STEM Program is an overnight academic program designed for rising students in good academic standing who have a keen interest in math and science. Summer STEM 2016 will have the theme "Land, Air and Sea: Exploring Navy Technology on All Fronts."

The STEM Program gives students the opportunity to experience real-life applications of math and science principles through hands-on practical learning. Students will learn from distinguished Naval Academy professors in world-class lab facilities that provide a unique learning environment outside the traditional classroom.

The academy's current students, called midshipmen, help run the Summer STEM Program and act as mentors to students.

Summer STEM accepts 640 students for their program. All students selected to participate pay $550 for this academic summer program and are responsible for providing their own transportation to and from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.

For more information about the Summer STEM Program and the application process, visit http://www.usna.edu/Admissions/stem.html or call (410) 293-1858. Applicants will be notified of their application status by May 1.





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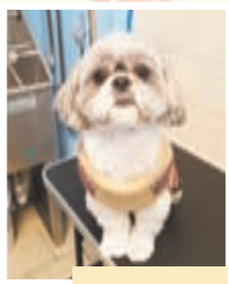
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Salute to

KOSOVA'S INDEPENDENCE

A Tribute to the 8th Anniversary

Ruben Diaz Jr.

President of the Borough of The Bronx

Presents this

Proclamation

Whereas: *The Albanian-American community of New York, are celebrating the 7th Anniversary of the Independence of Kosova, and;*

Whereas: *The Albanian-American community in the United States originates from many nations of the world, including Albania, Kosova, Macedonia, Montenegro, Chameria, and Italy, and as such is profoundly diverse, but nevertheless unified by a common heritage, and;*

Whereas: *Albanian-Americans in New York City are important parts of the multi-cultural fabric of our society, raising families, serving their communities, and striving to make their lives more prosperous and fulfilling, and;*

Whereas: *The Albanian American Society Foundation and Sons and Daughters of Albanian in America who works to promote the success of Albanian immigrants to the New York City metropolitan area – by far the largest Albanian population in the United States. The Sons and Daughters of Albanian of America is dedicated to continuing this extraordinary tradition of patriotism and excellence.*
Today, I, join the Albanian community to honor the Albanian hero, Adem Jashari,

Now, therefore, *I, Ruben Diaz Jr., President of the Borough of The Bronx, do hereby proclaim February 22, 2015, as*

"Albanian Independence of Kosova Day in The Bronx"

Ruben Diaz Jr.

Doctor pushes for Albanian museum

BY PATRICK ROCCHIO

A local Bronx doctor is working on creating a museum in Kosova for his martyred brother.

Dr. Hasan Ademaj, a renowned dentist and surgeon who practices in Belmont, is now creating a museum and memorial in the Kosova town where his brother Vezir Ademaj organized resistance to a Serbian invasion and paid for it with his life in July, 1998. He was part of the Kosova Liberation Army.

Vezir was a kick-boxing champion of Europe before returning to Kosova from Switzerland to fight the invading Serbian forces of Slobodan Milosevi, said Dr. Ademaj.

Milosevi was charged with war crimes related to genocide and convicted after he died. His army was invading Kosova, a country whose population is mostly Albanian.

The museum is to be located in the family's 18th Century "Kulla" — a tower house very thick walls and small windows that is used as fortification against invasion. It was burned by the Serbs and is located in the Kosova town of Sheremetaj.

"This is good for history and for a new generation to know what happened in that period," said Dr. Ademaj, who has met with world leaders to discuss issues related to the region. "My brother was living in Switzerland and he came to defend the civilian population."

Ademaj said that both the Albanian and Kosovar governments are supporting the creation of the museum.

Joining the cause is the president and founder of the Bronx-based Albanian-American Society Foundation. Esad Rizai. Rizai called Vezir an inspiration.

"The creation of this museum means very much because a man like him is an inspiration to our community," said Rizai. "He inspires people and it is an important part of Albanian history, and people like that give us pride."

Rizai said that his brother sacrificed for all of the Albanian people in all nations in the Albanian tradition of "Besa" — a code of honor. And the museum would honor the unselfish man who friends say can never be replaced.

"He said 'I don't want anything, I just want to support my people,'" said Rizai.

The museum will be a remembrance of the genocide that left thousands of combatants and civilians dead, said Rizai. Ademaj's family is helping him spearhead the project.

Kullas have a long history as fortifications against invasions that seem to have been part and parcel of the history of the region.



DR. HASAN ADEMAJ.



VEZIR ADEMAJ

PHOTO COURTESY OF HASAN ADEMAJ



Kickboxing was Vezir's hobby and he excelled in it to the point of becoming first Champion of Switzerland and then Champion of Europe in this sport.



With the enemy still distant, Vezir used the courtyard of the school of Sheremetaj to prepare the young people who had joined the KLA units. In a sign of solidarity teachers and young people from the village often joined the exercises.



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851 Grand Concourse, 161st St.
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Ruben Diaz Jr.
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

TEL: 718-590-3500
FAX: 718-590-3537

February 17, 2015

To My Friends in the Albanian Community:

The Bronx is the home of the largest population of people of Albanian descent outside of Europe, and I am proud to offer my congratulations to you all on the 8th Anniversary of the Independence of Kosova.

Our borough's history with the Albanian community goes back to the 1930's, when a young Regis Philbin was growing up in the streets of Van Nest and Morris Park. Today, from Belmont to Pelham Parkway to Morris Park and everywhere in between, Albanians are helping to strengthen the core of the Bronx in our business, cultural and non-profit communities.

Since as early as my Assemblyman days I have been involved in the Albanian community with Stephen B. Kaufman. Later in August of 2009, I joined together with our borough's Albanian community to honor Mother Theresa with her very own street in the Bronx, a portion of Lydig Avenue between Holland and Wallace Avenues that we now call Mother Teresa Way.

That historic event could not have happened without the hard work of my friend, Esad Rizai, who worked so hard for almost two decades through the Albanian American Society Foundation to make that happen. We have also worked closely with the Sons & Daughters of Albania in America and its founder, Bairam Rizai. My office continues to have a strong relationship with Esad, Bairam and the entire Albanian community, and we continue to work together to this day.

In 2012 the centennial celebration of the Albanian Independence took place in Times Square. We were proud to stand with Albanians and Kosovar alongside then-Public Advocate Bill de Blasio, elected officials and ambassadors.

In addition, my office has partnered for the last two years with former Manhattan Borough President and current Comptroller Scott Stringer to co-host a celebration of Albania's independence from the Ottoman Empire. This year we will host our own event celebrating Albania culture, right here in The Bronx, in partnership with your community.

I am grateful for your support, and I look forward to continuing to expand the strong relationship between my office and the Albanian-American community.

Sincerely,

Ruben Diaz Jr.

Congratulations to Kosova on Celebrating 8 Years of Independence!



Urime për Kosovën në festuar 8 Vjetorin e Pavarësisë!



New York State Assembly
80th Assembly District
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Bronxites, and America, celebrate Kosova independence

FRANK V. VERNUCCIO, JR., J.D.

February 17 marks the 8th anniversary of Kosova's formally recognized independence, a time for celebration for The Bronx's may Albanians. Nationhood came after initial attempts at nonviolent efforts for freedom were replaced by armed action by the Kosova Liberation Army.

The freedom of the small country, just slightly larger than Delaware and comprised largely of ethnic Albanians, is somewhat precarious. Its' status is recognized by 111 nations. However, there are threats to its existence from Serbia and Russia. Attempts to form a new nation had occurred in the past. In 1991, activists had proclaimed their independence without receiving global support.

While Kosova is not yet a member of the United Nations due to pressure from Moscow, it does have significant international standing. The U.S. State Department notes that it "joined the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in 2009, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development in 2012, and the Council of Europe's Development Bank in 2013. It most recently joined the Council of Europe's Venice Commission, the International Olympic Committee in 2014, and the World Aeronautical Sports Organization and European Athletics Association in 2015. It has a number of diplomatic missions and consular posts worldwide."

Despite the hardship Albanians in both Albania and Kosova have endured at the hands of foreign powers, the people remain among the most ecumenical and openhearted in the world. It is not surprising that one of the globe's most respected and revered figures, the late Mother Teresa, who will eventually be recognized as a saint by the Roman Catholic Church, sprang from an Albanian heartland.

During World War II, Albanians distinguished themselves in their efforts to protect Jews from Nazi invaders. Almost 10% of the nation's entire population was left homeless as a result of the war. Suffering continued decades later, as Serbian authorities engaged in ethnic cleansing against Albanians, which only ended when Serbian forces were expelled in 1999.

> The Bronx's own Esad Rizai has played a significant role in highlighting the positive impact immigrants from Kosovo and Albania have had in the Bronx.

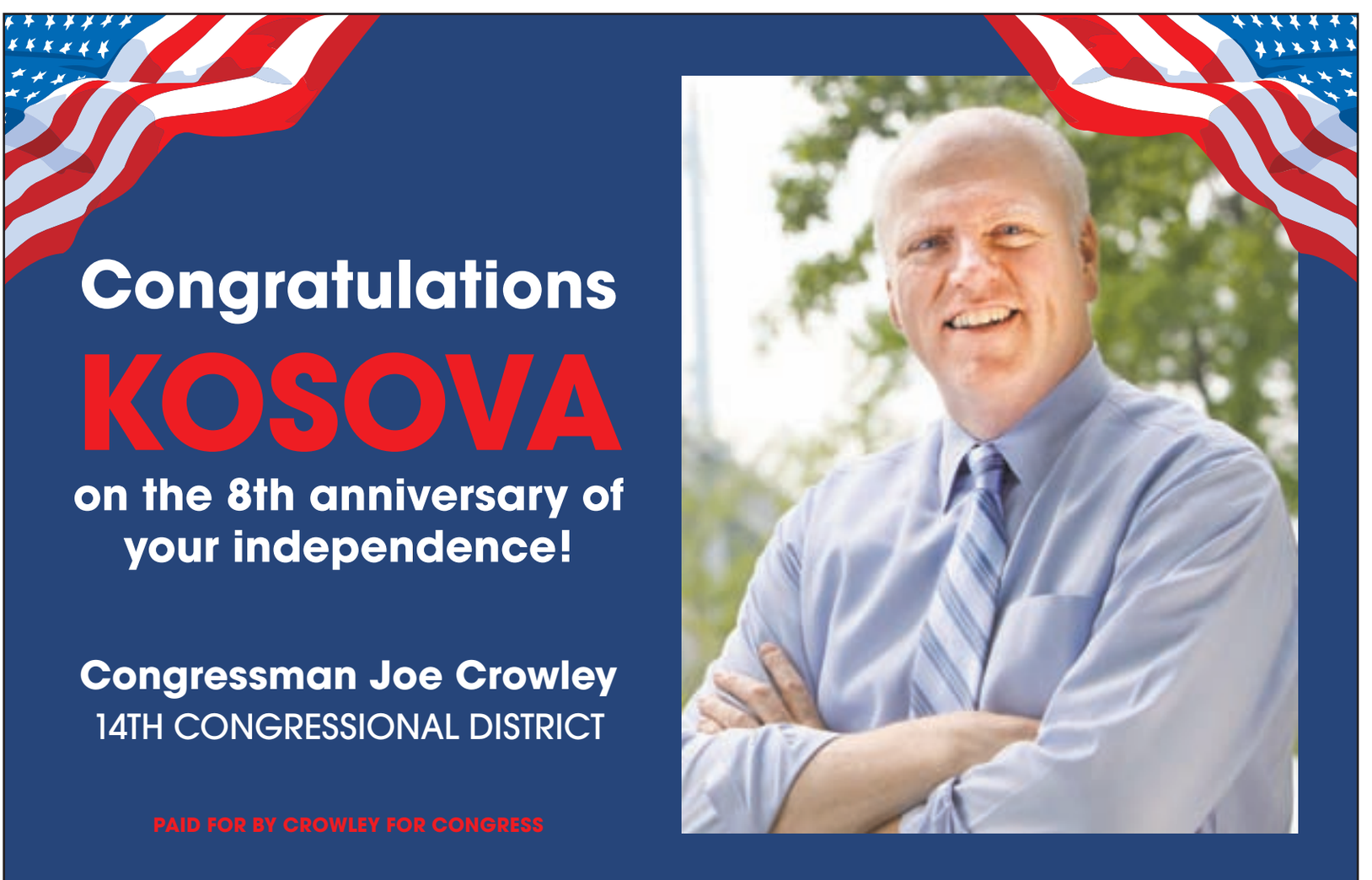
It would be difficult to find a people more favorable towards America than Albanians. The love affair extends back to the end of the First World War, when President Wilson vigorously, but without success, sought to insure the territorial integrity of an independent homeland for Albanians.

Poverty, in part caused by decades of Communist government, has driven many to leave Albania and Kosovo, although the switch fairly recently to a market system has improved the quality of life. That loss to their native land has been America's—and the Bronx's—gain. Many of the over 200,000 ethnic Albanians who have moved to New York City have settled in The Bronx, revitalizing neighborhoods and opening businesses.

Much has been made of the presence of Albanians in neighborhoods formerly occupied by an earlier generation of immigrants from Italy, and running businesses, particularly restaurants, once run by Italian-Americans. The connection has extraordinary historical antecedents, extending back to the time of the Roman Empire. Soldiers from the area that are now occupied by modern Albanians formed essential portions of the Roman legions, the backbone of the Empire.

In an era when much concern and fear has been expressed about Muslim immigration to the United States, the many Albanian/Kosova immigrants who are Muslims have elicited quite a different response. They have assimilated well into the American melting pot, and have gained the reputation of being enthusiastically patriotic towards their new adopted homeland.

The Bronx's own Esad Rizai has played a significant role in highlighting the positive impact immigrants from Kosovo and Albania have had in The Bronx. As founder of the Albanian American Society Foundation, Mr. Rizai is frequently seen at borough events, supporting numerous good will causes. His particular emphasis on propagating the example and teachings of Mother Teresa has produced a welcome voice of good will at a time when tensions have run high among different groups.



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DEPUTY LEADER OF
THE NEW YOR CITY COUNCIL

Greetings,

On February 17, 2016, we will celebrate the 8th Anniversary of Independence of Kosova. During this celebration, it is significant to remember and appreciate the struggles and achievements of our Albanian ancestors. The Bronx is home to the largest Albanian population in New York City and I am proud to represent the vibrant community within the Council District 15.

Since January 2014, I have had the pleasure of recognizing the accomplishments of the Albanian people. In the two year period, I have issued proclamations for Albanians who have had a profound impact on the culture. The amazing recipients include: Gjergi Kalaj and Gjeto Sinishtaj, Albanian journalists who continue to inform elected officials and their fellow Albanians of the struggle back in their homeland; relentless defenders of freedom Riz Zymer Muriqi, Vezir Ademaj, Elez Geci and Dervish Luzha, advocates on behalf of those who are unable to speak of the atrocities against their people; and to all Albanian Political Prisoners and their Families who sacrificed their all in pursuit of freedom and justice. It has been my honor to present the above with proclamations from the New York City Council to distinguish individuals who go above and beyond.

Previously to being elected into office, I worked under Council Member James Vacca for several years. During my years of service, I was able to witness the co-street renaming in honor of Mother Teresa, an Albanian native. In August of 2009, after a long campaign, Lydig Avenue, between Holland and Wallace Avenues, now reads Mother Teresa Way.

The aforementioned celebrations of Albanians who have made a tremendous impact on our lives were able to occur due to a partnership with the Albanian American Society Foundation. The Albanian American Society Foundation continues to remember and preserve the rich history and achievements of the Albanian tradition.

Congratulations to Kosova, and its people, on the 8th anniversary of obtaining independence! It is with great pride that I celebrate this occasion with you.

Best regards,

Ritchie Torres
Council Member, District 15
New York City Council

A legacy that refuses to die

A story about the old Kulla of the Ademaj family, about Vezir Ademaj who gave his life for the freedom of Kosova and about a promise that will not go unfulfilled

BY RUBEN AVXHIU

Few objects epitomize the spirit of Albanian resistance against foreign invaders than the Kullas, these houses made of stone, with small windows, but great hearts. Pronounced approximately like "coollah", they served as homes, sometimes of extended families and provided protection against enemies.

Only certain well-to-do families, with a tradition of leadership and resistance were able to build them. They had stones instead of bricks and wood and were fortresses of freedom in times when the Albanian lands were continually occupied by invading armies. The windows were big enough to check the perimeter or to aim at the approaching enemy.

They were also famous for the generosity of the households, according to the Albanian tradition of Besa.

"The house of an Albanian belongs to God and to the guest…" says an old rule.

When these Kullas were built, gone was the time when famous and large castles resisted the enemy. The country was now occupied by the Ottoman Empire. Nevertheless, the resistance had not died. It had now had a more individual spirit, and it seemed as if the old castles were now disintegrated and dispersed throughout Albanian lands in numerous Kullas, smaller in size, but equally determined to give everything in the name of liberty and human dignity.

Castles had ceased to hold the monopoly of the national resistance, but the spirit of freedom and old Albanian traditions breathed in these houses. An era of local heroes had begun.

By the second quarter of the 19th century, as the Albanian nation begins to combine the cultural and spiritual renaissance with a more organized national liberation movement, these Kullas became fast the first bases of the underground insurgents, hosts of important political meetings and neuralgic centers of a network of armed resistance.

As the world was changing once again they combined their individual strength with the rising vision of a national self-determination movement. It is not a surprise that they became regularly victims of invader's campaign of repression and intimidation. The Ottomans burned them down to discourage the resistance. When the Ottomans left, the Serbian armies would destroy and burn them again in their early attempts of ethnic cleansing in Kosova and northern Albania. Despite the promises for a different world, the communists too would come to see them as pockets of resistance and try to take them over, destroy, or discourage their rebuilding.



Kickboxing was Vezir's hobby and he exelled in it to the point of becoming first Champion of Switzerland and then Champion of Europe in this sport.

During the Kosova War of 1998-1999, the burning of the historic Kullas resumed and was one of the most organized attempts to eradicate these important elements of the Albanian roots in this part of the world. Serbs failed at their project of mass ethnic cleansing of Kosova, despite managing to deport forcibly more than a million of Albanian civilians from their homes in Kosova to the neighboring countries.

Rebuilding some of these Kullas today is an important work of preserving the memory of an important time not just in the history of Albanians but of the whole region of the Balkans. They are monuments, which represent a unique national, historic and cultural legacy.

MORE THAN JUST A HOUSE AN HISTORIC MONUMENT THAT DATES FROM THE 18TH CENTURY

It was this interview with Dr. Hasan Ademaj, in New York that started me thinking about the Kullas. He was born and grown up in one of them, in Kosova and it has determined in many ways his life and those of his brothers and sisters. Kullas were a source of pride and social status, but in the same time growing up in one of them would mean education with a strong obligation to keep the fight for the national cause, for the traditions and the name of dozens of past generations. The lives of the Ademajs are a testimony to this. Dr. Ademaj was one of the five sons and three daughters of father Hysen and mother Mejremi.

Their Kulla (or what is left of it) is located in Sheremetaj of Kosova, not far from the border with Albania and in visible distance from the Accursed Mountains of the Albanian Alps. From the end of the 19th century this area has been of a hotbed of Albanian national revival and Ademaj's Kulla has hosted many leaders and activists of national resistance in the darkest days of the Ottoman occupation and then later of the Serbian colonizing regime.

"According to documents that we have found in the Archives of Gjakova [the main urban center of the region], it was built in the 18th century," says Dr. Hasan Ademaj.

Considering the fact that this is a three-storied building, something rare for the 18th century, it is safe to say that it is a precursor of many similar Kullas that were built later in the region and beyond.

Besides, the historic legacy, to the Ademajs this Kulla has a powerful sentimental importance. This where generations after generations lived and died. Others have appreciated its architectural style, seeing it as a fine representative of a generation of Kullas, built in uniquely strong foundations, with thick stone walls.

When Vezir, Dr. Ademaj's brother, returned from Switzerland in 1998, his intention was to join the Kosovar armed resistance, which was taking speed as the last resort of defending the civilian population from the violent oppression of Slobodan Milosevic's regime.

Soon, the Kulla had become once again a center for the network of young men and women who were joining the first units of the nascent Kosova Liberation Army. Only weeks after Vezir had left for the front, Serbian police and security forces burned down the Kulla. They knew it was not just a base. It was a symbol of inspiration.

LIFE INTERRUPTED

It was in fact by that Kulla's fireplace that Hasan, Vezir and the other children spent many winter nights listening to the stories of heroes and villains, about the red flag and the black double-headed eagle.

Kosova was a country where 90% of the two million inhabitants were ethnic-Albanians but where the Albanian language and national symbols were discouraged and outlawed.

Communism had collapsed everywhere and the entire Eastern Europe was going through historic changes, leaving behind half a century of dictatorships and embracing the democratic wind. And there was Kosova, in the heart of the Balkans, still invaded and colonized by Serbia, descending by contrast once again into a dark period of political repression. To a generation of young Kosovars this was unacceptable.

Vezir Ademaj was a typical representative of this generation. After finishing the high school in the nearby town of Deçan, he was registered as a student in the Faculty of the Natural Sciences in the University of Prishtina, in the capital of Kosova.

He was drafted by then Serbian-led Yugoslavian Army and was sent to Tivar in Montenegro, the smallest republic of Yugoslavia.

It was 1989, Montenegro with a few hundreds thousands of inhabitants enjoyed the right to be a republic of the federation. On the other hand, to Kosova, of 2 million people, not only was this right denied, but Milosevic has just stripped the status of the autonomous province and eliminating all the laws, policies and regulations that gave some breathing space to the ethnic Albanians in Yugoslavia.

Young people had taken the streets and the state had reacted violently. Young people were particularly targeted and Vezir had been an active participant in these demonstrations.

The Ademaj family feared for their son's life. It was the time when dozens of young Kosovars who were drafted by the Yugoslavian Army returned in coffins. Their deaths had all been rules as suicides, but everyone in Kosova knew that they were victims of the growing nationalist extremism in Serbia, a trend that would soon produce four consecutive wars in the region and horrific crimes against humanity. Today, we are so concentrated in catching the criminals of the 90s and shedding light to their war related

Continued on next page

A legacy that refuses to die

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crimes that this dark period of many innocent victims is forgotten.

As if all these were not enough, Tivar, where Vezir was staying, represented to Albanians a painful moment from the history. It was there that in 1945, the flower of the Kosovar youth, thousands of people, gathered from various parts of Kosova, were murdered en-masse. This precedent of Srebrenica massacre, half a century ago, made little news in the international press of the time. The world was leaving behind the horrors of the World War Two and the Yugoslavian Army was conveniently sided with the victors and in particular with the Red Army of the Soviet Union.

Getting rid of anti-communist resistance was high in the agenda of the day and this ethnically motivated massacre was given an ideological color. While it is true that most Kosovars were against communism, these young souls were executed only with because they were Albanians. It was the first signal that a change of hands in the government of Serbia would mean nothing for the Kosovars. The colonization would go on. The Ademaj family expected Vezir to be in Tivar, the town of these gruesome memories, but he surprised them, one night, by knocking at their Kulla's door. He stood only briefly, hugged them and broke them the news that he was leaving the country illegally to immigrate in Switzerland. He did not want to be part of an army which was being trained to suppress violently those who demonstrated for human rights.

What had happened was the news from the Yugoslavian Army chief of staff that the military service would be prolonged due to worsening situation in the federation. War loomed near and Vezir did not want to be sent to the front to fight against those nations of Yugoslavia, which were asking for their freedom to secede from a federation which was also denying the most elementary human rights to the people of Kosova.

There was no Albanian family in Kosova that did not have a son working as an immigrant in the West. These immigrants were the backbone of the Kosovar economy and of the patriotic resistance as well. Vezir became part of this large diaspora and moved to Switzerland. He worked hard to help his family economically. The rest of the earnings went for the national cause. In Switzerland, he participated in demonstrations and political meetings in support for the human rights in Kosova and the Balkans.

Kickboxing was his hobby and he excelled in it to the point of becoming first Champion of Switzerland and then Champion of Europe in this sport. He had asked repeatedly to wear the Albanian national colors in these sporting events but the rules of Kickboxing Federation prevented him. He nevertheless described himself as Kosovar Albanian whenever asked and interviewed by the media. Long before it became the newest country in Europe, Kosova had a European champion.



Ademaj Family's Kulla in Sheremetaj, Kosova. Few objects epitomize the spirit of Albanian rezistance against foreign invaders than the Kullas, these house made of stone, with small windows, but great hearts.



Dr. Hasan Ademaj, with President Bill Clinton (left) and Hon. Eliot Engel, during an annual dinner of the National Albanian American Council.

HE WILL NOT BE FORGOTTEN

As the clouds of war gathered in Kosova's sky and news of Serbian security forces repression throughout the country began to reach Switzerland, Vezir felt it was time to join those young people who had decided to fight against the invaders violence.

In March 1998, he entered the country, clandestinely, from the Albanian border and once again surprised his family by knocking on the door when they did not expect him. He spoke openly to his parents and made it clear that his life belonged to the freedom of his people and that it was his turn to keep up with the legacy of the old Kulla.

Vezir established contact with the KLA command center of Gllogjan and donated there all his earnings and probably other donations as well, an important sum of money that was to be used to buy weapons for the resistance.

He immediately made use of his great experience as a professional athlete by taking upon himself to prepare young people who were joining in droves as volunteers, in the KLA branch of the Zone known as "Reka e Keqe". Because of his distinguishing skills, he was soon promoted to Commander of KLA Commando Troops for this area.

With the enemy still distant, he used the courtyard of the school of Sheremetaj to prepare the young people who had joined the KLA units. In a sign of solidarity teachers and young people from the village often joined the exercises. They support and admiration for Commander Alfred (his nom de guerre) was very high. When he had left his Kulla for the first time, to continue his studies, Vezir dreamed to come back as teacher in this very school. Fate decided otherwise and he was back here to teach the young people, not the art of science, but the art of war. With his community struggling for survival, Vezir was not afraid to risk his life in defense of the local population.

Vezir participated actively in clashes against the Serbian security forces in Rahovec, Smolice, Baballoq, Preljep etc. His last battle was on 25 of July 1998, in Kavallaj, near Junik. He refused to leave behind a brother of arms, Hysen Arifi, a teacher from the Sheremetaj School, who was heavily wounded. If left there he would have died in pain or worse: would have been caught alive by the advancing Serbian forces. The sacrifice for his friend cost him dearly. Vezir was fatally hit by Serbian bullets and died in action. He was only 27 years old. The insurgents recovered his body and his wounded friend. Unfortunately, Hysen did not survive his wounds and died too, a few days later.

This time the sudden knock on the Kulla's door was not from Vezir himself, but from his friends who had come to break the difficult news to Ademaj family. He was buried with great honors, with a large number of people gathered despite the dangers of the war situation. Everyone wanted to bid the last farewell to this brave man who had made the legacy of his Kulla proud.

His co-fighter and friend, Shaban Golaj, promised to Vezir's father that they would take revenge on the Serbian forces. Indeed, the next day, Shaban led a new action against the Serbian forces and managed to destroy a tank, fulfilling the promise

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A legacy that refuses to die

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that he made during Vezir's funeral. Unfortunately, he too was killed in this battle and was buried with honors in Sheremetaj.

All this was taking place in the summer of 1998, at least nine months, before NATO was involved in the conflict to stop the humanitarian catastrophe that was being cause by the Serbian forces' complete disregard for the Kosovar civilian population. That summer witnessed the clash between a heavily armed modern army of the Serbian state and a group of highly motivated young insurgents who had decided to give their life for the independence of their nation and to protect the civilian population by the violent ethnic cleansing of the Serbian regime. It was David against Goliath all over again.

Dr. Hasan Ademaj was in New York when he learned the news that his brother had join KLA.

He managed to find the number of his satellite phone and called him. He congratulated his brother for his decision to join the liberators, but warned him to be careful.

"If I wanted to be careful, I would have stayed in Switzerland," he responded to his brother.

It was the last time that the two spoke together.

He was in the house of Rustem Gecaj, a well known Albanian-American activist and businessman, when he learned the news that his brother had given his life for the freedom of the homeland.

It was a painful moment aggravated by the fact that he was a world away, unable to be close and help his family cope with the moment. It was a full-fledged war raging in Kosova and even a phone connection was nearly impossible. Only when he managed to talk with one of his sisters, he found some peace. The family was holding strong despite the tragedy and it made him feel stronger as well.

Today, the office of Dr. Ademaj in New York serves also like a small museum dedicated to the memory of his brother. Photos and clips from various newspapers decorate the walls. In thebookshelf there are books dedicated to Vezir and the war of Kosova Liberation Army.

In his birthplace, Vezir is revered like a Martyr of the Nation, a title awarded to him officially by the new authorities of the independent Kosova.

Poetry and songs are composed and sang in his tribute. The school in Sheremetaj where he wanted to teach one day is known today as the School of the Two Martyrs, with the pictures of Vezir Ademaj and Hysen Arifi featuring at the entrance. Their act of heroism and sacrifice teaches a lot to the students of this school, a promise to their legacy.

A KULLA FOR THE GENERATIONS TO COME

Out of the five sons, of the Ademaj family, three of them joined KLA, one remained to work in Switzerland and help his family and Hasan, continued his post-graduate studies to become one of the best dentists of his generation, specializing in Oro-Maxillofacial Surgery.

One of the brothers Rasim was caught by the Serbian army and was prisoner to Serbia. For a long time, he was listed among the disappeared and the family feared that another tragedy would strike them. The Serbs had burned their Kulla again but had failed to break their spirit. However, a second death in the family would be so much to bear. Dr. Ademaj was especially concerned for his mother. "Mothers are those who feel the greatest pain," he says.

Fortunately, not long after the war, the International Red Cross discovered Rasim in a crowded Serbian prison in the easternmost tip of the country and through international mediation, he was freed long after the war had ended.

All the children had shown passion for education, although the war and the sense of duty towards the nation, inspired by the Kulla had interrupted their lives and distracted their studies and delayed their graduations. Their parents educated them with the belief that with good work ethics and sacrifice, everything was possible in life.

In a time where land ownership was one of the few guarantees of economic survival their father showed to sell parts of his land to help his children receive adequate education. It made a difference in the life of Hasan, who would complete his post-graduate studies in Stomatology, in the Medical Faculty of the University of Tirana, in Albania. He specialized in Oro-Maxillofacial.

Dr. Hasan Ademaj excelled in his studies and works professionally in New York City, where he is also a distinguished activist in the Albanian-American community. Over the years, he has become a regular contributor to the cause and never missed a chance to meet with US officials and diplomats to talk about Kosova and the situation in the Balkans.



Sen. Bob Dole (left), with Dr. Hasan Ademaj and his wife Zyrafete.

It was after all the US-led military intervention of NATO in 1999 that saved Kosova from a humanitarian catastrophe. After diplomatic efforts to convince Milosevic to stop his campaign of ethnic cleansing and genocide against the ethnic-Albanian population of Kosova failed, the military option was used.

More than a million Albanians were deported from their homes in Kosova to the neighboring countries. Serbia tried to forcibly change the demographic map of Kosova, but the intervention of NATO stopped the madness.

After the liberation, as Kosovars returned to their homes, a number of mass graves where found, more than 12,000 people had died (the large majority of them Albanian civilians) and more than 2,000 were listed as disappeared.

However, the worst was behind now and Kosovars began to rebuild their lives. In 2,008 Kosova declared independence and was recognized by the United States and 85 countries of the world.

The Albanian-Americans feel proud for their role in the history of Kosova. For many years they went to Washington and made their case. They told their stories, their truth. It helped the United States take a principled stand on that issue. Interestingly enough, since 1999, Kosova has been the only topic of international affairs that Republican and Democratic leaders in the White House and the US Congress agreed completely. Dr. Hasan Ademaj is only happy to have been part of this campaign and to have played his role in the war from here. He could not join the war, but he has helped very much from here. His father who passed away a few years ago and the rest of his family in Kosova are very proud of him.

As he goes through memories new and old, Dr. Hasan Ademaj can't help thinking of the Kulla, where they grew up and were taught about life and the meaning of true character.

The Kulla that has seen so much history (if only those stones could speak). That Kulla that meant so much to Vezir. He can't help imaginng the pain of his parents when they saw their Kulla burned. There were tears in his father's eyes as his mother would later tell him. However he was the usual upbeat. "They burned the walls, but they could not bring down the chimney," he said to her. "There will be smoke coming out of the chimney again, because this Kulla will rise again."

Dr. Ademaj will probably not rest until he makes those words come true. It is not just his family home, it is a testimony of the history and culture of Kosova; it is a symbol of national and social resistance. It is not merely his home now. It is the home of Kosova, a monument that will tell to the new generations about where they come from. It will help them appreciate better the peace, the stability and the progress that they will be enjoying from now on. It will help them understand better the past so they can build a better future.



Left to right, Rrustem Gecaj, well-known Albanian-American activist, Gen. Westley Clark and Dr. Ademaj.



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Congratulations Kosova On Independence Day February 17th

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Proud to carry his name

BY BAIRAM RIZAI

The odds were already against Ali A. Rizaj when he was born on June 23, 1924 to a woman widowed only months earlier. The father he would never meet was killed fighting for the freedom of his beloved country Albania—a cause he too would champion his entire life.

At the age of sixteen he joined the Albanian Resistance to vanquish Italian fascists (1940-1942) and German Nazis (1942-1944). He became a national hero when, with his bare hands, he took the life of a German soldier responsible for his cousin's death.

This prompted the villagers in the town of Gjakova to coin the phrase "Have no fear, Ali is here" in reverence of his valor and domination during such an ordeal.

After the war his campaign against communism led to his imprisonment for two years. Once discharged from prison he began his journey to Yugoslavia with this wife and two sons—leaving behind another son, and his mother. When he refused to participate in espionage against his compatriots in Kosova, he was incarcerated for another three years.

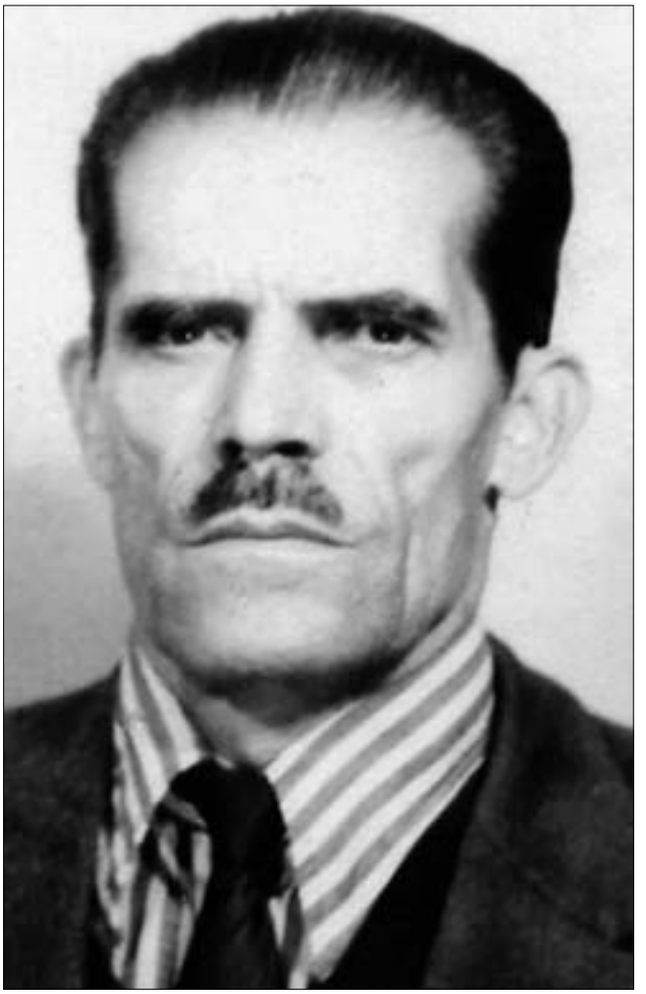
Upon completion of his sentence, Ali brought his family to Italy, where his family would spend the next several years in different camps.

On May 9, 1962 Ali completed his journey to the land of the free and the home of the brave. Every day of his life he maintained that the United States is "the land of immigrants, the land of opportunities and the cradle of democracy." Using each roadblock as a brick with which to build his dream, his bedrock was the nationalism and pride in being an Albanian. Every Rizaj descendant was taught that Albanians are all branches of the same tree—whether they are Christian, Jewish or Muslim, their roots are their blood, their nation, their flag, their tradition and their history.

Each day that Ali woke to breathe the sweet freedom of America, he vowed to bring that air to his own country. In commemoration of the 40th anniversary of Albania's liberation (1994), President Sali Berisha awarded Ali with a medal in recognition of his valiant efforts. Finally, in 2000, after 49 years in exile,

Ali made his way back to a nation most proud of its son and was reunited with his own son, Sahit, by then an adult with a family of his own.

On March 14, 2003 Ali passed away surrounded by his family. One man, with the world on his shoulders, fought against the current to bring three sons, four daughters and eighteen grandchildren into this world—just another one of the many accomplishments that make me proud to carry his name. Ali Rizaj was a man for others, a hero—but most importantly he was and always will be, my grandfather.



ALI A. RIZAJ



ANOTHER MILESTONE



As a young man, Esad A. Rizai celebrates another milestone with his sons.

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Ruben Diaz Jr.

President of the Borough of The Bronx

Presents this

Proclamation

Whereas:

The Albanian American Society Foundation, Sons & Daughters of Albanian in America and the Albanian Community Center, who works to promote the success of Albanian immigrants to the New York City metropolitan area – by far the largest Albanian population in the United States, and;

Whereas: *We recognize Tahir Sinani as a leader for all Albanians for his outstanding work and commitment to the people and country, and;*

Whereas: *During the war in Kosova, he was a commander in the Kosovo Liberation Army, and;*

Whereas: *After the war, he was appointed a commander of the Third Operational Zone of the Kosovo Protection Corps. During the Macedonian Conflict in 2001 he was the commander of the 116 Brigade of the NLA, and;*

Whereas: *It has been 14 years since his life was cut tragically short, but the flame of his heroism will always brightly burn for all Albanians.*

Now therefore, *I, Ruben Diaz Jr., President of the Borough of The Bronx, proclaim May 6th as Tahir Sinani day.*

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

Ruben Diaz Jr.

Ruben Diaz Jr.



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Thanks to a friend: Hon. Stephen B. Kaufman

BY SAMI REPISHTI

To the growing lists of "Friends of the Albanians," we add another name: the Hon. Stephen B. Kaufman, Esq., a distinguished New Yorker, from the Bronx. A new name to someone; it's familiar to most of us.

I met the Hon. Kaufman a few years ago during the commemorative ceremony on the fifth anniversary of the passing away of the late Dr. Ibrahim Rugova. The name of Dr. Rugova, the "historic president of Kosova," is and remains a rallying point for all Albanians.

Albanians celebrate the independence of their State. It was a long and painful road to independence, requiring great sacrifices and untold suffering, oftentimes, along. Friends were few, but they were noble and distinguished. One, above all, was the idealistic and principled, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, who prevented the dismemberment of their country.

Soon after, American individuals and organizations, lay and religious, "discovered" Albania and provided badly needed assistance, Names such as Charles Crane, Rose Wilder Lane, Dr. Erickson, Harry Pultz and others, offered their helping hands to a handicapped little country called Albania, and made a difference. A big difference.



HON. STEPHEN B. KAUFMAN, ESQ.

Today, Albanians in the Balkans and in Northern America as well as those dispersed all over the five continents, have two states, Albania and since February 17, 2008, Kosova, to count among their victories. We cannot forget our friends in need!

We have reasons to rejoice, as well as and the moral obligation to remember those friends who unselfishly helped us achieve our victories. They are good friends and we can rely on them. They make us feel stronger and more hopeful that better days are ahead for the ancient Albanian people.

This line of thought was with me when I met the Hon, Kaufman. What I knew of him was very little. My good friend, Esad Rizai, introduced me. I detected in his voice how much Mr. Rizai, president of the Albanian American Society Foundation, respected him, and how grateful he was to have an American friend who had done so much for the Albanian immigrants in the Bronx.

Later on, I learned that Mr. Kaufman was a public servant in the best sense of the word, that he had devoted his energies to serving people in general, and the people of the Bronx in particular. He had used his institutional channels to advance his goals: to improve the quality of many lives. A practicing attorney, an elected official, and a concerned citizen, he made a good name for himself.

Stephen B. Kaufman was born and raised in the Bronx. After graduating from the prestigious Stuyvesant High School and attended college courses at Hunter College, he pursued his studies of law at the Washington College, and the American University, graduating with honors and receiving his J.D.

Immediately after, he bean practicing law in the Bronx. In 1988, he was elected N.Y.S. Assemblyman, where he served for 18 years, covering many leading positions of that legislative body (assistant majority whip, chairman of the administration regulations committee, the review committee, chairman of the election law committee, etc.).

For us Albanians, the Hon. Kaufman is a knight fighting for the causes of the powerless Albanian immigrant community in the Bronx. A friend of mine summarized his activity this way:

While in elected office, and now as community leader, Stephen B. Kaufman has dedicated himself to fighting for all the people of the Bronx, especially the Albanian American community. For the last 19 years, he has been an advisor and board member of the A.A.S.F., and proud advocate of Albanian causes. He has worked tirelessly in the spirit of Mother Teresa to better the lives of Albanians everywhere.

While in elected office, and now as community leader, Stephen B. Kaufman has dedicated himself to fighting for all the people of the Bronx, especially the Albanian American community. He has worked tirelessly in the spirit of Mother Teresa to better the lives of Albanians everywhere.

In 2003, he took New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg with him on a trip to Kosova to show the people of Kosova that America, and in particular New York City, stood with him in their struggle for freedom. He has also helped honor prominent Albanian community leaders, and was instrumental in the 1011 declaration announcing New York City and Prishtina to be sister-cities.

When we met, I gave him a copy of my study, 'Jews in Albania: A Story of Survival,' published in The Holocause-Essays and Documents (NYC: 2009). It was a token of my gratitude for all he has done and continues to do for the integration of Albanians in New York City, and to celebrate the past, president and future of the Albanian people, as well. It was also a reminder of the heroic Albanian effort to save Jewish lives during the dark days of WW II.

Congratulations To Kosova On Independence Day 2016



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Hajdin Alija unites Albanian students

Hajdin Alijaj born in Gjilan, Kosove in 1956 to a patriotic family from Tropoje. He lived in city of Istog were he finished elementary and secondary school. He went for a short time to an art school in City of Peje, and left for Italy with his family. He stayed in Italy for about a year and came to the United States of America, to the borough of the Bronx.

When he started school at JFK High School he took some English courses at Roosevelt High School. He then went to City College and studied history and art.

There he started student activities alongside his school work. He founded the Albanian-American Student Organization of City College of the CCNY. There he united Albanian students with non Albanian students so they could learn the values, tradition and bravery of Albanian people.

By celebrating both Albanian and American holidays he showed everyone that Albanian Americans could be a fruitful part of American society.

Then he organized a magazine called the Albanian Voice which produced only five editions, in two and sometimes three languages: Albanian-English-Spanish. As the situation in his Albanian homeland worsened he then organized a larger organization, The League of Albanian Students, with the magazine 'Students Voice'. Most of the writings supported the Albanian cause for freedom, liberty and democracy for all Albanians in a united democratic Albanian land.

He led demonstrations for democratic freedom of all Albanian lands from the occupiers in the Balkan peninsula! He supported the Albanians in Kosove and the American-Nato war in Serbia. He called for the end of the Communist regime in Albania, supported the democratic institutions of Albania and the end of the dictatorial Communist era in Albania.

Then later on he supported the Albanian Foundation Society and Sons and Daughters of Albania in the Bronx which was being doing great work for the Albanian community at large. By doing and supporting local government institutions the Albanian cause spread beyond the Bronx.



HAJDIN ALIJA

Hajdin sees the necessity of hard work for the Albanian and the multi cultural community in the Bronx.

"We Albanians, as a small nation, need the USA more than ever. This is the only nation based in equality, freedom and justice for all the people of the world! So we must keep our spirit alive and well as Albanian-Americans!," he said.

Congratulations Kosova

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In the memory of Dervish Luzha

The least we can do for a man like Dervish Luzha, who has left undelible traces in the memory and the consciousness of the Albanians from Malësia to Tropoja, from Rrafshi i Dukagjinit to Rugova all the way up to Kaçanik, as well as in Puka, Has and Mirdita, is to honor his name and tell the young generations about him.

In this context I would like to share a personal story that has been meaningful to me.

Not long after the fall of communism in Albania, in company of my mother, I returned to the country of my birth. It was September 1992, 41 years after my family had left in search of freedom and a better life in the west.

In Tirana, I met my brother Sahit. We spent one week with relatives in Tirana, before travelling to my birthplace in Luzha in the north. During my sojourn there, I visited every day with my brother the tomb of Dervish Luzha.

One evening we stood there until very late. That night would change my life. It was about 5 a.m. when I woke and I felt as if I was living a dream. I heard a voice telling me: "Your way is clear, do something about the children!"

My brother sensed my reaction and turned to ask me about what had happened. "I didn't see anyone or any image," I replied, "however, I distinctly heard a voice saying: do something about the children." From that moment, I felt very much relieved as if a heavy weight had been lifted off my shoulders.

My brother told me that we had to go again to the tomb of Dervish Luzha. That is what we did… I felt a different man after that night and a growing sense of courage self-belief in me.

What was that voice and where did it come from? I believed it came from the tyrbe (tomb dedicated to dervishes) of Dervish Luzha.

A few days later, I travelled with Brahë Ali Gegëhyseni to purchase a photograph in the town of Bajram Curri. He gave me a small photo of Dervish Luzha and I took it with me to Tirana. I was again accompanied by Brahë Ali Gegëhyseni and Fadil Furriku and we met with a talented artist, a painter. I asked him whether he could enlarge the photo and use the color that Dervisha Luzha so much admired. He loved the season of spring and the green color that came with it.

"The spring resembles the birth of man, the blossom of a flower, the start of life…," he used to say. The artist worked the whole day and produced a large photo in color.

Three months later, after I returned to America, I met with Hasan Gashi and some other teachers who had opened an Albanian school in the Bronx. They asked for my help to convince the authorities in the Bronx borough so that one of the local public schools could offer a classroom free of charge, to hold classes in the Albanian language.

So, together with Hasan Gashi, Shaqir Gjonbalaj, Dervish Ramë Çelaj, Martin Papovic, Father Pjetër Popaj and Mark Shkreli, we went to the office of District 10 Superintendent John Reehill who was very sympathetic to our request and the Albanian school began its work in the Bronx in a classroom provided for free.

Meanwhile, I intended to start a foundation named for Dervish Luzha, with the purpose of supporting the school, but my father Ali Alia convinced me against it. "Never mix school with religion or politics," he wisely advised.

It is important to remember again how natural and easy it had suddenly become for me to engage in these efforts in the service of my nation and my community since that dream episode back in the place of my birth.

Suddenly I was filled with trust in my efforts and belief in the victory of our causes.

In 1993, I went on to found the Foundation of the Albanian American Society, which has been very active for many years and has played an important role in the life of the Albanian community here in the United States, in New York and beyond.

Twice during 2000 and 2001, the mayor of New York City, Rudolph Giuliani presented our foundation with special proclamations declaring November 28th as the Day of the Albanians in New York. (It was an initiative of our foundation to start the beautiful tradition of raising the Albanian flag in front of the City Hall on our national holiday, starting from 1997.)

During the last two years, in cooperation with the NYC Council office of James Vacca our foundation has organized the celebration of Kosova independence in the City Hall, with the participation of numerous Albanian-American activists, American politicians and personalities of art, culture and science.



DERVISH LUZHA

Another highlight of our cooperation with Mr. Vacca was naming a street in the Bronx, as 'Mother Teresa Way', a beautiful gesture in honor of the famous Albanian saint and Nobel Prize winner.

My engagement in all these activities and in many others has been inspired and encouraged by the life and work of Dervish Luzha.

Interestingly, I have met this great personality only once, when I was only three years old. I still remember it. He came to our house, held me on his lap and gave me an apple.

Dervish Luzha was a great humanitarian, patriot, prescient man and prophet from whom I and many others like me have found the strength and the audacity to do great deeds for the Albanians.

The rich legacy of Dervish Luzha

Thousands of people, from every walk of life, belonging to different generations and religion affiliations, when they want to emphasize their word and stance on issues of honor, dignity and truth, they say: "I swear on Dervish Luzha's tomb…"

Whenever they feel down, are suffering or feeling sick, unable to find peace or healing, they go to the tomb of Dervish Luzha, they bow in front of it with trust and belief that it is there that the true "cure" will be given to them. There they look for regeneration and healing. No matter what they religion is, many people in distress say: "May Dervish Luzha help me…"

Numerous are those who keep his portrait at home, in their wallet or as medallion, hanged around the neck or in their car as safe companion, trusting the help of the soul of Dervish Luzha.

It has been several years since this man is not physically alive. His soul rests in peace. However, his name and fame has only grown in our Albanian world that knows no borders.

So, who was this rare man, this saint in whom so many people today place their trust?

Dervish Luzha was born in Luzha in 15 of July 1904. His parents were very happy because he was their first son.

As the tradition has it, Tarçuk Sefa announced the news by firing from his three rifles three shots in the air. The others responded to the news with their rifles and shouting the wish from afar "May he live a long life, ohooooo…"

During his entire life, the doors were open to him and he was welcomed in the Malësia e Tropojës, Rrafshi i Dukagjinit, from Rugova to Kaçanik, in Puka, Hasi and Mirdita.

Wherever he went, stood and slept, he never showed the smallest expectation or sense of entitlement.

He never uttered profanities or spoke badly of someone else. He never coveted anything that belonged to others. He offered his wishes and blessings to everyone in need or to who had called for his help. There were many expressions of people still remember: "God forgives you if you err only once", "Take care of yourself and God will take care of you", "Whatever you do, you do it to yourself", etc.

Mehmet Idriz Doçi, in his book Irrigation in Tropoja, writes among other things: "In the Malësia e Gjakovës, Dervish Luzha was honored as a saint. When the country was liberated he kept three symbols with him: the pickaxe, the shovel and the lute, about which he said let's do our work, bring out the water, open the irrigation canals and only then let's rejoice and sing. In determining the coordinates of the underground locations of the water, his only instrument was his unmistakable sword. He would strike the ground with it and tell the villagers where the water was supposed to be.

He would say: "take the water out, accommodate yourself, because you are doing a good deed to yourself and your children." Those water sources that he discovered have remained as part of his very rich legacy in service of the society and their presence there today is one of the reasons his name is still mentioned with great respect."

The people of Tropoja, consciously, naturally and without any intellectual effort, impressed by his uncommon behavior, actions and predictions have worshipped Dervish Luzha, by creating a indispensable spiritual institution which symbolizes the love for the fatherland and humanism, the love for the people, the evocation of the good and the rejection of the evil, the harmony, the understanding and the reconciliation. He remains a model of the perfect man.

(Shortened excerpt from the book of Uk, Ismet, Qamil and Sami Balaj, Luzha and the Luzhans during the XVI–XX centuries.)



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Biography of Can Mala Mulosmanaj

BY HAJDIN ALIJAJ



CAN MALA MULOSMANAJ

Can Mala Mulosmanaj was born on June 23, 1923 to a noble patriotic family of Bujan in Tropoje, northern Albania. He continued on the same road of his forefathers, the road for freedom. The family fought any invader who invaded the Albanian lands. And they did that for more than 200 years.

The most well known are: Ali Mula (from which they took the last name, Mulosmanaj; Binak Alia (1895-1910) a great leader of the Albanian League of Prizrend who resolved many bloodfeuds of the time; Mic Sokoli, one of the most well known fighters against the Turks and Dervish Pasha; and Shaban Binaku (1851- 1910) another great leader against the Turks, who later was executed together with another great leader of the time Avdulla Hoxha in city of Yakova (Gjakova - Kosova).

One of the last is Can's father Mal Shabani who was executed by the Communist government of Albania in year 1949. In the same year, Can escaped and emigrated to Kosova, (then part of Yugoslavia) with his large family to avoid prosecution by the Communist government!

In Kosova he stayed and began his own family. In 1967 he left for Italy and then went on to the United States of America, where he was reunited with the many countrymen that came before him - one of them was Ali Rizaj.

Here he started working, and his kids continued school. He was happy, but always thinking about those that were left behind in Albania, who spend years in concentration camps.

Even in the United States Can Mala Mulosmanaj was respected by all in the Albanian community at large until his last breath in 1984. He loved this country. I heard him say many times, may God bless his soul, "We left our country, not by choice, but to escape prosecution, but we found a better one that guarantees freedom and liberty for all!"

Thomas C. Bible

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100 years-only a small sliver of our history; though a significant one. Our story is an epic and our people its heroes and heroines.
On our 100th anniversary of independence, we stand together proudly because as Albanians we have always chosen strength over fear, unity over conflict and dignity over dishonor.
Today, and for anniversaries to come, we commemorate the sacrifices of our ancestors and continue their efforts to fulfill the destiny of the nation of Albania. We demonstrate to the world that the true strength of Albania is the endurance of our ideals: besa and burrni.
As you celebrate today remain cognizant that the journey continues tomorrow.
The next 100 years begin right now.

Bairam Rizai

"Mos e harroni tokën shqiptare"
—Dervish Luzha

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History of Zenel Adem Alijaj

ZENEL ADEM ALIJAJ

Zenel Adem Alijaj was born in 1910 in a village of Ahmataj, Albania. Coming from a patriotic family, he was among the first to join Ram Muje Hoxha in the mountains of northern Albania to fight the Fascist Italian occupation in 1939.

He was later captured and questioned by the General Badoglio who tried to convince him that Italians were on Albania's side. Zenel responded by bravely speaking out about Italian atrocities during its occupation. Badoglio was taken aback, but in a rare show of mercy allowed him to leave unharmed, he did not want to produce a martyr for the anti-Italian cause.

Zenel, spent time in a prison camp and later joined the nationalist fighter Gani Beg Kryeziu, who supported America and Britain, in their fight against Fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and Communsts, until the end of war.

In the struggle for power after the war, Zenel and 33 other fighters were granted amnesty if they handed in their weapons. Those that did were taken straight away for execution at a large well in the village of Herec in Kosova. Gani Beg Kryeziu was taken to Belgrade where he died many years later despite British attempts to have him granted clemency.

Zenel Alijaj and Mal Shyti were the only two to escape the massacre. They jumped off the truck and ran towards the mountains, where they hid. Sadly Shyti was shot trying to escape into Greece. Zenel was nursed away in secret.

The next few years were hard and difficult under the emerging Communist dictatorship of an enterprising Hoxha. In 1952 Zenel Alijaj escaped with his entire family from Albania to Kosova, Yugoslavia after he was tipped off about a government crackdown on former soldiers that had not allied with the Communist Party.

In Zenel lived in Kosova many years, but decided he could not take being a second-class citizen.

In 1972 he left for Italy and finally reached America in 1973 where he found his relatives and friends, such as Ali Rizaj, Rexhep Alijaj, Can Mala Mulosmanaj, Shpen Lamaj, Hasan Isufi Zherka and others.

He lived until 2001. In America, Enel took part in many demonstrations against the Communist regimes in Yugoslavia and Albania and later Serbian nationalist extremism.

His hope was that one day all Albanians would be united and live in a free democratic society. Zenel was happy to live in the Bronx, and was very greatful to be in a multi-cultural area where people lived free lives. He lived an exemplary life of devotion to freedom, no matter the circumstances or risk to his life.



ZENEL ADEM ALIJAJ



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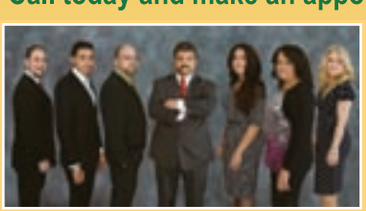
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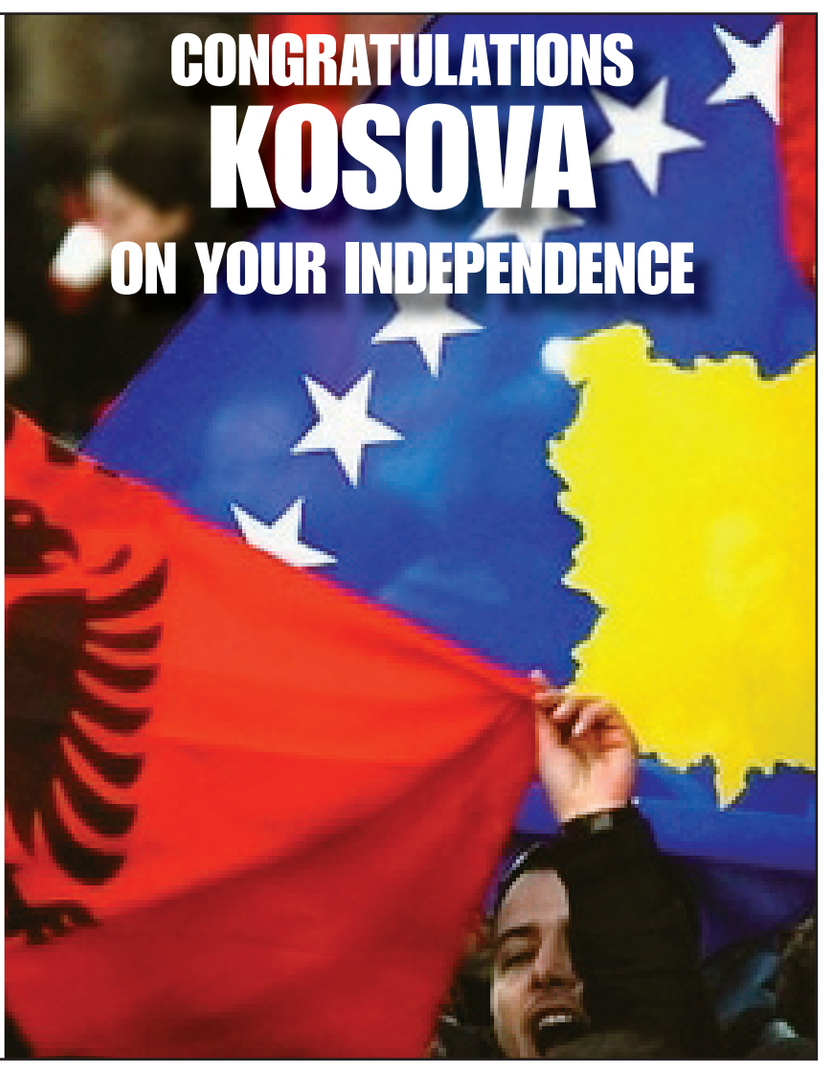


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Ali Rizaj fought till the end

BY HAJDIN ALIJAJ

Ali Rizaj was born June 23, 1924 in Luzhe, Tropoje to a patriotic family in northern Abania.

As a young man he was educated with great traditional values that would one day make him a great and valuable man to his homeland, protecting it from enemies and invaders the same way his predecessors did before him.

During World War ll, he along with most of the young men of his town, took arms and united with the well known anti Fascist-Nazi liberation front of Gani Beg Kryeziu.

He fought all the way till the war's end. But, at the end of the war, nationalists were betrayed by the Communists who confiscated the power and divided Albanian lands once more. He went back home dissatisfied that nothing could be done.

It was 1945, when Yugoslavian Communists jailed opponents and nationalists. One of them was Gani Beg Kryeziu of Yakova (Gjakov). Tito's Communist government offered amnesty to everyone that surrendered their arms. The Kryeziu group was called to Yakova to discuss the situation. Most member refused the deal, but 32 of them did. That same day they were arrested and at 3 a.m. in the morning they were massacred outside the town of Herech, except for two that escaped. They were Zenel Adem Alijaj and Muje Shyti. Mr. Shyti was killed a week along the Greek border trying to escape into Greece.

Ali escaped this situation by not going to the summit that day. But he didn't escape the fear of the government. Seeing the situation getting worst everyday he decided to immigrate. And he did, with all his family in 1951.

The problem with the Communists didn't stop there. The Tito government jailed Ali Rezaj in 1957. He spent three and half years in jail. And then was united with his family.

In 1962 he and his family left for Italy, where they stayed for a short time before leaving for the United States of America.

There he was united with his friends and relatives. Some of them were from Said Beg Kryeziu, including the brother of Gani Beg Kryeziu, Can Mala Mulosmanaj and later on he reunited with Zenel Alijaj.

They were respected and true friends till the last breath of their life and respected figures in their Albanian community and within the multi cultural comunity. Ali was great patriot, and a great loving and caring father and unstoppable preacher for freedom and Liberty and unity of Albanian lands (ethic Albania). And their families follow his footsteps even to this day!



ALI RIZAJ

Congratulations Kosova!

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The historical reality of Kosova

BY DR. HASAN ADEMAJ

More than a century ago, the Albanian issue was brought to the table of European diplomacy.

Everything started at the Saint Stephen Conference (1878), and continued with the Congress of Berlin (1878), the Conference of Ambassadors in London (1913), then later with the Versailles Conference and the Paris Peace Conference (1946), after World War II.

The issues of occupation (1913), and the reoccupation of Kosova (1945), were raised alongside it as well.

After more than a century, the Albanian issue had finally become the topic of discussion, but this time because of Kosova, in terms of deciding the fate of the Albanian population in general and Kosova in particular.

During these two centuries, when the Albanian issue was brought to the table of European and world diplomacy, it was because of bloody wars.

It started with the liberation war and the forces of the League of Prizren, until the League's forces were defeated military.

It was at this point that the tables of European diplomacy brought the Albanian lands to market.

When the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia began, the problem of Kosova was worsening and for the Albanian nation, a war of liberation was unavoidable.

After a ten year peaceful resistance of the Kosovar Albanian, led by Dr. Ibrahim Rugova, Serbian regime continued the repression and despotic genocide upon Albanians. The Serbian paramilitary units appeared to be recruiting members and increasing their presence in the region (Kosova).

As a result, small groups of Kosovar guerillas, later to be known as the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA), were formed and began their defensive resistance against the Serbian perpetrations.

Though KLA, led by legendary commander Adem Jashari, was lightly armed, Serbia used it as a pretext, and in turn, practiced full assault into the Albanian civilians.

The massive burnings of villages throughout Kosova were used as pretext against the KLA, while in fact that was against the unarmed populations.

This time the international community took the side of the liberating forces of the Albanian population, partly because they wanted to correct their historical injustices toward Albanians.

Also, in the history of the strongest military forces, the North Atlantic Alliance, or NATO as it is commonly known, for the first time undertook military actions in the air against the Serb military and police station in Kosova, and Serbia in order to prevent and put an end to the tragic war against the ethnic Albanians.

North Atlantic Alliance intervention in Kosova began on March 24, 1999, and it ended on June 12, 1999.

The change of the historical reality in Kosova through the war of liberation influenced change in other areas of the Balkans.

Kosova was liberated in 1999, and declared its independence on February 17, 2008. It is today a sovereign nation, an important factor of peace and stability in the Balkans as well as a loyal ally of the United Stated of America.

Albanians in ancient Europe

BY BAJRAM DOKA

Greek-Latin epigraphy and archeology have afforded significant scientific findings in research into the history of humankind.

Historians, researchers and analysts of Greek-Latin cultures have frequently encountered inscriptions that they could not decipher nor transcribe using Greek or Latin derivatives while conducting research.

This is because these inscriptions are a product of the Pellasgo-Illyrian culture, which has yet to be fully revealed. Ten thousand years ago, when the armies of Atlantis were operating on both shores of the Atlantic Ocean, they attempted to invade the Pelasgians, but were defeated.

This prompts a question regarding whether the Pelasgians passed through Atlantis to the western shores of Atlantic Ocean. Such a movement would explain the many similarities in the cultural identities of the Aztec, Mayan and Incan civilizations of the Amer-indians, and the ancient Greece cultures.

The Goths, who journeyed from the 'Mainland West', inhabited Europe at that time. They inhabited Europe prior to the Trojan exodus.

This supposition is supported by strong evidence in the form of etymological materials, epigraphical, and archaeological findings.

The Osinchani script, which is 6000-7000 years old, and another script found in Sitovo, Bulgaria, are over 4,500 years old and provide witness to an age dominated by European inhabitants who lived in the region long ago before the Trojan exodus and the return to the west of the Dardanians.

The Bosnian pyramids; the Magdalenièn cave paintings in the Franco-Cantabria's region, in Altamira, Spain, in Trois Frères in the south of France, in Masd'Azil; Stonehenge, the Salisbury Plain and other findings and sites of archaeological significance in Europe should not be subjected only to groups of researchers loyal to theological tenets.

While the transcription of inscriptions has been impossible using common epigraphical resources from the Greek and Latin Languages, the application of Albanian linguistic analysis has resulted in effective readings and transcription, based on the assumption of Illyrian ancestry.

The range of mountains in central Europe called the (Julian) Alps retains the same name as the mountains of northern Albania, also called the (Albanian) Alps, and the residents of both these regions are known as Alpines or Albins.

The word 'Alb' is found in many toponyms throughout Europe and the Balkan Peninsula (Illyricum), and also in France, Wales, the UK, Scotland, Sweden, Denmark, Germany, and in the Basque areas of Italy.

Therefore, we see the influx of the culture and history of the Pelasgo-Illyrians and the Alban-Illyrians everywhere in Europe and in surrounding areas (e.g. Asia Minor, Phrygia, Capadocia, Crete, etc.).

SUPPORTING THE ALBANIANS



(L-r) Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., Esad A. Rizai and Governor Andrew Cuomo.



Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. addresses the Albanian community.

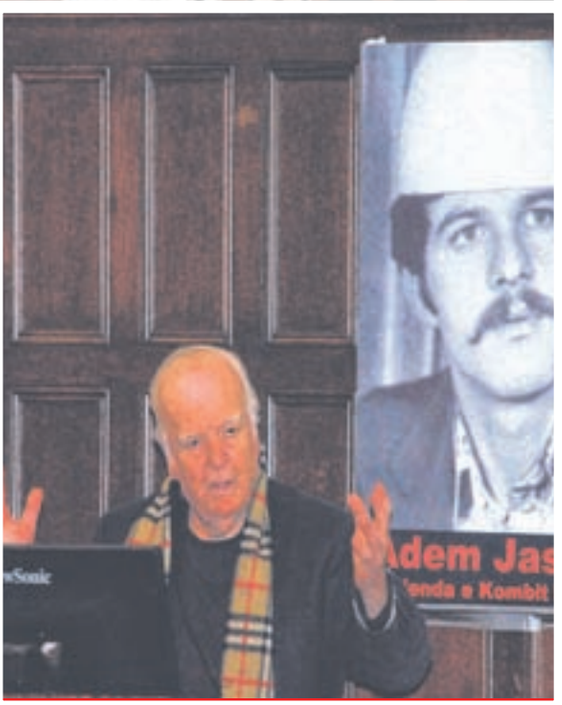
Bronx celebrates Kosova's 8th Anniversary of Independence





Aleksander Nilaj (l), Albanian American Open Hand Association director and his daughter, Annabella Nilaj with Joseph McManus, Bronx Democratic County Committee vice chairman, at Sunday's ceremony.

All Photos by Edwin Soto



Professor Palombo gave a rousing presentation about Kosova's future.

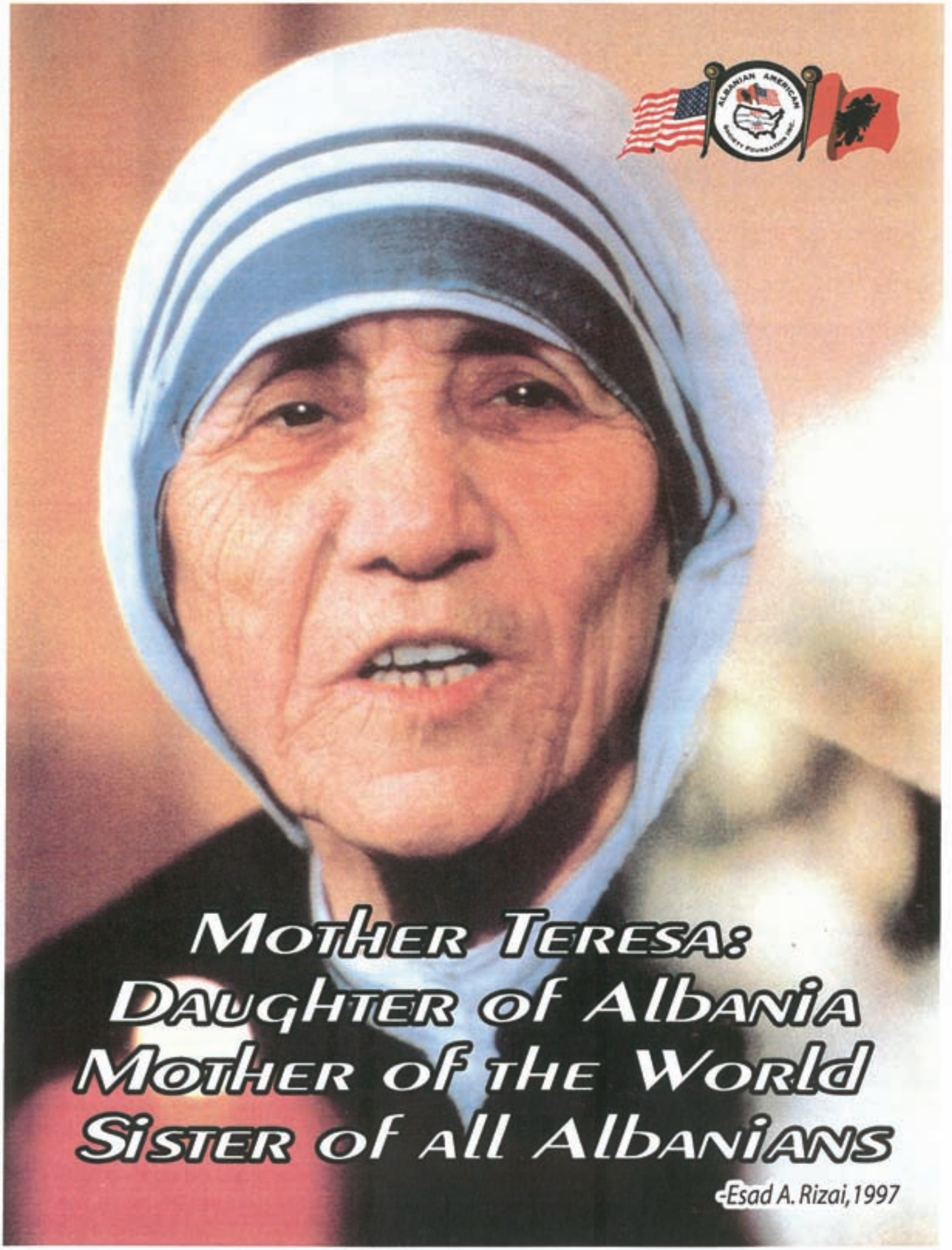
Local leaders and Albanian American community members united in celebrating Kosova's historic independence from Serbia. Hosted by the Albanian American Society Foundation, Sons and Daughters of Albania in America and Fordham University, the Sunday, February 14 event commemorated the 8th anniversary of Kosova's independence by paying tribute to its national heroes Isa Boletini, Adem Jashari, Tahir Sinani and Agim Ramadani. Held inside Keating Hall's first floor auditorium, the yearly ceremony featured distinguished guests from the Albanian American community who participated in a panel discussion regarding the future of the independent nation. In addition, AASF members were presented with proclamations issued by Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. to honor the recently formed nation's distinguished heroes. A live orchestra performed traditional Albanian music.

Below, Professor Palombo (l) was congratulated by Alijaj following the panel discussion.

Below left, Faruk (l), Idriz and Fatmir Hulaj from Merita Halili and the Raif Hyseni Orchestra performed traditional Albanian music at the venue.






ALBANIAN AMERICAN
MOTHER TERESA:
DAUGHTER of ALBANIA
MOTHER of the WORLD
SISTER of all ALBANIANS
-Esad A. Rizai, 1997

Office of the Manhattan Borough President
City of New York

Proclamation

Whereas: *The occasion of the 101st Anniversary of Albanian Independence affords us the opportunity to reflect on the diversity of New York City and the history, heritage, and cultural influence represented by the thousands of Albanian Americans who call this city their home, and*

Whereas: *Hasan Prishtina, originally known as Hasan Berisha, was born in 1873 in Vushtrri, Kosava; and*

Whereas: *In response to the authoritarian rule of the Ottoman government, Hasan Prishtina, along with Isa Boletini and Bajram Curri, founded the Albanian National Movement in Kosava, taking an active role in the Albanian Revolt of 1912; and*

Whereas: *After Albania gained its independence, Hasan Prishtina served as the Minister of Agriculture, and in 1914 served as the minister of postal services under Ismail Qemali; and*

Whereas: *Hasan Prishtina served as Prime Minister of Albania for five days from December 7th to December 12th, 1921, but was forced out of office by Ahmet Zogu, whom he spent the rest of his life attempting to overthrow; and*

Whereas: *Hasan Prishtina died in exile in Thessaloniki, Greece, at the hands of an assassin, and his legacy lives on in Albanian heritage and culture in the form of commemorations and a statue erected in 2012 in Skopje;*

Now therefore, *I, Scott M. Stringer, do hereby recognize the history and the heritage of the thousands of Albanian Americans living in New York City and on the occasion of this 101st Anniversary of Albanian Independence declare this Monday, November 23th, 2013*

"Hasan Prishtina Celebration Day"
in the Borough of Manhattan.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Borough of Manhattan to be affixed.

Scott M. Stringer
President, Borough of Manhattan

Lydig Ave. named Mother Teresa Way April 7, 2009



Esad Rizai, president and founder of the Albanian American Society, felt good about the street being renamed Mother Teresa Way at Lydig and Holland avenues on Tuesday, April 7, 2009. With the help of Councilman Jimmy Vacca, Esad's dream of commemorating the Albanian nun came true . - PHOTO BY VICTOR CHU

THE COUNCIL

CITY OF NEW YORK

Proclamation

Whereas: *The Albanian American Society Foundation and Sons and Daughters of Albania in America work to promote the success of Albanian immigrants in the New York metropolitan area – by far the largest Albanian population in the United States. The Sons and Daughters of Albania in America are dedicated to continuing this extraordinary tradition of patriotism and excellence; and*

WHEREAS: *Xhemshit A. Duriqi was born in the village Obrançë, Kosova. He studied economics in secondary school and at the University of Belgrade. He earned his master's degree in public finance from the University of Zagreb. While at school he founded a center for the distribution of textbooks which later became one of the largest student centers in South Eastern Europe; and*

WHEREAS: *He enlisted in the Yugoslavian army, where conditions were deplorable, especially for Albanians. He was employed in the Secretariat at the Ministry of Finance and then moved to the newspaper publishing company "Rilindja" in Pristina, as Deputy Managing Director and Co-Editor. During his time there, Rilindja experienced rapid transformation and development, becoming the most modern printing house and popular newspaper in the Balkans. It became known as the "Palace of the Press." He doubled the number of workers, and increased their living standards; and*

WHEREAS: *Xhemshit A. Duriqi took the post of Secretary to the budget. There, for the first time in Kosova, he laid the foundations for the design of an independent state budget. With the constitutional changes in the former Yugoslavia, Kosova was granted full autonomy from Yugoslavia in 1974, independent in its economic and financial affairs. Xhemshit A. Duriqi was selected as Minister for Finance for two terms, from 1974 to 1982. After the 1974 constitutional changes in Kosova, he brought his professional knowledge to important sectors of the economy. He was elected Governor of the Central Bank of Kosova. He was renowned as the most successful director of bookkeeping service in the former Yugoslavia, which had more than 24,000 employees; and*

WHEREAS: *In the period from 1991-1999, he resisted the tyrannical regime imposed by Serbia in Kosova. Immediately after the war, he was instrumental in setting up an interim government of Kosova, and performed the task of coordinating a working group on fiscal policy. Also, at this time, he was an advisor to the Minister for Finance in Kosova's provisional government. After the formation of Kosova's various government institutions, he became chairman of a commission assessing the damages of the war in Kosova; and*

WHEREAS: *During the entire period from the end of the war until the Declaration of Independence of Kosova, he was engaged in the preparation of materials and information for discussions with Serbia. He also helped to create the basis for a finance system in Kosova. His knowledge and experience in economics and finance helped to create the modern day financial system in Kosova and ushered in a new era of freedom and independence for all Albanians; now, therefore*

BE IT KNOWN: *That I, Andrew Cohen, Council Member of the 11th District, proudly honor*

Xhemshit A. Duriqi

as a true patriot who represents the best of the Albanian people.

Signed this 22nd day of February in the year Twenty Fifteen.

ANDREW COHEN

IN MEMORY OF ALBANIAN HEROS



ADEM JASHARI (28 November, 1955 – 7 March, 1998). He was born in Drenica, and he is known as one of the founders of the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA), a Kosova Albanian organization which fought for the freedom of Kosovoa, from Serbia. Beginning in 1991, Jashari participated in attacks against the Serbian police before travelling to Albania to receive military training. Arrested in 1993, he was released at the behest of the Albanian Army and later returned to Kosovo, where he continued launching attacks against the Serbian establishment. In July 1997, he was convicted of terrorism in absentia by a Yugoslav court. After several unsuccessful attempts to capture or kill him, Serbian forces launched an attack against Jashari's home in Prekaz in March 1998. The battle that followed resulted in the deaths of 58 members of Jashari's family, including that of Jashari and his wife and son. Seen as the "father of the KLA", Jashari is considered a symbol of Kosovan independence by ethnic Albanians. He was posthumously awarded with the title "Hero of Kosovo" following the disputed territory's declaration of independence in 2008. The National Theatre in Pristina and Pristina International Airport have been named after him.



AGIM RAMADANI (May 3, 1964 - April 11, 1999). He was born in Zhegra Village, in the municipality of Gjilan, in Kosova.He finished his Primary education in his hometown, High School in Gjilan, then he went at the Military Academy, in the major of Communication, in Zagreb, Croatia.Poetry and painting were his passions during his high school. His poetry was published in literary magazines, whereas painting exhibitions were organized in Croatia, where he worked as a military, and in Switzerland, too. After the beginning of the war in Croatia, he moved to Switzerland, where le lived as a political immigrant. In 1998, Ramadani was accepted as a honorary member, at the European Academy of Arts.

He was the first who pulled out the stone pyramid border in Koshare. After breaking the Albanian-Albanian border, he died heroically, on April 11, 1999, at the place called Rrasa e Zogut, in Koshare, in Kosova's territory. Now, Agim Ramadani – "KATANA", is known as one of the most important and famous heroes of the Albanian modern history. And, for that, they raised a a big statue in front of the National Theatre in Gjilan, Kosova. His home country Kosova descended into war as a result of extreme repression measures by the regime of notorious Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. Vezir Ademaj returned to join the local resistance in defense of the civilian population, donating all his savings to the cause and offered his athletic skills to train young people who volunteered to fight and

Although, he had a regulated immigrant status in Switzerland, in 1998, he responded to the call of his homeland KOSOVA and joined the Kosova Liberation Army, (KLA), leaving three children and wife in Switzerland.



TAHIR SINANI (6 May, 1964 – 29 July, 2001). He was born in Gri, near Bujan, Tropoja, Albania. was a leader of Albanian insurgents in Kosova and Macedonia. During the Kosova War, he was a commander in the Kosova Liberation Army (KLA). After the war, he was appointed a commander of the Third Operational Zone of the Kosova Protection Corps.

During the Macedonian Conflict in 2001, he was the commander of the 116 Brigade of the National Liberation Army (NLA). He was killed on 29 July 2001 during the conflict in Macedonia, and after the conflict buried in Prizren, Kosova.



VEZIR ADEMAJ (March 15, 1971 - July 25th 1998). He was born in Sheremetaj Village, near Gjakova, in Kosova, in a house of stone known as Kulla, an architectural gem from the 18th century and a natural fortress for local insurgents against foreign invaders. As a young man, Vezir immigrated to Switzerland to avoid being drafted in the Yugoslavian/Serbian Army, which had committed crimes against humanity in Croatia and Bosnia. And as an immigrant, he worked hard to support his family back in Kosovo and pursued his interest in kickboxing, rising to become champion of Switzerland and then champion of Europe, and his home country Kosovo descended into war as a result of extreme repression measures by the regime of the notorious Serbian dictator Slobodan Milosevic. Vezir Ademaj returned to join the local resistance in defense of the civilian population, donating all his savings to the cause and offered his athletic skills to train young people who volunteered to fight and

The proud Kulla became once again a hub for the underground network for the first units of the nascent Kosova Liberation Army and he was promoted to commander of the Commando Squad of Diversion Unit of the Dukagjini Operating Zone. During the Kosova's war, he was known by the conspiratorial nick name "ALFREDI". The same nick-name he was known while he was kick-boxing in Switzerland. Vezir Ademaj died a hero to the cause, when after an armed battle in Kallavaj, near Junik, on July 25th 1998, he refused to leave a wounded friend behind. The school in Sheremetaj where he once studied and dreamed to become a teacher today bears his name; and the Kulla where his family lived for centuries has become a local history museum of his life and of national resistance and tradition.

Ruben Diaz Jr.

President of the Borough of The Bronx

Presents this

Proclamation

Whereas: *General Isa Boletini (1864 - 1916), eminent patriot, popular strategist, organizer of the leading liberation movements of national unity in Albania, the People's Hero. He was born in the village Boletini of Mitrovica's Municipality, in a patriotic family traditions, and;*

Whereas: *At the age of 17, General Isa Boletini participated as a fighter of the League of Prizren in Battle of Slivova which took place on April 22. 1881 against Ottoman forces. He Supported Hasbi Zeka and other patriots in the establishment of the League of Peja (1899-1900) and its resistance against the Ottoman rulers and chauvinist circuits. In 1901-1902 Isa Boletini was put in charge of popular resistance in Kosovo against the interference of Serbia, Montenegro, Russia and Austria-Hungary in Albania. For this reason he was called to Istanbul, where he was held in isolation until 1906, and;*

Whereas: *General Isa Boletini supported Young Turk Revolution of 1908, was one of the organizers of Ferizaj Assembly in 1908 which played an important role in the promulgation of the Constitution. Isa Boletini led the warriors in battles developed with the Turkish army in areas Shtimle-Carralevë in 1910, supported the anti-ottoman uprising in 1911, led insurgent forces in the Drenica area, Podujeva, Mitrovica and Prishtina in 1912. During the Balkan War in October 1912, he was in charge of leading the armed Albanian volunteers to protect lands against Serb occupiers, and;*

Whereas: *In the early days of independence, at the top of the representatives of Kosovo, alongside Ismail Qemali occurs in Vlora, and actively participated in the organization of the armed forces for the protection of the Provisional Government of Vlora. In 1913, as a member of the Albanian delegation, together with Ismail Qemali went to London, where strongly protested against the decision of the Great Powers for partition of Albania. Later General Isa Boletini went back to Kosovo, where he organized popular resistance against the new occupation from Serbia and Montenegro. In Kosovo, many streets and schools carry his name with pride and respect for his fight for freedom and prosperity of the Albanian people.*

Now therefore, *I, Ruben Diaz Jr., President Borough of the Bronx present this proclamation November 28, 2015 as*

"General Isa Boletini Day in his memory"

Ruben Diaz Jr.

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Ruben Diaz Jr.

President of the Borough of The Bronx

Presents this

Proclamation

Whereas: *The Albanian American Society Foundation and Sons & Daughters of Albanian in America who works to promote the success of Albanian immigrants to the New York City metropolitan area – by far the largest Albanian population in the United States, and;*

Whereas: *The Sons & Daughters of Albanian in America is dedicated to continuing this extraordinary tradition of patriotism and excellence, and;*

Whereas: *The Albanian American Society Foundation and Sons & Daughters of Albanian in America who works to promote the success of Albanian immigrants to the New York City metropolitan area – by far the largest Albanian population in the United States, and;*

Whereas: *The Sons & Daughters of Albanian in America is dedicated to continuing this extraordinary tradition of patriotism and excellence, and;*

Whereas: *We are celebrating the 137th Anniversary of The League of Prizren, which was among the most obvious Albanian reactions to the dramatic withdrawal of the Albanians' imperial patrons, and;*

Whereas: *Abdyl Frashëri was a prominent Hero of Albania. Frasheri was an Albanian Academic, Statesman, diplomat, and politician in the Ottoman Empire. He is one of the first Albanian political ideologues of the Albanian National Awakening being an initiator and prominent Leader of Albanian League of Prizren, and;*

Now therefore, *I, Ruben Diaz Jr., recognize and salute the Heroes of The League of Prizren, like Abdyl Frashëri, who gave their lives for the Independence of Albania.*

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Ruben Diaz Jr.

The Belmont Business Community congratulates our Kosovar Community on their 8th year of independence! we also support our friend and supporter Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj





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Army of Bronx teachers explore career ops

BY TINA M. BELLER, U.S. ARMY PUBLIC AFFAIRS SPECIALIST

For most high school teachers and their students, learning occurs in classrooms outfitted with chalkboards and small desks only youth can really comfortably fit into.

However, soldiers assigned to the U.S. Army Recruiting Company Bronx relocated the classroom to the spacious Bartow Avenue Dallas BBQ where learning about today's Army took on a whole new school of thought for 25 local educators.

"Taking us out of school for this Army event was not only fun, but also it allowed me to focus on the Army's different levels of commitment and how I am better able to advise my students about Army opportunities," said Lauren Wittman, a college advisor employed at the Bronx Arena High School.

While enjoying the Dallas BBQ's trademarked barbecued ribs and chicken, these Army guests were introduced to a career exploration tool called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery that is free to all schools and students, according to Vivian Moss, ASVAB program manager for the U.S. Military Entrance Processing Station New York City.



Presenting career exploration opportunities to an audience of teachers, guidance counselors and school administrators, Vivian E. Moss, the ASVAB Program Manager assigned to Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn, explains how she can bring the ASVAB into Bronx-based schools to better help today's students understand all of their career options based on their individual ASVAB scores.

"Most teachers and school administrators are uninformed about the ASVAB and how this free career exploration tool gives today's kids an introduction to careers and college options," said Moss.

"Plus, when we administer the test for free in high schools, we only require the student's name and school, so we can provide them with their results within seven to 10 business days," she said.

"We do not collect the testers' addresses or phone numbers, which alleviates parents' concerns about Armed Forces recruiters who contact their children via telephone," said Moss, who recommends teachers call her at 718-765-7344 to schedule the ASVAB.

Students who want to understand themselves better, more specifically, their work-related interests, before the ASVAB is scheduled to come to their school, can log onto the ASVAB's FYI (Find Your Interests) page located at: http://www.asvabprogram.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=learn.interests

According to Moss, FYI is an interest inventory that asks the user questions about the types of activities in which he or she is interested. The site helps users find careers that match their interests, aiding users in determining career fields and occupations that are satisfying.

Luncheon participants also observed short presentations by guest speakers from Fordham ROTC and the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Both prestigious organizations offer qualified students various amounts of scholarship dollars in exchange for Army service obligations.

An education at either Fordham University or the U.S. Military Academy at West Point help develop traits like interpersonal skills, leadership and communication, all prized by civilian employers that seek to hire veterans after they've complete their military service.

"Because we realize the Army is a partner in education with our Bronx-based schools, we wanted to engender a positive relationship with these teachers, guidance counselors and administrators about what the Army can offer today's youth," said Army event coordinator Staff Sgt. Jessica M. Jones.

"If you know someone who needs a little direction, a pathway into the U.S. Army through education may be what they need," Jones said.

Staff Sgt. Jones can be reached at (713) 614-1515.

'Give Kids A Smile Day' at Union Community Health Center

Tooth decay, more commonly known as cavities, is one of the most common chronic conditions of childhood in the United States — five times as common as asthma, and seven times as common as hay fever, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Untreated tooth decay can cause pain and infections that may lead to problems with eating, speaking, playing and learning. As a result, more than 51 million school hours are lost each year, leading to increased educational disparities and decreased productivity.

> By participating in the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, members of the dental team, parents, teachers and others can instill healthy oral health habits in children at an early age and keep children's smiles beautiful now and for years to come.
>
> **Dr. Lisa Van Eyndhoven**

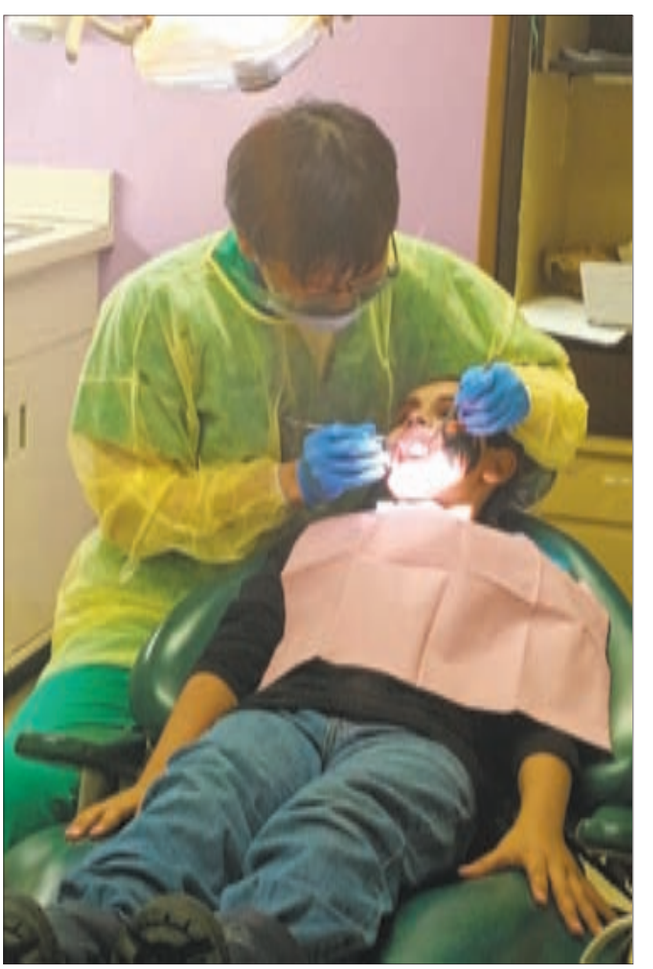
Union Community Health Center (UCHC) seized the opportunity to raise awareness and bring attention to the children's oral health issues by offering free dental screenings throughout the month of February in recognition of National Children's Dental Health Month and hosted a kick-off event on Give Kids A Smile Day, a national program that was created by the American Dental Association.

Attitudes and habits established at an early age are critical in maintaining good oral health throughout life," said Dr. Lisa Van Eyndhoven, pediatric dentist at UCHC. "By participating in the annual celebration of National Children's Dental Health Month, members of the dental team, parents, teachers and others can instill healthy oral health habits in children at an early age and keep children's smiles beautiful now and for years to come."

Capitalizing on a nationwide observance allows UCHC to refocus the community's attention on the importance of good oral health practices among children as to prevent dental issues that can impact their overall health.

To make an appointment today, call (718) 220-2020.

Bronx residents can also visit the dental departments at our 260 E. 188th St and 2021 Grand Concourse locations for a free dental screening throughout the month of February.



Union Community Health Center participates in National Children's Dental Health Month.

Bronx Polar Bears take dip against homelessness



The Bronx Polar Bears had their 2016 annual swim off the icy shores of Orchard Beach on Saturday, February 6. This year's event was 'A Dip Against Homelessness,' and for the second year raised awareness about the plight of the homeless. Among the group braving the cold waters off Orchard Beach are Anna Romanovich, Liga Freimane, Valdis Freimanis, Kim Zirino, Val Rich and Michael Max Knobbe.

Assemblyman Michael Benedetto greets polar bear Jim McDonnell. Photo by Edwin Soto

Liga Freimane (l) and Anna Romanovich relax on the sand and snow. Photo by Edwin Soto

Latoya Cooks (l) and Asia Perez Photo by Edwin Soto

The polar bears gather on the boardwalk for to get ready for their dip. Photo by Edwin Soto

St. Barnabas leader in LBGT patient care

St. Barnabas Hospital (SBH Health System) has been recognized as a "Leader in LGBT Healthcare Equality" by the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) Foundation, the educational arm of the nation's largest lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender civil rights organization.

The findings were part of HRC Foundation's Healthcare Equality Index 2015 - 2016, a unique annual survey that encourages equal care for LGBT Americans, and recognizes healthcare institutions doing the best work. Recognition is based on the following four criteria for LGBT patient-centered care known as the "Core Four:

• Patient Non-Discrimination. Patient non-discrimination policy (or patients' bill of rights) includes the term "sexual orientation" and the term "gender identity." LGBT-inclusive patient non-discrimination policy is communicated to patients in at least two documented ways AND is communicated to staff.

• Equal Visitation. Visitation policy explicitly grants equal visitation to LGBT patients and their visitors and is communicated to patients in at least two documented ways AND is communicated to staff.

• Employment Non-Discrimination. Employment non-discrimination policy (or equal employment opportunity policy) includes the term "sexual orientation" and the term "gender identity," which is communicated to the public in at least one documented way.

• Training in LGBT Patient-Centered Care. The staff receives training in LGBT patient-centered care.

"This is a great honor and a testament to the outstanding work the staff has done in identifying steps we believe needed to be taken and then implementing a meaningful and impactful program," said Len Walsh, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at St. Barnabas Hospital. "This is particularly important in an area like the Bronx, which is so diversified in terms of the culture, traditions, languages and sexual orientation of the people who live and work here."

The Bronx is the poorest county in New York State with approximately 30% of residents living in poverty, and a 12% unemployment rate. According to a study by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the county finished in 62nd and last place in New York State when it comes to health and lifestyle (including access to healthy food, air pollution, smoking rates, obesity, teen births and other factors).

"A person's sexuality should be a critical piece of information a doctor needs, but unfortunately many clinicians are not trained to ask the right questions, and not every LGBT patient feels comfortable disclosing certain information," said Lynette Alvarado, who chairs the hospital's diversity committee, which played a key role in the hospital's achievement. "This recognition shows that St. Barnabas Hospital is a progressive institution that respects the diversity of the patients and families we see here on a day-to-day basis."

Free breastfeeding classes offered for mothers-to-be

St. Barnabas Hospital (SBH Health System) will hold a free breastfeeding class for pregnant women on Wednesday, March 2 at 9 a.m. on the hospital's campus, located at 4422 Third Avenue, in the Braker Building, room 400.

Recent studies have shown that breastfeeding is best for both the baby and mother. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for about six months, followed by continued breastfeeding as complementary foods are introduced, with continuation of breastfeeding for one year or longer as mutually desired by mother and child.

"Breastfeeding and the use of human milk confer unique nutritional and non-nutritional benefits to the infant and the mother and, in turn, optimize infant, child, and adult health as well as child growth and development," said the AAP. "Recently, published evidence-based studies have confirmed and quantitated the risks of not breastfeeding. Thus, infant feeding should not be considered as a lifestyle choice but rather as a basic health issue."

One study, published in the Annals of Oncology, found that breastfeeding reduced the risk of hormone receptor negative tumors, a very aggressive form of breast cancer, by up to 20 percent. This was found even among those new mothers who breastfed for only a short period of time.

A second study, published in the Annals of Internal Medicine, found that those mothers who breastfed cut their risk of developing type 2 diabetes. This was particularly noticeable among women who breastfed for 10 or more months. They cut their risk of diabetes by almost 60 percent.

"As these studies reveal, breastfeeding is a win-win situation for the mother as well as the baby," says Dr. Mark Rosing, chairman of OB/gyn at St. Barnabas Hospital in the Bronx, a hospital which often faces an uphill battle in convincing women of the importance of breastfeeding. "Hopefully, in the Bronx, which perennially scores 62nd and last among New York State counties when it comes to its health, these findings will convince more women of the benefits of breastfeeding."

According to Dr. Rosing, most women are physically capable of nursing their children.

"Many, unfortunately, are nervous or anxious about breastfeeding because they feel they won't have enough milk, which is not usually the case as breastfeeding is a natural process the body is designed to do," he said. "Some are worried about pain or failure for the baby to latch on successfully to the mother's nipple. We need to do a better job of educating and guiding our mothers, starting during pregnancy."

Supplementing the feeding with formula is often the biggest obstacle to breastfeeding.

"Too many babies get formula which interferes with the established normal feeding pattern," said Dr. Rosing. "That's a shame because the biggest – and earliest – gift a mother can give her child is human milk."

Breakfast and lunch will be served. All attendees will receive baby gifts and be entered into a raffle. For more information and to reserve a spot, call (718) 960-6375.

civic center
Waterbury LaSalle Community Assoc.

BY MARY JANE MUSANO

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, March 10 at 7:30 p.m. at P.S. 14. The FDNY will be our guest speaker so it is sure to be an informative meeting. They will speak about fire safety and provide information that will help us keep our family and belongings safe. One of the best ways to do this is to have a smoke detector on each floor of your home. Because this is so crucial to fire safety, our guest speaker will be bringing free smoke detectors.

Dues

Thank you to our members that have already sent in their dues. If you have not yet done so, please send your dues of $10 to 1145 Hobart Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461.

Dues are expected on January 1 of each year. We will wait until Monday. February 29 for your check. If it is not received by that date we must cancel your subscription to the Bronx Times Reporter. We just cannot afford to do otherwise.

We ask that you tell your friends and neighbors about us. Tell them that joining our association is one way to keep our community the best it can be.

We can help them network when there is a problem and keep them informed of what is happening in our neighborhood.

If they read the Bronx Times Reporter it makes sense to join us because a subscription to the BTR would be $15, but it is included with our dues. Now, that is a great deal!

April Meeting

We are working with Senator Jeff Klein's office to get a speaker from the attorney general's office. The attorney general is the people's attorney. This office is chock full of information that can protect us from fraud, identity theft and other crimes that seem prevalent in today's world.

May Meeting

In May, we will not be meeting at P.S. 14 because there is a school event on the evening that we were scheduled to meet.

So, in place of that meeting we are working with Klein's office to have a Bingo night. Stay tuned to our column for the details.

We hope to see all of you at the March 10 meeting.

civic center
Country Club Civic Association

BY MICHAEL P. MCNERNEY

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting location is the Villa Maria Academy Cafeteria.

Our planned guest speaker will be from the NYC Department of Sanitation.

The association can be reached via mail at P.O. Box 211, Bronx, NY 10465.

Please remember,:

"Take pride in your community; your home extends beyond your property line!"

HEALTHY HEARTS, HAPPY HEARTS AT MONTEFIORE MEDICAL CENTER

On February 4, The Montefiore Einstein Center for Heart and Vascular Care kicked off their Heart Month activities at the Moses Campus with a ceremony, followed by a group walk of the 'Montefiore Mile,' an indoor one mile track. This month, a variety of free events will be available to communities in the Bronx and Westchester, including free heart screenings, healthy eating and cooking demonstrations, and educational talks.



Montefiore leadership members and staff walk the 'Montefiore Mile' to signify the beginning of Heart Month — Victor Chu

RIVERA'S BLACK HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION

Senator Gustavo Rivera, Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson and Assemblyman Michael Blake co-hosted a Black History Month celebration on Saturday, February 6 at the Claremont Neighborhood Center to honor outstanding community members. Under this year's theme of 'keeping our community's healthy', the celebration also hosted local health organizations which provided participants with health information, tips on preventative measures and an array of free health screenings.



Senator Rivera, Councilwoman Gibson and Assemblyman Blake stand with a group of Phi Sigma Chi performers. Photo courtesy of Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office



Joanne Allers from Local 372 (c) was honored by Senator Rivera and the event's co-sponsors Councilwoman Gibson and Assemblyman Blake. Photo courtesy of Senator Gustavo Rivera's Office

CALVARY HOSPITAL RAISES FUNDS

The New York Chapter Knights of Columbus hosted their Communion Mass and Breakfast Benefit for Calvary Hospital on Sunday, February 7. The hospital hosted 170 people at the 36th annual event sponsored by the local chapter. The chapter presented a check for $18,500 to Timothy Barr, executive vice president of the Calvary Fund. To date the NY chapter has raised more than $1 million for the hospital.



(l-r) Carmine Musumeci, state deputy of New York; John Sweeney, treasurer, New York Chapter; Joseph Kearns, president, New York Chapter; Timothy Barr, executive vice president, Calvary Fund and John McArdle, NYS Council. Calvary Hospital

BLIND ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION HOSTS TOURNAMENT

The Eastern Athletic Association for the Blind Tourmament took place on January 30 at the New York Institute for Special Education in Pelham Parkway. 30 visually impaired and blind students from schools along the East Coast participated in cheerleading and wrestling competitions.



Participants from the Governor Morehead School in Raleigh, N.C., known as "The Chargers", await their turn to compete. Edwin Soto

BronxWorks opens at Bronxchester Houses

BronxWorks, together with Triborough Preservation Partners, a partnership of L+M Development Partners, Preservation Development Partners, and NYCHA, announced the opening of BronxWorks at Bronxchester Houses. The new office offers comprehensive and holistic services to children, young adults, families and seniors with the goal of improving the socio-economic conditions of the Bronxchester community.

The BronxWorks at Bronxchester programming includes afterschool and summer camp programs for children aged 6 to 12, workforce development services for working-age adults and senior services. All services will be available to residents and other Bronxchester community members.

"We are happy to announce BronxWork's new office at Bronxchester," said BronxWorks executive director Eileen Torres. "Through our partnership with Triborough Preservation, we are offering the vital resources residents need to improve their economic and social well-being. From toddlers to seniors, we are providing the necessary tools and improving opportunities for success."

"As partners in the revitalization of Bronxchester, we knew our work here would go beyond renovating units," said Debbie Kenyon, vice chair and senior partner at L+M Development Partners. "We are proud to call ourselves partners of BronxWorks, whose comprehensive approach to programming reflects L+M's mission to holistically build up communities. We look forward to seeing more and more residents get involved with the various BronxWorks programs and services."

The team is working with BronxWorks to implement the overall programming following Triborough Preservation's rehabilitation and preservation of affordable housing units at Bronxchester and other NYCHA properties. Workforce development services will include job readiness prep, resume writing and interview workshops, and job referrals. Senior services will include classes and workshops in arts and crafts, computer training, health and wellness programs, and informational sessions regarding city services.

The program's afterschool and summer camp components are funded by the New York City Department of Youth and Community Development. Afterschool services will include on homework help, academic enrichment and recreational activities.

The event included a grand opening ceremony attended by local elected officials including Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Greene and Assemblyman Michael Blake. BronxWorks also held a sign-up session for Bronxchester residents to discuss the new community programming and to learn how they can access it.

"Partnerships such as this are vital as we continue to improve our borough," said Deputy Bronx Borough President Aurelia Greene. "We have seen decreases in unemployment and improvements in education but we must continue to build on those successes. Community programming is crucial to providing Bronxchester with the tools they need to improve their education and careers. BronxWorks and the Triborough Preservation's work to reinvigorate the Bronxchester Houses and the neighborhood are very much welcomed and appreciated by the community."



(l-r) Jean Smith, Bronxworks board of directors member; John Weed, BronxWorks assistant executive director; Eileen Torres, BronxWorks executive director; Debbie Kenyon, L+M Development Partners vice chairwoman, Deputy Borough President Aurelia Greene and Steven Berisha, C&C Management general manager cut the ribbon for the new Bronxchester office. Photo by Walter Pofeldt

"I am proud to stand with BronxWorks and Triborough Preservation Partners as they announce a new office opening at the Bronxchester houses, said Assemblyman Michael Blake. "This partnership will bring us one step closer to realizing our vision of economic development, education and equality for all residents in the 79th Assembly District. The intergenerational services provided by BronxWorks will undoubtedly have a positive impact on the lives of children, young adults, families and seniors in our community. We welcome BronxWorks to our district and look forward to working together to ensure Bronxchester residents have the resources needed to improve their socio-economic conditions. This partnership demonstrates that we are truly building a better Bronx."

Voter awareness programs featured on BronxNet

BronxNet is providing Bronx voters with important information as they head to the polls to vote in the 17th Council District Special Election. BronxNet is helping to make it possible for more Bronxites to hear directly from the candidates with The NYC Votes Video Voter Guide and the BronxTalk on BronxNet CD17 Debate.

Six candidates participated in the BronxTalk Debate, moderated by veteran host Gary Axelbank, on February 12th at BronxNet's studio at Lehman College.

Participating candidates are: Rafael Salamanca, Julio Pabon, George A. Alvarez, Marlon M. Molina, Rev. J. Loren Russell and Joann Otero.

The NYC Votes Video Voter Guide debuts on BronxNet this Saturday, February 13, and the BronxTalk on BronxNet CD17 Debate will be televised weekdays beginning Monday, February 15 at 9 p.m. on BronxNet Channel 67 on Optimum and Channel 33 on Verizon FiOS.

BronxNet will also continue televising the previously recorded, Nos Quedamos CD 17 Candidate Forum at Pregones Theater.

Residents may also learn more about the special election on the BronxNet website www.bronxnet.org, and interact via social media with @BronxNetTV and @BronxTalk, and by using the hashtags #CD17 #Bronx.

Council District 17 includes: Bronx River, West Farms, Morrisania, Crotona Park East, Melrose, Longwood, Hunts Point, East Tremont, Mott Haven, and Soundview. City Council special elections are nonpartisan and there are no run-offs, meaning or no party primaries.

Anyone who can make the ballot is in, and the candidate who earns the most votes wins.

"Encouraging civic participation and helping to foster an informed public is at the core of BronxNet's mission to serve the people of the Bronx," said BronxNet executive director Michael Max Knobbe. "We are proud to partner with NYC Votes in producing and televising The Video Voter Guide for CD17 to help raise voter awareness. BronxNet-produced programming such as the CD 17 BronxTalk Debate co-sponsored by The League of Women Voters, the NYC Votes Video Voter Guide, interviews on Dialogo Abierto, OPEN and more, contextualize the issues, deliver a forum for ideas, and contribute to voter education."



BronxTalk Debate, hosted by Gary Axelbank.

BronxNet is the independent not-for-profit organization serving the people of the Bronx through the provision of media production training, access to technology, and cable television channels. BronxNet programs six channels – 33, 34, 35, 36, 37 and 38 on the Verizon FiOs system and four channels – 67, 68, 69 and 70 – on the Cablevision system in the Bronx. BronxNet's ultra-local programming helps connect the Bronx with the world while our training programs and partnerships are a part of community development through media.

For ifurther nformation on BronxNet's programs and services visit: www.bronxnet.org

WCS' RICH GLASS NEGATIVE ARCHIVE TO BE REHOUSED

The Wildlife Conservation Society Archives has received a grant from the New York State Program for the Conservation and Preservation of Library Research Materials to rehouse photographic negatives dating back to the founding of the Bronx Zoo and the New York Aquarium.

The $16,674 grant will enable WCS to rehouse glass plate and film negatives that would otherwise be susceptible to damage and deterioration. The images, dating from the Bronx Zoo's founding in 1899 through approximately 1930, will be cleaned and properly rehoused for long-term preservation. Although the entire collection requires rehousing, this project focuses on the first 12,000 negatives in the collection of more than 70,000.

"This is an important foundational step in the preservation of the historically significant collection," said Dr. Madeleine Thompson, WCS Institutional Archivist and Digital Resources manager. "Building off this project, we hope to rehouse the entire photo collection in the years to come and eventually digitize the negatives to make the collection more accessible as a historic and educational resource."

The images show exceptional historic views of the Bronx Zoo and the New York Aquarium including the first animals housed there, early exhibits, staff, visitors, and some international locations where WCS, then named the New York Zoological Society, undertook fieldwork. The subjects depicted in these photos demonstrate the significant physical and cultural changes that have occurred though WCS's history. In addition, the images show how animal care practices and exhibit standards, along with the zoo grounds, have evolved with time.



A Kodiak Bear and his keeper share a moment at the Bronx Zoo in 1905. Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society



A herd of axis deer (or chital) at the Bronx Zoo in October 1907.

Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society



Bison with theiir young at the Bronx Zoo in July 1907. In October 1907, just months after this photo was taken, the American Bison Society would ship 15 bison from the Bronx Zoo's herd to the Wichita Game and Forest Reserve in Oklahoma, which was the first step in a successful multi-year effort to repopulate the bison in the midwest.

Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society



Visitors gather around the Bronx Zoo's Sea Lion Pool in 1905. Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society



Visitors gather in front of the Bronx Zoo's Lion House on a Sunday in August 1905.

Photo courtesy of the Wildlife Conservation Society

KLEIN'S VALENTINE FOR VETS AT VA HOSPITAL

Senator Jeff Klein with Miss USA 2015 Olivia Jordan and local students honor ed the borough's veterans during the senator's 21st annual 'Valentine's for Veterans' celebration last Wednesday, February 10 at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center. Klein distributed more than 500 Valentine's Day cards and gift bags to the veterans which the senator, Jordan and students prepared. The donated items included stationery, pens and pencils, books, playing cards, toiletries and handkerchiefs.



(l-r) Senator Klein, Miss USA Olivia Jordan and P.S. 105 students paid tribute to the borough's veterans last Wednesday. Photo courtesy of Senator Jeff Klein's Office

C-SPAN BUS VISISTS MOUNT ST. MICHAEL

C-Span's Campaign 2016 bus visited Mount St. Michael Academy on Thursday, February 11. The campaign bus travels the country visiting schools, universities and political events to engage people about multimedia programming that the cable television channel produces about the American political process. The tour that visited the Mount is called the Road to the White House Tour.



Twelfth grade students at Mount St. Michael stand in front of the bus with their president Peter Corritori and Vanessa Torres from C-Span. Photo by Edwin Soto



La'Shawna Saint-Preux and Vanessa Torres, both of C-Span, speaking about multimedia with seniors (l-r) Justin Davila, Daniel Figueroa, Brian Costello, Jason Ciprian and Charlee Garcia. Photo by Edwin Soto



GILDED AGE OF GLAMOUR AT BARTOW-PELL

An exhibition entilted 'Gilded Age Glamour: Fashions from the Bartow-Pell Collection' opened to the public Saturday, February 13, at the Bartow-Pell Mansion. The event hightlighted unique pieces from the museum's collection from the Gilded Age (c. 1870-1900) in American history, which was associated with opulence and luxury particularly when it came to clothing.Men, women, and children's garments as well as period fashion illustrations were on display.

{ictured, The decadence of the Gilded Age is exemplified by this beautiful white dressing gown, worn by women in the late 1800s. Edwin Soto



A period style gown is shown next to a display of what a dining room table would look like in the late 1800s Edwin Soto



A bedroom on display at the Gilded Glamour exhibit. Edwin Soto

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Each with purchase of 3 bottles



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Glenmorangie 10
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Each with purchase of 3 bottles



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$32.99 1.75l
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Baldor's participates in Bronx H.I.R.E. Fair

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce and Bronx Community Board 2 hosted a successful interview fair with Baldor Specialty Foods on Friday at The Hunts Point Recreational Center. Nearly 100 job seekers attended the fair and interviewed for 120 positions in divisions such as human resources, accounting, driving, customer service, and more.

"I am happy to partner with businesses, such as Baldor Specialty Foods, to identify new job openings and connect local residents with these employment opportunities," said Senator Klein. "Tonight we experienced an amazing turnout in a focused environment and our skilled workforce had very successful interviews. Bronx H.I.R.E. job seekers have gone through aptitude testing, participated in resume writing classes, attended interview skill workshops, and received other workforce development assistance."

"The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is proud to partner with Senator Jeff Klein's Bronx H.I.R.E. program and work with businesses to identify job openings and connect local residents with available jobs such as today's Baldor Specialty Foods Interview Fair. The Bronx Chamber will continue to spearhead local job fairs with Bronx businesses for applicants and employers to meet in a focused setting," said Nunzio del Greco, president and CEO of The Bronx Chamber of Commerce.

"Baldor is thrilled to partner with Senator Klein and the Bronx Chamber of Commerce on their H.I.R.E. initiative. We interviewed hundreds of job seekers from the local community at the H.I.R.E. career fair. As a Bronx-based company that is experiencing tremendous growth, we are grateful for any opportunity to invest in workers from the Bronx and create a brighter future for our borough, " said Mike Muziak, president of Baldor Speciality Foods.

The Bronx H.I.R.E. program works to provide job candidates with the resources, skills, and support they need to succeed in today's job market. Bronx H.I.R.E (Help Identify Real Employment) is a unique jobs program aimed at connecting Bronx workers with real jobs through a comprehensive, direct approach. Job seekers are offered certifications in an array of industries and are offered workforce development training. The Bronx H.I.R.E. program is made possible through a grant secured by Senator Klein.



(L-r) Mike Muziak,president of Baldor Specialty Foods; Nunzio del Greco, president and CEO of The Bronx Chamber of Commerce; Senator Jeff Klein; Larry Robinson, chair of Youth Services for Bronx Community Board 2; and Josephine Infante, president of The Hunts Point Chamber of Commerce, host a successful interview fair.

civic center

Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Assoc.

BY STEVEN GLOSSER AND LOUIS G. LUTNICK

The Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Febuary 9 at Bronx House. Our special guest speaker this month was NIDC director of Housing and Development Hazel Muira.

Muira gave the packed assembly a thorough detailed presentation about NIDC and how NIDC can be used as a resource for renters. The NIDC (Neighborhood Initiatives Development Corp.) is a non-profit organization which assists neighborhood alliances, tenants, in rent stabilized and rent controlled apartments. Some other programs they offer include after school programs and assisting with tenant and landlord disputes.

Muira explained that a lease is a binding contract with the landlord that entitles a tenant to services such as heat, hot water, functioning elevators, maintenance, and security. If the landlord is not upholding their part of the agreement by denying these services, the tenant has various courses of action which they can take. Foremost of which is withholding of rent.

It is recommended that the tenant goes through the proper route when withholding rent. They must notify the landlord in writing of the service being denied and that they are withholding rent because of it. Then it is recommended that a tenant put their monthly rent in an escrow or other bank account so that once the matter goes to court the tenant can show the judge that rent can be paid if service is rendered.

You should always liaison with the NIDC office for guidance before withholding rent so you can be sure you follow proper procedures. Her contact info is hmiura@nidcny.org or you can call her office at (718) 231-9800.

Muira urges all buildings to have a tenants association who can act as a go between for tenants and their landlord. If management is not maintaining a building properly than perhaps one way of solving it is by requesting a new property manager from the landlord. Perhaps the landlord may not know the details of how his property is being managed.

As a last resort tenants have the option of taking landlords to Housing Court for lack of repairs or maintenance on a building. If a renter goes this route it is important to have all your complaints documented. Remember it is up to the renter to have proof of what service is not being properly provided.

Tenants may also apply for a rent reduction through NIDC until repairs are done. This can be important tool for tenants as landlords would not want to lose part of the money they are owed for rent. For buildings in need of elevator repairs landlords are allowed 40 days to repair the elevator. If they fail to do so it is required by law for the city to repair the elevator and bill the landlord the price of repairs. This is a new law recently introduced by our Councilman James Vacca that was signed into law in order to insure that tenants would have access to elevators.

All co-op apartments owners must get an itemized bill to present to the property manager for any reimbursement. Regarding handicap accessibility even if there is one handicap tenant in the building it is a mandate to have a functioning modern ramp. In order for a landlord to put up the ramp they must be informed by a tenant for the necessity of one. If refused a landlord can be in violation of the law and a tenant can call NIDC to take up the matter.

Miura also addressed the topic of noisy tenants. It is the building owners' responsibility to provide a peaceful apartment and to allow co-existence among neighbors. Hazel also educated us on the meaning of 'preferential rent' which is a rent which an owner agrees to charge that is lower than the legally regulated rent that the owner could lawfully collect.

Miura explained to the audience the many types of various programs offered by the city to homeowners to save money. There are two types of STAR exemptions. One is a Basic STAR program which is available for owner-occupied primary residences where the resident owners and their spouses income is less than $500,000. It exempts the first $30,000 of the full value of a home from school taxes.

The second is the Enhanced STAR program which provides an increased benefit for senior citizens age 65 or older with qualifying incomes. Enhanced STAR exempts the first $65,300 of the full value of a home from school taxes as of 2016/2017 school tax bills. Both these forms may be obtained thru the website at www.tax.ny.gov/forms/orpts/star/html.

There is also the SCRIE program. The program is for seniors who can have their rent frozen and be exempt from future rent increases. Requirements are you must be 62 years old, rent an apartment that is regulated by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal which is already rent controlled or an rent stabilized apartment or hotel stabilized and the total annual household income must be $50,000 or less and pay more than a third of the households total monthly income for rent. Landlords are given a property tax abatement credit applied to their property tax bill in the same amount as the increase that the tenant is exempt from paying.

The DRIE program is the Disability Rent Increase Exemption. NYC rent freeze program is an exemption against future rent increases for eligible disabled persons living in rent controlled, rent stabilized Mitchell-Lama and other eligible apartments. Applicants must meet certain eligibility requirements for DRIE benefits which are similar to the SCRIE program.

Landlords of DRIE tenants will receive tax credits to make up the difference between the frozen rent and what DRIE tenants would be paying without the benefit. The forms may be obtained through the website www.nyc.gov/rent or by calling 311. Miura encourages everyone to apply for these programs based on eligibility.

On Monday, Febuary 22 from 5 to 7 p.m. Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj's office will be giving away free smoke/CO alarms at his district office located at 1126 Pelham Parkway South on the corner of Williamsbridge Road.

In addition NYC Comptroller Scott Stringer will be hosting a Town Hall for the community on Thursday, March 31 at 6:30 p.m. at Bronx House, 990 Pelham Parkway South. He cordially invites all to attend.

The PPNA thanks Muira and all who attended February's monthly meeting. The next meeting of the Pelham Parkway Neighborhood Association will be Tuesday, March 8, at Bronx House at 7 p.m. It is up to everyone to be a part of the community. The PPNA works year round to improve the quality of life in the Pelham Parkway community.

Bronx: Africa opening reception held

BY ROBERT WIRSING

A new art exhibit is exploring African culture's impact on the Bronx and its many residents.

Presented by Bronx Council on the Arts and Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos, 'Bronx: Africa' is a four month celebration of Africa and the Diaspora featuring contemporary art across all disciplines.

A multi-disciplinary exploration of the art, expressions and influences of African cultures, Bronx: Africa's exhibition and programs opened on Wednesday, February 3 with an open reception and will continue through Wednesday, May 4.

The opening reception featured works by artists Seyi Adebanjo, Laylah Amatullah Barrayn, Howard Cash, Elvira Clayton, Dennis RedMoon Darkeem, Lisa DuBois, Nicky Enright, Janet Goldner, Ijeoma Iheanacho, Imo Imeh, Hakim Inniss, Natasha Johnson, Ahmed Tijay Mohammed, Nontsikelelo Mutiti, Ibou Ndoye, Eric Orr, Eto Otitigbe, Thurston Randall, Ibrahima Thiam, Osaretin Ugiagbe. Misra Walker and Tammy Wofsey displayed in the gallery.

In addition, online displays by Olaniyi Akindiya, Kenneth Anderson and Ray Felix will exhibited during Bronx: Africa's duration.

This exhibit explores and celebrates the influence of contemporary African cultures in the Bronx and reinforces connections among the borough's many residents of African descent, mixed heritage and migration dispersion.

Located at 450 Grand Concourse, the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday noon to 5 p.m. and by appointment. Admission for Bronx: Africa is free and open to the public.

For more information, contact Bronx Council on the Arts at (718) 931-9500 or visit www.bronxarts.org/bronxafrica.asp and www.bronxarts.org/lag.asp.



Bronx: Africa's various contributing artists at Wednesday, February 3's opening reception. Photo by Robert Benimoff



Bronx artist Natasha Johnson stands next to her work, 'The Cutting: 1 of 4' from the 'Operation Intersection' series.
Photo by Robert Benimoff



Nigerian artist Imo Imeh displays his mixed media on canvas, 'Flying Home with Laura Nelson'. Photo by Robert Benimoff



Dennis RedMoon Darkeem stands alongside his masterpiece, 'Keeper'. Photo by Robert Benimoff



Exhibition curator LeRonn Brooks (l), executive director Deirdre Scott and curator of public programming Atim Annette Oton were present for Bronx: Africa's opening reception.
Photo by Robert Benimoff



Visitors mingle with artists while others view the various works on display inside the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos.
Photo by Robert Benimoff

Community Action civic Association

BY FRANK V. VERNUCCIO, JR.

The key issue of this year's presidential contest may not be who the candidates are, the weak economy, or the hazardous condition of America's national security. Increasingly, it appears that the integrity of the election process itself may be the most contentious topic to arise in the 2016 race.

Recently, as reported in the Free Beacon Ann Ravel, the former chair and current member of the Federal Election Commission stated (at a conference in Canada, interestingly enough) that the "United States political system benefits wealthy white men," and "criticized the system by saying it is set up in such a way that makes it difficult for women and minorities to succeed."

FEC member Ravel's comments are not isolated words. They are part of an overall strategy to create a smokescreen for attempts to alter election results through a combination of election day antics, registration fraud, and opposition to voter id. Commissioner Ravel's comments are designed to give cover to a bevy of approaches that seek to overcome the advantage Republicans have demonstrated in recent elections, and that the GOP is expected to have in response to anger over the dismal results of the Obama Administration's policies at home and abroad, as well as (if Hillary is the candidate) dismay over rampant ethical issues or (if Sanders is the candidate) a rejection of a blatant socialist message.

Many factors in illegal voting and registration are in play, particularly with the increase in illegal immigration, allowing noncitizens to obtain driver's licenses and "motor voter" rules in many states that offer voter registration when applying for a license.

The NOLO legal website notes: "Due to the Motor Vehicle Act of 1993 (also known as the 'Motor Voter Act'), states are required to provide people with the opportunity to register to vote when they apply for or renew their driver's licenses. However, while a minority of states ask for proof of citizenship at the time of voter registration, employees in most states may not inquire about citizenship status before asking noncitizens if they desire to register to vote… some noncitizens are misinformed about their eligibility to vote. For example, a campaign worker may tell you that permanent residents (green card holders) may register to vote, even when they are not eligible, or a canvasser may knock on your door to ask you to register and give you incorrect information."

Legitimate questions continue to go unanswered. Some proficiency in English is required for citizenship, but some states print ballots in numerous languages. Why?

Intelligentuspolitics.com reports: "Dozens of lawsuits have been filed by the Obama Justice Department, the Democrat Party, the Clinton campaign and various other groups … Their primary and continuing objective has been to convince the electorate that there is no voter fraud, an objective with which they have had moderate success. To understand the magnitude of this effort, perform a Google exact-match search for the phrase 'voter fraud is a myth.' Google has 3,940 articles in their index that use that exact phrase. What are the odds? That is a great deal of content with the exact same phrase and message.

Their secondary goal has been to convince voters that voting rules of any kind constitute Republican voter suppression… Again looking at search trends, in the last eight years, 'Republican voter suppression' produces 11,500 exact-match Google search results and 'GOP voter suppression' produces 15,100 exact-match search results. Their most aggressive efforts are dedicated to opposing maintenance of voter registration rolls and opposing voter ID laws. These initiatives pose a very real threat to successful voter fraud. Democrats combine media bombardment with a mind boggling assortment of frivolous lawsuits to oppose voter ID laws."

Reason.comreports: "In a 2015 study that is currently under review, Lindsay Nielson—a political scientist at the University of San Diego—parses the effects of stricter voter ID laws on the voting patterns of the young, the elderly, the poor, and racial minorities [in general elections]. …Nielson finds that "there is little evidence that racial minorities are less likely than whites to vote when states institute voter identification requirements." … There is also "no statistically significant gap in estimated turnout [between high-income and low-income voter] when the identification law becomes stricter."

The U.S. Supreme Court, in its 2008 upholding of the constitutionality of Indiana's voter identification law, stated that obvious examples of voter fraud exist throughout U.S, history. The Heritage Foundation notes that the "Nonpartisan Commission on Federal Election Reform, chaired by former President Jimmy Carter and former Secretary of State James Baker, found that our 'electoral system cannot inspire public confidence if no safeguards exist to deter fraud or to confirm the identity of voters."

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civic center
Samuel Young Legion Post 620

BY PAUL GOLLUSCIO

Hello all!

I'm back. Had trouble with the old computer, had to be put down! This one works. I'm still getting used to the fact that I don't have to wait for it to thaw.

The last post meeting went very well. Stuff actually got done. Next one is on Saturday, March 5 at 1 p.m.

We are still looking for new members. So is the S.A.L.

Our gift raffle is going well. Odds are better than the Lottery. Twenty-five tickets are sold, so you have a one in 25 chance to win.

Work is getting started in the meeting room. Leak is fixed, and cieling is to be replaced.

Non-perishable food stuffs and used clothing collection is still in effect. You know the drill, If no one in, leave donations on the table inside the fence at the Ericson Place side of the building. Thanks again.

I've had inquiries regarding donations to veteran's assistance organizations. The best thing to do is to log on to 'Charity Navigator', type in the organization in question and read.

The Sons of the American Squadron 156 in keeping with a long standing tradition is having a Pigs' Knuckle Party on Saturday, February 27 from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Hawkins Post on City Island. Cost is $30 per male person. This gets you: appetizers, Pete's potato soup, knockwurst, bratwurst, Pigs' Knuckle, tap beer, wine, soda and coffee. This is limited to 50 persons. More info? Call (718) 885-0639. Have fun.

Trivia Time

Honest Abe was born on February 12, 1809.

The NAACP was founded on February 12, 1909.

On the same date in 2006, NYC received 26.9" of snow.

February 14, 1929, saw the Valentine's Day Massacre.

The USS Maine was sunk on February 15, 1898. Remember Her?

Keep the troops in your prayers, take a vet to lunch and God bless.

civic center
Morris Park Community Assoc.

BY AL D'ANGELO

Are we losing our minds?

The City Council, our City Council not a third world City Council, is proposing decriminalizing many quality of life crimes and forgiving those with outstanding warrants.

Doesn't it bother anyone that 700,000 warrants are outstanding? Not only did they break the law they refused to pay the fines and the City Council is ready to say "it's ok we'll just forget about it." That's not a very positive message for those who obey the law and face their responsibilities. What message are you sending our young people about responsibility by allow them to shirk their's?

Call me a prude but I don't want my family subjected to this crude behavior. Our neighbors have the right to expect the city to protect their right to enjoy their homes and their communities. The best way to lose the middle class is to diminish their quality of life and that Ms. Speaker has nothing to do with race. It has to do with wanting a better life for our children no matter what their color.

We in Morris Park sweep in front of our houses share driveways have block parties, help and watch out for each other. When graffiti, loud music late in the evening or other quality of life issues infringe on our happiness, we expect the police to help us rectify the situation by enforcing the laws that you wish to do away with.

The Morris Park Association has worked for 40 years to make sure the people of this community can raise their families in safe nurturing environment and as a result we have a community we can be proud of.

How about this scenario Madam Speaker: A group of individuals are sitting on your front steps listing to loud music drinking, smoking and urinating on your doorstep, since it is no longer a crime, what do you do, bring them out snacks? Civilized society must be held to a standard of rules of good behavior. Those rules should not be eliminated; they should be strengthened in our schools and in our homes.

We urge the City Council to vote against this matter and we ask our neighbors to let our elected officials know how you feel. Our next meeting is Wednesday, February 24. Our Meeting on Wednesday, March 2 will be to discuss the Emergency room at Montefiore (Einstein) Hospital. Officials from the hospital as well as our elected will be in attendance. That meeting will begin at 6:30 a.m.

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Selenie Villar, Program Coordinator, 718-829-1564 EXT 2
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Sex offenders: the one group we love to torment



RHYMES WITH CRAZY

Lenore Skenazy

One day after Pres. Obama signed legislation that will brand the passports of sex offenders last week, a federal court challenge was filed against it.

The International Megan's Law is supposedly a way to alert foreign countries to sex offenders who may be traveling there for sex tourism or trafficking purposes. Of course, who isn't against sex trafficking? We all are! But branding people's passports isn't going to do any good. The U.S. State Department itself found that the law's rationale is "very misleading." And after conducting a study, the General Accounting Office "found no evidence that the offenders used their passports to commit sex offenses abroad."

Got that? No. Evidence.

But heck — what's a complete lack of evidence compared to political grandstanding? The bill was sponsored by Rep. Chris Smith (R–NJ) and passed both houses with only a single, brave lawmaker, Rep. Bobby Scott (D–VA), speaking out against it. He said that he endorsed the bill's provisions to notify foreign countries about sex offenders' travel plans, but was repulsed by the idea of the "unique passport identifier" — government-speak for passport branding.

"It is simply bad policy to single out one category of offenses for this type of treatment," Scott told the House. "We do not subject those who murder, who defraud the government or our fellow citizens of millions and billions, or who commit acts of terrorism to these restrictions."

Terrorists? Pffft. It is only sex offenders who must declare their past deeds this way. And that is what the court challenge is hinged upon.

"We don't want those 'identifiers' on anybody's passport," says lawyer Janice Bellucci, president of the group California Reform Sex Offender Laws, who is filing the federal challenge on behalf of four sex offenders. "Our strongest argument is that it violates the First Amendment, because that 'unique identifier' is compelled speech."

In other words, "The government is making you say something you don't want to say."

Bellucci has been down this legal road before. Twice she argued against California towns forcing sex offenders to put "No trick-or-treating" signs on their doors, and twice she won. A third time she sued the California Department of Corrections for the same thing. The department had told registrants they had to put that sign on their doors on Halloween. And if they didn't have a home and lived in a tent, well by golly, they had to put a "No trick-or-treating" sign on their tent flap. And if they were living in a sleeping bag at the side of the road, they had to put a "No trick-or-treating" sign on their sleeping bag, too.

Presumably this would help fend off the hordes of children seeking bite-size Snickers from the homeless. Bellucci won that case, too.

Like candy-doling, Halloween-activated predators in sleeping bags, the problem of registrants traveling abroad for sex tourism is also not a common one. Chris Smith has written that, "currently tens of thousands of offenders could be traveling abroad as child sex tourists."

But they aren't.

The U.S. Justice Department itself says that about 10 Americans a year are convicted of "sex crimes against minors in other countries." Meantime, there are more than 800,000 people on the Sex Offender Registry — about a quarter of them minors. This means that the vast majority of registrants — at least 790,990 one of them — are not sex tourists. And yet we won't give them the basic right of traveling this great earth.

The United States has never branded anyone's passport until now. Somehow we have survived 200+ years of giving all citizens the right to serve their time and then go on with their lives. Former drug dealers can travel south of the border. The Ocean's 11, 12 and 13 crews can hop on a plane to Monaco. But sex offenders, including teens who sexted and former flashers now in their 80s, will be branded with the scarlet S and kept in internal exile. It is for the sake of the children, of course.

It always is.

Lenore Skenazy is founder of the book and blog Free-Range Kids, and a contributor at Reason.com.

Time for elected officials to fix this city up



TOM ALLON

Dear Gov. Cuomo,

Like you, we are the parents of three daughters. Walking the streets of New York, they tell us they are catcalled, leered at and objectified. Last year, one of them was groped by a stranger on the street. In high school and college, they are highly likely to experience unwanted sexual advances.

But the last place we imagined our daughters would be objectified would be while riding the New York City subway to school. There are three ads currently on display from Doctor's Plastic Surgery — one more offensive than the other.

In one of these ads, a young woman making a sad face holds two oranges in front of her breasts. Next to her stands the same woman, but this time she is beaming ear to ear. Why? She is now holding two grapefruits in front of her breasts; she is the happy recipient of breast augmentation surgery by the crass medical group that paid for this public ad seen by millions of subway riders.

Would you and the MTA allow an ad with a young man making a sad face while holding a pickle in front of his penis next to the same man making a happy face while holding a large banana there?

We think not.

I doubt we are the only parents in New York whose blood boils every time we're standing in a cramped subway car in front of sexist "breast augmentation" ads? Most men in New York either have daughters or nieces or sisters or wives or girlfriends whose daily commute is subject to this body-shaming image.

Gov, Cuomo, we know this situation has upset you in the past. In April 2014, your former aide, Howard Glazer, sent a pointed note to MTA Chairman Tom Prendergrast on your behalf objecting to a similar ad. "Made in New York" (which was emblazoned across a woman's oversized breasts) was another augmentation ad that featured oversized cleavage as a desirable outcome.

Your aide's letter to the MTA read: "In response to a query from our office, the MTA advised that such ads fall within the MTA's written standards for advertising. With all due respect, we suggest those standards need to be revisited … Tens of thousands of children ride the subway every day to get to school … The public has a right to expect that the MTA will strive for a family-friendly environment."

MTA spokesman Adam Lisberg said then that the agency would look into the governor's request.

"The MTA understands the concerns that Gov. Cuomo and others have raised about this advertisement and about maintaining a family-friendly environment on our trains and buses. We will revisit our standards and our process for reviewing them."

That was almost two years ago.

When we recently wrote to the MTA to complain about the offensive "breast augmentation" ads, an MTA employee wrote back that "because of the First Amendment" the state agency cannot make guidelines to reject ads that are offensive or demeaning unless it would "imminently incite or provoke violence."

Really?

Gov. Cuomo, you have the power to change this clearly mistaken MTA policy.

If an ad demeaning to men was posted in New York City subway or bus, we have no doubt that it would wisely be rejected by the MTA.

Why are ads demeaning to women any different?

Your instinct two years ago, when you had one of your aides question this sexist ad campaign, was absolutely correct. We are not sure why you backed down so quickly.

We know that in 2014 you were busy running for re-election and starting the Women's Equality Party, which delivered more than 50,000 votes in your victorious campaign.

Now it is time to stay true to your beliefs and do the right thing. Tear down those sexist ads on the subway.

We know you can do it, Governor. If nothing else, do it for your daughters. And ours.

Sincerely,

Tom Allon and Rebecca Cohen

Tom Allon and Rebecca Cohen are domestic partners living in Brooklyn. They have three teenaged daughters between them.

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• Lehman College Piano Concert.....55
• Do You Remember - General Fiorentino.....57

Gilded Age fashion exhibit at Bartow-Pell

A new exhibition, 'Gilded Age Glamour: Fashions from the Bartow-Pell Collection' will be on view at the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum until April 30.

The Gilded Age in American history (c. 1870-1900) was associated with opulence and luxury, especially in clothing styles.

This new exhibition features highlights from the Museum's fashion collection from these decades, including women's, men's, and children's garments as well as period fashion illustrations. The fashions on display are more than just glamorous—they reveal the larger ideas about marriage and children, family life, and private and public space that shaped the United States at this time.

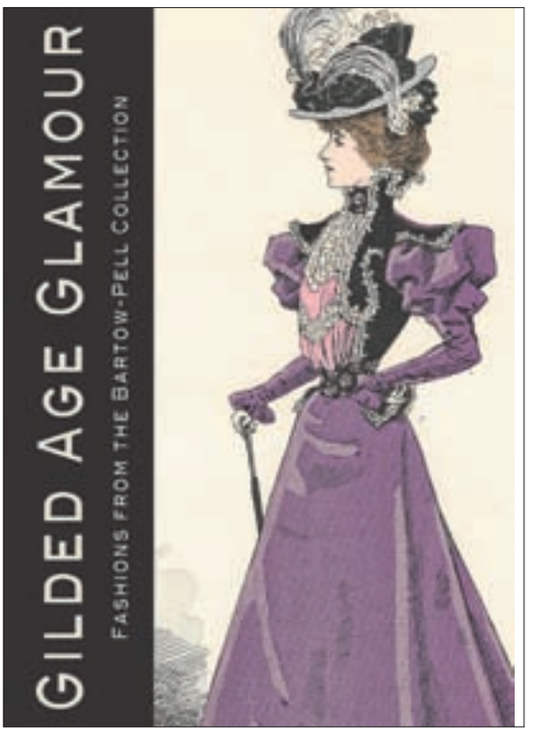
The Gilded Age in American history (c. 1870-1900) was associated with opulence and luxury, especially in clothing styles.

'Gilded Age Glamour' will also explore connections between the collection and the history of the Bartow-Pell Mansion Museum. The fashions displayed will link the mansion's beginnings as a grand country home in the 1840s with its development as a museum in the twentieth century.

The new exhibition is co-curated by Claire McRee and Sarah Pickman. McRee received her M.A. from the Bard Graduate Center in decorative arts, design history, and material culture, with a specialization in clothing history and American material culture of the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. She currently works as a curatorial assistant at the Allentown Art Museum.

Pickman is a Ph.D. student in history at Yale University whose research includes nineteenth and twentieth-century textile and fashion history, particularly the origins of modern outdoor and athletic clothing. She also holds an M.A. from the Bard Graduate Center and previously worked at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

On Thursday, April 21, 7:30 p.m., McRee and Pickman will give a free curator's talk on "Fashion and Femininity in Gilded Age America" with an in-depth look into the fashions of the late nineteenth century and discuss why the Gilded Age was a turning point in how women dressed and lived.



(Right) Gilded Age Glamour postcard.

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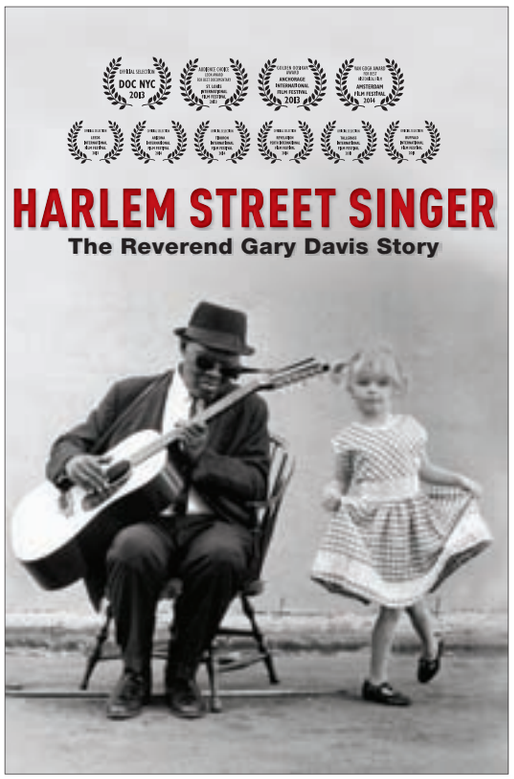
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Rev. Gary Davis Tribute



The Bronx Music Heritage Center will celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to Reverend Gary Davis, blues/gosepl singer, street preacher and virtuosic guitar player, on Saturday, February 20, starting at 7 p.m.

On Saturday, February 20, at 7 p.m., at the Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Nine Boulevard, celebrate Black History Month with a tribute to Reverend Gary Davis, the blues/gospel singer, street preacher and virtuosic guitar player from North Carolina who once called the Bronx his home. Davis inspired Dave Van Ronk, Rory Block, David Bromberg, Jorma Kaukonen, Stefan Grossman, Bob Weir, and many other leaders of the folk movement during the 1960's, as many of them often traveled to the Bronx to learn his music.

Harlem Street Singer (2013) is the first-ever film to tell the little-known story of Reverend Gary Davis.

Tracing his journey from the tobacco warehouses of the rural south to the streets of Harlem, the film is a revealing portrait of an artist who impacted the musical landscape of folk music and endeared himself to musicians such as Pete Seeger, Bob Weir, Jerry Garcia, David Bromberg, Bob Dylan and countless others. The film will be followed by a Q&A with director and producer, Trevor Laurence and Woody Mann.

After the film there will be a musical tribute to Rev. Davis with blues vocalist and songwriter Monica Hope, the daughter of renowned jazz legends Elmo and Bertha Hope, who grew up around the block from the Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab. She will be joined by "King" Solomon Hicks, a 20-year-old jazz and blues guitarist who has been playing since the age of 6, and has been called a "guitar prodigy."

Snacks will be for sale by Taneesha's Rebellious Treats.

The event is free ree and open to the public

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Name of LLC: conFIGURE8ion LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State: 10/13/15. Office loc.: Bronx Co. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: Business Filings Inc., 187 Wolf Rd., Ste. 101, Albany, NY 12205, regd. agt. upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful act.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Bay Plaza Mall Dental, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 1/8/16. Office location: Bronx County. Princ. bus. addr.: The Mall at Bay Plaza, 200 Baychester Ave. Unit 311C, Bronx, NY 10475. Sec. of State designated agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Ross Krasnov, D.D.S., 17749 Collins Ave., Apt. 2902, Sunny Isles Beach, FL 33160. Purpose: practice the profession of dentistry.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Formation of Westchester Residence, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 1/5/16. Office location: Bronx County. Princ. bus. addr.: 505 E. 175th St., Bronx, NY 10457. Sec. of State designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and shall mail process to: c/o Graubard Miller, 405 Lexington Ave., 11th Fl., NY, NY 10174, regd. agent upon whom process may be served. Purpose: any lawful activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Qualification of 2880 Exterior St, LLC. Authority filed with NY Dept. of State on 1/21/16. Office location: Bronx County. Princ. bus. addr.: 5 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern, PA 19355. LLC formed in DE on 1/19/16. 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.

LEGAL NOTICE

THEATRE XTRAORDINAIRE ENTERTAINMENT, LLC Art. Of Org. Filed Sec. of State of NY 6/8/2015. Off. Loc.: Bronx Co. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY to mail copy of process to The LLC, 170 East Mosholu Parkway South, #2B, Bronx, NY 10458. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a license number PENDING for on premises beer/wine license has been applied for the undersigned to consume beer/wine at retail under alcoholic beverage control law at PIQUE 86 RESTAURANT CORP., at 200 E 198TH ST BX, NY 10458 for on premises consumption.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Non Discrimination Policy The Citadel Rehab and Nursing Center at Kingsbridge, located at 3400-26 Cannon Place, Bronx, NY 10463, a participant in the Medicare and Medicaid Programs, does not discriminate in its policies regarding admissions, employment or the provision of services because of race, creed, color, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability, sponsorship, marital status, citizenship or national & ethnic origin or source of payment.

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Connecticut Superior Court
Judicial District of Stamford/Norwalk, at Stamford
NOTICE TO ARSENIO CASTILLO
RE: Tiburcio, Yanet v Castillo, Arsenio
Docket No. FST-FA-15-5014738-S
A divorce complaint has been filed based on No Fault. Return Date: June 9, 2015. The Court finds your current address is unknown, all reasonable efforts to find you have failed and your last known address was: 1380 Jessup Avenue, Apt. 4S, Bronx, NY 10452 The Court orders notice be given to you by placing a legal notice of a copy of this Order of Notice in Bronx Times. Automatic Court Orders have been issued as required by section 25-5 Connecticut Practice Book, and are part of the Complaint on file with the Court. The notice shall appear once a week for two successive weeks commencing on or before February 13, 2015 and proof of service shall be filed with this Court. January 13, 2016, 2015. H. Valassis, Asst. Clerk of Court.
ATTEST: Ronald Z. Kadar
P.O. Box 193
Fairfield, CT 06824

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that a license, number 1292387, for beer liquor and wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 3841 East Tremont Avenue Bronx N. Y for on premises consumption. 3841 East Tremont Uncle Al's Corp DBA Uncle Al's

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that an Order entered by the Civil Court, Bronx County on 2-10-2016, bearing Index Number NC-000015-16/BX, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY 10451, grants me (us) the right to: Assume the name of (First) Hafsa (Last) Baki. My present name is (First) NFN (Last) Hafsa AKA Miss Hafsa (infant). My present address is 2516 Frisby Ave., 11D, Bronx, NY 10461. My place of birth is Dhanbari, Bangladesh. My date of birth is July 03, 2009.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF A COOPERATIVE APARTMENT
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: by Virtue of default under Loan Security Agreements, and other Security Documents, held by JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as Secured Creditor, George Nelson, DCA # 1300011, will sell at public auction, with reserve, on the front steps of the Bronx County Supreme Courthouse, facing Grand Concourse, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, at 9:00 a.m., on March 4, 2016, 284 shares of the capital stock of College Gardens Cooperative, Inc. (a Cooperative Housing Corporation), issued in the name of Raymond Cortez, and all right, title and interest in a Proprietary Lease to 3535 Kings College Place, Apt. 3E, Bronx, NY 10467.
Sale held to enforce rights of JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., as Secured Creditor, who reserves the right to bid. Ten percent (10%) Bank/Certified check payable to the Escrowee, Stiene & Associates, P.C., as attorneys for JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A. Balance due at closing within thirty (30) days. The auctioneer's fees are required at sale.
The Cooperative Apartments will be sold "AS IS", and possession is to be obtained by the purchaser(s).
Dated: January 27, 2016
Stiene & Associates, P.C. (Escrowee)
Attorneys for JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A.
187 East Main Street
Huntington, NY 11743
(631) 935-1616

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A.,
Plaintiff
against-
JUAN RODRIGUEZ, GRULLON CORPORATION, NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD, NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BOARD, CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, BRONX SUPREME COURT, GE MONEY, CACH, LLC, CITIBANK, N.A., CAPITAL ONE BANK (USA) N.A., NORTH CENTRAL BRONX OF THE NYCHHC, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURYINTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, YAFREYSY RODRIGUEZ, JOSE REYES
Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale duly dated JANUARY 6, 2015 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at BRONX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 600, 851 GRAND CONCOURSE, BRONX, NEW YORK on March 14, 2016 at 2:00 PM premises known as 789 ELSMERE PLACE, BRONX, NY 10460.
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough of the Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York.
Block 2956 Lot 49
Approximate amount of lien $ 494,575.52 plus interest and costs.
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment Index # 380597/12
JOSEPH VOZZA, ESQ., REFEREE
STEIN, WIENER AND ROTH, L.L.P., ATTORNEYS FOR THE PLAINTIFF
ONE OLD COUNTRY ROAD, SUITE 113 CARLE PLACE, NY 11514
DATED: February 09, 2016 FILE #: WELLS 69322

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT: BRONX COUNTY. NORTH SHORE INVESTORS REALTY GROUP, LLC, Pltf. vs. ELVIO FEOLA, et al, Defts. Index #35240/2013. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated Jan. 4, 2016, I will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, Rm. 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on Monday, Mar. 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. prem. k/a 811 Hollywood Ave., Bronx, NY a/k/a Block 5429, Lot 61. Said property beginning at a point on the westerly side of Hollywood Ave., distant 100 ft. northerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the westerly side of Hollywood Ave. and the northerly side of Philip Ave., being a plot 112 ft. x 60 ft. Approx. amt. of judgment is $834,322.69 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. GARRY S. BOUCHER, Referee. THE MARGOLIN & WEINREB LAW GROUP, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 165 Eileen Way, Ste. 101, Syosset, NY. #87544

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT: BRONX COUNTY. HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR THE HOLDERS OF ELLINGTON LOAN ACQUISITION TRUST 2007-1, MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Pltf. vs. LAURA MELENDEZ, et al, Defts. Index #381295/2011. Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale dated June 29, 2015, I will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, Rm. 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on Monday, Mar. 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. prem. k/a 1028 East 212th Street, Bronx, NY a/k/a Block 4694, Lot 61. Approx. amt. of judgment is $631,839.32 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of sale. JAMES U. NOTICE, Referee. FRENKEL LAMBERT WEISS WEISMAN & GORDON, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 53 Gibson St., Bay Shore, NY. File No. 43541 - #87548

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-C, MORTGAGE-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-C,
Plaintiff(s),
Against
Index No.: 380115/13
GEORGE GONZALEZ, ET AL.,
Defendant(s),
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Bronx County Courthouse on 12/21/2015, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse Room 600, Bronx, NY on 3/7/2016 at 2:00 pm, premises known as 1015 Quincy Ave, Bronx, NY 10465, and described as follows:
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Bronx County Treasurer as Block 5534 and Lot 29.
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $696,995.19 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 380115/13.
If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagees attorney.
James U. Notice, Esq., Referee.
Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504
Dated: 1/20/2016 GNS

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
WELLS FARGO BANK, N.A, A/K/A WACHOVIA MORTGAGE, A DIVISION OF WELLS FARGO BANK, NA, F/K/A WACHOVIA MORTGAGE, FSB.
Plaintiff,
v.
GUIDO SUSI, ANGLEA SUSI, CARMEN SUSI, ANTHONY SUSI, et al.,
Defendants
NOTICE OF SALE
IN FORECLOSURE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT
In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated October 15, 2014 and entered in the office of the County Clerk of Bronx County, I, the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on February 29, 2016 at the Bronx County Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, County of Bronx, State of New York, at 2:00 P.M., the premises described as follows:
927 Vincent Ave
Bronx, NY 10465
SBL No.: 5462-14
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND situate in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York
The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No.381342/11 , any state of facts an accurate survey and inspection of the premises may disclose, to covenants, restrictions and easements, if any, to assessments or water charges not a lien upon the property, to violations, zoning regulations, prior liens of record, if any, and ordinances of the city, town or village in which said premises lie, to leases, tenancies and occupancies, and to other charges and liens with priority over plaintiff's mortgage.
David P. Lesch, Esq., Referee
Judgment Amount: $493,539.05
Miranda L. Sharlette, Esq.
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP
Plaintiff's Attorney
700 Crossroads Building, 2 State St.
Rochester, New York 14614
Tel: 585.987.2800

Pianists Peter Vinograde and Molly Morkoski at Lehman

The **Music Department at Lehman College** will present performances by Pianists Peter Vinograde and Molly Morkoski on Tuesday, February 23, in the Music Building's Recital Hall. The performances are free and open to the public.

The program begins at 12:30 p.m. with a lecture and recital performance by Vinograde. Titled "Two Scintillating Masterworks," the lecture will focus on the evolution of J. S. Bach's suites, and will conclude with complete performances of French Suite #4 and Partita #4.

At 2 p.m. pianist Molly Morkoski and guest cellist Caroline Stinson will perform two of the most beloved sonatas for cello and piano by Debussy and Rachmaninoff. The two musicians have been duo partners for more than a decade, performing in many of New York's prestigious halls, as well as internationally in France and Denmark.

Lehman is located on Goulden Avenue and Bedford Park Boulevard West.

For more information on the concert, contact the college's Music Department at (718) 960-8247.

* * *

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts will present a concert to celebrate the Valentine season, Love In Salsa & Merengue with salsa romántica singer Eddie Santiago, Alex Bueno, "the most tender voice of merengue" and for the first time in New York, merengue and bachata vocalist Joseph Fonseca on Saturday, February 20, at 8 p.m.

Produced by Lehman Center and Jose Raposo.

Lehman Center for the Performing Arts is on the campus of Lehman College/CUNY at 250 Bedford Park Boulevard West. Tickets fare $65, $55, and $50 and can be purchased by calling the Lehman Center box office at (718) 960-8833.

* * *

Upcoming Wave Hill events include:

Saturday, February 27; Sunday, February 28: Family Art Project: A Desert Under Glass: Go on a visit to Wave Hill's Cactus and Succulent House and leave winter behind.

Spend some time sketching and painting the exotic desert dwellers, then, using sand and tempera paint, make a desert mirage.

Saturday, February 27: Tai Chi Chuan: In this class, Irving Yee, a member of the William CC Chen Tai Chi School, introduces students to the internal martial arts, and promotes awareness of their health benefits.

Saturday, February 27: Cooking Demo: Cooking With Vanilla: Watch as a chef from Great Performances prepares some delicious dishes and, after sampling the results, take a stroll to the Marco Polo Stufano Conservatory to meet vanilla plants and some relatives.

Sunday, February 28 Hatha Yoga: Classes are led by Yoga for Bliss director Neem Dewji, and are held indoors November through April. All levels welcome.

Sunday, February 28: Meditation: Each session, led by Yoga for Bliss director Neem Dewji, includes instruction in simple techniques, followed by guided meditations.

Sunday, February 28: Lecture: Walking On Water—The Past And Future Of The Old Croton Aqueduct: Join Tom Tarnowsky and Mavis Cain of the Friends of the Old Croton Aqueduct for this talk about the fascinating history of the 41-mile aqueduct that quenched the thirst of an expanding urban population and saved the city from fires, disease and nasty smells.

Sunday, February 28: Garden & Conservatory Highlights Walk: Join in for an hour-long tour of seasonal garden highlights.

Wave Hill is located at 675 West 252nd Street. For further information call (718) 549-3200 ext. 232.

civic center

Korony American Legion Post 253

BY TONY SALIMBENE

Thanks to all who were present for 4 Chaplains Sunday. The Post 253 Color Guard was outstanding as usual, adding Al Nicotina on trumpet for taps. Those of you who are not familiar with this special event, as they say nowadays, Google It! Thanks to Fr. Norton and his St. Benedict crew for hosting us. Breakfast by Morris Perk.

Our regular 3rd Sunday post meeting will be February 21 at the Turner Club, on Clearance Avenue, parking at their lot on the corner of Philip Avenue, 11 a.m. sharp please, 10:30 a.m. for coffee if you want.

On Sunday, March 13 we have our Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade down East Tremont Avenue. We hope for a good showing of Legionnaires 'cause everyone is Irish on St. Patrick's Day. Notice I write 'saint' Patrick's Day.

Until next time: Hopefully good news soon about the conversion of NYC M.O.V.A. to the NYC Department of Veterans Services, working in conjunction with the Bronx BP's office and local community boards. Thanks to our PPC Joe Mondello and a comrade Joe Bello for their extra work on this very special project.

BRONX Times Reporter

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THE NEW SOUND OF BROOKLYN

The Community News Group is proud to introduce **BROOKLYN PAPER RADIO**. Join Brooklyn Paper Editor-in-Chief **Vince DiMiceli** and the New York Daily News' **Gersh Kuntzman** every Monday at 4 pm for an hour of talk on topics Brooklynites hold dear.

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LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
Plaintiff,
Against
Index No.: 380055/13
JE-NEL HARRIOTT A/K/A JE,NEL HARRIOTT A/K/A JE'NEL HARRIOTT A/K/A JE NEL HARRIOTT, DONNA BRANDON, ET AL.,
Defendant(s),
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Bronx County Clerk's Office on 12/28/2015, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, at the Bronx County Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York on 3/21/2016 at 2:00 pm, premises known as 2023 Lurting Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461, and described as follows:
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of the Bronx, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Bronx County Treasurer as Block 4303 and Lot 14.
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $596,555.85 plus interest and costs.
The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 380055/13.
Pierre Janvier, Esq., Referee.
STIENE & ASSOCIATES, P.C. (Attorneys for Plaintiff), 187 East Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743
Dated: 1/8/2016 File Number: 201001003 AMH

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
SAXON MORTGAGE SERVICES, INC.
4708 Mercantile Drive North
Fort Worth, TX 76137-3605,
Plaintiff(s),
Against
Index No.: 381157/07
ABIGAIL AJALA, ET AL.,
Defendant(s),
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Bronx County Clerk's Office on 11/18/2009, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx NY on 3/14/2016 at 2:00 pm, premises known as 1802 Schieffelin Avenue, Bronx, NY 10466, and described as follows:
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Bronx County Treasurer as Block 4898 and Lot 41.
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $322,230.76 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index # 381157/07.
If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.
Michael H. Maizes, Esq., Referee.
Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504
Dated: 1/28/2016 GNS

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE MORGAN STANLEY ABS CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE8 MORTGAGE PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-HE8
Plaintiff(s),
Against
Index No. 380456/11
JESUS MARIA DE LOS SANTOS, ET AL.,
Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, duly entered in the Bronx County Clerk's Office on 6/9/2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, NY on 3/14/2016 at 2:00 PM, premises known as 708 Soundview Avenue, Bronx NY 10473, and described as follows:
ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the County of Bronx, City and State of New York, and designated on the tax maps of the Bronx County Treasurer as Block 3597 and Lot 6.
The approximate amount of the current Judgment lien is $718,277.80 plus interest and costs. The premises will be sold subject to provisions of the aforesaid Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale; Index #380456/11.
If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagees attorney.
Allison Brockington, Esq., Referee.
Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 110, Armonk, NY 10504
Dated: 1/22/16 GMH
Cash Deposit will not be accepted at sale.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
Nationstar Mortgage, LLC, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Sandra White a/k/a Sandra White J; James Adkins; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated October 30, 2015 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York on March 7, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 1604 Metropolitan Avenue Unit 12A, Bronx, NY 10462. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 3943 Lot 4886. Approximate amount of judgment $79,110.84, plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 380926-13.
Bruce Lee Steinowitz, Referee
Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard
Rochester, New York 14624
(877) 759-1835
Dated: January 14, 2016- #87555

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX, EMC MORTGAGE, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. ARMINDO ROSARIO, JUDITH ROSARIO, MIGUEL ROSARIO, ET AL., Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly filed on February 02, 2015 and the Order Appointing Substitute Referee to sell filed April 21, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on February 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., premises known as 1004 Huntington Avenue, Bronx, NY. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 5536 and Lot 34. Approximate amount of judgment is $317,928.46 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 13980/07.
Pierre M. Janvier, Esq., Referee
Gross Polowy, LLC, 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100, Williamsville, New York 14221, Attorneys for Plaintiff

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
Deutsche Bank National Trust Company, as Trustee for Morgan Stanley ABS Capital I Inc. Trust 2006-WMC2, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Madia Coke; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated April 24, 2015 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Room 600, Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York on March 14, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 2068 Anthony Avenue, Bronx, NY 10457. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 3156 Lot 50. Approximate amount of judgment $466,363.37 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 380161-12.
Nestor H. Diaz, Esq., Referee
Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard
Rochester, New York 14624
(877) 759-1835
Dated: January 25, 2016
#87622

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
U.S. Bank Trust, N.A., as Trustee for LSF9 Master Participation Trust, Plaintiff
AGAINST
Christopher Romero a/k/a Christopher J. Romero; et al., Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated December 8, 2015 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, New York on March 21, 2016 at 2:00PM, premises known as 1116 Pierce Avenue, Bronx, NY 10461. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of NY, Block 4086 Lot 27. Approximate amount of judgment $377,473.59 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 380817-13.
Pierre M. Janvier, Esq., Referee
Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC
Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard
Rochester, New York 14624
(877) 759-1835
Dated: February 9, 2016
#87775

LEGAL NOTICE

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF BRONX
WELLS FARGO BANK, NA,
Plaintiff,
v.
CARLA B. BOLDEN, NATHANIEL BOLDEN, JR., et al.,
Defendants.
NOTICE OF SALE
IN FORECLOSURE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT
In pursuance of a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale dated April 30, 2015 and entered in the office of the County Clerk of Bronx County, I, the Referee named in said Judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on March 14, 2016 at the Bronx County Courthouse Room 600, at 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, County of Bronx, State of New York, at 2:00 P.M., the premises described as follows:
1156 East 223rd Street
Bronx, NY 10466
SBL No.: BLOCK 4901 LOT 33
ALL THAT TRACT OR PARCEL OF LAND, situate in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York.
The premises are sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment, Index No. 35358/2013E, any state of facts an accurate survey and inspection of the premises may disclose, to covenants, restrictions and easements, if any, to assessments or water charges not a lien upon the property, to violations, zoning regulations, prior liens of record, if any, and ordinances of the city, town or village in which said premises lie, to leases, tenancies and occupancies, and to other charges and liens with priority over plaintiff's mortgage.
Eric A. Wughalter, Esq., Referee
Michael Jablonski, Esq.
Woods Oviatt Gilman LLP
Judgment Amount: $453,003.14
Plaintiff's Attorney
700 Crossroads Building, 2 State St.
Rochester, New York 14614
Tel: 585.987.2800

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. S/B/M BAC HOME LOANS SERVICING, LP FKA COUNTRYWIDE HOME LOANS SERVICING LP, Plaintiff against
YACKSON MERCEDES, et al Defendant(s).
Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 26, 2016.
I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, N.Y. on the 21st day of March, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.
Said premises known as 2679 Waterbury Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10461.
Tax account number: SBL # : 5347-69.
Approximate amount of lien $ 582,935.59 plus interest and costs.
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.
Index No. 35050-2014E. Edward Zizmor, Esq., Referee.
Fein Such & Crane, LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
28 East Main Street, Suite 1800
Rochester, New York 14614
(585) 232-7400

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX
BANK OF AMERICA, N.A., Plaintiff - against- MICHAEL SEILER, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated October 2, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on March 21, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as
Block 4898 Lot 61.
Said premises known as 1232 E 224TH STREET, BRONX, NY
Approximate amount of lien $ 789,134.33 plus interest & costs.
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. Index Number 35090/2014E.
PHILIP W. COLEMAN, ESQ., Referee Frenkel Lambert Weiss Weisman & Gordon, LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
53 Gibson Street, Bay Shore, NY 11706
File# 01-067277-F00

General Fiorentino, Brigadier General, Van Nest

do you remember

by Bill Twomey

When William J. Fiorentino of Van Nest was attending P. S. 34 or Cardinal Hayes High School, his classmates would have no idea that he would one day be a Brigadier General. He was just one of the guys.

His grandparents, Anthony and Euphemia Fiorentino, immigrated from the small town of Giovinazzo on the Adriatic coast of southern Italy just a little over eleven miles west northwest of Bari and settled in the Bronx where they raised their 10 children.

One of those children, Dominic, became a priest and founded St. Dominic's Church at Unionport Road and Morris Park Avenue which was formally opened as a National Italian Parish on August 25, 1926. He had begun studying for the priesthood while still a young boy in Italy and clung tight to his vocation.

Another son, William, became a lawyer and raised his family at 1842 Hunt Avenue. It was his son, William, born January 2, 1935, who would graduate from P.S. 34, Cardinal Hayes High School, and Fordham University with a degree in physics. He joined the U. S. Army in 1956 and rose through the ranks to Brigadier General.

Along the way, he garnered quite a few plaudits including being inducted into the Ordnance Corps Hall of Fame in 1993.

Among his important assignments were: heading up the Pershing Project Office; Project Manager of the Joint Tactical Missile System; Deputy Program Manager of that same system; Deputy Program Manager of Ballistic Missile Defense; Director of the Army Space Study; and Program Manager and Program Executive Officer of the Forward Air Defense Systems.

His name can also be found on a plaque at Dealy Hall on the Rose Hill campus of Fordham University where he is honored for heading up the Star Wars Project officially known as the Pershing Project. It was the first time that a material command unit was presented with the Army Superior Unit Award.

The General, by the way, also holds a Master of Science Degree in Engineering from the University of Alabama.

He retired in 1988 but is still active in Army affairs and also serves as the president of the board of directors of Redstone Village, a retirement village for Army veterans.

He lives in Madison, Alabama where he owns and operates Steelstables with his wife, Judith. He still holds a special place in the hearts of those in the Van Nest community where he was raised and nurtured.



REPRINTED FROM 2/23/2012

(Right) General William Fiorentino was raised in Van Nest and attended local schools including P. S. 34, Cardinal Hayes High School and Fordham University.



The families of our community so often choose our funeral home. Some come to us to pre-plan arrangements because we offer all the options and choices they desire. Others come to us at their time of need seeking guidance, support and the certainty of a funeral service that is correct in every way. Should your family find itself in need of our services, we hope you'll make the choice so many in our community have.

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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

CV XXVIII, LLC, Plaintiff against

LORETO ANTONIO GORIS, et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on July 29, 2015.

I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, N.Y. on the 29th day of February, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the northerly side of Watson Avenue, distant 20 feet westerly from the corner formed by the intersection of the northerly side of Watson Avenue with the westerly side of Noble Avenue; RUNNING THENCE northerly parallel with the westerly side of Noble Avenue, and part of the distance through a party wall, 120 feet; THENCE westerly parallel with the northerly side of Watson, 20 feet; THENCE southerly and parallel with the westerly side of Noble Avenue, and part of the distance through another party wall 120 feet to the northerly side of Watson Avenue; and THENCE easterly along the northerly side of Watson Avenue, 20 feet to the point and place of BEGINNING.

Said premises known as 1717 Watson Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10472.

Tax Account Number: SBL #: 3749-78.

Approximate amount of lien $ 770,094.63 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 382438-09. Gary S. Basso, Esq., Referee.

Stern & Eisenberg, PC
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
Woodbridge Corporate Plaza
485 B Route 1 South - Suite 330
Iselin, NJ 08830
(732) 582-6344

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST 2005-2,

V.

DONNA-MARIE HENRY, et al.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated 11/30/15, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of BRONX, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN HOME MORTGAGE INVESTMENT TRUST 2005-2 is the Plaintiff and DONNA-MARIE HENRY, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the BRONX COUNTY COURTHOUSE, ROOM 600, 851 GRAND CONCOURSE, BRONX, NY 10451, on 3/7/16 at 2:00 PM, premises known as 4072 ELY AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10466: Block 4979, Lot 31:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE COUNTY OF BRONX, CITY AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 380622/11. BIANKA VEGA, ESQ. - Referee. RAS Boriskin, LLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 106, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff against

DAVID VINA, DAVID VINA, JR., et al Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on January 15, 2016.

I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Room 600, Bronx, N.Y. on the 7th day of March, 2016 at 2:00 p.m.

Said premises known as 1987 Grand Avenue, Bronx, N.Y. 10453.

Tax account number: SBL # : 2869-157.

Approximate amount of lien $ 287,824.32 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale.

Index No. 380554-2012. Garry S. Boucher, Esq., Referee.

Fein, Such & Crane, LLP
Attorneys for Plaintiff
28 East Main Street, Suite 1800
Rochester, N.Y. 14614
(585) 232-7400

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- SCHOFIELD MARINA LLC, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on December 10, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on March 21, 2016 at 2:00 pm premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of The Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 5641 and Lot 1036 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map.

Said premises known as 170-190 SCHOFIELD STREET, UNIT SLP 36, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 3,743.37 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 260511/2013.

LAWRENCE SHEEHAN, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- The heirs-at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through DORIS M. DAVIS, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective husbands, or widowers of hers, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to Plaintiffs; The heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through SARAH E. DAVIS, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective husbands, or widowers of hers, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to Plaintiffs; et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on February 3, 2014, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on March 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of The Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 4691 Lot 53 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map.

Said premises known as 932 EAST 221ST STREET, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 8,792.78 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 260083/2011.

SUSAN STARR, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 1998-2 TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- Charlie Hunnicutt, if living, or if he be dead, his wife, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said CHARLIE HUNNICUTT, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective wives, or widows of his, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; Annie Hunnicutt, if living, or if she be dead, her husband, heirs-at-law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, assignees, lienors, creditors, successors-in-interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said ANNIE HUNNICUTT, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and all creditors thereof, and the respective husbands, or widowers of hers, if any, all of whose names and addresses are unknown to plaintiffs; et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on December 14, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on February 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of The Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York; known and designated as Block 2745 and Lot 35 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map.

Said premises known as 1165 HOE AVENUE, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 211,297.36 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 301009/2013.

ALBERT W. CORNACHIO, III, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 2013-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- CICCI BELLA REALTY INC., SUCCESSOR IN

INTEREST TO CICI BELLA REALTY INC., et al Defendant(s).et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on December 10, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on February 29, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 3065 Lot 29 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map. Said premises known as 2374 HOFFMAN STREET, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 14,016.03 plus interest & costs.

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 260662/2014.

SESTINO S. BARONE, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 2013-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- WILLIAM MACK JOHNSON, A/K/A WILLIAM M. JOHNSON; DOROTHY L. JOHNSON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on December 4, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on March 14, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of The Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 5577 and Lot 78 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map. Said premises known as 2852 SAMPSON AVENUE, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 31,469.49 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 260508/2014.

PATRICK WYNNE, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF BRONX

NYCTL 2013-A TRUST AND THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, AS COLLATERAL AGENT AND CUSTODIAN, Plaintiffs -against- 135 CITY ISLAND AVENUE CORP., et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein on December 4, 2015, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Bronx Supreme Courthouse, Room 600, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, NY on March 7, 2016 at 2:00 p.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Borough of The Bronx, County of Bronx, City and State of New York, known and designated as Block 5626 and Lot 224 on the Bronx County Tax Assessment Map.

Said premises known as 153 CITY ISLAND AVENUE, BRONX, NY

Approximate amount of lien $ 12,594.58 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale.

Index Number 260479/2014.

GARY BOUCHER, ESQ., Referee

Phillips Lytle LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiffs
28 East Main Street, Suite 1400, Rochester, NY 14614

LEGAL NOTICE

State of Rhode Island
and
Providence Plantations
Office of the Clerk
of the Family Court
Kent, SC
Case#: K2016-0294

WHEREAS, Roger M. Contreras, of West Warwick in the County of Kent, State of Rhode Island has filed a Complaint in said office demanding a divorce from Aristomelia Maria Pascasio Tolentino, PURSUANT TO R.I.G.L. 15-5-16.1, AND ALL OTHER RELIEF AS THIS COURT MAY DEEM JUST.

Now, therefore you, the said DEFENDANT, are hereby summoned to answer, if you shall see fit, before the Family Court, to be held at Warwick, within the County of Kent, on the 1st day of April, 2016, then and there to answer said complaint. FAILURE TO APPEAR WILL RESULT IN DEFAULT AND DEFFENDANT WILL BE DENIED ALIMONY.



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LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX
----------x
THE PARKCHESTER SOUTH CONDOMINIUM, INC.,
on behalf of its unit owners of the Parkchester South Condominium,
INDEX NO. 305159-14
NOTICE OF SALE
Plaintiff,
- against -
ROBERT JOHNSON, et. al.,
Defendants.
----------x

Pursuant to a Judgment dated December 21, 2015, I will sell at public auction on March 14, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. in Room 600 of the Bronx County Courthouse, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York, the Condominium unit in the Parkchester South Condominium known as apartment 7B, in the building known as W-6 A/K/A 156, and by street address 1440 Wood Road, Bronx, New York, and designated as Tax Lot 3261 in Block 3937 of Section 15 on the tax map of the Borough of Bronx, together with an undivided .0103 percent interest in the common elements of the Parkchester South Condominium.

The amount due under the Judgment is $9,252.72, with interest, costs, etc. Sale subject to terms of sale and provisions of the Judgment herein, including being subject to a mortgage held by Nationstar Mortgage LLC in the original principal sum of $126,140.00 with interest. .....

_____
IRVING ROSEN, ESQ., Referee
ROY, MONDELLO, LAROCCA & RISOTTO, ESQS.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
828 South Broadway, Suite 100
Tarrytown, NY 10591
(914) 591-7722

LEGAL NOTICE

PROBATE CITATION
File No. 2013-2352/A
Surrogate's Court-Bronx County
Supplemental Citation

The People Of The State Of New York

By the Grace of God Free and Independent

TO: Marjatta Kaarina Pirila, Maija-Lisa Julkunen, Jaakko Johannes Pirila, Sirka Ritola, Erkki Ritola, Antil Ritola, Tertu Helena Lehtonen, Taina Orvokki Kaarla, Matti Parviainen, Maja Parviainen Merikoski, Seppo Tuominen, Arvo Tuominen, Attorney General of New York State and the Public Administrator of Bronx County and to the unknown heirs at law, and next of kin of Anja Impola, deceased, if they be living, and if they be dead, to their Executors, Administrators, Creditors, and lienors, their husbands or wives or successors in interest.

A petition having been duly filed by ERIK KARLA, who is domiciled at 97 BAYMEADOW ESTATES, COLCHESTER, VT 05446

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Bronx County, at 851 Grand Concourse, Room 406, Bronx, New York, on March 1, 2016, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why a decree should not be made in the estate of ANJA IMPOLA lately domiciled at 234 e 149th Street, Bronx, NY admitting to probate a Will dated November 4, 1998 a copy of which is attached, as the Will of Anja Impola deceased, relating to real and personal property, and directing that Letters Testamentary issue to: ERIK KAARLA

Dated, Attested and Sealed
January 8, 2016
Hon. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez
Surrogate
Michael P. Hausler
Chief Clerk
John G. Griffin
Attorney for Petitioner
231 Green Harbor Road, Unit 36, Old Hickory, TN 37138
Address of Attorney
631-838-1029
Telephone Number

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. If you fail to appear it will be assumed you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.

LEGAL NOTICE

FILE NO. 2011-1677/B

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

By the Grace of God Free and Independent

TO: The Public Administrator of Bronx County The Attorney General of the State of New York The Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York and to the unknown heirs of the Estate of Elizabeth Armstrong, if living or if dead, to their respectful heirs, legatees, beneficiaries, fiduciaries, assignees, successors and creditors in interest whose names are unknown and cannot be ascertained after due diligence, being the person interested in this proceeding in the Estate of Elizabeth Armstrong, deceased, who at the time of his death was a resident of Bronx County.

SEND GREETING:

Upon the petition of Larry Blair and Thomasina Smith, you and each of you are hereby cited to show cause before the Surrogate's Court of the County of Bronx, held at the Bronx County Building, Room 406, 851 Grand Concourse, Bronx, New York 10451 on the 8th day of March, 2016, at 9:30 o'clock in the forenoon of that day, why an Order should not be made pursuant to S.C.P.A. Section 2225, determining that over three (3) years have been elapsed since the death of the decedent, that the names and whereabouts of decedent's unknown distributees, if any thereby, are not known to the Petitioners, and after due diligent exhaustive search cannot be ascertained, and they be presumed dead and that they predeceased the decedent, without issue, and that the decedent's father, and any of his siblings, be disqualified based on abandonment and failure to support pursuant to E.P.T.L. 4-1.4, and that no other distributees or class of distributees of decedent exist on the Maternal side of the decedent other than the Estate of Mary Eubanks, who are entitled to One Hundred (100%) Percent of the funds now on deposit with the Commissioner of Finance of the City of New York for the benefit of the unknown distributees of decedent Elizabeth Armstrong, and directing said Commissioner of Finance to pay to the Petitioners, by checks mailed to the Petitioners c/o The Law Offices of Jay S. Markowitz, P.C. at 159-16 Union Turnpike, Suite 301, Fresh Meadows, New York 11366, the balance of the funds on deposit, and for such other and further relief as to this Court shall seem fair and reasonable.

Dated, Attested and Sealed,
January 15, 2016
(L.S.) HON. Nelida Malave-Gonzalez
Michael Hauseler
CHIEF CLERK
Jay Markowitz, Esq.
The Law Offices of Jay S. Markowitz, P.C.
159-16 Union Turnpike, Suite 301
Fresh Meadows, New York 11366
Phone - (718) 468-0068
Fax – (718) 261-5776

This Citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not obligated to appear in person. If you fail to appear it will be assumed that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney-at-law appear for you.

LEGAL NOTICE

INDEX NO.: 35268/2015E
File Date: 01/29/16
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS WITH NOTICE

MORTGAGED PREMISES: 4410 Ely Avenue, Bronx, New York 10466.
BL #: 5092-12.

Plaintiff designates BRONX County as the place of trial; venue is based upon the county in which the mortgaged premises is situate.

STATE OF NEW YORK
SUPREME COURT: COUNTY OF BRONX

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC D/B/A CHAMPION MORTGAGE COMPANY, Plaintiff,
-against-

UNKNOWN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF BERTHA ERWIN, if living, and if dead, the respective heirs at law, next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignors, lienors, creditors and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise of any right, title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, and their respective husbands, wives or widows, if any, and each and every person not specifically named who may be entitled to or claim to have any right, title or interest in the property described in the verified complaint; all of whom and whose names and places of residence unknown, and cannot, after diligent inquiry be ascertained by the Plaintiff, ET AL., Defendants.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the attorneys for the Plaintiff within 20 days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME.

SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOUR CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY.

SENDING PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure $562,500.00 and interest, recorded in the Office of the Clerk of BRONX on August 19, 2009, in CRFN NUMBER 2009000262569, covering premises known 4410 Ely Avenue, Bronx, New York 10466 - BLOCK LOT IN WHICH INDEXED: BLOCK 5092 LOT 12.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. The Plaintiff also seeks a deficiency judgment against the Defendant and for any debt secured by said Mortgage which is not satisfied by the proceeds of the sale of said premises.

TO the Defendant(s) UNKNOWN HEIR TO THE ESTATE OF BERTHA ERWIN, the foregoing Supplemental Summons with Notice is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Fernando Tapia, J.S.C. of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated January 12, 2016.

Dated: New Rochelle, NY
.....
January 27, 2016

MCCABE, WEISBERG & CONWAY, P.C.
/s/_____
Natalie Giraldo, Esq.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
145 Huguenot St., Ste. 210
New Rochelle, NY 10801
p. 914-636-8900
f. 914-636-8901

HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE

NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE

ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY.

SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO

RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE

ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS

AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT

AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN

ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE.

The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure.

In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for

information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process.

To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or visit the Department's website at www.dfs.ny.gov.

FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS

Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services.

LEGAL NOTICE

SUMMONS

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF BRONX, Index No. 20389/2016E, date Purchased 1/20/16, AF&G REALTY ASSOCIATES, LLC, Plaintiff, vs. EVERDALE REALTY COMPANY and THE

CITY OF NEW YORK, Defendants. To the above-named Defendants: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon Plaintiff's attorney an answer to the complaint in this action within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York. In case of your failure to answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. The basis of the venue designated is the real property at issue herein, which is in Bronx

County at 1144 Evergreen Avenue, Bronx, New York 10472. Dated: New York, New York, January 20, 2016, by David E. Ross, Esq., Meister Seelig & Fein LLP 125 Park Avenue, 7th Floor, New York, New York 10017, (212)655-3500, attorneys for plaintiff. Notice To Defendant Everdale Realty Company: the foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of Hon. Sharon A.M. Aarons of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Bronx, dated the 26h day of January, 2016. This is an action brought pursuant to Article 15 New York Real Property Actions and Proceedings Law ("RPAPL") through which Plaintiff is seeking to quiet title to the property located in the State of New York, County of Bronx, known as 1144 Evergreen Avenue, Bronx, New York, Block 3738, Lot 18 (the "Property"), and for a declaration that Plaintiff is the sole fee-simple interest holder of the Property and that no other entity or person in the chain of title or outside the chain of title presently holds any interest in the Property other than Plaintiff. As set forth above, the property subject to this action is a certain parcel of land located in the County of Bronx, City and State of New York and designated on the tax map of the City of New York as Block 3738, Lot 18 and is commonly known as 1144 Evergreen Avenue.

Young woman slashed in Van Nest

From page 1

suggest, in fact encourage, that pedestrians travel with additional people, and, if they are indeed traveling alone, they should carry a whistle, scream, or anything that can send an alert out in case they find themselves in a similar scenario - and most, importantly, be aware."

> When walking home alone, it is important to always stay vigilant - and that can't be stressed enough.
>
> **Jeremy Warneke**

"Having said that, we are not blaming the victim - we would just like individuals to take the proper precautions if a similar situation is about to take place," added Walton, who is planning on holding a Pre-National Night Out Against Crime within the next few months to get feedback from the community. "We also want people to know that this is not a case of a serial slasher in the Bronx - this seemed to just be a crime of opportunity."

"When walking home alone, it is important to always stay vigilant - and that can't be stressed enough," said Jeremy Warneke, district manager for Community Board 11. "Electronic devices can easily distract a pedestrian and make them unaware, which can lead to unfortunate instances like this. It is vital for individuals to always be aware and conscious of their surroundings."

"If somebody on the street is walking by themselves and is distracted by their electronic device, especially late at night, they automatically become a potential target," said Al D'Angelo, vice president of the Morris Park Community Association. "As neighbors in this community, we have to protect and take care of each other - so if you see something suspicious, don't hesitate to report it to the authorities and hopefully this man will be caught soon."

One local resident who works in Times Square and frequently walks from the Bronx Park East IRT station to her home in Van Nest at 1 or 2 a.m., said that this incident is an odd occurrence for the neighborhood, but that it is never surprising when these incidents occur, regardless of the time and location.

"These incidents (referring to the slashing) can happen anywhere in the city, so it's not surprising - but for this area, it's pretty unusual," she said.

As of press time, no arrests had been made.

Additional reporting contributed by Madeline Anthony.



(Right) Delos Santos was walking along Holland Avenue near Morris Park Avenue when the incident occurred.

Community News Group / Steven Goodstein

Only 6 candidates make CD 17 ballot

From page 1

runner.

Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. recently endorsed Salamanca on February 12, at the candidate's campaign headquarters.

At the event Diaz said Salamanca "has a vision on how to move the Bronx forward," and praised the candidate's work as district manager of Community Board 2.

The United Federation of Teachers, representing 200,000 members also advocated for Salamanca on February 8, followed by the Transport Workers Union Local 100, who publically announced support for him two days later.

Congressman Jose Serrano showed his support for Salamanca on February 11, shortly after Septimo lost her ballot spot.



Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. endorsed Rafael Salamanca for the City Council.

Courtesy of Rafael Salamanca

Joann Otero, Arroyo's former chief of staff, and now the only female in the race, says she is fighting for more women in the city's legislative body.

"I'm running to fight for more affordable housing, to advocate for working families, and to help our school system...electing me will help address the lack of female representation," said Otreo.

She said that Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito previously called on women to make the city's legislature more reflective of reality. Women make up a large percentage of the district.

"I am accepting the Speaker's challenge," said Otero.

Julio Pabon, co-founder of the South Bronx Community Congress, is a community activist that has worked for decades in various positions to assist the people of the south Bronx.

As a result, he has garnered vast support in Mott Haven and Grand Concourse areas.

Pabon thinks the current political system of the borough is unjust, with party-heads picking candidates well before election time, and he calls for reform.



Joann Otero would address the lack of female representation in city government if elected.

Courtesy of Joann Otero

Bronxnet hosted a debate on BronxTalk last Friday, in which the remaining six candidates debated the issues and answered questions posed by moderator Gary Axelbank.

This Friday, February 19 at 4 p.m., NY1 will host a final debate at their Chelsea studio.

Council District 17 includes Morrisania, Crotona Park East, Melrose, Longwood, Hunts Point, East Tremont, Mott Haven, and Soundview.

Voting for the special election will be held next Tuesday, February 23 from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m.

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS
Index No.: 35920/2015E
Date of Filing: January 12, 2016
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF BRONX
FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION ("FANNIE MAE") A CORPORATION ORGANIZED AND EXISTING UNDER THE LAWS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Plaintiff,
-against-
CHENETHIA VALENTIN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF JUAN J. VALENTIN; CHRISTINA VALENTIN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF JUAN J. VALENTIN; JOHN VALENTIN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF JUAN J. VALENTIN; JOVAN VALENTIN AS HEIR AT LAW AND NEXT OF KIN OF JUAN J. VALENTIN; NEW YORK CITY PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU; NEW YORK CITY TRANSIT ADJUDICATION BUREAU; JOHN DOE 1 THROUGH 50; JANE DOE 1 THROUGH 50, INTENDING TO BE THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DISTRIBUTES, DEVISEES, GRANTEES, TRUSTEES, LIENORS, CREDITORS, AND ASSIGNEES OF THE ESTATE OF JUAN J. VALENTIN WHO WAS BORN IN 1957 AND DIED ON NOVEMBER 26, 2013, A RESIDENT OF BRONX COUNTY, WHOSE LAST KNOWN ADDRESS WAS 217 NEWMEN AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10473, THEIR SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST IF ANY OF THE AFORESAID DEFENDANTS BE DECEASED, THEIR RESPECTIVE HEIRS AT LAW, NEXT OF KIN, AND SUCCESSORS IN INTEREST OF THE AFORESAID CLASSES OF PERSON, IF THEY OR ANY OF THEM BE DEAD, AND THEIR RESPECTIVE HUSBANDS, WIVES OR WIDOWS, IF ANY, ALL OF WHOM AND WHOSE NAMES AND PLACES OF RESIDENCE ARE UNKNOWN TO THE PLAINTIFF; BRONX SUPREME COURT; CAPITAL ONE BANK; CRIMINAL COURT OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK ; GREAT SENECA FINANCIAL CORP; LVNV FUNDING LLC; MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT INC.; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION & FINANCE; ST BARNABUS HOSPITAL; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA - INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE ; NEW YORK CITY ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL BOARD; ''JOHN DOES'' and ''JANE DOES'', SAID NAMES BEING FICTITIOUS, PARTIES INTENDED BEING POSSIBLE TENANTS OR OCCUPANTS OF PREMISES, AND CORPORATIONS, OTHER ENTITIES OR PERSONS WHO CLAIM, OR MAY CLAIM, A LIEN AGAINST THE PREMISES, Defendants.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.
NOTICE
YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME
If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.
Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.
Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.
YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.
YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Honorable Mary Ann Brigantti of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, signed on January 4, 2016, and filed with supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Bronx, State of New York.
The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by JUAN J. VALENTIN to BANK OF AMERICA, N.A. bearing date January 23, 2006 and recorded in CRFN: 2006000183663 in the County of Bronx on April 3, 2006. Thereafter said mortgage was assigned to FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION by assignment of mortgage bearing date December 1, 2014 and recorded under CRFN: 2014000428750 in the County of Bronx on December 30, 2014.
Said premises being known as and by 217 NEWMAN AVENUE, BRONX, NY 10473.
Date: November 13, 2015

Batavia, New York
Virginia C Grapensteter, Esq.
ROSICKI, ROSICKI & ASSOCIATES, P.C.
Attorneys for Plaintiff
Batavia Office 26 Harvester Avenue
Batavia, NY 14020
585.815.0288
Help For Homeowners In Foreclosure
New York State Law requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. Mortgage foreclosure is a complex process. Some people may approach you about "saving" your home. You should be extremely careful about any such promises. The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. There are government agencies, legal aid entities and other non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about foreclosure while you are working with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Banking Department at 1-877-BANKNYS (1-877-226-5697) or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us. The State does not guarantee the advice of these agencies.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF BRONX
INDEX # 381126/11 FILED: 12/9/2015
SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS AND NOTICE
Plaintiff designates Bronx County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the mortgaged premises are situated. HSBC BANK USA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE UNDER THE POOLING AND SERVICING AGREEMENT DATED AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2006, FREMONT HOME LOAN TRUST 2006-C, Plaintiff(s), against OSWALD BROWN SR., OSWALD BROWN JR., DEBORAH BROWN, ORPHEUS BROWN, KIM BROWN, unknown heirs at law of YVONNE EVANS and if they be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of who and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; NYS DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, NYC PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU, "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE," the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME IF YOU DO NOT RESPOND TO THIS SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEYS FOR THE MORTGAGE COMPANY WHO FILED THIS FORECLOSURE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT, A DEFAULT JUDGMENT MAY BE ENTERED AND YOU CAN LOSE YOUR HOME. SPEAK TO AN ATTORNEY OR GO TO THE COURT WHERE YOU CASE IS PENDING FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON HOW TO ANSWER THE SUMMONS AND PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY. SENDING A PAYMENT TO YOUR MORTGAGE COMPANY WILL NOT STOP THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the complaint is not served with this summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may appear within (60) days of service thereof and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT: THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is to foreclose on a mortgage in the sum of $425,000.00 dated July 21, 2006, executed by defendants(s) YVONNE EVANS A/K/A YVONNE BROWN A/K/A YVONNE EVANS-BROWN, to MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR FREMONT INVESTMENT AND LOAN recorded on August 25, 2006 in CRFN: 2006000484097, in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Bronx. MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., AS NOMINEE FOR FREMONT INVESTMENT AND LOAN assigned all of its right, title and interest in the MORTGAGE to plaintiff by way of an assignment dated May 22, 2011 to be recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Bronx, covering premises known as 756 East 220th Street, Bronx, NY 10467, (Block 4667 and Lot 87). The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt described above. To the above named Defendants: The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Kenneth L. Thompson Jr., a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, and filed along with the supporting papers in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Bronx on December 1, 2015. This is an action to foreclose on a mortgage. ALL that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of Bronx, City and State of New York, Block 4667 and Lot 87, said premises known as 756 East 220th Street, Bronx, NY 10467. YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. By reason of the default in the payment of the monthly installment of principal and interest, among other things, as hereinafter set forth, Plaintiff, the holder and owner of the aforementioned note and mortgage, or their agents have elected and hereby accelerate the mortgage and declare the entire mortgage indebtedness immediately due and payable. The following amounts are now due and owing on said mortgage, no part of any of which has been paid although duly demanded: the unpaid principal sum of the NOTE and MORTGAGE in the amount of $418,227.87 with accrued interest at 7.575% per annum, from March 1, 2010. UNLESS YOU DISPUTE THE VALIDITY OF THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS AFTER YOUR RECEIPT HEREOF THAT THE DEBT, OR ANY PORTION THEREOF, IS DISPUTED, THE DEBTOR JUDGMENT AGAINST YOU AND A COPY OF SUCH VERIFICATION OR JUDGMENT WILL BE MAILED TO YOU BY THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR. IF APPLICABLE, UPON YOUR WRITTEN REQUEST, WITHIN SAID THIRTY (30) DAY PERIOD, THE HEREIN DEBT COLLECTOR WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF THE ORIGINAL CREDITOR. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED A DISCHARGE FROM THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT, YOU ARE NOT PERSONALLY LIABLE FOR THE UNDERLYING INDEBTEDNESS OWED TO PLAINTIFF/CREDITOR AND THIS NOTICE/DISCLOSURE IS FOR COMPLIANCE AND INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY. HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE New York State requires that we send you this notice about the foreclosure process. Please read it carefully. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT You are in danger of losing your home. If you fail to respond to the Summons and Complaint in this foreclosure action, you may lose your home. Please read the Summons and Complaint carefully. You should immediately contact an attorney or your local legal aid office to obtain advice on how to protect yourself. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The State encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid, there are government agencies, and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by New York state Banking Department at 1-877-Bank-NYS or visit the Department's website at www.banking.state.ny.us FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. Section 1303 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving the copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you may lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING AN ANSWER WITH THE COURT. Leopold & Associates, PLLC, 80 Business Park Drive, Suite 301, Armonk, NY 10504

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice of Special Election

Pursuant to provisions of Section 25(b)(1) of the Charter of the City of New York, notice is hereby given that a **special election will be held in the Borough of Bronx, County of Bronx on Tuesday, February 23, 2016, between the hours of 6:00 AM and 9:00 PM** for the purpose of electing a candidate for the 17th Councilmanic District. Only registered voters in this district are eligible to vote.

For any information on whether you are eligible to vote or where your poll site is located, please call (212) V-0-T-E-N-Y-C. TDD for the hearing-impaired is (212) 487-5496.

The City Clerk of the City of New York

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• Research tax-advantageous retirement savings plans. A financial planner can point you in the right direction, or consult with your employer about employee programs. Deposit money into a 401(k) or 403(b) plan or another retirement vehicle. Jump on any opportunities when your employer matches invested funds. Investigate an IRA and find out if there are any government incentives. Depending on your age, you may be able to deposit more money into such accounts than other investors.

• Cut back on expenses. Cutting back on unnecessary expenses is a great way to save more money for retirement. Figure out where you can save some money you can then allocate to retirement savings. Maybe you can reduce insurance coverage on an older car or raise your deductible? Downsize cable packages or skip that costly cup of coffee on the way to work. Perhaps it's time to look for a smaller, less expensive home or a compact car instead of an SUV. Any money saved now will benefit you when the time comes time to bid farewell to the workforce.

• Delay your retirement. Many people who retire find themselves bored and looking for ways to fill their time, and as a result more and more people are delaying their retirement, which also gives them more time to save for that day when they do call it quits. If you want to work less, discuss and negotiate a phased retirement with your bosses that allows you to stick with your employer but gradually work fewer hours until you retire completely. You may be able to work part-time for several years and retire when you're most comfortable.

• Consider more aggressive funds. Even if you are 50 you still have a few decades before retirement, which leaves lots of time to grow your retirement savings. But you may want to consider more aggressive funds that can help you catch up more quickly than less aggressive investments. Just know that aggressive funds may also leave you susceptible to substantial losses.

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Letitia James Warns Consumers About Classified Ads

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Office of the Public Advocate

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El Departamento de Conservación Ambiental del Estado de Nueva York (DEC, por sus siglas en inglés) ha recibido una solicitud al Programa de Limpieza de Sitios Contaminados (Brownfields) de parte de Ace Suede-Life, Inc. para el sitio conocido como Ace Suede and Leather, No. de identificación C203072. Este sitio se encuentra ubicado en distrito municipal del Bronx en la ciudad de Nueva York, dentro del condado del Bronx, y se encuentra localizado en el 808 East 139th Street (también conocido como 808-822 East 139th Street). Comentarios relacionados a esta solicitud deben ser entregados no más tarde del 25 de marzo del 2016. Una copia de la solicitud y otros documentos relevantes están disponible en el repositorio de documentos ubicado en la Biblioteca Pública de Nueva York – Sucursal Mott Haven, 321 E 140th Street, Bronx. Información relacionada al sitio, la solicitud, y de cómo presentar comentarios puede ser encontrada en http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html o envíe comentarios a David Harrington, Director del Proyecto, NYSDEC-DER, 625 Broadway, 12th Floor, Albany, New York 12233-7016; david.harrington@dec.ny.gov; o llame al 518-402-9768.

Reciba información, como este boletín informativo, enviada directamente a su correo electrónico.
Regístrese en la lista de correo electrónico del condado disponible en www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html.

Public Notice
The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has received a Brownfield Cleanup Program (BCP) application from Ace Suede Life, Inc. for a site known as Ace Suede and Leather, site ID #C203072. This site is located in the New York City Borough o f Bronx, within the County of Bronx, and is located at 808 East 139th Street). Comments regarding this application must be submitted no later than March 25,2016. A copy of the application and other relevant documents are available at the document repository located at the New York Public Library Mott Haven Branch, 321 E 140th St. Bronx.
Information regarding the site and how to submit comments can be found at http://www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/60058.html or send comments to David Harrington, Project Manager, NYSDEC DER, 625 Broadway,12th Floor, Albany, NY 12233 7016; david.harrington@dec.ny.gov; or call 518 402 9768.
To have information such as this notice sent right to your email, sign up with county email listservs available at www.dec.ny.gov/chemical/61092.html.

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"She's {Sparks} a tremendous player having a tremendous season. She's playing like a college player right now."

TOM CATALANOTTO 70

Strong second half sends Wings past Kennedy for Bronx crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

Jose Perez was getting an uneasy case of deja vu with the PSAL Bronx championship hanging in the balance.

The Wings junior guard was in the stands when Kennedy upset the Wings on a buzzer beater to win the borough championship at York College. That was in his mind as he stepped to the free throw line with a chance to put his team up three with 11.9 second to play in the same game at the same gym.

"We remembered and we didn't want that to happen again," Perez said. "I was thinking about it when I was standing at the free throw line."

It locked his mind in and he made both. Kennedy missed a good look at a three on the next possession before Boubacar Kamissoko sealed the a 70-65 win and a stellar performance with a steal and two more free throws at York College on Feb. 14.

It is the defending city and state Federation champions' fourth straight borough crown, but coach Billy Turnage wasn't thinking about the past or even the win after the game because his team has biggest goals.

"I was more or less [upset] with these guys because we were playing selfish basketball," he said. "One pass fire, whoever got it tried to attack. We can't win that way [consistently]. In the second half we played glimpse of the basketball we have to play to have success."

His team trailed by as many as 11 during a sloppy first half and 35-28 at the break. Wings quickly changed the momentum with a 14-0 run to start the third quarter. Kamissoko,

Continued on Page 70

SENIOR DUO POWER SHORT-HANDED MOUNT PAST STEPINAC

BY TREY RODRIGUEZ

On a night without their leading scorer Elijah Buchanan because of injury, somebody had to step up for Mount St. Michael and fill the void. Brandon Watson and Kasey Walker rose to the occasion.

The senior guards combined for 50 points in the Mountaineers' 81-74 victory over visiting Archbishop Stepinac in CHSAA Class AA boys' basketball on Feb. 13. Mount moves over the Crusaders into fourth place in the Archdiocesan division.

"The biggest impact was Watson," said Mount coach Tom Fraher. "He comes off the bench and hits three or four big threes."

Watson made four threes, including a buzzer beater to end the first quarter and two in Mount's enormous fourth quarter. Mount (10-11, 5-10) scored 33 points in the final frame, after a slow start to the game. Watson finished with a season-high 24 points. Walker put in 26, also a season best. Buchanan, who is averaging 22.3 points per game, was held out with a minor Achilles injury, according to Fraher.

"I just wanted to step up for the starters, with the starters out," Watson said. "This win is really big. We just work really hard and everything went well today."

Junior guard Makai Johnson was vital for Stepinac (8-15, 4-12), providing the Crusaders with timely threes throughout the first half. Stepinac trailed just 31-26 heading into the half thanks to its strong perimeter shooting.

However, the Crusaders; fast-paced style may have worn them down as the game progressed. Stepinac pushes the ball on offense, especially after giving up a bucket. They also went to a full-court press often, but Walker remained calm and collected, weaving through the defense.

"They tried to speed us up, but coach told us to stay calm and that's what we did," Walker said. "We just space the floor. And we had a big game from the rookie Mike Green; great effort from him."

With Joseph Bull out with a fractured hand, coach Fraher made the decision to bring up Green, who gave the Mountaineers 15 points in his varsity debut.

"We throw a freshman into the fire and he's making shots, making free throws and handling the ball," Fraher said.

Walker showed his leadership on the floor, never faltering or hesitating to make big plays.

"Kasey has been our rock," Fraher said. "He's tough as nails, makes big shots and he leads us. He's been great all year.

He and Watson were even better on a day they were needed most.



Mount's Brandon Watson grabs rebound in a win over Stepinac. Photo by Robert Cole



Mount's Kasey Walker flies to the hoop for two points against Stepinac. Photo by Robert Cole

Scanlan tops Truman for bragging rights

BY TREY RODRIGUEZ

As the regular season comes to an end, the best teams in the city are looking to distinguish themselves as the best in their borough. Monsignor Scanlan earned the right to call itself the top girls' basketball team in the Bronx with a victory over PSAL power Truman.

"It was very important to get this win," said Crusaders' senior forward Nukiya Mayo. "It was for bragging rights."

Delphynia Sparks poured in 24 points to lead Scanlan to a 66-57 home win over the Mustangs on Feb 12. Truman came into the game off a win over rival Cardinal Spellman, but Sparks was too much to handle.

"Well she's a scorer," said Scanlan coach Tom Catalanotto. "She's a tremendous player having a tremendous season. She's playing like a college player right now."

The Towson-bound Mayo added 14 big points of her own, including eight of Scanlan's 14 in the third quarter. After a rather slow first half settling for midrange jumpers, Mayo put her head and shoulder down a lot more as she turned on the aggression and attacked the basket. Scanlan's lead was trimmed to just five in the third quarter after leading by as much as 16.



Scanlan's Nukiya Mayo attempts to avoid Truman defender Briana Alberga on her way to the hoop. Photo by Robert Cole



Scanlan's Delphynia Sparks attacks the basket against Truman. Photo by Robert Cole

"I had a talk with my coaches," she said. "We picked each other up."

Truman sophomore guard Dyona Davis got the rim with ease, finishing with 19 points in the game for the Mustangs. However, as productive as it was to get easy opportunities at the free throw line, they were all but easy for Truman (19-7). The Mustangs left more than 10 points at the line in their nine-point loss.

"That's the game right there," said Truman coach John Burke. "That's the one thing we can work on this time of year. We don't have time to reinvent the wheel this time of year, but we just need to get in the gym and get repetitions."

Truman missed five free throws in the third quarter, despite winning the frame 17-14. They would head into the fourth quarter down 44-46, sticking around despite the poor free throw shooting.

Junior guard Aneisha Lyons provided Truman with two huge threes late in the game to bring the Mustangs within two, as she sized her defender up and simply rose up for the shots. But Scanlan's ability to make free throws down the stretch was the difference. The Crusaders (16-7) scored seven of their last nine points from the charity stripe.

Scanlan point guard Chanell Williams excelled at getting to the rim and finishing over the much taller defenders patrolling the paint, finishing with nine points.

"That's mostly what I do," Williams said. "I don't have much of a shot, so getting to the paint is what I do."

Strong second half sends Wings past Kennedy for Bronx crown

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who scored a game-high 22 points, started the spurt with consecutive treys and Malik Diallo layup gave the Wings a 42-35 lead with 3:13 to play in the frame.

"Coach wanted me to take more shots, be more aggressive and step in against their high 1-3-1 zone," Kamissoko said.

Kennedy retook the lead on a bucket, but Justin Batiz (17 points) with six seconds left in the third. Malik Mooving (11 points) made up for his turnover with a 3-pointer at the buzzer to put Wings up 51-47. Perez had 15 points and Kevin Saylor added 10.

The Knights took their last lead on a three-pointer by Batiz that made it 61-60 with 3:19 to play in the game. Wing responded with a 6-0 run, including a three from the top of the key by Kamissoko to put his team ahead 66-61 with 40 seconds to play in the game. It was his biggest shot during a superb performance.

"I thought he played an unbelievable second half," Turnage said.

A game that ended well certainly didn't start that way for Wings. It was getting beat on the glass by a long and athletic Kennedy team. Koloba Ballo, Bakary Camera and Mahammado Kajakhe all added 12 points for the Knights.



Wings Academy celebrates is PSAL Bronx borough final victory over Kennedy. Photo by Joseph Staszewski

Wings' turnovers and poor passing turned all too often into points for the Knights. The Wings know it can't repeat that kind of play in the city playoffs if it wants to repeat as champs.

"If we start off sluggish we are going to be down 20 quick at the end of the first half," Perez said. "We are the PSAL and state champs. Everyone is going to come for us. No one is going to take us easy."

Catharine's JV Cheerleaders Bring Home the Gold

Hard work and commitment have been the hallmark of the St. Catharine Academy Cheerleading teams. This year, competing at the 2016 Universal Cheerleading Association (UCA) National High School Cheerleading Championship in Orlando, Florida, the hard work was on full display. The JV team was rewarded with a first place finish in the Junior Varsity Non-Tumbling Division while the Varsity placed seventh in Small Varsity Division II. In a ceremony following competition, each member of the JV team received the coveted UCA White Jacket and gold medal. The 1st place trophy and the UCA official first place banner were also awarded.

"This championship is proof of how far hard work, dedication, and commitment can take you," said JV coaches Danielle Pennacchia and Janeen Dorsey. "Nine months ago, they were a new, inexperienced team, mostly freshmen. Today, they call themselves National Champions. Speaking for all of the coaches, we couldn't be more proud of them, not just for the win, but for the climb they took to become the national champions."

Members of the JV Cheerleading team are: Abbygayle Clark, Angelena Cancel, Kasandra Padua, Cindy Mejia, Alexis Daniels, Kristin Markgraf, Amanda Turner, Alene Ortiz, Grace Rios, Serna Colon, Briana Colon, Brianna Franco, and Keyana Brown.

PIC: JV Cheerleading Team in White Jacket with official UCA first place banner.

The Varsity, for the past ten years ranked among the top ten, competed in one of the most difficult divisions at the UCA nationals. Their performance in preliminary competition was so strong they received an automatic bid to finals. "We are so proud to be 7th in the Nation," said Coaches Nicole Sallustio and Christine Roth. "It was such a talented and competitive division. The girls performed two great routines with no deductions. Their hard work was evident."

Members of the Varsity Cheerleading team are: Olivia Albertelli, Amanda Goldberg, Annette Hernandez, Charleze Perez, Samantha Sanzaro, Robynn Montes, Lilly O'Farrill, Danielle Lorenz, Cassidy Geni, Alexis Ulzheimer, Aatiyah Caine, and Brittney Calderon.



Varsity Cheerleading Team with Trophy



On the Marq: Hayes beats Ray's buzzer to clinch division crown

BY JOSEPH STASZEWSKI

It had to go in. It just had too.

That was what every person on the Cardinal Hayes bench was thinking – for so many reasons – at the buzzer as Pedro Marquez's off-balance shot went up from the right side near half court.

A make from 35-feet would gave the Cardinals the Archdiocesan division title they felt they deserved and well they have all seen Marquez hit that shot before. He always makes them.

"We always play around at the end of practice, we are always throwing up shots. Pedro is always the one that is always making them," senior guard Clive Allen said. "It was just like, when it left his hand, I just knew it wad going to drop."

Marquez's shot did hit nothing but net to give Cardinal Hayes a thrilling 61-58 over the host Ravens in CHSAA Class AA boy's basketball on Feb. 12. It gives his team the top seed and a bye in the upcoming diocesan tournament.



Pedro Marquez hit the game-winning shot at the buzzer for Cardinal Hayes.

Photo by Robert Cole

With 1.5 second left on the clock, Marquez caught a long inbounds pass from Ishmael Massoud, ducked to his right under St. Ray's Isaiah Washington and let it go. When it went through he was mobbed by his teammates and Hayes fans rushing the court.

""I just dropped back and I knew it wasn't going in," said Marquez, who hit five threes against Mount St. Michael on Feb. 9. I had to step through because Isaiah went under me," "I had to step through to get the shot off."

The shot was reminiscent of runner over half court hit by Chris Robinson in 2013 to give Hayes a road win over St. Ray's at the final horn. It was all Hayes coach Joe Lods and Ravens headman Jorge Lopez could think about in the final seconds.

"It seems like Hayes has that shot down pat," said Lopez, still in the process of shaking off the disbelief. "Chris Robinson hit the same shot a few years back. Chris Robinson all over again,"

It was his team that looked like it was going to rally for a win after three quarters of poor shooting. Washington scored 20 of his 27 points in the second half. He found Sidney Wilson (18 points) with an inbound pass for an ally-oop that tied the score at 58-58 with 15.9 seconds left.

Wilson stole the inbound pass to half court and fed Washington, but he missed a short jumper. Hayes got the rebound and Allen had the ball stripped away from him under the hoop in transition to set up the final shot.

Hayes was in position to win thank to the play of it bench. Massoud, a sophomore, had a personal 10-0 run over the first and second quarters Massoud scored 15 of his team-leading 18 points in the second quarter and Allen tallied nine of his 11 in the fourth. Baron Goodridge chipped in 12. It was a breakout performance for the Berkeley Carroll transfer Massoud.

"My first shot I banked it and it shouldn't have went in," he said. "I'm like, 'If that went in I'm going to keep shooting it."

Forward Victor Montenegro gve the Cardinals an inside presence early in the third. His six straight points put his team up 33-27 with 5:40 remaining in the frame.

"It was the role players more than the stars today," Lods said.

It shows how far Hayes has come. The Cardinals – winners of eight of their last nine – have matured from one of the league's youngest and inexperienced teams to one of its best. It is what they were so sure Marquez wasn't' going to miss.

"When that shot was in the air I honestly what thinking that," Lods said. "We deserve this shot. We deserve it. Boom."

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