

NORWOOD NEWS

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ON THE ROAD TO REFORM



Photo by Alex Kratz

MARIA FERNANDEZ (center), an organizer with a new education advocacy group called A+NYC, talks school reform priorities with people on the group's tricked out tour bus during a stop at the Bronx Library Center in Kingsbridge last month. Read more about the group's efforts inside on page 9.

New Schools Inside Clinton Look To Lure 2nd Round Students

By **ALEX KRATZ**

Students still looking for a place to land when school starts next fall will have two new options opening up inside of DeWitt Clinton High School, including one with a successful Manhattan pedigree.

As part of its new plan to improve performance inside Clinton, which saw its four-year graduation rate drop to 50 percent, the Department of Education is gradually shrinking enrollment of the storied 115-year-old school and starting up two new smaller schools.

The plan was vigorously opposed by the entire school community and local elected officials who believe the co-locating of two schools inside Clinton will ultimately lead to its closure sometime in the near future. After more than a decade of overcrowding and an increasing population of special needs and English language learners, Clinton supporters felt the DOE set the school up for failure.

After approving the plan on March 11, the DOE recently revealed the identity of the two new schools as Bronx Collaborative High School and World View High School. Each will admit 108 students next fall and the following three years. At the same time, Clinton's overall enrollment will drop from around 3,800 to around 2,250 by 2016.

With the application deadline for the second round of the high school admissions process fast approaching
(continued on page 8)

High School Admissions, Round 2

Overview: Almost 75 percent of eighth graders were matched with one of their top three high school choices when acceptance offers were sent out in mid-March. But that still leaves thousands of students with either one of their lesser choices or no choice at all. Round 2 of the DOE's high school admissions process gives these students a chance to improve their lot or at least change it.

Finding a School: Many of the schools with seats to fill, especially those starting up this fall, will be promoting themselves at a High School Fair on April 6 and 7, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Educational Campus in Manhattan (122 Amsterdam Ave., at 66th Street). Insideschools.org also has profiles of most city schools.

Deadlines: Parents and students will have until the following Friday, April 12, to submit their applications to their school's guidance counselors. Applicants should receive acceptances by late May.

Express Bus Coming to New Look Webster Ave.

By **WILL SPEROS**

Carolina Castrillon couldn't hide her frustration. Just as she exited a bodega near East 204th Street and Webster Avenue, she saw her Bx41 bus pull away.

"Oh no!" she said. "My bus!"

Castrillon is a local mother, and one of the many local residents who catch the bus at the East 204th Street stop in Norwood. While the buses tend to be "more on time than not on time," long waits are still fairly commonplace, especially during rush hour. However, the Department of Transportation intends to make the commute taken by Castrillon and many like her much easier and quicker.

The DOT recently announced plans to implement Select Bus Service on Webster Avenue, one of the busiest corridors in the Bronx. The Bx41, one of the buses that run along the 5.3 mile stretch — from Gun Hill Road in Norwood to The Hub in the South Bronx — carries roughly 20,000 passengers each day. It is estimated that 71 percent of Webster Avenue residents do not own an automobile, and 61 percent of these residents commute by transit every day.

Webster isn't as densely populated as some busy corridors. It's mostly populated with heavy commercial buildings and
(continued on page 14)

Lawsuit Charges Cemetery With Discrimination

By **SARA REGALADO**

A group of workers filed a federal lawsuit against Woodlawn Cemetery, saying they are seeking justice for all workers subjected to racism at the northwest Bronx historical landmark.

The group of workers — brothers Alexis Coss and Enrique Coss, as well as Todd Brown and Frank Russo — are suing the not-for-profit corporation, its board of directors, and Woodlawn's president, John P. Toale, Jr., for discrimination at the cemetery workplace on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, and disability.

The Cosses, Brown, and Russo say management has promoted racial division within the workplace by ignoring harassment claims. The workers say they (and several other workers who are not plaintiffs) have been subject to racial slurs including, "monkey, gorilla, and mutt," and have also not received equal opportunities for overtime pay and/or promotions.

The cemetery has faced racist claims for years now and
(continued on page 4)



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24-Year-Old Winning Money Game in 15th District Race

By WILL SPEROS

The race to replace Joel Rivera as City Council representative in District 15, which includes the Fordham-Bedford area, is shaping into the most unpredictable and interesting race in the Bronx this year.

Albert Alvarez, Rivera's current chief of staff and longtime right-hand man, seemed as if he would be the likely shoo-in for office. However, the odds shifted quite dramatically on March 16 when all City Council candidates filed their latest campaign finance disclosure reports.

The estimated balances of Joel Bauza and William Rivera (no relation to Joel) more than overshadowed that of Alvarez. While Bauza and Rivera's numbers show they have received generous financial support, even their numbers have been more than outdone by 24-year-old upstart Ritchie Torres.

William Rivera, a state committeeman for the 87th Assembly District, has been campaigning since September 2012. Over the course of these few short months, Ri-

vera has managed to gain enough financial aid from a mere 39 contributors to raise his campaign coffers to \$35,000.

Such a massive gain is especially interesting for a candidate who lacks a campaign website and any substantial social media presence. The "William Rivera for City Council" page on Facebook is the only presence Rivera's campaign has online.

Joel Bauza, on the other hand, made the news not only because of his \$28,000 balance, but also because the endorsement he received from Bronx State Senator Ruben Diaz Sr. Diaz, a Pentecostal minister, has openly backed Bauza since February. Bauza, who is the reverend of Calvary Church in the Bronx, appears to share some conservative ideals with the Diaz, although it's tough to tell because he doesn't have a campaign website.

Bauza has, however, been vocal on the issue of gun violence, and has urged community members to actively work to stop it. His community involvement is evident not only in his leadership as a reverend, but also in the 116 contributors he has

received since entering the race in February.

Though Bauza and Rivera may have gained some impressive financial backing in the past few months, no one in District 15 has managed to match Ritchie Torres, who has received a whopping \$61,438. With the help of his 245 contributors, Torres has managed to make quite an impact on the race since he entered near the end of February. Torres has been working for east Bronx Councilman James Vacca since he was 16, first as a volunteer and later as a staffer.

Based on his already lengthy service record, endorsements from Vacca and Assemblyman Mark Gjonaj, and his ability to raise his funds so high in such a brief period, Torres' looks like a contender.

Torres may lead in the fundraising department, but based on how the likes of Rivera and Bauza have performed in the past few months and Alvarez's standing in the district, the frontrunner for District 15 may be too early to call. The next financial disclosure reports will be released in May.

Underdog in 11th Council District Battle Hypes Local Endorsement

While Andrew Cohen, the establishment favorite in 11th District Council race, continues to trot out a cavalcade of endorsements, from the city's most powerful labor unions to the Bronx borough president, his chief rival was thrilled to announce the backing of a small political club based in Norwood and Bedford Park.

On a recent Friday afternoon, Cliff Stanton talked about the endorsement of the Northwest Bronx Democrats, a small political shepherded by Anthony Riveccio, a political wildcard who is a constant presence at local community meetings and rallies.

Stanton said the endorsement showed he was garnering support in the Norwood and Bedford Park communities, which he said have been neglected in favor Riverdale, the wealthiest and most politically powerful part of the district.

"[Norwood and Bedford Park residents]

Klein's State Budget Deal Leaves Local Democrats Wanting More

Bronx Democrat Jeff Klein, who represents a whiff of Bedford Park and is the co-leader of the State Senate, trumpeted the state budget deal hammered out last week as the most "family friendly budget in a generation."

The deal included a minimum wage hike that would gradually go up to \$9 an hour in three years, a \$350 tax rebate check for families and incentives for businesses to hire veterans.

"Thousands of low wage families in the Bronx will directly benefit from this boost in wages," Klein said in a statement announcing the deal.

But many Democrats outside of Klein's five-person Independent Democratic Conference (which may soon shrink after the high-profile arrest of Malcolm Smith on bribery charges Tuesday morning) say Klein compromised too much, to the detriment of Bronx families.

State Senator Gustavo Rivera, who is becoming Klein's most vocal liberal crit-



Photo by David Greene

AT PS 8, Anthony Riveccio (center) of the Northwest Bronx Democrats announces his club's support of 11th Council District candidate Cliff Stanton (far right).

have been ignored for far too long," Stanton said. "The political power in this council district resides in Riverdale and it's been that way for far too long."

Stanton also talked about his desire to

take a more active role in area schools, specifically citing the recent bullying problems at MS 80 and the controversial co-locations at DeWitt Clinton High School (see front page).

ic among Bronx elected officials, blasted the deal on the Senate floor for including a watered-down minimum wage hike and not including funding for the DREAM Act, which would allow undocumented immigrants to receive tuition assistance at state college and universities.

"Not only did the Education, Labor and Family Assistance budget bill completely omit funding for the DREAM Act, it proposes a minimum wage increase that

does not meet the immediate needs of our workforce and that will be outdated by the time it reaches fruition," Rivera said.

Before the deal went down, Assemblyman Nelson Castro also called for DREAM Act funding, saying, "New York State can no longer continue to ignore the need to ensure that these young adults, who we have educated and raised for decades, have access to good quality education."

Public and Community Meetings

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 will hold its general meeting at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, at St. Philip Neri Church, 3025 Grand Concourse, in the parish center. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.**

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Parks & Recreation, Thursday, April 4; Traffic & Transportation, Thursday, April 11; Health & Hospitals, Monday, April 15 (6 p.m.); Housing, Wednesday, April 17; Community Relations/Long-term Planning, Thursday, April 18. All Community Board meetings are open to the public. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.**

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Police Report

Teen Recovering After Beating at MS 80

By DAVID GREENE

A local teen is recovering and waiting for a transfer to another school, after she was viciously beaten by a group of teens who had been tormenting the girl for months.

Paramedics were called to MS 80, located at 149 E. Mosholu Pkway, No., in Norwood at 3:13 p.m. on Monday, March 18. An EMS spokesman said, “A female fell, that’s what [the call] came in as — having head pain and feeling disorientated.”

Sources close to the situation claimed

that the 14-year-old victim was surrounded during ninth period and beaten, punched and even bitten by a group of three or four individuals, including at least one male before she was tossed down a flight of stairs.

Sources say the victim was in a semi-conscious state when paramedics carried her out of the school.

The victim was taken to Montefiore Medical Center for treatment. She reportedly suffered a gash to her head and an injury to her hand, as well as scrapes and bruises.

A spokesperson at the Department of Education said, “An internal investigation is under way and disciplinary action is pending the outcome of that investigation.”

This latest incident amounts to more trouble for first-year MS 80 principal Emmanuel Polanco, 30, who some parents say has lost control of student discipline.

Union leaders also say Polanco violated the collective bargaining rights of at least one staff member and have held rallies calling for removal.

One source at the school, who declined to be identified, said, “They had known about this poor kid being bullied for months now and nobody did anything. This principal needs to be gone.”

Cemetery Charged With Discrimination

(continued from page 1)

underwent an independent investigation with the law offices of Collazo, Florentino and Keel LLP back in 2010, which led to the implementation of sensitivity training and the firing of one supervisor. No more than five months later, the cemetery began to lay off workers. Although employees believed that the layoffs were due to publicizing the racism at Woodlawn, the cemetery insisted they were for budget purposes.

“There were no indications of layoffs prior to the investigation,” Enrique Coss said. “It’s easy to use that ‘divide and conquer’ tactic.”

In an email response, Toale, Jr. denied all charges against the cemetery and is “confident” that the corporation will “prevail at trial.”

Brown said he was “really hurt” by what happened after the investigation.

“I thought there was a chance for some real change,” he said, explaining that what followed the private review were divisions among the workers and even a shooting threat that was left unexplored by management.

“Management told us, if we stayed quiet, there would be no more layoffs,” Brown said.

“It made us feel like we were guilty of the layoffs,” he added.

Employees and management alike are parties of the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) which ensures employees on several rights, including job security, proper overtime rotations, and fair promotions. In this agreement, which

management has allegedly violated, overtime is to be rotated equally within each department, so that each worker can benefit; promotions are to be posted and given to senior workers; and lastly, workers are not to be fired without just cause.

“There was such an atmosphere of fear ... we said enough is enough,” Enrique Coss said on deciding to take action against the cemetery. “The myth is that we were, for a lack of a better term, ‘brave enough.’ We showed leadership qualities that elevated us into leader roles.”

He added, “The fact that workers fear and hesitate in standing up shows that there is a problem. The mere fact that we were not afraid spoke volumes.”

Brown and the Coss brothers all served as shop stewards — elected positions — in their unions.

“I didn’t like that men were walking with their heads down,” Brown said about taking a leadership role.

Brown said management required Russo to rotate out of a position he had held for more than 10 years, causing him to lose multiple overtime opportunities. Plaintiffs believe retaliations caused Russo’s brain tumor to worsen and he was left to take a disability leave. Russo went into retirement because he could not survive on the leave alone.

Despite the layoffs and the growing division between workers, Enrique Coss says he’s still trying to “fight the good fight” for those in similar situations who are too afraid to speak out.

“We want to set the example, show that they don’t have to live in fear,” he said.



Photo by Sheila Sanchez

PARENTS HOLD a demonstration on Feb. 28 against embattled principal Emmanuel Polanco.

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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about the New York legislature's decision to raise the minimum wage from \$7.25 to \$9 an hour over three years.



Because of this economy we need to raise the salary in order for us to survive right now as working class people. Hopefully, Albany will listen. We have to let them know we are suffering right now. It's the best idea right now because we don't see another solution to create more higher paying jobs.
Julio Alvarado



My opinion is I feel like it should go up. There's people that are in need of money for their families and especially with the cost of living, everything is going up, so it's something that would help people in their everyday lives. I think it would have a good effect by raising the minimum wage to \$9.
John Sanchez



I think it's terrible with the economy the way it is now and with the subway fare going up, I don't agree with that at all. Of course raising it now to \$9 an hour would be better for the people. There are a lot of hardworking people out here and you can't do anything with \$7.25 an hour.
Angel Sampayo



I would say it's good. [But] I would say it should be two years when it should go to \$9.
Jimmy Lanzetta



I don't think it's a good thing at all. I think they should have done this a long time ago, and then maybe, if they were where they should have been, they could have raised it over time but I think they waited so long for the minimum wage to go up that it's time for people to be making more money. Everything is going up in this world except for people's incomes and it's not fair.
Jeanie Occhino



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Time to Start Preparing for Spring Allergy Season

An estimated 35 million Americans suffer from allergies, according to the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. More commonly called hay fever, seasonal allergic irritation results in symptoms that include itchy eyes, nose and throat, sneezing, stuffy or runny nose, tearing or dark circles under the eyes.

"In the early spring, trees are the first to start producing pollen as soon as they start budding, and it creates major problems for people with allergies," said David Rosenstreich, M.D., director of the allergy and immunology division at Montefiore Medical Center. "The symptoms people experience often resemble a common cold, but, if it happens every year at this time, it's most likely allergies."

An allergy symptom is the result of the immune system overreacting. It mistakes the pollen for a foreign invader and attacks it, which leads to the release of chemicals called histamines into the blood. The histamine travels through the blood and latches onto histamine receptors on other cells, causing them to swell. This inflammation causes many familiar allergy symptoms.

People with asthma are especially affected by allergies and may have asthma attacks, which can be dangerous and even

life-threatening. Asthma is often triggered by allergies; however most people with allergies do not develop asthma.

Over-the-counter medications often make people experiencing allergies feel better, but if they experience difficulty breathing or the symptoms become more severe, they should seek medical attention. Antihistamine drugs work by blocking the histamine from affecting these cells. Additionally, a physician can prescribe more potent medications.

In addition to medications, lifestyle changes also can help relieve symptoms. Several to consider include:

- Limiting outdoor activities during days with high pollen counts.
- Keeping windows closed (at home or in the car) to keep pollens out.
- Installing your air conditioners early, since they're ideal for filtering the outside air that comes into your home.
- Washing your hair after coming indoors.
- Refraining from mowing lawns or raking leaves because this stirs up pollen and molds.
- Avoiding hanging sheets or clothes outside to dry.

Source: *Montefiore Medical Center*

Get in Shape

Shape Up NYC offers free fitness classes for ages 50+ at the following locations: Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave. (Senior Fitness), Fridays at 10:30 a.m.; St. James Recreation Center, 2530 Jerome Ave., (Zumba), Wednesdays at 9 a.m. and Thursdays at 7 p.m.; and Poe Park Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, (Cardio Sculpt), Saturdays at 9:30 a.m. (through April 13). No registration is required. For more information, call 311 or visit www.nyc.gov/parks.

Health and Wellness Summit

The Bronx Health and Wellness Summit will be held April 6 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Fordham University, 441 E. Fordham Rd. and will feature CBS medical reporter, Dr. Max Gomez, as the keynote speaker. Breakfast and lunch will be provided. For more information or to register, visit www.bronxboropres.nyc.gov.

Study on Aging

The Cognitive Neurophysiology Laboratory (CNL) at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva Univer-

sity seeks participants ages 60 to 75 for a study on the aging process and its overall effects on brain activity and everyday functions. Participants get an EEG recording to read brain waves and then complete a series of computer-based tasks (approximately 4 to 6 hours), and will receive \$12 per hour in compensation for their time. For more information or to apply, call (718) 862-1828, e-mail AggingResearchUnit@gmail.com, or visit www.cognitiveneurolab.com.

Mentoring in Medicine

The Fredrick Douglass Academy I, 2581 Adam Clayton Powell, Jr. Blvd. (at 7th Avenue between 148th and 150th streets), will host a free program called Mentoring in Medicine, April 27 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., where students of all ages can learn about careers in the health-care industry. Included will be hands-on workshops, interactive demonstrations, research competitions, a health fair, and other activities. Registration deadline is April 20. For more information or to RSVP, call Ms. Perrineau at (718) 920-6626, email mimconference@gmail.com, or visit medicalmentor.org.

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- Turkey Burger Deluxe Fresh Turkey Patty w/ Sautéed Mushrooms, Tomatoes & Malted Swiss Cheese \$6.99

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- Classic Chicken Caesar Freshly Cut Romaine Lettuce, Topped w/ Shredded Parmesan Cheese, Croutons w/ Traditional Caesar Dressing \$8.99
- Cobb Salad Romaine Lettuce, Bacon, Crumbled Blue Cheese, Avocado, Diced Tomatoes, Eggs and your choice of Dressing \$8.99 \$10.99
- Intern Greek Salad Julienne Lettuce, Crumbled Feta Cheese, Olives, Peppers, Tomatoes, Onions, Cucumbers and your choice of Dressing \$7.99 \$9.99

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| Hard Salami & Cheese | \$4.99 | \$5.99 |
| Genoa Salami & Cheese | \$4.99 | \$5.99 |
| Pepperoni & Cheese | \$4.99 | \$5.99 |

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- Macaroni Salad \$3.00
- Potato Salad \$3.00
- Round Potato Knish \$3.75
- Sq. Potato Knish \$3.50
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- Chicken Salad \$6.95
- Egg Salad \$5.95
- Chapliker \$6.95
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\$4.99 | PANCAKES
Served with Butter & Syrup
\$3.99 | PANCAKES
Served w/ Ham, Bacon or Sausage, Butter & Syrup
\$4.99 |
|--|--|--|---|

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| OLD FASHION FRENCH TOAST
served with Syrup
\$3.99 | OLD FASHION FRENCH TOAST
Ham, Bacon or Sausage w/ Syrup
\$4.99 |
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- Onions & Peppers Omelette w/ Fresh Diced Onions & Peppers \$4.99
- Spanish Omelette w/ Diced Onions, Peppers, Tomatoes, Salsa \$5.99
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- Tuna Melt Classic Tuna, Sliced Tomatoes, Lettuce, Melted Cheddar Cheese on Toast \$6.99

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- Tuna Melt Albacore Tuna, Lettuce, Tomatoes, American Cheese \$7.00
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\$1.00 MENU SPECIAL (ALL DAY)

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------|
| F 1- Bagel w/butter | D 1- Reg. Can Soda |
| O 1- Corn muffin w/butter | R 1- Bottle Water |
| O 1- Roll w/butter | I 1- Orange Juice |
| D 1- Croissant w/butter | N 1- Apple Juice |
| 1- Home fries | K 1- Cranberry Juice |
| 1- French Fries | S 1- Coffee Sm. Lg. |
| 1- Hot dog Plain (Sabrett) | S 1- Hot Tea Sm. Lg. |

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ROUGH RIDERS

TWO SEPARATE GROUPS of illegal dirt bike riders headed in opposite directions on East Kingsbridge Road, when both groups were forced to wait at the light on Saturday, March 30. Illegal dirt bikes don't have headlights and can't be registered with the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Photo by David Greene

New Schools Inside Clinton Look To Lure Students

(continued from page 1)

on April 12, parents and students will only have a short time to get to know Clinton's new building mates.

In a recent press release, the DOE said nearly three out of every four students (74 percent) was admitted to one of their top three high school choices, while 90 percent of students were matched with one of their top 12 choices.

While the DOE trumpeted these numbers as a success story, that still leaves thousands of students in the Bronx and citywide who weren't matched or didn't

apply at all. The latter group represents the so-called over-the-counter or "OTC" students who are often less prepared and have less active parents than those who apply to schools during the first round.

The new schools at Clinton will accept students from throughout the city, but give priority to Bronx students as well as those students who make their interest in the school known by attending an information session, an open house or visit the school's exhibit at the DOE's high school fair (see sidebar).

In a recent blog post listing recom-

mendations for the second round of high school applications, Clara Hemphill, a columnist for InsideSchools, a website that tracks city public schools, included both older schools that still have open seats and new schools opening in the fall.

Of the eight Bronx schools named, one was the Macy's Honors program at Clinton, which screens applicants for the cream of the crop and still has open slots, and the new Bronx Collaborative High School.

Hemphill said she included Bronx Collaborative because it is modeled after the Institute for Collaborative Education (ICE), an East Village secondary school (grades 6 through 12) founded two decades ago. Last year, ICE received an "A" on its DOE progress report and graduated 86.4 percent of its high school student in four years. Clinton, on the other hand, has received two straight "F"s and, last year, graduated only half of its students in four years.

Bronx Collaborative High School's founder and principal, Brett Schneider, is a former assistant principal at ICE.

"In general, good leadership and a coherent, well thought out plan make a school successful and it seemed to me that Brett Schneider has the experience to pull it off," Hemphill said in an email.

In literature and on its website, Bronx Collaborative promotes itself as a place where students are "academic detectives, bringing New York City's unique resour-

es and rich history into the classroom to investigate and solve real-world mysteries."

Bronx Collaborative and World View High School both say they will have "social justice" components and teach students how to use technology effectively and positively. The two schools will also offer Native Spanish Language Arts and Spanish classes. Bronx Collaborative says it plans to offer French in the future.

While Word View will have strict uniform requirements — white button-down collared shirts, ties, no jeans, slacks or skirts, black or brown shoes — Bronx Collaborative appears to be more casual. It doesn't have uniform requirements, according to its bio in the DOE's high school directory, and, if it's like ICE, students may be calling teachers by their first names.

It's unclear exactly how the new schools will affect Clinton's programs and staffing next year, but it will be significant. Decreased enrollment will mean decreased staffing that won't always be proportional. For example, although the school will lose less than 10 percent of its population next year, administrators said the counseling office will probably be cut in half, from 20 counselors to 10.

Editor's Note: For more on Bronx Collaborative High School, visit bxchs.org. For more on World View High School, visit worldviewhs.org.

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Reform Bus Rides Into the Bronx

Frustrated by the Department of Education's policies under the control of Mayor Michael Bloomberg, a coalition of community groups calling itself A+NYC is looking for a fresh start under the next mayor.

But before the new organization, which includes several Bronx groups, including the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition and Sistas and Brothas United, began pushing its agenda, it went on a months-long citywide outreach tour to solicit ideas and figure out priorities.

Last month, following 75 visioning events throughout the five boroughs, A+NYC launched a bus tour to finalize its priorities, promote its efforts to this year's crop of mayoral candidates and register voters.

On a snowy Saturday afternoon in mid-March, the bus, an old-school yellow bus painted teal, parked in front of the Bronx Library Center in Kingsbridge. Inside, underneath a cloud-dotted ceiling, organizer Maria Fernandez talked to random people whose interest was sparked by the colorful bus.

Most of the seats on the bus had been removed and the interior was divided into separate rooms. On the walls were case studies and platforms discussed at the visioning sessions. Each platform included a small ballot box. Fernandez told people on the bus to place tickets into the platforms they believed were most important.

"We're asking people, 'Did we get it right?'" Fernandez said about the purpose of the bus tour.

They're also trying to do what they believe the DOE does not: engage communities, especially those in poorer neighborhoods with high populations of minority students.

Though Bloomberg touts a higher four-year graduation rate as proof his policies are working, Fernandez says there's also proof that they are failing.

"We know [Bloomberg's policies] aren't working because, after 12 years, only 13 percent of black and Latino students are college ready when they graduate," Fernandez said.

Fernandez said the plan is to push the finalized education platforms into the mayoral campaign conversation. Already, at least four Democratic candidates have visited the bus. —ALEX KRATZ



Photo by Alex Kratz
A+NYC'S PS 2013 outreach bus parked in front of the Bronx Library Center last month.

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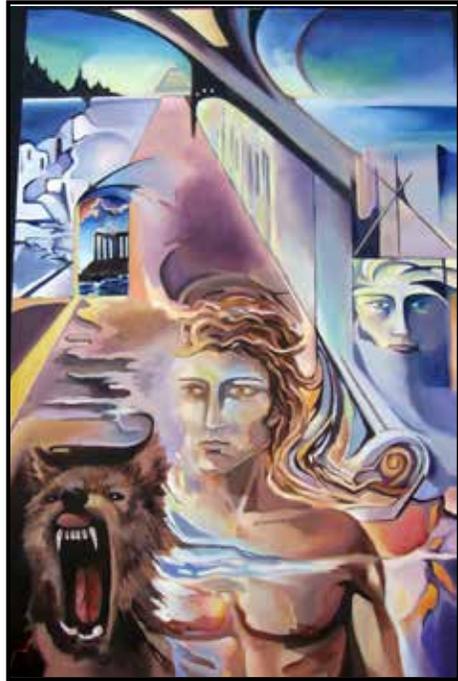


Arts Festival to Celebrate Bronx's Unsung Artists

By SARA REGALADO

Decades ago, when the Bronx was infested with crime and drugs, negative views plagued the borough, darkened its beauty, and cloaked the talents of its residents. It seemed as if the borough would never see the light of a new day.

Nowadays, however, plans to reopen the High Bridge — a walking connection to Upper Manhattan — bring forth an indication that the borough has persevered. Census figures show that more and more residents are choosing to remain loyal to the borough; students of the Bronx Academy of Promise participated in and won



"FIRA WOLF" by Jason Minos

a national competition; and earlier this year, the Bronx Museum of the Arts received a generous donation that inspired the building to keep its doors open free of charge.

Today, the Bronx is consistently making good news, and Bronxites continue to prove that there is more to the borough than its dark history.

"Not enough people pay attention to the culture here," Bronx artist Jason Minos explains. "There is a lot of talent that is underappreciated and undervalued in the Bronx. There are a lot of people who still look at the Bronx as a place to avoid."

This decades-long, apparent rejection of the Bronx inspired Minos to plan the Bronx Festival of the Arts, a week-end-long celebration showcase of Bronx-based singers, poets, dancers, painters, writers and all other art forms.

Minos, multi-talented himself, has always had a love for drawing and painting. He began to draw as soon as he was able to hold a pencil. In his mid-teens, he took his longtime interest in the guitar and began strumming. He was a natural and began to teach himself. Now, Minos plays in a band with his longtime friend, singer Richard Elam. The two record original music and are working on creating a website where they plan on uploading their songs.

Minos says he works "uninteresting jobs" to fund his passions. What keeps him alive is his love for the arts, which, in 2011, elevated into a grand idea. Inspired by citywide arts events, Minos decided to bring together Bronx-based artists and

exhibit the hidden talent buried deep in the borough.

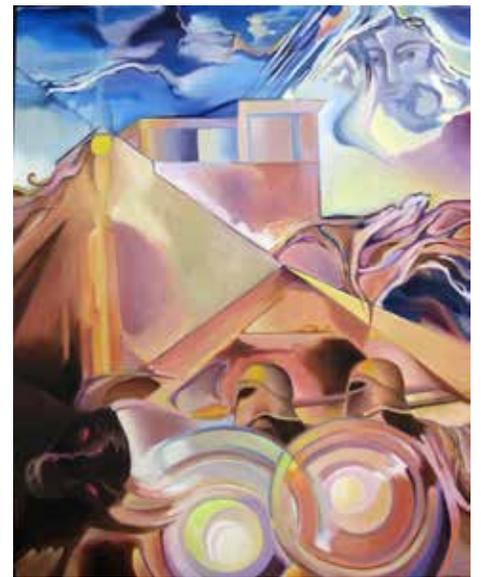
Minos began to gather a collective of artists who were interested in linking together to bring more attention to the borough by promoting Bronx talent. It seemed, however, that things fell apart overnight. The group found it hard to commit long-term. Despite this, Minos ventured on with his dream, knowing it would become a reality.

Apart from wanting to promote Bronx artists, Minos wants to bring New Yorkers into the forgotten borough. The festival will run through the weekend of May 31 with several events planned throughout many of parts of the Bronx, including Bedford Park, Claremont Village, Pelham Bay Park and Hunts Point.

"The community needs this, especially in this day and age," Minos says. "There are a lot of problems with the economy. There is so much uncertainty of the future." He added, "People have questions about things and this is all really about people. I want them to know that if they want to pursue the arts, they have a chance to, which is why I wanted to include schools."

After connecting with museums, schools, painters, bands, and poets throughout the past year, Minos will finally see his idea come to life at the festival's opening events at the Focal Point Gallery and at BAAD! (Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance), on May 31.

Editor's Note: For more information on the Bronx Festival of the Arts, visit bronxfestivalofthearts.com.



BRONX ARTIST Jason Minos wants to showcase the borough's talent, including his own visual art, such as this painting called "Bronx Cusp."

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Op-Eds

Why NYPD Needs an Inspector General

By ZELNOR MYRIE

In June of 2012, the City Council introduced a bill that would establish the office of Inspector General for the Police Department. The office would oversee the policies and practices of the NYPD and analyze the effect of those policies and practices on civil liberties, among other things. Mayor Bloomberg has expressed serious opposition to the bill, promising to veto the legislation and describing the creation of an Inspector General's office as mere "politics" that tamper with public safety. The mayor could not be more wrong.

The Police Department has consistently said that there are already oversight mechanisms in place to keep law enforcement in check. Unfortunately, these current oversight entities are ill equipped to address policy issues and are only responsive to individual cases. Furthermore, even in individual cases, there have been instances where the department has refused to cooperate with these oversight entities. Ignoring the City Charter's

mandate to cooperate with the Civilian Complaint Review Board, the police commissioner refused to let his officers testify before the board regarding a 2004 incident of alleged police abuse on a wide scale.

Similarly, the former chairman of the Mayor's Commission to Combat Corruption, a mayoral appointee, expressed to the City Council that the commission was largely ineffectual because it lacked subpoena power and did not receive cooperation from the department when they made inquiries into larger policy issues like the integrity of crime statistics reporting, fraudulent claims for police overtime, sexual misconduct, and domestic violence by officers.

Additionally, the CIA, FBI, U.S. Department of Justice, most New York City agencies, and comparably large municipal police departments, such as Los Angeles, all have Inspectors General. Yes, policing the cultural and financial capital of the world presents special considerations and strategies. But this is not a reason for less oversight, it is the precise reason for more.

Establishing an Office of Inspector General not only helps to build stronger public trust, its focus on department policy helps detect waste and inefficiency, a role neither the prosecutor nor the ethics enforcement bodies occupy. While it will not serve as a panacea to all problems within the department, it will help enhance the transparency, oversight, and accountability of the NYPD, a desirable outcome for citizens throughout the city.

As the courts currently weigh a class-action suit against the Police Department regarding their stop-and-frisk policy, it is important for our officials to consider common-sense solutions regardless of the trial's outcome. If the Police Department is confident in the strength of their policies, subjecting these policies to the review of an independent Inspector General will only strengthen that position. If there is room for improvement, however, then sensible input from an outside observer will serve both New Yorkers and the NYPD alike.

Critics of the bill claim that an Inspec-

tor General would curtail the Police Commissioner's power. This position, however, can be chalked up to a misreading of the bill and lack of understanding of legal precedents. In past iterations of City Council attempts to create investigative boards for the Police Department, courts ruled that they violated the city charter because they were not "purely investigative bodies" and its members would be considered officers of the city; triggering mayoral appointment curtailment. The current bill addresses this conflict, however, by giving the mayor sole discretion over who is appointed as Inspector General as well as allowing the mayor to fire the Inspector General without cause. Additionally, the bill gives the administration an opportunity to respond to the IG's reports, giving it ample opportunity to refute any frivolous charges levied against the department.

I commend Council members Jumaane Williams and Brad Lander for sponsoring this bill and championing the effort for over a year now. It appears as though their
(continued on page 16)

Cluster-siting is a Community Killer

By CLIFF STANTON

The New York Times recently featured an article on cluster-siting, a controversial city program aimed at housing the homeless that impacts the Bronx in a disproportionate manner. It's time to rethink this old problem. And as one seeking to serve the public in City Council, it's time to formulate a public policy solution ... smartly and quickly.

Cluster-site housing has become the Bloomberg administration's primary tool for sheltering 47,000 homeless, a record city high and a population that includes 20,000 children.

By providing enormous subsidies to residential landlords, the city has quietly, possibly permanently, altered the affordable housing market. The subsidies may be as high as \$3,000/month per room – many times more than what's obtained from rent stabilized tenants. Over a decade ago, cluster-siting was intended to replace an equally unpopular strategy, scatter-site housing, and gained momentum after federal and state funds for providing Section 8 housing vouchers to the working poor disappeared.

The new trend is disturbing. Rent-paying tenants are harassed or bought out of their existing apartments so landlords can rush headlong into this lucrative program. They may wind up homeless themselves or submit to remaining in a distressed building with a huge influx of homeless tenants. The city arranges for security and the provision of social services to the new tenants, which comes at enormous expense to taxpayers – significantly more than what would have been paid had the city replaced the lost federal and state money with its own under the now defunct Department of Homeless

Services (DHS) Advantage program.

Too often the beneficiary is not the tenants but the for-profit companies with whom the city contracts, such as Aguila Inc. Aguila is run by former DHS commissioner Robert Hess. Currently the Comptroller's office is auditing \$10 million in payments to Aguila, and a 2011 audit showed that Aguila-operated buildings had more than 1,700 open code violations.

Despite these problems, DHS is rapidly moving families into cluster-sites. In 2009, it folded 1,500 units into the program; last year, it added 2,011. The vast majority of these units are located in the Bronx and often emerge from the city's limited supply of rent-stabilized housing. Some are located nearby, such as 3001 Briggs Ave. in Bedford Park and 16-19 Mosholu Parkway in Norwood.

Cluster-siting is a form of civic cannibalism. Communities are losing affordable housing-to solve the immediate crisis of homelessness. We must shelter the homeless in the most responsible manner available and provide a real path out of poverty.

Social service providers take a broader, more holistic view. A Norwood housing advocate on Bainbridge Avenue related that a typical client facing imminent eviction is a single mother, hopelessly behind in rent payments – a symptom of a larger problem such as domestic or substance abuse, under- or unemployment, or a systemic health problem.

These frontline social service providers have an incredible record of mitigating such problems, but they are under siege, fighting without adequate support from their local elected officials and a city government more interested in balanced budgets than long-term solutions.

Most of the people seeking help in

Norwood are not on public assistance; they are the working poor, our neighbors, and need tools to lift themselves out of their difficult circumstances. A city and state that cares about fixing community problems, rather than funding expensive Band-Aids – or worse, turning a blind eye – has several tools at its disposal: increasing the state minimum wage, passing and implementing a real living wage law and

a paid sick leave act, reinstating DHS' Advantage program, adequately supporting organizations that advocate for tenants' rights, and "redesigning" Medicaid without gutting it.

FDR said, "The test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much; it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little."

Letter to the Editor

Is It Ever Enough?

Your "Fearing the Worst" article in the March 7-20 issue mentions a DeWitt Clinton H.S. English teacher who had previously worked at Walton H.S. which closed and subsequently reopened, housing several schools within its building. Now, his concern, as well as the concern of Clinton's students, parents, and teachers, is that they may lose their fight to prevent the same thing from happening to their school.

In addition, the op-ed by Public Advocate Bill de Blasio in the same issue deals with the closing of struggling schools without their first being offered more time and resources to improve. De Blasio also mentions Clinton and says he has called upon the Bloomberg administration to freeze school closings for the remainder of the mayor's term, and that "enough is enough."

The fact is that enough had been enough a long time ago when one school after another bit the dust. When it came to school closings, the mayor ignored protests throughout his tenure, and it seems unlikely that he would change his modus operandi anytime soon, especially now that his term is almost coming to an end.

It is our esteemed mayor who has been at the heart of school closings. Instead of helping troubled schools with additional

funding or support for new teachers, the schools were summarily closed, then reopened with new names and new staff, and some of the school buildings would then house more than one school within its walls. The number of students attending remained about the same or may have increased, which would, in turn, cause classes to be more crowded, and learning and teaching to be more difficult.

Some subjects, such as the arts and music, have been discontinued due to insufficient funds, but aren't more funds required for the newly reopened two-schools-in-one when each one has its own staff? In a recent news report, it was announced that several more NYC schools were scheduled to be closed by the end of this school year.

If de Blasio can convince the mayor to freeze future school closings, he will have accomplished something that no one else has been able to do to date. Unfortunately, Bloomberg may have set his own personal goal in school closings before he leaves office, and that "enough is enough" is not at all in his vocabulary.

Judy Noy
Norwood resident and graduate of the 'former' Roosevelt H.S.



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Business Beat

Center Opens Up to Neighbors With Easter Egg Hunt

By CLARKE ILLMATICAL

Last Friday, families cheerfully gathered at Tender Tots Child Care Center at 3322 Decatur Ave. in Norwood for an Easter egg hunt. The afternoon's activities were focused on the children. However, the underlying purpose of the event was connecting with community.

The afternoon's activities included an egg hunt, egg painting, potato sack races and entertainment from a clown.

"We felt that we would want to do something fun for the kids," said Rachel Denaro, the center's educational director.



Photo by Clarke Illmatical

KIDS PARTICIPATE in an Easter Egg hunt at Tender Tots Child Care Center on Decatur Avenue.

"We started with a really small plan and it expanded, and we opened it up to the community. We want us to be known to everybody and let everybody have fun."

Many present that afternoon were attending the center for the first time. Elaine Valentin, a grandmother whose children live in the area, was impressed with the facility and is interested in enrolling her two grandchildren.

"This place looks nice, it would benefit the kids," said Valentin. "They have all ages and they have activities for all for all the kids. I like the way they are organized. It looks like all of the kids here are happy."

Tender Tots uses a "play based" learning curriculum that works in conjunction with lesson plans and is tailored to specific age groups.

"That is the most important part of this experience," Denaro said. "The ability to play together and share and grow healthy relationships. We do our ABCs, but I like to promote that learning."

Despite the revelry, edification of the neighborhood was a concern.

"There is too much going on, we need to put something positive out," said Nancy Quinones, an administrative assistant at the center. "There is too much violence, there is too much hate on hate. We need to let the new generation get something positive."

In addition to childcare, the center really wants to establish relationships with families in the community, letting them know that child care is a component of

their responsibilities.

"We love to grow, we're trying to create a family here," Denaro said. "With our parties, we try to bring all of the families in."

The center is also looking forward to their universal Pre-K program, free of charge, starting in September. Currently

there are 85 children at the center, and they would like to expand to as many as 150. Children enrolled vary from infants up to six years of age.

Editor's Note: For more information, call (718) 324-1052 or visit www.tender-totsny.com.

Kosher Deli Comes to Norwood

Michael Kravitz, who you will find behind the new deli counter at MD Café on Jerome Avenue, says he will stack his Kosher-style roast beef and pastrami up against anyone, including a certain famous spot on the Lower East Side.

"It's similar quality to Katz's, but cheaper," says Kravitz, a longtime deli operator now plying his trade in the Bronx for the first time.

Kravitz says he has a "guy in Hunts Point" who makes the Kosher-style meats. The deli also offers a wide-range of Boar's Head cold cuts and is offering a \$3 lunch special on cold cut sandwiches.

Perhaps not coincidentally, MD Café owner Harold Richardson brought in Kravitz to open the deli to offer piping hot pastrami during Holy Week. Although observant Jews may have had to wait until after Passover to put that succulent meat on leavened bread, from now

on, the deli will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Editor's Note: MD Café, located at 3489 Jerome Ave., is open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For delivery or more information, call (347) 899-8300 or visit mdcafebronx.com.



Photo by Alex Kratz

DELI OPERATOR Michael Kravitz and MD Café owner Harold Richardson (left to right) happily serve some of their new Kosher-style meat to Jerome-Gun Hill Road Business Improvement District Director Michael Lambert.

Express Bus Coming to New Look Webster Ave.

(continued from page 1)

auto shops. But following a rezoning of the area that encourages more residential and retail development, the total number of commuters may spike in coming years.

Already two new schools are being built on Webster Avenue, just above East 204th Street. And a longtime Webster Avenue institution, Garson's Hardware Store, located at 2985 Webster, was recently demolished. In its place, three apartment buildings are being constructed.

In a recent presentation shown to Community Board 7, the DOT showcased its ambitious plans to make the corridor more commuter-friendly.

The hallmark of select service is that buses stop less frequently and only at major intersections. It also allows passengers to pay up front, eliminating the long lines to pay inside the buses.

For the Webster service, the DOT has already begun milling and paving near East 204th Street in order to begin the installation of specialized bus lanes for speedier travel. The new service also allows buses Transit Signal Priority, which will enable them to move quicker through critical locations. Doing so will hopefully change traffic flow patterns, the DOT says, which ultimately make conditions safer for pedestrians and help everything and everyone move more efficiently.

While the results of the DOT's field tests have concluded that the corridor moves fairly well, it is not without areas of congestion. As a result, the DOT has proposed to make adjustments to some major inter-

sections, like East Fordham Road and East Gun Hill Road, to help improve efficiency.

The first Select Bus to run in the Bronx was the Bx12, which has been very popular since service began in June 2008. After its installation, the DOT says travel time dropped 20 percent, which caused ridership to increase 7 percent. After the first year, over 95 percent of customers surveyed agreed that they were satisfied to very satisfied with the new service.

Over time, the 1st and 2nd avenue service routes saw a 21 percent decrease in traffic injuries. The DOT said it is hopeful that implementing the same system on Webster Avenue will yield similar results.

Lowell Green, chair of the Traffic and Transportation Committee for Community Board 7, is excited about the DOT's proposal. Green, along with her fellow CB7 members, have been involved in working to improve Webster Avenue through the rezoning process and she feels the DOT's plan is a "good idea."

By the end of May, the DOT hopes to be done installing their bus lanes and pedestrian medians. They aim for select service on Webster Avenue to officially begin by the end of June. In the northwest Bronx, the BX41 Select Bus will stop at East Gun Hill Road, East 204th Street, Bedford Park Boulevard, East Fordham Road, East 180th Street and East Tremont Avenue.

To Castrillon, and the many others like her who catch the crowded Bx41 or Bx55, having the option of select service could mean shorter waiting times and, ideally, a less hectic commute.



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Personal

Age _____ Male Female
 How many adults (over 21) live in your home including yourself?
 1 2 3 4 5 6
 7 8 9+
 Children: Yes No
 How many? _____
 Ages _____
 What language(s) are spoken at home?:

Combined Household Income?

Less than \$ 39,000
 \$40,000 - \$99,000 \$100,000+

Financial

Do you use a commercial bank?
 Yes No

Health

Check the services that you expect to use in the next year: Doctor Dentist
 Eye doctor Chiropractor Specialist
 Are you in need of a new health insurance plan? Yes No
 Do you have a primary care doctor?
 Yes No
 Have you used a hospital in the area recently? If so, Which one, and why?:

Entertainment

How many times in the next month will you:
 Dine out? Not at all 1-5 times 6 + times
 Go to a movie? Not at all 1-5 times 6+ times
 Go to a club, or sport event?
 Not at all 1-5 times 6 + times

Which of the following items are you or someone in your family likely to buy in the next 12 months? (Check all that apply)

- Automobile Airline ticket Vacation travel
- Mobile phone - upgrade or service
- Jewelry Clothing for children
- Clothing for men Clothing for women
- Wedding related or big family celebrations
- Groceries Computer or home electronics

What kinds of news and stories do you want to see more of?

- US national news
- National politics of home country
- Local immigrant success and business stories
- History of our people in the U.S.
- Local school news Religion and faith
- Features about cooking recipes
- More news for and about women
- Local crime and safety Immigration
- Horoscope, brain teasers, word or number puzzles

How often do you read the newspaper in print or online?

- Very often Often Sometimes Not often

How often do you use the ads in the newspaper to help make shopping decisions or plan regular shopping?

- Very often Often Sometimes Not at all

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Classifieds

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Op-Ed: Why NYPD Needs an Inspector General

(continued from page 12)

work, along with the tireless advocacy of communities and organizations throughout the city, will pay off as the Speaker of the City Council and mayoral candidate, Christine Quinn, recently suggested that she will allow the bill to go to a vote soon. It is my hope that this sends a strong message to our mayor that our communities want the Police Department to continue its great work in bringing crime down throughout the city in a manner that is consistent with

our civil liberties and under the accountability that an Inspector General would help provide. I can personally attest to the excellent work our Police Department does to keep us safe as a member of my local precinct council. An Inspector General will help spread and maintain this work throughout the entire city.

Zellnor Myrie is a current Urban Studies graduate student at Fordham University and serves as the Chair of Bronx Neighborhood Advisory 7.



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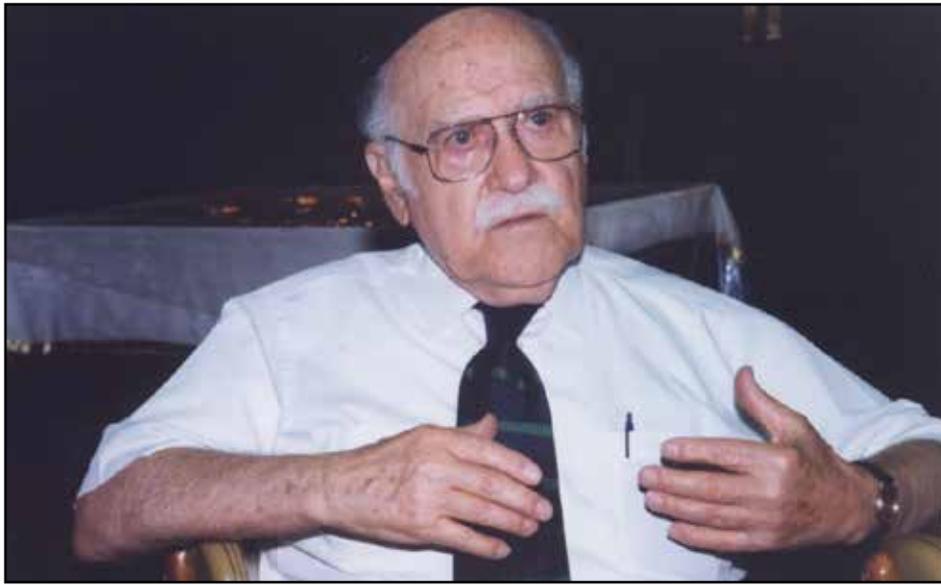
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Passages



File photo

RABBI HERSHEL SCHACTER in a photo from when the Mosholu Jewish Center closed in 1999.

Longtime Mosholu Rabbi Dies

Rabbi Hershel Schacter, the longtime leader of the Mosholu Jewish Center on Hull Avenue, died on March 21 at the age of 95.

According to a riveting account in the *New York Times*, during World War II, Schacter famously rushed to the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany to tell the Jews there that they had been liberated from the Nazis.

After the war, Schacter eventually

ended up in the northwest Bronx where he would serve from 1947, when the Norwood and Bedford Park areas were heavily populated with Jews, until the temple closed because of waning membership in 1999.

Schacter is survived by his wife; a son, Rabbi Jacob J. Schacter; a daughter, Miriam Schacter; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren, according to the *Times*.

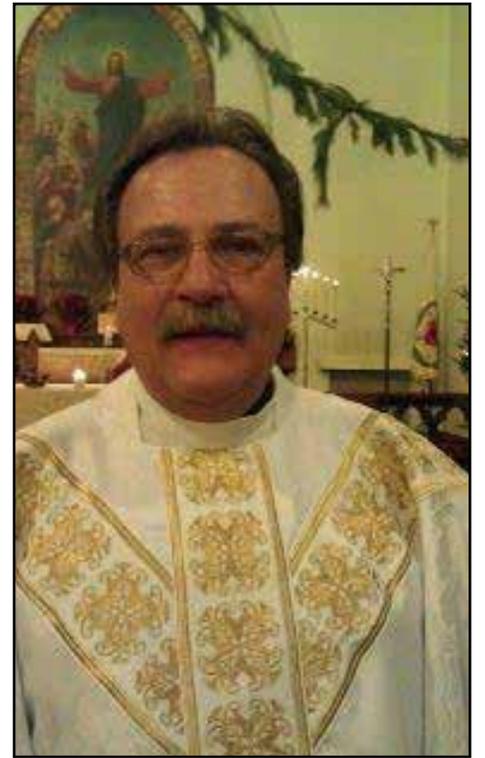
Pastor Moves on From Transitioning Church

In a move announced on the *Norwood News*' Facebook page, Pastor Bob Rainis left Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Epiphany (known as Epiphany Lutheran Church) in early March, just as the church was in the midst of its own transition.

Rainis, who had served at Epiphany Lutheran since March of 2008, is moving on to Trinity Luther in Wynandanch, New York.

In the Facebook post, Rainis also announced that Epiphany would soon be selling its building and begin to share space with Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, just a couple of block away.

Rainis wrote, "Epiphany Lutheran Church was erected in 1928 at its present location, 302 E. 206th St., but was established in Manhattan in 1880. The church property is fast approaching the signing of its sale contract, details of which will follow. Epiphany will common mission use of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, which is at 205thStreet/Bainbridge Avenue. Each of these two denominations will maintain their respective identities and liturgies, but will share in the Proclamation of the Gospel and community outreach."



PASTOR BOB RAINIS is moving on after five years at Epiphany Lutheran Church in Norwood.

Neighborhood Notes

Free Tax Help

The Refuge House, 2715 Bainbridge Ave., offers free tax filing through April 10 on select Wednesdays 3 to 8 p.m. and Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (no walk-ins) for individuals and families whose gross income in 2012 was less than \$56,000 with dependents, or \$25,000 without dependents. E-file and Direct Deposit options are available for fast and accurate preparation. For more information and an appointment, call (718) 933-2539.

The Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. (718) 579-4244, and the Grand Concourse Library, 155 E. 173rd St. (718) 583-6611, are assisting with filing taxes, free, for those who qualify, through April 15. For qualification information and a detailed schedule, visit www.nypl.org/taxhelp, or call 311 for free tax preparation assistance.

Community Tax Aid, Inc. provides free tax preparation through April 15 for individuals earning less than \$25,000 or families with incomes of less than \$50,000. For more information, including locations, hours, and required documents, visit www.communitytaxaidnyc.org.

BronxWorks is offering free tax preparation to low income taxpayers at the Food Bank of New York's Morris Innovative Senior Center, 80 E. 181st St. and at Community Aid at 2070 Grand Concourse. For more information, including additional locations, or a detailed schedule, call (646) 393-4009 or visit www.bronxworks.org.

Gun Talk at BCC

Bronx Community College, 2155 Uni-

versity Ave., hosts a free forum and panel discussion on gun violence, April 11, from noon to 2 p.m., in its Gould Memorial Library auditorium. For more information, call (718) 289-5770.

Free Trees in the Bronx

MillionTreesNYC is offering free trees for your home, community garden, or commercial property at several local giveaway locations: NY Botanical Garden's River Garden, East 180th Street and Devoe Avenue, April 6 from 10 a.m. to noon; Woodlawn Cemetery at the Jerome and Bainbridge avenues entrance, April 14 from 9 to 11 a.m.; Van Cortlandt Park, Mosholu Avenue and Broadway, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and Wave Hill at its visitor parking lot, 249th Street and Independence Avenue, April 28 from 9 to 11 a.m. Schedule is subject to change. For more information, call (212) 333-2552.

Literacy Connection

Improve your reading, writing and math skills and work toward your GED with the Literacy Connection, a free education and employment program for young adults ages 16 to 24. The program is offered at the Mott Haven, West Farms, and Bronx Library Center branches of the NYPL. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 401-7453.

Norwood Food Co-op

Join the Norwood Food Coop (share prices vary according to family size) and choose from fresh organic vegetables, fruits, milk,

eggs, cheese and yogurt, from June to November, all for less than green market prices, in exchange for a few hours' work with other coop members. The coop accepts SNAP/EBT/food stamps and has installment payment plans. Registration deadline is April 26. For more information or to register, visit www.norwoodfoodcoop.org.

Host an International Student

Homestay and study abroad advocacy agency, Americana Homestay Host Service, seeks Norwood singles or families to host an international student while they complete educational courses. The home must include a spare, furnished, clean private room, internet usage, towels, linens, and meals. A stipend for living costs will be offered. For more information or to apply, call (347) 371-3085.

Free Technology Training

Per Scholas, 804 E. 138th St., offers free 15-week technology training, Mondays through Fridays, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (high school diploma or GED is required), and includes free tuition, books and exam materials, and free career counseling and job placement assistance. Earn up to 10 college credits. For more information or to register, stop by the office Monday through Thursday, at 9 a.m. or call (718) 991-8400.

Help for Troubled Adolescents

Berkshire Farm Center's "Power

Project," 3464 Webster Ave. (off Gun Hill Road), is a free MICA support program that helps emotionally disturbed Bronx adolescents between the ages of 12 to 18 who use and abuse substances. The program runs group and individual sessions Mondays through Thursdays from 4 to 6:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 5515-7970 ext. 3010.

Free Job & Career Services

SUNY North Bronx Career Counseling and Outreach Center offers daily tuition free services including career counseling, college, financial aid and resume and cover letter assistance, as well as job readiness training at 2901 White Plains Rd. Computer literacy and GED programs are available during the day and evening. Seats are limited. For more information, call (718) 547-1001.

Opportunities for Young Adults

F.E.G.S. Health and Human Services System is hosting a Project Rise program at the Bronx Youth Center, 412-424 E. 147th St., 4th floor, that will offer free GED classes, paid internships and career advisement to young adults between the ages of 18 and 24 who are out of school and work. For more information, call Jordana Kerschner at (718) 742-3576.

For more Neighborhood Notes online, go to www.norwoodnews.org and click on "Neighborhood Notes."

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Sonido Costeno Trio**, April 6 at 2:30 p.m.; and **Silk and Sword**, performed by the Red Silk Dancers, April 13 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Lehman Jazz Combos With Special Guests**, April 7 at 2 p.m. in the Music Building Hearth Room (free); **Dance Brazil**, April 7 at 6 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/12 and under); **Fiddler on the Roof**, April 13 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45); and **Lehman Brass Quintet**,

April 18 at 11 a.m., in the Music Building Recital Hall (free). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

Events

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **The Orchid Show**, in the Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, featuring a viewing, music and complimentary cocktail with admission, April 6, 13 and 20 from 6:30 to 9 p.m. (tickets are \$20/members; \$30/non members). For more information, and to reserve, visit www.nybg.org.

■ The Wildlife Conservation Society presents its 5th annual **5k WCS Run for the Wild**, at the Bronx Zoo, this year

dedicated to saving elephants from poaching crisis, April 27 at 8 a.m. Casual runners and walkers can participate in the Family Fun Run/Walk at 8:45 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to those who meet various fundraising goals. Minimum to raise to participate is \$30. For more information or to register, visit www.wcs.runforthewild.org (\$35/adults; \$25/ages 3 to 15 and seniors).

■ The Woodlawn Conservancy offers events held at Woodlawn Cemetery: **Spring for the Bronx**, with the Bronx Tourism Councils Action Tours, to learn about Bronxites laid to rest at Woodlawn, April 6 at 9:30 a.m. (reserve tickets through the Bronx Tourism Council: \$35); **Solar Sensations**, daylight observations, free, hands-on demonstrations for the entire family, April 13 at 2 p.m. (RSVP); **Spring Starfest**, to tour solar system and universe via high-powered telescopes, free, April 13 at 7 p.m. (RSVP); and **From the Ground Up: A Day for Trees**, to register for a free tree, and take a trolley tour, April 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, call (718) 920-1463.

■ The Bronx African-American

History Project presents free events commemorating BAAHP's 10th anniversary, at Fordham University, 441 E. Fordham Rd., on April 6: **Conference**, featuring participants and special guests, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:15 p.m. in the Lecture Hall, Keating 1 (required RSVP to <http://baahpconference.eventbrite.com>); and **Concert and Film Screening**, featuring Jimmy Owens and his band, hip-hop performances, documentary, and a DJ dance party, from 5:30 p.m. to midnight (required RSVP to <http://theconcertbaahp10thanniversary.eventbrite.com>).

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts, 2700 E. Tremont Ave., offers free Big Read in the Bronx events: **Contest**, open to Bronx students, ages 12 to 18, to design a new cover for "Fahrenheit 451," through April 15 (winner receives Barnes & Noble \$50 gift certificate); and **Write Your Dream Screenplay**, April 6, 13, 20 and 27 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Event dates are subject to change. Also scheduled are **Read Aloud for Kids**, April 13 from 2 to 3 p.m., at the Westchester Square Library, 2521 Glebe Ave. (718) 863-0436; **Community**

EDITOR'S PICK

Learn to Cook

The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers cooking for the entire family. Children ages 5 to 12 can attend on April 9 at 4 p.m.; teens and young adults can attend on April 4, 11 and 18 at 4 p.m.; and all family members can attend on April 13 at noon. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

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Write and Read-a-thon, April 14 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and **Journal-Making Workshop**, April 15 from 6 to 8 p.m. For more information and contest details and requirements, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 21.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Drawn to Nature, to create drawing projects to add to the grounds, April 6 and 7 (free all weekend); and Daffy for Daffodils, to make a hat or costume, April 13 and 14; both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Ecology Building. Also scheduled is **Spring Exhibition Reception and Artist Talks**, to showcase work of seven artists, plus talks during reception (free), April 7 from 2 to 4:30 p.m., in the Glyndor Gallery. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and free Tuesdays all day. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; garden **walks** are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **First Fridays**, featuring film, art performances, music and other special events, April 5, from 6 to 10 p.m., in the 2nd floor north wing. April 5 features the Havana Film Festival. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **Joan Semmel - A Lucid Eye**, self portraits of a female aging through her 80s, through June 9. Also featured are **Honey, I Rearranged the Collection** (artwork from the museum's permanent collection) and **Bronx Lab: Style Wars** (featuring graffiti and its relation to style), both through June 2. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Hail to the Chief** and **Hooray for Our Side**, through April 14. **Pastimes & Pleasures: Having Fun in the Bronx** will run from April 18 (opening reception from 4:30 to 7 p.m.) to Oct. 23. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents free, **In the Realm of Dreams & Fears** at Hostos Community College's Longwood Art Gallery, main gallery, through May 1. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 518-6728.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Contemporary Cartographies**, expressing an array of ideas in various

styles, through May 11, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Computer Classes at 2 p.m.** (in-person registration required): **Intro to Computers**, April 4 and **Intro to Internet**, April 9; and **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.**: April 4, 9, 11, 16 (also at 3 p.m.) and 18. Children can enjoy **Flower Making**: April 4 at 4 p.m.; **The Hobbit**: (ages 3 to 12), April 6 at 2 p.m.; **Global Partners Junior at 4 p.m.**: (ages 5 to 12: phone or in-person registration required), April 10 and 17; **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: April 4, 11 and 18; **Films**: April 9 and 16 at 4 p.m.; **Family Time**: (ages 3 to 6; preregistration required), April 13 at 11 a.m.; **Chicken Book Making**: April 18 at 4 p.m.; **Carnegie Kids: Shine and the Moonbeams**: (ages 3 to 6), concert, April 14 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m.; **Craft Project**: April 9 at 3 p.m.; and **Jewelry Making**: April 12 at 2 p.m. Children can

enjoy **Popsqueaks**: (ages 18 months to 5 years), featuring puppets, music, magic and more, April 16 at 11 a.m.; **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), April 4, 11 and 18; **Little Red Riding Hood**: (ages 3 to 12), puppet show, April 5 at 3:30 p.m.; **Read Aloud at 4 p.m.**: (ages 3 to 12), April 8 and 15; and **Bilingual Birdies: Spanish Language**: (newborns to age 5), music, puppets and games, concluding with a bubble dance party, April 9 at 11 a.m. Teens/young adults can join **Test Strategies**: with Kaplan representative, April 4 at 4 p.m. Speakers of other languages can attend free **English Conversation Program**: intermediate level, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., starting April 16. Testing and registration is on April 9 at 6:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Crafternoons**: (all materials provided), April 17 at 4 p.m.; and **Movie**: April 8 at 6 p.m., both for teens/young adults. Children ages 5 to 12 can enjoy: **Arts & Crafts**: April 8 at 4 p.m.; and **Film**: April 15 at 4 p.m. Toddlers (ages 18 to 36 months) can join **Toddler Story Time**: April 17 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: *Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by April 8 for the next publication date of April 18.*

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