

NORWOOD NEWS

Be Healthy

Local Nurses Turn Storytellers

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Photo courtesy Gonzalez family

ECLECTIC NORWOOD ARTIST Ibrahim Gonzalez, who was known best as conga-playing bandleader and radio show host, passed away last week at the age of 57.

Ibrahim Gonzalez, Self-Styled Eclectic Bronx Artist, Passes Away

By ALEX KRATZ

Ibrahim Gonzalez's nickname and alter ego, Mambo Dervish, also served as the most concise description of a man who defied labels throughout his life, which ended last week at the age of 57.

The first part, Mambo, spoke to his love of music, especially Latin jazz, which he promoted on his radio shows and played with various bands throughout his life. The second part, Dervish, was a nod to his Muslim faith and deep spiritual life.

The name, however, still only tells part of Gonzalez's story. He was a musician, radio show host, spiritual teacher, composer, photographer, writer, journalist, videographer, and cartographer.

As it says on his personal website, mambodervish.com: "Ibrahim Gonzalez has been keeping his involvements with all of his passions moving along as a total lifetime dedi-

cation to self discovery."

In other words, he always had something going on. He liked not being pigeonholed. Gonzalez once said that choosing a favorite artistic medium to work in was like "choosing a favorite child." (He knew something about that, as well. Gonzalez had five kids and 11 grandchildren.)

In many ways, it felt like Gonzalez, the Mambo Dervish, was just

getting started when he abruptly and unexpectedly passed away in his sleep last Tuesday morning.

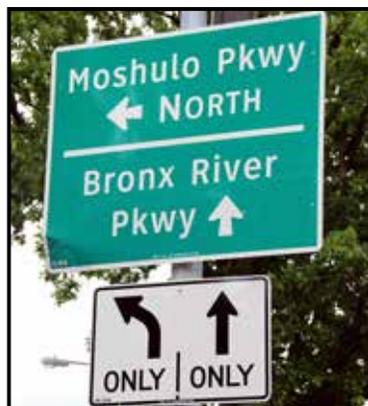
"We had so many plans," said his wife, Janet Norquist-Gonzalez, who was with him at the end.

On Monday evening, June 3, Gonzalez and Norquist-Gonzalez attended a fundraising dinner event for an organization the couple supports. After the

(continued on page 6)

WHOOPS

THIS STREET SIGN at Southern Boulevard and East Mosholu Parkway has been misspelled since 2010. After being forwarded a photo of the sign, a spokesperson with Department of Transportation said, "The agency has not received notice of this, however, we will inspect the location and take steps to address the sign as necessary."



Fire Devastates Gun Hill Road Building

By ANDREA CETRA, NATASHA RODRIGUEZ and HUGH THORNHILL

If you had walked into 66 W. Gun Hill Rd. early last week, you would have seen the aftermath of a disaster — clouds of smoke and dust everywhere, apartments covered in black rubble, and several tenants in the process of moving into emergency housing.

At the crack of dawn of the previous morning, this apartment building in the Knox-Gates section of Norwood was the site of a 3-alarm electrical fire. It took around 140 firefighters more than three hours to put it out. Fortunately, only one firefighter and one civilian were treated at North Central Bronx Hospital for minor injuries, most likely due to smoke inhalation.

Still, the fire displaced several residents, some indefinitely, and the damage to the building could run up to \$1 million.

A pair of apartments on the sixth floor, closest to where the fire first broke out at about 6 a.m., were completely demolished. The building is also suffering from a partial roof collapse and severe water damage. The Fire Department

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Locals Skeptical About New Webster Ave. Inn

By ANDREA CETRA

At the end of May, a Rodeway Inn quietly opened its doors for business on Webster Avenue, offering free Wi-Fi and complimentary breakfast. Built despite enormous community opposition, the new hotel's opening has put skeptical local residents on guard.

According to staff, the 5-story 37-room Rodeway Inn, a sub brand of Choice Hotels, currently offers no hourly rates, unlike most so-called hot sheet motels that operate in the Bronx. Single rooms start at \$109 a night; double rooms begin at \$119. The inn has already hosted 20 to 22 guests, according to staffers, and they are hoping to attract Fordham University visitors and tourists looking for access to the New York Botanical Garden, Yankee Stadium and the Bronx Zoo.

Barbara Stronszer, a community board member and president of the Bedford Mosholu Community Association who vehemently opposed the hotel, said the community will be "up in arms" if the inn begins offering hourly rates. Stronszer vowed to take action if it becomes a "hot

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Activists Drop Banners Urging Klein to Push Campaign Reform

By ANDREA CETRA

More than two dozen activists, including a group of high school students, dropped hundreds of banners throughout the Bronx on Tuesday in the hopes of getting Senator Jeff Klein's attention and demanding the Senate co-leader act on campaign finance reform legislation.

The activists, who come from a group called Money Out of Politics and a student-led group known as 99Rise, urged Klein, a Democrat who represents a wide stretch of the Bronx, including part of Bedford Park, to refrain from blocking the Fair Elections reform package, which already has the support of several Democratic leaders, including Gov. Andrew Cuomo, and was passed in the state Assembly.

The core of the package is the public financing of elections and more monitoring of campaign contributions. The activists say those reforms will lessen the influence of big money on politics in Albany.

Rival Endorses Cohen

Ari Hoffnung, a New York City deputy comptroller and former managing director at Bear Stearns, announced his endorsement of widely-supported candidate Andrew Cohen in the race to fill Oliver Koppell's term-limited 11th District City Council seat.

Hoffnung was considering a run for the seat up until recently and had raised almost \$80,000 for a possible campaign. His departure from the race eliminates another potential rival for Cohen. Also running in the 11th District race are Cliff Stanton and Cheryl Keeling.

A Riverdale resident, Hoffnung ran for the position in 2005, but lost by a three to one margin to Koppell, who has also endorsed Cohen. He made the endorsement announcement over pastries and black coffee at The Corner Café on Riverdale

WILLIE FOR BILLY



ON SATURDAY night, June 8, during his performance at Lehman Center in Bedford Park, salsa legend Willie Colon (right) announced his support for Bill Thompson in his run for mayor. Thompson is also being supported by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

According to the activist groups, Klein's "coalition government," which is made up of his Independent Democratic Conference (including Klein and three other Democrats) and Senate Republicans, has continued to stall the passage of the Fair Election reforms.

Klein has released his own plan to form a public financing system for state elections, but Democrats are holding out for the package passed in the Assembly and Republicans have not indicated they support Klein's plan.

In the afternoon, the activists gathered on an overpass to the I-87 Major Deegan Expressway in Kingsbridge near Van Cortlandt Park.

"We picked this key overpass, which attracts millions of people every day who are driving out of the Bronx, to do this banner drop," said Jonathan Wright, an organizer with the Money Out of Politics campaign.

Money Out of Politics claims the only way to promote successful campaign fi-

nance reform is by creating a new Constitutional amendment to monitor excessive spending.

99Rise, an organization of young high school activists that was started by a group of Los Angeles Occupy Wall Street supporters, advocates a slightly more diverse approach, tackling issues from immigration to women's rights and global justice movements, but clings fast to the familiar goal of promoting a democracy that advocates for more than just the 1 percent, and restricting campaign spending.

The two groups have joined forces to host two additional events since the start of the year. The first event, known as "99 reasons" or rather, "99 reasons to separate money from politics," spanned from Washington DC to Albany.

"We targeted Senator Klein today and demanded he stop blocking the [campaign finance reform]," Wright said. "We only have until June 20 [the last day of the legislative session] to rally up support," he added.

Avenue, near the corner of 236th Street.

Hoffnung was joined by Cohen and a small group of his supporters, including Cohen's biggest backer, Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz, who represents Riverdale and parts of Kingsbridge, Norwood, Woodlawn, and Wakefield, all areas covered under the 11th Council District.

Cohen and Dinowitz congratulated Hoffnung on his decision with vigorous handshakes and pats on the back.

"I have been struggling with whether to enter [the race], and it has been a difficult decision because I am so passionate about public service," Hoffnung said, hesitating at first. "Now I'm laser-focused on getting Cohen elected," he added.

His decision to withdraw from the campaign was fueled by an increased commitment to "family obligations," he said.

"We just had some Snow White cupcakes for my daughter Violet's birthday," he said, smiling. "My wife Annie and I are going to be deep in strollers and diapers for the next few years."

Cohen, an attorney from Riverdale who also serves as a Community Board 8 member, has been widely endorsed by



Photo by Andrea Cetra

ASSEMBLYMAN JEFFREY DINOWITZ, candidate Andrew Cohen, and Deputy Comptroller Ari Hoffnung (from left to right) gather at The Corner Café in Riverdale to announce Hoffnung's endorsement of Cohen for the City Council's 11th District seat.

prominent community leaders, elected officials and unions groups.

"He is head and shoulders above the rest," Hoffnung said of Cohen. "He's right on the issues, and he's committed to public service."
—ANDREA CETRA

Public and Community Meetings

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 committee meetings are held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St., at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: Traffic & Transportation and Sanitation & Environment on Thursday, June 13; Health & Hospitals on Monday, June 17 on 6 p.m.; Housing on Monday, June 17; Community Relations/LTP on Thursday, June 20; Land Use & Zoning on Thursday, June 27. For more information call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its Youth Services/Public Safety & QOL Committee meeting at the J.H.S. 80 The Mosholu Parkway, 149 E. Mosholu Parkway North, at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, June 14. Chief Chaplain Reverend Carlos Baez of the Chaplains Worker Federation will be giving a speech at the meeting. For more information please call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**

• **COMMUNITY BOARD 7 is scheduled to hold its general board meeting at the Visitors Center Café at the New York Botanical Garden, 2900 Southern Blvd. (across from the main entrance to Fordham University), on Tuesday, June 18 at 6:30 p.m. For more information please call (718) 933-5650 or visit bronxcb7.info/calendar.**

• **The 52nd PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL will be holding a meeting at St. Ann's Parish, 3519 Bainbridge Ave., on Thursday June 20, 2013 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. For more information please call (718) 220-5824.**

Police Report

End of Line for DJ Killed by Subway

He lived for the recorded music tracks he loved to play and died on the subway tracks trying to retrieve a dropped smart phone.

At 1 a.m. on Saturday, June 1, police say Francisco Diego, Jr., 22, who spun records under the name, "Tech Trackz," was attempting to retrieve a dropped iPhone when he was electrocuted by the third rail at the East 241st Street subway station in Wakefield. He fell under the moving southbound No. 2 train and died instantly.

It was reported that Diego had asked the token booth clerk for assistance, but apparently couldn't wait.

In an unrelated incident, a 50-year-



Facebook Photo

FRANCISCO DIEGO, JR., who was electrocuted by the third rail, then struck and killed by a moving subway train in Wakefield.

old man was killed as he attempted to cross to the other side of the station at East 174th Street, when he was struck and pinned between the platform and a No. 2 train at 2:15 a.m., on Friday, May 31.

The unidentified victim died a short time later at St. Barnabas Hospital.

—**DAVID GREENE**

Shootings Pile Up Over Weekend

Two weekends ago, 27 people were shot and 7 were killed in New York City during a 72-hour period from Friday, May 31, through Sunday, June 2.

At least eight Bronxites were shot during one 48-hour period of the weekend, including one person in the 52nd Precinct in the northwest Bronx — a 20-year-old man who was shot on the corner of Bedford Park Boulevard and Webster Avenue at 3:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, June 2. He has not been identified.

At this point, the 20-year-old is expected to survive, but others weren't so fortunate.

Ivan Martinez, 21, was found by police with a bullet wound in his head on the corner of East 139th Street and Brook Avenue at about 3:25 a.m., also on Sunday. He was pronounced dead on arrival at Lincoln Hospital.

On Friday night, May 31, Terrence Davis, 24, was shot multiple times in the torso in front of 31 W. Burnside Ave. and later pronounced dead at Bronx Lebanon Hospital.

Police have not announced any arrests in the two homicides or the shooting on Bedford Park Boulevard.

—**ALEX KRATZ**

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Business Beat

Vacant Bainbridge Ave. Fire Lot Begins to Take Shape

By NATASHA RODRIGUEZ

As the structure on the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 204th Street slowly comes to life, more details are emerging about what will replace the retail strip that burned down in a horrific Halloween morning fire back in 2009.

The property was purchased by the Katz family, who also owns the Foodtown supermarket across the street which was rebuilt and expanded after another fire, just two months after the 2009 Halloween fire. The family also owns several other buildings and businesses on the East 204th Street and Bainbridge corridor.

Dan Katz, one of the co-owners, recently toured the Bainbridge Avenue site with local Councilman Oliver Koppell and is going public with the family's plans to build a new single-story commercial structure that will hold approximately 8,000 square feet of retail space. The new shops are expected to open in the spring of 2014.

Robert K. Futterman & Associates, the property realtor handling the leasing of the space, is looking to attract retailers that are not much different than what is currently operating in the area.

Young Kim, a director with RKF, would not comment on whether or not RKF had already secured any tenants, but said he believes whatever comes will fit with what is already present in the neighborhood.

"Our vision does not vary from what



Photo by Alex Kratz

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES at this Bainbridge Avenue lot that was destroyed in a 2009 fire and will house new retail tenants when it opens in 2014.

is already in the area," Kim said. "There could be a pharmacy, restaurant, cleaners, or post office there." Although Koppell sent out a press release saying the property at 3083 Bainbridge Ave. was planning to house up to half a dozen retailers, Kim said that it was also possible that "there could be only one tenant."

On Halloween morning of 2009, a

five-alarm fire broke out and completely destroyed 10 local businesses, including a Mexican restaurant and a bakery, and damaged four others. For years, no one knew what would become of the vacant space. The boarded-up vacant lot remained a cruel reminder of the past.

But ever since the plans for the new retail strip were first reported in mid-2012, people

have been eager to see its redevelopment.

When asked about what kind of retailers they wanted to see there, locals had many suggestions.

"A coffee shop with Wi-Fi could be nice," said Anna Ruiz, a mother of two who has been living in the area for more than 10 years. "It would be great because although we have a lot of delis here, we don't have many places to sit and work at."

One high school student suggested a new Dunkin' Donuts (to replace the one that burned down in the fire), while another said that "a Foot Locker would be awesome." Blanca Santos, a Filipino immigrant with a big smile, suggested a Jelly Bean Square Store "like the one in Queens."

Although most people seemed excited about the new retail strip, some remain skeptical.

"I don't want some big company turning up and trying to commercialize my neighborhood," said Matt Kline, a high school teacher who has been living in the Bronx for the past seven years.

"I'm worried that it's going to look like a mini mall!" said Amanda Torres, a 36-year-old nurse. "I like our neighborhood how it is, without all the flashy stores."

In his press release, Koppell was pleased to see the construction. "The new stores will have a positive impact on Bainbridge Avenue and bring a sense of renewal to the entire neighborhood," he said. "I am looking forward to shopping there."

BORICUA COLLEGE

Established in the early 1970s, Boricua College focuses on the needs of Puerto Rican and Latino students in New York City, while serving a diverse population of students from all over the metro area. Fields of study include childhood education, human services, business administration, liberal arts and sciences, and inter-American studies. ♦ The college employs one of the largest concentrations of Latino bilingual professionals in the city, including 130 full-time and 100 part-time faculty and staff members. Boricua is a broad-based source of expert knowledge about Latin America, the Caribbean and the experience of Puerto Rican and Latino immigrants in the Big Apple. ♦ The most exciting new development is the Bronx Campus, a 14-story tower that houses the college's academic and administrative offices as well as a 260-seat theater, a museum, a cultural center, a library, a high school, a college prep program, and an after-school program for children of Boricua students. ♦ The new vertical campus can serve 2,000 full-time students and will be a part of Boricua Village, which includes 700 units of affordable and moderate housing, underground parking, retail space and a plaza.

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Owen Dolen Park's \$5 Million Facelift

By ANDREA CETRA

The \$5 million renovation of Owen Dolen Park in Westchester Square was unveiled last Wednesday, June 5, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

New spaces to host outdoor events and community programming were added, in addition to a large plaza along Westchester Avenue. Grassy areas were also expanded, pedestrian pathways repaved, new seating installed, and trees and ornamental shrubs planted. New lighting, drainage systems, and fencing were also provided.

A portion of funding will be used to improve the exterior of the Owen Dolen Recreation Center at 2551 Westchester

Ave., including new roof waterproofing and re-pointed masonry. In the meantime, the center will offer free Zumba and fitness classes, martial arts instruction, board games, senior programming, and arts and crafts activities through June 30. Upcoming activities include Health Day at the Square on June 15, and "Bollywood in the Bronx" on July 13.

Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., City Council Member James Vacca, members of Community Board 10, the Westchester Square Business Improvement District, Westchester Square Merchants' Association, and Westchester Square-Zerega Improvement Organization were all on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Photo courtesy Parks Dept.

LOCAL KIDS participate in the re-opening celebration at Owen Dolen Park in Westchester Square.



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Ibrahim Gonzalez, Eclectic Bronx Artist, Passes Away

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event, in the middle of the night at their home in Norwood, an area where the couple has lived for nearly 20 years, Gonzalez complained of chest pains and acid reflux-like symptoms, which he often suffered from.

By the time the sun came up on June 4, Gonzalez had passed away.

Word of his death spread quickly through the internet and social media, leaving family, friends and the many other people whose lives he had touched mourning the loss of one of the Bronx's biggest, most fascinating and unforgettable personalities.

Gonzalez grew up Catholic in East Harlem, the son of Puerto Rican immigrants. From an early age, he proved a precocious thinker and musician.

"He was just really awesome, had a different mindset," said Zaida Echadarry, who went to middle school with Gonzalez at Our Lady Queen of Angels in Harlem.

As a young man, Gonzalez converted to Islam. But in the last couple of years of his life, he made an effort to re-

connect with many of his old Catholic school classmates, including Echadarry. She described Gonzalez as "one of a kind, a great friend, a heavy, spiritual person, ahead of his time."

Gonzalez, who was probably best known in the Bronx as a conga-playing bandleader, learned music on the fly in the streets of El Barrio.

"There was always street music going on," he once said of his childhood. "I would go to sleep listening to the rhythms of the street. It was like my lullaby."

His stepfather, a "semi-pro" musician, asked him to fill in on the congas for a gig one night and, at age 12, he held his own on stage.

Gonzalez became a student activist at City College of New York and protested tuition hikes. Around that time, he also helped found Alianza Islamica, one of the nation's first Latino Muslim groups, in East Harlem.

Gonzalez's career as a musician was put on hold during his 20s when he left New York City to start a family with his first wife. They had five children together, but the marriage didn't last.

When that marriage ended, Gonzalez was in his mid 30s. He returned to New York focused on pursuing music. He learned from and played with some of the best, including jazz greats like Charlie Palmieri and Ron Carter.

After returning home, he settled in the northwest Bronx. He met Norquist through mutual friends in 1992. Gonzalez and Norquist became closer and the two eventually moved into a beautiful building overlooking Williamsbridge Oval Park. They were married in 2000.

Gonzalez was a mainstay as a radio show host on WBAI, a bastion for progressive and independent news and music, and as an independent producer for Bronxnet. For several years, he led the house band at the Bronx Ball, the borough's annual showcase gala event.

Although he never hit it big as a recording musician, Gonzalez played in several bands over the years, mostly dedicated to Latin jazz. In recent years, he became more



Photo by Adi Talwar

IBRAHIM GONZALEZ dances during an event at Williamsbridge Oval Park in 2011.

and more focused on filmmaking and videography. In 2008, he did camera work for a film by Melvin Van Peebles.

At the time of his death, he was working on a new cooking show for Bronxnet and had already produced several videos called "Cooking with Chef Julio" and published them on his youtube channel.

To the end, he always had something going on. "Some have referred to him as a renaissance man," it says on his website, "but the artist prefers to think of himself as someone who is blessed with a love for discovery and is a natural born eclectic."

Following his death, some 200 people showed up to the viewing of his body in Harlem and more than 100 people attended his funeral service at Woodlawn Cemetery, despite a heavy downpour.

As they carted the plain wooden box that held Gonzalez's body out of the chapel and into the rain, a makeshift band of musician friends serenaded him with powerful music, as people took videos with their phones and iPads and snapped pictures with their cameras. It was an intimate, eclectic scene befitting of the Mambo Dervish.



Photo courtesy Janet Norquist-Gonzalez

IBRAHIM GONZALEZ with his wife Janet Norquist-Gonzalez in an undated photo.



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Locals Skeptical About New Webster Ave. Inn

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sheet” motel or a breeding ground for illegal activities.

Inside, plush purple and white couches line the small seating area in the front lobby. The rooms include freshly polished dark brown headboards, bright lime green comforters and new flat screen TVs. Outside, a man in a neatly ironed work shirt pulled a small suitcase from the hotel to his car across the street, a bag of dry cleaning draped over his arm.

Despite this polished appearance, some of the strongest opposition continues to come from concerned parents whose children attend nearby PS/MS 20.

“I thought it was for truckers, at first,” said parent Lynette Rivera. “It might attract prostitutes or crackheads, so I don’t agree with it being placed here, especially where there are so many kids.”

“It should not have been built,” said Marta Vazquez, a paraprofessional instructor at the school. “The majority of the hotel is going to be filled with night crawlers.”

Yet some feel less threatened. The owner of Green Live Poultry, directly across the street from the inn, said the hotel won’t pose any problems.

“I think it depends on who they let stay there,” said crossing guard Pauline Lonax. “People do need places to stay



Photo by Andrea Cetra

THE NEWLY OPENED Rodeway Inn at 3070 Webster Ave. continues to face opposition from neighboring homeowners, members of Community Board 7, and nearby PS/MS 20.

when they come here, so we’ll have to wait and see.”

A resident from a nearby apartment building agreed. “Some people need a place to stay,” she said.

Police at the 52nd Precinct, located just down the block from the new inn,

wouldn’t comment, but a spokesperson for the NYPD said no incidents had yet been reported at the site.

Sam Chang, whose company, the McSam Hotel Group, has built over 30 hotels, began advocating for the project as early as January of 2005 when he pur-

chased the 5,500-square-foot lot at 3070 Webster Ave. between 202nd and 203rd streets for \$550,000, intending to construct a Comfort Inn on the site.

In 2007, Community Board 7 strongly rejected the plans. When contacted about the inn, an employee at McSam Hotel Group denied ownership of the property. But according to the Department of Finance, McSam Bronx LLC is listed as the current owner. A spokesperson for Choice Hotels did not respond to several requests for comment.

Virginia Hekimian, who grew up in and still lives in the house that borders the inn, adamantly opposed the project from the beginning. She said the new inn encroaches on her property line, causing extensive water damage to her home.

Hekimian wrote a letter complaining about the situation to Mayor Bloomberg and plans to visit the Buildings Department to file additional complaints.

“I’m going to have to pay \$16,000 to fix the water damages,” Hekimian said, pointing to a broken bathroom ceiling and water-stained kitchen wall.

“When I was a little girl, all this used to be farm,” she added eyeing her dark kitchen window, which now looks out onto the stained red brick wall of the hotel exterior and may soon have to be closed off for good. “But then buildings started going up.”

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ZIP code in the Bronx — which includes Tremont, portions of Crotona, Belmont and Claremont — with highest number of people afflicted by two of the following conditions: HIV, hepatitis B, hepatitis C, gonorrhea, syphilis, chlamydia and tuberculosis, according to the Department of Health.

Vital
Stats

The Dangerous, Funny, Sad, Uplifting Lives of Nurses

By ALEX KRATZ

The scariest day of Theresa Davila's life also happened to be a comedic adventure, wrapped around a mother-daughter coming-of-age drama. It climaxed with Davila running away from her apartment complex, which she believed was on the verge of collapse, dressed only in a towel, with her two kids in tow, trying to flag down a bus.

Once the bus stopped, she would, of course, explain why she was running through the streets naked and screaming. But the bus never stopped.

"The bus wasn't ready to receive this information," Davila said, deadpan.

Somebody eventually did stop for Davila and her kids outside of the Starett City housing complex, which she thought would be reduced to rubble by an earthquake that originated in Virginia, but rumbled all the way up to New York City.

Davila relayed this tale during a storytelling performance at Montefiore Medical Center last month. It was a highlight of Montefiore's Nurses Week celebration and offered more than a dozen nurses — the seen-but-not-heard worker bees of a hospital — a chance to express themselves and tell their stories.

The theme of this year's Nurses Week celebration was "Telling our Stories." Ronit Fallek, the director of Montefiore's healing arts program, took this theme literally. Earlier this year, in anticipation of Nurses Week in May, Fallek formed a partnership with The Moth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the art and craft of storytelling.

Founded in New York by writer George Dawes Green, The Moth hosts live storytelling "slams" and performances in cit-



Photo by Alex Kratz

NURSE STORYTELLERS (from left to right) Theresa Davila, Esther Kho Uy, Denise Reidy, Denise Nicholson, Alice Meyerson and Evey Parchment.

ies throughout the country. They compile a regular podcast and a weekly show on National Public Radio.

The Moth also puts on workshops for groups, like the Montefiore nurses, who want to tell their stories. For Nurses Week, Fallek said 20 Montefiore nurses volunteered to participate in the eight-week workshop with instructors from The Moth.

For an hour or so every Friday, the nurses would work on their stories, starting with big ideas and then editing them down to tight performance pieces. It all culminated with a series of performances at each of Montefiore's major Bronx campuses, including its largest campus in Norwood.

The Norwood event was hosted by Moth

instructor Peter Aguero, a Bunyan-esque man sporting a thick beard, long ponytail, jeans, blazer and red Converse All-Stars.

For Aguero, the performances were particularly poignant. "I love nurses," he said. "My mom is a nurse. I've been given so much by nurses, so I really wanted to give something back."

Denise Reidy, a nurse who works in the cardiac surgery intensive care unit, gave Aguero a big hug after ending the show with her emotional story of overcoming a cancer diagnosis she was reluctant to accept.

Reidy liked the writing part of the process, but was terrified of the performance part. She said she was "sick and

nauseous" the night before the event. But she delivered a spellbinding roller coaster ride of a story that ended with the life-affirming declaration that she was still cancer-free almost three years after the original diagnosis.

"One of the things for me is that I never got a chance to say thank you to everyone who helped me [survive]," she said. "So this was my chance to do that."

Like Reidy and Davila's tales, the nurses' stories ran the gamut of plot lines and emotions.

Another nurse, Esther Kho Uy, talked about growing up scared to fail. She eventually helped surgically separate two twins conjoined at the head in one of the most famous cases in Montefiore history.

Alice Meyerson, a nurse at the hospital's AIDS Center, gave a poetic telling of her time at a South Bronx hospital that closed in the 1970s. "I can taste the ashes of the Bronx that is burning," she says at one point.

Evey Parchment, now at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore, talked about enduring a series of setbacks on her way to becoming a nurse.

And Denise Nicholson spoke about how she was "groomed to be a nurse" and realized she had the chops when, at the age of 14, she randomly helped save a man who had been stabbed in the chest.

Each told their story live in front of an audience without using notes, which is how The Moth produces all of its performances.

Aguero says this is by design. "There's this visceral catharsis of emotion in front of a live audience that you can't recreate any other way."

Editor's Note: For more information about *The Moth*, go online and visit themoth.org.

Fire Devastates Gun Hill Road Building

(continued from page 1)

ment says it is still investigating the cause of the fire.

According to Red Cross Communications Officer Michael de Vulpillieres, 24 apartments at the 48-unit apartment building were either directly affected by the fire or experienced water-related damages. A total of 16 apartments were temporarily vacated due to water damages and will remain unoccupied for an undetermined amount of time. An additional six units were only slightly affected or could not be accessed because the residents were not home.

"We are currently providing temporary housing to eight families, although we offered services to all residents," De Vulpillieres said. "We have invited anyone affected, even indirectly, to come to our office in midtown to meet with case workers who will help them get through the next steps."

Although the fire itself destroyed several apartments, many tenants claimed the Fire Department actually caused the most damage while attempting to extinguish the blaze.

"The Fire Department destroyed everything in sight," said Gilbert Serrano, a current tenant. "I know that there are more people suffering from water damage than from the fire."

"The Fire Department destroyed a lot of the build-



Photo by Hugh Thornhill

THE BUILDINGS DEPARTMENT and Red Cross left notices on apartments that had to be evacuated at 66 W. Gun Hill Rd.

ing," said Cin Gjonaj, whose family owns the building. "They didn't ask questions. But you can't really blame them, since their sole purpose was to put out the fire."

A tenant on the sixth floor, who declined to give his name, said his apartment sustained some of the worst damage and was forced to vacate.

"Our kitchen was completely destroyed," he said. "The Fire Department had to come in and poke a lot

of holes in our ceiling. We can't stay here. They said it could take three to six months before I can move back in."

Gjonaj estimates the cost of the damage to be \$1 million, which, he said, insurance is supposed to cover. He and his associates have already hired a company to clean up the damage and contractors to cover up the leaks to prevent any damage from spreading.

Most residents were impressed with the immediate relief efforts.

"I have to say, the response time for help was immediate," said Serrano. "The Red Cross and contractors showed up almost immediately and the cleaning crew showed up late Monday."

Residents provided with temporary housing will be placed in a local hotel close to the affected residence, De Vulpillieres said. The Red Cross will also provide funds to those who have lost food and clothing in the fire and will help any permanently displaced families find new homes.

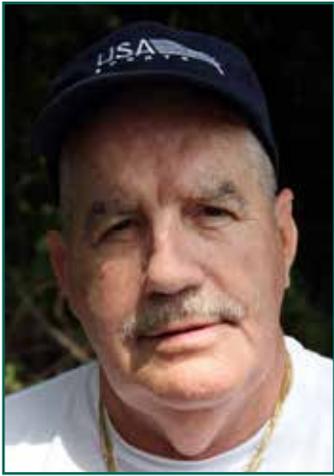
Although the building has received its share of complaints over the years, nothing recent appeared to directly relate to the fire.

Between November 5, 2012 and April 15 of this year, a total of 31 complaints were filed by residents of the building — 27 pertain to heating or hot water service.

Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about the city's implementation of new green street-hail taxis serving Upper Manhattan and the outer boroughs.



I think it's very good. I think it's about time they did that to help people out. I hope it cuts down on the illegal cabs.
Mike Brennan



I think it would be good. That way people can travel to places that they need to go. I take livery taxis when I go to stores around here. I think it will make cab driving much safer for people who need to get to where they need to go, especially minors.
Yasmin Cruz



In a way it's good for the local people because they have a meter and they start at a level where the regular taxi cabs have a minimum of \$7, so if you're going somewhere close, it will be cheaper for you.
Taisha Pagan



I'm in favor of it because you never know whose car you're getting into, and now that you know that the new taxis will be regulated and have their insurance, you won't have to worry and we will be much safer.
Tiffany Rivera



If I get a medallion right now I wouldn't be able to pay for it because we don't have enough passengers in this area. If the medallion costs \$1 million, the fee would have to be triple. It would take more than 20 years to pay it back because we have to support our families, pay rent and all our bills.
Angel Cepeda

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Opinion

Op-Eds

Klein Needs to Act on Campaign Finance Reform

By G. OLIVER KOPPELL

In 1986, when I was serving in the State Assembly, I helped draft the first Campaign Finance Reform statute to be introduced in the Legislature. It was carried by the Elections Committee Chair at the

Albany's cesspool of corruption than Senator Klein, who presides over the scandal-ridden State Senate with his "co-leader," Republican Dean Skelos. It's an unusual arrangement which has yet to prove its worth, in my opinion, though Mr. Klein would surely disagree. Regard-

Senator Klein must insist that Dean Skelos allow a vote on Fair Elections. Otherwise the "co-leadership" arrangement will be revealed as just a façade for continued Republican dominance in that chamber.

time, one Sheldon Silver.

Two weeks ago, that same Assembly Member — now, of course, the Speaker — passed the *Fair Elections Act of 2013* through the Assembly. But this crucial piece of legislation has no chance of becoming law unless the State Senate takes it up. Its fate now lies in the hands of our State Senator, Jeff Klein.

No one is better placed to clean up

less, he has a huge test before him now, as he must decide whether he will insist that Mr. Skelos allow a vote on a comprehensive campaign finance reform package

At the moment, the prospects for doing something real about corruption in the State Senate do not look good. Senator Skelos has expressed iron-clad opposition to any changes in the rules of how we finance, dis-

(continued on page 11)

Correcting Oliver's Wrongs

By JEFFREY D. KLEIN

Recently, on the *Norwood News* website, outgoing Councilman Oliver Koppell urged me to be a "genuine democrat" and to pass public financing of state elections (see opposite side of the page). Apparently, Mr. Koppell has not been keeping up with the news. If he had, he surely would have learned that less than two months ago, as Leader of the New York State Senate's Independent Democratic Conference, I introduced the most sweeping campaign finance reform plan in the state of New York. The *New York Times* called my plan "bolder" than Speaker Silver's, while good government groups across New York uniformly described my legislation as the most comprehensive plan to reform our state's campaign finance system.

ful disclosure requirements. Almost 40 years after his vote in favor of loopholes, Mr. Koppell is not only failing to own up to the consequences of that vote, but he is attempting to hold others responsible for fixing it. That's really something. In fact, it is the type of ham-handed posturing that distracts from the issue and fosters skepticism in the minds of voters.

We should keep in mind that Mr. Koppell has a history of only supporting reforms that benefit himself. In 2009, while myself and others backed Democrat Bill Thompson for mayor, Councilman Koppell endorsed Mayor Bloomberg and authored legislation extending term limits so that he and Mr. Bloomberg could run for a third term. Mr. Koppell introduced this legislation, even though a popular vote put those term limits into place years

Almost 40 years after his vote in favor of loopholes, Mr. Koppell is not only failing to own up to the consequences of that vote, but he is attempting to hold others responsible for fixing it.

Since introducing my reform plan, I have held public hearings across New York in order to build support among advocates, voters, and my Senate colleagues. Despite my best efforts, very few members of the Senate's Democratic Conference have signed on to my bill. That's because both Democrats and Republicans are afraid of what real reforms—such as lowering contribution limits and eliminating party campaign slush funds—may mean to their reelection chances.

My plan would not only implement public financing for state campaigns, it would correct the loopholes in the law that Mr. Koppell did nothing significant to change during his 23 years in the Assembly. In fact, Mr. Koppell *co-sponsored* legislation creating some of the system's biggest loopholes. That's right: In 1974, then-Assemblyman Koppell shepherded legislation through the Assembly that created party housekeeping accounts—large party slush funds that are uninhibited by contribution limits or by any meaning-

earlier. But it's no wonder Mr. Koppell wanted to get rid of term limits: had they remained in place, he would have been out of a job four years ago.

In his op-ed last week, Mr. Koppell asked me to "force a vote" on public campaign financing, even if the votes are not there to pass a serious bill. That's an interesting argument for Mr. Koppell to make, since he has been famously reluctant to do so in the city council, even on matters of civil rights. Earlier this year, Mr. Koppell announced with great fanfare that he would force a vote on legislation requiring all taxicabs to become wheelchair accessible. Forcing a vote on the legislation would have required Mr. Koppell to stand up to City Council Speaker and mayoral candidate Christine Quinn, who opposed the measure. Nevertheless, Mr. Koppell claimed that he would not back down.

The problem? When the going got tough—and Speaker Quinn stepped up the pressure—Mr. Koppell folded and intro-

(continued on page 11)

Letter to the Editor

Electeds Have Let Us Down

I would like to thank you for the coverage of Mr. Cliff Stanton's press conference at PS 8. I believe that Mr. Stanton's points are valid for areas in the 11th Council District that have been ignored for many years.

I myself have been a resident of this area (Norwood) for 62 years and have seen its decline. More recently it's because of the recession, but it's mostly been because of the non-presence of elected officials that have been put in office of said areas.

Norwood needs more money for school safety, slow zones, speed bumps, and senior citizen services. We need more economic resources for the Norwood and Bedford Park areas.

Norma Jean Scully
Member of the Northwest Bronx Democrats

Editor's Note: *Cliff Stanton is running for office in the 11th Council District and has been endorsed by the Northwest Bronx Democrats.*

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Klein Needs to Act on Campaign Finance Reform

(continued from page 10)

close and enforce our elections. And it's no surprise, really. The current system works well for him. Large contributions from special interests flow to the Senate Republicans, and legislation that advances the fortunes of the working or middle class dies a slow death.

Quid pro quos involving money in politics drive the Legislature's culture of corruption, and *Fair Elections* reforms promise to transform the entire system. Its centerpiece is a small donor matching system that would match small contributions from ordinary people on a 6-1 basis. This proposal is based on the New York City Campaign Finance Law that, I believe, has worked well. This measure would not eliminate corruption, but it will make it possible for candidates for public office to run their campaigns without "dialing for dollars" to lobbyists and other deep-pocketed interests, and that can only be good for our state.

Combined with dramatically lower contribution lim-

its, improved disclosure rules, and strengthened mechanisms for the enforcement of election laws, public financing will restore New York's democratic integrity by making campaign finance more dependent on the people.

Luckily, the vast majority of New Yorkers are clear about their desire for comprehensive reform. A recent poll indicated that 74 percent of likely voters supported *Fair Elections*, with strong support coming from Democrats and Republicans alike. Many of our top elected officials already support *Fair Elections*, as well. Governor Andrew Cuomo is waiting to sign a bill that includes public financing, and Speaker Silver has already done his part.

The Senate is big money's last bastion of power, and it's up to Mr. Klein to demonstrate real leadership and get a bill to the floor. The votes are already there: both Senator Klein's 4-member IDC and the other 28 mainline Democrats, led by Andrea Stewart-Cousins (Westchester), have indicated that they support a real break with busi-

ness-as-usual in favor of public financing of elections.

But a vote isn't happening because Mr. Skelos chooses rhetoric over action. That's why Senate Republicans held a closed door "public" hearing last week that the actual public was not allowed to attend!

The people of this state deserve real action to finally correct New York's democracy deficit. Senator Klein must insist that Dean Skelos allow a vote on *Fair Elections*. Otherwise the "co-leadership" arrangement will be revealed as just a façade for continued Republican dominance in that chamber.

The moment of truth has arrived. I call on Senator Klein to be a genuine Democrat and unite with his colleagues in the Senate and Assembly who agree with him on the need for this legislation. The Legislature can and must send the governor a long-overdue bill to end the power of big money in our political system.

G. Oliver Koppell is Councilman of the 11th District.

Correcting Oliver's Wrongs

(continued from page 10)

duced a watered-down version instead. As the *Daily News* editorial board put it last month, Mr. Koppell "buckled under pressure" and "wasted everyone's time" by bailing on his promise to force a vote. As for his new, watered-down legislation, advocacy groups said that it "put a price tag on civil rights, which no one should accept."

The fact of the matter is, building support for bold reforms is never easy. But in order to get them done, you need to have the courage to stand by your convictions. You also need to be willing to negotiate with your colleagues and find common ground wherever possible. These are lessons that I have learned well while serving in a closely divided Senate over the past nine years. I've applied these lessons over the past year to pass important progressive priorities, such as tougher gun control laws, increased funding for our schools, and a higher minimum wage for working families. I will do the same with campaign finance reform and will correct some of the mistakes made by others like Mr. Koppell in 1974.

Jeffrey D. Klein is Democratic Senator in the 34th Senate District.

Love for Ibrahim

I met Ibrahim about five years ago when I published a novel called "Gunmetal Black" and he invited me on his show to talk about it. I did not know what to expect.

He played some ambient music for a long while to set the mood. Then, without warning, he launched into a dramatic reading of a dramatic chapter involving loss. Of course, the scene had great meaning for me personally as the author. It was the first scene I had ever written, and by then I had lived with it for a very long time. Yet, Ibrahim's poignant, soulful rendition of my own words did something to me that writing and reading and living that scene in private had never done: it made me cry.

It takes a special kind of genius to make a man feel his own work again, in such a profound way. I no longer live in NYC, but I know there is a vast community in El Barrio, in the Boogie Down Bronx, all over that city which is feeling the loss.

My condolences to his family and to those who knew him.

I appreciate the youtube video of his band doing "La Hija de Lola." What a jam. I made Ibrahim smile big one time over a beer, when an Eddie Palimieri tune came on, and I did an impression of my dearly departed old man, who once said, with his deep voice and all the seriousness he could muster, "Toda la musica de Palimieri esta garantiza." I see more clearly now what he was smiling about.

—Danny Serrano (from a comment on norwood-news.org posting about Ibrahim Gonzalez's death)





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June 15, 2013	HEALTH DAY – Enjoy Zumba, Line Dancing and Salsa, Department of Parks Play Mobile for kids to enjoy
June 29, 2013	BLAST FROM THE PAST – Just Nuts Party Dance Band plays music of all eras, such as Dion, The 4 Seasons, Barry White and Huey Lewis & The News, to name a few.
July 13, 2013	BOLLYWOOD IN THE BRONX – Dance performances including belly dancing and music
July 27, 2013	CARNIVAL IN THE SQUARE – Enjoy games, cotton candy, magician and air bounce house
August 10, 2013	SALSA DANCE PARTY – Listen and dance to great Salsa music. Salsa lessons available.
August 24, 2013	BATTLES OF THE DJ'S – Four DJ's come to the Square to battle it out. Join the fun and vote for your favorite DJ
August 31, 2013	BACK TO SCHOOL – Enjoy a Saturday before the new school year. Games, music and school supply giveaways (while supplies last)

*No rain dates; if inclement weather on any of the above dates please call 718-597-4629 to confirm.



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Neighborhood Notes

Boricua College Open House

The admissions department at Boricua College, 890 Washington Ave., is hosting an open house on June 22 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., to provide information and guidance on the admissions process, financial aid and admission prerequisites. Boricua offers bachelors and masters degrees in the areas of Business Administration, Childhood Education, Human Services and Liberal Arts. For more information or to RSVP, contact Abraham Cruz at (347) 964-8600 or email acruz@boricuacollege.edu.

Non-Profit Leaders Sought

We Are the Bronx is recruiting non-profit leaders for its 2013-2014 Fellowship class, a 9-month professional development and networking program to receive leadership training with citywide experts. Application deadline is June 28. For more information, call (212) 983-4800 ext. 122 or visit wearthebronx.org/getinvolved.

Bronx Day in Albany

Bronx Day in Albany will be held at the Egg Empire State Plaza in Albany on June 18, to introduce and promote Bronx pride.

Bronxites will showcase their products and services and share their visions for the future of the Bronx. There will be a luncheon from noon to 3:30 p.m. to meet elected officials, and a reception with cocktails from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 655-5000 or email at BronxDAYinAlbany@gmail.com.

Hearings on Federal Funds

NYC Department of Youth & Community Development (DYCD) announced public hearings on the allocation of federal funding to combat poverty and support community-based programs. Bronx hearings will be held at the Betances Community Center, 547 E. 146th St., on June 15, and 29, from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. For more information, call (212) 442-5880.

Buy a Poe Paver

The Bronx County Historical Society is offering the public the chance to purchase a tax-deductible Poe paver; a fundraising project based on the sale of inscribed commemorative pavers that are to be laid near the Edgar Allan Poe Cottage in Poe Park. Each paver costs \$250, and will have your name and/or the date etched on it (two lines, 16 letters including spaces, per line). For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

Seniors' Medicare Session

Jewish Home Lifecare is hosting two talks, "Article 81 Guardianships and Special Needs Trusts" and "Changes in Medicare and How It Relates to the Elder Community" on June 20 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at

Kittay House garden level, 2550 Webb Ave. Light refreshments will be served. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 410-1441.

Westchester Sq. BID Meeting

The public is invited to the first meeting of the Westchester Square Business Improvement District on June 13 at 8:30 a.m. at The Pine Bar & Grill, 1634 Eastchester Rd. Property owners, commercial tenants, businesses, and residents must register to vote at this meeting on matters concerning the district, a budget, and a board of directors. For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 597-4629 or email lisasorin@wsbid.org.

Performance Arts Grants for Bronxites

Casita Maria Center for Arts & Education is accepting proposals for its Performing Arts Residency program to fund new works of theater, music, and spoken word featuring Bronx-based artists. The center will award five \$1,000 grants for production costs and artist fees, and will provide rehearsal and performing arts space. The deadline for applications is July 8. For more information or to request an application, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6193 or send an email to ajordan@castitamaria.org.

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



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District Manager Position: Available at Bronx Community Board #7. Description and requirements are available at www.BronxCB7.info.

Office Accounting Rep/Personal Assistant Needed: We are looking for an Office Assistant. Duties include greeting clients, answering phones, and routing mail, data entry and retrieve, scheduling and calendar maintenance. Ideal candidates will have proven customer service skills in an administrative setting and experience with Microsoft Office applications. Email resumes to jayjay12_odessa@gmail.com if interested.

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a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trip to Hershey Park: Saturday, July 13, 2013. Leave at 8 a.m. from 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. For more information, contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Concerts at 2:30 p.m.:** **Ivo Tirado and the Latin Jazz Element Sextet**, June 15; and **The Creations**, June 22. 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 **An Enchanted Evening**, fund-raiser



WAVE HILL is now hiring a new team of outstanding teens as year-long Family Art Project interns. Assist staff and help shape the experience of visitors during this popular weekend nature and art program. Positions are available immediately. Learn more and apply at www.wavehill.org.

hosted by actress Kerry Washington, June 14 with a private reception at 6:30 p.m. in the Concert Hall lobby with hors d'oeuvres and desserts, followed by music and celebrity interviews at 8 p.m. (\$125/person). Advance tax-deductible tickets required, online at www.lehmancenter.org, in person at the Concert Hall box office, or by phone. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ City Parks Foundation presents **Summerstage**, a series of free summer events, including a Musical Tribute to Ismael Rivera on June 25; a Musical Tribute to Hector Lavoe on June 26; and Sammy Garcia y Sabor de Puerto Rico on June 27; all at 7 p.m. at St. Mary's Park, on St. Ann's Avenue and 146th Street. Also scheduled is **Little Red's Hood**, a free puppet show based on the fairy tale, June 26 at 2 and 3 p.m. at Poe Park, 2640 Grand Concourse. For more information, visit cityparksfoundation.org.

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center, 1303 Louis Niñe Blvd., presents **Bronx Rising!**, a free series of performances (\$5/ suggested donation), including **Legacy**

Women Drummers, June 20 at 8 p.m.; **Bragging Rights: Stickball Stories** (film), June 21 at 8 p.m.; and **Breaking Ground** (stories by Puerto Rican women in NY), June 2 at 7:30 p.m. For more information, email info@bronxmusic.org.

■ The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **Out Like That! Festival**, a variety of performances, from June 13 through 28 at 8 p.m. Some are free. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 842-5223.

Events

■ The Fordham Road BID presents free outdoor movie, **"Despicable Me,"** June 28 at 8:30 p.m. at Fordham Plaza (189th Street and Third and Park avenues). Bring a chair or blanket. For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

■ Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **1040 Lounge - Celebrating and Promoting the Arts in the Bronx**, to enjoy artist talks and performances, in the North

Wing lobby, June 14, 6:30 to 9 p.m. Drinks will be served. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects:** T's for Dad and Me, to decorate a T-shirt (using fabric markers and special crayons) with animals representing you and your dad, using a Wave Hill T-shirt, or bring your own, June 15 and 16; and Playful Petals, to make a mixed-media sculptural flower using foam materials, June 22 and 23; both in the Ecology Building from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon and free Tuesdays until noon in June. 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.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's



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Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Pastimes & Pleasures: Having Fun in the Bronx**, through Oct. 23. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Wild Medicine: Healing Plants Around the World, Featuring the Italian Renaissance Garden**, including interactive stations with activities and samples of products made from therapeutic plants, through Sept. 8. For more information, call (718) 817-8512/8637.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **State of Mind: New California Art Circa 1970**, story of the California artists of the '60s and '70s who impacted artists across the country; and **Bronx Calling: The Second AIM Biennial**, a variety of work by Artists in the Marketplace participants (free), opening reception is June 23 from 2 to 5 p.m. Both exhibits run from June 22 through Sept. 8. For more information, call (212) 671-5169.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **"You Are Not Alone"**: documentary of Black gay

men depressed and suicidal, June 15 at 6:30 p.m.; **MS Powerpoint 2010 for Beginners**: June 17 at 2 p.m.; **MS Word 2010 for Beginners**: June 18 at 2 p.m.; **Learn a Language With Mango**: to learn one of 25 languages, June 19 at 2 p.m.; **Film: "The Mambo Kings,"** June 20 at 11 a.m.; and **Summer Heritage Crafts**: June 21 at 2 p.m. (in-person, advance registration required), Teens/young adults can attend **Teen Checkmate Chess**: June 19 and 26 at 5 p.m. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: June 13, 20 and 27; **Films at 4 p.m.**: June 18 and 25; **Jewelry Box Making**: June 13 at 4 p.m.; and **Fan Making**: June 27 at 4 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.; and **Internet Basics**: June 19 at 10:30 a.m. (in-person advance registration required). Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: June 13 and 20; and **Reading Aloud**: ages 3 to 12, June 17 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Cooking at 4 p.m.**: June 13, 20 and 27; and **Crafternoons**: June 19 at 4 p.m. (both for teens/young adults). Children can enjoy **Toddler**

EDITOR'S PICK

Events at Poe Park

Poe Park's Visitor Center, 2640 Grand Concourse, offers a variety of activities for the entire family during June, including poetry reading, exercise, knitting, and puppet making workshop. Tours are offered Sundays from 1 to 5 p.m. In addition, community leaders and residents are sought to become part of the

Story Time: ages 18 to 36 months, June 19 at 11 a.m.; and **Pajama Party**: ages 5 to 12, June 24 at 6 p.m. Adults can attend **Computer Basics at noon**: June 13, 18, 20, 25 and 27; and **Make Music New York**: June 21 at 1 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY TO ALL OUR DAD READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by June 17 for the next publication date of June 27.



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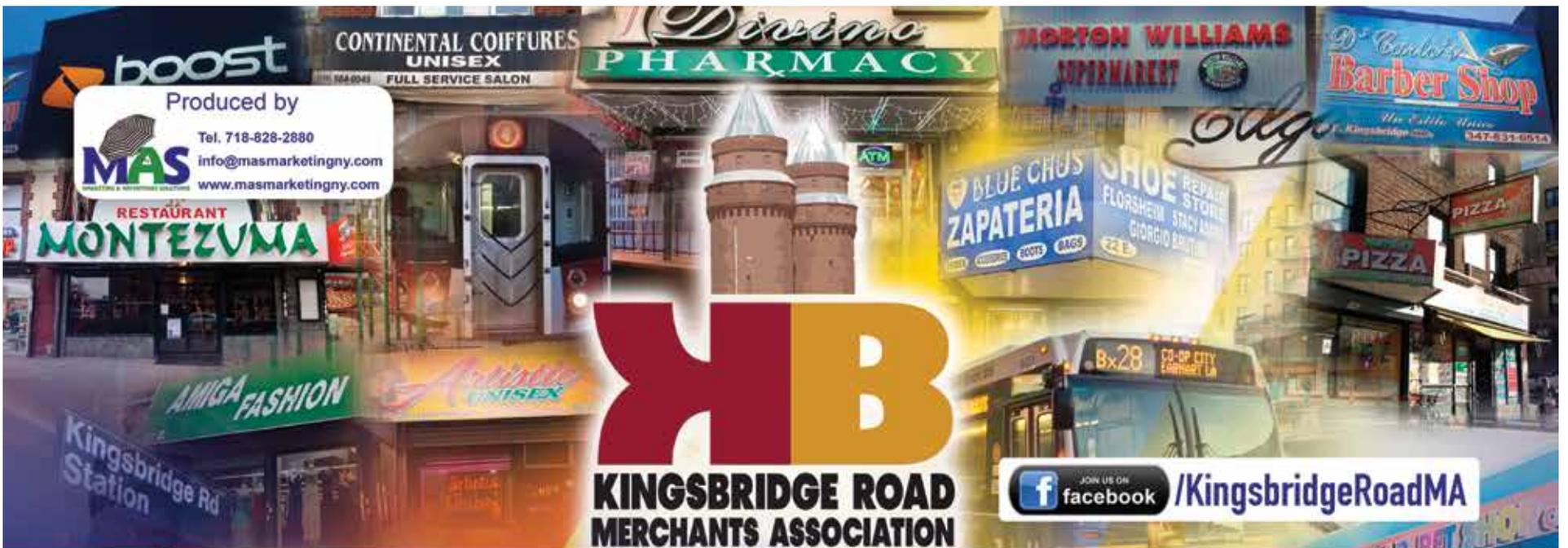
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