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Facing Death With the Courage of a ‘Warrior Princess’

By ALEX KRATZ

For such a young lady, 10-year-old Lydia Stephens is already well acquainted with death. She no longer fears it. Twice, she’s drawn to the brink of it and bounced back miraculously. Her courage while staring into the face of it is nothing short of heroic.

That’s why they call her the “Warrior Princess.” This is her story.

The princess part is easy. Lydia is a gorgeous, magnetic little lady who loves the color pink, wears tiaras on her birthday and dances like Beyonce. The aggressive cancer that dug into the side of her face two years ago has done little to diminish that.

The second youngest of five kids raised by Nicole Ramdin and Joseph Stephens, Lydia grew up in Norwood — a happy, playful girl with long hair and a little bit of sass.

From a very young age, Lydia would sing and dance like her idol, Beyonce. And she was good.

“She was going to be a superstar,” says her mom, Nicole.

Lydia went to PS 94 near her home and made friends easily.

“People are just drawn to her,” says her second cousin, Shiva Williams.

Before she turned 8, Lydia rarely got sick. “One time she went to the ER because she had a fish bone stuck in her chest,” Nicole says.

But two years ago, just a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving, out of the blue, Lydia’s jaw started hurting. She couldn’t open her mouth. Nicole took her to the emergency room. Doctors told her she had an infection and would need to take some antibiotics. But after a couple of days, Lydia wasn’t improving.

“I went back to the hospital and told them I wanted Lydia to have a



CAT scan,” Nicole says.

The scan revealed a significant tumor tucked awkwardly into the side of her jaw. They deemed it a rhabdomyosarcoma, a cancer that affects soft tissue, usually in the head and neck area, mostly



LYDIA STEPHENS attended PS 94 before cancer complications made it impossible. Her illness has put her in touch with other patients and celebrities, including Mets slugger Ike Davis (bottom, right).

in children, boys more than girls.

Like most cancers that affect children, it’s rare, says Dr. Jonathan Gill, Lydia’s doctor. Only about 350 cases are diagnosed each year. Lydia’s

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PS 340 Parents in Uproar Over Transfers

By BRITTNEY JACKSON

Parents, local activists and elected officials are upset with the Department of Education’s decision to transfer an entire class of kindergarteners from PS 340 in the middle of the semester to another school — a move parents say would severely inconvenience them and their children.

Opponents of the plan lobbied together two weeks ago during a Thursday Community Education Council District 10 meeting, expressing their frustrations after being notified by PS 340 administrators that 20 students, all of them kindergarteners, would be transferred immediately to PS 310 due to overcrowding issues.

“To bus them to another school is going to disrupt my 4-year-old’s education at this point,” said Leroy Gardner, a father of two students who attend PS 340. “He’s comfortable where he’s at, he doesn’t want to be separated from his sister and this makes no sense to me.”

PS 340 is located across from the Kingsbridge Armory on West 195th Street,

while PS 310 is more than a half-mile away on Kingsbridge Road near Bailey Avenue. Like several other local schools dealing with overcrowding issues, PS 340 requested a “cap” for the number of kindergarten students they could accommodate.

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PARENTS PICK UP their children outside of PS 340 last week before Thanksgiving. A whole class of kindergarteners is slated to be transferred to PS 310 in the near future.

Photo by Diana Perez

Latino Muslims Search for Identity, Community

By ELIZABETH BARBER

In Masjid Annasr’s prayer space on a Saturday afternoon, Zaynab al-Samat is in a minority of one. A slight woman dressed in a pale purple abaya and matching hijab, she is the only Hispanic

supplicant at this roomy northwest Bronx mosque that almost exclusively serves a local West African population.

Al-Samat, a native of the Dominican Republic, converted to Islam in 2010 after a long period of faith exploration as she became increasingly dissatisfied with the Catholic Church. Now, she says she has found a welcoming home here at Masjid Annasr, one of several West African mosques in Morris Heights, a majority-Hispanic area increasingly dotted with Ghanaian groceries offering Halal cuts of goat meat.

Still, al-Samat says that she hopes to eventually pray at a Latino mosque, a niche that doesn’t exist here in the Bronx. Though she is deeply involved at Masjid Annasr, managing religious classes for children and painting henna on holidays, what she lacks here is a Latino Muslim community in which to weave together her Latino culture and a faith that some Hispanics “think is for Arabs only,” she said.

Even as the number of Latino con-

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In The Public Interest

Race to Replace Norwood/Bedford Park Councilman Heats Up

By ALEX KRATZ

Last week, Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz showed up at Scott Tower in Bedford Park to address the audience at the November Community Board 7 general meeting to talk about a few issues facing the state legislator.

He also brought along a friend and ally, Andy Cohen, who he introduced as the Aging Committee Chair of Community Board 8, which includes Kingsbridge and Riverdale.

"I'm sure you might be able to get together with him to work on common issues," he said.

What he did not mention was that, earlier in the day, Cohen had announced his candidacy for the City Council seat (11th District) currently held by Oliver Koppell. During his announcement on the steps of City Hall, Cohen was flanked by Koppell, Dinowitz, Congressman Eliot Engel and State Senator Jeff Klein.

That quartet will lend a lot of weight and resources to Cohen's campaign as he runs against entrepreneur Cliff Stanton who announced his candidacy back in January.

Stanton, who owns the Nuts 4 Nuts street vendor franchise, is an activist at local schools, including Bronx High School of Science. For nearly a year, he's had the campaign all to himself. Now, with Cohen stepping into the arena backed by the northwest Bronx's most powerful pols, Stanton immediately becomes the underdog.

For a time, there was speculation that Dinowitz would run for the seat himself.



Photo by Alex Kratz

ANDY COHEN, who is running for the City Council seat soon to be vacated by Oliver Koppell, stands during a recent Community Board 7 meeting.

Now it appears he has thrown his full support behind Cohen. Dinowitz's support also means that Cohen will probably enjoy the backing of the Benjamin Franklin Reform Democratic Club, where he serves as a member of the executive committee and Bronx Democratic County Committee, which named him an honorary vice chair in September, according to the *Riverdale Press*.

Stanton quickly sent out a press release, saying, "Andy Cohen is a manufactured candidate with thin leadership credentials and a scant record of achievement; a product of the entrenched political machine of the Northwest Bronx."

Aside from his work on Community Board 8, Cohen worked as a court attorney for a Bronx Supreme Court judge and as legal counsel for Dinowitz before starting his own law practice. For the past two years, he's been an adjunct professor at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. He is also a member of New York State Teachers Union, the Bronx Bar Association and the Friends of Van Cortlandt Park.

At the Community Board 7 meeting, Cohen stood quietly to the side and thumbed through his phone while Dinowitz spoke. When Dinowitz mentioned his name, Cohen received a smattering of applause.

Bronx BP Scraps Citywide Bid

After exploring and raising money for a run at the citywide office of public advocate, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. announced last week that he will stay local and run for re-election next year.

Diaz announced his decision in an email to supporters last week, saying, "The needs of the people of the Bronx are foremost on my mind and in my heart. Therefore, I have decided to run for re-election as Bronx Borough President in 2013."

Diaz mentioned several successes over the past few years, including bringing "responsible development to the Kingsbridge Armory."

He added, "I wish to see these projects and others to completion, and I will work with our elected officials, government agencies, business and non-profit communities, as well as the residents of the Bronx as a whole, to make that happen."

Worship in Schools Saga Continues

The Bronx Household of Faith's seemingly never-ending battle with the Department of Education over worshiping in city schools during off-hours began a new chapter last week when oral arguments were presented in front of a three-judge panel in the Second Circuit Court

of Appeals.

For nearly 17 years, the small Christian church in University Heights has fought to use school space for worshiping on Sundays and the DOE has fought them every step of the way. The two sides trade victories almost annually.

Local Councilman Fernando Cabrera has been pushing to have the DOE's policy

against worshiping during off-hours overturned legislatively, saying the policy is discriminatory and that he's hurting groups that have catered to community needs, especially during Hurricane Sandy.

The DOE says allowing churches to worship in public schools is akin to endorsing one religion over another and wants to avoid any appearance of favoritism.

Public and Community Meetings

- **The 52ND PRECINCT COMMUNITY COUNCIL** will meet at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 29, at Fordham Methodist Church, 2543 Marion Ave, (at East 198th Street). Councilman Fernando Cabrera will be a guest speaker. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.
- **The BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** will meet on Wednesday, Dec. 5, at 8 p.m. at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So., apt. B1 (lobby floor). All are welcome.
- **The ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY** sponsored by Community Board 7 will be held on Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m. The tree lighting will take place on the center mall of Mosholu Parkway at Bainbridge Avenue. Everyone is invited to participate in this community event.
- **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: Land Use/Zoning, Thursday, Nov. 29; Public Safety, Fri, Nov. 30. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.



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With Hunger Rising, Local Groups Do Their Part

By **DANILKA INFANTE**

Even before Hurricane Sandy left thousands of New Yorkers without power and many homeless, the city was facing a surge in hunger.

The numbers are staggering in a city seemingly flush with resources. An average of 1.5 million New York City residents, one in four being children, live in households where a steady supply of food is not secure, according to the New York City Coalition Against Hunger.

Although the hurricane did not do extensive damage to the Bronx compared to other boroughs, it remains number one in hunger. Before Sandy, 533,825 Bronx residents (40 percent) lived in a home where there was not enough food. More than half of Bronx children, about 199,000, live in homes that lack enough food. The hunger coalition conducted their first analysis of senior data and found that one in five Bronx residents over the age of 60 is battling against hunger.

Hunger problems are taxing the city's free food providers like never before. Food pantries, soup kitchens and brown bag programs have reported a 20.8 percent increase for their services, mainly families with children.

This is not surprising since the high demands for these services have only risen since the recession that began in 2008. Almost 90 percent of food pantries and soup kitchens in the Bronx saw an increase in the number of people they served in 2012. Of the people served, 70



Photo by Diana Perez

SENIORS AND STAFFERS at the East Concourse Senior Center spend the day before Thanksgiving celebrating.

percent had paying jobs and 90 percent were families with children.

In the northwest Bronx, two groups are doing their part to ease the hunger crisis.

Part of the Solution (POTS) a multi-service organization and soup kitchen on Webster Avenue, is literally part of the solution to end hunger.

"POTS is serving more individuals in 2012 than at any point in its 30-year history," said Christopher Bean, executive director of POTS. "The needs of low-income individuals are complex and demand the comprehensive response that POTS, as a 'one-stop-shop' provides."

In addition to hot meals and a food pantry, POTS provides legal assistance, hot showers, clothing, job readiness help and even haircuts.

On the Monday before Thanksgiving, POTS was buzzing. Earlier in the day, Mets legend Rusty Staub, stopped by, along with several elected officials, and delivered a \$50,000 check to help keep POTS in business.

POTS tries hard to eliminate the stigma attached to needing food. Their soup kitchen is like a restaurant, its pantry like a grocery store. A hostess shows diners to their table, which are nicely decorated with holiday themed centerpieces. Volun-

teers serve meals. Today it's rotisserie chicken, with sides of macaroni and cheese, salad, biscuits, and a cinnamon bun as dessert. Volunteers act like waiters and refill empty cups with juice and water.

This is what POTS is all about, says chef Keith Bell, not separating themselves from the people in need but coming together as a community to move forward.

"We are here to help people get back on their feet and better themselves," says volunteer Angel Maria Axbar.

"Regardless of your situation, whether you are a victim of the recent Hurricane Sandy disaster or experiencing hard times, this food pantry has one goal in mind – to provide you with a hot meal," says Councilmember Joel Rivera.

On Nov. 21, the day before Thanksgiving, another multi-service organization, Bronx Works, hosted three different Thanksgiving events throughout the Bronx for low-income seniors.

Lucesita Lombillo, an employee at East Concourse Senior Center, says "We do this for the seniors. They love to have a good time. They dance, sing, eat and take some food home with them."

The pre-Thanksgiving day event has been going on since 2004. Lombillo says the seniors helped her decorate the room and tables. Before the meal, people went around saying what they were thankful for. Then, they partied.

Solomon Smart, director of East Concourse Senior Center says the seniors "don't want to stop celebrating — they are hopping from center to center."

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Police Report

Robbery Suspects Sought



Photo courtesy NYPD

POLICE SAY this suspect robbed a livery cab driver at knife point.



Photo courtesy NYPD

POLICE SAY this suspect aided the robbery of a livery cab driver.

Police are looking for help in identifying and locating two suspects wanted in connection with a livery cab robbery in the Fordham-Bedford neighborhood.

On Saturday, Nov. 24 at 11 p.m. inside a livery cab near the corner of East 198th Street and Briggs Avenue, one of the suspects brandished a knife and demanded property from the driver. The victim complied, and both suspects fled with the victim's property in an unknown direction. No injuries were reported.

The suspect who held up the knife is described as being a black male, approximately 5-feet-8-inches tall and weighing 180 pounds. He was last seen wearing a light-colored hooded sweatshirt and black hat.

The other suspect is described as being a black male, approximately 5-feet-11-inches tall and weighing 220 pounds, with a moustache. He was last seen wearing a light-colored sweat suit and a light-colored scarf worn around his head.

—ALEX KRATZ

Ed. Note: Anyone with information in regard to this incident can call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers Hotline at 800-577-TIPS. You can also submit tips by logging on to the Crime Stoppers Website at WWW.NYPDCRIMESTOPPERS.COM or texting their tips to 274637 (CRIMES) then enter TIP577.



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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers how they spent Thanksgiving and what they were thankful for this year.



I'm thankful for everything, my family, my kids and that my house didn't come down in the big storm.

Dr. Jay Cohen



I am thankful for a lot of things. I am thankful that we should have peace this year. I am also thankful for a trip we took to Pennsylvania and I have a new granddaughter and two more on the way. We had plenty of turkey and all the trimmings we could eat.

Elba Flores



I had a nice Thanksgiving and I ate a lot of turkey, it was a beautiful day. I'm thankful that next year I will bring my family from West Africa.

Moulye Chama



We had a great Thanksgiving. We don't eat turkey, but our whole family got together and ate Chinese food. Why not? This is my restaurant. I'm grateful for my children and we went to Chinatown with my friends and we had a big party.

Wendy Chen



I'm thankful for my home and drawing with my friends at school.

Justin Li

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Latino Muslims Search for Identity, Community

(continued from p. 1)

verts is on the rise, Hispanic Muslims say the population is still invisible in the Bronx — more a collection of individuals finding homes at other ethnic mosques than a cohesive group with spaces and customs to call their own. In the absence of a defined Latino Muslim community, there has been little organized debate here on what it means to be both Hispanic and Muslim. Building a dual identity, then, is a piecemeal process of synergizing Hispanic culture and an adopted faith.

Estimating the size of the Latino Muslim population is difficult, since the U.S. Census Bureau does not collect information on religious demographics. According to The Islamic Society of North America, there are roughly 40,000 Latino Muslims in the U.S., while other academic studies put the number as low as 25,000 and as high as 75,000.

"I hear exaggerated numbers of how many we are, but I just don't buy it," said Ramon Ocasio, a stationmaster at Grand Central who converted to Islam in 1973 as a university student. "I don't see them anywhere."

The last time Ocasio felt a sense of Latino Muslim community was when he and other recent Puerto Rican converts founded Alianza Islamica, a Hispanic Muslim organization that rode the energy of the Latino nationalist politics that sized in Spanish Harlem a decade earlier.

Alianza Islamica, founded in 1985, sought to build a uniquely Latino identity within Islam, Ocasio said. Operating out of a small, Spanish Harlem storefront before relocating to the south Bronx in the early

1990s, the group put on its own version of Muslim holiday festivities. At those celebrations, choreographed to conga rhythms, traditional Puerto Rican pork dishes were re-imagined with lamb substitutes, he said.

"We tried to express ourselves as Latinos and as Muslims at the same time," Ocasio said. "We had to learn to adapt Islam to our culture. And we were the first to do it. We didn't learn it from our parents."

But Alianza Islamica shut down in 2003 after internal conflict amongst the leaders splintered its roughly 50 members. The closure left Ocasio "jaded" about the prospect of again uniting the community, he said, especially after a subsequent attempt to duplicate the group floundered.

He added that such an effort now faces the additional challenge of bringing together a group of converts who may primarily identify with a country of origin rather than as "Latino." Alianza Islamica was entirely Puerto Rican and operated exclusively in English, he said.

Still, some converts are attempting to once again cultivate a community out of a scattered population.

Aisha Ahmed Hernandez is the founder of the Latin American Muslim Women's Association, a south Bronx-based organization established in 2007. The group fields telephone calls from Latino Muslims looking for Islamic answers to their problems, be it turbulent marriages or troubled faith.

Hernandez also created a Facebook group, called "Muslims Who Speak Spanish," that now counts almost 500 members, not all of whom live in New York. She established the group to get a sense of just how large the Latino Muslim popula-



Photo by Elizabeth Barber

ZAYNAB AL-SAMAT is the only Hispanic regular at Masjid Annasr.

tion is and said she was surprised by the huge response.

Encouraged, she says she hopes that her still small-scale effort will blossom — drawing together a community in which Latino converts can negotiate a common identity and support each other through a conversion process that can roil family members.

In the meantime, Hernandez says she straddles two cultures. A frequenter of mostly African mosques like the one in which she converted more than 20 years

ago, she still celebrates Catholic holidays with her Puerto Rican friends and family, she said.

"I do Easter egg hunts in my Muslim garb," she said.

Back at Masjid Annasr, surrounded by West African girls in sparkly hijabs at work on their religious lessons, al-Samat said she knows only one other Latino Muslim, a coworker at her job in Brooklyn.

"They're out there, but I just can't find them," she said. "I wish I could find out where they are."

Lehman Unveils Science Hall

By **BRITTNEY JACKSON**

Last month, Lehman College unveiled its new state-of-the-art scientific research and teaching facility. The completion of Science Hall marks the first of a three-phase plan to create a "campus within a campus" dedicated to the sciences.

With updated labs and classrooms, a rooftop greenhouse, and environmental friendly technologies such as solar heating, the new Science Hall emerges as a pathway for students to a burgeoning industry.

There is growing concern that American schools aren't producing enough STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) workers. A recent study conducted by Microsoft said, "There is an urgent demand for workers trained in STEM fields, yet there are not enough people with the necessary skills to meet that demand and help drive innovation."

Lehman College's new Science Hall directly addresses this concern and, in a press release, school officials outlined a goal to "attract and train a new generation of students and scholars by building a STEM pipeline beginning in preK-12 and extending through college and graduate school."

The new Science Building will not only serve undergraduate and graduate students, but also host an array of pro-

grams to encourage a wide range of students to become involved in STEM fields. Lehman's Women in Science program selects young women from Bronx high schools and allows them to participate and explore STEM disciplines.

"Women are underrepresented, especially minority women," says program assistant director, Dr. Ayanna Alexander-Street. "So we wanted to give some of the young ladies from the Bronx an opportunity to be more exposed to these STEM fields."

Alexander-Street also addressed the importance our nation faces in getting students involved in the sciences.

"We [the U.S.] are lagging behind," she said. "We are not as powerful as we used to be in the areas of STEM and, in the Bronx, it doesn't seem like there are that many ways to have access to this type of research facility that we have here at Lehman College."

CUNY Chancellor Dr. Matthew Goldstein and Lehman graduate, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., were both in attendance at the unveiling and dedication, along with many other Lehman, CUNY, state and city officials.

"The Bronx is full of science," said Diaz. "Certainly, right here, to have this Science Hall, it shows the city of New York, it shows the state, it shows the world that science is alive and well."



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Facing Death With the Cou

(continued from p. 1)

exceptional that way too.

Nicole struggled after the diagnosis. “I didn’t know how I was going to tell the rest of the family,” she says now, sitting next to Lydia, who is sound asleep in her hospital bed, skinny legs giving way to bright pink Hello Kitty socks.

It didn’t matter. Lydia did the talking. She told them cancer wasn’t like a cold, they couldn’t catch it from being around her. She told them it wasn’t because she was bad or did something wrong. It just happened.

“She didn’t feel sorry for herself,” Nicole says. “She’s so determined.”

Soon after the diagnosis, they started chemotherapy treatment. But it didn’t work, in fact the tumor “jumped” — it grew — and it made Lydia feel terrible.

They moved on to radiation. After 28 sessions, Lydia started feeling better, so they tried chemo again. This time, it almost killed her. She developed pneumonia and a severe infection in her chest and lungs.

At one point, in early 2011, doctors told Nicole that Lydia wasn’t going to make it. She hadn’t had a bowel movement in several days and they said that was a sign that her body was shutting down.

“They said, ‘That’s it, go home, make preparations for the funeral service or whatever religious ceremony you want to do,’” Nicole recalls hearing.

Two hours later, after barely being conscious for days, “Lydia took the biggest crap of her life, right there in bed,” says Nicole. “She must have known they were talking about her.”

From there, things improved rapidly. She had gone into the hospital in the winter. In the spring of 2011, she was released. Through steroids and other drugs, they controlled the tumor and symptoms.

“She went back to school, back to the park, back to being Lydia,” Nicole says. For nine months, she was “just a normal child.”

Except she was bald from all the treatments. Still, she refused to wear a wig.

Others in the family shaved their heads in solidarity and Lydia had them all donate their hair to Locks of Love, a charity that makes wigs for cancer patients.

In March of this year, Lydia’s tumor began showing up on scans again. But her spirits remained high. After a couple of months of radiation, Lydia began feeling well enough to take a cruise with her mom to the Bahamas.

“Every picture is of her eating, swimming, smiling,” Nicole says. Lydia took over driving the jet ski, telling her mother she didn’t know how to ride it properly.

This past summer was almost normal, but still draining with all the treatments. After a rough day at the hospital, mom would clear out the living room, pour herself a glass of cold wine, kick her feet up and pretend she was back in the Bahamas. Lydia would join her on the beach with a glass of juice.

Toward the end of the summer, Lydia started to flag. Since then, she’s been in and out of the hospital. They’ve tried different treatments, some experimental, none that have worked well enough to get Lydia back to being a “normal girl” again.

Lydia’s life exists mostly on the ninth floor of the Children’s Hospital at Montefiore, which her mother raves about. All the doctors and nurses are her best friends. The sisters from St. Ann’s Church came over to sing to her and she did a little dance along with the music.

“She’s a rock star,” Dr. Gill says.

The prognosis isn’t good for Lydia. She’s deteriorating and the tumor is growing. She can’t open her left eye anymore. She weighs 43 pounds, which sounds low, but at one point, she dropped to 26 pounds.

“But she still tries to color and likes to watch TV,” Nicole says.

A couple of weeks ago, Lydia wasn’t breathing well. Her oxygen levels were low. She was basically in a coma. Doctors again expected the worst and told Nicole to gather family and friends together to say good-bye. More than 100 people



Photo courtesy Nicole Ramdin

LYDIA WITH her mom Nicole Ramdin and dad Joseph Stephens in an undated photo. Lydia’s family calls her “Nena.”

rage of a 'Warrior Princess'

crammed into her room, in the hallways, in the waiting room. All for Lydia.

She wasn't ready. She woke up and opened her good eye and looked around and said, "Mom, what's everyone doing here."

Samantha Velez, who knows Lydia and her family from the neighborhood, says Lydia's strength is now legend in the community. "She's a warrior princess," she says.

Lydia makes all of her own decisions when it comes to her treatment. "It's the

one thing she has control of," Nicole says.

She doesn't want to be resuscitated when the time comes. She's okay with dying now. She even planned out her own funeral, which she calls a going away celebration. Everyone will wear pink, she says, and drink red wine. Because she knows she'll never be married, Lydia wants to wear a white veil to her going away party.

People will sing and dance. Nobody will cry. Because that's how Lydia wants it to be.



Photo courtesy Nicole Ramdin

LYDIA HAS SPENT several holidays at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Her parents gush about the care she has received there.

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Editorial

Solution to “Ridiculous” Situation

Councilman Oliver Koppell was fired up during last week’s Community Board 7 meeting, aiming his ire at the Department of Education for its handling of the capping issue at PS 340 (see front page story).

The restrained Riverdale lawyer has been a fixture in north-west Bronx politics for decades, having first been elected to office, in the assembly, when Nixon was president. Now finishing his penultimate year in the council (and perhaps politics altogether), Koppell is more apt to nod off than go off.

But there he was, in the common room at Scott Tower, rabble-rousing about the incompetence of the DOE, which, of course, he has intimate knowledge of, having served for a time on the now-defunct School Board. (Name a political office, Koppell’s probably served there.)

Koppell couldn’t believe the DOE would ship 20 kindergarten students all the way to PS 310 more than half a mile away when the solution was 100 feet away at PS 86.

Koppell says he spoke with Fiona Tyson, the principal at PS 86, which is literally a large stone’s throw from PS 340, and she assured him that the school could accommodate the PS 340 castoffs. However, when he brought it up to the DOE, it said exactly what it told this newspaper: PS 86 is already crowded, they can’t handle it.

But the DOE, especially its latest incarnation under mayoral rule, is not known for its on-the-ground intelligence. It’s a data-driven agency. It sees numbers, not kids who will miss their brothers and sisters. It sees math problems, not commuting problems for strained, busy parents.

Maybe Koppell was just excited for his pending trip to Arizona to see his son for Thanksgiving. Or maybe Koppell was on to something and knew the DOE hadn’t done the legwork before making the call. He sure sounded like a man who knew there was a reasonable solution being ignored by a giant bureaucracy. He was fed up and ready to fight.

After saying he had a call with a DOE deputy commissioner scheduled for just before his plane took off for Arizona the next day, Koppell sat down near a PS 340 parent and commiserated.

“It’s ridiculous,” he hissed.

We agree.

Op-Ed

Hurricane Sandy: “It’s My Armory too!”

By **TALEIGH SMITH**

“Come to the Kingsbridge Armory to build shared solutions to Hurricane Sandy!”

Councilman Fernando Cabrera, usually tight-lipped on the controversial battle to repurpose this largest armory in the city located in his district, recognized the armory’s convenient location and massive space were a perfect match for the donations, time, love and ideas neighbors sought to share.

For decades before the hurricane, neighbors have looked to the Kingsbridge Armory for shared solutions to both our short- and long-term challenges: unemployment, asthma, overcrowded schools, and limited space for recreation or job training. Now Hurricane Sandy proves “green development and programming” is not a luxury demand but a question of surviving climate change. Unbridled industrial growth over the last century is scientifically proven to be the primary cause for the extreme weather our nation and our world is experiencing.

We need new development practices to ensure our neighbors have access to clean water, air, energy, transportation, waste management and food. Even our pro-business mayor launched PlaNYC, a city-wide dialogue on adapting to climate change that includes a basic environmental standard for developers: LEED Silver. LEED is a score card for green practices like minimizing air pollution and using recycled materials. The Bronx, a hotbed for asthma and toxic runoffs into our rivers, classified as a “healthy food desert,” deserves an even higher standard for green development: LEED Platinum. Both top-contending developers promised they would go beyond LEED Silver to achieve LEED Gold. Whatever the ultimate LEED score, there are certain standards we need in writing and in practice.

We need air we can breathe and food we can eat without getting sick. We cannot continue to allow dirty construction, toxic chemicals and vehicle exhaust to poison the lungs of our chil-

dren and elders. Parking fees should support local asthma clinics and discounts should incentivize travel by train, bike or foot. Avoiding the contamination produced by shipping far-away materials has an added benefit that is key for our community: local materials means local jobs.

When our neighbors without power during Hurricane Sandy were told by Con Edison they “weren’t a priority,” generating solar or geothermal power on site no longer seemed fringe. As lines of idling cars and trucks stretched all the way to Manhattan to wait for hours for gas, infrastructure for bikes began to resonate even with the skeptics. Energy and water efficiency are not just important to preserving the grid upon which we depend; they are sound business practices in our era of scarcity and rising costs. Harvesting the rain that falls on the roof of the Armory would not only reduce runoff and sewage overflows, it could provide for most of the site’s non-drinking needs, such as irrigation, toilet flushing and even making ice!

Hurricane Sandy was a timely reminder that the Kingsbridge Armory can and must serve the Bronx as more than a donation drop-off location; this public resource could model urban green development for the world. We’ve studied the LEED scorecard and identified the standards that matter most to our neighbors. We deserve a developer who guarantees LEED Platinum. Luckily for the developer, local residents are not asking for a handout; we’ve partnered with environmental and workforce programs to train Bronx workers to build our sustainable future.

We’re ready to redevelop the Armory and our community with green jobs and living wages.

Our lives depend on it.

Taleigh Smith is Outreach Coordinator of the Weatherization Assistance Program at the Northwest Bronx Community and Clergy Coalition and a member of KARA, the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance. She is also a founding member of Concrete Green, a worker-owned cooperative that customizes urban green infrastructure.

PS 340 Parents in Uproar Over Transfers

(continued from p. 1)

“Capping comes into effect when a school exceeds its capacity for students and they don’t have either the space or staff to take on another classroom,” said Marvin Shelton, president of the Community Education Council for District 10 (CEC 10). “This year it seems to be more problematic in that they’re sending out the cap letters late. If you’re informed in September this may happen and then you’re told in the middle of October — six weeks into the year — that, no, you can’t stay in that school, go to another school. It’s very disruptive.”

Marge Feinberg, a spokesperson for the DOE, said in an email that the school’s capping request was approved on Oct. 31 and that it’s the school’s responsibility to notify parents that their student might be a cap casualty. The students who are being transferred are only those who are not zoned for PS 340, she said. Fein-

berg added that PS 310 is a high-performing school that received an “A” grade on its most recent progress report.

According to Terry Moss, the president of the District 10 Presidents Council and the Parents Association president for PS 340, 20 students were immediately reassigned to PS 310 and parents were just informed of the decision a week before Thanksgiving.

“Why did it take so long to notify us of this change?” Moss asked council members, including Shelton, at the meeting. “I’m speaking for parents. I have a child there too; we don’t want to send our kids over to 310.”

“The education system is going to the dogs,” said Elizabeth Thompson, a representative of the Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association, at the meeting.

Yael Kalban, an associate portfolio manager for the DOE, explained the cap-

ping protocol in an email to Shelton.

“The Planning and Enrollment team works together to develop and execute capping plans,” wrote Kalban. “In this case, students were capped on a last-in, first-out basis, with zoned students retaining priority over any students zoned to schools other than PS 340.”

According to parent Jennifer Velez, the last-in, first-out basis didn’t apply to her kindergarten son.

“My son attended pre-K at 340,” said Velez. “He was accepted back in June when half of his class wasn’t. So, as far as I’m concerned, my son’s seat was secured at that point.”

At a Community Board 7 meeting last week, Councilman Oliver Koppell, said he was lobbying the DOE to send the excess students from PS 340 to PS 86, which is, literally, right next door. Koppell said PS 86’s principal assured him that it had enough room to take on another

kindergarten class of students from PS 340.

This simple solution was rebuffed by DOE officials.

“P.S. 86 has six general education kindergarten classes of 30, 31, 31, 31, 30, and 32 students, and does not have space to open additional sections,” Feinberg said in an email. “P.S. 310X currently has the space to accommodate an additional kindergarten section and already has a teacher in place for this additional section.”

But Koppell said he would continue to push for the PS 86 plan. On Wednesday, Nov. 28, the DOE was scheduled to hold an open house to introduce the PS 340 transfers to their new environment. Parents, however, remained skeptical.

“My son has a right to attend PS 340,” said Velez. “And like the other parents stated, if a bus comes to pick up my son on Monday, I will be withdrawing him from school.”

Business Beat

New Business Solutions and Workforce1 Center

By BRITTNEY JACKSON

Job seekers, business owners and recent grads residing in the Bronx, listen up. Mayor Michael Bloomberg has joined forces with Small Business Services Commissioner Robert W. Walsh to launch a new, state-of-the-art, Business Solutions and Workforce1 Center on East Fordham Road and Webster Avenue.

Replacing the smaller East 149th Street location, the new 30,000-square-foot center combines Business Solutions services for small businesses and Workforce1 Career Center services for job seekers all under one roof. The new improved career center comes equipped with computer labs, conference rooms and a resource room for self-directed job searches.

"Today we open a great jobs resource for the Bronx, where individuals can find help of all sorts in getting a job," said Congressman José E. Serrano. "This center is also equipped to help small businesses in a variety of ways. Putting these two centers under one roof and open-

ing satellite locations elsewhere is a great strategy for creating and filling jobs, which is just what the Bronx needs."

The Business Solutions and Workforce1 Centers offer an array of services from business courses, legal and financing assistance, recruitment and certification aid, as well as providing free workshops, career counseling and training opportunities.

"There is nothing more important to the strength of our economy than the health of small businesses," said Bloomberg. "We know that the Bronx is in particular need of these services and have no doubt that the Bronx community will make excellent use of these new resources."

Bloomberg also announced the opening of two additional Workforce1 Centers in the Bronx, one in The New York Public Library's Francis Martin Branch and another at Hostos Community College.

Ed. Note: The Bronx Business Solutions and Workforce1 Career Center is located 400 E. Fordham Rd., on the 8th floor. For more information, call (718) 960-2458 or visit www.nyc.gov/workforce1.



Photo by Diana Perez

THE NEW Workforce1 Career Center at Fordham Place combines job placement services with aid for small businesses.

BIDs Turn On the Holiday Lights

The Business Improvement Districts in Norwood and on Fordham Road are celebrating the holiday shopping season with two light show extravaganzas.

The Jerome-Gun Hill BID is kicking things off early, with a tree lighting ceremony and visit from Santa at the Greenstreets Park on the corner of Jerome Avenue and Mosholu Parkway North (near the 4 train station). Hosted

by Rhina Valentin, "La Reina del Barrio," festivities start at 6 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

A week later, the Fordham BID jumpstarts its holiday season with its eighth annual Sparkling the Heart of Fordham Holiday Lights Event, Friday, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Muller Park and Plaza (intersection of East Fordham Road and Creston Avenue). Valentin will be hosting this event as well and, yes, she will be accompanied by Santa Claus.

Both events are free and open to the public. Gifts will be given to kids as long as supplies last.

On Fordham Road, 66 businesses will also be participating in a holiday shopping promotion offering a 10 percent discount from Dec. 7 through Dec. 23 to consumers that present a BID advertisement (see page 3), online coupons, or Metro Cards.

For more information, visit www.fordhamroadbid.org or www.jeromegunhillbid.org.

Doing Business with GSA

SoBRO is providing a free workshop on how to do business with the government's General Services Administration on Tuesday, Dec. 4, from 2 to 4 p.m., at CUNY on the Concourse, 2051 Grand Concourse, 3rd floor. Topics will include an overview of the GSA's procurement policies and methods, how to market your products/services, GSA program schedules, and more. RSVP to Leticia Negrón (718) 732-7559 or lnegrn@sobro.org.

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Neighborhood Notes

Storm Victim Relief Effort

Those wishing to donate goods to help with the ongoing storm relief effort caused by Hurricane Sandy can bring non-perishable food, bottled water, blankets, batteries and clothing to the Kingsbridge Armory, west entrance on Reservoir Avenue between West Kingsbridge Road and West 195th Street. If you want to volunteer, call (718) 473-6993.

ESL and Citizenship Courses

Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace, offers two free courses: English as a Second Language classes which run from Nov. 26 to June 8, 2013, Monday through Thursday, and Saturday mornings, as well as Tuesday and Thursday evenings; and Pathway to Citizenship workshops which begin January 2013. For more information and a detailed schedule, contact Christina Ventura at cventura@khcc-nyc.org or (718) 884-0700.

Bronx Zoo Toy Drive

The Bronx Zoo will be used as a collection site for new, unwrapped toys donated by members of the community, to be collected until Dec. 31, and which will be distributed by the Bronx Borough President's office. The toys will benefit local military families, both veteran and active-duty. Those who make a qualifying donation will receive a free ticket to the Bronx Zoo. For more information, visit

www.bronxzoo.com.

Free Financial Counseling

Bronx LIFT, 2381 Belmont Ave. (between 186th and 187th streets), offers free workshops, one-on-one financial coaching, referrals to credit unions, and free one-on-one assistance with employment, housing, resume help, filling out applications, finding education/job training opportunities and enrolling in public benefits, Dec. 6 at 1 p.m. LIFT also offers free assistance to veterans, including legal, financial, employment, health and education. For more information or to make an appointment, call (718) 733-3897, Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Youth Works Program

LaGuardia Community College, 29-10 Thomson Ave., Long Island City, is offering a job training program for young adults, ages 18 to 24, who are not working or attending school. The program helps participants attain skills in literacy and numeracy, opportunities for career exploration, workforce readiness training and certification, an internship, and either permanent employment or further training or education. Those who complete the course will receive a \$900 stipend. For more information, call Vanessa Jarvis at (718) 482-5171 or (718) 609-2132.

Stop Smoking Program

North Central Bronx Hospital, 3424 Kos-

suth Ave., offers free group counseling and nicotine replacement therapy for smokers looking to quit. No appointments are needed or required, walk-ins are welcome. The smoking cessation program runs weekdays at 10 a.m. or 2 p.m. in room 13A12. For more information, call (718) 519-2425/2490.

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.

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.

Job and Computer Training

Mercy Center, 377 E. 145th St., offers computer and job training classes, many of them specifically aimed at women. For more information, call (718) 993-2789 or

visit www.mercycenter.org.

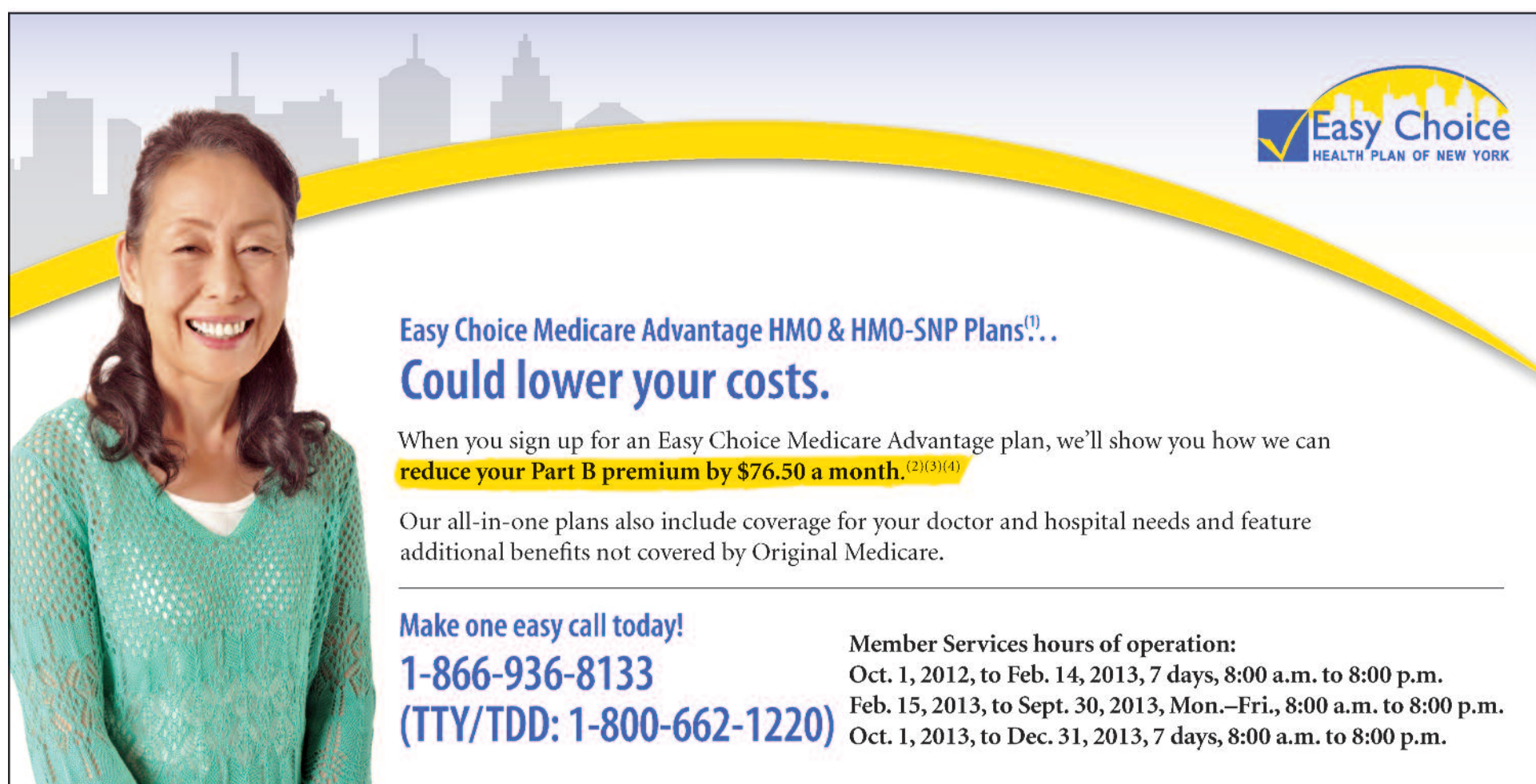
Free Weekly Immigration Services

Councilmember Fernando Cabrera along with CUNY Citizenship Now! will provide free confidential legal services to qualified immigrants to help them in their pursuit of U.S. citizenship, Wednesdays, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Cabrera's district office, 107 E. Burnside Ave. Personal consultations will be held with attorneys and paralegals. For more information, call (347) 590-2874.

Mentoring Program for Students

The Young Scholars Immersion Program, a program coordinated by Kingsbridge Heights Community Center and Manhattan College, provides year-round mentoring and enrichment opportunities for disadvantaged students in the Bronx. The program is currently seeking more high school applicants. Students get the chance to visit college campuses, participate in writing and study workshops and get constant support from tutors at the College's Center for Academic Success. For more information, contact Neil Bogan at nbogan@khcc-nyc.org or call (718) 884-0700 ext. 116.

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



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Easy Choice Health Plan of New York is the marketing name for Atlantis Health Plan, Inc. Atlantis Health Plan, Inc., is a health plan with a Medicare Advantage contract. The benefit information provided is a brief summary, not a complete description of benefits. For more information, contact the plan. Benefits, formulary, pharmacy network, premium and/or co-payments/co-insurance may change on January 1 of each year. (1) Our HMO-SNP plans are limited to persons with certain chronic conditions. (2) You must continue to pay your Medicare Part B premium. (3) Limitations, co-payments and restrictions may apply. (4) Benefits may vary by plan selected. This information is available for free in Spanish. Please contact our Member Service number at 1-888-300-9320 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-662-1220). Esta información está disponible gratuitamente en español. Para mas informacion, por favor llame a nuestro Departamento de Servicio de Miembros a 1-888-300-9320 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-662-1220).

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Hutch Metro Center Cafe, 1200 Waters Pl. (between Eastchester Road and Westchester Avenue), will host two free **lunchtime concerts** featuring soprano Melissa Primavera on Dec. 6 and the Robert Silverman Jazz and Blues Trio on Dec. 13, each at 12:15 and 1:15 p.m. For more information, call (718) 931-9500.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Shaolin Warriors**, featuring masters of Kung Fu, a choreographed theatrical production, Dec. 1 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/12 and under. For more

information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Hostos Center for the Arts and Culture's Repertory Theatre, 450 Grand Concourse, presents free, **Latin bass player** Andy Gonzalez, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. For more information or to reserve, call (718) 518-4455.

Events

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñe Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Bronx Rising!** featuring music on Nov. 29 at 8 p.m.; a film on Nov.

30 at 8 p.m.; and Palabras/Words: Poesia Negroide, Dec. 1 at 7:30 p.m. Also presented is **Community Arts Lab, 4 to 7 p.m.:** (through Dec. 19), visual art on Mondays, hip-hop and breakdance on Tuesdays, and percussion and poetry on Wednesdays. For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

■ The Woodlawn Cemetery will host a **Volunteer Meet & Greet** recruitment and appreciation event, Dec. 8. Potential volunteers are invited to attend this free informational session to learn about various projects available. For more information and time, call (718) 920-1463 ext. 225.

■ Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. invites the public to celebrate **Puerto Rican Heritage Month**, at Side Street Catering, 1332 Blondell Ave., Nov. 29 at 5:30 p.m. Guests can enjoy Puerto Rican dishes and live music. For more information and to reserve, call (718) 590-3522.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects:** Festive Candles, to mix and mold colored wax until it softens like clay to make a candlestick, Dec. 1 and 2; and Seasons Greetings, to draw cold-weather tales in pop-up holiday cards, Dec. 8 and 9; all in the Ecology Building. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and in November and December, 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.

■ Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Latke Luncheon and Entertainment**, Dec. 10 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for seniors ages 60 and over. For more information and fees, call (718) 798-6601.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts and the Huntington Free Library offer free **family craft workshop**, Holiday Ornaments, Dec. 15 at 12:30 p.m. (all materials are provided), at the library, 9 Westchester Square. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 829-7770.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents its free **First Friday** on Dec. 7 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., hosts **Bronx International Film Festival** featuring screenings from around the world, Dec. 6 to 8. A three-day transferable pass is \$12; one-day non-transferable pass is \$5. For more information, times and details, call (917) 250-6298 or (646) 334-1728.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts and Bronx Children's Museum present free: **River on the Go: Where is Justin the Beaver?**, the museum's hands-on exhibit, shown on board the museum's traveling exhibition bus parked in the Council's lot at 2700 E. Tremont Ave., Dec. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Visitors will create artwork inspired by the Bronx River flora and fauna while at the exhibit. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 12 or (718) 518-6728.

■ En Foco presents **Relations & Tales**, through Dec. 2 at the Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave. (between 149th and 150th streets). For more information or to RSVP, visit enfoco.org.

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Happy Holidays

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Puerto Rico in Its Labyrinth, Chronicles of a Country and a World in Crisis**, through Dec. 8, at Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos' Center for the Arts' main gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street). Also on view, in the Project Room: **Public Art Under House Arrest**, through December 2012. For more information, call (718) 518-6728.

Holiday Events

■ The Fordham Road Business Improvement District (BID) presents **Sparkling the Heart of Fordham Holiday Lighting Event** featuring a visit from Santa Claus, a musical performance, and free gifts for the first 450 children, Dec. 7 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Muller Park and Plaza (East Fordham Road and Creston Avenue). For more information, call (718) 562-2104.

■ Woodlawn Cemetery's Woolworth Chapel will host "400 Years of Music," a free **holiday music concert**, performed by the Bardekova Ensemble featuring a medley of music ranging from classical compositions to contemporary favorites, Dec. 9 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 920-1463 ext. 225.

■ St. Philip Neri, 3025 Grand Concourse hosts a **concert**, Christmas Through Mary and Joseph, featuring Irish tenor accompanied by pianist, Dec. 8 at 8 p.m. Ticket donation is \$20. For more information, call (718) 733-3200.

■ The Manhattan College Singers and

Orchestra presents a free **seasonal concert**, "A Festival of Lessons and Carols," combining traditional Christmas carols and Advent hymns with scripture readings and contemporary musical arrangements, Dec. 2 at 3:30 p.m. preceded by preludes at 3:15 p.m., in the school's Chapel of De La Salle and His Brothers. After the concert, the performers will light the college's Christmas tree followed by a reception in Smith Auditorium. For more information, call (718) 862-7254.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **A Bronx Messiah**, featuring the Bronx Opera Chorus and the Orchestra of the Bronx, Dec. 9 at 3 p.m. (tickets are \$10 to \$25; \$10/12 and under); and **Parranda Navideña**, featuring several groups celebrating the holiday season performing in the Jibaro style, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents a **Latino queer comedic play**, "Los Nutcrackers: A Christmas Carajo!," featuring music and dance, Nov. 30, Dec. 1, 6 to 8, 14 and 15 at 8 p.m. (\$25; discounts for seniors, students, groups, Bronx residents and members of BAAD, BCA and NALAC). For more information or to RSVP, call (718) 842-5223.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults

EDITOR'S PICK

Two-in-One Celebration

On the occasion of the Bronx Council on the Arts turning 50 and the Bronx Culture Trolley turning 10, there will be a **special celebration** and schedule on Dec. 5 featuring an evening of music, performances, and special guests at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street), including a special birthday cake. The Dec. 5 trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. closing reception of an exhibit at the Longwood Art Gallery, and there will be two limited trolley runs (at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m.), and will culminate with a return to the gallery for birthday cake and a free performance by Latin artist Andy Gonzalez at 7 p.m. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

including **Single Stop/Government Benefits at 9 a.m.:** Nov. 29; **Veterans History Project:** for vets to record their personal accounts for future generations, Nov. 30 at 9 a.m. (call to schedule appointment at (718) 579-4257); **Heritage Button Art Workshops:** for Puerto Rican Heritage Month, Nov. 30 at 2 p.m.; **Sculpture Undone:** presented by MoMA, Dec. 1 at 2:30 p.m.; **Free Computer Classes at 10 a.m.:** Intro to Typing, Dec. 5 and Intro to Internet, Dec. 12.; **Heritage Arts & Crafts:** tour and reception, Dec. 6 at 5:30 p.m.; and **Film at 2:30 p.m.:** "Luther," Dec. 8. Teens and young adults can join **Zombie Zine:** Nov. 29 at 4 p.m.; and **Teen Art Club at 3:30 p.m.:** Nov. 30, Dec. 7 and 14. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.:** Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 13; **Picture Frame Making:** Nov. 29 at 4 p.m.; **Computer Technology Class:** Dec. 6 at 4 p.m.; **Family Time:** Dec. 8 at 11 a.m.; **Films at 4 p.m.:** Dec. 4 and 11; and **Tree Ornament Making,**

Dec. 13 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.; and **Wii Program:** Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Baby Story Time:** (ages to 18 months), Dec. 4 at 11 a.m.; **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.:** (ages 18 to 36 months), Dec. 6 and 13. Teens and young adults can attend **The Science of Pizza:** Dec. 6 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY CHANUKAH TO ALL OUR JEWISH READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwood-news@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 3 for the next publication date of Dec. 13.

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