

NORWOOD NEWS

**HAPPY
NEW YEAR
2013!**

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2012 in Review: The Year in Pictures



Photos by Adi Talwar (except Bronx River Parkway crash and storm photo, taken by David Greene)

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: A martial arts group shows off its acrobatic skill during Bronx Week; Bronx Borough President smooches his wife after the State of the Borough address; patients for special surgery at Montefiore have some fun; local kids paint garbage cans in Williamsbridge Oval Park; the Walton softball team comes together; dance enthusiasts get free salsa lessons at Beso Lounge; a crash on Bronx River Parkway killed seven members of a single family; Clinton and John F. Kennedy battle for local high school hoops bragging rights; police busted an entire six-story building filled with marijuana plants in Morris Park; local kids take in the show at the annual Jerome-Gun Hill BID street festival; Hurricane Sandy didn't completely overlook the northwest Bronx, where many trees were uprooted.

The Year in Development

Year of Hope and Intrigue at Kingsbridge Armory

By ALEX KRATZ

Hope for the redevelopment of the Kingsbridge Armory, the largest armory in the world and one of the northwest Bronx's most fascinating and potential-filled pieces of undeveloped property, was resurrected in 2012.

In his annual State of the City address, held in the Bronx last January, Mayor Bloomberg announced that the city would release another request for proposals (RFP) for the Armory.

The announcement marked a sharp turnaround from two years prior when the City Council, backed by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and the community-led Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance, voted down a proposal to

turn the Armory into a shopping mall. After the vote, the mayor said he couldn't see the Armory being developed in the "foreseeable future."

**THE YEAR
IN REVIEW
2012**

But momentum was building for a new Armory project. Diaz had formed a star-studded Armory Task Force to explore development options, which yielded lots of ideas, but little in terms of solid financing.

Then along came Kevin Parker, a former Deutsche Bank executive and Long Island hockey enthusiast, who put together a group of investors who wanted to turn the Armory into the world's largest ice (continued on p. 9)



Photo by Adi Talwar

MEMBERS OF the Kingsbridge Armory Redevelopment Alliance rally for responsible redevelopment this past summer.

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The Year in Politics

Redistricting Leads to Heated Political Races in NW Bronx

By ALEX KRATZ

The northwest Bronx saw a flurry of political activity this year starting with a furor over redistricting, the realignment of legislative district lines that happens every decade following the Census.

So politically charged was the debate over district lines that a federal judge had to step in and draw new Congressional lines. (State lines were agreed upon after several delays.) The result of the judge's decision gave birth to the new 14th Congressional District, which stretches from Harlem through upper Manhattan and into the northwest Bronx. It includes much of *Norwood News*' primary coverage area, including Norwood, Bedford Park, Kingsbridge and University Heights.

Along with a new Congressional district, a new federal law to assist overseas voters meant that the 14th Congressional District would have its primary in June, months before the regular September primaries.

The early primary meant an abbreviated and furious campaign that pitted incumbent Charlie Rangel, a legislative icon who has served in Congress for more than four decades, against Adriano Espaillat, an assemblyman who represents upper Manhattan (and, until redistricting, a slice of Riverdale).

Espaillat, often seen at the foot of the elevated 4 train stop on Kingsbridge Road, campaigned hard in the Bronx, but Rangel received the backing of Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr. and the Bronx Democratic County Committee.

Rangel, a one-time student at DeWitt Clinton High School on Mosholu Parkway, ended up winning narrowly and Espaillat conceded on election night. (Espaillat, however, won the Bronx.) But the next day, as votes continued to trickle in and Rangel's lead continued to shrink to less than 200 votes, Espaillat began raising concerns about potential vote-rigging and incompetence by the Board of Elections.

He eventually filed a lawsuit to prevent the vote from being certified and asked for a re-vote. However, as absentee and other ballots came in, Rangel maintained his lead and Espaillat gave up his challenge just two days before he needed to file paperwork to run for re-election in the assembly. (Legally, he couldn't run for both offices at the same time.)

In November's general election, Rangel was easily re-elected for a 22nd term in office.

In terms of population, the Bronx now makes up 26 percent of his district and 19 percent of his registered voters. In an interview, Rangel admitted he didn't initially want to take on the Bronx as part of his district.

"I am very pleased to say all of my apprehensions about leaving Harlem were shattered because I went up there and my name was so well known, there were groups waiting to welcome me to the Bronx," Rangel said in an interview shortly after the primary.

Rangel all but guaranteed he would open a district office in the Bronx.

Saying Good-bye to Naomi

The contentious end to one of the country's most widely watched Congressional races gave way to one of the state's most intriguing Assembly races, which also happened to involve the Bronx.

Mark Gjonaj, an Albanian real estate broker who grew up in Morris Park, was already poised to make a strong run at 80th Assembly District (Norwood, Bedford Park, Morris Park) incumbent Naomi Rivera, whose poor attendance and paltry legislative record, made her vulnerable to a challenge.

Then the *New York Post* began running front page headlines that raised serious ethical and legal questions about Rivera's time in office. Two men who Rivera was linked to romantically both received questionable jobs based on their relationship with her and at taxpayer expense. Soon, Rivera was being investigated by several authorities for wrongdoing and she retreated, refusing to speak with the media or answer specific questions about her hiring practices.



Photo by Adi Talwar

IN WITH the old, out with Naomi. Bronxites helped elect Charlie Rangel to a 22nd term in Congress and ousted Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera.

But in the end, it may have been Gjonaj's work in helping tenants at Tracey Towers fight an enormous rent hike that turned the race in his favor.

Ultimately, Gjonaj won the September primary easily and then cruised to general election victory in November. On Jan. 1, he will become the first assemblyman of Albanian descent in Bronx history. Rivera exits after eight years representing the 80th Assembly District.

Klein's Bold Move

In the overwhelmingly Democratic Bronx, State Senator Jeff Klein made a bold move in early December. Klein, whose 34th District now runs from the far east Bronx through Bedford Park and into Riverdale, forged a power-sharing agreement with Senate Republicans despite the fact that Democrats won a majority of seats in the election.

Klein, whose Independent Democratic Caucus began working closely with Republicans at the end of 2010, said the move would ensure a productive and bipartisan approach to legislating.

In a joint statement, Klein and Republican Leader Dean Skelos said the agreement "marks a bold new chapter in this partnership that will allow the Senate to continue pushing New York State forward, while ensuring that there will be no returning to the failed leadership of the past."

Bronx State Senator Gustavo Rivera, who worked hard this fall to win back the majority for Democrats, is skeptical, saying the move essentially keeps Republicans in power when the public voted them out.

He said the new "so-called coalition will present watered-down versions of progressive issues that we, as Democrats, feel are the best way to move New York forward."

Because the coalition will choose chairmanships, Rivera said it will also be writing the final drafts of bills that reach the floor for a vote, which means "the bulk of us [Democrats] — 27 of us — will be excluded from the conversation."

Public and Community Meetings

- **COMMUNITY BOARD 7** will hold its Land Use and Zoning meeting on Thursday, Dec. 27 at 6:30 p.m. at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.
- **THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** will meet on Wednesday, Jan. 2 at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy. So. Apt.B1 (Lobby Floor). All are welcome.

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The Year in Crime

Murders Down, Robberies Up, Police in Spotlight

By ALEX KRATZ

The year began remarkably well for police in the 52nd Precinct, which encompasses the *Norwood News*' primary coverage area.

Early on in 2012, investigators went to great lengths, including a trip to North Carolina, to track down two suspects wanted for the murder of 59-year-old Bimal Chanda, a Bengladeshi man who was beaten to death in his University Heights apartment, apparently during an early morning robbery, in late October of 2011.

Inspector Joseph Dowling, the commander of the 52nd Precinct, vowed to track down the assailants and, eventually, did. One of the suspects was arrested in late January and the other was arrested in and extradited from North Carolina. The pair is currently awaiting trial.

The precinct didn't record its first murder until late May when 20-year-old Jose Arango was brutally stabbed during an altercation caught on video at the corner of East Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue. Arango laid in a coma for two weeks before doctors declared him brain dead and he was taken off life support.

It later became clear that the charismatic Arango, said to be the "center" of his close-knit family, became embroiled in a love triangle gone horribly sour. The two suspects who were arrested for the crime are awaiting trial.

An increase in robberies plagued neighborhoods throughout the precinct in 2012. At the beginning of the year, Bedford Park was hit with a string of commercial robberies. The area also saw a series of brutal cell phone robberies during the late summer. Overall, robberies were up 3.1 percent from last year as of Dec. 9, the latest date crime statistics were published for the precinct.

Speaking of publishing crime statistics, the *Norwood News* successfully obtained neighborhood crime statistics (sector stats) from the 52nd Precinct for 2006 through 2011, which allowed us to publish overall crime statistics in each of precinct's 15 sectors for the previous six years leading up to 2012.

Not surprisingly, Sector G — the area north of Fordham Road between the Grand Concourse and Webster Avenue — emerged as the undisputed king of crime in the precinct.

From 2006 to 2011, 1,528 crimes were committed in Sector G. That's 11.5 percent of all the 13,303 crimes committed in the 52nd Precinct during that time and nearly 200 more crimes than Sector D, the next worst neighborhood (and 331 more crimes than in Sector C).

During those six years, more than one in every four of the precinct's murders — 25 out of 94 (26.6 percent) — and one of every five rapes — 29 out of 140 (20.7 percent) — occurred in Sector G. The area also led the precinct in felony assaults, which include shootings and stabbings, with 353 (13.7 percent of the precinct's assaults). Its next closest competitor was Sector B in University Heights, which

had 80 fewer assaults during the same time period.

In the background of all this was deteriorating police-community relations in the Bronx and citywide, which was thrust into the spotlight by reports of excessive and unwarranted "stop and frisk" stops where minorities were overwhelmingly targeted.

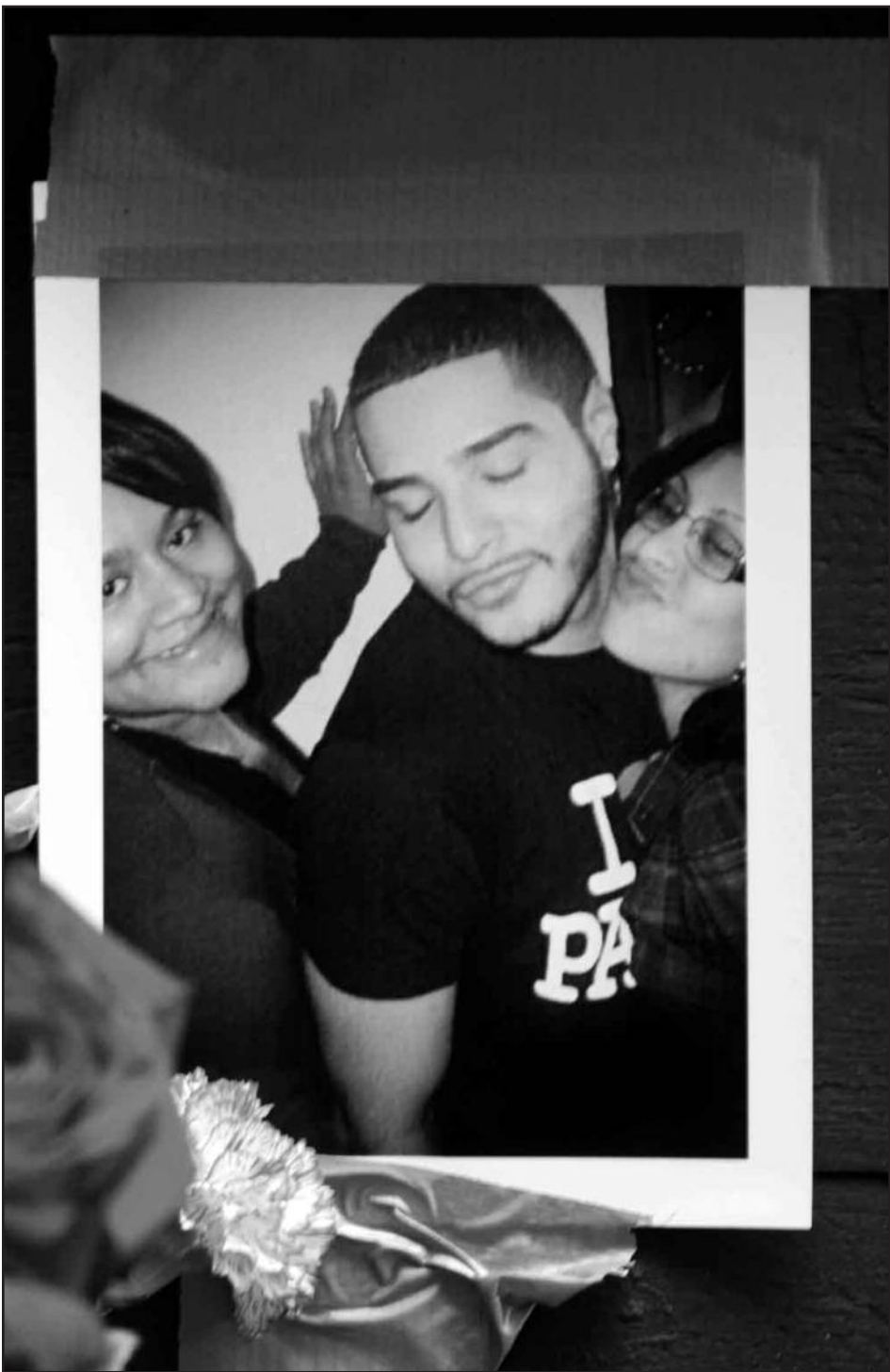
The backlash caused the Bronx District Attorney's office to announce it would stop prosecuting violations at city housing projects, where a lot of the stop and frisk stops occur, unless officers appeared before a grand jury. It's also spurred lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union.

The year ended with the mysterious murder of 46-year-old Gary Rodriguez on Decatur Avenue who was shot and killed just two blocks from his house on an early Sunday morning on Dec. 9. It marked the fourth murder of the year (compared to seven during the same time period last year) and the second on Decatur Avenue in Norwood in the previous two months.

The other murder, which happened just a block from Rodriguez's Decatur Avenue home in mid-October, was said to be narcotics related.

The Murder Victims

- Jose Arango, 20. Stabbed to death, East Gun Hill Road and Jerome Avenue.
- Raphael Quashie, 39. Shot in the torso, East 197th Street and Bainbridge Avenue.
- Jesus Avando, 26. Shot in the head, 3347 Decatur Ave.
- Gary Rodriguez, 46. Shot in the chest, 3089 Decatur Ave.



JOSE ARANGO died after being stabbed repeatedly during an altercation on Jerome Avenue.

Volume 19 Number 49

CompStat

52nd Precinct

Report Covering the Week 12/3/2012 Through 12/9/2012

| | Crime Complaints | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------|------|-------|--------|------|-------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|--------------|--------------|
| | Week to Date | | | 28 Day | | | Year to Date* | | | 2 Year | 11Year | 19 |
| | 2012 | 2011 | % Chg | 2012 | 2011 | % Chg | 2012 | 2011 | % Chg | % Chg | % Chg (2001) | % Chg (1993) |
| Murder | 1 | 0 | ***.* | 1 | 0 | ***.* | 4 | 7 | -42.9 | -63.6 | -80.0 | -90.0 |
| Rape | 1 | 0 | ***.* | 3 | 0 | ***.* | 25 | 21 | 19.0 | -3.8 | -49.0 | -58.3 |
| Robbery | 11 | 12 | -8.3 | 40 | 42 | -4.8 | 503 | 488 | 3.1 | 5.2 | -9.4 | -69.0 |
| Fel. Assault | 6 | 4 | 50.0 | 36 | 21 | 71.4 | 373 | 380 | -1.8 | -13.3 | -26.7 | -37.6 |
| Burglary | 7 | 7 | 0.0 | 41 | 36 | 13.9 | 386 | 427 | -9.6 | -3.0 | -47.3 | -82.7 |
| Gr. Larceny | 7 | 9 | -22.2 | 35 | 44 | -20.5 | 602 | 596 | 1.0 | 12.1 | 18.3 | -30.5 |
| G.L.A. | 3 | 1 | 200.0 | 8 | 6 | 33.3 | 131 | 139 | -5.8 | -24.3 | -75.0 | -90.7 |
| TOTAL | 36 | 33 | 9.09 | 164 | 149 | 10.07 | 2,024 | 2,058 | -1.65 | -1.41 | -30.16 | -70.34 |
| Petit Larceny | 34 | 33 | 3.0 | 141 | 122 | 15.6 | 1,599 | 1,473 | 8.6 | 32.5 | ***.* | ***.* |
| Misd. Assault | 17 | 6 | 183.3 | 62 | 68 | -8.8 | 998 | 933 | 7.0 | 19.7 | ***.* | ***.* |
| Misd. Sex Crimes | 2 | 2 | 0.0 | 4 | 5 | -20.0 | 59 | 46 | 28.3 | 0.0 | ***.* | ***.* |
| Shooting Vic. | 1 | 1 | 0.0 | 4 | 3 | 33.3 | 25 | 25 | 0.0 | -34.2 | -16.7 | -70.6 |
| Shooting Inc. | 1 | 1 | 0.0 | 3 | 3 | 0.0 | 18 | 18 | 0.0 | -40.0 | -33.3 | -77.2 |

Historical Perspective

(Historical perspective is a complete calendar year of data.)

Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about their hopes and goals for 2013.



I don't know: play cooking, go to school, go to a festival, hop like a frog, and go to Disneyland. I want to see Santa. I'm going to eat all my food so Santa will give me presents and if I finish my food I will get a treat. I only want to grow a little bit so I can stay size four so I can still play with my toys.

Darialis Infante



I wish 2013 will bring tranquility and peace. I want to be more relaxed and that my nerves won't get the better of me. I want my daughters to organize their room and that I won't have to repeat myself to my family when I say things.

Nilda Santiago



I hope to see more kindness in the world next year, from everyone, animals and people. And I hope to be a better human being with more wisdom and patience for the people I love.

Shelia Sanchez



That we all stay healthy, wealthy and wise and stay good in the mind. That we all get some tax return money, that things get better and we all hit the lottery. I think we should all help other people.

Naima Cossette



Firstly, and above all: happiness, prosperity and a better life. Everything else, like money, is just a plus and can come after.

Derryck Samwaro



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The Year in Schools

Local Northwest Bronx Schools Struggle to Stay Intact

By ALEX KRATZ

Despite a re-invigorated staff and the implementation of several new programs designed for improvement, the future of Junior High School 80 looked dim at the beginning of 2012.

The Mosholu Parkway school, which boasts famous alumni like director Penny Marshall and designer Calvin Klein, was in middle of year one of a Department of Education-imposed plan to improve the school's performance, which had plummeted in recent years. The plan included additional federal funding for new programs and a partnership with an outside organization, the Abyssinian Development Corporation, a Harlem-based group.

But when the DOE couldn't agree on a teacher evaluation system with the teachers union, funding for the new programs and partnership was threatened. The only way to maintain that funding, DOE officials said, was to place JHS 80 (more commonly known as MS 80) into the so-called "turnaround" program.

The turnaround program mandated that the school change its name and replace its administration and at least half of its faculty.

Before the Panel for Education Policy (PEP) even voted to approve the turnaround model for MS 80, the DOE made the move to replace its longtime principal, Lovey Mazique-Rivera on a Friday in March. Teachers, parents and students

found out about the change on the following Monday. The move plunged the school, which was in the midst of state exams, into turmoil.

Still, a small group of parents, alumni and community members held out hope that they would at least keep the name. But after a small turnout to a DOE hearing on the matter, the PEP approved the turnaround program and soon changed the school's name and started the process of hiring and firing teachers.

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After many teachers were told they would not be coming back, a successful lawsuit by the United Federation of Teachers stopped the entire process. A judge ruled the turnaround plan to be in violation of the union's contract with the DOE. Almost immediately, the name was changed back to JHS 80 and all of its teachers were told they could return.

Still, the school's principal remained a casualty of the process. Parents and teachers believed Mazique-Rivera had the school on the right path and the numbers began to back up their assertions.

In 2012, MS 80 achieved a huge jump in state math exams. In 2011, only 14 percent of eighth graders passed the math exam. This past year, half of the school's eighth graders passed. Their scores were so improved that MS 80 received a solid "B"



Photo by Adi Talwar

VERY FEW STUDENTS, parents or alumni came out to oppose the DOE's plan to close MS 80, but a lawsuit kept the school's name and teachers in place.

grade on its annual progress report.

340 Parents Win Stalemate

In the middle of November, 20 parents at PS 340 in Kingsbridge Heights received letters saying their kindergarten students would be transferred immediately to PS 310, a school more than a half mile away.

They were told that their children

were a victim of capping at PS 340, meaning the school was too overcrowded to keep them there.

The entire school community and local elected officials were furious and protested by refusing to go along with the DOE's plan and enroll at PS 310. In December, following an extended stalemate, the DOE allowed all but three of students to stay at PS 340 and said it would make accommodations for them, despite the overcrowding.



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Opinion

We love, welcome and encourage letters to the editor and opinion articles from readers. Write to: Editor, Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467. Fax: (718) 324-2917; or e-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org.

Editorial

On the Death of Young Children

As a journalist, you're supposed to be detached from the subjects you write about. It's how you maintain your objectivity when presenting facts and accurately depicting scenes you've witnessed.

All of that flew out the window of Woolworth Chapel in Woodlawn Cemetery when I reached into my pocket for one of at least half a dozen pens and plucked out the one with purple ink. It's the color Lydia would have chosen.

I was at the funeral for Lydia "Nena" Stephen, whose life and subsequent death after a long bout with cancer has been covered in the pages of the *Norwood News* over the last month. After "choosing" the purple pen, I immediately thought of Lydia and knew objectivity and detachment would not be possible.

As journalists, we are also human beings.

When I first heard about the story from Samantha Velez, a family friend who called Lydia a "Warrior Princess," I knew it would make a powerful story of incredible bravery in the face of our greatest fear: death. What I didn't know is how it would affect me as a person and as a parent.

To put it bluntly, it shook me to my core.

My own daughter was born almost two

years ago and continues to be the best thing I've ever done. I've found my love for her is stronger than anything I could have imagined. For the most part, I'm pretty laid back, but I find myself furiously worrying about her safety. When we're walking together, I sometimes envision her breaking away and running into traffic and me being forced to hurtle my own body in front of a car to protect her. And it always strikes me: I have no qualms about dying to save her.

To see another parent go through something like Lydia's parents, Nicole Ramdin and Joseph Stephen (pictured with Lydia), have had to go through, hits very close to home. No parent should ever have to watch their child die.

But then there was Lydia. Her strength and perseverance made it seem almost ok. If anyone could handle it, she could and did.

Toward the end, Lydia was in tremendous pain and there was little hope for recovery. Still, she kept fighting and breathing and finding small joys in things, like seeing her 2-year-old brother who loved to steal her socks.

Her mom hung out in a bed right next to hers on the ninth floor of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Two weeks before Lydia's death, I talked with her for more than two hours there while Lydia slept, her thin shoulders shuddering



when she breathed.

Nicole laughed and cried, equally, when talking about her second youngest child. She was so sad and tired, but so proud of her baby. She loved talking about her Nena.

At the funeral on a gorgeous Friday morning inside Woodlawn Cemetery, one of the most serene places in the entire Bronx, a group of Franciscan nuns came and sang a couple of songs.

During the first song, "We Have a Hope in Jesus," I completely lost it. Tears streaming into my notepad, jaw flapping like I was having a seizure. It wasn't just me. Everywhere in the full chapel, people were crying for Lydia's loss.

This, of course, was not according to Lydia's plan. She wanted no crying at her

"going away party." There would be wine and dancing, but no crying. That proved impossible. As Father George Stewart of St. Brendan's Church said, "Sorry Lydia, we can't totally oblige you today."

There was an open casket. Inside, Lydia was all done up, complete with a beautiful white gown (her "wedding gown") and white wedding veil. Her favorite stuffed animals were arranged around her as if in tight embrace. A single purplish-pink Hello Kitty balloon bobbed near her.

She was angelic. I cried all the way to my car.

When I returned to my office later on, I read the first news reports about the deadly massacre of 20 Connecticut schoolchildren and went completely numb. It was too hard to fathom. It was like 20 Lydias who I had never met all getting cancer and then immediately dying. There was no getting used to the idea of death for these kids. They were just happy children, full of unbridled potential until they weren't.

I can't imagine the horror those parents are going through.

But I think about them and their innocent children, just as I have thought about Lydia and her strong parents. And I think about my daughter and I hold her close every chance I get.

—ALEX KRATZ, Editor



Photo by Adi Talwar

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM THE NORWOOD NEWS: The middle of Mosholu Parkway near Bainbridge Avenue is lit up by the area's largest Christmas tree.

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LEGAL NOTICE

**NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMIT-
ED LIABILITY COMPANY. A&E COU-
TURE COLLECTION, LLC.** Articles of
Organization were filed with the Secretary
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2012. NY Office location at 4350 Furman

Avenue, Suite 1K, Bronx County. Secretary
of State NY is designated as agent of the
LLC upon whom process against it may be
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Year of Hope and Intrigue At Kingsbridge Armory

(continued from p. 1)

sports complex. They enlisted big name
ice sports stars in New York Rangers
hockey legend Mark Messier and
Olympic figure skater Sarah Hughes to
back their project and installed a youth
component modeled after a successful
inner-city program in Philadelphia. And
perhaps more importantly, they said they
would finance the project without taxpay-
er assistance.

The potential of Parker's project, now
known as the Kingsbridge Armory
National Ice Center, allowed the city, and
its Economic Development Corporation,
to issue the RFP just days after
Bloomberg's January announcement.

Though the ice project was widely con-
sidered the front-runner, an alternative
emerged out of the RFP process. It came
from Young Woo & Associates, the cutting
edge design firm that created the success-
ful Chelsea Market. The proposal envi-
sioned the Armory as a futuristic town
square type of market that would include
recreational, entertainment, retail and
business incubator components.

The project evolved over the spring
and summer months to include the
promise of a youth basketball program
run by the Bronx-based New York Gau-
chos and the inclusion of the nation's
first Hip Hop Museum with backing from
the Afrika Bambaataa, the Zulu Nation
and other Bronx hip hop pioneers. Young
Woo has also said it would finance the
project on its own.

Both groups have said they would cre-
ate at least 175 living wage jobs (\$10 an
hour plus benefits or \$11.50 an hour with-

out benefits), with Young Woo saying it
would create a total of 900 permanent
jobs. Both would offer an exciting alter-
native to another shopping mall.

In late August, Diaz and a handful of
other Bronx politicians, including State
Senator Gustavo Rivera (who lives two
blocks from the Armory) and Council-
man Oliver Koppell (who wanted the
Armory to be an ice center 15 years ago),
voiced their strong support for the ice
complex, which would include nine
Olympic-sized rinks and a 5,000-seat
arena. Councilman Fernando Cabrera,
who represents the area surrounding the
Armory, decided not to take a position on
which project he preferred.

The rumor was that the EDC would be
making its decision between the two com-
peting groups in a matter of weeks or by
the end of September. But as of Dec. 18,
the city still had not chosen a winner for
the Armory project and it was not on the
agenda for the EDC's final executive com-
mittee meeting of the year, scheduled for
Wednesday, Dec. 19.

The EDC is reportedly in negotiations
with both developers, which could be the
cause of the holdup. In the meantime,
another ice center proposal is making
headway just a few miles upstate in Rye
Brook, which could eat into the Armory
ice center's earning potential.

The clock is ticking. Once a project is
chosen, it must pass through the city's
exhaustive land use review process
(ULURP), which could take a year or
more. By then, we could have a new
mayor and a new Council Speaker and all
bets would be off.



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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **Paul Rodriguez and Terry Hodges**, Jan. 12 at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$45. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Bronx Rising! Music, Film &**

Spoken Word of the Borough, through Jan. 19, performed by Bronx artists: Music and jazz, Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m.; film, Fridays 8 to 10 p.m.; comedy, poetry and literature, Saturdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (visit www.bronx-music.org for details). For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

Events

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040

Grand Concourse (165th Street), presents its free **First Friday** on Jan. 4 from 6 to 10 p.m., featuring film, art performances, music and other special events. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects**: Create Your Year: Hello, 2013!, to create a calendar for the new year, Dec. 29 and 30; and Sunrise, Sunset, to combine paint and dye to create an inspirational scene, Jan. 5 and 6; both in the Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and free Tuesdays all day. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.;

garden **walks** are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

■ The Bronx County Historical Society's Museum of Bronx History at the Valentine-Varian House, 3266 Bainbridge Ave., presents **Hail to the Chief** and **Hooray for Our Side**, through April 7, 2013. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford

✓ EDITOR'S PICK

Free Dancing

The public is invited to join a series of **free dance workshops** to be held at Mind-Builders Creative Arts Center, 260 E. 207th St. (between Bainbridge and Perry avenues). An introductory session of Zumba will take place on Jan. 12 from 2 to 2:30 and on Jan. 19 at 4:30 p.m. Hip-Hop is scheduled for Jan. 19 at 3:30 p.m. Also featured on Jan. 19 will be a special performance at 6:45 p.m. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call (718) 652-6256 or visit www.mind-builders.org.

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Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Space Invaders**, featuring the work of 18 artists who make use of many spaces both inside and outside the galleries, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Jan. 9. For more information, call (718) 960-8731/8715.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Public Art Under House Arrest**, through December 2012, at Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos' Center for the Arts' main gallery, 450 Grand Concourse (149th Street), in the Project Room. For more information, call (718) 518-6728.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th Street, presents **Rituals of Chaos**, an exhibition featuring modern and contemporary art from Latin America, through Jan. 6, highlighting the work of Mexican photojournalist Enrique Metinides and 11 contemporary artists who similarly take the human experience in the city as their subject matter. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Bronx River Art Center, 305 E. 140th St., #1A (temporary gallery location during BRAC's renovation), presents free, **Process and Progress**, artists and architects explore and engage urban development in the Bronx and beyond. Exhibition 2 of 4: Aaron Jones and Art Jones, through Dec. 29. For more information and schedule, call (718) 589-5819.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Free Computer Classes at 2 p.m.**: Online registration required: MS Word 2010 for Beginners Dec. 27; **Film at 2:30 p.m.**: "I Am David," Dec. 29; and **Single Stop/Government Benefits**, Jan. 3, 8, 9 and 10 at 9 a.m. Teens and young adults can join **Teen Art Club at 3:30 p.m.**: Dec. 28; and **Comets**, Jan. 10 at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Dec. 27; and



Photo by Adi Talwar

LOCAL RESIDENTS take in the beauty of the Christmas tree during Community Board 7's lighting ceremony on Mosholu Parkway on Dec. 13. Students from PS/MS 20's choir performed.

Winter Magnet Making: Dec. 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.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months),

Jan. 3 and 10. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR READERS!

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Dec. 31 for the next publication date of Jan. 10.

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