Indicted Castro Helps Build Corruption Case

By ALEX KRATZ

Nelson Castro’s career as a politician and undercover informant began with a lie. Ironically, the lie made him one of the most trustworthy lawmakers in New York.

“With the amount of supervision he was under from the very beginning, there was no person less likely to be corrupt in Albany than Nelson Castro,” said Castro’s lawyer, Michael C. Farkas.

Before becoming the first Dominican elected official from the Bronx, rising to a leadership position on immigration issues in the state Assembly and becoming a star in a federal corruption case against fellow Bronx assemblyman Eric Stevenson, Castro stood accused of voter fraud.

Case Vanishes

In the summer of 2008, Mike Soto, one of Castro’s opponents in the race for the 86th assembly district, which includes parts of Fordham and University Heights, brought a general objection to his collection of registered voters who had signed his petition to get on the ballot for the fall primary.

Under scrutiny, it turned out that nine people on his petition said they lived in Castro’s one bedroom apartment in the west Bronx, including some who were his relatives. Castro said he didn’t know any of them.

(continued on page 2)

Bangladeshi Group Gathers in Bronx To Support War Crimes Tribunal

By WILL SPEROS

Dozens of Bangladeshi New Yorkers congregated at a church in Norwood on a recent Sunday evening to demonstrate their support for a controversial war crimes tribunal that is prosecuting alleged crimes against humanity stemming from Bangladesh’s war for independence more than 40 years ago.

Though BCA president Ansar H. Chowdhury said the event would include “celebrating [independence] together,” the night would largely be one of “remembrance.” Hundreds of thousands died in the war and, recently, dozens have been killed in clashes between Bangladesh security forces and an Islamic Party protesting against the tribunal.

The event, held at the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church on Bainbridge Avenue, was put together by the Bengali Cultural Association of the USA, an organization with a goal to make secularism, democracy, and human rights a priority since its inception in 1971 when Bangladesh first achieved its independence.

New York City has the highest Bangladeshi population in the country, with over 57,000 living in the five boroughs today. The Bangladeshi population in the Bronx has soared in recent years and Muslim leaders are in the middle of building a new Islamic cultural center in the Norwood area to accommodate their growing numbers.

(continued on page 8)
Under Indictment, Castro Helps Build Corruption Case

(noted from page 1)

According to reports, the mediator hearing the case found his testimony “less than credible” and it looked like Castro would be kicked off the ballot. But somehow, the controversy melted away.

Ultimately, Castro, who was also found to have a short criminal record from his younger days and thousands of dollars in unpaid parking tickets, remained on the ballot and easily won election.

His honeymoon as an assemblyman didn’t last long. Just a few months into his freshman year as a legislator, in April of 2009, Castro was indicted on perjury charges by the Bronx District Attorney’s office.

Rather than face the charges, which political insiders say would have been difficult to prove, Castro cut a deal. He agreed to help the DA’s office uncover corruption and, in exchange, they would seal the indictment and Castro could continue to hold his job in Albany.

On His Own

For four years, and two re-election campaigns, Castro continued on as a state legislator, solidifying his hold on the 86th assembly district despite vigorous opposition from his own party.

In 2008, Bronx Assemblyman Jose Rivera was chairman of the Bronx Democratic County Committee, which comes with serious political clout in the borough. Despite a couple of minor red flags, Rivera said County’s executive committee at the time recommended Castro to fill the 86th assembly seat, which was vacated by Luis Diaz who had taken a job working for Governor David Patterson.

Despite the flags, which included his criminal record and the outstanding parking fines, Castro was experienced, having worked as chief of staff for upper Manhattan Assemblyman Adrian Espaillat, who’s now a state senator.

Still, Castro wasn’t connected in Bronx political circles and the decision to go with Castro over party loyalist Hector Ramirez, who’s now a state senator.

Later that fall, Rivera was ousted as chair during a raucous meeting at the historic Paradise Theater on the Grand Concourse.

In 2010, the new leaders of the Bronx County Democrats put their full weight into taking out Castro, pouring its resources and ground game into the candidacy of Hector Ramirez.

A Solid Reputation

Mike Nieves, a top Democratic political operative who’s worked on campaigns all over New York, said the County Committee tried, but couldn’t dig up any dirt (other than what was already known about him) on Castro because it simply wasn’t there.

“He was clean,” Nieves said.

Castro ended up beating Ramirez soundly and other borough elected officials began warming up to him.

Over the next two years, Castro developed a reputation as an effective legislator and an engaged representative for his constituents. Recently, he was named head of the assembly’s sub-committee on New Americans, where he championed pro-immigrant legislation.

Rivera, for one, was impressed.

“He was doing a lot of stuff,” Rivera said. “He was very visible, bringing people together. And he was doing that until all of this exploded. It broke my heart.”

Although Castro admitted to the perjury charges and helping out on “various investigations over the past four years, nothing came of his cooperation with law enforcement officials until early 2012, when a political operative named Sigfredo Gonzalez approached him with an offer.

Working for the Feds

Gonzalez, who worked for former Bronx state senator and now convicted felon Pedro Espada, was working for a group of developers. They wanted to open two new adult day care centers, one in Castro’s district on Jerome Avenue and another in Bronx Assemblyman Eric Stevenson’s central Bronx district.

Gonzalez told Castro that he wanted to set up a meeting with his associates. At the meeting, Castro said he would help the developers in exchange for “special treatment.”

One of the developers, Igor Timmerman, according to court documents, told Castro, “I am sure that we can afford the same ‘special treatment’ that is necessary in the course of this business and that are vital for the existence and course of this business.” He added, “We’ll be able to help, we’ll be there for you.”

At the time, Castro was wearing a recording device provided by law enforcement officials. According to court documents, a few weeks later, on Jan. 27, Gonzalez brought Castro an envelope containing $12,000. Gonzalez took $2,000 for himself and gave the rest to Castro.

A few months later, Gonzalez began working for the federal government and, over the next year, with little help from Castro, helped the United States Attorney’s office build a strong case against Stevenson and the developers.

Prosecutors say for around $20,000, Stevenson, who comes from a political-connected family and represents some of the poorest neighborhoods in the central Bronx, including Morrisania, agreed to help the developers cut through red tape, recruit seniors for the two new adult day care centers and introduce legislation that would eliminate competition for the developers.

When the indictment against Stevenson and the developers was unveiled on April 4 (he and the developers pleaded not guilty), Castro announced that he would resign as part of his cooperation agreement.

The next week, Castro’s indictment on perjury charges was unsealed and, although he admitted to lying about not knowing the registered voters who claimed his address back in 2008, he pleaded not guilty.

“I deeply regret my misconduct while campaigning before I was elected to office,” Castro said in a statement. “It is my sincere hope that my constituents remember me most for the good I have done as their representative, rather than for the poor example I set as a candidate.”

FORMER BRONX ASSEMBLYMAN Nelson Castro (left) during a recent hearing on immigration issues in Albany. Castro was just starting to come into his own as a lawmaker when he was forced to resign because of perjury charges brought against him in 2009.
Art Thrives on School’s Walls

By SARA REGALADO

With help and support from PS 246’s maintenance staff, faculty, and former and current students, Annie Coan, an art teacher at the school, has mothered an artistic atmosphere that breathes on the school’s walls.

“Although budget cuts have decimated every aspect of our educational system, at least we still have an art program at PS 246,” Coan says. “Principal Pascal Miller and our assistant principals have worked so hard to keep the arts alive in our school because the arts keep kids in school!”

Coan was approached with the idea of creating a mural in front of the school by its “beloved” principal, Beverly Pascal Miller. Coan worked on selecting education-based quotes. Soon after, Pascal Miller chose George Washington Carver’s “Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom” to adorn the building.

Coan decided to unite Carver’s quote with President Theodore Roosevelt’s four freedoms (freedom of expression, freedom to worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear), along with several inspirational sayings such as “be who you want to be,” all of which are painted in diverse colors of red, blue, yellow, and orange. Building manager, Eddie Cintron also assisted.

Social mobility comes through hard work and education,” Coan says. “I imagine most of the immigrant population of the Bronx hopes and prays this remains true.”

Because this Carver/Roosevelt mural project is not the first of its kind, Coan is hopeful for more murals at PS 246, also known as the Poe Cottage School. Recently, 5th graders added to the collection, completing an indoor mural of a Bat-fish aquarium.

“Whether it’s art or technology, teaching with visuals is another way of engaging students in learning,” Pascal Miller says.

PS 246’s walls, inside and out, are painted with murals, many that include inspirational messages and quotes for its students.
String of Violence in Norwood, Fordham-Bedford

The return of the warm weather has also come with heated tempers as evidenced by three violent incidents reported over a four-day period in the Norwood and Fordham-Bedford communities.

The three unidentified victims were wounded in separate, apparently unrelated, incidents across the 52nd Precinct patrol area. The outbreak of violence included two shootings and one stabbing.

Police were called to 3200 Perry Ave. at East 206th Street, at 11:49 p.m., on Wednesday, April 3, when officers discovered a male victim who had been shot in the neck and back. The wounded man, who was identified as John Bello, was rushed to Jacobi Hospital, where he is expected to survive, but remains paralyzed from the waist down, according to 52nd Precinct Commander Inspector Joseph Dowling.

Dowling wouldn’t go into details about the investigation because it remains ongoing, but did say that it appeared to be marijuana related.

Investigators were looking for a group of black males between the ages of 18 and 24 years old who were observed running from the scene.

One suspect was described as 5-feet-6-inches tall and wearing a gray hooded jacket under a green bubble jacket. One police source stated the jacket had the logo of the Seattle Seahawks on the back of it.

A second suspect was described as being 5-feet-9-inches tall, wearing a gray hooded jacket and a Chicago White Sox baseball cap.

The group reportedly fled on foot across East 206 Street and south on Bainbridge Avenue.

On Friday, April 5, police were called to Risse Park, located at Jerome Avenue and West Mosholu Parkway South after a man was reported stabbed inside the park. The victim was rushed to a nearby hospital and is expected to survive.

Another man was wounded when gunfire erupted at the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and East 194th Street, at 5:30 p.m., on April 7. The victim was transported to a local hospital and he, too, was expected to survive.

Police have yet to announce any arrests in any of the incidents.

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Briggs Ave. Drug Crew Busted

Law enforcement officials say they have crippled an extensive drug and weapons organization that operated in the Fordham-Bedford area.

Following a joint investigation by local police and federal agents, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York said they had indicted 28 members of the crew, known as the “Briggs Avenue Organization” because they allegedly conducted their illegal business around Briggs Avenue and East 194th Street.

The organization operated within the confines of Sector George, a neighborhood where dangerous crimes of this caliber are nothing new. In 2011, federal agents helped bring down another drug ring just a block away on Valentine Avenue and East 194th Street.

Of the 28 defendants, whose ages range from 20 to 41, 16 of them were taken into custody as part of a larger undercover operation. Between May 2012 and March 2013, several undercover NYPD officers made over 20 purchases of heroin from some 18 members of the Briggs Organization that were marked with some of the group’s signature stamps. The organization was also involved in circulating crack cocaine.

During the course of the investigation, undercover officers were sold over 800 “bundles” of heroin and firearms. Weapons included in these bundles were AK-47 assault rifles and UZI 9 millimeter machine guns.

All but one of the 28 defendants are facing life sentences.

---WILL SPEROS

Beating at Oval Park

Just before 9 o’clock on Thursday morning, April 11, traffic built up around Reservoir Oval in Norwood as dozens of local police, aided by helicopters, chased after a group of suspects who, witnesses said, severely beat up a local barber.

Police managed to track down and capture at least one of the suspects. By 9:15 a.m., he was sitting in a police car on Reservoir Oval East at Putnam Place. While he sat in the back of the police car, the victim was laid out on a stretcher in an ambulance just 10 feet away. Both were later taken away.

The barber, who is Dominican, was jogging in Oval Park when a group of black men began yelling ethnic slurs at him, according to witnesses. The group then chased him down out of the park and beat him up using various makeshift weapons.

Some speculated that the beating might have stemmed from an earlier beef between the barber and his friends and the group of men who beat up the barber.

---ALEX KRATZ

Teen Charged in Fordham Heights Blaze

(continued from page 1)

One woman, visibly shaken, said, “[Firefighters] said that someone set the fire and we lost everything.”

The fire victim added that many years ago another intentional blaze was set inside the same apartment.

It took 150 firefighters more than an hour and a half to stop the blaze, which damaged three apartments and forced dozens of residents, including Metropolitan Opera singer Andrey Nemzer, to evacuate.

Six firefighters suffered minor injuries and were treated for minor burns and smoke inhalation.

After the fire, Red Cross organizers were working to find homes for the tenants displaced by the damage.

Photo by David Greene

A PHOTO OF Princess Martinez who officials said confessed to setting the fire in her mother’s apartment.

Photo by David Greene

FIREFIGHTERS BATTLE a three-alarm fire that broke out on the top floor of a building on Cedar Avenue on Saturday.

Photo by David Greene

Photo by David Greene
Inquiring Photographer
By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about the corruption charges filed against several high-ranking public officials.

It embarrassed the entire city. It brings everybody down. Where is the pride? They should be helping to make the city better for the people and look what happens. Now people aren’t going to vote because of what happened and I feel bad. 
William Guatalupe

There’s a lot of crooked [officials] out there, but I don’t think they’re all crooks. But they should put an end to it. I think politics breeds corruption — it’s been going on for years and they’re just getting more bold about it.
Cliff Duso

I’ll vote again. I don’t think all politicians are crooks, but a lot of them are. They have to do something to get a lot of these guys out of office. There should be no such thing as a career politician, you shouldn’t make a career out of politics at all. The people are scared of the government now and it shouldn’t be like that.
Julio Torres

[Politicians] take too much advantage of us, personally, with the money from our taxes. Half the time we don’t get half our tax money back. There’s a lot of stuff going on, a lot of under-handed stuff going on in politics. If you ask me all of them deserve jail time because they are stealing from us.
Jason Camacho

The opposition party, whoever it might be, will come after all those who are on top. It’s not so much that all those persons were accused of trying to throw the mayoral race, it had more to do with destroying the Democratic party line and the democratic idea.
Dr. Chancy Marsh

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Anti-Bullying 101

By ALEX KRATZ

In the wake of a disturbing bullying episode at MS 80 in Norwood that left a 14-year-old hospitalized after months of abuse, the Norwood News spoke with Cheryl Hurst, who developed an anti-bullying program for the Montefiore School Health Program called STAR (Strengthening Tween and Adolescent Relationships). It’s an 8-week program that operates in several Bronx middle schools, including PS/MS 95, but not MS 80.

As its title suggests, Hurst says her program is a crash course in creating and maintaining healthy relationships, mostly for kids in middle school, but some fifth graders as well. They’ve also developed a curriculum for high school students.

Bullying, Hurst says, is a symptom of deteriorating relationships that leave young people hurt — psychologically, emotionally and physically.

The biggest and most important thing STAR does is “empower” participants with language, Hurst says. There are four main ways young people can be empowered with language when a bullying situation arises. Below are the basics of each empowerment tactic.

1) Be Assertive. Hurst says young people need to “speak with confidence” when somebody makes fun of them or puts them down. They should tell the person taunting them, “I don’t like that.” Then walk away and tell somebody — your teacher, school administrator or parents — about it.

2) Avoid Being Aggressive. In a similar situation, when faced with bullying, you shouldn’t lash out physically by punching someone in the face or responding with hateful or derogatory comments. Being aggressive will only escalate the situation and make it worse.

3) Avoid Being Passive. Hurst says this one is “tricky” because, in a way, you have to be passive by not getting involved. But when faced with a bullying situation, you also shouldn’t just walk away and then not tell anyone about it. Realize you have resources and don’t have to be a victim. In other words, don’t be aggressive by fighting back or hurting someone, but be assertive and tell somebody about it.

4) Avoid Being Passive Aggressive. If faced with acts of bullying, don’t pretend like everything is fine. If an interaction with someone is bothering you, tell somebody about it. Don’t bottle it up inside of you. Over time those hurtful words and interactions will build to the point where it will start to have negative impact on your psyche and self-confidence. Bottom line: If you’re being bullied or even think you might be facing a bullying situation, tell an adult, either your parents or someone at your school.

Blood Drive
Save a life by giving blood this Thursday, April 18, at the North Central Bronx Hospital’s mobile bus located at the hospital’s entrance on Kossuth Avenue from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Free Cancer Check
On April 19 at the Montefiore Einstein Center for Cancer, 1521 Jarret Place, there will be free oral, head and neck cancer screenings. When detected early the treatment and survival rate for cancer dramatically increases. The screenings are free and consist of a brief examination by a physician. No appointment is necessary. For more information, call (718) 920-8488.

Earth Day Event
Montefiore Medical Center is hosting its 6th annual Earth Day event on Monday, April 22. This year there will be an Earth Day symposium in the hospital’s Grand Hall, from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. for anyone interested in learning more about how to reduce your carbon footprint and what Montefiore is doing to become more energy efficient. For more information, call (718) 920-4542 or email fesabill@montefiore.org.

Be Healthy

Vital Stats

Percentage of kids who experience some type of bullying, according to a recent survey.

77

Anti-Bullying 101

YOUNGSTERS FROM the Moshulu Montefiore Community Center’s youth baseball league use all kinds of bells and whistles and faces during their march to Harris Field to celebrate Opening Day. More baseball photos at norwoodnews.org.

Photos by Adi Talwar

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At least 50 activists rallied outside of Woodlawn Cemetery last Saturday to protest against what they called a racist, discriminatory and retaliatory work environment inside the historic landmark. The rally was also in support of a discrimination lawsuit brought against the cemetery by three former employees and one current employee.

The former employees — Frank Russo, Todd Brown and Alex Coss — said they were ousted for speaking against the injustice going on inside the cemetery. Russo called his fellow plaintiffs his “band of brothers” and said he was fired for speaking out after returning to work following a brain tumor operation.

“They mentally, physically, and financially strangled me. Even one of the foremen mentioned to me that if I had never stayed with these guys, I would have never had to ‘suffer the consequences.’ Those are his words.” Russo said.

Alex Coss’ brother, Rick Coss, the only plaintiff still working at Woodlawn, said he wanted to strengthen his fellow workers’ union, noting that their contract expires at the end of the year. That is, if he doesn’t get fired first.

“I’m the only one still actively working at the cemetery,” Rick Coss said. “So if tomorrow, or Monday, I’m no longer there — you know why.”
Bangladeshi Group Supports War Crimes Tribunal

(continued from page 1)

According to the latest American Community Survey conducted by the Census Bureau, Parkchester has the most concentrated Bangladeshi population in the Bronx, with an estimated 2,642 people. The only neighborhoods more populated with Bengalis are Kensington in Brooklyn (2,671) and Jamaica Hills, Queens (4,104).

Inside the room on April 7, the walls of the large social room were decorated with posters of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, a man the Bangladeshis people consider “The Father of the Nation” for his work in helping them achieve independence from West Pakistan.

The event included appearances and speeches from several Bangladeshi political leaders who are active in the United States, each of them wearing red and green scarves, the colors on the nation’s flag.

The women in the room wore the national dress, known as the sovereign nation of Bangladesh.

Since 2010, and some 10 to 15 men are currently awaiting sentencing for the atrocities committed at the time.

But the tribunal has not been met with universal support.

Mamum estimates that three million innocent people were killed during the ordeal, and roughly 200,000 women were raped by attackers from West Pakistan. War raged for nine months until the Indian army intervened and helped negotiate a ceasefire. (Editor’s Note: Casualty estimates vary widely; from 200,000 to three million deaths, but, by all accounts, the war was considered one of the 20th century’s most violent.)

East Pakistan ultimately achieved its independence that year and became known as the sovereign nation of Bangladesh.

While these events occurred 42 years ago, those who committed war crimes during the ordeal are only now facing trial. Indictments have been issued since 2010, and some 10 to 15 men are currently awaiting sentencing for the atrocities committed at the time.

But the tribunal has not been met with universal support.

Jamaat Ul-Islam, an Islamic political party, has taken action to spread its belief that the treatment of the men on trial is unjust, especially after one of its leaders was sentenced to death. Over the past several months, Jamaat supporters have clashed with security forces, leaving dozens dead and many more injured.

Those present at Holy Nativity Sunday night made it clear they simply want to end this ugly portion of the Bangladeshi history, and move on.

“People should be able to enjoy their freedom, and create a society where everyone can enjoy the country” Mamum said.

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If you are age 50 to 80 and in general good health, you may be eligible for a screening visit, which includes blood tests for diabetes (glucose tolerance test) and other conditions. Based on these results, you may be eligible for the study which includes taking Resveratrol and a placebo, each for 6 weeks, plus additional blood & urine tests, EKGs and optional muscle biopsies (2). Participants will receive up to $300 at study completion and reimbursement is provided for parking and public transportation. Study participation lasts for about 15 weeks.

For more information, call: Diabetes Clinical Trials Unit Bronx, NY 718-405-8271

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Speakers of any language (all levels) are invited to join English conversation classes at LiF’T’s Bronx, 2381 Belmont Ave., between 187th and 186th streets, Wednesdays from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Topics will range from current events to sports. For more information, call (718) 735-4961 or email litterenglishconversation@gmail.com.

Run the Bronx

Bronx Community College is sponsoring its 35th Annual Hall of Fame 10K (6.2 miles), 5K Run (3.1 miles) and 2-Mile Walk on Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. (rain or shine). Register online at www.bcc.cuny.edu/10krun or call the 10K hotline at (718) 289-5877. Pre entry registration ends Friday, April 26.

Neighborhood Notes

LOCAL BANGLADESHI leaders said they support their home country’s controversial war crime tribunals, which have stirred violence.

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HELP WANTED

**Experienced p/t Development Director:** Sought by small, NW Bronx media arts and literacy program for teens, to research and cultivate funding sources; write proposals and reports; liaison with staff. Strong writing skills and successful not-for-profit, fund-raising experience required; a self-starter, organized to meet deadlines, creative, and flexible. (6 to 8 hours/week - salary DOE). FAX resume (including phone #) to (718) 882-2454 or email baylalyn@earthlink.net.

**Discount Store Needs:** Experienced cashier, floor person & security person. Call Eric for details (646) 552-6337.

REAL ESTATE

**2-Family House for Sale:** Low down payment! Low interest rate! Fully renovated. Includes 3 BR over 3 BR and master bedroom. Wood floors and tile. Full 1-bedroom basement. This property has 7 bedrooms and 4 full baths. Parking and back yard. New kitchen. New bathroom. Wheelchair ramp. Great investment, it will pay for itself. You will live for free! Location: Wakefield/Barnes, between 228th and 229th streets. Minutes away from Montefiore Hospital. Please call owner: (917) 622-5810. Price: $465,000 (neg.) Lease with option to buy, $1,800 per month.

**Apt. for Sale:** 1-bedroom apt. near Montefiore Hospital and all transportation. Asking price $100,000.00. Call Ray (917) 517-0172 or (347) 427-4774.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

**Glad Tidings Assembly of God:** 2 Van Cortlandt Ave. E. and Jerome Avenue. (718) 367-4040. Prayer Wednesdays at 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Sunday School at 9:30 a.m. and Sunday Service at 11 a.m.

MISCELLANEOUS

Trip to “Mount Airy Casino” in Pennsylvania: Saturday, May 4 at 11 a.m. From East 163rd Street and Southern Boulevard. For more information, please contact Eddie at (718) 757-5485.

Cash Paid: For antiques, old items, collectibles, artwork, jewelry, books, records, coins, stamps, sports cards, bric-a-brac. Moving sales, estates, contents of homes. (718) 882-0598 (home), or (347) 734-9261 (cell).

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Royal Prestige Products: Sales Representative. For more information, please contact Ms. Hernandez (917) 736-4870.

### Classifieds

**Classifieds:** $12 for the first 20 words and 25 cents for each additional word.

**Professional Directory:** $144 for six months; $260 for one year.

**Business Cards:** $360 for six months (12 issues); $625 for one year (25 issues).

**Deadlines:** Deadlines for classified ads are one week prior to publication. To place an ad, call the Norwood News at (718) 324-4998 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday thru Friday.
**Onstage**

- The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents *Bach to the Future: Classical and Jazz Piano*, April 20 at 2:30 p.m.; *Salsa Concert* by the Jose Obando Quartet, April 25 at 11 a.m.; and *Mariachi Real de Mexico in Concert*, April 27 at 2:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

- The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., presents *Lehman Brass Quintet*, April 18 at 11 a.m., and *Lehman Woodwind Quintet*, April 21 at 2 p.m., both in the Music Building Recital Hall; and *Lehman Jazz Band*, April 28 at 2 p.m. in the Music Building Hearth Room (all free); and *Stars of the Russian Ballet*, April 21 at 4 p.m. (tickets are $25 to $40; $10/ages 12 and under); and *Fusion Urbana Live in Concert*, April 20 at 8 p.m. (tickets are $25 to $45; $10/ages 12 and under). For more information, call (718) 690-8833.

- The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., presents *Bronx Rising*, a series of events featuring live music, film, and spoken word, as follows: *Mariachi music* on April 18 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.; *Golden Age of Mexican cinema* on April 19 from 8 to 10 p.m.; and *Words: Rock & Read*, performance by an Irish rock band, April 20 from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Suggested donation is $5 for each performance. Programs are subject to change. For more information, call (718) 793-2211 or visit bronxmusic.org.

- Casita Maria, 928 Simpson St., presents *free, milteri tucker and the Bomba dance Co., Lero*, April 26 and 27 at 8 p.m. (subject to change), featuring Puerto Rican traditional drum song and dance. For more information and to confirm, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6193.

- The Bronx Arts Ensemble is having a *40th Anniversary Party*, April 27 at 6 p.m. at Pelham/Split Rock Golf Club. Enjoy music, art, and more. BAE also seeks advertisers for its gala journal. For more information, call (718) 601-7399.

- The Woodlawn Conservancy offers events held at Woodlawn Cemetery: *Woodlawn is for Lovers*, tour and concert. Visit memorials followed by a concert featuring a variety of music genres, April 21 at 12:30 p.m. (tickets begin at $10); *Urban Birding*, guided tour to view birds in residence (tickets are $15/adults; $10/Conservancy and Audubon members, students, seniors); and *Encore: A Jazz Revival*, including Duke Ellington music, and featuring trolley and walking tours (free, RSVP recommended). April 28 at 1 p.m. For more information, call (718) 920-1463.

**Events**

- The Bronx Council on the Arts, 2700 E. Tremont Ave., offers free *Big Read in the Bronx* events through May 5. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 21 or visit www.bronxarts.org and click on The Big Read. Also offered is its final workshop, *Recycle Art With Start Nigro*, as part of its free series of Third Saturday Family Craft Workshops, April 27 at 8 a.m. Casual runners and walkers can participate in the Family Fun Run/Walk at 8:45 a.m. Prizes will be awarded to those who meet various fundraising goals. Minimum to raise to participate is $30. For more information or to register, visit www.wcs.runforthewild.org ($35/adults; $25/ages 3 to 15 and seniors).

- *Free Movie Al Fresco* The Fordham Road Business Improvement District will host a series of outdoor movie nights at Fordham Plaza, located at 189th Street at Third and Park avenues, throughout the summer. The next scheduled show is "The Amazing Spider-Man," on April 26 at 8 p.m. Bring a chair or a blanket. For more information, call (718) 562-2104 or visit www.fordhamroadbid.org.

**EDITOR’S PICK**

**FREE SUMMER MOVIE SERIES 2013**

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 26**

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 28**

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**SATURDAY, JULY 27**

8:30 pm

**FRIDAY, SEPT 6**

7:30 pm

Visit www.fordhamroadbid.org for information

Compiled by JUDY NOY
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20 from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or (718) 829-7770 or visit www.bronxarts.org.

■ The Bronx County Historical Society, 3309 Bainbridge Ave., presents The Legacy of the Piccirilli Brothers in the Bronx, a free lecture about this famous family of sculptors, April 20 at 11 a.m.; and Historic West Farms, walking tour, April 27 at 11 a.m. ($10/BCHS members; $15/non members). For more information, to confirm locations, or to RSVP, call (718) 881-8900.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers Family Arts Projects: Flags and Kites for Earth Day, made out of colorful plastic bags, April 20 and 21; and Fly Me to the Dove Tree, to make a dove tree sculpture out of natural materials and paper or a flock of doves out of plaster of Paris, sculpture out of natural materials and paper, or a flock of doves out of plaster of Paris, April 27 and 28; both from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. or a free lecture, April 28 at 2 p.m.. Teens/young adults can join Arts & Crafts: all materials provided, April 23 at 4 p.m. Speakers of other languages can attend free English Conversation Program: intermediate level, Tuesdays from 6:30 to 8 p.m., April 23 and 30. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers Cooking at 4 p.m.: April 18, 23, and May 2; and Craftsmen: (all materials provided), May 1 at 4 p.m.; both for teens/young adults. Children ages 5 to 12 can enjoy: Pacaja Party: April 29 at 6 p.m. Adults can attend: Computer Basics at noon: April 30 and May 2. The entire family can join Cooking: April 27 at noon. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by April 22 for the next publication date of May 2.

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