

NORWOOD NEWS

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Digital Evolution
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‘Occupy’ Movement Takes Up Residence in the Bronx

By ALEX KRATZ



Photo by Michael Premo

AFTER GATHERING in Fordham Plaza, Occupy the Bronx protesters marched up Fordham Road to collectively jump on a train that would take them to join the Occupy Wall Street community in downtown Manhattan.

Gabriel De Los Santos, a veteran of the Occupy Wall Street movement now stretching into its second month, showed up at the first Occupy the Bronx rally at Fordham Plaza last Saturday. He held a hand-written cardboard sign, a replica of dozens he had created and distributed during the past month. It read: “Land of the Free? Hypocrisy.”

Sporting a backwards Suicidal Tendencies baseball cap, sleeveless black Cannibal Corpse T-shirt and a faint wisp of a mustache, De Los Santos is 15-year-old student at Lehman High School who lives just blocks from Fordham Plaza. He was one of close to 100 people who attended the rally — evidence that the Occupy movement is spreading, not only to the outer boroughs, but to locations around the world. Similar Occupy-type rallies took place last Saturday in Chicago, Rome, Sydney, Tokyo and Hong Kong, according to the *New York Times*.

The movement, which is loosely focused on remedying income inequality for the “99 percent” of Americans who are not rich, has been criticized for lacking a clear objective. But attendees at the Fordham rally, which was initiated by Fordham University students and alumni, weren’t concerned with coming up with a list of demands. They were focused on growing an all-inclusive movement guided by direct, grassroots democracy.

The Occupy movement doesn’t have “leaders,” but they do have “facilitators” who foster dialogue and discussion, by literally using the power of human voices. Everyone at the rally, called a “general assembly” or “GA” in Occupy-speak, was given an opportunity to talk and participate. Speakers took turns and spoke in short bursts, which the rest of the group repeated loudly.

Erik Maldonado, a poet who lives in Kingsbridge and performs under the name Advocate of Wordz, talked about the need to spread the Occupy movement into the Bronx.

“We must occupy space in the Bronx,” he said, pausing to allow

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Cemetery for Famous Registered As National Landmark

By EMILY PICCONE

Since 1863, the sprawling Woodlawn Cemetery has seen jazz greats, literary giants, political leaders and everyone in between entombed above and beneath its hallowed grounds. On Sunday, Oct. 16, the cemetery was inducted into the National Historic Landmark Registry. It is the sixth Bronx institution to make the list.

“From every racial background, the Woodlawn Cemetery represents the largest and most distinguished register of mausoleums in the country,” said John Liu, the New York City Comptroller.

The ceremony joined together Woodlawn Cemetery President John P. Toale, Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., State Senator Jeffrey Klein, Bronx Historian Lloyd Ultan, Lehman College President Ricardo Fernandez, and many others who assisted in distinguishing the cemetery as a National Landmark.

At the cemetery’s Jerome Avenue entrance, among some of the more illustrious mausoleums, the speakers were joined by the classical quintet, The Bardekova Ensemble.

Originally designed to be a “rural cemetery,” Woodlawn’s creators covered the grounds with Sil-

ver Linden, White Pine, Weeping Beech and other seedlings that would grow to become the aging trees that shade the grounds, making it feel more like an arboretum than a resting place.

While not typically associated with revival, the speakers all connected the designation and the cemetery as another signal of the continued

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Photo by David Greene

AT THE LANDMARK unveiling are (l-r): Bronx Historian Lloyd Ultan, Comptroller John Liu, Woodlawn President John Toale and Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr.

PS 51 Parents Hold Rally, Walcott Agrees to Meet

By RONALD CHAVEZ

After persistent lobbying, Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott said he would meet with parents of students at PS 51, the Bronx New School, which was moved from Bedford Park to Crotona after the building the school had inhabited for nearly two decades was found to be contaminated.

But parents, who rallied outside of a Panel for Education Policy meeting that Walcott attended, say they’re still skeptical about the Department of Education’s willingness to address their concerns.

It’s been three months since parents were alerted to the fact that the Bedford Park building that housed the Bronx New School had tested positive for sky-high levels of trichloroethylene, a toxin linked to cancer. The school was moved to St. Martin of Tours on 182nd Street in Crotona with just weeks to go before the start of the school year.

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Phone: 718 324 4998

Fax: 718 324 2917

E-mail: norwoodnews@norwoodnews.orgWeb: www.norwoodnews.org

Publisher
Mosholu Preservation Corporation

Editor-in-Chief
Alex Kratz

Staff Writer
Jeanmarie Evely

Classified Advertising
Dawn McEvoy

Accounts Receivable
Dawn McEvoy

Proofreader
Judy Noy

Production
Neil deMause

Regular Contributors
David Greene, Adi Talwar, Jasmeet Sidhu,
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In The Public Interest

Cabrera Pushes for Transparency on Neighborhood Crime Stats

Spurred on by a *Norwood News* campaign, Councilman Fernando Cabrera introduced legislation this month that would force the New York City Police Department to publish neighborhood crime statistics each month.

On its website, the NYPD provides updated crime statistics for each of the city's precincts. But police also generate statistics for several neighborhoods within each precinct. Those more detailed and localized statistics are provided by some precinct commanders. But most, including the those in the 52nd Precinct, force you to file a Freedom of Information Law request to obtain the statistics. The NYPD can take anywhere from a few months to more than a year to fulfill most FOIL requests.

Cabrera says providing the statistics to the public is "not an option, it's a necessity."

For politicians, nonprofit organizations and other community leaders, the statistics are equally important, he says. Without them, "As an elected official, I don't know how to target my resources."

In addition, Cabrera says having the statistics "empowers



the neighborhoods to take initiative."

Though the bill was only introduced two weeks ago, Cabrera says it has the strong support of "18 or 19" council members. To avoid the possibility of a veto, Cabrera says the bill needs 34 members to vote for it. Over the coming weeks, he will be lobbying members, setting up meetings for organizations to lobby other members and preparing for a hearing on the legislation.

"I can't imagine why a council member would not want to know where the crimes are taking place," he said.

The focus on public safety becomes especially important, given that the Police Department is down some 7,000 officers from its peak force only a few years ago.

"I don't buy that we can do more with less," Cabrera said, adding that, "There's a critical mass point where that's all you're going to get."

—ALEX KRATZ

Next Issue: Local Sector Stats Analyzed

This fall, more than a year after the *Norwood News* filed a Freedom of Information Law request for sector statistics in the 52nd Precinct, the NYPD mailed them to the paper's Norwood-area headquarters. In our next issue, which will hit the streets on Nov. 3, the *Norwood News* will break down neighborhood crime stats for each of the 52nd Precinct's 15 individual sectors over the past five years. We'll provide even more analysis on our website, norwoodnews.org.

Mayor's 'Young Men's Initiative' Focused on Reading

Mayor Bloomberg and a number of city and elected officials gathered at the Bronx Library Center on Kingsbridge Road last week to launch the first effort of the city's "Young Men's Initiative," a \$127 million multi-agency program unveiled this summer to address the disparities faced by the city's young black and Latino men.

The first leg of the initiative will focus on improving youth reading skills, the mayor announced last week, with \$3 million funneled to the expansion of the Young Adult Literacy Program, which works with 16 to 24 year olds who read between the fourth and eighth grade levels. The program, founded in 2008, will now be offered at 17 sites across the city and will nearly double the number of participants to an estimated 1,000 young people this year.

"The importance of education — of knowing how to read — cannot be overstated," Bloomberg said. "We launched the Young Men's Initiative to help more young men fulfill their potential. The Young Adult Literacy Program reaches out to our most disconnected young men and our most vulnerable populations and gets them back on the track to a high school diploma, a job and the hope of a better tomorrow."

In Bronx School District 10, which includes all of the *Norwood News*' coverage area, only 33 percent of elementary and high school students passed last year's state English Language Arts exam.

"The importance of basic literacy cannot be exaggerated," said Bronx State

Sen. Gustavo Rivera, who attended last week's event. "It's the best place to start when you're dealing with the achievement gap."

In addition to the Bronx Library Center, the Young Adult Literacy Program will now operate at the Mott Haven and West Farms branch libraries, as well as the Highbridge Community Life Center and the nonprofit BronxWorks.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Sen. Rivera Teaching Free Civics Classes

Bronx State Sen. Gustavo Rivera is getting back to his roots as educator, teaching a series of free civics classes this month at the Bronx Library Center that cover topics like the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, elections and how different levels of government work.

Rivera, who has taught at Pace Univer-

sity and CUNY Hunter, said he wanted to do something productive during his time off from Albany (the legislative session starts back up in January) and thought the classes would help stress the importance of civic participation to his constituents.

"I've always believed that people need to participate in local government," Rivera said. "People should understand how government works so they can demand more of their government."

The classes started last week and will be held every Thursday evening, from 6 to 7 p.m. until Nov. 3 at the Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. Future series are being planned for other areas of the district.

Classes are free and open to the public, and you can attend one or attend all, Rivera said. To RSVP or for more information, call (718) 933-2034.

—JEANMARIE EVELLY

Public and Community Meetings

- **THE BEDFORD MOSHOLU COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION** will be holding their monthly meeting on Wednesday Nov. 2 at 8 p.m. It will be located at 400 E. Mosholu Pkwy., So., apt. B1 (lobby floor).
- **THE COMMUNITY DISTRICT 10 EDUCATION COUNCIL** will meet on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 6:30 p.m. at PS 33, 2424 Jerome Ave. Meeting will include a presentation by Deputy Chancellor Suransky on Common Core Standards and a presentation on the Contract 4 Excellence by the Office of Portfolio Planning. For more information, call (718) 741-5836 or e-mail: CEC10@schools.nyc.gov.



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Opinion.

Op-Ed

Welcome to the *Norwood News*' Digital Evolution

Dear Readers,

Whether you are a regular reader of the *Norwood News* or you are just picking up this free newspaper for the first time, I would like to personally thank you for your support of vital community journalism. Now, starting this week, we would like to reward you for your support by offering you more. More news. More photos. More information. More analysis. More multimedia. All of this for free. I know. Sounds too good to be true, right? Let me explain.

For nearly a quarter century (we began publishing in 1988!), the *Norwood News* has produced quality, vibrant and civically important journalism through its print edition. We began as a bimonthly newspaper covering just one neighborhood: Norwood. Today, we publish every two weeks and cover the neighborhoods of Community District 7 — Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham and University Heights — plus anything else borough, city, state or nationwide that we feel is important or of interest to you.

The problem now is that our coverage cannot be contained in the limited space we can afford to produce bi-weekly. So, instead of having you wait for the next print edition for your news, we are working hard to deliver it to you digitally via several online platforms.

The heart of this extended coverage will be the *Norwood News* website, norwoodnews.org, where we will still provide you with every story produced in the print edi-

tion, plus features like Neighborhood Notes (our guide to local programs, services and announcements) and Out & About (our arts and entertainment calendar). We will also include a link to a pdf version of the actual print edition in case you want to read the paper, as it was produced, on your computer (or smart tablet or iPhone, etc.).

On norwoodnews.org you will also find our new blog, Breaking Bronx, which will not only still focus on our core readership neighborhoods, but will also branch out into covering more boroughwide stories when the news is, well, breaking; or blowing up into something everyone in the Bronx and, most importantly, you, should have access to.

Breaking Bronx will include stuff that we couldn't fit into the print edition, like photos, graphs, maps or interviews with sources that we couldn't squeeze into the body of a certain story. This will also be the platform where we will provide more multi-media. A photo slideshow that will further illustrate a local street festival. A video clip to go along with a sports story. An audio interview with a source from a housing piece.

We are also integrating all of our coverage with two popular social media outlets: Facebook and Twitter (handle: @norwoodnews). We'll be updating you about events, announcements, meetings, stories and breaking news through both of these powerful vehicles.

You don't even need an account to check out our

Facebook page, which you can find by searching "Norwood News." But you will need an account if you want to contribute to the conversation, which we strongly encourage you to do.

As for Twitter, you will need to set up an account at twitter.com and then choose to "follow" @norwoodnews.

These social media outlets will sometimes provide you with information you won't get on norwoodnews.org, but for the most part, Facebook and Twitter will alert you to new stories, information and features that you will be able to find on norwoodnews.org, which will also give you access to Breaking Bronx.

We hope these new online features will not only bring the *Norwood News* into the digital age, but allow you to more fully engage with us and the community you live in. Start a running dialogue by commenting on a Breaking Bronx story or a Facebook post. Tweet us back with a news tip. Or write us a letter and e-mail it to us at norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org. You know, the old fashioned way. (And you can still mail us a letter at 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467, the older fashioned way.)

Enjoy.

Alex Kratz,
Editor-in-Chief, *Norwood News*
akratz@norwoodnews.org

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Be Healthy!

18

The number of family related homicides that took place in the Bronx last year, according to the Mayor's Office to Combat Domestic Violence. October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. For more information, visit www.nyc.gov/html/ocdv/html/home/home.shtml.

Vital Stats

Be Healthy! Answers Your Questions

Q: I would like to know why my nose runs whenever I eat or drink. This has been occurring for a number of years and is very disturbing and embarrassing. I don't have any allergies or an ongoing cold. I am a junior senior, in reasonably good health, of average height and weight, and do not take any medications. What is the cause and how can this be remedied — preferably without medication? —Judy Noy

A: There is a technical term for what you're experiencing: gustatory rhinitis. "Rhinitis" is the fancy word for runny nose, and "gustatory" is relating to food and tasting—in short, gustatory rhinitis means the mucous membranes in your nasal passages get irritated when you eat or drink, resulting in the kind of unpleasant symptoms you're describing.

"Gustatory rhinitis is usually associated with hot or spicy foods, but it can be a whole bunch of different foods that are causing it," said Dr. Alexis Jackman, a rhinologist at Montefiore Medical Center and assistant professor at Einstein College of Medicine. "For most patients it's not [too] problematic, just a nuisance."

Gustatory rhinitis is more common among smokers and those with a history of smoking, she said, and while the symptoms resemble an allergic reaction, they're not usually caused by allergies.

"A lot of the times it's just a non-specific response to certain chemicals," in food, Jackman said.

Jackman recommends "avoidance

therapy," or paying close attention to the types of foods you eat and avoiding the ones that seem to cause the worst symptoms. But since you say this is happening every time you eat or drink, she says a prescription nasal spray called Atrovent, which blocks nerve receptors in the nose that trigger the release of mucous, can be an effective remedy.

Got a health question you'd like us to answer? Be Healthy! Wants to know what you want to know. E-mail your health queries to: Norwoodnews@norwood-news.org. —JEANMARIE EVELLY

Assemblywoman Aims to 'Fight the Bulge'

Teaming up with professional mixed martial artists, a celebrity fitness trainer and a dietician from Jacobi Medical Center, Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera has set out to tackle childhood obesity in her new "Fight the Bulge" campaign.

The obesity epidemic has replaced smoking as the leading killer of Americans, Rivera said in a press release, and Hispanic children are particularly at risk: nearly half of Latinos born after the year 2000 will develop diabetes, a recent study estimates.

On Oct. 10, Rivera hosted an educational forum at Bronx House, on Pelham Parkway, to discuss the risks associated with an unhealthy lifestyle and the best tactics for combating obesity. In attendance were personal trainer Donovan Green, nutritionist Dr. Gloria Brent of Jacobi Medical Center, and UFC professional fighters Nick Pace and Louis "Good Night" Gaudinot.

Each speaker circled back to the urgent need for education on healthy eating and exercise, a message that schools and doctors' offices should be preaching as well, Rivera said. Brent discussed how to properly read a nutrition label; Pace and Gaudinot led a martial arts demonstration.

Days before the event, Rivera participated in a nationwide online webcast about obesity with State Sen. Andrew Lanza, of Great Kills, New York.

"Childhood obesity has long term effects," Lanza said during the panel discussion. "We stand to be witness to the first generation of Americans who may not be as healthy and live as long as their parents." —EMILY PICCONE

Training Wheels Off: Tour De Bronx Returns

Bronx bicycling enthusiasts can get in gear for the 17th annual Tour de Bronx, as registration for the Oct. 23 event is now open. The tour is a joint project by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr., advocacy group Transportation Alternatives, and local hospitals to promote health and exercise.

"Riding a bike around our borough is the healthiest way to see the best of the Bronx, and I invite everyone to join me again this year to tour our wonderful borough," Diaz said in a press release.

The borough president kicked off the event at a press conference at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore last Wednesday.

For Roxanne Watson, the event could be another marker in her recovery. Wat-

son received a heart transplant at Montefiore Hospital last year and has recovered well enough to try and bike the borough.

"For a long time I couldn't even walk. Now I'm exercising three times a week and willing to try new things like Tour de Bronx," Watson said.

It's the largest free cycling event in the state, according to a press release. Bicyclists can choose between a 25-mile course designed for all skill levels or a more rigorous 40-mile course, for more experienced bikers.

The tour starts at the Bronx County Building on 161st Street and the Grand Concourse, heads into Mott Haven, then snakes around the southeastern edges of the borough. It pulls northward and to the west after Throgs Neck and ends near Bedford Park.

To register for this year's Tour de Bronx, head to <http://tourdebronx.org/register> or call (718) 590-3518. —RONALD CHAVEZ

Health Calendar: "Zumbathon," to Fight Diabetes

In honor of National Diabetes Awareness Month, Montefiore Medical Center is hosting a Zumbathon on Friday, Nov. 18 from 6 to 8 p.m. in the Mosholu Montefiore Community Center Gym, 3450 DeKalb Ave. Cost is \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door, with all benefits going to Montefiore's To Your Health! Wellness Initiative, which seeks to improve the lifestyle behaviors of Bronx residents. Please go to giving.montefiore.org/zumba to register. For more information, call (718) 920-5675.

'Occupy' Movement Takes Up Residence in the Bronx

(continued from p. 1)

for amplification from the crowd, "to let them know we are serious."

Like many others at the rally, Maldonado didn't start participating in the movement until Occupy Wall Street was nearly two weeks old. He went just to check it out and found people throwing around a "lot of ideas," the most important being that the "voice of the people must be heard," he said.

Maldonado wasn't concerned with the movement's lack of definitive answers or demands. The point of the movement, he said, was to create a community out of the entire 99 percent and find common ground that everyone can agree on — then come up with the answers.

A man in his 20s named Ferdinand who has family in the Bronx but mostly stays in East Harlem, said he joined the movement late after hearing about it on the Internet. "At first, I was skeptical," he said. "I didn't know if it would be for real. But it is so simple, it is brilliant. People all over the world are involved."

After passing by Zuccotti Park, the public park near Wall Street where the occupiers have set up a makeshift community, Ferdinand spent a couple of nights there, taking advantage of the free food and working in the community's library and sanitation departments.

"It just kept getting better and better," he said.

Elliott Liu, who works at a community garden in the Bronx, says he was inspired to join the movement after seeing police fail to dislodge the occupiers during the first week. He said friends of his — from dishwashers to computer guys — were abuzz with the movement. Liu

and others have formed a "People of Color" working group (there are dozens, if not hundreds of working groups within the Occupy movement) and passed out fliers to events the group was hosting.

While the general assembly spoke and worked its way toward a consensus on when they should leave and walk to the train, which they would take down to Zuccotti Park, a group of people handed out Occu(pie) for sustenance.

Maldonado recruited members to a "media team" he had created. "We can't rely on the major media to cover this correctly," he said.

Someone told the GA about a rally later that day in Times Square, where dozens would end up being arrested.

Looking on quietly was Fordham University student Louie Valencia who is working on a PhD in history, specifically, the history of peace movements during the 1960s. Valencia was reading in Union Square a couple of weeks earlier, when he saw police aggressively and violently chasing down protesters. Since then, he's been showing up at Zuccotti Park periodically, occupying space and being part of the movement.

As a Bronx resident, Valencia was pleased to see the movement branching out to his borough. As a student of history, Valencia said the Occupy movement, which started last spring in Tunisia, was "not something that's passing." Some 1,700 protests all around the world were scheduled to take place that Saturday, he said. "That's kind of huge." As far as he knew, he said it was the "first time this [type of movement] has happened worldwide."



Photo by David Greene

MEMBERS OF the Occupy the Bronx movement vowed to continue meeting at 11 a.m. on Saturdays at Fordham Plaza.

Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week, we asked readers for their thoughts on the Occupy Wall Street movement.



The Bronx is the poorest congressional district in the country, and is the borough most affected by a lot of the income disparities and inequalities that we see as a result of corporate greed. So it's really important that people here stand up and use their voice to really speak out against all of the inequalities that we've been seeing in this country for a very long time.

Nora Hirozawa



Things are going real bad. The economy and everything. I support what they're doing, I just hope everything comes out all right. People are sticking up people, doing things that they don't want to do. It's New York City, we're supposed to work together, not rob each other. It's bad, it's really bad.

Miguel Salichs



People are out to make a change. Think about it: throughout history there have been so many revolutions because people didn't like the things that were happening, like high taxes, unfair wages and money problems, and they were just ordinary people, just like these people today.

Gabriel De Los Santos



I think it's a good thing, making people aware, and it puts people on their toes by protesting. But I see some people protesting and they don't even know what they're protesting about.

Louis Carraslo



I think it's been a long time coming. There have been a lot of things going wrong for a long time and it's good to see people participating in the discussion. If it grows stronger, something good can come from it eventually, but if it dies out, then nothing will come out of it. People have to keep the pressure on.

William Michael



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Filipino Parish of St. Brendan's Celebrates 17 Years

By LINDSAY ARMSTRONG

More than 250 people crowded into St. Brendan's auditorium on a recent Sunday evening to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the church's Filipino parish.

Lumen Castaneda, a former resident of Norwood, founded the parish in conjunction with St. Brendan's in 1994. The church offers a monthly mass in Tagalog, the Philippine native tongue.

Head pastor, Father George Stewart says the group is a vibrant part of the larger church community. "This is a very ethnically diverse parish. We have 48 nations represented and they all add to the experience," Stewart said. "We're very excited for them."

Following a mass in Tagalog and a procession honoring San Lorenzo Ruiz, the first Filipino saint, event organizers Pennie Badana, Rosie Prado and Lucy Villalba, invited current and former parishioners to a night filled with music, dancing, and lechon, a traditional roast pork dish.

"We invited a lot of organizations from the Bronx, Connecticut, and Westchester. Each organization will have a presentation," Badana said. "We're excited because this is the first time this has been done here."

Eleven groups took to the floor on Oct. 9, performing songs and dances reflecting the diversity of influences in the Philippine culture.

Dressed in intricately woven skirts, two dancers from the Kinding Sindaw ensemble fluttered fans in a dance representing Mindanao's culture. Mindanao, the southernmost region of the Philippines, has a significant Islamic presence that has influenced the culture.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, a troupe from Folklorico Filipino held bibles and twirled in gowns fit for Spanish royalty. Their dance celebrated the relationship between Philippine women and the Catholic catechism.

Ilona Legaspi, one of the dancers, came to the U.S. when she was six years old. She said that performing with Folklorico gives her a sense of cultural pride.

"Not everyone knows where the Philippines is or who we are. It feels great to promote our culture," Legaspi said. "And for us, growing up in America, it is a good way to connect."

That sense of connection is exactly what brought so many people to the 17th anniversary celebration, even those who left the Bronx long ago.

Dolores Tolentino moved to Rockland County in the '90s but returned for the anniversary because the Filipino parish at St. Brendan's holds a special place in her memories.

"My sister was married here. My friends were married here. My daughters were baptized here," Tolentino said. "St. Brendan's is special to us. It's more like home."



DANCERS FROM Folklorico Filipino perform during St. Brendan's celebration of 17 years of its Filipino parish (above). Ten other groups from all over the region perform during St. Brendan's Filipino celebration (below).

Photos by Lindsay Armstrong

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Bronx Education Summit a Chance to Chart New Path

By RONALD CHAVEZ

For the first-ever Bronx Education Summit at Lehman College, Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. said he wanted to spark conversation. He got what he wanted.

In an early morning speech, education scholar Diane Ravitch blasted the city's education system since Mayor Michael Bloomberg took the reigns in 2002, saying rising test scores are misleading and that fewer and fewer of high school graduates are prepared for college.

"The DOE responds to systemic problems with a simple formula," she said. "The same formula now for 10 years: close the schools that enroll low performing students. Open new schools, especially charter schools. This doesn't help children learn English."

"What we lose with mayoral control is not only accountability, but democracy," she said, arguing that the Panel for Educational Policy, which is supposed to be a check and balance entity, largely placates the mayor.

Diaz assembled figures in education to develop a roadmap for educational success in the Bronx. The summit also provided breakout information sessions to educate parents on prepping for college, special education and early childhood

education.

"What happens here today will play a major role in designing our borough's future policy on education," said Diaz. He pointed to a Bronx education icon to highlight the need for education reform. "Our flagship school — the Bronx High School of Science — barely has any Bronx students within its walls."

Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott also spoke at the summit. He praised the progress made by city schools, while at the same time saying there was still work to be done.

Walcott also said he was ready to take blame for education system failings. "I don't mind getting beat up. I am paid to get beat up," he said, perhaps hinting at the criticism over his handling of the discovery of harmful toxins in schools. The former location of the Bronx New School, which was moved due to the discovery of harmful toxins, is just blocks away from Lehman College.

For some parents, their kids, not politics, were their main concern. Paulette Dildy says she has nine kids and has been involved in parent organizations for 38 years. She came to the summit concerned about funding for school programs.

One of her children is in an individualized education program. "I have one that's being left behind because he's not

getting the financial support he needs to get the programs in place," she said.

Anne Campos, associate director for the Institute for Literacy Studies at Lehman, said the summit's long-term

impact remains to be seen. "I think a summit like this is really important to put a spotlight on the issues and shared concerns that educators, parents, and community people have."



Photo by David Greene

WOODLAWN CEMETERY employees and their supporters protest outside the cemetery the day before a ceremony recognized Woodlawn as a national landmark.

Cemetery Workers Say Problems Continue

By DAVID GREENE

Nearly two years after filing a grievance against the management of Woodlawn Cemetery, with claims of unfair labor practices and racism, employees continue to speak out, even after 15 of 37 workers were laid off in April.

A handful of workers and their supporters gathered outside the cemetery on Saturday, Oct. 15, a day before a plaque would be dedicated in honor of Woodlawn becoming a national landmark.

Frank Russo, a former U.S. Marine who has worked at Woodlawn since 1979, said that since testifying before the independent attorney who was investigating workers' claims last summer, he has become a target of supervisors.

"I worked for seven years in the crematory," he said. "The minute I spoke to the attorney, that was it, my days were numbered there." Russo, a white man who says he spoke out on behalf of minority employees, says he was immediately transferred and lost his overtime, which amounted to about \$300 a week.

Since his very first day of work in 2005, Todd Brown says he has heard supervisors use racial slurs when calling or speaking to employees. "I've watched blacks and Latinos discriminated against by a lack of opportunity for advancement," Brown says.

Brown says the recent layoffs, which are being investigated by an independent arbitrator, amount to payback. "A supervisor told me if it wasn't for our complaints and grievances, there never would have been guys laid-off," he said.

Woodlawn officials said the layoffs were needed to cut the cemetery's budget by several thousand dollars. The cemetery now uses an independent contractor to make up for its loss of manpower.

Workers will be holding a rally on Nov. 12 at 1 p.m. at the cemetery's Webster Avenue entrance.

A day later, at the plaque unveiling for Woodlawn's national landmark status, cemetery president John Toale declined comment. "We're not going to talk about anything like that today. This is a day to celebrate," he said.

PS 51 Parents Rally, Walcott Agrees to Meet

(continued from p. 1)

Parents say the DOE has ignored their demands for a registry and medical monitoring for current and former PS 51 students. They also want the DOE to address the school's new building, which they say has a leaky gym and faulty windows.

"We don't want to meet with him so he

**"I'm praying for the next 20 years that my kid doesn't come down with cancer."
—Alan Gary**

could say, 'yeah, I heard you,'" said Kelly Lewis, whose daughter attended the school. "No, put something in place."

"They're really playing Russian roulette with our kids' lives," said Alan Gary, whose son attended the school from kindergarten to fifth grade. "I'm praying for the next 20 years that my kid doesn't come down with cancer."

Parents had previously been denied a meeting with Walcott, with the chancellor saying he had "met his commitment," to parents.

There is no date set for the meeting, but Lewis said parents are worried the DOE will try to "divide and conquer" parents by only addressing the needs of current parents, like transportation prob-

lems or other issues in the new building.

The issue has led to scrutiny over how the DOE tests for hazardous chemicals. The Bloomberg administration began testing leased sites in 2002 as leases were up for renewal. But Walcott has instead expedited testing for the remaining 31 leased school sites. They've come out clean, says Walcott, making PS 51 the only leased site where the DOE felt the building was unsafe for students.

Data from New York Lawyers for the Public Interest showed hundreds of schools had tested positive for Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), another toxin tied to cancer and other diseases, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. The solvent was found in light fixtures and caulking in schools across the city.

The caulking in one location at middle school IS 391 on Webster Avenue tested positive for six times the EPA's limit on PCBs. The city plans to remove PCBs and replace lighting fixtures over the next 10 years.

Parents say the threat of toxins highlights the need for more oversight over school zones.

Umali Peña said her seven-year-old son missed 20 days of school last year suffering from headaches and vomiting, one of a number of kids who experienced symptoms that could be tied to the presence of trichloroethylene. She said she was tired of the DOE's apologies.

"Stop saying I'm sorry," she said. "We need to hold somebody accountable for this."

Cemetery Landmarked

(continued from p. 1)

resurgence of the Bronx.

"The renaissance of this borough comes with hard work, and we're celebrating the fruit of that labor today," said Diaz at the ceremony. Noting the 50 million tourists the city receives yearly, Diaz believes the designation will only bring more visitors to the cemetery.

"Look around you and see all these people who have taken up final residency in Woodlawn Cemetery," said Ultan. "We have people from all walks of life."

Among the distinguished interred are female suffragists Elizabeth Cady Stan-

ton and Carrie Chapman Cat and "captains" of industry F.W. Woolworth and Roland H. Macy. Joseph Pulitzer, known as the father of journalism, lies among the author of "Moby Dick," Herman Melville, salsa legend Celia Cruz, and jazz greats, Duke Ellington and Miles Davis.

"We have people here that have achieved fame in very different ways," said Ultan.

Ed. Note: The Cemetery is open to the public every day from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and is located at the intersection of Jerome and Bainbridge avenues.

Business Beat

At Norwood Store, Cigars Are an Art

By LINDSAY ARMSTRONG



Photo by Lindsay Armstrong

FRANCISCO ROSARIO of Rosario's Cigars on Gun Hill Road.

Francisco Rosario sits at a worn wooden desk behind a storefront window, transforming a pile of flat, brown leaves into cigars as thick as Italian sausages. He holds the butt of a cigar snugly between his lips as he works, tearing, smoothing, and rolling the fragrant leaves. Our Lady of Fatima, emblazoned on a gold medal hanging from his neck, presides over the ritual.

Rosario, 52, has been making cigars since his childhood in the Dominican Republic. In spite of chatter to the contrary, he insists that Dominican cigars are the best.

"Cubans are famous because no one can get them here," he said in a mix of Spanish and English. "But Dominican cigars are better. They have two kinds of tobacco. We have eight."

After moving to New York at age 34, Rosario dreamed of opening his own cigar shop. Eight years later, that dream became a reality. Rosario's Cigars, on East Gun Hill Road in Norwood, is now celebrating its 10th anniversary.

The shop, manned by Francisco and his brother Leonardo, is one of only a handful of places in the city that makes cigars the traditional way. Over the years, Rosario's has built up a loyal following, including former Mayor Rudy Giuliani, whose framed picture hangs on the wall.

Norwood resident Gregory Davis might not be as recognizable as Giuliani, but he is also a Rosario's regular and an avid fan.

"They are number one," he said. "I send all my friends here. The flavor, the tobacco — even their light cigars, which I don't usually like, are good."

At 11 a.m. on a recent rainy Wednesday, the shop maintained a steady flow of customers. Some simply dashed in and out. Others lingered in the wood-paneled room in the back, where the shelves are filled with neat rows of open cigar boxes.

Cigars are the main draw, but Rosario's is more than a place to buy an expertly rolled smoke. The shop has become something of a neighborhood clubhouse.

Throughout the day, people stop in to sink into one of three over-stuffed leather sofas, relax, and enjoy a cigar. The topic of conversation often turns to baseball: the Yankees, for native New Yorkers, or the Aguilas Cibaeñas for Dominican-born fans.

Perhaps this is the real draw of Rosario's Cigars — it is a place where the hectic pace of life slows down, if only for a moment.

"A cigar is all about time," said first-time customer Robert DeLeon, 43, a construction worker. "And I never have any time anymore."

With that, he takes his purchase and walks back out into the hustle and bustle of the Bronx.

From behind his desk, Francisco Rosario nods in agreement and turns back to his work.

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Neighborhood Notes

Annual Fair and Flea Market

The Bedford Park Congregational Church, at the corner of Bainbridge Avenue and 201st Street, presents its annual Fun Fair and Flea Market on Saturday, Oct. 22 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. to help raise funds to replace its roof. Food and raffles will be available. For more information, call (718) 733-3199.

Domestic Violence Walk

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and as part of this effort, students from over 30 SUNY and CUNY schools will join Assemblywoman Naomi Rivera on Oct. 25 in a walk around their campuses to raise awareness on domestic violence. The Bronx event will be held in Mercy College's main lobby, 1200 Waters Place, at 12:45 p.m. For more information, call (718) 409-0109.

October Career Fair

Monroe College will host a Job and Internship Career Fair at its King Hall Gym at 2501 Jerome Ave. on Wednesday, Oct. 26 from 3:30 to 6 p.m. Register at http://www.experience.com/emp/cf_details?fhnd=4768. For more information, call (718) 933-8650.

Non-Violence March

Join the march beginning on 195th Street, between Reservoir and Jerome avenues, on Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in support of non-violence and in memory of Sean Lamont Williams and Gloria Thompson and all those who have lost their lives to violence. For more information, call (718) 618-7550.

Hospice Seeks Volunteers

MJHS Hospice and Palliative Care will hold free volunteer training sessions for interested individuals on Oct. 25 and 30 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Advance registration is required, and can be completed on the website at hospicenyc.org. For more information, call (212) 420-2562 or visit hospvol@mjhs.org.

Free Business Class

The Bronx Small Business Development Center is offering a free Social

Media Marketing class on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CUNY on the Concourse, 2501 Grand Concourse, 3rd floor. For more information or to register, call (718) 960-8806.

MMCC Senior Center Events

The Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, located at 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers flu shots on Oct. 20 from 9 a.m. to noon, sponsored by CVS (advance registration is required; you must bring your insurance information with you); and a free movie (title to be announced), with free popcorn, on Oct. 26 at 12:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 798-6601.

MMCC Adult Basketball League

The Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., offers adult basketball, Mondays and Fridays from 7 to 8:15 p.m. Players must be 21 years or older and each team is responsible to pay referees. A coaches/players meeting will be held Oct. 24 at 7 p.m. for all interested parties. The league begins Nov. 4 and includes nine scheduled games plus play-offs. Included in the \$600 per 10-man team fee are T-shirts, trophies and an MVP award. For more information, call Chris Pinto at (718) 882-4000 ext. 280.

Children Needed for Study

The Division of Behavioral Sciences at Albert Einstein College of Medicine is recruiting typically developing boys, aged 2 ½ and 3 ½ years old for a research study to look at how children see the world and pay attention. The study involves one visit for approximately 2 ½ hours with a \$50 compensation. For more information, call (718) 430-2463. A separate study is seeking typically developing children ages 6 to 17 who have been diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. This study may involve up to three visits lasting 3 to 4 hours, with a \$12 per hour compensation. For more information, call (718) 862-1848.

105th Anniversary Dinner-Dance

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, locat-

ed at 627 E. 187th St., will hold its 105th anniversary dinner-dance on Oct. 23 at Maestro's Caterers, 1703 Bronxdale Ave. Cocktail hour from 3 to 4 p.m. will be followed by dinner and music by the Bronx Wanderers. Tickets are \$85 per person. For more information or to RSVP, call Rita Calabro at (718) 295-3770.

Food Stamp Help This Winter

If you're worried about paying both your heating and groceries bills this winter, you may be eligible for food stamp benefits. Mosholu Montefiore Community Center, at 3450 DeKalb Ave., is offering food stamp assistance through the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program by Hunger Solutions New York. For more information, contact Vilma Santos at (718) 882-4000, ext. 304.

Free Teen and Pre-Teen After-School Programs

A Pre-Teen Program for 11- to 13-year-olds and a Teen Program for 14- to 18-year-olds offer homework help, video production, poetry workshops, drama, photography, and more. School pickups are available by request. Program location is at 3418 Gates Place. For more information, call Aisha, Mahogany, or Jorge at (718) 405-1312, or e-mail ctmdreams@gmail.com.

Children's Speech Program

The Mount Saint Ursula Speech Center, at 2885 Marion Ave., is accepting applications for its fall program. There are morning and afternoon openings for children ages 2 to 15 who are in need of speech and language services. Medicaid, private pay (with sliding scale), and some types of insurance are accepted. For more information, call (718) 584-7679.

Free English Classes

The New York Public Library offers free English classes at selected libraries across the Bronx, in association with the Riverside Language Program, Inc., for adults 16 and older. Space is limited and registration must be done in person. To find a participating location and for more

information, call (212) 340-0918.

Lehman College Art Gallery's Fall Programs

The Art Gallery at Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., is offering a number of programs, workshops, gallery tours and for-credit classes this fall. For more information, contact Xochitl Higuchi at (718) 960-7492 or xochitl.higuchi@lehman.cuny.edu.

Sweepstakes Attached to School Meals Application

NYC Schools Chancellor Dennis Walcott and NY Jets Tight End Dustin Keller announced a sweepstakes for an all-expense paid trip for two to the NFL Pro Bowl in Hawaii in January, to encourage parents to apply for free or reduced lunches for their children. To apply, parents can call their principals, or access the application at www.nyc.applyforlunch.com or www.nyc.gov/accessnyc. Applications processed by Oct. 21 are eligible for a variety of prizes. The Grand Prize winner, selected in a random drawing, will be announced on Oct. 24.

Tax Planning for Small Businesses

The Small Business Development Center is hosting a free Year-End Tax Planning workshop on Wednesday, Nov. 9 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at CUNY on the Concourse, 2501 Grand Concourse. For more information or to register, call (718) 960-8806 or email sbdc.bronx@lehman.cuny.edu.

KHCC Fall Programs

The Kingsbridge Heights Community Center, at 3101 Kingsbridge Terrace, offers Tween and Teen Programs for youth in grades 6 to 12; a College Directions class offering help with applications, scholarships and the SATs; after school care for ages 6 to 12; pregnancy classes; special needs programs for youth ages 5 to 21, and more. For more information or to register, call (718) 884-0700.

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Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY



EDITOR'S PICK

Happy Halloween!

The public is invited to enjoy the following events this holiday season:

■ The Bronx Zoo will host **Boo at the Zoo** weekends in October, featuring a haunted safari, lost hayride, magic shows, and more. Kids in costume get in free (one child ages 3 to 12 with the purchase of one adult ticket), free under age 3. For more information, call (718) 220-5100.

■ Bring yourself and your pet dog, both in costume, to **Howl-O-Ween**, at the Canine Court Dog Run and Playground at Van Cortlandt Park, Oct. 30 from noon to 2 p.m. for a holiday celebration. Join the costume contest for the most original, scariest, funniest pet/owner look-alike featuring a \$25 gift certificate for first place winners from Fieldston Pets. Registration is \$10/dog; \$5/each additional dog. Preregister at www.pawsacrossamerica.com or register at event. For more information, call (718) 796-4541.

■ Bronx Council on the Arts presents **Halloween Arts & Craft**, a free family craft workshop, to be held at the Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square, Oct. 22, from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Participants can create stuffed ghosts, ghouls or creatures. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or visit www.bronxarts.org.

■ The Amalgamated Nursery School is hosting a **Halloween Party**, Sunday, Oct. 30 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Vladeck Hall, Amalgamated Houses, 74 Van Cortlandt Pk. So., at Hillman Avenue. Admission is \$8/adults; free for kids. For more information, call (718) 543-8688.

■ The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park presents two events: The **Ghoul Pool** at VC Park, Oct. 30 from 4 to 7 p.m. to get the scare of your life deep in the passageways of the pool's old bathhouse (enter the park at Broadway and West 242nd Street near the northern stairway of the #1-train; for more information, call (718) 601-1553); and **The Mysterious, the Menacing and the Mesmerizing**, Oct. 29 to 31, to spend Halloween at Woodlawn Cemetery for a spooky and surreal experience including spine tingling tales of murder, intrigue and NYC legends and lore (meet at Jerome Avenue entrance at 6 p.m.; \$20/fee; for more information, call (718) 920-1470).

■ Wear a scary costume to the New York Botanical Garden's **Halloween Parades**, weekends through Oct. 30, at noon and 2 p.m., in the Everett Children's Adventure Garden. Fee: \$10 to \$20. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

Onstage

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers **Opera**, Oct. 29 at 2 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Paquito D'Rivera and The Mambo Legends Orchestra**, performing Latin jazz, Oct. 29 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$35 to \$50); **National Acrobats of the People's Republic of China**, featuring 35 artists performing to traditional Chinese music, Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/12 and under); and **Compañía Flamenca José Porcel**, featuring gypsy music with performances by singers, dancers and musicians, Nov. 6 at 4 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/12 and under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Lehman College Theatre, 250 Bedford

Pk. Blvd. W., presents **A Midsummer Night's Dream**, Nov. 2 at 3:30 p.m., Nov. 3 to 5 at 8 p.m. and Nov. 6 at 3 p.m., in the Speech and Theatre Building's Studio Theatre, performed by Lehman students and alumni. A special matinee for high school students will be performed on Nov. 4 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10; \$8 with CUNY I.D. and free for Lehman students with valid I.D. and can be purchased at box office on the day of the performance. For more information, call (718) 960-7963.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents its **Community Band** performing a variety of music, free, in the Lovinger Theatre, Oct. 30 from 2 to 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 960-8247.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Traditional Japanese Music and Dance Performances**, weekends through Oct. 30 at 1 and 3 p.m. Fee: \$10 to \$20. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

■ The Pregones Theatre, 571-575 Walton Ave. (149th Street) presents **Fly-Babies/Piojos**, a Latino musical comedy, performed in English and Spanish with simultaneous supertitle translations, Oct. 21 through Nov. 20. Previews Oct. 21 to 23 begin at 8 p.m. For more information, ticket prices, and program schedule, call (718) 585-1202.

■ The Bronx Academy of Arts and Dance (BAAD), 841 Barretto St., presents **BlakTina Performance Series**, a variety of shows through Oct. 28 ending with **Closing Night: Danse Macabre and Monster Mash** at 8 p.m. (\$15 includes post show Halloween party with a midnight costume/monster contest). For more information and a detailed schedule, or to RSVP, call (718) 842-5223.

■ Casita Maria Center for Arts and Education, 928 Simpson St., 6th floor Open Arts Space (at East 163rd Street), presents two free events: **Bacchae**, performed by the Morphoses Dance Company, Oct. 27 at 8 p.m., with a simultaneous live feed from the Joyce Theatre's Thursday night performance; and **Remembering Celia Cruz**, Oct. 20 to Nov. 22 (opening reception is at 6 p.m. and is preceded by a panel discussion). For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 589-2230 ext. 6055.

Events

■ Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz, Jr. and the Belmont Business Improvement District invite the public to celebrate Italian-American Heritage with a **Little Taste of Belmont**, Oct. 20 at 5:30 p.m. at the Belmont Library's Enrico Fermi Cultural Center, 610 E. 186th St. Enjoy live entertainment and Italian taste treats at NY's Little Italy, Arthur Avenue. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 590-3989.

■ The Friends of Van Cortlandt Park seeks participants for its **Croton Trail Volunteer Day**, Oct. 22 at 10 a.m., to help with a forest restoration project along the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail by removing non-native plants and planting native trees and shrubs. Meet at the last stop of the #4-train at Jerome and Bainbridge avenues. For more information, call (718) 601-1553.

■ The public is invited to participate in the **Tour de Bronx**, NYS's largest free bicycling event, on Sunday, Oct. 23. Meet at the Bronx County Building, 851 Grand Concourse at 161st Street at 9:30 a.m. The 25-mile route leaves at 10:40 a.m. and the 40-mile route leaves at 10:30 a.m. Register at www.tourdebronx.org. For more information, call (718) 590-3518.

■ The Bronx Tourism Council invites the public to its **Bronx Action Tours**, Saturdays

in October featuring **Focus On the Bronx**, a photo tour including admission to Wave Hill and several stops in the Bronx, Oct. 22; and **Biking Through Bronx History**, including admission to two Bronx museums and lunch in City Island, Oct. 29. Pickup is at 9 a.m. and return is at 4 p.m. from midtown Manhattan. Advance purchase is required online only. Tickets are available at www.bronxsightseeing.com. Bronx locations for meeting and leaving tour groups are available upon registration. Tickets are \$25/adults; \$20/children/seniors. For more information, call (718) 590-3518.

■ The Bronx Council on the Arts presents a free workshop, **The Color of Heroes – Marionettes With a Message: Leaning Life Skills Through the Arts**, for ages 4 to 8, a marionette show to learn tips on what to do during natural disasters, at the Huntington Free Library, 9 Westchester Square, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. (RSVP to <http://colorofheroes.eventbrite.com> or call (718) 829-7770); and at BCA's Bronx Writers Center located in the Westchester Square Library, 2521 Glebe Ave., Oct. 22 at 11 a.m. (RSVP to <http://colorofheroesat.eventbrite.com> or call (718) 863-0436). RSVP is mandatory. For more information, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 12.

■ Lehman College, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents two free events: poet **Sonia Sanchez**, will give a special reading and discuss poetry, Nov. 3 at 12:30 p.m. in the Lovinger Theatre; and **Dr. Nathan Grawe**, a leader in the Quantitative Reasoning movement, the application of practical mathematical solutions to everyday issues, will give a talk, Oct. 28 at 10 a.m. in Room B84-86 of Carman Hall. For more information, call (718) 960-8211/7963/8675.

■ JASA Van Cortlandt Senior Center, 3880 Sedgewick Ave., presents **Baby Soda Jazz Band**, Oct. 23, preceded by lunch at 12:15 p.m. Recommended senior contribution is \$3 for lunch and \$2 for the entertainment; and **Lost Synagogues of Eastern Europe**, an illustrated power point presentation, Oct. 25 at 1 p.m. preceded by lunch at 12:15 p.m. Suggested senior contribution is \$2 for lunch and \$1 for the art presentation. For more information and to RSVP, call (718) 549-4700.

■ The Friends of Woodlawn offers **Take a Nostalgic Train Ride to Woodlawn: The End of the Line**, With the Transit Museum, a round trip excursion on a vintage train to Woodlawn Cemetery from Manhattan for a guided tour and a boxed lunch, Oct. 23 at 10 a.m. \$50/Transit Museum members; \$35/ages 3 to 17; \$65/non members; \$50/children. For more information and meeting location, call (718) 694-1867 or visit www.mta.info/museum.

■ Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical

Culture's Meeting House, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents **Saving Indigenous Culture Saves Us All**, a talk, Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

■ Barnes & Noble, located at 290 Baychester Ave. in Bay Plaza, will host author Artie Bennett, writer of **The Butt Book**, for a reading and signing, free, Oct. 22 at 11 a.m., at story time for ages 2 to 12, followed by a fun activity. For more information, call (718) 862-3945.

■ Williamsbridge Oval Park presents **Walk NYC**, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 8 to 9 a.m., led by a trained walking instructor, through the park (strollers and dogs on leashes are welcome).

■ P.S. 94, at 3530 Kings College Place, offers **free ESL classes**, Tuesdays through Thursdays, 5:10 to 8:30 p.m. To register, come to room 256 or call Miriam Seminario at (347) 563-4772.

■ The New York Botanical Garden presents **Cooking for Your Health**, Wednesdays through October at 12:30 p.m., near the Visitors Center reflecting pool. Grounds-only admission is free all day Wednesdays and from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturdays. For more information, call (718) 817-8700.

■ The public is invited to ride the Nov. 2 free **Bronx Culture Trolley**, which transports visitors on the first Wednesday of every month (except January and September) to Bronx hot spots, all featuring a variety of entertainment options and ends at Sweetwater's Bar & Grill for music, food and drink. Trolley night starts with a 5 p.m. reception at the Longwood Art Gallery at Hostos Community College, 450 Grand Concourse (at 149th St.). From there, the trolley departs at 5:30, 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. New attractions are added monthly; admission to most venues is free. Riders can get on and off at any scheduled stop and spend as much time as they wish at any or all of the featured venues. For more information and a detailed schedule, call (718) 931-9500 ext. 33 or log on to www.bronxarts.org.

Exhibits

■ The Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture's Meeting House, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents **For Love of Line: A Visual Vocabulary**, through October. For more information, call (718) 548-4445.

■ The Bronx Museum of the Arts, 1040 Grand Concourse at 165th St., presents **Muntadas: Information, Space, Control**, through Jan. 16; and **Urban Archives: Emilio Sanchez in the Bronx**, through Jan. 2. Open House is on Oct. 30 from 2 to 5 p.m. Admission is free on Fridays. A three-day conference, Beyond the Super-Square at the Corner of Art & Architecture will be held Oct. 28 to 30, free with registration. For more information, call (718) 681-6000.

■ Lehman College's Art Gallery, located at 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Sticks and Stones**, through Jan. 6, Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also: **Meet curators** of El Museo's Biennial: The (S) Files 2011, Oct. 24 at 6:30 p.m. followed by wine and cheese. For more information, call (718) 960-8731.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd. off Fordham Road, presents programs for kids including **Preschool Story Time**, Oct. 20, 27 and Nov. 3 at 11 a.m.; **Toddler Story Time**, Oct. 22 at 11 a.m.; **The Life of Leonardo da Vinci** (ages 5 to 12), Oct. 22 at 2 p.m.; **Optical Illusions** (registration required; ages 3 to 12), Oct. 25 at 4 p.m.; **Film Day**, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at 4 p.m.;

Global Partners, Jr. (registration required; ages 5 to 12), students connect worldwide via the Internet, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2 at 4 p.m.; **Pumpkin Bag Making** (ages 5 to 12), Oct. 27 at 4 p.m.; **Halloween Spooktacular** (registration required; ages 3 to 12), Oct. 29 at 2 p.m.; **Baby Story Time**, Oct. 29 at 11 a.m.; **Radical Robots** (registration required; ages 3 to 12), Nov. 1 at 4 p.m.; and **Leaf Book Making**, (ages 5 to 12), Nov. 3 at 4 p.m. Teens and young adults may attend **Meet the Author**, Oct. 25 at 3:30 p.m.; and **Presenting: You**, Nov. 1 at 3:30 p.m. Adults can attend **film featuring Indian Cinema: Earth**, Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m.; **The Bronx River's Afro-American Heritage in 100 Golden Moments**, Oct. 29 at 2:30 p.m.; and **The Secret Life of Money**, Nov. 1 at 10 a.m. Families can attend **Civil Rights & Liberties: Our Freedoms, Our Equality**, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m.; **Civics Class** (state and local politics), Oct. 27 at 6 p.m.; and **Voting and Elections: Our Democracy at Work**, Nov. 3 at 6 p.m. English Language Learners can apply for **English Classes for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)**. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46 or visit

www.nypl.org.

■ The Moshulu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers **Perfectly Penguin**, Oct. 20 at 4 p.m. (ages 3 to 12); **Halloween Candy Fun**, (teens/young adults), Oct. 27 at 4 p.m.; a free Intermediate Level **English Conversation Program** for speakers of other languages (ages from 16 years), Tuesdays through Nov. 22, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.; **Knitting Circle at 3 p.m.**, Oct. 20 and 27, for adults; and **Wii Program**, Tuesdays at 3 p.m. for seniors and adults. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

■ The Jerome Park Library, at 118 Eames Place, offers **Cooking** for teens and young adults, Oct. 27 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 549-5200.

NOTE: Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org, and should be received by Oct. 31 for the next publication date of Nov. 3. Find more events at www.bronxnewsnetwork.org.



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