

NORWOOD NEWS

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p. 7

Democratic Sen. Klein Strikes Power-Share Deal With GOP

By ALEX KRATZ

In an unprecedented move that has angered local Democratic lawmakers, Bronx State Senator Jeff Klein and his conference of Independent Democrats struck a power-sharing agreement with Republicans last week.

That means Klein, who represents a sprawling Bronx district that now runs from the far east Bronx through Bedford Park into Riverdale, will become co-president of the Senate with Republican Majority Leader Dean Skelos starting at the beginning of the new year.

The pair, already being dubbed "Skleinos," will become Leaders of their respective conferences and share equal authority over committee chairmanships, board appointments, budget talks and which bills will come up for a vote.

For the past two years, Klein and the Independent Democrats have worked closely with Republicans.

In a joint statement, Skelos and Klein say the agreement "marks a bold new chapter in this partnership that will allow the Senate to continue pushing New York State forward, while ensuring that there will be no returning to the
(continued on p. 2)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!



Photo by Adi Talwar

SANTA CLAUS delights this youngster at the Sparkle the Heart of Fordham tree lighting event at Muller Park on Friday, Dec. 7, sponsored by the Fordham Road Business Improvement District.

At Embattled Clinton, a Giant Tree Shows Its Strong Roots

By BRITTNEY JACKSON

School spirit was loud and clear last Thursday night when students, teachers, alumni and members of the community rallied together to "save" DeWitt Clinton High School after the Department of Education handed the school its second consecutive "F" on its 2011-2012 progress report, which could lead to major changes at the school or possible closure.

Clinton's auditorium was flooded with people and emotions ran high as speakers took turns showing their support for keeping Clinton, one of the last "traditional" high schools in the Bronx, alive. The rest of the borough's high schools, including local northwest Bronx institutions like Walton, Kennedy and Evander Childs, have been broken up into several smaller, specialize schools. But Clinton and its deep roster of dedicated and prestigious alumni have kept Clinton intact.

Gerard Pelisson stood in front of a defiant crowd of students, alumni, faculty and concerned local resident to voice his support for the embattled school he loves.

"This is a school that is a giant tree with deep roots," Pelisson said to the raucous crowd. "The tree is in good shape and you are the proof of it."

Pelisson, co-author of "The Castle on the Parkway: The Story of New York City's DeWitt Clinton High School and Its Extraordinary Influence on American Life" and former Clinton teacher, was just one of many

speakers who took turns showing their support for keeping the school alive and in one piece.

Clinton has seen its share of turbulence since its ranking among the top 100 high schools in the country just 13 years ago. It now joins the chopping block with a reported 60 other public high schools after the Department of Education handed Clinton's its second consecutive "F" on the 2011-2012 progress report.

The Department of Education gave the school a "B" on College and Career Readiness but an "F" in student
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Photo by Brittney Jackson

HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS showed up to voice their support for Clinton High School during a forum last week.

LYDIA 'NENA' STEPHEN (2002-2012)



ON MONDAY, Dec. 10, Lydia Stephen, known to friends and family as "Nena," passed away after a long and courageous fight against cancer. Her battle was profiled ("Facing Death With the Courage of a Warrior Princess") in our last issue. For more, see page 5.

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In The Public Interest

Longtime Resident Shot and Killed on Decatur Ave.

A popular Norwood man was shot and killed during an early Sunday morning dispute on Decatur Avenue, just two blocks from his home.

According to NYPD spokesman James Duffy, the deadly confrontation took place outside of a three-family home at 3089 Decatur Ave., between Mosholu Parkway North and East 204th Street at 2:27 a.m., on Sunday, Dec. 9.

After responding to a report of a male shot, police arrived on the scene to find Gary Rodriguez, 46, of 3285 Decatur Ave., with a gunshot wound to his chest. Rodriguez was transported to Montefiore Medical Center where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

"We have no arrests at this time and the investigation is ongoing," Duffy said. "We don't know what this was all about. We don't have any motive or any suspect information."

According to a friend of the victim, who asked not to be identified, the perpetrator "tried to rob him of his cash. I know he got into a fight and once he got to the fight, he was getting the better end of it, and the kid pushed him off and just shot him."

According to the friend, in the moments after he was shot from just several feet away, at least one witness heard Rodriguez ask the killer, "Why did you do this to me?"

A cell phone lying on the sidewalk within the taped-off crime scene, rang several times in the hours after the shooting.

Rodriguez, who friends say was a hardworking scrap metal worker, has lived in the area with his family for the last 20 to 25 years.

During the monthly 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting, held at Fordham Methodist Church on Thursday, Nov. 29, Deputy Inspector Joseph Dowling said that only one of the precinct's three homicides this year remained unsolved.

Coincidentally, that unsolved murder was a drug-related homicide inside an apartment on Decatur Avenue near East Gun Hill Road, just three blocks from last weekend's shooting. But Dowling added, "That's a long term investigation, but we will have that closed, just a matter of letting the investigation develop."

It may have been before Dowling's deployment to the 52nd Precinct, but res-



Photo by David Greene

SOMEBODY PUT UP a misspelled makeshift memorial for the victim, Gary Rodriguez, a popular 20-year resident of Decatur Avenue.

idents of Decatur Avenue recall a third, still-unsolved and now "cold case" murder — the Feb. 14, 2009 homicide of taxi driver and internet deejay Michael Lorge, who was shot dead as he warmed-up his car to go to work. —DAVID GREENE

Ed. Note: *Anyone with any information on Rodriguez or Lorge's death is asked to call CrimeStoppers at (800) 577-TIPS. All calls remain confidential.*

Democratic Sen. Klein Strikes Power-Share Deal with Republicans

(continued from p. 1)

failed leadership of the past."

Without mentioning names, it's clear they are talking about Democrats, who struggled to stay united during their two-year run in charge of the Senate during 2009 and 2010. During that time, Bronx State Senator Pedro Espada infamously took the Senate hostage and extorted Democrats for a plum leadership position in exchange for his loyalty.

Some Democrats say Klein's move is similar to Espada's and flies in the face of the state's voters, who appear to have elected a majority of Democrats in the State Senate. (Two upstate races have yet to be determined, but Democrats could have as many as 33 of the Senate's 63 seats.)

"This is not a coalition but a coup against all New Yorkers who voted for Democratic control of the Senate and a progressive state government," said Senate Democratic spokesman Mike Murphy.

Klein, however, insists the power-sharing deal will allow more progressive bills to see light on the Senate floor.

In recent interviews, Klein has specifically mentioned a minimum wage hike, campaign finance reform and changes to the police department's stop-and-frisk policies. (Klein did not respond to specific questions for this article by press time.)

Malcolm Smith, an African-American senator from Queens who was majority leader during the Espada debacle in 2009, joined Klein's conference on the day the power-sharing deal was announced, becoming its first minority member.

"Over the past two years, Senator Klein and his colleagues in the IDC have shown that they're driven by policy, not

politics," Smith said in a statement. "They have delivered on an impressive bipartisan agenda, have stayed true to their Democratic principles, and have laid the groundwork for an historic bipartisan model of governing."

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

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

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

Public and Community Meetings

- **The Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony** sponsored by Community Board 7 will be held on **Thursday, Dec. 13 at 6 p.m.** The tree lighting will take place on the center mall of **Mosholu Parkway at Bainbridge Avenue**. Everyone is invited to participate in this community event.
- **Community Board 7** will hold its general meeting at 6:30 p.m. on **Tuesday, Dec. 18, at St. James Recreation Center**, located at 2530 Jerome Ave. (across the Street from Monroe College). For more information, call (718) 933-5650 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.
- **Community Board 7** committee meetings will be held on the following dates at the board office, 229A E. 204th St. at 6:30 p.m. unless otherwise noted: **Health and Hospitals, Monday, Dec. 17; Housing Committee, Wednesday, Dec. 19; Long-term Planning and Economic Development, Thursday, Dec. 20; Youth, Public Safety and Quality of Life, Friday, Dec. 21** at St. James Recreation Center, located at 2530 Jerome Ave. For more information, call (718) 933-5660 or visit www.BronxCB7.info.

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Monday-Dec. 17th *3:00-9:00 PM	Monday-Dec. 24th Weekday Masses *8:00 AM & *12:00 PM (Noon) Vigil Mass for Christmas *5:30 PM Midnight Mass *12:00 AM (Midnight) (Bilingual)	Christmas Day Tuesday-Dec. 25th *7:30 AM *9:00 AM (Español) *12:00 PM (Noon)	New Year's Eve Monday-Dec. 31st *7:00 PM (Bilingual) New Year's Day Tuesday-Jan. 1st *7:30 AM *9:00 AM (Español) *12:00 PM (Noon)
Friday-Dec. 21st after 8:00 AM & *12:00 PM (Noon) Masses			
Saturday-Dec. 22nd *3:00-5:00 PM			

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Editorial

Klein's Power Play

Now the pressure is on Jeff Klein.

As the head of New York's Independent Democratic Caucus in the State Senate, Klein could have chosen to throw his group's support behind either Republicans or Democrats and ensure majority rule for either party.

The case for Democrats: (1) Klein is a Democrat. (2) Klein is from and represents the Bronx, which is so overwhelmingly Democratic that Republicans often run candidates who don't know they are running until their names show up on ballots. (3) More than 90 percent of Bronx voters voted for Barack Obama, a Democrat. (4) Registered Democrats outnumber Republicans more than 2 to 1 in New York State. (5) Despite obvious GOP gerrymandering, Democrats appear to outnumber Republicans in the Senate (though final tallies for two upstate races are still to be determined).

The case for Republicans: (1) Republicans love Klein so much they drew him a district that swept through the Bronx like a heat-seeking missile in search of every white vote in the borough. (2) Klein immediately becomes one of the four most powerful politicians in Albany. (3) (Still thinking...)

Klein, of course, chose to side with Republicans.

In a joint statement with Republican Majority

Leader Dean Skelos (they are calling the new leadership arrangement "Skelinos"), Klein said the agreement will "allow the Senate to continue pushing New York State forward, while ensuring that there will be no returning to the failed leadership of the past."

That last line is a direct hit on Democrats during their largely unsuccessful two-year stint back in control of the Senate after four decades of Republican rule. Democrats rightfully place much of the blame for that debacle on former Bronx Senator and convicted felon Pedro Espada.

But the failed leadership and dysfunction in Albany goes back much farther than the last time Democrats controlled the Senate. Espada certainly drove the body deeper, and more publicly, into dysfunction than ever before, but Republicans played a large role in Albany's paralysis for years before he arrived on the scene.

It appears voters (and/or federal prosecutors) weeded out the bad apples like Espada and, through the power of the ballot box, Democrats were poised to take another crack at leading the Senate.

Before the votes were counted, however, Klein made his move. It gives him more power than ever before and a chance to make a huge impact. But will it benefit Bronxites?

Klein says it's all about policy and being produc-

tive. And yes, the legislature was more productive during the last two years under Republicans, than the previous two years under Democrats. But that agenda was driven by Governor Andrew Cuomo, a moderate Democrat, not Republicans. Their biggest win was passing gay marriage, a progressive issue. And that productivity noticeably slowed this year.

Klein's position will bring more resources to his office and more clout for the Bronx, but how will it play out legislatively?

He says he's committed to pushing progressive bills onto the floor, including legislation that would raise the state's minimum wage, which languished last year in the GOP-controlled Senate. The hike would go a long way toward helping Bronxites. The Bronx is woefully under-employed, meaning many in the borough have jobs that don't pay them enough to pay their bills. The Bronx needs a mandated wage hike.

We don't doubt that a minimum wage bill will come to the floor in 2013. But what will it look like? Will it be tied to inflation, as Democrats have pushed for and would allow workers in those jobs to better keep pace with the cost of living? Or will it be a one-time hike, which Republicans would prefer, that will be outdated in two years?

Once again, Klein will have to decide what side he's on. And we'll be watching.

Web Voices

After a long fight with cancer, Lydia Stephen, known as "Nena," passed away on Monday, Dec. 10. The funeral was held at McKeon Funeral Home and the burial is scheduled for Friday, Dec. 14 at 9 a.m. at Woodlawn Cemetery. Our story on Nena ("Facing Death With the Courage of a 'Warrior Princess'", Nov. 29-Dec. 12 issue) inspired several readers to comment on our website. Here are their voices:

I was just brought to tears by this story of this very courageous little girl. I just love her attitude and her spirit! My love goes out to her and her family. She is a superstar in my book!

—Chandra Chauhan

She is the most loved and best girl ever ... And thank u for the comment ... She's my heart my soul ... I love u my nena!!

—Camille (her godmother)

From 2004-2009, I worked in the Radiation Oncology Department of the Mount Sinai Medical Center. My heart went out to the cancer patients; especially the children. Despite my experiences there, nevertheless, I cried like a baby while reading this article about Lydia, and



LYDIA STEPHEN

then prayed for her, from the depth of my heart. We can all learn so much from Lydia about how to GRACEFULLY rise above life's difficult circumstances. Is it any small wonder that the Old Testament states in Isaiah that "a child shall lead them...", and in Matthew in the New Testament, "out of the mouth of babes..." (comes truth and praise)? Situations like this give us a deeper appre-

ciation of God's word; a stronger need to lean not to our own understanding, but to trust Him, and believe that while we don't understand why certain things happen, HE understands and will reveal all, in due time. While I can appreciate the "Warrior Princess" title, I personally believe Lydia is one of God's "Ministering Angels," sent to earth to show mankind how to live an abundant life, despite trials and tribulations. She is clearly "healed" in spirit, though not "cured" in body (yet?). May each and every one of us purpose in our hearts to keep the "Spirit of Nena" alive by striving to maintain a positive outlook, each and every day we are blessed to be on this earth. Lydia, I send you ALL my love and prayers. This is only my second time replying online, but I had to write to THANK YOU for sharing your strength and faith with the world. Blessings hermanita!!

— Margaret Williams

I just wanted to send you our prayers. Marty and I cried reading this article. I remember meeting Lydia when she was born she and my daughter used to play together. We are all praying for you Lydia. God bless you, little beautiful angel.

—Mimi



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Inquiring Photographer

By DAVID GREENE

This week we asked readers about the best holiday gift they ever received.



My great holiday gift was a car that came from my dad last Christmas and now I'm making money.

Jason Santana



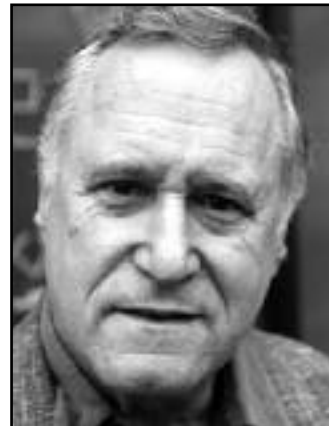
My greatest gift was that of new life, which I received recovering from stage four colon cancer after the original diagnosis. That was followed by two cardiac arrests, one that stopped my heart twice. I lost 114 pounds in three months... I convinced the doctors to hold off. They sent me to rehab and I started chemo right away and now I'm actually in remission three months now.

Jaime Emeric



My best Christmas gift was the day my grandson Jason was born, he's my angel.

Maria Pucci



I think my best holiday gift has been the last few years when all of my family can get together, my kids and myself and we have this big dinner and it's very enjoyable.

Ira Blutreich



Life, freedom. I believe being born an American, that's the greatest gift because everybody in the world wants to be here. So how do you feel being in the greatest place in the world?

James Sterling



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NORWOOD NEWS

Holiday Gift Guide



Photo by Adi Talwar

LOCAL RESIDENTS gather underneath the 4 Train on Jerome Avenue in twilight for the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District's tree lighting ceremony on Thursday, Nov. 29.

By **DANILKA INFANTE**

Too busy at work or studying for finals to even think about gift shopping? No worries. We here at the *Norwood News* took the liberty of becoming your personal shopper. We have it all covered from gifts for the children to the adults, animals lovers to fashionistas, the food lovers and health nuts, technology whizzes to the pampered. We searched for the best deals economically and within your area to convenience for your wallet and travel. No need to thank us, it's just our way of giving back this holiday season.

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Holiday Gift Guide

For the Children

This year, **Leroy Pharmacy** and **LeMed Pharmacy** are well into the holiday spirit. The pharmacies donated close to 100 turkeys to families and hosted many Thanksgiving dinners to many nonprofit and community-based organizations during November. Leroy Pharmacy is hosting the annual Santa Comes to 204th Street at its 314 E. 204th St. location (see ad on page 17) on Saturday, Dec. 15. Santa will hand out 500 free toys. The pharmacy donated all wrapping essentials and food to the 20-plus volunteers that showed up to wrap gifts on Dec. 8. In 2012, Leroy Pharmacy has modernized its dispensation technology in-house and are capable of serving over 200 patients per hour, allowing more valuable time for one-on-one consultations. "I enjoy seeing families happy and sharing the spirit of the holidays," says Jay Dhaduk, RPH, of Leroy Pharmacy at 312 E. 204th St. "We are proud to be in this neighborhood for over 20 years."

Want your children to look superb for the holidays? Of course you do and **Nissan Kids** will assist in doing so. They specialize in beautiful formal dresses and suits for kids. Their handmade gowns for the girls and tailored suits for boys are like no other. They also cater to first communion and christening outfits. They are currently having a holiday sale, deducting \$10 off all regularly-priced dresses and suits. Their dresses vary in prices from \$30 to \$80 and the boys suits are \$50. They also carry accessories for children like shoes, purses, stockings, tiaras and

hair decorations. Nissan Kids is located at 2483 Grand Concourse between 188th Street and Fordham Road. For more information call (718) 563-2134.

Know how it feels to be in Santa's shoes? Feeling a little overwhelmed with the amount of kids on your gift list? Well, the **Toy Warehouse** at 6 E. Fordham Rd. between Elm Place and Tiebout Avenue will have you quickly checking all those names off your list. There are so many toys for all ages. They have a large number of staff to help your shopping be swift and easy. Barbie dolls are as low as \$2.99! Modeled helicopters that fly with controllers are \$14.99. Microphones, guitars, pianos and drum sets are all there to start a new kid's band. The Toy Warehouse is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Sunday from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

For the Adults

First, let's talk big ticket items.

You may have noticed something happening on the corner of Webster Avenue and East Gun Hill Road over the past year or so. That's because **LaSorsa Chevrolet** has been completely overhauling its main showroom to better display its lineup of Chevy, Buick and Mitsubishi models. Now, new windows bring light into the classy and elegant new showroom where the sales staff is equipped with new computers and technology to better meet the needs of its customers. This holiday season, LaSorsa and Chevrolet are offering great financing deals, as low as 0% interest for 72 months

(continued on next page)

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Holiday Gift Guide

(continued from previous page)

on select models. The staff at LaSorsa also decided it wanted to be known as “the dealer that cares,” meaning no matter what happens when you visit, LaSorsa wants you to leave with a good experience. LaSorsa is located at 3510 Webster Ave. For more information, call (800) 743-1788.

On East 204th Street in Norwood, neighborhood gem **Freilich Jewelers** is offering a special that combines the classic with the cutting edge. With a purchase of \$995 worth of jewelry, customers will receive a free Kindle Fire. For a purchase of \$1,995 worth of Freilich jewelry, customers receive a free iPad 2. Owner Alan Freilich says the holiday season is a per-

fect time for purchasing engagement rings, which his store is well stocked with. And for the right price, you can also surf the internet or watch movies on your cool new tablet. Freilich Jewelers, located at 312 E. 204th St., is open seven days a week up until Dec. 23. For more information, call (718) 798-1063.

For a successful party or small gatherings, take it from the well-known “Fernando,” the party planner seen on TV, and go to **North End Wine and Liquor** at 2509 Webster Ave. Their selections are endless with different wines, champagnes, scotches/whiskeys, cognacs, tequilas, vodkas, rums, and stuff you probably never even

(continued on p. 12)

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Holiday Gift Guide

(continued from p. 10)

heard of. They also have the perfect gift sets containing a desired bottle with ready-to-drink glasses or ready-to-prepare shakers. A bottle of Bailey's (Irish Cream) with two glasses costs \$26.99. A bottle of Courvoisier (Cognac) with a flask costs \$28.99.

For the Animal Lover

If you have that friend who is an animal lover on your Christmas list but are stumped on what to give them, just make it easy on yourself and go to **Pet Paradise** or **Tropical Pets**. They will help you pick out the best pet and supplies. Pet Paradise is located at 289 E. Gun Hill Rd. and is open Monday to Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. They have all kinds of fish and a big selection of exotic birds like finches, parrots, African Grey parrot and parakeets. The birds' prices vary depending on the breed. They can be anywhere from \$75 to \$1,500. Tropical Pets, located at 308 E. 204th St., has a bigger selection of fish both saltwater and freshwater. They also carry reptiles, rodents, birds, cats and dogs. Their dogs vary in price, according to breed and they start off at \$600. Buying a puppy here will include the puppy's first shots, on the house. To contact Pet Paradise, call (718) 881-2870 and for Tropical Pets, call (718) 798-2283.

For the Tech Whiz

Electronic Factory at 302 E. Fordham Rd. between Tiebout Avenue and Elm Place is full of all kinds of electronics. They have DJ equipment, TVs, and laptops starting at \$129.99. Car audio, speakers, and cameras start at \$59.99. Cell phones are as low as \$49.99. They even offer six months layaway free of charge. For more info, call (347) 271-4845.

Bainbridge Video Games buys and sells used video games for fair prices. This video game store is located at 3120 Bainbridge Ave.

For Health and Fitness Conscious

Most people's resolution for the New Year is to take care of their bodies and start to work out. Help a friend fulfill this resolution by giving them a gym membership for Christmas. **Soma Health Club** at 368 E. Gun Hill Rd. offer packages with no commitment, six-month commitment, or one- or two-year commitment. A daily rate is \$15; a one-month rate is \$99, while a month-to-month rate is \$65. A six-month commitment paid in full cost \$400. A one-year commitment costs \$49.99 monthly and paid in full cost \$549.99. A two-year commitment costs \$40 monthly and \$850 paid in full. Becoming a member of Soma Health Club you will not be limited to just workout machines but you will have access to specialized classes like Zumba, Spin, Butt & Guts, Step Aerobics, Yoga, kickboxing, weightlifting, and the relaxing sauna. For more information, call (718) 882-7662 or email Somahealthclubbronx@gmail.com.

For a cheaper, but less sophisticated exercise option, check out **Mosholu Montefiore Community Center's** Energy Fitness Center at 3450 DeKalb Ave. For more information, call (718) 882-4000 or visit www.mmcc.org.

If you are looking for a gift for someone who is health conscious and loves indulging in organic goodies, then **Forever Young**, located at 12 W. Kingsbridge Rd., is the place to shop. They specialize in natural and organic food, vitamins, minerals and even cosmetics. Forever Young offers a variety of items to fit the needs of anyone who is pursuing a healthier lifestyle. Be sure to browse the clearance items for great holiday deals.

Bronx Foot Rehabilitation Associates is located at 3112 Webster Ave. They welcome walk-ins and offer in-office hospital surgery for your convenience. To make an appointment or for more information, call (718) 655-3410.

To obtain or keep great smiles visit Dr. Jay Fensterstock at **Concerned Dental Care**. They offer exams, x-rays, cleaning and whitening. Call (718) 652-7370 or visit www.ConcernedDentalCare.com for more information.

For the Fashionista

Every fashion-forward person knows that accessories make the outfit truly stand out and shine. The holidays are the perfect time to show off some sparkle. **Endless Noise NYC**, a unique jewelry line for females and males that captures both the rugged and glamorous essence of New York City, will make the holiday outfits complete. Iran Ortiz, a Bronx native from Gun Hill, created Endless Noise NYC in 2009. Each of her artful pieces is hand-crafted using different materials like chains, plexiglass and swarovski crystals. Gift certificates are available at \$5 and up. To see Endless Noise NYC's line and place orders, visit www.endlessnoisenyc.com.

Fashion is not only about looking good, it can also serve as a statement. **Strange Vixens Inc.** exemplifies just that, making a statement without words. Vianca Frazier, born and raised in the Bronx, has been designing for five years. Her inspiration derives from burlesque, 1960s horror films and today's New York City hipsters. The garments are professionally sewn and handmade. The apparel sizes run from petite to X-large and custom orders for plus sizes. Strange Vixens Inc. offers one-of-a-kind couture dresses for \$195, dresses starting at \$55, outerwear starting at \$38, swimwear starting at \$35, sleep/lingerie starting at \$9.50, everyday wear starting at \$25, and accessories for \$12.50. Strange Vixen's Inc. also offers gift-wrapping services for \$5 including box, ribbon, bow, tag, personal greeting card, tissue paper, and candy. Shipping is free when spending \$150 or more. To look at Strange Vixens Inc.'s line and place orders, visit www.strangevixens.bigcartel.com.

And, of course, everyone needs new shoes! **Blu Chus** at 22 E. Kingsbridge Rd., is open Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. They are offering 10% off on all purchases now through Christmas.

For the Pampered

Joy Nail, at 3120 Bainbridge Ave., does manicures and pedicures for \$20. They also offer gift certificates to pamper

(continued on p. 15)



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Norwood News Holiday Gift Guide

(continued from p. 12)

friends and family this holiday.

Everyone needs a haircut before the holiday festivities begin and **Aydan Barber Shop & Spa** is offering specials on services for men, women and children every Tuesday and Wednesday. They are located at 360 E. 204th St. For more information call (347) 945-2626.

The **Laser Center**, at 3062 Perry Ave., promises to remove unwanted hair safely, effectively and painlessly for men, women and teens with all skin types. With upper lip treatments starting as low as \$85, don't dare enter the New Year with unwanted facial hair.

For the Non-shopper/ One-Stop Shop

If you are one of those shoppers who does not like going from store to store to find what you need, then a simple stop at **El Mundo Discount Department Store** will do. El Mundo has three floors containing clothing for men, women and children. They have shoes, watches, perfumes and colognes. They have furniture and décor for the home like lamps and art pieces. There are electronics for adults and toys for the kids. Barbie dolls are as low as \$7.99 and Lego dinosaurs for \$10.99. Speakers for iPods are \$35.99 and electric shavers for \$20.99. Watches for men women and kids are as low as \$11.99. There are designer shoes for women, including Carlos Santana, Rachel Roy and Alfani, all for only \$34.99. Ties for men are two for \$10. All women's clothing and home décor are 20% off for the holidays. El Mundo Discount Department Store is located at 2510 Valentine Ave.

Paradise Pawnbrokers, a 60-year-old family-run business, will be offering 25% off on gold, diamonds and watches. They offer an assortment of fine jewelry, along



Photo by Adi Talwar

SUPPORTERS OF the Jerome-Gun Hill Business Improvement District get into the holiday spirit at the Nov. 29 tree lighting ceremony.

with musical instruments and small electronics. The regular business hours are Monday to Friday, from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Extended Christmas hours are set to begin on Saturday, Dec. 15. Paradise Pawnbrokers are located at 3478 Jerome Ave. To contact them, call (718) 295-8900.

Whenever the sun is shining, take the opportunity and head to the **Fordham Plaza Market** and get some holiday shopping done. Vendors gather together and sell an assortment of items perfect for stocking stuffers from gold-plated jewelry, cell phone accessories, to fragrances and toys. It is right on Fordham Plaza. You can't miss the white tents.

For the Food Lovers

The holidays just aren't the holidays without family and good food. **VIP's Café**, located at 131 E. Gun Hill Rd., offers breakfast, lunch, dinner, takeout, full bar,

happy hour, and catering. For more information, call (718) 655-8500.

Make sure you have your meat and poultry for those delicious holiday dinners. Go to **Hillside Meat & Deli Market** located at 3117 Bainbridge Ave. They are open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. They accept payments with debit, credit and EBT.

MD Café Lounge has holiday catering packages and they deliver for free. Book a private party, events, or corporate function with them. They are located at 3489 Jerome Ave. To contact them, call

(347) 899-8300.

You can order a full holiday dinner from **Mar y Tierra Restaurant and Lounge**, located at 3236 Bainbridge Ave. (near Van Cortlandt Avenue). They have offers of either a whole turkey, a whole pernil (pork shoulder), or half a rotisserie chicken. Each includes large rice with peas, large salad and a soda for \$55. Put in your orders in advance by calling (718) 635-7764.

Know someone with a sweet tooth? Then the **Bainbridge Bakery**, at 3109 Bainbridge Ave., is the place to pick up a couple of freshly baked pastries for them. They offer holiday-decorated cookies for \$10 a pound. Cakes and pies should be pre-ordered two to three days in advance. Pies cost \$8 to \$10 and cakes are \$18 and up. For more information call (718) 882-4409.

National Bakery, located at 3492 Jerome Ave., has different flavored pastries, one being their great cappuccino and chocolate cake. For more information, call (718) 231-3029.

Furniture

Oak Furniture, located at 3537 Jerome Ave., has different kinds of furniture. They have everything from living room sets, bedroom sets, dining room sets, home office, entertainment, and outdoor furniture. For further information, call (718) 515-5625.

Baby Boom Furniture located at 3204 Bainbridge Ave. not only sells baby furni-

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At Clinton, a Giant Tree Shows Its Strong Roots

(continued from p. 1)

progress, student performance, and school environment, making Clinton's overall score 37.2 out of 100. However, students felt the DOE's grade was an inaccurate portrayal of their school and, in response, conducted their own study on student life and academics and graded their school a "B-".


"It was fantastic to see how much the students talked about the history and legacy of their school," said Pelisson, referring to the student survey.

Many Clinton students have taken great pride in sharing a campus that boasted alumni such as Ralph Lauren, James Baldwin, Tracy Morgan and Stan Lee (creator of Spider-Man, the Fantastic Four and the X-Men), along with a slew of Oscar, Emmy, and Tony winners, 11 Pulitzer Prize winners and five Olympic medalists. The school also prides itself on hosting more than 57 programs and activities, including 30 athletic teams, a Junior ROTC training program, a literary magazine, student newspaper and the esteemed M.A.C.Y. Honors program.

"We're only as strong as our weakest link and it doesn't look like we have one here today," said former Clinton student Walter Simons, as the packed auditorium clapped and cheered. Simons came to Clinton as an at-risk youth and described himself as a "truant student," but said because of the faculty, programs and education he received at Clinton, he was able to graduate.

The DOE is beginning "early engagement" talks to determine reform efforts that could lead to an overhaul of the school's faculty or even closure. The results of those talks won't be known until early next year, but it's clear where the school community and its supporters stand.

"I promise you that I will work very hard to try to convince those at the Department of Education not to close this school," said local Councilman Oliver Koppell. "You should know that Council Member Oliver Koppell strongly supports the maintenance and the continuation and the future of DeWitt Clinton High School!"



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Holiday Gift Guide

(continued from p. 15)

ture, but bedroom sets, living room sets, dining room sets, and kids' bedroom sets. They have different styles of furniture like contemporary, modern, antique, and vintage. They do same day delivery and offer free lay-away financing without putting anything down for a deposit or interest for 12 months. For more informa-

tion, call (718) 515-9946.

Capital Furniture has a holiday sale of up to 50% off all furniture. They are located at 3113 Bainbridge Ave. For more information, call (347) 346-7195.

Enjoy the shopping! Happy Holidays from the *Norwood News*!

—With **BRITTNEY JACKSON** and **DIANA PEREZ**

Neighborhood Notes

Toy/Coat Drive for Storm Victims

A holiday toy/coat drive is being held for the families impacted by Hurricane Sandy, which will run until Dec. 17. Donations can be dropped off at Senator Gustavo Rivera's district office at 2432 Grand Concourse, suite 506 from noon to 6 p.m.

Toy Drive for Children's Hospital

The Care to Share Toy Drive will benefit patients at the Children's Hospital at Montefiore. Donate a toy for a sick child in need until Dec. 16 at the following locations: LaSorsa, 3510 Webster Ave.; Beso Lounge, 320 E. 204th St.; Drug Rite Pharmacy, 3432 Jerome Ave.; Leroy Pharmacy, 314 E. 204th St.; LeMed Pharmacy, 159 E. Gun Hill Rd.; and Marketing & Advertising Solution (MAS), 3602 E. Tremont Ave. When donating gifts, please no violent toys, no Nerf toys, no Barbies or trucks.

Toys that are needed include baby toys, toddler toys, gift cards, scarf/hat sets. Gifts should be unwrapped.

Santa Coming to E. 204th

On Saturday, Dec. 15 from noon to 3 p.m., Santa will be giving small gifts away to all the good children from the area at Leroy Pharmacy, 314 E. 204th St.

Holiday Arts at Lehman

Get creative this holiday season and go to Lehman College Art Gallery Fine Arts Building, first floor, on Dec. 14 and 15 at 3 p.m. to learn how to become a printmaker and hand make your holiday cards and gift wrapping paper this year. For more information or to RSVP, email celia.caro@lehman.cuny.edu or call (718) 960-8732.

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

Classifieds

Professional Directory

Non-Denominational Services

Bedford Park Congregational Church

The Bedford Park Congregational Church, located at the corner of 201st Street and Bainbridge Avenue, invites you to attend our Holiday services. Come and enjoy worship and fellowship during this wonderful Christmas season.

Sunday, December 16, 2012,
Service with Christmas Program, 11 a.m.,

followed by dinner (\$10 donation for adults, \$5 for children).

Sunday, December 23, 2012,
Service, 11AM

Monday, December 24, 2012,
Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 30, 2012,
Service, 11 a.m.

Monday, December 31, 2012, New Years Eve Service, 7:30 p.m.

All are welcome.

Good News Christian Church

3061 Bainbridge Ave.
(basement of the Church of the Holy Nativity)
Bronx, NY 10467
(347) 329-0023

Pastors James and Andrea Miller
Sunday service at 2 p.m.

Home fellowship bible studies on
Wednesdays at 7 p.m.

Friday night prayer service
at 7 p.m.

Visit us at

www.goodnewscc.wordpress.com.

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617 E. Fordham Road (between Arthur and Hughes), Bronx, NY 10458. (Fordham University Section). Call today for your appointment: (347) 284-3834.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. A&E COUTURE COLLECTION, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on October 9, 2012. NY Office location at 4350 Furman Avenue, Suite 1K, Bronx County. Secretary of State NY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The Secretary of State of New York shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, A&E COUTURE COLLECTION, 4350 Furman Avenue, Suite 1K, Bronx, NY 10466. Purpose: For any lawful activity.

HELP WANTED

Experienced P/T Development Director:

Sought by small, NW Bronx Media Arts Program for Teens, to research and cultivate funding sources; write proposals and reports; liaison with staff. Strong organizational and writing skills, and not-for-profit fund-raising experience required. (6-8 hours per week - salary DOE). Fax resume (including phone #) to (718) 882-2454 or email baylalyn@earthlink.net.

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.

SITUATION WANTED

Nurse's Aide Teacher: Looking for part time job. Contact Ester (718) 514-4482.

MISCELLANEOUS

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).

REAL ESTATE

Huge 3-Bedroom Apartment in the Bronx: Near two hospitals; near #4 train; near #10, 16, 34, 28, 38 buses. Contact Mr. Sinclair (646) 345-5055.

One-Bedroom Co-op for Sale: 1st floor apt., low maintenance, 1 block from Montefiore Hospital. Quick access to all buses: i.e. #34 and trains. \$110k. Call (917) 517-0172 (Ray) or (347) 427-4774.

Classifieds: \$9 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.


Mosholu Montefiore Community Center
WINTER & SPRING PROGRAMS

Childcare Programs at Rochambeau, 2-5 yrs.: 7:30am-6:30pm
Afterschool Discovery Club, K-6th Grades: Monday-Friday, 3-6pm

Saturday Children's Classes, 5 - 13 yrs.: Art, Karate, Ballet, Basketball, Cooking, Computers, Drama, Gymnastics, Tutoring in Math and English, Rock Climbing & More!
Adult Classes: Computers, Karate, Rock Climbing & More!

FREE Boys & Girls Club Teen Centers, 12 1/2 - 19 yrs.
Gun Hill Rd & Dekalb Ave., Edenwald (E. 229th St.), PS 8, PS 86, MS 142 and MS 113

Mosholu Day Camp at Harriman State Park, K-6th Grade
Teen Trailways Camp, 7th - 10th Grade • A Camp on Wheels
Camp Sunshine & Elan, 5 - 16 yrs. • Special Needs
Pre-School Day Camps, 2 - 4 1/2 yrs. • MMCC Main Building

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Marble Hill Building at Broadway and 228th Street 718-562-8551

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**November 29 thru
December 16, 2012**

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beso lounge 320 East 204th Street, Bronx, NY
646 807-4522

DRUG RITE PHARMACY 3432 Jerome Avenue, Bronx, NY
718-231-1600

Leroy Pharmacy 314 East 204th Street, Bronx, NY
718-882-5614

LeMed Pharmacy 159 East Gun Hill Road, Bronx, NY
718-231-4040

MAS 3502 E Tremont Ave., Ste 206, Bronx, NY
718-881-2881

*Check individual businesses for hours.

Note: When choosing gifts, please no violent toys, no Nerf toys, no Barbie's, and no trucks. Toys that are needed include baby toys, toddler toys, Gift Cards for older children, scarf/hat sets, gloves all sizes; toys for boys and girls. All Gifts should be unwrapped.

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Moshulu Preservation Corporation, Norwood News, Jerome Gun Hill Bldg
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PRESENTS

Santa
Comes to Town Event
**Saturday
December
15th**



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Need Extra Money for Your Holiday Shopping?

Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

Onstage

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

■ The Lehman Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **The Romeros**, The Royal Family of Classical Guitar, performing Concerto Málaga, Dec. 16 at 4 p.m. Tickets are \$25 to \$40; \$10/12 and under. For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Bronx Rising! Music, Film & Spoken Word of the Borough**, through Jan. 19, performed by Bronx artists: Music and jazz, Thursdays from 8 to 10 p.m.; film, Fridays 8 to 10 p.m.; comedy, poetry and literature, Saturdays 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. (visit bronx-music.org for details). For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

Events

■ The Bronx Music Heritage Center Lab, 1303 Louis Niñé Blvd. (#2 or #5 train to Freeman Street), presents **Community Arts Lab, 4 to 7 p.m.**: (through Dec. 19), visual art on Mondays, hip-hop and breakdance on Tuesdays, and percussion and poetry on Wednesdays. For more information, call (718) 793-2211.

■ Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675 W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Arts Projects (arts and crafts)**: Sparkle and Shine, to make a scented decoration, Dec. 15 and 16; and Glittery Gift Baskets, to make a gift basket, Dec. 22 and 23; both in the Ecology Building, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Grounds admission is free Saturdays until noon, and in December, free Tuesdays all day. Glyndor Gallery **tours** take place Tuesdays and Saturdays at 2 p.m.; garden **walks** are held Tuesdays and Saturdays at 11 a.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m., from the Perkins Visitor Center. For more information and a schedule of events, call (718) 549-3200.

Exhibits

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

■ Lehman College Art Gallery, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd. W., presents **Space Invaders**, featuring the work of 18 artists who make use of many spaces both inside and outside the galleries, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Jan. 9. For more information, call (718) 960-8731/8715.

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

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PLAN 2	2 lbs. BEEF STEW 2 lbs. GROUND BEEF 2 lbs. SHOULDER STEAK 1 WHOLE CHICKEN 3 lbs. CHICKEN LEGS • 1 DOZEN EGGS	FREE 2 LITER SODA \$27.99
PLAN 3	3 lbs. CHICKEN LEGS 2 lbs. GROUND BEEF 1 1/2 lbs. CHICKEN CUTLETS 4 SHOULDER PORK CHOPS 1 WHOLE CHICKEN	FREE DOZEN EGGS \$22.99
PLAN 7	2 lbs. SHOULDER STEAK 2 lbs. PORK CHOPS 3 lbs. CHICKEN LEGS 3 lbs. CHICKEN WINGS 2 lbs. GROUND BEEF • 2 lbs. BEEF STEW	FREE DOZEN EGGS \$39.99
PLAN 8	2 lbs. CHUCK STEAK • 2 lbs. BEEF STEW 2 lbs. PEPPER STEAK 2 lbs. GROUND BEEF 2 lbs. ITALIAN SAUSAGE 8 HAMBURGER PATTIES • 1 WHOLE CHICKEN	FREE 3 LBS. POTATOES \$39.99
PLAN 9	2 lbs. SHOULDER STEAK • 5 lbs. CHICKEN LEGS 2 lbs. GROUND BEEF • 3 lbs. CHICKEN WINGS 2 lbs. BEEF STEW 1 pkg. ALL BEEF FRANKS • 1 DOZEN EGGS 1 PACKAGE OSC BACON • 3 lbs. SHOULDER PORK CHOPS	FREE 2 LITER SODA \$45.99
PLAN 13 POULTRY PLAN	5 lbs. CHICKEN LEGS • 3 lbs. CHICKEN WINGS 1 WHOLE CHICKEN 1 lb. CHICKEN CUTLETS • 1 lb. CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 1 pkg. GROUND TURKEY 5 lbs. TURKEY WINGS • 2 DRUMSTICKS	FREE DOZEN EGGS \$39.99

Happy Holidays

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

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

Holiday Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents **Music for the Holidays**, presented by members of the Bronx Symphony Orchestra, Dec. 15 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., W., presents **Parranda Navideña**, featuring several groups celebrating the holiday season performing in the Jibaro style, Dec. 15 at 8 p.m. (tickets are \$25 to \$45; \$10/12 and

under). For more information, call (718) 960-8833.

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

■ Mosholu Montefiore Senior Center, 3450 DeKalb Ave., presents **Winter Holiday Party**, luncheon and live entertainment, Dec. 19, for seniors ages 60 and over. For more information and details, call (718) 798-6601.

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

■ The Bronx Concert Singers presents its **Annual Holiday Concert**, Dec. 16 at 4:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1891 McGraw Ave., in Parkchester, featuring traditional carols and classical music. Tickets are \$20/two for \$35; \$15/seniors and students with valid ID; \$5/children through high school. For more information, call (917) 743-4641.



EDITOR'S PICK

Come A-Carolin'

The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., invites the public to join its **Caroling on the Terrace**. Sign up at 4th floor information desk and join community choir in song on the 3rd floor terrace, followed by light refreshments, Dec. 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit www.nypl.org.

Library Events

■ The Bronx Library Center, at 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents programs for adults including **Free Computer Classes at 2 p.m.**: Online registration required: Computer Basics, Dec. 17; Internet for Beginners, Dec. 18; and MS Word 2010 for Beginners (2-session class), Dec. 20 and 27; **Introductory Computer Class**: Email, free, Dec. 26 at 10 a.m.; **Heritage Arts & Crafts Workshop**: (in-person registration required), Dec. 21 at 2 p.m.; and **Film at 2:30 p.m.**: "A Christmas Carol," Dec. 22. Teens and young adults can join **Teen Art Club at 3:30 p.m.**: Dec. 14 and 21. Children can enjoy **Preschool Story Time at 11 a.m.**: Dec. 13, 20 and 27; **Gingerbread House**: (ages 3 to 12; registration required), build your own house, Dec. 15 at 2 p.m.; **Film at 4 p.m.**: Dec. 18; **Tree Ornament Making**: Dec. 13 at 4 p.m.; and **Winter Magnet Making**: Dec. 27 at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit

www.nypl.org.

■ The Mosholu Library, at 285 E. 205th St., offers for seniors and adults: **Knitting Circle**: Thursdays at 3 p.m.; and **Wii Program**: Tuesdays at 3 p.m. Children can enjoy **Toddler Story Time at 10:30 a.m.**: (ages 18 to 36 months), Dec. 13 and 20; and **Read Aloud**: (ages 3 to 12), Dec. 17 at 4 p.m. Teens and young adults can attend **Holiday Fun**: Dec. 20 at 4 p.m. Families can view **film**: "Madagascar 3," Dec. 17 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, call (718) 882-8239.

A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR READERS!

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

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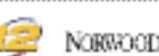
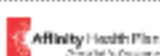
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