



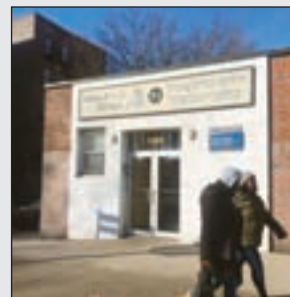
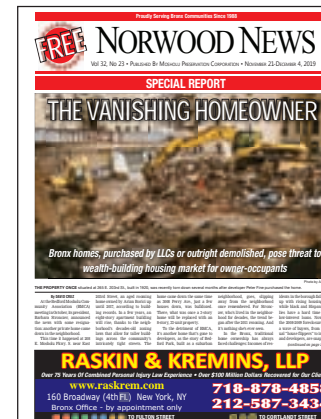
# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol 33, No 1 • PUBLISHED BY MOSHOLU PRESERVATION CORPORATION • JANUARY 2-15, 2020



**Petition Drive Under Way to Reverse Bus Reroute Plan**  
pg 5

# NORWOOD NEWS YEAR IN REVIEW



**Sholem Aleichem's Plea For Donations**  
pg 8



**Out & About**  
pg 26

**By DAVID CRUZ**  
What a year for the Bronx! In keeping with tradition, the *Norwood News* paused to look back on 2019 with a highlight of several ongoing stories we've

followed this past year.  
**Development**  
Large-scale development became the operative word in 2019, with a flood of projects

happening simultaneously in Norwood and Bedford Park, prompting a story recapping readers on those projects on the Vol. 32 No. 11 edition and an in-depth piece entitled "The

Vanishing Homeowner" in the Vol. 32 No. 23 edition. The common denominator was simple: the Bronx has become such an attractive place for developers  
(continued on page 2)

# RASKIN & KREMINIS, LLP

Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience • Over \$100 Million Dollars Recovered for Our Clients

[www.raskrem.com](http://www.raskrem.com)

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY  
Bronx Office - by appointment only

**718-878-4858**  
**212-587-3434**

2 3 4 5 A C J Z TO FULTON STREET

N W TO CORTLANDT STREET



# NORWOOD NEWS

Vol. 33, No. 1

Norwood News is published bi-weekly on Thursdays by Mosholu Preservation Corporation (MPC) 3400 Reservoir Oval East Bronx, New York 10467 Phone: 718 324 4998 Fax: 718 324 2917 E-mail: [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org) Web.: [www.norwoodnews.org](http://www.norwoodnews.org)

**Publisher**  
Mosholu Preservation Corporation  
**Senior Director of MPC**  
Melissa Cebollero  
**Executive Director of MPC**  
Jennifer Tausig  
**Editor-in-Chief, Norwood News**  
David Cruz, [dcruz@norwoodnews.org](mailto:dcruz@norwoodnews.org)

**Proofreader**  
Judy Noy  
**Intern**  
Sha-Nia Alston, Khalil Reddick  
**Regular Contributors**  
David Greene, Adi Talwar

**Contributors**  
Miriam Quinones, José A. Giral, Natalie Migliore

**For Display Advertising**  
**Call Janet Geller at**  
**(646) 581-0399**

**Support Your**  
**Community Newspaper!**

The Norwood News is a not-for-profit publication and relies upon the support of its advertisers and readers to produce a quality community newspaper. To support your paper, become a member and receive a subscription for one year.

Simply mail check or money order for \$40 to: Norwood News, 3400 Reservoir Oval East, Bronx, NY 10467.

Norwood News is not responsible for typographical errors. Opinions expressed in signed letters and bylined columns represent the sole opinion of the author and are not necessarily those of Mosholu Preservation Corporation or Montefiore Medical Center. Editorials represent the views of the editor only. The newspaper reserves the right to limit or refuse advertising it deems objectionable. Advertisements appearing in this paper cannot be used without the written permission of the Norwood News. Letters to the editor are subject to condensation and editing. Writers should include their affiliation or special interest if any. Anonymous letters are not published but your name can be withheld upon request.

Mosholu Preservation Corporation is a non-profit support corporation of Montefiore Medical Center.



(continued from page 1)

that it's become a hot zone for residential construction.

But development also became a hazard for one project on Steuben Avenue and East 208th Street, the sight of a partial building collapse that resulted in the death of Segundo Huerta, who had been working on the site when the building came down on Aug. 27, 2019. The city Buildings Department is investigating the collapse and death, the first such construction-related accident in the Bronx for 2019.

## Tenants Battle Stagg Group

For tenants at a trio of buildings owned by the ubiquitous Stagg Group, life wasn't exactly stellar, and they weren't taking it lying down. Continuing a battle that began in late 2018—and prompted by the death of fellow tenant Frank Giger, which tenants believed to be a suicide that could have been prevented had the doors to the roof Giger fell from were locked—tenants amplified their ire toward the Stagg Group, taking their landlord to Bronx Hous-



File photo by Adi Talwar

**THE PENDING MOSHOLU** Grand on Van Cortlandt Avenue between the Grand Concourse and Mosholu Parkway (background) represents a multitude of projects that were under construction in 2019.

bors claiming they were simply warehoused and unsupervised, allowing them to run amok and cause a further deterioration of the building.

Irking these tenants is the knowledge that the affordable housing resi-

and Webster Avenue.

Despite tenants' claims of a poorly maintained property, Community Board 7—which years ago had advocated for the Webster Avenue rezoning—didn't find anything that rose to the level of poor quality of life. The same went for Councilman Andrew Cohen, who personally toured the buildings.

But Governor Andrew Cuomo saw problems with the Stagg Group following a story published in the *New York Daily News* outlining conditions the *Norwood News* had reported on months before. Cuomo launched an investigation conducted by the state Department of Health into alleged substandard conditions. The results remained to be seen, but it became a win for tenants simply wanting a better quality of life.

## Police-Involved Shooting

A fatal police-involved shooting



File photo by José A. Giral

**ZXAVIER SIMPSON, (L)**, a tenant at The Bedford Park Manor, speaks at the Community Board 7 Housing, Land Use, & Zoning Committee meeting on March 12, 2019. Seated (r) is Javier Monroy, property manager at the Stagg Group.

ing Court in an attempt to get them to make repairs inside the properties at 2985, 2987, and 2999 Webster Avenue, commonly known as the Bedford Park Manor.

The issues ranged from poorly constructed walls that allowed tenants to hear conversations happening outside the apartments, broken locks, and no heat or hot water. There was also an unreliable elevator that would shut down, prompting visits from the Fire Department. Tenants who were referred to there by social service agencies contracted by the state Department of Health had also lived there, with neigh-

dence was built in 2015, nowhere near the aged buildings surrounding it.

Politically, the building was the first such property built following the 2011 rezoning of Webster Avenue, which ushered in these types of affordable housing properties in an area that did not allow for such properties. A lot had been riding on the success of the properties, which were subsequently followed by more properties by the Stagg Group, which opened a mixed-use property at the corner of East 203rd Street and Webster Avenue, and the Doe Fund, which opened an affordable/supportive housing property at East 204th Street



File photo by José A. Giral

**(L-R) DEPUTY INSPECTOR** Thomas Alps, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct; Bronx Borough Assistant Chief Larry W. Nikunen; NYPD Chief of Police Terence Monahan (at podium), and NYPD Chief of Patrol Rodney Harrison hold a press briefing after a police officer's fatal shooting of a Yonkers man in Norwood on Oct. 17, 2019.



# a Look Back at 2019

hadn't occurred within the 52nd Precinct in years, with longtime residents unable to recall whether such a shooting ever happened before. That changed on Oct. 17, 2019 when at 3 p.m. officers from the Five-Two's Neighborhood Coordination Officer program, intended to bolster improved relations with the public by embedding officers in specific communities they usually refer to as a sector, stopped a Yonkers man for what they claim was driving without his seatbelt on. A police sergeant who supervisors the NCOs was on hand.

The man, later identified as Allan Feliz, a father of a five-year-old boy, was pulled over at Bainbridge Avenue and East 211th Street, just near Woodlawn Cemetery. A run of his license showed he had open warrants for minor offenses, giving cause for officers to arrest him. Feliz, according to officers, had resisted despite one of the NCO officers attempting to do so. A struggle ensued between the officer and Feliz on the driver's side, with Feliz putting the car in reverse and then drive, according to video that had circulated. On the passenger side, the sergeant had unsuccessfully tased Feliz, but it did not properly activate. A split second after the car was stopped, the sergeant had fired his gun, shooting Feliz in the chest, killing him.

Feliz's family has since filed a wrongful death lawsuit, claiming the shooting was unjustified. The two officers were reassigned out of the precinct.

## Schools

Events centering around DeWitt Clinton Campus served as a recurring storyline for the *Norwood News* in 2019. The first centered around the city Department of Education's plan to incorporate another school into the massive campus, a decision met with skepticism and anger from the existing schools, including the eponymous, near 100-year-old school. The anger was not so much directed at the arrival of an impending District 75, but at a time when DeWitt Clinton High School had turned a page, coming out of state receivership after years of dismal academic performance.

In the end, with two advisory groups approving the decision, the D75 school was put in place, with DOE officials citing a low utilization rate of the campus' common amenities.

Another story followed by the *Norwood News* was an uplifting HBO documentary dubbed "The Bronx, USA," which told a parallel story of students at DeWitt Clinton High School's class of 2017 at a crossroads in their life with



File photo by Adi Talwar

**THE UNDERPASS LEADING** to the entrance of the Kingsbridge Road B/D subway station doubles as a common drug use spot dubbed "The Tunnel." There have been 391 reported heroin overdoses in the Bronx in 2018, according to statistics released in July 2019.

that of Norwood's former neighbor, famed television producer Bob Shapiro. The documentary's profile of the group of students showed that the struggles from men and women of yesteryear were no different than those of today.

The last story veered into more serious territory as cops were trying to get a handle on the latest episode of violence happening outside DeWitt Clinton Campus when a 16-year-old student from Bronx Collaborative High School, one of four high schools within the school, was stabbed, prompting a response from the 52nd Precinct commanding officer who vowed to keep students and staff there safe.

## Politics

Councilman Andrew Cohen's political ambitions had triggered all sorts of stories in 2019, with the 11th Council District legislator considering a judgeship while also flirting with the idea of running for Borough President. The prospect of a judgeship set the wheels in motion for a potential special election, which never came to pass after the Bronx Democratic Party's judicial convention did not materialize a judicious spot for Cohen.

This put the political ambitions of Eric Dinowitz and Daniel Padernacht in the backburner, as each were jockeying to replace Cohen. Another candidate, Dionel Then is also running. All three will now have to wait until 2021 when Cohen's term in office is up.

From a citywide level, all eyes have been engrossed in the race for the 15th Congressional District in the South Bronx, where a large number of candidates look to succeed 15-term Congressman Jose Serrano, who announced he will not be seeking re-election in

March. The candidates are decidedly diverse, going from political novices to full-fledged politicians. Among the candidates are community organizers Samelys Lopez, Frangell Basora, and Jonathan Ortiz. Other candidates include Councilman Ritchie Torres, Councilman Ruben Diaz Jr., and Assemblyman Michael Blake, who have been considered the front-runners to the race. The congressional primary is slated for June 23, 2020. Whoever wins will likely secure the seat as long as Serrano.

## Kingsbridge Armory

Very little can be said about the Kingsbridge National Ice Center project, which for the last few years has had its completion deadline extended largely because the owner, Kevin Parker, hasn't raised enough capital to



File photo

**THE KINGSBRIDGE ARMORY** (pictured) still remains vacant, six years from the time the New York City Council voted to approve an ice center project. The founder of the project, Kevin Parker, promises action in 2020.

get the project going despite a \$138 million loan commitment from the state.

In an interview with the *Norwood News* in July, Parker signaled that the project will indeed advance, with the final terms of a construction loan hammered out. "I'm very confident we're gonna get there, it's just not a straight line, nothing ever is in life," he said.

It's one of those wait-and-see instances we'll just have to keep monitoring.

## Bx. Opioid Crisis

Though New York City officials touted a decreased number of opioid-related overdoses, those successes failed to reach the Bronx. Statistics released in July by the city Department of Health showed an increased number of overdose deaths in 2018, with 391, compared to 359 reported overdoses in 2017. The Bronx was sadly the number one borough when it came to opioid deaths. Statistics on opioid-related overdoses for 2019 have not yet been released.

Finding solutions hasn't happened overnight. In one section of Kingsbridge Heights, an overpass dubbed "The Tunnel" shows the problem of opioid in plain sight, with needles strewn about the area and at least one person confirming that drug use is prevalent there. The 52nd Precinct has acknowledged that area to be problematic, with Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps telling residents at a November meeting of the Bedford Moshulu Community Association that the users are "service-resistant."

Perhaps 2020 will signal the year the tide will turn on overdose deaths in the Bronx.



# INQUIRING PHOTOGRAPHER

By DAVID GREENE



This week we asked readers their plans for this New Year's Eve (just passed), their reflections on the previous decade beginning in 2010, and predictions for the coming year or decade.



I'm looking forward to New Year's Eve, because it's the end of the old and the start of the new. It was a so-so decade—half good and half bad. I thought this past year wasn't too good. Hopefully, next year will be better than it was this year.

**Joseph Livorsi**  
Kingsbridge



My [wishes] for the New Year are for changes in people to believe in God, because the poor people need help. The past decade has been about war, collecting oil, and the rich. The poor have been forgotten about. The world needs people to love and care and to help each other. Next year will be impeachment for Trump, thank-you Jesus!

**Silvia Rivera**  
Norwood



My last 10 years in the Bronx has been really (expletive) up. I was around for 9/11; I remember that when the terrorists came to New York City ... we all came together. The Bronx is real healthy with new buildings and establishments created over the last decade. This year I will go to Times Square to see the ball drop for a couple of hours and get stuck in traffic. The decade ahead? We might be in outer space or something, I don't know.

**Manny DeNiro**  
Norwood



Our church has seen a lot of transition, especially this year when our pastor of 30 years retired. So with a new pastor, he's continuing the mission and vision of Fordham Methodist Church. We want to reach out more and engage with the community. In the past 10 years, things have really improved in the Bronx. For the coming decade I pray for a more peaceful world, where children can grow up and thrive in peace and harmony.

**Edward Koku**  
Mount Hope



I don't really look at things in terms of time. I just got older; I became a senior [citizen] during the decade and I find out that ... I thought that I was going to live forever, but now I see that's probably not going to happen. I usually just watch the ball drop on TV if I don't fall asleep. I sure hope we get a better president than what we have now; that would be great. Everything is upside down today, definitely.

**Obie Hunt**  
Morrisania



## REGEIS CARE CENTER

A five star facility providing excellent care in the Bronx and Westchester areas



Five Star Quality Rated  
by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

Personalized care - Skilled rehabilitation - Professional staff

3200 Baychester Avenue, Bronx, NY 10475 • T: 718-320-3700 • F: 718-671-2554  
[www.regeiscarecenter.com](http://www.regeiscarecenter.com)



## Fernandez Bill Assessing Suicide Awareness Becomes Law

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Local and state agencies will now be required to explore why suicide rates are higher among groups described as “high risk or underserved,” thanks to a bill that was introduced by Norwood Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez.

The bill was signed into law on Dec. 12 by Gov. Andrew Cuomo after being chartered by Fernandez. As mandated, the state’s Office of Mental Health will submit a written report to the governor, the speaker of the assembly, and temporary president of the senate on “program initiatives developed and implemented to address the needs of high risk minority groups or special populations, including but not limited to Latina and Latino adolescents, veterans, members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.”

In November of 2017 the governor formed The New York State Suicide Prevention Task Force to bring awareness to the increase in deaths by suicide. In 2018, he announced a \$3.5 million pilot program expanding the task force’s mission to re-examine and reframe “how suicide attempts are examined in order to develop individualized prevention strategies.”

Because mental health experts admit to the difficulty of identifying a single cause for rising rates of attempts and deaths by suicide, data collected by ongoing programs and the new law will help lawmakers decide where to best allocate funds.

Nationwide over 47,000 people die by suicide annually. In New York City, the new law will focus on how to help those deemed most vulnerable, namely, the six percent of adults expressing emotional distress, the 30 percent of public high school students experiencing depression, and the recent growing number of young Latinas and LGBTQ members attempting suicide.

On Twitter, Fernandez described her bill’s passing as “a great honor,” noting the measure “deals with the mental health issues that have stymied our communities. By finding what steps are taken to address these issues in high risk demographics, we can better help those in need.”



Photo by José A. Giralt

**THE SOUTHERN TERMINUS** of the Bx34 bus route located on Valentine Avenue and East Fordham Road in Fordham on Dec. 29, 2019. The MTA has proposed moving the terminus one-third of a mile east to Fordham Plaza where the bus will be re-routed along the Webster Avenue corridor.

## Petition Drive Looks to Reverse Planned Bus Reroute Plan

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

Facing the possible loss of the Bx34 bus route northbound on Bainbridge Avenue and southbound on Valentine Avenue, local residents are making known their disapproval of the change.

Under a massive citywide restructuring plan of public transportation put forth by the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) known as “Fast Forward: The Plan to Modernize New York City Transit,” commuters in Norwood and Bedford Park will have to walk anywhere from three to five additional blocks to ride the Bx34.

Under the new plan, the Bx34 bus will travel on Webster Avenue from East 204th Street to Fordham Plaza.

At a recent meeting of the Bedford Moshulu Community Association (BMCA), Barbara Stronczer, president, heard complaints from residents and offered some ray of hope to save the current bus route.

“They [MTA officials] claim they are open to suggestions,” Stronczer said. “Google ‘Bronx Bus Redesign’ and they give you a place where you can comment on the changes. Men-

tion that the [Bx34] bus needs to be able to go down Valentine Avenue to Fordham Road,” Stronczer added.

Local elected officials are aware of the growing number of complaints and are encouraging residents to make their voices heard by calling their offices. Representatives from the offices of Council Members Andrew Cohen and Ritchie Torres are urging residents to call and register their complaints with the officials. Calls to 311 are also being encouraged. As Joseph McManus, a representative from Torres’s office, said, “The numbers drive the action. When people come out, we get heard.”

The strategy from elected officials is to have documentation of how the bus route redesign will negatively impact the ridership that depends on the current route.

Assemblyman Jose Rivera’s office has recommended gathering a petition with signatures to send to the MTA. Stronczer has attended meetings of Community Board 7 (CB7) and the 52nd Precinct Community Council collecting signatures.

Whether it is comments through the MTA website, calls to elected offi-

cials, or signatures on a petition, bus riders who depend on the Bx34 are making known their displeasure at changes to the current route.

Marybell Ruiz regularly rides the Bx34 and does not see any reason to change the routing. Ruiz lives in Bedford Park and sees the hilly landscape between Webster and Valentine avenues as a hardship for many. “[Walking] all the hills between Webster and Bainbridge [avenues] will impact me and I know some people [on the Bx34] can’t do it,” Ruiz says.

Ruiz also wonders about the riders she sees along Bainbridge taking the bus to Montefiore and North Central hospitals and how they will cope with the changes. “The service [route] is very good as it is and they shouldn’t change it,” Ruiz adds.

But the changes aren’t set in stone. More input is being sought as the clock ticks toward mid-2020 when the new bus routes are expected to take effect. For now, commuters are encouraged to make their voices heard by heading to the MTA website.

**Editor’s Note:** Comments on the MTA’s plan can be submitted online by going to <https://bit.ly/2Zz86E3>.



# The 5-2 and Community Members Look Towards a Safer 2020

By JOSÉ A. GIRALT

As 2020 begins, Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct, is hopeful it will start with a downward trend in crime. “We’re having a great 28-day period. We’re down 35 index crimes which is quite a lot in a period,” Alps said at the last 52nd Precinct Community Council meeting of 2019.

Two crime categories experiencing significant drops, according to Alps, are burglaries and car break-ins. Although these recent drops are promising, the command was slightly up for the year 2019 in index crimes compared to 2018.

Crimes by juveniles have become of special concern to Alps and other community members. Stabbings that originated at DeWitt Clinton Campus (DWCC), a recent shooting across the street from Walton High School, and the national attention that the murder of a Barnard College student allegedly by several teens in Harlem, have produced an outcry for more police protection.



Photo by José A. Giralt

Local activist Sirio Guerino applauded the response of the 52nd Precinct in regard to the recent

(L-R) DEPUTY INSPECTOR Thomas Alps, commanding officer of the 52nd Precinct; Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council; and Police Officer Crystal Reveron, of the Community Affairs Unit, receive awards recognizing their public service at the December meeting of the 52nd Precinct Community Council Meeting held at North Central Bronx Hospital on Dec. 19.

## Van Nest Assembly of God

**VAN NEST ASSEMBLY OF GOD**  
755 Rhineland Avenue  
Bronx, NY 10462  
Corner of Holland  
2 blocks from White Plains Road

### SERVICE TIMES

**SUNDAY:**  
8:30am Morning Service  
10:00am Morning Service  
11:30am Morning Service  
4:00pm Afternoon Service

**SUNDAY NIGHT:**  
7:00pm Evening Service

**TUESDAY:**  
12:00pm Prayer Meeting

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT:**  
7:30pm Prayer Meeting

**FRIDAY NIGHT:**  
8:00pm Family Night  
(Groups for all ages)  
11:00pm Prayer Meeting

...plus special services for high holy days — and other celebrations.

**MANY KINDS OF GROUPS AND MINISTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

### MINISTRIES

- Children
- Youth Group
- Young Adult Ministries
- Adult Ministries
- Outreach
- NY District School of Ministry
- Berean School Of The Bible
- Vacation Bible School
- Music Ministry

A HOUSE OF PRAYER FOR ALL NATIONS • A CARING CONGREGATION

WHERE WILL YOU BE ON SUNDAY...AND OTHER WORSHIP DAYS?

**WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY!**

PRAYER-FILLED, PRAYER GUIDED • SPECIAL MINISTRIES FOR ALL AGES  
A VIBRANT, SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITY!

A multi-cultural, multi-generational evangelistic church with five services every Sunday, and various ministry programs and activities throughout the week. Several churches have been planted in the Bronx from Van Nest, including the African Assemblies of God Fellowship, which is now a network of African AG churches throughout the USA.

Rev. David Hernquist, Pastor

T. 718-824-4067 • F. 718-904-8193 • davidhernquist@aol.com

Rev. Rosemarie Brown, Assistant Pastor • Jesus Goyco, Youth Pastor

**www.vannestassembly.org**

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

Van Nest Assembly of God is a body of Believers empowered by the Holy Spirit, called to worship God in Spirit and Truth, to walk in the light of the Word of God in all aspects of life, and to be witnesses of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ, through word and deed, to the ends of the earth.

The Holy Spirit has clearly shown us that we are called to be a church led not by a program or a personality, but by the presence of the Lord. This is really why God's hand of blessing and increase has been upon us all these years. As we look to the future, we know that His presence will lead us in a continuous increase of souls and expansion of facilities; for our true desire is to glorify Jesus Christ.

violence at DWCC. Guerino has asked for a more intense police presence around the Clinton campus. He was promised three sector cars to patrol around the campus.

“I like [Alps'] math,” Guerino said. “When I was there [at Clinton on Monday, Dec. 16], there were more than seven [NYPD] cars floating around. He said three but I counted over seven.”

Alps says he is prioritizing the safety of these youngsters. “We’re putting a lot of resources and support around these schools to keep these kids safe,” Alps said.

Still, Alps and others admit that more is needed than just adding patrol cars around schools to ensure school kids’ safety. Parents can play a role too, Alps noted.

Of the seven major crimes reported in 2019, murders and rapes increased 14.3 percent each, while robbery, grand theft auto, and felony assaults also increased from Jan. 1 to Dec. 15, 2019, according to publicly available CompStat statistics.

“We’re putting a lot of resources and support around these schools to keep these kids safe.”

—Deputy Inspector  
**Thomas Alps**  
52nd Precinct  
Commanding Officer

Responding to television coverage on teen violence, Brenda Caldwell-Paris, president of the 52nd Precinct Community Council, says it should concern her fellow residents. “When these things [violent acts] go on and you hear it on the TV, it stops you emotion[ally]. You just freeze ... to see if it’s your precinct.”

# Register Now! MMCC Winter Programs for Children & Adults!

**Hurry - Classes begin Saturday, January 11**



Performing Arts • Technology • Academic Enrichment • Creative Arts • Sports & Recreation • Taekwon-Do



Mosholu Day Camp • Swimming at Fordham • Child Care • Afterschool Program/Discovery Club

**To REGISTER or for more Info and a FREE Brochure,  
CALL (718) 882-4000, ext. 0 or VISIT MMCC.ORG today!**



Building  
communities  
one life  
at a time

**Register now online or in person at MMCC.  
8 Saturdays: 1/11, 1/18, 1/25, 2/1, 2/8, 2/22, 2/29, 3/7**

**Register for 4 classes & get the 5<sup>th</sup> at 50% Off!**

**Register for Full Day (9am-5pm) for Selected Classes - \$700  
- includes counselor supervision**

*\*Registration requires a one-time \$20 Insurance fee per child.*



# Sholem Aleichem Makes Plea for Costly Roof Replacement Funds

By DAVID CRUZ

Whenever rain trickles into the Sholem Aleichem Cultural Center in Norwood, the blame is squarely put on the one-story building's aging roof. It's been the case for the last few years.

Repairs would certainly follow, but David Braun, co-president of the center who teaches Yiddish language at Columbia University, acknowledged it was simply patchwork. A full replacement project is now in order for the small center at 3301 Bainbridge Ave. near East 208th Street, and raising the funds can't be done alone.

The nearly 71-year-old nonprofit center, which houses its institution's archives dating back to the 1930s, is now engaged in a months-long fundraising effort to replace its roof, seeking \$70,000 in donations. It's spread its plea for donations through its worldwide network of supporters and a GoFundMe page it created in early December. So far it's raised more than \$11,000.

"The cost of a new roof will bankrupt our organization and put an end to our vital Yiddish programming," reads the post on the page.

Braun had done the math: replacing the roof, though costlier on the front



Photo by David Cruz

**THE SOLEM ALEICHEM** Cultural Center (pictured) at 3301 Bainbridge Ave., the only center in New York City studying and celebrating Yiddish Culture, is in need of funds to replace its worn out roof.

end, would easily be more cost-effective on the back end. "We realized that we could continue patching at a much lower cost, but if you keep patching every year and the price goes up, the area in the amount of patching that you have to do goes up. So, one year it's \$3,000, the next year is \$5,000, next year is \$7,000, and that's manageable for a budget, but you've done that every year or every

other year you've essentially paid for a new roof and you might as well get a new roof," said Braun, in a phone interview with the *Norwood News*.

The center, which began as an afterschool program (or shul) at a time when Jewish residents were dominant in Norwood (known then as Bainbridgivka), devotes itself to nurturing Yiddish culture through weekly discus-

sions, monthly lectures, and theater performances centered around Yiddish culture. Its annual concert dubbed Klezfest, honors Yiddish culture through music and song. It was established in 1931 when it was headquartered at a building that's now home to the Mary Tierra restaurant catty cornered to its current location.

Proponents of Yiddish culture emerged from the center, including the late Beyle Schaechter-Gottesman, the preeminent leader in Yiddish Culture. Her son, Itzik Gottesman, serves as co-president. Other notable figures espousing Yiddish culture included social linguist Dr. Joshua Fishman, his wife Gela, and Schaechter-Gottesman's brother Mordthe, a renowned Yiddish professor and linguist at Columbia University.

Though its clientele had largely been from Norwood, its current members mostly live outside it, residing close to the Amalgamated Houses in Van Cortlandt Village or outside the borough entirely.

Braun hopes to reach this goal within the next few months. "It's time to bite the bullet and get a new roof," he said.

## AposTherapy®

### KNEE OR LOWER BACK PAIN?

If you have **Healthfirst** insurance you may be covered by your insurance company for AposTherapy® treatment



#### What is AposTherapy®?

- A personalized FDA-cleared treatment
- A potential alternative to surgery
- AposTherapy® retrains your muscles as you walk, **teaching your body to adopt a healthy, comfortable walking style** – even when not wearing the device



CALL US TODAY **917-924-9236**

or

Visit our website to learn more about AposTherapy® and schedule a free consultation call at a time convenient for you

**www.apostherapy.com**

**APOSTHERAPY®  
PROVIDERS  
IN THE BRONX:**

**Therodynamics Physical  
& Occupational Therapy**  
280 W 231st St., Bronx,  
New York, NY 10463

(718) 514-6120

**New York Spine &  
Sport Rehabilitation Medicine**  
4256 Bronx Blvd, Medical Arts  
Pavilion, Bronx, NY 10466

(718) 794-0600

**Wilson Orthopedics**  
75 East Gun Hill Rd.,  
Bronx, New York,  
NY 10467

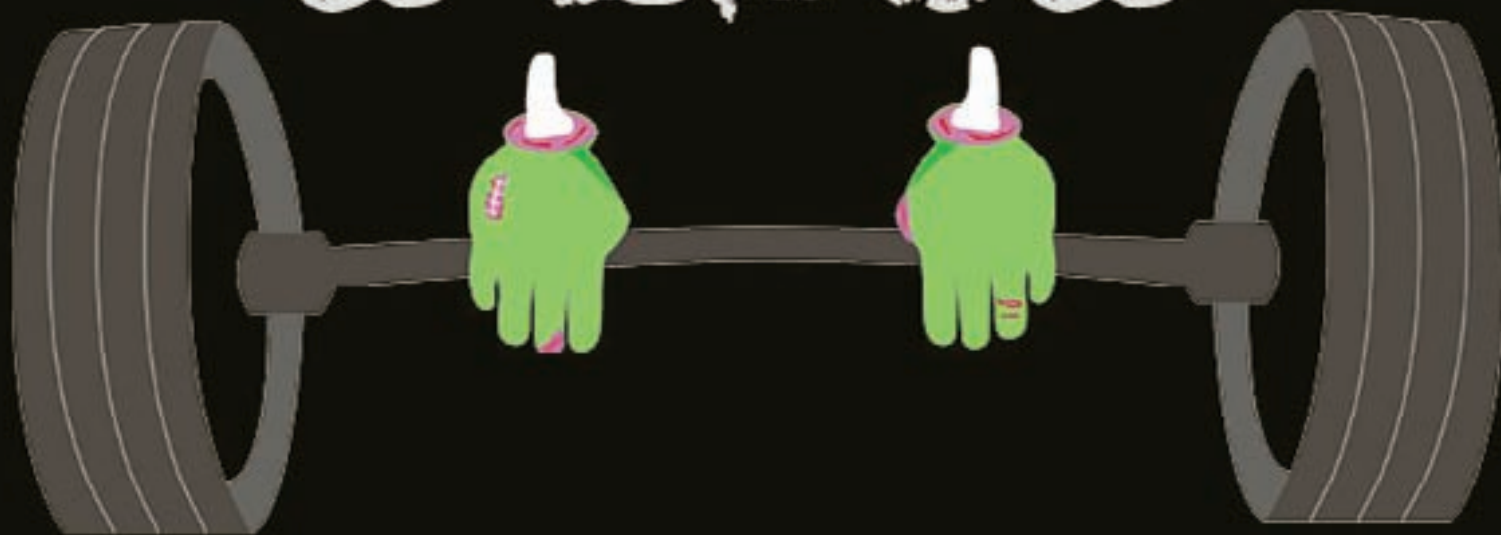
(718) 798-1000

**Montefiore - The Bronx**  
3444 Kossuth Ave. Moses Campus  
Rehab Dept. Ground Floor, Bronx,  
New York, NY 10467

(347) 899-0946



MAY ALL YOUR LIFTS BE  
**DEAD**



**Check us out with this  
7-Day Guest Pass and a  
CrunchOne Kickoff - valued  
at \$150!**

Stop by the club for more information

Group Fitness Classes • Advanced HIIT Classes • Personal Training • **#NOJUDGMENTS**

3170 WEBSTER AVE • BRONX, NY • 718.509.6361 • [CRUNCHNORWOOD.COM](http://CRUNCHNORWOOD.COM)



# Apply for a 14-Week PAID INTERNSHIP!

Register Now - Program begins Feb 2020!



**OPPORTUNITY YOUTH** is a 14-week **PAID INTERNSHIP** program for young adults **ages 18-24**, who are not enrolled in school and not employed. During the 14 weeks you'll be receiving **job readiness training**, taking part in various **workshops**, and attending **HSE prep class** to get your **High School Equivalency diploma**, if needed.

You **must** reside in zip codes: 10458, 10463, 10467, 10468 or 10471!

**For more information:**  
**CALL (718) 652-0282 today!**



Educational Counseling Center  
Mosholu Montefiore Community Center  
3512 Dekalb Avenue, Bronx, New York 10467  
718-652-0282 | [www.mmcc.org](http://www.mmcc.org)



## More Subway Elevators Promised for Bronx Stations, Joining Mosholu Parkway

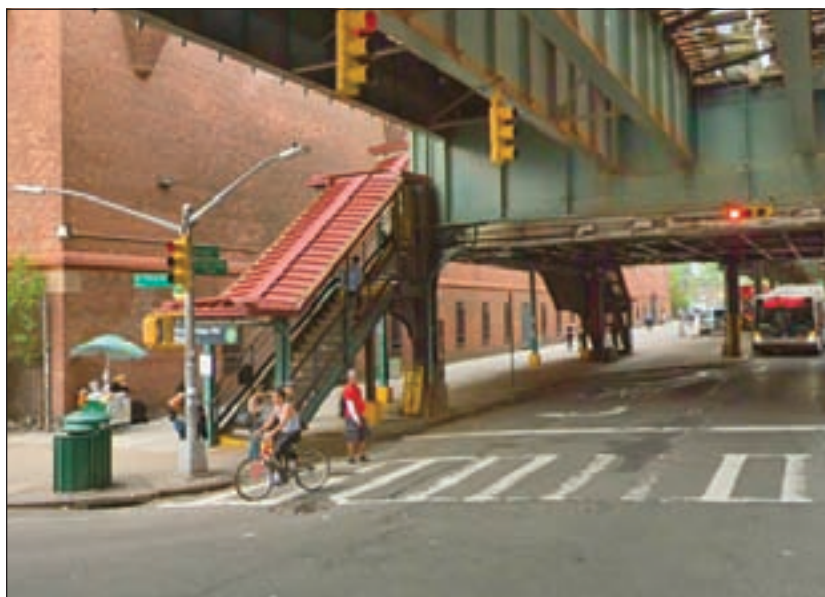


Image courtesy Google Maps

**THE KINGSBRIDGE ROAD** #4 subway station (pictured) is now expected to receive an elevator, part of a massive plan to make the subway system more wheelchair accessible.

By **DAVID CRUZ**

Following years of requests from Bronxites, the MTA is now committed to installing three more elevators along the #4 and B/D lines, complementing an already announced project slated for the #4 line's Mosholu Parkway station in Norwood.

The MTA announced that the Kingsbridge Road and Burnside Avenue stations on the #4 line are expected to receive the elevators. The Tremont Avenue station on the B/D line will also get a station. The Burnside Avenue and Tremont Avenue stations fall within or near the rezoned blocks of Jerome Avenue, the largest rezoning the Bronx has seen.

The news builds on the number of stations slated to receive the wheelchair-accessible equipment, which originally had been set to 48. On Dec. 19, MTA New York City Transit president Andy Byford announced that 20 more stations would be added to the list, totaling 68 stations that will receive an elevator. Currently, less than a quarter of the 472 subway stations in the system is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The projects have been included in the 2020-2024 capital budget.

"We are very serious about the subways being accessible to as many people as possible, which is why accessibility is a top priority for me since day one," said Byford. "Investing in accessibility at 70 subway stations will open up significant portions of the subway

map for people who rely on elevators or ramps for access to the system."

Mosholu Parkway is among the stations on the #4 line slated to receive an elevator, following advocacy efforts by lawmakers and community stakeholders, which included petitioning that lasted for several months. There is no timeline on when the Mosholu Parkway project will begin or how long the design and construction process will take. Currently, the Bedford Park Boulevard B/D subway line has the installation of an elevator currently under construction, joining the Kingsbridge Road B/D subway line that saw an elevator installed three years before.

The news of a more wheelchair accessible #4 line for commuters was welcoming for Councilman Fernando Cabrera, whose district will reap the benefits of the new elevators.

"For far too long, I've watched elderly people, disabled people, and parents with children, packages and babies in strollers and carriages struggling to navigate the subway steps, at risk for falls and injuries," said Cabrera in a statement.

He added, "This community has been asking for years to make these stations accessible to everyone, since we are a largely transit-dependent community. The new elevators will help prevent injuries to people of all ages and abilities and make daily life easier. We have achieved a major victory for transportation equity today."

**GOLDEN GLOW**  
**Cookie**  
COMPANY  
SINCE 1984  
COOKIES, CAKES, PASTRIES

[www.GoldenGlowCookies.com](http://www.GoldenGlowCookies.com)  
1844 Given Ave. Bronx 10469  
718-379-6223

**Cakes & Pastry**  
GLUTEN FREE COOKIES AND CAKES  
SUGAR FREE CAKES AND COOKIES  
CHEESECAKES  
CUSTOM BIRTHDAY CAKES  
MINIATURE PASTRY

**Cookies**  
OVER 10 VARIETIES OF  
GOURMET COOKIES  
STARTING AT JUST  
\$6.50/LB





*FREE\**

# Transportation

## For your medical appointment Through your insurance

*\*Ask your medical insurance for  
AGAPE to be your preferred transportation provider*



**(718) 585-2222**

**361 E. Gun Hill Rd. Bronx, NY. 10467**

560 Southern Blvd. Bronx, NY 10455

Info@agapetransportation.com

www.Agapetransportation.com





# Tracey Towers Residents Wonder How Their Building Became “Little Ghana”

By DAVID CRUZ

Tracey Towers is known for its robust representation of Ghanaian Americans new to the country or second or third generation. And their ample presence—complete with their own tenants association and yearly events highlighting the colorful culture of the West African country—has earned it a cute name among residents: “Little Ghana.”

The fun fact has extended beyond the looming towers and to published works, where one book, *African & American: West Africans in Post-Civil Rights America*, mentions Tracey Towers as being home to “literally hundreds of Ghanaians and became the basis for the development of the most recognizable physical enclave of this West African group in New York.”

But murmurs among longtime residents persist: how did one complex house hundreds of Ghanaians?

For Sallie Caldwell, a 40-year tenant and active member of the Bedford Park/Norwood community, the coincidence is too much. The answers lie roughly 20 years ago after a block of units had been made available. A roomy apartment in Tracey Towers—one of the oldest Mitchell-Lama buildings for middle-class earners—was highly sought after. Residents wishing to secure an apartment would be placed on a waiting list.

For Caldwell, it seemed too much of a coincidence when she saw a line of prospective tenants, mostly from Ghana, waiting outside the management office. In her estimate,

the tenants received help from some kind of fixer to handle management.

“They paid off—we don’t know what kind of money—but they paid off somebody here because they had blocked all those empty apartments that were supposed to be going to somebody else,” Caldwell told the *Norwood News*.

Non-Ghanaian residents who were placed on the list suddenly had their deposits refunded, losing their place on the waiting list, said Caldwell.

Caldwell even pulled some of her friends over to confirm the long-running suspicion, drawing nods, wide eyes, and the rubbing of fingers that gesture the possibility that someone from management had been paid off.

“What they did was once one family came, then they sent for members of their family to stay in their apartments. And they had two or three families in the same apartment,” alleged another tenant who asked not to be named for fear of becoming a target, backed up Caldwell’s belief. The tenant also recalled a moment when a resident came demanding an appliance at one of the units only for management to find the tenant was not on the lease.

Tracey Towers is one of the oldest buildings falling under the Mitchell-Lama housing subsidy program intended for middle-class earners.

Hard proof on whether something nefarious at play takes a backseat over just an inkling.

“If a lot of us who is intelligent, and know right from



Photo by David Cruz

**TRACEY TOWERS (PICTURED)**, a Mitchell-Lama complex, opened in 1972.

wrong, if we all seen it, there’s got to be some truth behind it,” said Caldwell.

While the New York City Department of Housing Preservation and Development, which holds oversight of this Mitchell-

Lama property, did not respond for a comment to this story, representatives for RY Management did, chronicling the level of HPD-mandated redundancies and safeguards that it abides by to ensure a fair process and no doctoring of its handwritten waiting lists. Each applicant is also given a reference number in sequential order. That number stays with them throughout the time they’re on the list, and is given to them via typewritten letter sent to their current address.

On why there’s a large cluster of Ghanaians in two towers, Daniel Durante, property manager for RY Management, explained that the phenomenon comes down to persistence and word of mouth. That and a flood of applications from Ghanaian natives, exploiting RY Management’s policy of not closing the categorized waiting list.

“One of the biggest marketing tools that you have are the people living in your building,” said Durante. “The list starts to populate with whatever demographic that would be. Now, all of a sudden, you got a lot of Ghanaian people saying, ‘Let me get

an application...’ If the next 500 applications I got were Ghanaian you’re gonna have 500 people on the waiting list.”

The persistence comes in Ghanaians waiting several years for an open apartment. Should a prospective renter be offered the chance to obtain an apartment, verification they are indeed the right applicant is cross-referenced with prior letters featuring their reference number they’ve received acknowledging their placement. The paperwork also includes the entire page on the waiting list detailing their placement as a check on their actual placement is photocopied and sent to HPD. With layers of verification, Durante told the *Norwood News* it’s impossible for forgery to take place.

“The only way to do that is to take a block of people and remove them,” said Durante, adding, pretty soon the follow-up phone calls will arrive with applicants wondering what happened to their application and \$100 application [deposit] fee.

Applicants, can of course, reject the offer altogether or dispute a rejection.

If a prospective renter is called twice for an apartment offer, but does not respond, that application is instantly terminated. During the course of waiting, it’s the applicant’s responsibility to alert management of any changes that could impact their application, which could include an address change. Apparently, with so many years passing, that became the case. It just so happened that Ghanaians seized on those moments.

“If you’re next on a list, I don’t care what color you are, where you were born, where you’re from. If your name is there, you’re getting called,” said Durante.

Talk of a large Ghanaian community at Tracey Towers is known all the way on the other side of the world, according to Durante.

“If you go to Ghana, and you go into the airport, there are advertisements there for Tracey Towers,” said Durante. He recalled a time when he introduced himself to his pastor, who had lived in Ghana, letting him know about the large Ghanaian community at two Bronx buildings without mentioning Tracey Towers. Durante was stunned to learn his pastor knew he was referring to Tracey Towers. “I was like, ‘How do you know Tracey Towers?’ He said, ‘Danny, if you are from Ghana, you know Tracey Towers.’”



**PEOPLES PHARMACY**  
And Food Mart

**3176 Bainbridge Ave., Bronx, NY 10467**  
**Ph: 347-346-7600**  
**Fax: 347-346-7599**  
**peoples3176@gmail.com**

**E-Prescription • Specialty • Surgical Supply**

**\$5 off**  
Any purchase of \$20 or more

Original Coupon must be relinquished at the time of purchase. Coupon is void if copied, transferred and where prohibited by law. This coupon excludes alcohol, gift cards, lottery, money orders, prescriptions, postage stamps, pre-paid cards and tobacco products. Tax changed on pre-coupon price where required. Coupon cannot be combined with any other Peoples Pharmacy coupon.

**\$20 off**  
Any purchase of \$100 or more

Original Coupon must be relinquished at the time of purchase. Coupon is void if copied, transferred and where prohibited by law. This coupon excludes alcohol, gift cards, lottery, money orders, prescriptions, postage stamps, pre-paid cards and tobacco products. Tax changed on pre-coupon price where required. Coupon cannot be combined with any other Peoples Pharmacy coupon.

- Fast and Friendly Service
- Compounding
- HIV Consulting
- Free Patient Counseling
- Free Medication Review And Consultation
- Free Delivery
- Free Blood Pressure & Sugar Checkup
- 10% Senior Discount



**Specialty & Surgicals**



**Walk In Any Time**



**GRATIS Rx De Recogida Y Entrega**



**Medicare Aceptado**



**Copias, Fax, Sellos, Tarjetas Metro**



**Adheren A La Medicacion Programa**

**FLU, PNEUMONIA and SHINGLE SHOTS**  
We Accept Most Insurance Including CVS Cardmark, Medicaid, Medicare, Workers Compensation and All Union Plans



# REACH 40,000

Potential Customers In The Bronx

# INCREASE SALES

When Advertising In The Award Winning

# NORWOOD NEWS

The ONLY Newspaper Covering The Stories That  
Concern You In YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Prices for all sizes  
have been **DRASTICALLY**  
reduced by **30%**

It's for a limited time only. Inquire  
about our free creative setup.

Call Janet Geller  
**646-581-0399**

[jgeller@norwoodnews.org](mailto:jgeller@norwoodnews.org)



# BRONX DECADE

By **MARTIKA ORNELLA and DAVID CRUZ**

The Bronx witnessed so much transformative change we'd be remiss not to mention how the borough fared this past decade. The paper pored over the last 10 years to recap some of the more high-profile stories that have left a lasting impact on the Bronx.

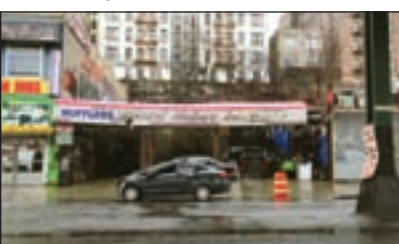
## Development

Within the last 10 years the Bronx has seen an enumerable population growth, coinciding with a historic development boom with lingering questions on housing security and affordability. Between 2010 and 2017, the Bronx became the fastest growing county in New York State, with over 86,000 new residents, bringing the estimated population to around 1.5 million (the 2020 U.S. Census Count is expected to verify those figures). Growing residential and commercial interest in the Bronx marked a decade of controversial rezoning efforts, with the Webster Avenue Rezoning that was approved in 2011 by the New York City Council. The rezoning, drafted in coordination with Community Board 7, made room for retail development along



File photo by Adi Talwar

**THE 2011 REZONING** of Webster Avenue cleared the way for retail and residential housing over many auto body shops like this one at 2772 Webster Ave., which still exists today.



File photo by David Cruz

**THE JEROME AVENUE SAW** the largest rezoning in borough history in 2018, threatening the viability of auto body shops like this one at 1707 Jerome Ave.



**FILE PHOTO BY** Adi Talwar  
**THE BEDFORD PARK MANOR**, seen here under construction in September 2014, represented the first such residential housing following the 2011 rezoning of Webster Avenue. The property was completed in April 2015.

Webster Avenue. The rezoning has since drawn even greater interest to Norwood and Bedford Park, with developers tearing down homes to build taller residences. Concerns over whether the existing infrastructure can handle an impending population boom in the neighborhoods continue to linger into 2020.

Perhaps the biggest controversy happened at the tip of Community Board 7, with the massive Jerome Avenue Rezoning Plan, which spurred months of pushback from residents and housing activists who feared displacement in the revitalizing borough. In 2018, City Council approved the rezoning of a 92-block stretch of Jerome Avenue from 165th to 183rd streets, much to the chagrin of housing activists who believed that despite concessions made in the plan to protect local auto body shops and existing affordable housing, the rezoning would ultimately instigate the displacement of low-income residents. The rezoned area would span from Highbridge to University Heights, impacting Bronx neighborhoods represented by Community Boards 4, 5, and 7. *The Norwood News* has covered the Jerome Avenue Rezoning process since its 2015 proposal, the plan's approval by the City Council's Land Use Committee on March 6, 2018, to the now precipitative effects of its ratification.

The Jerome Avenue Rezoning arrived on the heels of a citywide effort by the De Blasio administration that since 2014 saw contentious rezoning efforts in Far Rockaway, East New York, and East Harlem. The proclaimed impetus, according to the city, is in preserving and developing affordable housing amid rapid population growth. Much of the pushback to the plan came from housing and anti-gentrification activists who argued that the city's rezoning efforts were unfairly focused in Black and Hispanic neighborhoods. Along the Jerome Avenue strip fated for rezoning, the average annual income is \$24,000, less than half the city's income average. And with much of the city's affordability measures recognizing citywide income averages rather than neighborhood-specific data, the Bronx's vexed rezoning debate will likely spill into the next decade.

Slated next for rezoning, a stretch of the Bronx's Southern Boulevard from Crotona Park East and Charlotte Gardens, south to Hunts Point. This year, the city Department of City Planning (DCP) continued community engagement efforts as it develops its preemptive neighborhood

study ahead of an official rezoning plan.

With so many rezoning plans happening in low-income neighborhoods, lawmakers are now mulling the possibility of a racial impact study to determine whether any proposed rezoning plans will have a detrimental impact on the predominant racial demographics of a given area.

## Kingsbridge Armory



File photo

**BRONX BOROUGH PRESIDENT** Ruben Diaz Jr. (at mic) at the announcement in April 2013 unveiling that the Kingsbridge National Ice Center would be housed in the Kingsbridge Armory. Former Mayor Michael Bloomberg is at Diaz's right.

For the Kingsbridge Armory, the decade began with the defeat of a proposition to convert the historic armory into a retail shopping mall. In 2010, a City Council vote, led by Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., rejected development plans by real estate giant Related Companies, following the latter's refusal to guarantee a \$10 hourly wage for future mall employees. Following the no-vote, Diaz and District 14 Council Member Fernando Cabrera, developed the Kingsbridge Armory Task Force, to lead revitalization efforts of the long vacant armory.

Following competing proposals in 2012—one for an indoor market and the other the world's largest ice skating center—community stakeholders backed the latter. A year later, the New York City Council followed suit in supporting the newly-proposed Kingsbridge National Ice Center (KNIC), expected to hold nine ice skating rinks and a 5,000-seat arena inside the landmark armory. In 2016, with funding posing major hurdles for KNIC, New York State stepped in to give a \$138 million loan from New York's Empire State Development Corporation to start the ice center project. As of this year, KNIC has not fi-

nalized a start date for the project, though KNIC's founder, Kevin Parker, promises activity to start in 2020.

## The Ever-Changing Business Landscape

The decade began with merchants along Bainbridge Avenue reeling from the effects of several fires that rocked the largely mom and pop business strip that stretches from East 204th Street and Webster Avenue, with the Bainbridge Bakery, Neighborhood Gift & Wireless, El Diamante restaurant, Hair Shoppe, American Diner, a dental office, a fish market, and Foodtown among those gutted as a result of the fires. The Foodtown supermarket stands as the only impacted business that reopened.

The fire began at the time when McDwyer's Pub and Freilich Jewelers were still in business. Sadly, the two fixtures in Norwood closed down in 2016 and 2017 respectively, largely because interests have shifted some. With the closure of businesses, which included a Chase Bank and Bank of America on the Bainbridge/East 204th Street strip, others have opened, including Crazy Fruits, La Casa De Frida, and People's Pharmacy.

In the last year, the Mosholu Preservation Corporation (publishers of the *Norwood News*) have taken a closer look at the corridor, crafting a Commercial District Needs Assessment to determine what the future could hold for the Norwood strip.

## Crime

The decade saw a decrease in overall crime in the 52nd Precinct, which serves northern Bronx neighborhoods including Norwood, Fordham and Bedford Park. Since 2010, crime on average has dropped 11 percent in the precinct. However, this excludes crimes including rape, felony assault, and grand larceny, which has risen over 20 percent since the start of the decade. In general, crime has continued to decline citywide since 2010, with the Bronx seeing a boroughwide 2.6 percent drop. The only borough to see an increase in overall crime in the last decade is Manhattan.

Since 2010, the Bronx recorded a notable 35 percent decline in homicides, a handful of anomalous incidents throughout the decade sparked public outrage. In 2018, video showed the violent murder of 15-year old Lesandro Junior Guzman-Feliz who was killed by members of the Trini-



File photos of Dowling and Hofmann by Adi Talwar

**THE DECADE SAW** five commanding officers lead the 52nd Precinct, including (l-r) Deputy Inspector John D'Adamo, Inspector Joseph Dowling, Inspector and now Chief Nilda Hofmann, then-Deputy Inspector and now Inspector Peter Fiorillo, and current commanding officer Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps.



# IN REVIEW

tarios gang outside a Belmont bodega. The inexplicably violent nature of Lesandro's death, coupled with the widely-shared graphic footage of the incident, galvanized renewed demands to combat gang violence in the borough. One year later, homicides have dropped in the Bronx from the 90 recorded in 2018, to 80 as of press time in 2019.

And in the 52nd Precinct, the decade saw the departure of then-Deputy Inspector John D'Adamo in 2011 under a cloud of controversy, followed by then-Inspector Joseph Dowling in 2011, then-Deputy Inspector and now Chief Nilda Hofmann in 2013, and then-Deputy Inspector Peter Fiorillo in 2016, who helped implement the Neighborhood Coordination Officer program at the station house, in 2018. Last year, Deputy Inspector Thomas Alps, formerly of the 49th Precinct, became the new and current commanding officer of the precinct.

Among the common denominators for these four commanding officers is the fight against opioid abuse within the precinct that covers Norwood, Bedford Park, Fordham, Kingsbridge Heights, and University Heights. Fordham, in particular, remains a hotbed of drug activity, with one major drug bust happening in 2017, with seven people charged for selling heroin mixed with fentanyl, a powerful painkiller that when touched can be lethal.

## Politics

The decade may have seen some major political shifts throughout the Bronx, but some things remained constant, including Bronx Borough President Ruben Diaz Jr., who now enters his 11th year as the borough's top executive.

Diaz Jr., along with the rest of the Bronx, has witnessed some unexpected changes, namely the rising political and social capital of progressive millennials. In 2011, then-State Sen. Jeff Klein of the 34th Senate District, just touching Bedford Park, formed the controversial Independent Democratic Conference (IDC) with seven other Democratic New York State senators. The IDC caucused separately from the rest of the State Senate—until the faction's dissolution in 2018—an act that many believed handed Republicans a Senate majority for much of the decade.

The IDC was borne out of the dysfunction promulgated by then-State Sen. Pedro Espada, who was serving as Senate Majority Leader after exploiting a leadership crisis. But in January 2010, then-state attorney general Andrew Cuomo launched an investigation into Espada's nonprofit alleging he stole \$14 million in monies intended to go for services. Eighteen months later, a trial concluded in May 2012, where he was found guilty.

Klein was unseated in the September 2018 Democratic primary by progressive challenger Alessandra Biaggi. Two months later, 29-year-old Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez beat 10-term incumbent Joe Crowley to represent New York's 14th Congressional District. Ocasio-Cortez's hard-fought victory sparked national debates on the political potential of a growing voting bloc of young, progressive millennials. Imbued by Ocasio-Cortez and Biaggi's victories, progressive chal-

lengers continue to emerge in the Bronx. In 2020, hardline progressive Samelys Lopez of Mt. Eden will vie for Congressman José Serrano's seat, following his announcement that he will not run for reelection. Socially conservative Councilman Ruben Diaz Sr. has also announced plans to run for Serrano's seat.



File photo by David Cruz

**CURRENT ASSEMBLY SPEAKER** Carl Heastie at an event in February 2015 days before he was confirmed to be the first African American speaker of the New York State Assembly.



**COUNCILMAN OLIVER KOPPELL** (l), who represented Norwood since 2002, was succeeded by current Councilman Andy Cohen (r), seen taking the oath of office in January 2015.

At the start of the decade, Carl Heastie stood as the Chair of the Bronx Democratic Party until stepping down in 2015 after becoming the first Black Speaker of the New York State Assembly in New York State history. Heastie wasn't the only African American to break past the racial ceiling. In 2015, Darcel Clark became the first African American woman to become Bronx District Attorney. Heastie's successor, Marcos Crespo, was voted chair of the Bronx Democratic Party in 2015, continuing a greater level of unity among elected officials in the Bronx.

Meantime, Norwood saw the departure of its Councilman, Oliver Koppell, who had served for 12 years on the Council. Among his last duties as the Council Member was ushering in the re-opening of the Williamsbridge Oval Park Recreation Center in 2013, where renovations had stalled. In November 2013, the majority of voters cast their ballots for current Councilman Andrew Cohen, who helped usher the Participatory Budgeting movement that some of Cohen's council colleagues have embraced. In 2019, after six years, Cohen decided to do away with the program,



File photo by David Cruz

**ASSEMBLYMAN MARCOS CRESPO** is voted as the next chair for the Bronx Democratic Party in March 2015, a position he still holds today.



Cohen file photo courtesy Office of Councilman Andrew Cohen



File photo by Jeanmarie Evelly

**FORMER STATE SEN.** Pedro Espada (l), at a news conference condemning an investigation into his nonprofit in July 2010, was eventually sentenced to five years in federal prison after a jury found he siphoned taxpayer monies intended for his nonprofit.

opting simply for greater community input. Cohen also honored the community's request in seeing the installation of a skateboard park inside Williamsbridge Oval Park, a project that took six years to complete, exploiting the bureaucracy of projects overseen by the

New York City Parks Department.

Though he still has two years left before giving up his seat, Cohen has already considered other moves, including that of a judgeship and even borough president. Those political ambitions have others already having their sights set on succeeding Cohen, including Eric Dinowitz, a district leader and son of Assemblyman Jeff Dinowitz, and Daniel Padernacht, an attorney and former chair of Community Board 8.

Norwood also saw a change in federal representation, with Congressman Charlie Rangel announcing his retirement in 2015, paving the way for a Democratic primary that saw State Sen. Adriano Espaillat become the first Dominican-born congressman for the 13th Congressional District.

## The New York Yankees

The Bronx Bombers spent the decade vying for their 28th ring following their 2009 World Series victory. The 2010s became the second decade, after the 1980s, in which the New York Yankees did not secure a World Series championship. Legendary pitcher Mariano Rivera announced his retirement in 2013, and one year later, iconic shortstop Derek Jeter told fans via Facebook that the 2014 season would be his last.

## In Memoriam

Bronxites living within the coverage area of the *Norwood News* remembered the following notable deaths over the last decade:

**Megan Charlop:** Health advocate killed by a city bus on March 17, 2010 while riding her bike.

**Msgr. Patrick Boyle:** Former pastor at St. Brendan's Church died on Feb. 16, 2011 from an undisclosed illness.

**Ibrahim Gonzalez:** Legendary Bronx artist and teacher died on June 4, 2013 from an undisclosed condition.

**Andrew Sandler:** Former Community Board 7 district manager died on Aug. 5, 2017 after a battle with cancer.

**Mary Vallati:** Community activist in Bedford Park died on Sept. 12, 2017 at age 102.

**Francis "Al" Chapman:** Long-serving president of the Kingsbridge Heights Neighborhood Improvement Association died on Feb. 19, 2017 from an undisclosed illness.

**Stan Lee:** Legendary Marvel Comics writer died on Nov. 12, 2018 from congestive heart failure.

**Penny Marshall:** Hollywood movie director and former Norwood resident died on Dec. 17, 2018 from diabetes at age 75.

**Heidi Hynes:** Community activist and executive director of the Mary Mitchell Center died on Nov. 24, 2019 at age 51 from cancer.



# Andy King Casts Himself the Victim Post Suspension, Appears to Back Theory of Larger Plot

By DAVID CRUZ

Three weeks after returning to official duties as a Council Member after an unprecedented suspension for an elected official, Bronx Councilman Andy King painted himself a victim when the Council voted to suspend him after agreeing he abused his office. King also clarified why he had equated the investigation to a “lynching.”

“They didn’t go after me or my work, they went after my character, and the character that I had built—and that my dad and my mom had put in me over the years. So that’s why I used the

term ‘lynching’ because that’s all that it’s about. It was not anything about the truth; it was about how do we destroy an individual,” King told BronxNet Television host Gary Axelbank in the latest BronxTalk With Gary Axelbank program on Dec. 20. King, wearing a checkered brown and black suit, sat alongside his attorney, Pamela D. Hayes.

In one exchange that veered into theory, King also conveyed supporters’ claims that the 12th Council District legislator may be the victim of a political hit job.

“Some people have come up to me



Screenshot photo courtesy BronxNet Television

**COUNCILMAN ANDY KING** (c) gives his side of the story involving an investigation by the New York City Council that led to his 30-day suspension on BronxTalk With Gary Axelbank on Dec. 20, 2019. He is seated with Axelbank (l) and his attorney Pamela D. Hayes (r).

and said, ‘You know what this is all about?’ ... He said, ‘Hey, it’s about because people want you to run for borough president, so in order to slow you down, because they know that you work hard, you care, and you love, you know, how do you stop a guy who’s like that, so you assassinate his character,’” said King.

Axelbank asked whether King would consider a run. King said if people “want me, I shall.”

Meantime, Hayes announced she’ll continue pursuing a lawsuit against the city on claims of lack of due process, claiming that appointments with the Council’s Standards & Ethics Committee, which had carried out its investigations of King through outside counsel, had been canceled, cross-examinations were barred, and a request for an adjournment so King can attend a back-to-school event he organized on Sept. 13 denied.

“The Black and Latino and Asian Caucus even went to the Speaker’s office and said, ‘can you give Council Member King a 30-day extension? That’s all he’s asking for.’ And they denied it,” said King. “They presented a one-sided case.”

“I would even make a recommendation to the Council moving forward that any time there’s an investigation that there can’t be a decision without talking to a Council Member, and the only way you can come to making a decision if you get a legal signed document from the Council Member saying

that they choose not to participate,” King added. “You can’t make a decision stating someone decided not to participate on your own volition and then go out and make your own decisions.

The case was tossed out by a state judge.

This was King’s first television interview discussing the events that led to his 30-day suspension from the New York City Council after the Ethics Committee substantiated claims he had abused his office by firing staffers who had cooperated with an initial 2017 investigation of King, made anti-gay comments, while allowing his wife, an executive at 1199 SEIU whom he referred to as “the First Lady,” to help manage the office’s daily activities. King denied this, comparing his wife’s actions with the oft practice of elected officials speaking regularly with union leaders on government matters. “My wife doesn’t supervise my staff and doesn’t control my staff,” said King.

King was also accused of using public funds to organize a retreat to the U.S. Virgin Islands in 2017, where his stepdaughter’s wedding, happening the exact same time and place as the retreat, was listed on the retreat’s official itinerary. No elected officials, King said, had attended the wedding.

“It’s disingenuous to say that I used Council funding for a trip and pay for my daughter’s wedding. Real talk—if

(continued on page 21)



## Hakim & Co

### Multiservices

One Stop Solutions For Community Needs



**TAX & Immigration Service**

**Rukon Hakim**  
Tax Preparer  
917-362-2442



**Manna Muntasir**  
Tax Preparer  
929-332-9125

এখান থেকে বাংলাদেশে টাকা পাঠানো হয়

## Money Transfer

**Individual Tax Filing**

- Tax Files
- Real Estate
- Citizenship Application
- Immigration Visa Application
- Green Card Renewal Application
- Passport Application
- Bill Payments
- Notary Public
- Affordable Housing Application
- Medicaid & Medicare Application
- & much more...



**SEND MONEY WORLDWIDE**

**INSTANT CASE PICK-UP**

**Airline Tickets**  
(এয়ার লাইন টিকেট)  
INTERNATIONAL & DOMESTIC FLIGHTS  
বাংলাদেশ সহ বিশ্বের যেকোন স্থানে রাসদার জন্য  
সুপার মূল্যে বিমান টিকেট থেকে আমাদের সেবা দিন

# 718-775-3436

WE ARE OPEN 7 DAYS  
আমরা সাতদিন ৭ দিন ই খোলা

**3156 Bainbridge Ave, Bronx NY 10467**

[www.hakimmultiservices.com](http://www.hakimmultiservices.com)



**ARE YOU A U.S. VETERAN?**

**DO YOU SUFFER FROM  
CLINICAL DEPRESSION?**

You may be eligible to participate in a research study at the James J. Peters VA Medical Center that aims to better understand brain function in health and depression.

You will be reimbursed for your time, up to \$450

**FOR MORE INFO  
CALL DANIEL @  
(718) 584-9000  
EXT. 3635**

This study involves:  
interviews, questionnaires,  
psychophysiological tests,  
and an MRI brain scan.

This is an observational study, not a treatment study. There may be no direct benefit to you. You may receive benefit from clinical evaluation and lab results.

6<sup>th</sup> floor, Room # 6A-44, MIRECC Office, 130 W Kingsbridge Rd, Bronx NY 10468

PI: Dr. Erin Hazlett MIRB#: 01708

Bronx VA Medical Center/IRB Approval/ 6/6/19 to 6/5/20

# Ahead of the Albany Session, Sex Worker Bill Faces Opposition From Bronx Advocate

By **SHA-NIA ALSTON** and  
**DAVID CRUZ**

Monique Ferguson-Riley knows of the dangers of being sex trafficked. As the founder of Freedom Youth LLC, which spreads awareness on sex trafficking in the Bronx, she has been on a mission to call attention to the unintended consequences of legalizing prostitution by the State Legislature.

Ferguson-Riley understands the perils of legalizing such a law, as she's survived from being trafficked into sex when she was younger. According to Ferguson-Riley, if state lawmakers pass the bill it will lead to more peer-to-peer recruitment, where pimps commonly use women to recruit other young women (and sometimes men) to

be prostituted.

"They have girls that are in school settings that have been groomed already. They then recruit friends from the inside; they play on their vulnerabilities. It's if that person is shy, or if that person has any issues—if they have a lack of faith in themselves—they tend to play on that," Ferguson-Riley said of peer-to-peer recruitment.

The bill dubbed the Stop Violence in the Sex Trades Act was introduced in July by state senators Jessica Ramos of Queens and Julia Salazar of Brooklyn, outlining measures that would repeal pimping and penalties for selling and buying sex, which often includes jail time. Though it would legalize sex work, the bill does not protect pimps

who coerce victims, or sexually abuse them. No Bronx legislator has co-sponsored the Senate version of the bill nor the Assembly version.

"Criminalization of sex work kills my community. Criminalization of sex work stains our records so that we cannot access employment otherwise," Cecilia Gentili, a sex worker rights advocate and former sex worker who provided input on the bill package, said at a news conference introducing the set of bills in July.

Should the bill pass, it would open the door for sex workers who had once been convicted of sex work to have that criminal charge expunged.

According to the Bronx District Attorney's office, the majority of the victims are black and Hispanic and under the age of 18. Currently, the Bronx District Attorney's office—through its Human Trafficking Unit—has 29 open investigations, which include allegations of promoting prostitution and trafficking, sex trafficking of child kidnapping, and sexual assault.

Despite the Bronx District Attorney's unit, Ferguson-Riley thinks au-

thorities should rely more on the experience of victims to help draft these laws. "Where I feel the NYPD or the FBI drops the ball sometimes is they don't work enough with those who have been survivors of it. They take to their own tactics," Ferguson-Riley said, suggesting authorities should question where pimps normally hang out, the places girls were taken, and what methods were used for peer-to-peer recruitment. She also suggested the current bill be age-restricted, penalizing anyone age 24 or over who have trafficked young people into the sex trade.

She has even taken it upon herself to start a task force in the Bronx to combat human and sex trafficking and domestic violence, meeting every second Thursday of the month. Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie attended the task force's first meeting. Advocates in the meeting were in disbelief of how rapidly the bill is moving.

Along with Heastie, Ferguson-Riley also met with state Sen. Alessandra Biaggi, who expressed support for the bill.

## NEW HEIGHTS CONSTRUCTION LLC

## HOLIDAY SPECIALS!

### KITCHEN & BATH

Complete Renovation And Remodeling,  
Expert Tile, Granite And Quartz

### SIDING, ROOFING & WINDOWS

Waterproofing, Gutters, Soffit  
& Fascia Repair, and more!

### MASONRY WORK

Concrete Sidewalk Violations • Porches  
Brick and Granite Steps • Paver Stones  
Brick Pointing • Stucco, etc.

### FENCES, DECKS & AWNINGS

Wood Cedar, PVC, Stainless Steel,  
Chain Link, etc.  
Pressure Treated and Composite Decking

### INTERIOR FLOORING & PAINTING

Call Now for FREE Estimates

**John Miller 917-642-0195**

800-525-5102 • 718-767-0044

NEWHEIGHTSCONSTRUCTIONLLC.com

NYC Lic# 1191201



Photo courtesy Freedom Youth LLC Facebook Page

**MONIQUE FERGUSON-RILEY, FOUNDER** of Freedom Youth LLC, hopes state lawmakers reconsider a bill that would legalize sex work.



# Blake Grabs DC37 Backing In Race for 15CD, Home to 9,000 Members

By DAVID CRUZ

In his run for the 15th Congressional District, Assemblyman Michael Blake secured an endorsement from the union representing the city's municipal workforce, immediately turning the support into a fundraising plea.

District Council 37 (DC37), a division of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, represents 9,000 employees in the South Bronx district he looks to run. It's unclear, though, how many of those members are currently registered to vote. Crossing guards, social workers, and accountants, are just some of the jobs that make up DC37.

Henry Garrido, executive director of DC37, said Blake's campaign for a "level playing field" on "affordable health care, quality education, good-paying jobs, and retirement security" matters is what prompted the union's backing.

In a statement, Blake said he's dedicated to being an "ally of labor and pledging to protect unions so they can continue to provide critical services for their constituents."



Photo by David Cruz

**ASSEMBLYMAN MICHAEL BLAKE** (pictured), at an event announcing his run for Congress on May 19, 2019, notched a key endorsement from District Council 37, which represents a third of the unionized workforce in New York City in his run for the 15th Congressional District.

Blake's latest endorsement is the largest the West Bronx legislator has received since he first began

running for the seat that's long been held by Congressman Jose Serrano, who announced in March he'll be

retiring. Other endorsements he's received in the last few months include the Congressional Black Caucus PAC, the Collective PAC, DC9 Painters and the New York City Carpenters.

Serrano's announcement launched a political floodgate, with at least 13 candidates vying for the seat that comprises all of the South Bronx. Other candidates include Council Members Ruben Diaz Sr., Ritchie Torres, and Ydanis Rodriguez, community organizers Jonathan Ortiz and Samelys Lopez, former Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito, and Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. president Marlene Cintron.

Shortly after receiving the nod, Blake sent out an email asking donors for support, a tactic he's used over the last few months. So far, he's raised the second most amount of money for the race, coming a far distance behind Torres. In addition, Torres has received the most endorsements of any candidate so far.

The congressional primary is slated for June 23, 2020.

## St. Patrick's Home Rehabilitation & Health Care Center



### "Where it all began"

- Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care
- Physical, Occupational & Speech Therapy
- Daily Mass in our Chapel
- Restorative Nursing
- Wound Care
- Therapeutic Recreation
- Memory Program
- Palliative Care
- Pastoral Care
- Psychological Services
- Gift Shop & Coffee Shop
- And many other services...



66 Van Cortlandt Park South, Bronx, NY 10463

**Tel: 718-519-2800**

Fax: 718-304-1817

[www.stpatrickshome.org](http://www.stpatrickshome.org)

**Carmelite Sisters Serving the Aged Since 1929**



FACEBOOK.COM/STPATRICKSHOME


**BRONX**  
 CONNECTIONS

**FACES OF GUN**  
 VIOLENCE

Part 5 of 5

*The Norwood News, in partnership with WFUV radio and BronxNet Television, concludes its five-part series on the impact gun violence has had on Bronx neighborhoods and the people who live in them.*

## How Developing Street Smarts Begins at Bronx Schools

By NATALIE MIGLIORE of



David Caba, senior program director of Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (BRAG), sits at his desk at the organization's office in Wakefield. It's the newest office for BRAG, which utilizes a cure violence model adapted from a smaller model first implemented in Chicago.

The cure violence concept approaches violence like a disease in need of a cure. Caba built the program from the ground up, even creating the ubiquitous gray and blue logo while serving as a scout for where BRAG's services are needed.

And in Wakefield—where incidents of gun violence are much more prevalent compared to other parts of the Bronx—the program could very well help stem the tide of gun-related incidents and reverse course for at-risk youth, as it's done in other neighborhoods.

"It's about gun violence, right? So, this was an area that I knew really, really well from both sides of the track," Caba says. "It wasn't that difficult for me to come in and understand what the model was, who the staff had to be, and how to implement this."

BRAG now has three locations and 25 so-called violence interrupters working throughout the community. There are wraparound services to support the work being done in the streets, including a recently developed partnership with the city Department of Education. Schools, particularly intermediate, which serve as a breeding ground for gang recruitment. Caba would know. He was recruited by a gang in middle school.

For Caba, in his current



Image still courtesy BronxNet Television

**DAVID CABA, SENIOR** Program Director for Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence (pictured), is leading a new office in Wakefield that utilizes the cure violence model to handling gun violence.

role, education officials weren't exactly bringing out a welcome mat for BRAG. "I didn't get a whole lot of welcoming [from the schools]. We look like a gang. We speak a certain way, dress a certain way, talk a certain way," he says.

Caba developed a strategy to get the schools and the kids to trust him. When students were dismissed at the end of the day, violence interrupters waited in the schoolyard to mediate any conflicts. Caba says school officials saw the method worked and were convinced in talking with BRAG.

A key player in those talks was Yadira Moncion, a location director at BRAG. She was part of the many meetings to secure a school conflict mediation program, which works with students to improve attendance and academics along with reducing violence. Moncion had to educate the community and schools about the importance of this program because it was a foreign concept.

"At times when you hear school conflict mediation you think we're Superman or have

superpowers. So, it's really educating them about the steps and what we actually do, which is to educate the youth and change that mindset, but taking a different route through academics," says Moncion.

BRAG has worked in three schools --MS363, MS15, and Walton High School-- since 2018. Moncion, has been in the human services field for 15 years, says the school conflict mediator works with students after school and has extended services during the school day. She says kids in the community need someone who they can relate to, and in BRAG's case that someone is Michael Alvarado, BRAG school conflict mediator. He opens up to kids about his earlier years to let them know they can trust him.

"By the age of 18, I was shot, stabbed, got my head cracked open, got my nose broken a few times. And I was actually pronounced dead on the operating table -- twice, from two different incidents," Alvarado says. "So I was a high-risk youth. I wanted to live that street life when in all reality I was a nerd."

Alvarado grew up in the Bronx with a deaf mom and says he had to serve as her translator when they went to doctors' appointments or anywhere that required communicating, which forced him to interpret information quickly. He loved video games and collecting Pokémon cards, but quickly turned to the streets when puberty hit.

"These kids are trying to find themselves, they're trying to figure out their identity. They're also chemically insane because they're going through puberty, and then they have life issues and real circumstantial issues that are going on," Alvarado says. "And there weren't any credible messengers working with these kids who could say, 'Hey, I know what you're going through; I know what it's like to be you and this is how I progressed out of that.'"

Alvarado says it's one thing for someone to tell kids what their issues are, but it's another to work with them through their hardships. Alvarado utilizes group sessions with students to talk with them about their troubles, but also

make them realize the bigger picture.

Students who work with Alvarado tell him he's only there because they're troublemakers. Alvarado consistently countered that belief, arguing that he sees something in them they're yet to see in themselves.

For Alvarado, having a role model like he is now for his younger self, might have helped him realize he was a numbers and statistics guy after all.

Caba, a Bronx native, served as a substance abuse counselor for many years and familiar with Bronx streets. He launched the program in New York by going into the community by himself. As time went on he realized he needed more help from credible messengers who lived in the community.

"The key to getting those individuals or crews to put the guns down, to stop the violence is hiring credible messengers who used to be those individuals from those very same neighborhoods, that are still living there, that are still relevant. Those are the ones they'll listen to," Caba said.



# Andy King Casts Himself The Victim Post Suspension

(continued from page 16)

I was to use any discretionary money to pay for a wedding, I'd be in jail right now," said King.

The claims were laid out in a 48-page report in October that was immediately followed by his suspension, where the Council voted 44 to 1 (King was the lone dissenter in the vote). King's fellow members, including Councilwoman Vanessa Gibson, who sits on the Ethics Committee, voted in favor of suspension with the exception of Council Members Fernando Cabrera and Ruben Diaz Sr., who were absent the day of the vote.

Such a suspension had never happened in modern Council history. King was elected in 2012 in a special election, later winning the seat in the 2013 and 2017 general elections. King told Axelbank that his office "was full of love," countering the report's claim that the office was "disorderly," with at least one fight.

"We treated each other like family, and we did whatever we had to do—whether we had to clothe each other,

feed each other, transport each other around—that's how we operated, as a family," said King, despite claims he had intimidated staffers during a meeting in his home that called out former staffers cooperating with a 2017 investigation.

"If you talk to two people, or three people, and you believe them, and you don't talk to 20 other people who tell you something different I don't know which direction you're going in the conversation because there'll be many people who'll tell you no one was bullied, no one was beat up, no one was put in a situation that I never dealt with," said King, adding that staffers would come forward.

Along with a 30-day suspension, King was also fined \$15,000, which Council Speaker Corey Johnson said went unpaid the day it was due on Dec. 10. The Council is now mulling a lawsuit against King.

Meantime, King had his committee assignments pulled while a monitor was appointed to oversee the day-to-day activities in his office.

WE ♥  
SMC



## TOURING TUESDAY'S

December 3rd, January 7th & 28th, February 11th from 9am - 11am

**UPK & PREK 3/4 THRU 8TH GRADE**  
AFTER SCHOOL UNTIL 6PM | K-8 INDIVIDUAL DEVICES | 34 FOREIGN LANGUAGES | ART & MUSIC | BASKETBALL & VOLLEYBALL  
S.T.E.M. & CODING | FREE BREAKFAST & LUNCH | FAMILY ATMOSPHERE | SMALL CLASS SIZES

**452 WEST 260TH STREET, BRONX, NY 10471**  
PLEASE CALL US IF YOU NEED A PERSONAL TOUR: 718-549-0580  
WWW.SMCNIVERDALE.ORG



# Cohen's Gentel Dental

**We Accept All  
Major Insurances**



**COME IN AND  
EXPERIENCE  
NATURAL  
TOOTH  
RESTORATION  
& VENEERS**

**PAYMENT  
PLANS  
AVAILABLE.**

**WE SPEAK  
ENGLISH AND  
SPANISH.**

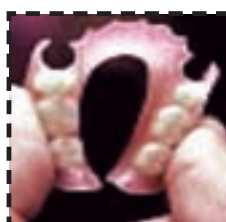
**\$100 New Patient Special!**  
Check-up • X Rays • Cleaning  
Expires 01/31/20



**SINGLE  
IMPLANTS  
AT  
AFFORDABLE  
PRICES!**  
Expires 01/31/20



**SAME DAY  
DENTURES**  
REGULARLY \$1800  
**NOW \$1500**  
Expires 01/31/20



**VALPLAST  
FLEXIBLE  
PARTIALS**  
REGULARLY \$1800  
**NOW \$1500**  
Expires 01/31/20



**DENTAL CROWNS**  
**\$999** WITH THIS AD  
COHEN'S GENTLE DENTAL  
**WHY PAY \$1500 ELSEWHERE?**

**No More Slipping, Sliding,  
Dentures That Don't Fit!**

**NO MORE  
PASTE TO HOLD  
DENTURES IN  
PLACE**

**4 IMPLANTS OVERDENTURE  
AT AFFORDABLE PRICES!**

### Additional Locations:

2169 White Plains Road,  
Bronx, NY 10462  
718-597-6314

1 East Fordham Road,  
Bronx, NY 10468  
718-365-0990

183 West 231 Street,  
Bronx, NY 10463  
718-543-1123

427 Fort Washington Ave.,  
Suite 1C, NY, NY 10033  
212-923-7644



# How the Jerome Gun Hill BID Fared in 2019

By JEROME GUN HILL BID

In 2019, the Jerome Gun Hill BID focused our efforts and resources to continue our work in supporting local businesses and community through advocacy and education, district marketing and beautification, and community events. We are working tirelessly to better connect the people who live and work in the neighborhood to the goods and services offered here at our partner merchants. With a focus on safety, cleanliness, and business development, the Jerome Gun Hill BID is dedicated to helping our member businesses and the BID community to grow and thrive.

In 2019, we celebrated 25 of our legacy businesses that have been operating in the BID for more than 25 years. In today's retail environment, this is no small feat. At our Small Business Recognition Barbecue, business owners received awards as well as small business resources and legal assistance from pro bono lawyers. We look forward to supporting our longtime business owners for many more years to come.

Over the past year, we partnered very closely with City agencies includ-



File photo by Síle Moloney

**(L-R) EDWARD GREENSPAN**, longtime owner of Mosholu Optical, with Jerome Gun Hill BID executive director Jennifer Tausig, Councilman Andrew Cohen, and BID Board chair Dr. Arnold Wilson at a Small Business Recognition BBQ on June 21, 2019. Greenspan and Tausig are holding up recognition awards Greenspan received from Cohen and the BID for having the longest-standing business currently open at the BID.

ing Small Business Services, Department of Transportation, Department of Sanitation, and NYPD to educate our

business owners on new regulations and to ensure our streets are clean, safe, and walkable.

We engaged the brokerage community in our broker's breakfast series to showcase all the wonderful reasons why Norwood is a good place to do business. In addition, the BID hosted a commercial vacancy walking tour where entrepreneurs and prospective business owners learned about commercial opportunities in the district. In the last year the BID welcomed 13 new small businesses to the corridor.

We hosted 15 community events, from our annual Laundry Love at Maria's Laundromat to our 18th Annual Fall Festival on Jerome Avenue between East Mosholu Parkway North and East Gun Hill Road. In 2019, we focused events on different retail sectors, hosting a Prom and Graduation fashion show at our clothing stores and "A Taste of the District" restaurant week for our restaurants.

We worked with various community stakeholders to make these events happen, such as the New York City District Council of Carpenters union, Montefiore Health System, and our local elected officials. We strive to highlight all of the great opportunities available for community members to shop, dine, and explore in the BID and we have even more exciting events planned for 2020.

Also, we are working to beautify the BID because not only do good neighbors deserve great shopping, as has al-



Photo courtesy Jerome Gun Hill BID

**THIS PLANTER, AT** the corner of Reservoir Place and East Gun Hill Road, along with others was among the newest additions peppered across the BID which stretches along Jerome Avenue, between East Mosholu Parkway North and East Gun Hill Road, and along East Gun Hill Road between Jerome and Webster avenues.

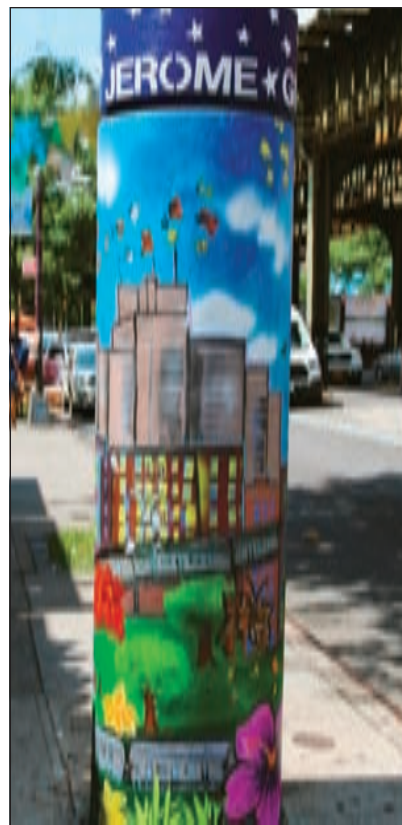


Photo courtesy Jerome Gun Hill BID

**FROM EYESORE TO** small exhibition, this eye-catching landscape painting on a column in front of 3298 Jerome Ave. near East Gun Hill Road was produced by local artist Lady K Fever in 2019 as a way of beautifying the Jerome Gun Hill BID.



ways been our motto, but they deserve beautiful greenery as they walk and shop through our stores. We partnered with Councilman Andrew Cohen, Art-Bridge, and local artist Lady K. Fever in turning worn out concrete columns into works of community art. We hung street pole banners to promote our district and invested in additional planters to bring more flowers and plants to the BID streetscape.

At the core of our work is a focus on small business support. We help our small business owners get connected to business development resources, free commercial lease assistance, and city services like compliance consultations and agency walkthroughs. We assist merchants in navigating government, providing guidance with permits, licenses, and violations. In addition, we support our merchants with marketing, advertising, and social media through our newsletter, ad campaigns, local television commercials, and social media handles. We also offer a Storefront Improvement Grant that allows businesses to receive funding to complete awning and security gate projects.

We could not do this work without the fantastic partnerships we've established with our elected officials, particularly Cohen who not only shows up when we ask him to and advocates for the issues



Photo courtesy Jerome Gun Hill BID

**THE JEROME GUN** Hill BID got into the Thanksgiving spirit by hosting a turkey giveaway in partnership with the New York City District Council of Carpenters union on Nov. 26, 2019. Jennifer Tausig (center, holding a turkey) is the BID's executive director. She stands with union members and employees from Montefiore Health System and Mosholu Preservation Corporation.

that affect our community, but supports us financially each year. We are grateful to our fearless State Sen. Jamaal Bailey and our Assembly Members Jeffrey Dinowitz and Nathalia Fernandez, and our U.S. Congressman Adriano Espaillat for fighting for the Bronx in Washington, D.C.

We would also like to thank our steadfast partners at the 52nd Precinct and Community Board 7. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our staff, merchants and property owners, Norwood has seen an increase in cleanliness, community engagement, and overall awareness of the BID's mission and efforts. We

are very proud of the work we've done collectively with the participation of the Board, property owners, merchants and community partners to improve the quality of life in our little slice of the Bronx. Thank you for helping to make 2019 an incredible year. We can't wait to show you what we have planned for 2020!

CELEBRATING OUR

**5 STARS**

FROM THE CENTERS  
FOR MEDICARE & MEDICAID  
SERVICES



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE RATED FIVE STARS?

The Five Star Quality Rating System helps consumers compare nursing homes more easily, giving each home a 1 to 5 star score. This score comes from individual ratings in three different areas of facility performance.

**Nursing homes with 5 stars are considered to have above average quality, according to the CMS rating system.**

See how we compare to other facilities in the area at:

<https://www.medicare.gov/nursinghomecompare/search.html>

### HEALTH INSPECTIONS

This rating is based on how well the facility meets Medicare's minimum quality requirements. Each facility is reviewed annually. The results of the last three years' worth of inspections comprise the score. The most recent inspection carries the greatest weight.

### STAFFING

This rating looks at the number of hours of care provided to each resident each day. This information is "acuity based", meaning it considered the care needs of the resident when looking at the number of staff available. This measure looks at both RN staff and total nursing staff.

### QUALITY MEASURES

Medicare assigns the star rating based on data from a select set of clinical data measures and compares the facility performance to national norms. The measure looks at how well the facility is caring for the residents' physical and clinical needs. More stars means better quality of care.

3518 Bainbridge Ave • Bronx, New York 10467

**BAINBRIDGE**  
NURSING & REHABILITATION CENTER



(718) 655-1991 • [www.BainbridgeCares.com](http://www.BainbridgeCares.com)





**Shop local and save  
this holiday season!**

Small businesses  
and big savings  
await at the  
Jerome Gun Hill BID.

 @jeromegunhillbid  
 @jghbid

[jeromegunhillbid.org](http://jeromegunhillbid.org)

BID hotline 718-324-4946



# Classifieds

## Professional Directory

### COMPUTER SERVICES

#### Computer Repair

Upgrade, troubleshooting, laptop overheats, cracked screen, broken power jack, virus removal, data recovery. Call James (646) 281-4475, (718) 324-4332.

## Your Classified Ad Here!

Reach 40,000 potential customers  
by taking out a classified in the  
award-winning *Norwood News*.

To place an ad, call  
Janet Geller at (718) 324-4998 or  
email [jgeller@norwoodnews.org](mailto:jgeller@norwoodnews.org).



# APARTMENTS FOR RENT

**LANGSAM PROPERTY SERVICES CORP., AMO®**  
A COMPREHENSIVE REAL ESTATE SERVICE ORGANIZATION

1601 Bronxdale Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462 • T 718 518 8000 • F 718 518 8585  
[www.langsampropertyservices.com](http://www.langsampropertyservices.com)

## ADVERTISE TODAY in the NORWOOD NEWS

Nearly 40,000 readers means 40,000 customers.

**SELL YOUR BRAND. MAKE MONEY.**

Advertise in the Norwood News. **Call 718-324-4998.**

**NORWOOD NEWS**

3400 Reservoir Oval E. • Bronx, NY 10467  
718.324.4998



## Agnes' Beauty and Spa

**Agnes' Beauty & Spa** is under **NEW**  
management and invites you for all  
styles of hair and color, manicures  
and pedicures, massage therapy and  
tanning. Our new services include  
wax club, blow dry club and kids  
birthday party. A big room for rent is  
available for any occasion (meetings,  
classes, party, etc.).

**5908 Riverdale Ave. Bronx, NY**

**718.684.1151**

[angesbeautyandspa.com](http://angesbeautyandspa.com)





## NEIGHBORHOOD NOTES

### Social Security Expanded Office Hrs.

Social Security offices in the Bronx will remain open to the public until 4 p.m. on Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 8. The nearest Social Security offices from Norwood is located at 2501 Grand Concourse. For more information, call (800) 772-1213.

### Blood Drive

A blood drive will take place on Jan. 21 from 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the 52nd Precinct station house at 3016 Webster Ave. For more information, call (718) 220-5824.

### Comment on Bus Reroute Plan

The MTA is currently accepting comments for its plan to update the Bronx's bus route network, which is expected to take effect later this year. Comments on the MTA's plan can be submitted online by going to <https://bit.ly/2Zz86E3>.

### Heating Assistance

Applications for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) for older adults and low- and middle-income New Yorkers will be accepted by local departments of social services. Eligibility is based on income, household size and how the home is heated. Residents can apply online at <https://on.ny.gov/2Fn062M> or by mail to NYC DSS/HRA/HEAP, P.O. Box 1401, Church Street Station, New York, NY 10008. For more information, call (212) 331-3126.

### Fridays With Fernandez

Assemblywoman Nathalia Fernandez is available for one-on-one meetings each Friday at her district office at 2018 Williamsbridge Rd. Friday dates and times vary. To check times and make an appointment, call (718) 409-0109.

### LGBT Scholarship

College scholarships totaling \$10,000 will be awarded to students who are members or allies of the LGBTQ+ community. Applicants must write two 500-word essays that discuss a challenge they have faced in life, and the historical significance of the Stonewall Inn within the context of the gay rights movement. The deadline is March 1, 2020. Applications can be filled online at <https://bit.ly/2PugZdH>. For questions, contact Eric

Vaughan at [LGBTQ@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:LGBTQ@schools.nyc.gov).

### STEM Teacher Award

Nominations are now being accepted for NBC 4 New York and Telemundo 47's Weather Kids Star Teacher award recognition program honoring science, technology, engineering or math teachers. A portion of the application includes a section that asks what makes the nominated teacher deserving of the honor by listing reasons or a story relating to the teacher and the work they do in the classroom. Schools of each winning teacher will receive a \$1,000 award the benefits the learning needs of the winning teacher's students. To nominate a teacher, go to [nbcnewyork.com/weatherkids](http://nbcnewyork.com/weatherkids). The deadline is Jan. 31.

### Community Grants

Applications for community improvement grants of up to \$3,000 to community-based groups are being accepted by the Citizens Committee for New York City. Grants will be awarded for neighborhood improvement projects planned and executed by local residents. The application deadline is Jan. 20. To apply, visit [www.citizensnyc.org/grants](http://www.citizensnyc.org/grants). For more information, call Arif Ullah, program director, at (212) 822-9580. The deadline is Jan. 20.

### Mulchfest

Live Christmas trees can be recycled at the following locations through Jan. 11 as part of the New City Parks Department's annual Mulchfest: Williamsbridge Oval Park at Reservoir Oval and Reservoir Place (drop-off site only); and Van Cortlandt Park, Bailey Avenue and Van Cortlandt Park South, for drop off or having the tree chipped. For more information, call 311.

### Naloxone Training

Free trainings on the administration of naloxone, the drug used to reverse opioid overdoses, is available through the Bronx Community Health Network on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Wednesdays from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 1 Fordham Plaza (excluding holidays). For more information, contact Matthew Carrion, community health worker, at (929) 220 8176 or [naloxone@bchnhealth.org](mailto:naloxone@bchnhealth.org).

# Blue Peacock esthetic \* spa

## Grand Opening

Facials / Faciales  
Waxing / Depilación

Skin Treatment / Tratamiento de la Piel  
Body Treatment / Tratamiento del Cuerpo



**(347) 708-7584**

210 Bedford Park Blvd. Bronx, NY 10458

Email: [e.espinosa@bluepeacockestheticspa.com](mailto:e.espinosa@bluepeacockestheticspa.com)

Website: [www.bluepeacockestheticspa.com](http://www.bluepeacockestheticspa.com)



# Out & About

Compiled by JUDY NOY

## EDITOR'S PICK

### Celebrate Three Kings Day

NYC councilman Rev. Rubén Diaz, Sr. presents **"Three Kings Day,"** Jan. 4 at noon at Public School Mott Hall V, 1551 E. 172nd St. (between Ward and Manor avenues) for the children of our community. The first 500 kids between the ages of 1 and 10 will receive a toy and book bag with school supplies. Youngsters must be present in order to receive a toy. Event includes live music and entertainment. Info: (718) 792-1140.

## Onstage

The Williamsbridge Oval presents a free nativity play in Spanish, **"El Pesebre: A Theatre Celebration of Three Kings Day,"** Jan. 9 from 5:45 to 7 p.m. Info: (718) 543-8672.

Lehman College's Center for the Performing Arts, 250 Bedford Pk. Blvd., W., presents **"Ain't Misbehavin',"** Jan. 18 at 8 p.m. (\$25 to \$45). Info/tickets: (718) 960-8833.

## Events

The Riverdale Choral Society invites all singers to participate in its spring season. **Open rehearsals** are on Jan. 8 and 15 at 7:30 p.m. at Christ Church Riverdale, 5040 Henry Hudson Pkwy. at West 252nd Street for a concert featuring Franz Schubert's Mass in A Flat Major, to be held on May 17 at 3 p.m. Succeeding rehearsals will be held Wednesdays

from 7:30 to 9:45 p.m. Info: (718) 543-2219.

The Bronx Zoo features the **Return of Holiday Lights**, through Jan. 5, Sundays to Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m., and Fridays and Saturdays from 5 to 10 p.m. Included are carolers, costume characters, train rides (fee), lantern safari, animated sculptures, light show in Astor Court every 20 minutes, and nightly ice carving demonstrations. Tickets: \$29.95/adults; \$22.95/children; \$28.95/seniors. For ticketing and a full schedule of activities, visit [bronxzoo.com/holiday-lights](http://bronxzoo.com/holiday-lights). Info: (718) 220-5100.

New York Botanical Garden presents **The Holiday Train Show**, model trains passing by miniature landmarks made from natural materials and **Bar Car Nights**, on select Fridays and Saturdays, through Jan. 26. Info/schedule/costs: (718) 817-8512.

Wave Hill, a Bronx oasis at 675



Photo courtesy Susan Wilson

**BRUCE MOLSKY (C)** of the Mountain Drivers will be performing this month at Wave Hill. See Events section for more information.

W. 252nd St. in Riverdale, offers **Family Art Projects:** Cyclical Calendars and Fractal Phenology, to create your own growth chart, Jan. 11 and 12; in the WH House 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Also scheduled is **concert:** Bruce Molsky's Mountain Drifters, Jan. 12 at 2 p.m. in the WH House (\$30/adults; \$14/ages 8 to 18. Grounds admission is free until noon Tuesdays and Saturdays all year. Info and a schedule of events including tours and walks: (718) 549-3200.

## Exhibits

The Riverdale-Yonkers Society for Ethical Culture, 4450 Fieldston Rd., presents **Riverdale Art Association Exhibit** at the Society Meeting House, through Jan. 2. Info: (718) 548-4445.

The Museum of Bronx History, 3266 Bainbridge Ave. (208th Street), presents **A History of the Bronx Latino**, ongoing; and **Mott Haven, the Bronx: A Historic District Turns Fifty**, through April 22, 2020. Hours: Saturdays 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sundays 1 to 5 p.m. For more information, call (718) 881-8900.

The Bronx Museum, 1040 Grand Concourse, presents **The Life and Times of Alvin Baltrop**, through Feb. 9, 2020. The exhibition features photographs of gay culture. Info: (718) 681-6000.

## Library Events

Bronx Library Center, 310 E. Kingsbridge Rd., presents for ages 5 to 12: **STEM Fridays:** Jan. 10 at 4 p.m. – Making Clouds. Adults can attend: **films at 2:30 p.m.:** "Winter's Tale," Jan. 4; and "Alpha," Jan. 11; and "Great Performances - John Leguizamo's Road to Broadway," Jan. 6 at 5 p.m.; **Computer Basics:** Jan. 6 at 4:30 p.m.; and **Microsoft Word for Beginners:** Jan. 8 at 4:30 p.m. and Jan. 10 at 2 p.m. Info: (718) 579-4244/46/57 or visit [www.nypl.org](http://www.nypl.org).

Mosholu Library, 285 E. 205th St., offers for kids: **Crafty Fridays at 3 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12): crafts, Jan. 3 and 10; **Toddler Storytime at 11 a.m.:** (ages 18 to 36 months): stories, songs, fingerplays and crafts, Jan. 6, 9, 13 and 16; and **STEM: Kids Science at 3 p.m.:** (ages 5 to 12): Jan. 7 and 14 (Colors/Light). Families can attend **film:** "The Lion King," Jan. 11 at 1:30 p.m. Adults can join: **Knitting:** Thursdays at 3 p.m. Info: (718) 882-8239.

**NOTE:** Items for consideration may be mailed to our office or sent to [norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org](mailto:norwoodnews@norwoodnews.org), and should be received by Jan. 6 for the next publication date of Jan. 16, 2020.

## Festival of Lights



Photo by Miriam Quinones

**(L-R) NORWOOD ASSEMBLYMAN** Jeff Dinowitz, his son and District Leader Eric Dinowitz, and Mosholu Montefiore Community Center executive director Rita Santelia celebrate the Festival of Lights, after flicking the switch to light the second candle on the second day of Chanukah. The holiday commemorates a one-day supply of oil found in Jerusalem's Holy Temple which miraculously lasted for eight days.



Grand Opening

LE'BELLE

Ailin Specialist  
MS, FNP, BC  
aotero2022@gmail.com

Medi-Spa



BOTOX®

FOR MEN AND WOMEN

\$11 per unit

Buy two areas and get a third area FREE!

Juvéderm®

Ultra XC Fillers

For lips and nasolabial folds at a GREAT PRICE!

Call for Free Consultation

917-456-6086

2022 Matthews Avenue • Bronx, NY 10462  
ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTEDKB Defensive Driving  
917-318-1438

Sponsored by: American Safety Inc. #028

6 Hour NY Point Insurance Reduction Class

\*Reduce up to 4 Points on Driving Record

\*Save 10% on your Car Insurance for 3 years

Evenings from 4PM-7PM

3003 Webster Ave. (Corner of 201<sup>st</sup> St.)

Bronx, NY 10458

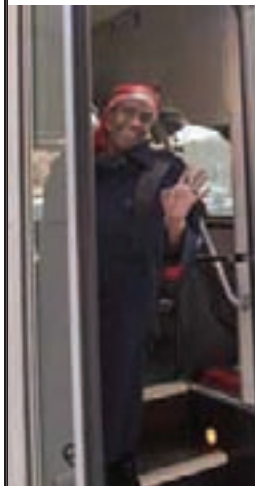
Also available ONLINE at:

Kbdefensivedriving.com

American Safety, Inc. #028 is an Approved Sponsor by the NYS Department of Motor Vehicles

*"Bainbridge is a wonderful place,  
I have many friends and I get to socialize.  
Why should I stay home alone  
when I have a family here?"*

- Registrant since 1996



We would like to invite you to our

*Open House!*

This Monday &amp; Thursday,

9:00 am – 1:00 pm

Find out how you or a loved one  
can take part in ourDay Health Care Program in a  
warm, caring, & nurturing environment.**SERVICES:**

- Nursing, Medical Care and Health Monitoring
- Case Management and Coordination
- Therapy Services (physical, occupational, speech)
- Breakfast, Snacks, and Lunch provided daily
- Fun activities and trips
- Free Wi-Fi and access to computers

**Free Door-to-door  
TRANSPORTATION!**Se habla español  
Мы говорим по русски**BAINBRIDGE**  
ADULT DAY HEALTH CARE CENTER**RSVP Contact  
Adriana Garcia**

3518 Bainbridge Avenue • Bronx, New York 10467

Tel: (718) 653-2273 • Fax: (718) 882-6610

www.BainbridgeDayCares.com • info@BainbridgeDayCares.com

# Injured Construction Workers & All Other Accident Victims

*We Fight for the Money You Deserve  
Regardless of Your Immigration Status*

- Construction & Workplace Accidents
- Car & Truck Accidents
- Negligent Building Security
- Slip, Trip & Falls
- Elevator / Escalator Accidents
- Medical Malpractice
- Nursing Home Negligence
- Police Brutality
- Civil Rights Violations
- Victims of Sexual Abuse



## Our GUARANTEE

**There is NO FEE Unless We Win**

Our firm has recovered over  
***One Hundred Million Dollars***  
in verdicts and settlements  
for our satisfied clients

## FREE COUNSULTATION

**Call 24 Hours • 7 days a Week**

## *Some Recent Verdicts & Recoveries for Clients*

Construction Accident - \$5,000,000 • Truck Accident - \$10,000,000  
Police Misconduct - \$28,000,000 • Elevator Accident - \$1,400,000  
Car Accident - \$1,100,000 • Slip & Fall Accident - \$2,650,000

**If You Can't Come to Us...We'll Come to You**

*Expenses payable upon conclusion of case. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome*

# RASKIN & KREMINS, LLP

*Over 75 Years Of Combined Personal Injury Law Experience*

**[www.raskrem.com](http://www.raskrem.com)**

160 Broadway (4th Fl.) New York, NY  
Bronx Office - by appointment only

**718-878-4858**

**212-587-3434**

**2 3 4 5 A C J Z** TO FULTON STREET

**N R W** TO CORTLANDT STREET