



# The Red Hook Star-Review

August 2010 FREE The Hook's Local Newspaper

## What Are All Those Ice Cream Trucks Doing on Sackett Street?



by Kevin O'Hanlon

If one is to walk down Sackett Street between Van Brunt and Columbia Streets, one of the first things that will catch their eye is a giant lot filled with ice cream trucks. One of the most familiar things from

the average Brooklynite's lifetime, the ice cream truck holds somewhat of a special place in many locals' hearts. Surely, seeing a lot filled with these trucks is bound to inspire curiosity in many people, as it is a rare event to witness more than one ice cream truck on the same block.

In fact, the ice cream truck lot has been at that location for over 60 years, housing many different types of food vendor trucks all year round. The lot was founded around the time that ice cream trucks were becoming very popular on the streets of Brooklyn, and were notoriously ran by organized crime. A great deal has changed since those times as ownership and control of the lot and its trucks has changed numerous times. Today, the lot is operated as John Red Inc. after taking the name of its manager and head mechanic. John Red has been involved with the business for almost twenty years and bought out the previous owner just six months ago. Today, the lot holds up to twenty-five trucks, half of which have private owners who rent parking space for them while the

*continued on page 3*

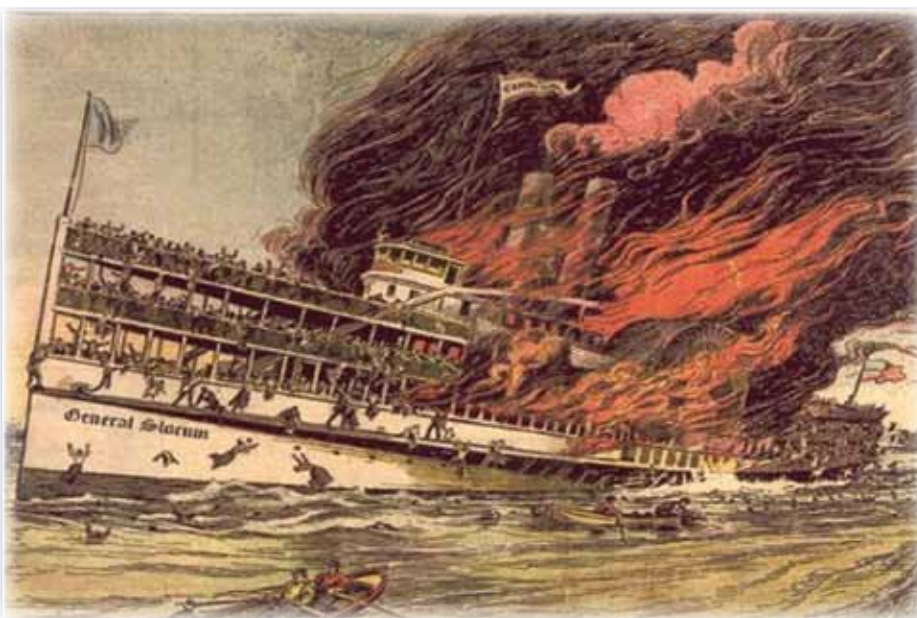


RED HOOKED

**Local Art Show Reviewed Pages 6-7**

**Christened on Conover Street in 1891, deathrap for 1021 German Immigrants 13 years later**

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The last time that the tragic demise of the General Slocum steamship was in the news was around the time of 9/11. Up until then, the Slocum disaster was the single biggest tragedy in NYC's history. What brings the General Slocum to the attention of this newspaper is the fact that the ship was built right here in Red Hook and it's christening took place right at the foot of Conover Street with much celebration and merriment. This epic event was described glowingly on page 2 of the April 19th edition of the Brooklyn Daily Eagle from which we excerpt:

"Red Hook Point in the neighborhood of Burtis' shipyard, at the foot of Conover street, wore a holiday air yesterday afternoon and pretty much all of its denizens were overflowing with enthusiasm, for it was a red letter day for that section. There were flags flying everywhere in the balmy breeze and warm sunshine, and crowds of Red Hookers jammed their way into the shipyard and spread themselves all over the neighboring docks. The

event that occasioned all the excitement was the launch of the fine new steamer built for the Knickerbocker steamboat company as a companion to the well known Grand Republic and to assist her in carrying passengers to and from Rockaway Beach in the summer time. The new craft was begun only a little over two months ago, but with a large force of men was pushed thus early to the state of com-

*continued on the back page*



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turn to our new **Drinks and Food to Go With It** section, page 10

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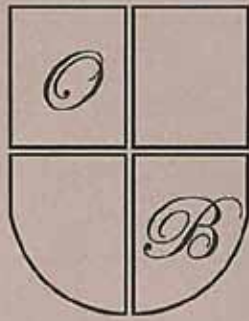
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## Free Kayaking Sundays at Valentino Park Pier



In case you weren't aware of it, an organization called **Red Hook Boaters** is responsible for the many orange and yellow kayaks in use each Sunday afternoon at Valentino's Pier. Anyone is entitled to free use of a kayak courtesy of the Boaters who are dedicated to providing waterfront access and education to the public. This free program provides not only the kayaks and paddles, but instruction and safety tips. This is a volunteer organization that is always looking for more volunteers. More information is available at their website [www.redhookboaters.com](http://www.redhookboaters.com). The Sunday kayaking goes through October 3rd from 1 pm - 5 pm, and they also get together on Thursdays from 6-8 in the evening, however the Thursday program ends on August 12th.



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## Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District The Red Hook Star-Revue

Serving the Brooklyn Communities of Red Hook, Carroll Gardens and Cobble Hill

No. 3, August 2010

Publisher.....Frank Galeano  
Co-Publisher & Editor .....George Fiala  
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Reporter.....Eliza Ronalds-Hannon  
Arts Reporter.....Nicole Eta Demby  
Home Repair Columnist.....Charles White  
Gonzo Columnist and Night Owl.....John McLaughlin  
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The **Red Hook Star-Revue** is published monthly by Frank Galeano and George Fiala. It circulates by mail and on newsstands throughout the downtown Brooklyn area. Our mission is to be the tie that binds our dynamic communities together, by providing one place for local achievements, art and history to be celebrated, local problems to be identified and solutions discussed, and also by providing an affordable advertising medium for local shops and institutions.

Our mailing address is 101 Union Street, and we can be reached by phone at **718 624-5568** and by email at [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com) or [info@redhookstar.com](mailto:info@redhookstar.com).

We welcome letters to the editor as well as press advisories which can be mailed to us at :

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Brooklyn, NY 11231

or emailed to [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com)

If you have story ideas or ideas in general that may interest us, please contact us by all

# John Red Sees a Bright Future in Food Trucks

(continued from page 1)

other half are owned by John Red Inc. and are distributed daily to employees of the company.

While the whole operation may sound simple, much more work goes on than meets the eye. For one, besides maintaining a functioning vendor truck lot, John Red actually builds and customizes the trucks. "I build custom trucks, if anyone brings me a truck, I'll build it", says John. This includes the ice cream trucks, as well as other food vendor trucks all over the city; most notably the Street Sweets truck on 6th avenue and 55th street in Manhattan, which was nominated by Good Morning America for the best food truck in the country last November. John does almost every bit of mechanical installation on a truck, which involves a great deal of expertise as he must make sure that all the refrigeration, plumbing, electrical wiring meets the Health Department's high standards.



John Red standing in front of one of his trucks

**Malfunction could be disastrous**  
John, who took ownership of the truck lot just 6 months ago, claims that he must take the building and customization processes very carefully, making sure to take one step at a time. One reason for this is because of the very intricate design of the electrical wiring as vendor trucks run on 20,000 Watt generators, so one malfunction could be a disaster.

As for the truck driving, many people are employed by John Red Inc. as truck drivers/ vendors and take the trucks out on street routes. "As long as the vehicle has a NYC permit and the operator has a NYC vendor badge, they can go anywhere they want because the streets are free, as long as it is not under consumer affairs' restriction list", explains John. While the drivers are basically free to go wherever they please, John Red Inc. does have a list of routes for drivers to cover if needed, highlighting schools and other areas with a high potential in sales. John says that other ice cream truck companies have claimed that they have the rights to certain streets, which is simply not true. These companies have even gone as far as selling routes

for \$100,000, something that John has a personal grievance with. "We're totally against that. Anyone that has a vendor's badge and a vendor's license can go anywhere they want."

Although John just finished his twenty-third customized truck, he has bigger plans for the future. "With the economy the way it is today, a lot of people want to get into a cash business and a street vendor truck is a good way to make straight cash", John explains. This will allow John to work with different restaurants and bakeries to design new customized trucks that have never before seen the streets of New York.

Arguably, the most important job going on in the lot is truck maintenance. As with any food business, the Health Department has standards which require constant cleaning in order to stay in business. This is why it is a common sight to see someone spraying down the inside of the trucks with a hose, cleaning the inside of the truck with soap and bleach.

"Every once in a while, I'll get in the truck for a day and drive around to make some money", John says, "but what I really like to do is building the trucks." It is safe to say that this lot has been a fixture in Red Hook for a long time and will continue to be with the popularization of food vendor trucks, especially with all of the hard work put in by John Red and his company.

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## Star-Revue Op Ed:

# A Garden on Every Roof

by Richard Gins

Argon (Ron) Haskaj came to Red Hook Brooklyn 15 years ago, thinking Red Hook was a neglected neighborhood and great location for his roofing company. He bought the building on the corner of Seabring St. and Van Brunt in the heart of Red Hook. Over the years, Ron has built roof decks and green gardening systems for clients all over the city. Richard believes that the only long-term security for urban dwellers is to become independent of the need to import their food. If we could utilize the city buildings for growing food, it might be possible for the city to eventually feed its inhabitants with locally grown food. He and I want to develop a year round greenhouse and seasonal outdoor farm on the roof which would become a model system for productive urban rooftop agriculture. This would include roof preparation; water capture and subterranean irrigation growing systems; solar and wind power generation; and waste recovery/ composting systems.



Ron Haskaj at a rooftop garden

We must begin developing efficient agricultural systems that can be easily replicated on roofs throughout the city and we want to be fertile seeds of other rooftop farms. If you are creative and green minded, we want your input and support. Come help us create a sustain-

able urban farm model where food is produced, and a beautiful green space and skyline view created, where can people relax and creatively connect.

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## Precinct Report

### Nowhere to be Found

On July 25th, 2010 between the hours of 7:00 pm and 9:45 pm a 21-year old female lost her wallet while shopping in Fairway. The victim made her purchases and realized her wallet was missing as she arrived home. Upon making the report to the authorities and returning to Fairway, the wallet containing credit, debit and social security cards along with \$15 cash was nowhere to be found.

### Punched in the Face

On the corner of Hoyt and Douglas streets, a 23-year old female was robbed of a purse and assaulted by a Hispanic male. The incident took place on July 11th at approximately 9:25 pm. The victim struggled with the man before being punched in the face after he approached her demanding her purse.

### Family Theft

At 797 Hicks St. a woman's 40-year old son entered the apartment demanding money. She his mother refused to hand over any cash, the man took a large amount of Xbox games valued at \$60 apiece. The man then threatened to kill himself if his mother called the police, then left the apartment.

### Perp Caught

Finally on July 22nd at 12:35 pm a man assaulted and robbed a 20-year old woman for her purse. At 12:49 pm the man was arrested on the corner of Hicks and Huntington streets. Since he matched the description of the perp in the two previous crimes and his style of robbery was very similar, the man was re-arrested and put into a line-up, where he was correctly identified by the victims.



## CHARLES WHITE ON HOME IMPROVEMENT



### Charles Answers a Question about Outdoor Wood

This month's question comes from Carleen Lacqua and Mary Ann Lacqua. They write:

**"We live on Union Street and Hicks. Right now we are trying to replace a garbage bin that holds four garbage pails. Originally it was made out of green wood. We got 10 years out of it. Should we stay with green wood or use something different? Also we have been contacting a few carpenters to do this work and the prices have varied. If you could let us know the best wood and the price we should be shopping for it would be of great help."**

Hello Brooklyn... Carleen and Mary Ann have asked for guidance on pricing for their project. It is difficult to give specific pricing opinions without seeing the actual job specs and how the different contractors plan to tackle the job. Some may use superior materials, others may use unskilled labor, others may work on their schedule, not yours, etc

#### Choosing a contractor

What I can do is give you an idea how to go about choosing a contractor, or in fact any tradesperson. Generally you should start with a realistic budget for your project, one that is in line with the work you want done, then you should seek bids. After you find bids that are within your budget, you should then meet with those contractors, and go with the one you get the best feeling from. Do they listen when you are expressing your vision and expectations for your project? Do they offer suggestions for materials, and the pros and cons of each of those materials, cost, appearance, etc.

Now, please take this next bit of advice with a grain of salt, because it does not always apply. But gener-

ally speaking, the highest bidder will do the higher quality work, and will probably finish the job to your expectations. The middle bidder generally will deliver a good product as well, albeit with a lesser quality of finish. The low bidder is always the wild card, sometimes the low bidder will deliver the finished product for the agreed upon price, and to your expectations, however, what often happens with the low bidder is that the level of finish is not sufficient to meet your level of expectation.

#### An alternative to treated pine

Now to your question. I'm not sure what you mean by "green" wood, but I suspect that you are referring to pressure treated pine. This is a commonly used exterior wood, with a projected 10 to 15 year life span, sometimes longer if sealed annually with a water-repellant finish. This wood tends to come fairly wet, and as a result of the treatment process, tends to look green. The problem with this wood is that the grain tends to be unattractive, and kind of wild. A good choice for an exterior project like yours might be ipe', or they are both South American, hard woods, they are both, very hard, and very dense, and must be pre-



The boardwalk at Coney Island

drilled, because, all your screws will break if you don't. These woods are not endangered, and are more green, because they will last longer. Ipe' has a dark chocolate color and fairly subdued grain. If left un-treated, the wood will weather to a gray color, FYI the boardwalk at Coney Island and also the Brooklyn Bridge pedestrian walkway is also made of ipe'.

Charles White answers home-improvement questions exclusively in the pages of the Red Hook Star-Review. His company is called Boerum Hill Joinery, [www.boerumhilljoinery.com](http://www.boerumhilljoinery.com). Please feel free to ask Charles your question - email it to [CharlesAnswers@redhookstar.com](mailto:CharlesAnswers@redhookstar.com) or you may send us an old-fashioned letter by regular mail.

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As Seen In



Select Mail a Brooklyn institution for two decades

Select Mail announced that it is celebrating its 20th anniversary in business. In the two decades since its

owner George Fiala's experience in the weekly newspaper business, where as general manager he was in charge of just about everything but writing the stories. At a small weekly newspaper, being in charge often means being the one to do it, and Fiala realized that the skills and knowledge he gained from this work could translate to printing and mailing services useful to all types of businesses, non-profits and government agencies that send out newsletters, fund raising literature, invitations, notifications and sales media.

Since its founding, Select Mail has changed locations a few times to accommodate growth, but it has always remained in Brooklyn.



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## Local Passion for the Arts on Display at BWAC Show by Nicole Eta Demby

On Saturday, July 17th the Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition (BWAC) held an opening reception for its summer show, "Red Hooked", a group exhibition boasting 200 artists "exhibiting over 800 new works of art". The waterfront offered art-enthusiasts breezy respite from the heat as visitors entered BWAC's beautiful warehouse space at the end of Van Brunt St.. The reception featured snacks, wine, and live jazz by KLARO!.

Like many summer group shows, "Red Hooked" is overwhelming in its scale. Despite the participation of so many artists, however, the art on display is predominantly two-dimensional media, with some sculpture (and one video) punctuating the galleries that sprawled across the warehouse's two floors. Signs overhead inform gallerygoers that most of the artwork is for sale (BWAC's website hails the show as a great place to inexpensively purchase some unique artwork.)

With its open submissions policy and first-come, first-served installation approach, "Red Hooked" is more a testament to the vibrancy of locals' passion for the arts than a great display of artwork. Yet some artwork did stand out as more professional among the rest:

The palate in Richard Todd's large-scale paintings ranges from electric to

somber. He combines layering, subtraction, and collage to create expressionistic paintings that pay homage to both Basquiat and Rothko; Todd's scrawled numbers and messages and bright colors evoke the first, while his strong use of rectangles in composition are reminiscent of the latter.

Other notable painters in the show are Maricio Morillas and David DiPasquale. Morillas's Eclipse layers plywood and incorporates found objects, the artist sets off the rust of the nails and machine parts against a painted pink background. DiPasquale's two-paneled painting is a delicate abstract expressionist mountain rendered in whites and pinks. In more figurative work, Sean Plunkett's strange humanoid figures populate a surrealistic dreamscape.

Among the best photographs in "Red Hooked" are those of Meghan Hickey, whose snapshots of religious icon sculptures and cards are deeply lush and evocative, and Arden Suydam, whose two large prints use odd angles and abstraction to capture the dynamism of New York City without being cliché.

Many of the sculptural offerings in the show tend towards more commercial uses of crafts such as pottery and stained glass. Two notable exceptions are John Strohbeen's (the president of BWAC's) sculpture comprised of yellow rods bound

together in a dynamic form and Brian Keogh's locked and bound bundles of pieces of wood; both exude a minimal maturity. Another notable sculptor is Myra Kooy, who combines found wood that she polishes and copper pieces evoking animal bones to create wall-hangings that have the air of ritual objects. Upstairs, Phil Forbes's copper and steel abstract mobiles are well-crafted and engaging if not particularly original.

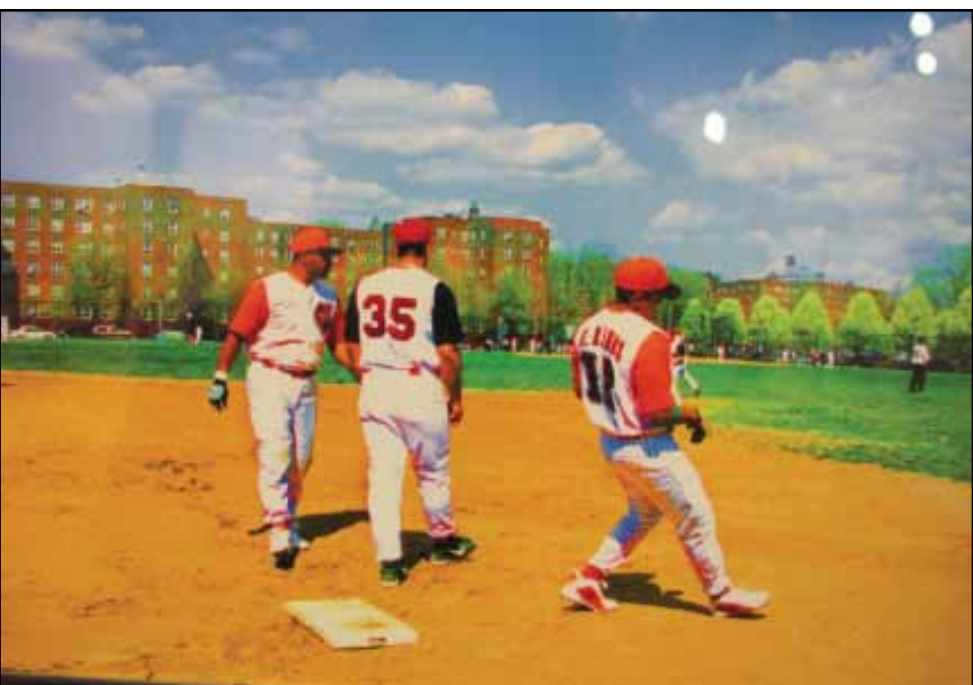
Sylvia Nagy created the show's sole performance piece for the opening, a display that included a dancer and live painting set to a contemporary soundtrack of Coco Rosie and Antony and the Johnsons.

While most of the artwork in "Red Hooked" is unrelated to its surrounding artworks, there are a few themes that emerged throughout the show. One is graffiti; a wall-sized "tag" (on paper) greets visitors at the entrance, accompanied by two texts addressing the significance of "tagging", each written by one of the co-chairs of the show, Steven Fritz (Weiss) and Scott Henstrand. An installation by Stoked, a sports youth-mentoring program, displays skateboard decks that the children in the program have made and painted. In addition, a number of photographers such as Victoria Lapin and Patricia Ametin photograph colorful graffiti on the street.

A second trope testifies to the local

nature of the show and the intrigue and pride that the neighborhood of Red Hook inspires. There are a number of photographs of the Brooklyn waterfront and its features taken by different photographers on display. In painting, Nancy Weiss uses drab, matte colors to convey local Brooklyn scenes in a style pleasantly reminiscent of German expressionism. The press release for "Red Hooked" states that the show's "complexity" is meant to capture the "incomplete and contradictory nature of change," reflecting on Red Hook's increasing gentrification and the positive and negative aspects of any such development. Yet despite text about the dialectical nature of tagging, or the snapshots of the Brooklyn waterfront, overall the show's eclecticism is more reflective of the diversity of skill and practice of the many participating local artists than of any unified conceptual theme that comments on the changing neighborhood. "Red Hooked" is still an enjoyable display in this regard, however.

"Red Hooked" is open from 1-6 PM on Saturdays and Sundays through August 22nd at 499 Van Brunt St. A series of live acoustic musical performances of all genres will take place on Sunday afternoons during the run of the show. On Saturdays, BWAC's Screening Room will run a "classic to contemporary" film program.



Artwork pictured is as follows (counterclockwise from top left) Richard Todd "The Checkerboard"; Deboarh P. Hershkovitz "Softball Step"; Fritz (Steven) Weiss "Blue Mood Graf"; Graffiti Installation; Nelson Alvarez "Hojarsca"; Judith Eloise Hoop "Old Frog Farm"; Debra P. Hershkovitz "Tap Room Smoke"; pictured on the cover is Jillian Bernstein's "The Sub-conscious Mind: Pandora's Box" photos by George Fiala

# Films at Valentino Pier

Sitting on a blanket with a friend, enjoying food and drink, and watching a movie on a big screen in a comfortable park setting with your neighbors is not the worst way to spend a warm summer evening. Each Tuesday night the Red Hook Summer Film Series presents just such an event for our pleasure.

The film series is a completely local event, funded by local merchants and organized by dedicated neighborhood volunteers. There is absolutely no charge for joining the weekly crowd, and you may bring a picnic or purchase popcorn and soda for a very reasonable price. Occasionally an area restaurant will provide some of their food for purchase. On the evening of July 20th, Susan from the

Red Hook Lobster Pound was cooking and selling fresh lobster rolls to some very appreciative moviegoers.

The movies begin around 8:30, with blankets beginning to appear around 8 each Tuesday. The remaining schedule for this summer is as follows:

August 3rd - *Jaws*; August 10th - *Secrets of Roan Innish*; August 17th - *Splash*; August 24th - *Cabin Boy*; August 31st - *Princess and the Frog*; September 7th - *Life Aquatic*; September 14th - *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

Red Hook is a summer festival - you can enjoy dinner and a movie and a nightcap all within easy walking distance. On rainy nights the movies will go on at Fort Defiance.

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Susan from the Red Hook Lobster Pound dishes out fresh lobster rolls.

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**Katherine Lincoln Jewelry**

Katherine Lincoln studied art in Toronto and Manhattan. Before setting out on her own she created and worked in galleries and auction houses across New York.

She currently works out of her Red Hook studio where she is inspired by the beauty of the industrial urban landscape and the natural materials found in Native American jewelry. Her signature style and inspiration come through in statement pieces where innate stones are juxtaposed with the coldness of urban metals.

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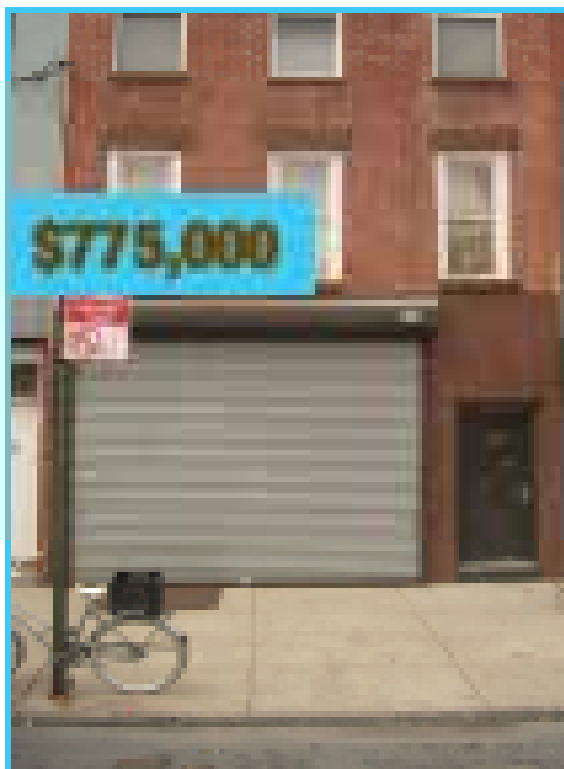
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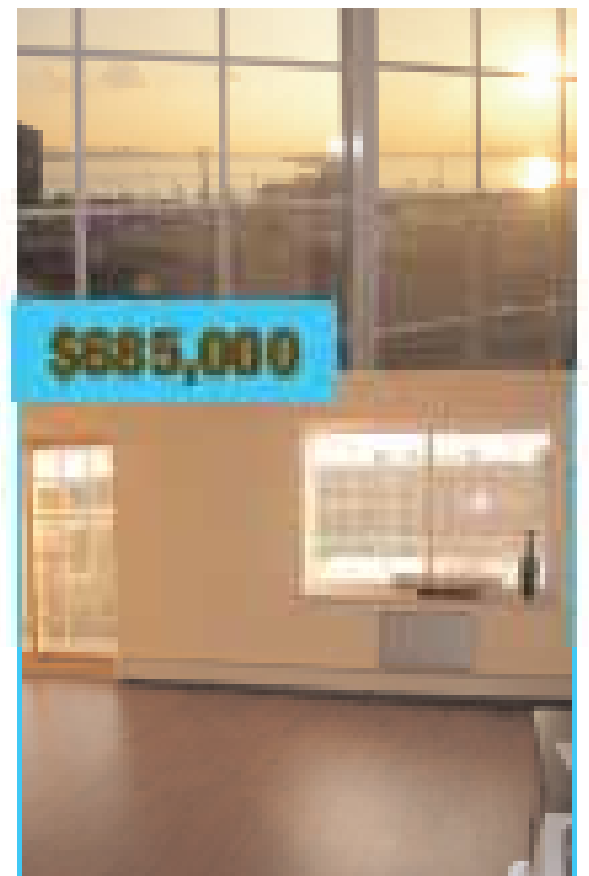
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# Drinks and Food to Go With It

## It's Still Meatless Fridays at Union Street's House of Pizza and Calzone

By Kevin O'Hanlon

Upon entering the House of Pizza and Calzones on Union Street, one immediately gets the feel of a restaurant that has authentic style and is rich with tradition. From the style of the old fashioned painted awning to the food itself, the pizzeria gives off the feeling of authenticity. This is because the pizzeria has been at the same location since 1952 and has tried its best to keep the original style. Although it was originally known by the name "Simone's" when it first opened, ownership changed in the late 1950's when two men bought the pizzeria and changed the name to The House of Pizza and Calzones.

The new owners decided it would be a good idea to keep the exact same methods of cooking and preparing the food as Simone did, as the pizzeria was already popular amongst people in the neighborhood. One of those methods involved deep-frying the calzones, a tradition that has been kept to this day by owners Paul D'Agastino and Gino Vitali.

### The secret is deep frying

The recipe for the calzone itself is very simple. First, the right amount of

dough is laid out. Then, ricotta and mozzarella cheeses with ham are piled on top. Lastly, everything is then folded into dough, creating a wrap that is ready to be cooked. While most pizzerias bake their calzones, Simone had access to a deep fryer, which he believed made the calzones taste better than those of any other pizzeria. This style of cooking helped build a very successful establishment over many years, as the House of Pizza and Calzones has become a staple on Union Street.

Today, the pizzeria is second to none in the entire Waterfront area and has become a neighborhood favorite of many local residents. While today the restaurant offers many different dishes and styles of pizza to choose from, the calzones remain one of the most popular items on the menu. Upon first trying one of their calzones, I was initially reminded of a knish for the taste of the fried outer layer of dough. Although the calzone is deep fried, it is not as greasy or oily as I first expected it to be, which definitely adds to its texture. Once I got the full taste of all the ingredients, I came to the realization that the calzones lived up to the hype and



These freshly made ham calzones await the deep fryer

I was very satisfied with my purchase. While there might be less fattening options to choose from at the House of Pizza and Calzones, the calzones there are definitely a great treat every once in a while.

### They Don't Mess with Karma

Another tradition that Paul has kept since he took over the place in September 2004 is to avoid putting ham or any meat in the calzones on Fridays. While this raises questions among unfamiliar patrons, Paul claims that it is all in the name of tradition.

Mr. Simone, who first opened the establishment, was a very religious Catholic. In those days, it was common for many practicing Catholics to avoid eating meat every Friday of the

year. When Simone sold the place, the two men who took over decided to keep the tradition going, despite not having any religious reason. Paul sees himself as a "newbie" in the timeline of ownership and thinks it would be wrong to break with such an old tradition.

"It is messing with karma", Paul explains, "this place has been here for so many years, who am I to change a successful way of doing things?"

Despite numerous requests from people who want meat in their calzones on Friday, nothing is changing any time soon. "Some customers are really happy that we keep a tradition that has been going on for so long, other ones get ticked off because they just want ham in their calzones", says Paul.



The **Red Hook Star-Revue** is looking for writers.

especially:

a part-time reporter  
a food expert  
a local barfly

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# MUSIC & ART CALENDAR

## Galleries

**The Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition** presents its 7th annual summer art show, Red Hooked, in a pre-Civil War coffee warehouse (where you can still find petrified beans in the floor boards). Amidst the stunning backdrop of New York Bay in this historic show space, the complex nature of change in a neighborhood is readily apparent. The show captures this complexity, running the gamut from traditional painting, photography to graffiti art. Over two hundred artists are exhibiting over 800 works in all media. It is a prime venue for collecting original works by emerging artists at bargain prices and has been praised by Crains NY Business and Smart Money for offering excellent value. Red Hooked open weekends through August 22nd, 1-6PM 499 Van Brunt St. 718 596-2506

**Lucky Gallery**, 176 Richards Street, (617) 417-3899, no show in August

**Kentler International Drawing Space** 353 Van Brunt Street, (718) 875-2098, closed August

## Music

**Jalopy Theatre and School of Music**, 315 Columbia Street, (718) 395-3214 live music nightly

**Union Street Star Theater**, 101 Union Street, between Columbia and Van Brunt. Thursday Night Music Jam- every Thursday from 7 - 10, musicians and listeners welcome, FREE

**Sunny's** 253 Conover Street, (718) 625-8211 Acoustic Jam every Saturday night. FREE

**Rocky Sullivan's** 34 Van Dyke Street (718) 246-8050 Seanchai and the Unity Squad - Saturdays at 9:30 p.m. Shantytown - Mondays 'bout 8:45 p.m. (traditional Irish music).

## Readings

**Freebird Books**, 123 Columbia Street 718 643-8484, call for event schedule

## Yoga

To get your blood moving, walk to Valentino Park for a free yoga session. Red Hook resident Anna Mumford offers an hour-long class every Saturday morning at 11:30.

## Museum

**The Waterfront Museum** teams up with the Tugboat Pegasus for free programs that will bring maritime education to Brooklyn Bridge Park! Tug & Barge Tour: August 26 - September 1 at Brooklyn Bridge Park Pier 6

## Robert Lombardi

### Videographer

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If you have a local event you would like publicized in our calendar, please let us know in advance by emailing us at [calendar@redhookstar.com](mailto:calendar@redhookstar.com) or contacting us by mail or at our offices at 101 Union Street.

There is no charge for a calendar listing.

AUGUST 10

### SECRET OF ROAN INISH

PRESENTED BY PICKETT FURNITURE AND PIONEER STREET ASSOCIATION

AUGUST 31

### PRINCESS AND THE FROG

PRESENTED BY FAIRWAY

AUGUST 17

### SPLASH

PRESENTED BY VAN BRUNT BUSINESS COLLECTIVE

SEPTEMBER 7

### LIFE AQUATIC

PRESENTED BY THE O'CONNELL ORGANIZATION

AUGUST 24

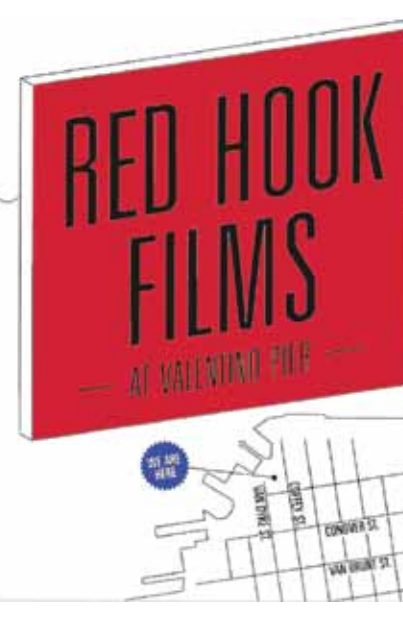
### CABIN BOY


PRESENTED BY THE GOOD FORK

SEPTEMBER 14

### PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN

PRESENTED BY BROOKLYN ICE HOUSE





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## Red Hook Star-Revue Brew Guide

What follows is a semi-complete guide to local bars and what they have on tap. It is important to understand that in most bars today, what is on tap changes sometimes frequently, so this will only give you an idea of what might be had, as these listings were compiled in mid-July. So things might have changed. The Star-Revue presents this Brew Guide as a public service.

**Moonshine**, 317 Columbia Street, open daily until 4 am. 20 Craft beers on tap including Yvengling, Sierra Nevada Pale Ale, Harp, Guinness, Stella, the Brooklyn tap features 6 Point, Kelso, Brooklyn Lager; other beers include Greenpoint harbor IPA, Hennepin Saison, E.S. Bam, Hoegarden.

**Ice House**, 318 Van Brunt Street, Open til 2, til 4 on Fridays and Saturdays; Beers on tap include Guinness, 6 Popint, Brooklyn Lager, Stella, Blue Point.

**Bait and Tackle**, 320 Van Brunt, Open every day until 4 am; On tap includes Al-lagash White, Stella, Prime, 6 Point, Guinness, Geary's Summer Ale, 6 Point Bengali, 6 Point Sweet Action.

**Fort Defiance**, 365 Van Brunt, Open 8 am - midnight, Tuesday 8 - 3; Beers include Abita Restoration, Shneiderweisses, 6 Pt. IPA, Reissdorf Kolsch

**The Good Fork**, 391 Van Brunt, Closed Mondays, Open for dinner until around 10:30 pm the other days, Beers on tap include Stoudts Pilsener, Captain Lawrence, 6 Point, Garden Rosairia

If we forgot to list your bar (and I know I missed more than a few) please call George at 718 624-5568, and I will hustle right over to check out your beers.




# Doomed Steamship Built Right Here at the Foot of Conover Street



*The General Slocum steamship carried up to 3000 passengers a trip from the city to Rockaway beach*

*(continued from page 1)*

pletion necessary for launching, so that she can be put in service this summer. The vessel's magnificent proportions as she stood on the stocks were admired by hundreds of visitors. The hull is completed and painted black and white on the outside. The hog frames are up so that the characteristic features of the boat as a side wheeler were sufficiently suggested. The calking is all done and she is ready to receive her engines. Although no effort had been made to clear away superfluous lumber, blocks and shavings from the decks, in preparation for yesterday's event, the big boat was vested with a gala appearance by the flags stretching from stem to stern in 'rainbow' fashion, that fluttered their brilliant colors in the breeze. Beside this decoration there was a big ensign at the stern, a Union Jack at the fore, and a streamer at the main. Several hundred persons, among whom were a number of pretty women, promenaded the broad deck for a full hour before the launch.

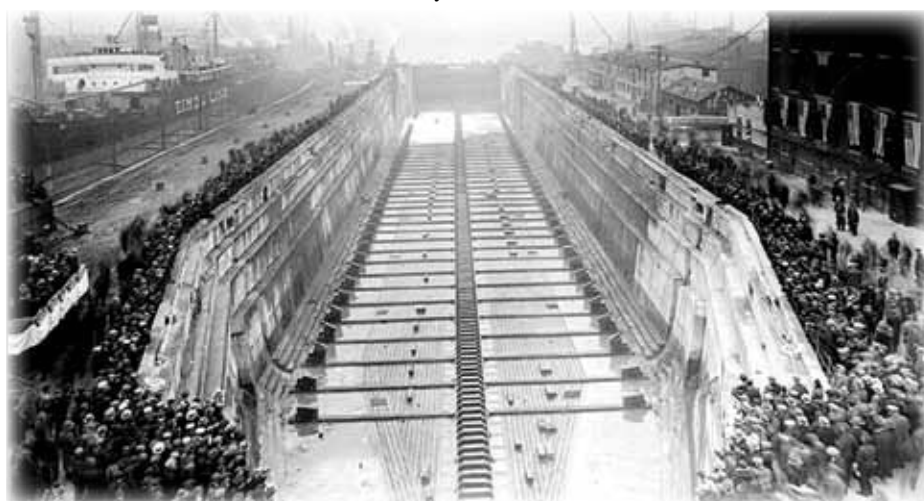
The article goes on to describe the actual moment of launch:

"The hour set for the launch was 3:30 P.M. and shortly after 3 a big contingent of the Red Hook Indians were driven off the boat and the gangplank taken down. The discomfited natives took up a position in line on the adjoining docks and elevated points of vantage and made the air tremulous with merry grunts, shrieks and other expressions of jubilation....[the christener of the boat was] pretty Miss May Lewis, a niece of President Lewis, by whom she was escorted. She wore a handsome costume of light gray material. Five minutes before the boat began to move the ubiquitous Red Hookers created anotehr diversion, albeit unwillingly. They were massed on the dock on the northly side of the ways in such numbers that for some reason which was not announced beforehand it was deemed advisable to utilize the services of the fireboat Seth Low, which lay close at hand, and a stream of water was sent into the crosd, the result being a general scramble to get out of range..., a minute or two later the cry went up, "She's off," and Miss Lewis swung round the bottle champagne and cried "in the name of Neptune I christen thee General Slocum."

For the next 13 seasons, the General Slocum ferried millions of New York-

ers without incident from Manhattan to the beaches at Rockaway. The following description of the horrors of that disastrous day in 1904 is excerpted from the book "At Sea in the City: New York from the Water's Edge" by William Kornblum, 2002 Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill:

"On June 15, 1904, the ferry was chartered by St. Mark's Lutheran Church in the East Village. Some 1,358 members of Kleindeutschland (Little Germany), the tightly knit German immigrant community then surrounding Tompkins Square on the Lower East Side, boarded the ferry around nine that morning at a pier on Third Street and the East River. They



*This was the shipyard close to Burtis, on the present day sight of the Ikea parking lot today...*

were bound for an annual picnic at Locust Point in bucolic Huntington on Long Island's North Shore. Their beloved pastor, Reverend George Haas, and leaders of the church were with them on deck. The Times reported that the General Slocum, which had been recently overhauled, departed with much fanfare that morning. "As she cast off and stood out into the stream her flags were flying, the band was playing a lively air, and her three decks were crowded to their capacity with a happy throng that looked for a pleasant day's outing at Locust Point, on the Sound." The majority of passengers were women and children.

The captain was William van Schaick, sixty-eight years old and commander of a crew of twenty-three men. He had earlier been cited for having ferried millions of passengers with an unblemished safety record.

Just as the General Slocum was passing Sunken Meadow, adjacent to Randalls Island in the Hell Gate, almost under where the Triborough Bridge spans the river today, cries of "Fire!" broke out below. "It was only a matter of seconds until the entire forward part of the boat was a mass of flames," the

Times reporters continued, and passengers began rushing madly over the three decks to avoid the flames, "All this time full speed ahead was maintained, and the flames, fanned fiercely by the wind, ate their way swiftly toward the hapless women and babies that were crowded on all the decks astern." The skipper looked out from his pilothouse and saw "a fierce blaze - the wildest I have ever seen."

I started to head for 134th street, but was warned off by the captain of a tugboat, who shouted to me that the boat would set fire to the lumber yards and oil tanks there. Besides I knew that the shore was lined with rocks and the boat would founder if I put in there. I then fixed upon North Brother Island.

With fire raging completely out of control and decks already collapsing on terror-struck women and children, Captain Van Schaick, his own clothes on fire, stayed at the wheel and ran the Slocum up on the shore of the hospital island beyond the Hell Gate, but in a part of the river where the current remained extremely swift. As the captain remembered it, "I stuck to my post in the pilothouse until my cap caught fire. We were then about twenty-five feet off North Brother

Island. She went on the beach, bow on, in about twenty-five feet of water. . . . Most of the people aft, where the fire raged fiercest, jumped in when we were in deep water, and were carried away. We had no chance to lower the lifeboats. They were burned before the crew could get at them."

North Brother Island became a scene of courage and panic. City Health Commissioner Darlington happened to be on the island that day, visiting the hospital. "I will never be able to forget the scene, the utter horror of it," he said. "The patients in the contagious wards, especially in the scarlet fever ward, went wild at things they saw from their windows and went screaming and beating at the doors until it took fifty nurses and doctors to quiet them. They were all locked up. Along the beach the boats were carrying in the living and dying and towing in the dead."

All told, 1,021 perished out of the original 1,358 who boarded the ship that morning. But there were miracles. One little boy was thrown into the river in midstream clutching his stuffed toy dog. He was fished from the river unharmed, still clutching the prized dog. Tales of heroism and cruelty

filled the newspaper accounts for days and weeks after the event. A heroic captain ran his tug alongside the General Slocum in full exposure to the fire and saved over a hundred lives. A measles patient from the island hospital ran into the water despite her fever and saved a few children. A nurse who always wished she could swim ran into the river to grab some children, which she did again and again until she was swept into deeper water, where she discovered that she could swim and continued saving lives. Others were antiheros. Crowds of souvenir hunters made collecting bodies difficult in the ensuing days. There were some ghoulish stories of onlookers who stripped bodies of their jewelry. And over and again bystanders described the unconscionable behavior of a private captain who was said to have watched the horror from the safety of a great white motor yacht without ever lifting a finger or launching a boat to assist in the rescues. "Kept His Yacht Back While Scores Perished: White Vessel's Captain Watched Slocum Horror Through Glasses," the Times headline stated.

Still burning at its waterline, the General Slocum was carried off in the current for another thousand yards or so until it struck land at Hunts Point in the Bronx. It remained there, a burnt and partially sunken hull, for the next few weeks. Divers searched for bodies in its sunken remains. Police and rescue parties combed the riverbanks for miles in search of bodies. The Times reported that "grief-crazed crowds" lined the shore where the bodies were being brought in by the boatload: "Scores were prevented from throwing themselves into the river." Terrible weeks of recrimination, accusation, investigation, and trials followed the disaster. There were reports of rotten life jackets and fire hoses that burst under pressure. Some jackets were found to have been stuffed with metal to give them the regulation weight. The captain and crew were pilloried in the press, as were the ship's owners. Captain Van Schaick was sentenced to ten years in prison for his part in the disaster but was pardoned four years later by President Taft. Kleindeutschland never recovered. The German settlement moved uptown to what was known as Yorkville, on the East Side overlooking the site of the disaster, and to Astoria in Queens. The burning of the General Slocum remains one of the worst disasters in New York City history.



*The foot of Conover Street, July 2010*