

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL SECTION LOOKS AT BUILDINGS AND TREES, BEGINNING ON PAGE 6

The Star-Revue Real Estate Report



Celebrating Columbia



Waterfront District

The Red Hook Star-Revue

April 2011 The Hook's Local Newspaper

\$1.00 at newsstands

Red Hook Senior Center Saved For Now

by Matt Graber



Pedro Martinez and Eduardo Carreao in the middle of a game of pool in the back room of the center.

On the brisk early afternoon of March 25th, Alexandra Rodriguez-Canizare, the program director at the Red Hook Senior Center, takes center stage of the cafeteria where dozens of seniors sit at long tables waiting for the day's lunch. She has to raise her voice considerably to be heard by everyone.

"We haven't got confirmation saying that we are staying open after the thirty-first," she announces. "But I want you all to come on the first in case we have to rally." She then repeats herself in Spanish.

Two nights earlier, on March 23rd, many of these same local seniors turned out amid a mix of cold wind, sleet and hail, to attend an information session hosted by Community Board 6's Youth/Human Services/Education Committee.

The guest speaker, a representative from the NYC Department for the Aging (DFTA), had come to speak and answer questions about the DFTA's decision to include both the Red Hook and Wyckoff Gardens senior centers in the list of 105 centers slated to close. That is, slated to close in the event that \$25 million in Title XX discretionary funding was cut from the upcoming state budget.

Title XX refers to funding (\$103 million) that the state receives from the federal government each year to pay for various services. Much of that money is allocated to mandatory programs like adult protective services

(continued on page 3)



British Band Brother "Oo-oo-oohs" and "Whoa-oh-ohs" 4th Avenue's Rock Shop

by Perry Crowe

Brother has ambition. At the start of their 9:30-Thursday-night show in the cozy confines of The Rock Shop, frontman Lee Newell announced, "We'll be playing Madison Square Garden in one year's time." With a handful of photographers hovering at the front of the stage, Newell went on to applaud the full-if-not-packed crowd's decision to come out and witness "the revolution."

It was big talk, but this is the band that signed with Geffen after only a handful of shows in its native England and is recording its debut album with Stephen Street, who has produced for the likes of Blur and the Smiths. It was also perfunctory swagger--the propaganda machine of another British Invasion churning away. Countrymen John, Paul, George and Ringo set the bar so high that nothing short of world domination is worth a mention.

Newell was aware of the game, ironically denying Brother's undeniable similarity to Oasis--the last band to brazenly wave the Union Jack in everyone's face as Liam and Noel Gallagher demanded comparisons to the Beatles--and doing a spot-on impression of Ozzy Osborne. Of course, Brother is from Slough, the setting of the original BBC



Outdoor Yoga Season is here! See page 9 for this and more SUN FUN!

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Growing Up Red Hook

Remember Coco Livio?

by Danette Vigilante



Summer in the city had nothing on Spring time in the Hook. Spring meant many things to us kids. Number one, summer vacation was so close, we could almost smell it. Number two, we could finally shed our coats. And, the most important of them all—number three. We were allowed to stay out longer playing games like, Hot Peas and Butter, where the main objective was to avoid getting beaten with a belt (doesn't that sound like fun?) or, Coco Livio and Red Light, Green Light 123. We'd stay out until our names were called from windows and stoops. If you were out of earshot, somebody always brought the news to you usually starting with, "Ooh, your mother is lookingggg for you!" This, depending on how long the message actually took to reach you, sometimes caused an instant belly-ache. I can still hear my two syllable name being drawn out, ringing like a call to arms; *Da-nette, Da-nette!*

Those like me, who celebrated Easter, couldn't wait to put on their new outfits and show them off at church or around the way. If you were a girl, you most likely spent the whole day before in curlers or, if you were blessed with hair like mine, you spent your time trying to coax the curls to take a day off. My friends helped me to do this with a hot-comb and when I was lucky, I didn't have a burn on my neck resembling said comb.

Sometimes though, Mother Nature would be cranky and send us snow for Easter for which we failed to recognize even a speck of humor. There went the click-ity-clack of our new shoes meeting the cement. Easter bonnets and ties sadly sat on our dressers missing their debuts.

We'd sit at our windows and watch the flakes as they fell onto the buds just starting to sprout from the trees. It was a terrible sight; a tug-of-war, good versus evil. For by that time we'd had our fill of the cold. We no longer felt the urge to make snow angels or have snowball fights. We needed to get out and stretch ourselves in the warm sun. We needed to see what was what. And that is exactly what I plan to do now. Just as soon as I hide that belt.



An Easter photo of my brother George, sister Daniele and me (on the right) from around 1970.

Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District The Red Hook Star-Revue

The News of the Hook

Volume 2 No.4, April 2011

Founded in 2010 by Frank Galeano and George Fiala

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The Red Hook Star-Revue is published monthly by Select Mail. 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 offices are at 101 Union Street, where you can take an ad, buy a coffee mug, make copies or simply tell us what's on your mind in-person, and we can be reached by phone at 718 624-5568 and by email at editor@RedHookStar.com or info@RedHookStar.com.

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

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If you have story ideas or ideas in general of interest, please contact us by all means and methods outlined above or stop by our office. Next issue will be out the first week of May, 2011 - Advertising and Editorial Deadline is Thursday, April 28, 2011.

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Red Hook Community Stands Up for its Senior Center at March 23rd CB6 Meeting

(continued from page 1)

and domestic violence programs. The rest is distributed to the counties as discretionary funding, used for things like senior services and day care services.

And so when Governor Cuomo initially released his 2011 budget proposals, which cut the funding that New York City's senior centers have historically relied upon, the DFTA had to put 105 centers on a hypothetical chopping block.

At eleven in the morning on March 25th, an hour before lunch time, the cafeteria has a festive feel to it. Clusters of people sit at the long tables, talking, playing cards. The Staples Singers song, "I'll Take You There," plays on the loud speakers, and in the center of the room, a dozen women form a circle of chairs and are moving their arms in various postures to the music. I am told that it's a group physical therapy exercise. They're having a good time.

Margarita, a retiree of Cascade Linen Services in Downtown Brooklyn, takes me to the back room where most of the special features of the center are; a computer room, a small workout room, two pool tables, a few shelves of books, a sewing machine - for sewing class, Margarita tells me.

"To me this is a healing place," says Gloria McWilliams, a former employee of the Department of Education. Her hands are braced because she has systemic lupus erythematosus. "I've been



Charise Lawrence from DFTA

feeling better since I've been here."

It seems like everyone enjoys coming here, whether they are seniors or not. Kevin, a local who says he's looking forward to turning 60 in four years, so that he can become a member, spoke about what the loss of the center would mean to him at the CB6 meeting. "I want to keep seeing their smiles," he said into the microphone. "I call them aunties and uncles. And I want to be an uncle."

Maria Larkin is a local senior who lives alone in her Red Hook West apartment. "I've been coming here for three months and I haven't missed a day," she says. "This is the place where I come to communicate with people."

Larkin is particularly concerned about the transportation challenge in the event that she has to travel to the nearest center on Court Street between Car-

roll and President Streets. "I have bad legs," she says. "It's going to be hard for me."

The lack of transportation infrastructure in Red Hook was a point repeatedly cited at the CB6 meeting by committee members and by members of the community who got a chance to take the microphone. Suzanne Turet, who hosted the meeting, got a loud applause when she addressed the DFTA rep, Charise Lawrence, emphasizing the issue: "There seems to be a conception in city government that Red Hook is the same as other neighborhoods. It's not. It's isolated and the city keeps forgetting that."

Greg O'Connell, who sits on the committee board, was the first to bring up

Although it was meant to be an information session, the meeting began to look more like a rally as people took the microphone to tell their own personal stories."

the transportation problem, asking Lawrence what advice the DFTA had for an elderly person living in Red Hook who would now have to travel to the nearest center in the event of closing. Her answer that the person could take a bus didn't go over well with audience members, inciting a few to call back, "Not an option!"

"The reply showed a lack of understanding as to how difficult it is to enter and exit Red Hook," wrote O'Connell in an email the next day. "It would be easy for me or you to 'take the bus' but many older folks have trouble walking and this is assuming that our bus service is reliable."

Although it was meant to be an information session, the meeting began to look more like a rally as people took the microphone to tell their own personal stories, and to adamantly demand that the center not be closed down. It got tense at times, as some of the speakers directed their frustration at Lawrence herself. Back at the center two days later, Jose Ortiz, the executive director of both the Red Hook and Wyckoff Gardens centers, reflects on what went wrong at the "information session." "She was not provided with the information that the community wanted," he says. "I think they should have sent someone else with the authority to be able to answer fully the questions of the community."

The other major question asked by several in attendance at the CB6 meeting, both committee members and audience members, was just how the DFTA went about deciding which centers got cut and which did not. While Lawrence



Margarita and Barbara Smith showcasing the exercise room.

did mention that the number of meals served at each center was part of the criteria, and that the department based its decision on which closings would have the "least impact" to the community, it still remained unclear why Red Hook had been chosen.

"Was mobility considered?" Turet asked. No clear answer was offered. Although at the time of our discussion, Ortiz is confident that Title XX funding will be restored, he emphasizes that this is only temporary, that as long as senior centers are relying on discretionary funding, the threat of major cuts is always present. "Even when the Title XX money is restored, these centers will only have

a contract for one year, so there is no guarantee. I'm afraid that once Title XX is restored, that the mayor may use those monies elsewhere, and there's nothing to prevent it. So this is why we have to heighten our advocacy and go out there and talk about these issues."

Clearly, the chopping block is an uncomfortable place to be, even if it's just hypothetical. With Cuomo's budget in and \$22.4 million restored to senior services according to the Daily News, Red Hook's seniors can rest easy. At least until next year, when a new budget is drawn up and the specter of the chopping block will likely rear its ugly head once again.



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Upcoming Events

Next 76th Precinct Community Council Meeting April 5, 2011, held at the "Friends of Firefighters", 199 Van Brunt Street, corner of Seabring Street).

On the morning of March 31st, there was a fatal traffic accident on Columbia Street near Carroll. This sad event is the reason we are reprinting the following from March's 76th Precinct newsletter:

TRAFFIC SAFETY TIPS

The 76th Precinct wants you to be safe!! Many of our traffic accidents are eminently preventable. The following tips are developed from trends observed in recent accident reports:

- A) Always be careful when opening your car door. Numerous accidents occur in our precinct in this fashion. Remember, many of our streets are narrow, and great care should be used when opening your car door.
- B) Do NOT Double-Park!! Again, incidents of double parking, combined with the narrow streets result in many needless traffic accidents.
- C) ALWAYS wear your seat belt. It has been proven time and time again that the use of seat belts greatly reduces injuries in the event of an accident.
- D) Do NOT use your cell phone while driving. Again, the distraction caused by cell phones often leads to accidents.
- E) Please make sure that when are crossing major streets, you allow enough time to get to the other side safely. Large intersections pose a significant problem to our senior citizens and to our children, when going to and coming from school. These large intersections account for a large percentage of pedestrian fatalities citywide.
- F) Bicyclists are required to obey all traffic regulations. Do not ride on the sidewalk. Always go in the same direction as the flow of traffic and stop at red lights and stop signs. When available utilize bike lanes.
- G) Do Not Block The Bicycle Lane. When parking or dropping people off, do not block the bicycle lane. Vehicles parked in bicycle lanes force bicyclists into vehicular traffic lanes and can cause an accident.

Trolley Followup

We have received news from the trolley fact finding committee as follows:

"After an earlier delay required to complete important components of our analysis, we have now scheduled a third and final CAC meeting.

At this meeting, we will summarize lead consultant URS's feasibility analysis, including the major construction constraints, cost analysis, and potential benefits, as well as our preliminary study conclusions."

This is a stakeholders meeting and will be held April 14th. After this meeting there will be a public meeting where all in the community will be invited. Lack of good transportation to Red Hook has been a problem since at least the 1930's.

Free Coffey Park Health Clinic

All Brooklyn residents are welcome to participate in the **Free Health Clinic** sponsored by Carroll Gardens Association, Inc., in collaboration with **Lutheran Medical Center**. The clinic will be held **Wednesday, April 20 from 2-5 p.m.** at **Coffey Park**, located at the corner of Dwight and Verona Streets. Doctors, nurses, and other health practitioners will provide blood pressure, diabetes, Body Mass Index (BMI) screenings and HIV testing, as well as health education materials related to HIV and STD risks. All ages are welcome.

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The Red Hook Initiative's 5th Annual Women's Career Day held on Saturday, March 26th at their headquarters, 767 Hicks Street was a big success. Women's Career Day was designed to allow young women of the Red Hook community an opportunity to hear first-hand what it took some women to overcome obstacles or who has forged a path that many women have traveled. Over 30 women showed up to hear first hand from professionals in the field. Pictured above are Sheryl Nash-Chisholm, Youth Employment Specialist, Jocelyn Rivera, Destiny Staton and panelist Pastor La Dana Clark from Church 'N the Hood. For more information about the Red Hook Initiative and their future events call 718 858-6782 or you may check their website (photo by George Fiala).

your \$5 donation at the door and every purchase of a pint of Kelso or Brooklyn Brewery for \$5. Every penny of the \$5 pints will go to the relief fund.

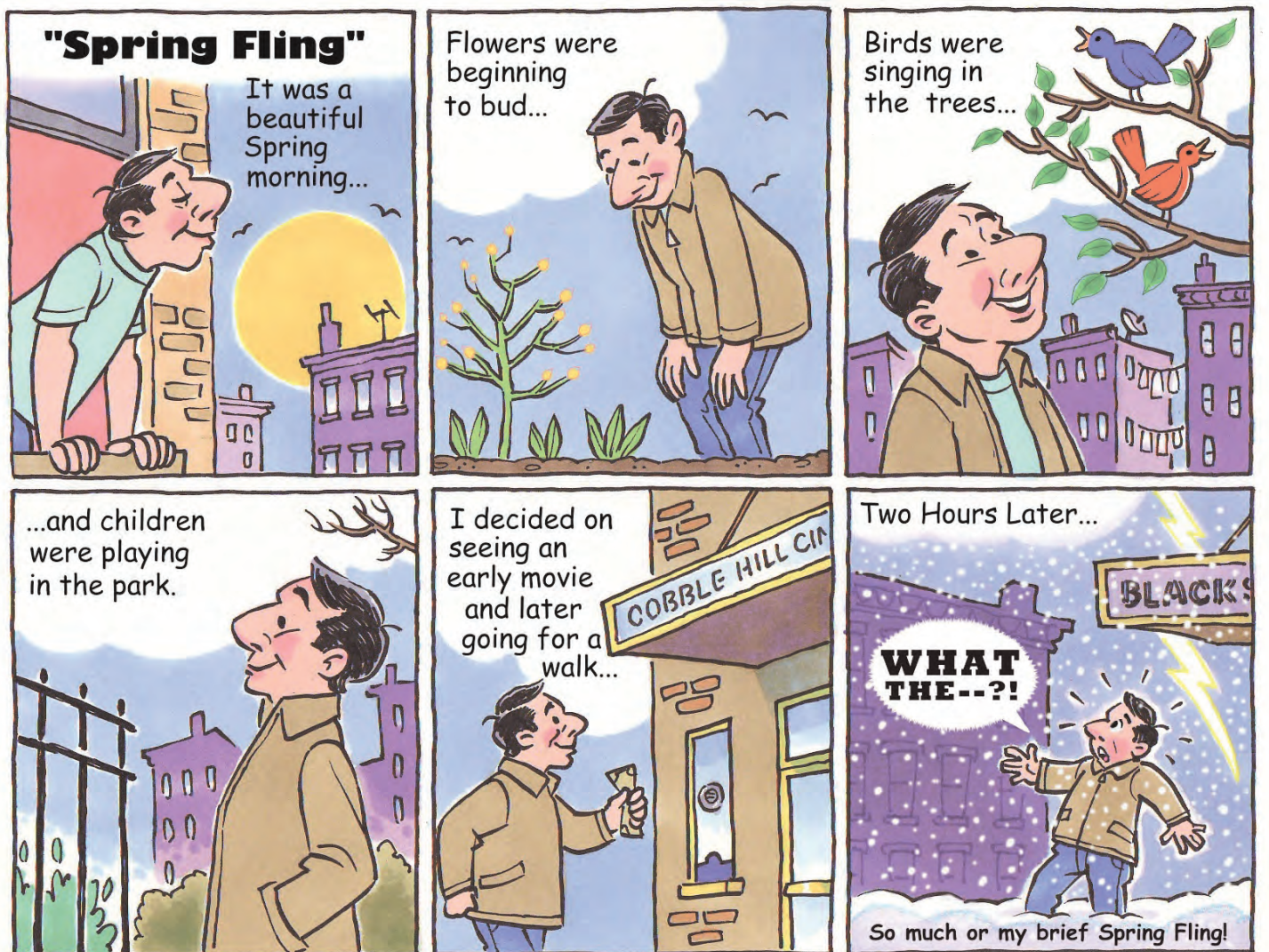
ALL proceeds will be shared between The American Red Cross: Japan Earthquake & Pacific Tsunami and The Humane Society: International Disaster Fund.

Brooklyn Winery to Host April 7th Greenway Benefit!

The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative is celebrating the season with a "Spring in Kings" party on Thursday, April 7th at the Brooklyn Winery, 213 North 8th Street, Williamsburg. Tickets are avail-

able at www.brooklyngreenway.org. The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative is an organization that is dedicated to putting together a 14 mile bicycle path from Williamsburg to Sunset Park somewhat alongside the river. How they effect our neighborhood is that they are want ot have periodic small parks interspersed on the route so that the bicycle riders can take a break, and they would like to have one of these parks alongside Columbia Street heading north from Degraw, on land currently used by the city for the project that has closed Degraw Street between Hicks and Columbia for now and the next year or so.

Six Packed Panels by Vince Musacchia



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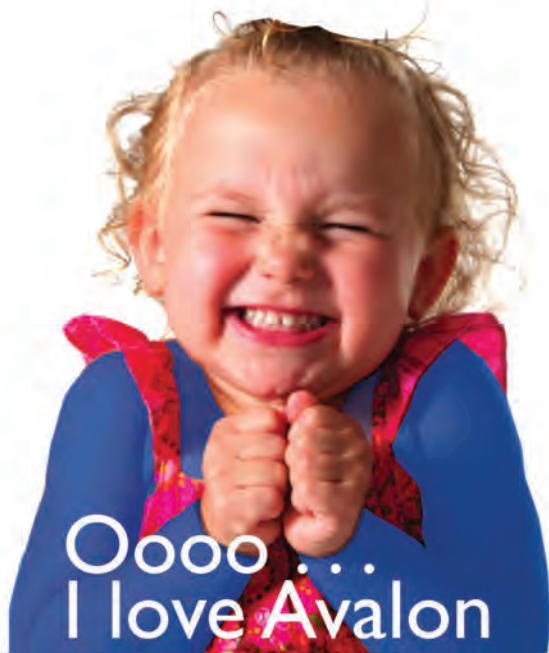
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Living in Red Hook: The Bad Things are also the Good Things

by Josie Rubio

When speaking about the appeal of Red Hook and the Columbia Waterfront District, residents and real estate agents alike—especially those who are one and the same—will often tell you two seemingly conflicting reasons why he or she loves the area. The area is close to Manhattan, yet there's a sense of isolation—but with a sense of community and a neighborhood feel. People seem to agree that the neighborhoods have changed for the better, without being overdeveloped.

Most real estate conversations in Red Hook usually seem to lead to two subjects. The first is former NYPD officer Greg O'Connell, whose O'Connell Organization perhaps owns the most real estate in the area, beginning his purchases in 1982. Many credit his commitment to preserving his Red Hook properties and refusal to flip them for a quick profit for keeping the waterfront from becoming home to high-rise condos and chain retailers, while creating desirable spaces for homes and businesses.

The second is the lack of public transit in Red Hook—at first glance, a curse for keeping out potential retail businesses, and yet a blessing for longtime residents who don't want to see Red Hook become the next *it* neighborhood. Magazines, newspapers and even the occasional documentary have speculated on the future of Red

Hook. Sometimes it's portrayed as a shining example, other times a potentially cautionary tale. But no matter what, the area seems to stubbornly continue on its own path, regardless of rumors. Here, we try to take a look at real estate trends in an area that often refuses to be defined.

Trends

Tina Fallon, an agent with Realty Collective, which moved into Frank P. Manzione's realty office at 223 Columbia Street in 2009, has lived in Red Hook since 2005. The main trend that she sees is that, "No one wants to leave Red Hook."

In fact, Fallon says she's seen several instances of people who already own property in Red Hook buying a second property or moving from one property to another within the area—a trend she calls "the Red Hook Shuffle." Fallon herself is considering buying a second property in the area. "People are not leaving the neighborhood," she says. "It's the opposite."

Frank Galeano, namesake of Frank Galeano Real Estate at 104 Union Street, notes that people tend to stay put in the Red Hook/Columbia Street Waterfront District. "It's a little bit off the beaten path being four blocks or more from the train," he says. "I think it gives it a less

transient, more neighborhood feel, and I think some people respond to that. The ones that like it stay a long time. People that don't like it, they move away right away."

Carmen Cordero, who lived on Columbia Street until 10 years ago, recently opened a Rapid Realty NYC franchise at the corner of Pioneer and Van Brunt streets with business partner, Tashauna Baker. "I think the waterfront is a great part of Red Hook right now," she notes.

The impending completion of Brooklyn Bridge Park near the Columbia Waterfront District and the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative, set to span 14 miles along the waterfront (including parts of Columbia Street and Red Hook) from Greenpoint to Sunset Park will continue to draw people to the area. "Everything in this city seems to be moving towards embracing the waterfront as the treasure that it is," Fallon says. "And every neighborhood, even if it's not specifically named in the city's proposals, any neighborhood that's on the water is going to benefit from that."

Yet it's not just the waterfront, or the "Back" of Red Hook along the water that is changing, Fallon says, citing a block of Wolcott between Dwight and Richards streets that underwent renovations. "We're seeing stuff that's not

happening in the Back, and that's really great to see that there's no part of Red Hook that isn't benefiting from the upswing," she says.

Prices

According to Fallon prices vary widely. "It goes block by block and apartment by apartment," she says. "There are still scrappy pretty unrenovated places that you can get for pretty cheap and then there are lovely luxurious beautifully finished apartments that you can rent for more than that. I think there's still a pretty wide variety of available stock in the area."

Cordero of Rapid Realty, which specializes in the rental of no-fee and low-fee apartments, as well as commercial spaces, puts the average price for a one bedroom in Red Hook at \$1,650 to \$1,750 per month.

Galeano estimates a one-bedroom rental is about \$1,200 to \$1,600 per month and a two-bedroom at \$1,800 to \$2,400. For those in the market to buy, a small four-family residence on Degraw recently sold for \$962,000. Galeano is currently working on a project that would develop mixed use buildings with affordable housing units.

One- to three- bedroom condos at Columbia Commons, a new development at 110 Warren Street, ranged from about \$400,000 to \$895,000. As of late March only one of the 48 units was still available. The condominiums all have a 25-year 421-A tax abatement, so the taxes for a typical one-bedroom would work out to be about \$25 per month until the last four of the 25 years, when the taxes would be phased in. As part of the criteria to receive a tax abatement, the developer had to build affordable housing in the form of Columbia Hicks Apartments, all of which are occupied or have an application being processed; prices range from \$873 per month for a studio to \$2,187 for a two-bedroom.

Transportation and Neighborhood

Without a car, navigating Red Hook often means walking or taking the B61 bus. The bypassing of the Smith-Ninth Streets station—the closest MTA stop to Red Hook—by Queens-bound F trains during the Culver Viaduct rehabilitation project through May doesn't really help the area's reputation for being hard to get to. As the sign at local diner Hope & Anchor says, "Welcome 2 Red Hook. You made it!"

Because of the lack of public transit, Fallon says, the neighborhood often draws people who don't have to commute into Manhattan every day, drawing "people who work more creative jobs."

Greg O'Connell Jr., one-third of the O'Connell Organization, along with his father, the legendary Greg Sr., and

(continued on next page)

Frank Galeano, namesake of Frank Galeano Real Estate at 104 Union St., notes that people tend to stay put in the Red Hook/CSWD

"It's a little bit off the beaten path being 4 blocks or more from the train. I think it gives it a less transient, more neighborhood feel, and I think some people respond to that. The ones that like it stay a long time. People that don't like it, they move away right away."

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We've still got that small town feel (continued from previous page)

brother, Michael, says that transportation in Red Hook still remains a deterrent for people—and businesses—moving into the area. “When dealing in both commercial and residential real estate the main challenge of Red Hook has been the ability of employees, customers and residents to travel both in and out of the neighborhood,” he says. “This fear is always palpable when attempting to attract businesses into commercial spaces. Employers are always aware of how difficult it would be for their employees to get here by public transportation but luckily much of the time these same employers fall in love with the neighborhood once they take a look around.”

But by the same token, O’Connell Jr. says, “I think in general when people are looking to rent an apartment in the Red Hook area they are attracted by the ‘out of the way’ nature of this place. I’ve often described it as a small town because it actually does feel that way. Many of the potential tenants I’ve dealt with actively look for an apartment in this particular neighborhood because they want to live in Red Hook, or at least what their idea is of Red Hook.”

Though Galeano recently considered purchasing a trolley bus of his own, perhaps the lack of convenient transit could be a “blessing in disguise,” he says. “There’s a certain feeling of quietness at night. All the faces you see are familiar.”

Galeano is one of the familiar real estate Franks you’ll see in the area—the other being Frank Manzione, who still works three days a week at Realty Collective. “Frank was hoping to retire,” Fallon says. “We will not let him do it.” She adds that she often turns to Manzione for his extensive knowledge of the area. “There are so many people in the neighborhood that bought their

first homes from Frank 25 years ago, so he really knows the history of the neighborhood better than anyone I’ve ever met.”

Change and Development

That Red Hook has changed is evident—many describe its past as recent as the ‘90s as the “Wild West.” In his real estate office, Frank Galeano pulls up a photo on his computer and says, “This is the storefront that we’re in right now, and an abandoned building, an abandoned building, abandoned building, a blocked up building and this is taken looking straight across the street.” Those buildings were eventually torn down to make way for some of the condos on Union and Columbia streets. The main subject of the photo is Galeano, who grew up on Columbia Street, at age 12, and his brother, who is 13 years older. “I’m very excited my brother’s taking me cruising in his Cadillac,” he says of the photo.

However, he says, he has liked the neighborhood in all its phases—even the boarded-up era when he was a kid. “My friends and I could go inside an abandoned building and change the lock and make it our funhouse and we felt safe because we were in our neighborhood and we would change out the fuse on the light post and bring the electric power in,” he recalls. “That was great—that was a lot of fun.”

Though Cordero says the area has changed a lot in the past decade, she echoes Galeano’s sentiments. “I’m from here, so there’s nothing bad I can say about Red Hook, from years ago or from now.”

Since Fallon moved to the area six years ago, she says, “Just in that short period of time, the neighborhood has continued to improve despite all the prognostica-

tions of its downfall,” she says, referring to “The Embers of Gentrification,” a story



Red Hook native Carmen Cordero (right) recently opened a local Rapid Realty NYC franchise on the corner of Van Brunt and Pioneer streets with Tashauna Baker; photo by Gabriel Chapman.

published in a November 2007 issue of *New York Magazine*, which predicted the “degentrification” of the neighborhood, which it dubbed “Dead Hook.”

The term “gentrification,” however, doesn’t sit well with many—including developer O’Connell, credited with much of the revival of the area. Galeano, whose grandfather settled on Sackett Street in 1905, also doesn’t like the word. “It makes me feel, ‘My father’s not a gentleman? I’m not a gentleman?’”

Documentary filmmaker D.W. Young took an up-close look at changes in Red Hook and the controversy surrounding the arrival of IKEA in his 2008 documentary, *A Hole in a Fence*. Though the film’s focus is on one lot—which his now a cement mixing factory—the film

addresses the unsuccessful fight to save the old graving dock and the fear that IKEA would pave the way for big box stores, as well as the complicated issues surrounding development.

“When I started my film I really didn’t have the intention of addressing the neighborhood in any wider sense,” Young says. “Those elements grew, inevitably, out of the very specific story I was interested in of one abandoned lot behind where Ikea is now. As I dug deeper into its peculiarities, various related issues in the surrounding area simply couldn’t be ignored.”

However, the influx of big retailers since IKEA’s opening in 2008 hasn’t happened—though this could be partially due to documentary’s timing, right before the real estate bubble burst, Young says.

Fallon—and many—credit The O’Connell Organization for preserving

The term “gentrification,” however, doesn’t sit well with many—including developer O’Connell, credited with much of the revival of the area. Galeano, whose grandfather settled on Sackett Street in 1905, also doesn’t like the word. “It makes me feel, ‘My father’s not a gentleman? I’m not a gentleman?’”

much of the area. “What we’re seeing is the neighborhood continues to improve as a place to live without any threat of overdevelopment and so there’s no sense that somebody’s going to build a new high-rise condo on the waterfront,” she says. “Yet it’s going to be a nicer and nicer place to live.”

The O’Connell Organization currently owns about 100 properties in Cobble Hill, Park Slope and Carroll Gardens, but many are in the Columbia Waterfront District and in Red Hook. (There also are properties in Western New York; Greg O’Connell Sr. was recently profiled in the *The New York Times Magazine* as “The Last Townie,” for his plans to revive the small village of Mount Morris.) At the waterfront properties—including Beard St. Warehouses, Red Hook Stores Warehouse, 92 Van Dyke Street, 106 Ferris St. and Pier 41—the organization used as much of the original parts of the building as possible, says O’Connell Jr. “While putting up endless condominiums without any diversity of available space type does allow for maximum profit, it does not necessarily benefit the surrounding individuals, businesses, and overall environment.”

What’s in a name?

In 2004, Galeano received a call from *The New York Times*, asking him what

(continued on next page)



As of late March, only one of the 48 units remained at Columbia Commons, a new development at Warren and Columbia streets. Here is the view from a top floor balcony. Courtesy Halstead Property LLC



Frank Galeano at one of his Union Street properties. Photo by George Fiala

Red Hook's Disadvantages are also its Advantages

(continued from previous page)

he thought of BoCoCa, a new term meant to encompass Boerum Hill, Cobble Hill and Carroll Gardens. "I offered CoWaDis," Galeano says, smiling, "and the man who made up BoCoCa didn't like it."

Galeano says that when he was growing up, he called the area Columbia Street, so he has no problem with the Columbia Street Waterfront District, even though it's a bit of a mouthful. "If we were to go to Manhattan we'd say we were from Red Hook or Carroll Gardens because we're kind of in between and those neighborhoods are better known, but we always considered ourselves Columbia Street."

Cordero, however, says she always identified her home growing up as Red Hook. "It all depends on who you ask," she says.

The Columbia Street Waterfront District would be the smallest neighborhood in Brooklyn—if recognized as a neighborhood, says Galeano. However, he doesn't list properties under that heading, because people still aren't familiar enough with the name to seek it out. Though the waterfront district label is often called a "real estate term," very few realtors actually use Columbia Street Waterfront District—or the term Carroll Gardens West—to describe where properties are located. Even Halstead Properties in charge of Columbia Commons lists the condos in Cobble Hill.

Fallon says it's an exciting time for this area, whatever it's called. "We can talk about real estate all day but the key is as a place to live, it just keeps getting better and better," Fallon says. "I think more than anything, people are happy to be here."

Real Estate Roundtable Talks Up Brooklyn Real Estate

by Matt Graber

The destiny of Red Hook's waterfront and Brooklyn's largest public housing development, Red Hook Houses, are both issues that have come up at the Brooklyn Real Estate Roundtable, a luncheon series held at the Brooklyn Historical Society (BHS).

Every three months some of the top players in the borough's real estate industry gather at the Historical Society, located at 128 Pierrepont Street, to talk about trends, challenges, plans for the future, and to get some free lunch. All other attendees have to pay up to \$250 per plate, which is added up at the end of each year and presented in the form of a big check to BHS by the chair of the Roundtable Steering Committee.

According to the Brooklyn Eagle, Michael Kaye of Douglaston Development, who is this year's committee chair, handed a check for \$93,000 to BHS at the last luncheon in February.

Fundraising aside, one of the speakers at the February 2011 luncheon was John B. Rhea, chairman of the New York City Housing Authority. Linda Collins of the Brooklyn Eagle reported that Chairman Rhea addressed the slightly controversial issue of drawing upon private funding sources to help compensate for NYCHA's budget woes. While there are many who feel that public-private partnerships could undermine the basic mission of public housing, which is to serve low-income families, Rhea conveyed the message that if someone in the private sector has a good idea, then he would love to hear it.

Collins reported that Rhea also emphasized the need to build schools on NYCHA property, and to bring in more retail stores, both large and small, especially supermarkets. He also spoke of the need to utilize parking lot space for new construction, instead of tearing down trees and bulldozing green space.

The Red Hook waterfront has also come up in past Roundtable events. At the luncheon held in August 2010, also covered by Linda Collins in the Brooklyn Eagle, Chris Ward, executive director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, spoke about the future of development on the Red Hook waterfront.

He admitted that development has been "sporadic" over the years, as a result of Red Hook's lack of transportation infrastructure and other factors. But he said that plans and strategies for the next "20 to 30 years" were being looked at by the Port Authority.

Collins also reported that Ward acknowledged the fact that the Brooklyn Cruise Terminal had generated fewer jobs than it was expected to - but pointed out that the terminal has helped New York City's tourism industry. This probably didn't provide much comfort to Red Hook residents at the luncheon (if there were any) whose main exposure to the tourist trade consists of giving directions to confused cruise ship passengers.

The upcoming Brooklyn Real Estate Roundtable will be held in early May and the guest speakers have not yet been announced.

It will be warm in May, we suspect... time for the Star-Revue Fashion Issue.

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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

June 2010

Introducing a New Community Voice

Thank you for taking the time to pick up this, your new community newspaper. One of our goals is to serve as a vehicle to help together the many disparate voices that make up our vibrant Red Hook neighborhood. With an eye to the future provided by the rich history of our area, we are your contributions from those who make up our vibrant Red Hook. If there are neighborhood concerns you wish to express, or if you are interested in making a direct contribution as a writer or photographer, please feel free to contact our publisher George Fish at 101 Union Street, or better yet email george@redhookstar.com.

Our other goal is to provide an impression of our local neighborhood to spread the word about their offerings to the regional public. Celebrating Columbia Hook Columns will help plan an effective campaign and can be reached at 917-66299, or via email at info@columbiahook.com.

First Block of Union Street Host to Music & Fun

Last month we were excited to announce the arrival of some to Union Street between Van Brunt and Columbia. First, the corner gallery WORX hosted an opening night with the magazine which was an all-day party and well-attended. What was up on the corner and filled the air with music, enjoyable sounds. A few weeks later, the neighborhood's first block party was held on this street and was a great success. The neighborhood's first block party was held on this street and was a great success. The neighborhood's first block party was held on this street and was a great success.

The following is a description of the gallery space at the end of Union Street taken from the press release: WORX is a former machine's paint repair gallery and project space on the Red Hook waterfront overlooking the city's largest public housing complex. Since 2007, WORX has been an active hub for creative and cultural activities, including art shows, performances, and community events. WORX is a former machine's paint repair gallery and project space on the Red Hook waterfront overlooking the city's largest public housing complex. Since 2007, WORX has been an active hub for creative and cultural activities, including art shows, performances, and community events.

Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District

The Red Hook Star-Revue

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

FREE No. 2, July 2010

Ikea Spillover Effect? Red Hook Not Yet a Retail Boomtown

Hook would be most likely to be a new business in the neighborhood. IKEA's presence in the neighborhood is not yet a retail boomtown. IKEA's presence in the neighborhood is not yet a retail boomtown.

It's not clear that the Red Hook area of Brooklyn has been experiencing a major spillover effect from the Ikea store. While the store has been open for over a year, the neighborhood has not seen a corresponding increase in retail activity. IKEA's presence in the neighborhood is not yet a retail boomtown.

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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

FREE The Hook's Local Newspaper

September 2010

EDITORIAL: Red Hooks Future Can Be Bright if We Start Thinking About the Possibilities Now

When Red Hook and the Columbia Waterfront District were opened up to the rest of Brooklyn by the construction of the highway and the streetcars, it was a time of great opportunity. The future possibilities of a Red Hook that enjoys the benefits of an environmentally sound, economically vibrant, and socially just community are within our grasp. We have the potential to become a vibrant, economically sound, and socially just community. We have the potential to become a vibrant, economically sound, and socially just community.

IT'S BEEN 22 YEARS SINCE LIFE MAGAZINE REPORTED ON THE DEATH OF OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

Some of us remember the dark days of the crack epidemic of the 1980s. While most of New York City were on the edge of collapse, Red Hook was a place of hope. It was a place where people were trying to rebuild their lives. It was a place where people were trying to rebuild their lives. It was a place where people were trying to rebuild their lives.

We Investigate Rocky Sullivan's Red Hook Pizza In Our Food and Drink Section, page 14

Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District

The Red Hook Star-Revue

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

August 2010 FREE The Hook's Local Newspaper

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

In fact, the ice cream truck has been at that location for over 60 years, having many different types of ice cream trucks all year round. The ice cream truck has been at that location for over 60 years, having many different types of ice cream trucks all year round. The ice cream truck has been at that location for over 60 years, having many different types of ice cream trucks all year round.

NYC'S 2ND BIGGEST DISASTER EVER HAD ROOTS NEAR FAIRWAY DOCK

The last time that the tragic demise of the General Slocum steamship took place in the water was around the time of 1914. The last time that the tragic demise of the General Slocum steamship took place in the water was around the time of 1914. The last time that the tragic demise of the General Slocum steamship took place in the water was around the time of 1914.

You Can't Get Ham on Fridays... Learn to our new Drinks and Food to Go With It

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October 2010 FREE The Hook's Local Newspaper

Red Hook Court a Model for the Rest of the World

The opportunity to look at the Red Hook Court as a model for the rest of the world. The opportunity to look at the Red Hook Court as a model for the rest of the world. The opportunity to look at the Red Hook Court as a model for the rest of the world.

Can a Monorail be the Answer?

Liberty International Airport. The use of a monorail system in other parts of the world, most notably in Japan. The use of a monorail system in other parts of the world, most notably in Japan. The use of a monorail system in other parts of the world, most notably in Japan.

This Month we expand our Arts Coverage...

- Food!
- Music!
- Dance!
- Books!
- Thought!
- Hanging Out!

12 PAGES OF ARTS COVERAGE INSIDE!!

The Red Hook 20's are in style with the Red Hook Ramblers p. 14

Krista Dragomer on Jobs Boat p. 10

Inside the Star-Revue... **SEXI! DRUGS! ROCK & ROLL!**

Barbecue on Columbia Street. Stumptown Opens a Tasting Room. Smokey's Round up at Sunnys.

Celebrating Columbia Waterfront District

The Red Hook Star-Revue

November 2010 FREE The Hook's Local Newspaper

Will Private Funding Undermine Red Hook Housing?

As the New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) - which serves all 54,857 New Yorkers currently housed in public housing in Section 8 Programs - was a city in need, it would be the 20th most highly populated city in the country. And the largest development in Brooklyn, with 2,578 units, in Red Hook Housing. NYCHA is a city in need, it would be the 20th most highly populated city in the country. And the largest development in Brooklyn, with 2,578 units, in Red Hook Housing.

Baked Bakers Reinvent Classic Desserts in Their New Recipe Book

It's been years since Matt Levin and his partners at Baked, a Brooklyn-based bakery and cafe, have been featured in the Star-Revue. It's been years since Matt Levin and his partners at Baked, a Brooklyn-based bakery and cafe, have been featured in the Star-Revue.

Yes - I can't be without The Red Hook Star-Revue EVER!

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Red Hook Resident Anna Mumford Brings Forrest Yoga to the Waterfront

By Josie Rubio

Were it not for a fortuitous cancellation of a spinning class, Anna Mumford might not have discovered her calling as a yoga instructor. Mumford, who now teaches Forrest yoga classes at Louis J. Valentino Pier Park every Saturday morning, was spending a year in North Carolina as a political speech writer when a yoga class was substituted for her regular spinning class at the gym.

Job stress, long hours and a fast food-heavy diet were taking a toll on Mumford, who was diagnosed as a teenager with Crohn's disease, which causes chronic inflammation of the gastrointestinal tract. "It got to the point where every time I ate, it was really painful," she says. "I was not in a good, healthy space because I couldn't eat and I was working all the time."

At the end of the yoga class that day, she says, "I had this sort of epiphany," when she realized she wasn't in pain after the class. After the campaign wrapped up in 2008, Mumford moved back to New York City. In 2009, she started to teach Forrest yoga, and she moved back to Red Hook, where she'd resided before her campaign work.

After teaching some classes at the Red Hook Recreation Center last year, Mumford started teaching outdoor yoga classes at Valentino Pier, for a suggested \$10 donation. "I wanted to teach the neighborhood," she says. Yogis can bring their own mats or towels, though Mumford will be able to provide some mats.

This year, she plans to hold the hour-long Forrest yoga class every Saturday from 10 to 11 am, with a substitute for when she's out of town. In the case of inclement weather, check her website

(annamumford.com) for cancellations. "It's really pleasant with the sun and the water, and you can watch the ferries go by," she says of the setting. The classes are open to those new to Forrest yoga, and yoga in general.

In Forrest yoga, developed by and named for Ana Forrest, the poses, or asanas, are held for longer periods of time than in Vinyasa yoga. "The nice thing about it is, because you hold things a little longer, folks who are newer don't have to feel like they're rushing to catch up the whole time," Mumford says. "But then people who are more advanced can just go deeper into the poses and challenge themselves that way."

Those who have practiced Vinyasa yoga will recognize many poses and sun salutations, though ab work is done at the beginning of the class rather than the end of class. "There's a lot of focus on core strength," Mumford says. Forrest yoga also differs from many other types of yoga in that the poses are done with a relaxed neck.

Mumford had originally discovered yoga six years ago in Palo Alto, California, where she got an undergraduate degree in feminist studies and a master's degree in international education policy at Stanford University. She initially practiced Bikram yoga, which is done in a heated room, and Vinyasa. She was back in San Francisco visiting friends three years ago when she took a class with Ana Forrest. The practice focuses on core work, and Mumford found it helped her digestive health, so when she returned to New York, she started taking Forrest yoga classes. Mumford then decided to pursue teaching training, followed by a yearlong apprenticeship in New Haven, Connecti-

cut. She assisted Forrest at a workshop at Pure Yoga on the Upper East Side last summer, and she now regularly assists Forrest, recently traveling to London to help with a Forrest yoga five-day teacher training.

Mumford credits yoga for helping with her manage Crohn's disease by strengthening her abs, relieving muscle tension and leading her to make better nutrition choices. In fact, a study by conducted at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle found that people who practice yoga on a regular basis eat more mindfully; they tended to be more aware of what they ate and stopped eating when they were full. "When you're really out of touch with your body, you don't necessarily realize what's not good to eat or what you need to not be doing," Mumford says.

Mumford also teaches in the area at 102Commerce, her own Red Hook space. The neighborhood reminds her of her hometown of Olympia, Washington, "which is kind of like this funky little port area," she says. The first time she visited Red Hook, she says, "It kind of felt like home." Mumford also teaches regularly at Element Natural Healing Arts, 518 Henry Street, as well as in Manhattan, at Om Factory NYC, 265 West 37th Street. She also begins teach-



Caption for outdoor garden photos: Anna Mumford, who will be teaching Forrest yoga classes every Saturday at Valentino Pier, taught a class last summer at Urban Meadow at President and Van Brunt streets. Photo by Maris Zivarts.

ing an 8-week session of yoga classes at the Red Hook Rec Center the first week of May on Wednesdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am; Sarah Willis teaches the Monday 10:30 am classes.

Forrest yoga classes will be held every Saturday at Valentino Pier from 10 to 11 am; visit annamumford.com. For the Elements Natural Healing Arts yoga schedule, visit elementhealing.com.

Earth Day Celebration Kicks Off Four-Part Festival Series in IKEA/Erie Basin Park

by Josie Rubio

The Earth Day Celebration 2011 at IKEA/Erie Basin Park on April 23 from 11 am to 3 pm kicks off a four-part festival series from the Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy (UDEEC). The free festivals this spring and summer will even include pirates and live music from the legendary Melvin Van Peebles and Laxative. The entire series will highlight UDEEC's EnviroMedia Mobile, the 48-foot-long mobile urban nature center and micro-maritime museum on wheels, which calls the park at 1 Beard Street its home base.

The Earth Day event will feature live music from Caravan of Thieves, as well as music from DJ Megman and Spaze Crafte & Co., plus Green Apple Kids will have a demonstration of vermicomposting worms. People also can recycle small electronics, such as cell phones. In the event of rain, the Earth Day event will be rescheduled for April 24.

At 1 pm, there will be the ceremonial launch of the Giant Floating Earth Ball, which is 12 feet in diameter and filled with helium so that it rises 100 feet in

the air. Every 10 feet is a banner, representing 10% of a community pledge to mitigating an environmental issue, for a total of 100 percent, says Ludger K, Balan executive, environmental and cultural programs director of Urban Divers. "The Earth Day 2011 pledge is for 100 percent commitment towards strategies and adaptation for mitigating climate change in New York, and for the ecological restoration of the Gowanus Canal," he says.

All of the festival events will include the EnviroMedia Mobile museum, which also travels to schools and other locations for the purpose of education. Balan says, "It tells the story of New York Harbor, of the estuary, history, ecology, social and cultural, economic and the story of the Hudson River and the tributaries." More than 50 artifacts are in the museum, which has exhibits about the Gowanus Canal, Atlantic sturgeon, oysters (including a special exhibit of female Japanese divers, donated by the Mikimoto Pearl Museum of Japan) and the legendary American naval diver Carl Brashear, who received his training in NY Harbor. The Mobile Museum also hosts presentations on birds of prey and other estuary wildlife.

Admission to the events is free, though donation boxes are set up, and people are welcome to donate to the organization and its programs. The UDEEC EnviroMedia Mobile's Children and Families Program Series also is supported by Red Hook Waterfront/O'Connell Corporation, IKEA Brooklyn, Waste Management, Movers Not Shakers, Hudson

River Foundation, the office of Assemblyman Bill Colton and the office of Velmanette Montgomery. Food vendors, artisans and tables for local not-for-profits also will be part of the events. The organization is currently calling for volunteer pirates for its Pirates Waterfront Festival on July 30 from 11 am to 5 pm.

The July festival will feature volunteers outfitted as pirates hosting activity stations, such as catch-and-release fishing with provided hooks and fishing rods. A pirate captain will steer a 30-foot canoe from Valentino Pier to the Basin, where a tall sail ship will be docked. Those who sail in the canoe will be given a pirate hat to wear for the trip. Onshore, pirates will fire cannons every time the canoe reaches the ship. The event also will have a guest pirate theater, a children's sing-and dance-along, a reggae band and live underwater video observation.

On August 20, Urban Divers will host a sunset concert and outdoor movie screening, featuring Melvin Van Peebles and Laxative, and a film selection from the Submerge Art & Environment Festival. The series closes with the Festival of Ages on September 24, which will include a medieval village, a giant teepee, falconry, archery, buskers and folkloric and musical performances from various cultural groups from NYC.

"We hope to not get just passersby from IKEA, but the entire Red Hook community, the extended Brooklyn community and our extended shore community around the region will join us for these



The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy's EnviroMedia Mobile is a 48-foot-long mobile urban nature center and micro-maritime museum on wheels that houses more than 50 artifacts. Photo courtesy of The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy.

wonderful festivals that are intrinsic to the waterfront park," Balan says.

The Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy is not only looking for pirate volunteers, but volunteers for all the festivals and as mobile museum docents to give tours and operate environmental recreation stations. The non-profit also has a youth program for volunteers ages 14 to 21 to become docents at the EnviroMedia Mobile museum. The deadline to apply via email is April 15, and volunteers should be available for a minimum of 3 hours on Saturdays.

For more information, visit urbandivers.org and environmediamobile.blogspot.com. Those interested in becoming adult or youth volunteers should email enviromediabile.udec@gmail.com.

Weekend Excursions

by Carmella Manns

Liven up your weekends with our picks of what to do and see in the neighborhood and surrounding area.

Please see calendar for additional events.

Week 1: Ahh...Spring!

Friday, April 1

Start off your weekend at **Littlefield**, 622 Degraw Street, and leap into a different world with the sound and imagery of **Arms and Sleepers**, an ambient/trip-hop duo, and **Dive Index**, the collaborative electronic project of Will Thomas. Brooklyn singer/songwriter **Cat Martino**, who contributes vocals to Dive Index, opens the show at 8 pm. Admission is \$8 [littlefieldnyc.com].

Saturday, April 2

Find your chi on the **Valentino Pier**, Ferris and Coffey streets, with morning outdoor Forrest yoga, open to all levels (weather permitting), from 10 to 11 am. Suggested donation is \$10 [annamumford.com].

After finding your balance, musicians can head over to the **Jalopy Theatre and School of Music**, 315 Columbia Street, for fingerpicking Piedmont-style guitar with Mary Flower at noon. The lesson, for advanced beginners to intermediate players, teaches left and right hand guitar techniques to provide bounce to this brand of blues, and is \$40 [718 395-3214 jalopy.biz maryflower.com].

Sunday, April 3

Feed your mind with **Sundays at Sunny's Bar**, 253 Conover Street, curated by Gabriel Cohen and co-sponsored by BookCourt. This month's authors include education blogger Alexander Russo, author Mindy Greenstein and poet Chiwan Choi at 3 pm. Free coffee, Italian pastries and cookies will be available with an open cash bar to feed your belly, admission is \$5 [718 625-8211].

Week 2: Eat, Drink and Be Merry

Friday, April 7th

Laugh out loud at **The Bell House**, 149 7th Street, with **Videogum's 3rd Birthday Comedy Show Celebration** with Max Silvestri, Kurt Braunohler, Kristen Schaal, John Roberts, Heather Lawless, Wyatt Cenac and more, hosted by Gabe Delahaye at 8 pm, admission is \$10 [718 643-6510 thebellhouseny.com].

Saturday, April 9th

Make an excursion to DUMBO to support **Red Hook Star-Revue** contributor Stephen Slaybaugh's webzine **The Agit Reader**, which presents "Cleveland Confidential: A Reading and Discussion" at the **powerHouse Arena**, 37 Main Street, from 7 to 9 pm. Luc Sante, author of *Low Life: Lures and Snares of Old New York* (Vintage, 1992), among other books, will moderate the discussion with Cheetah Chrome of punk rock pioneers the Dead Boys and author of *Cheetah Chrome: A Dead Boy's Tale* (Voyageur Press, 2010); Bob Pfeifer of Human Switchboard and author of *University of Strangers* (Power City Press, 2011), Mike Hudson, founder of the Pagans and author of *Diary of a Punk* (Tuscarora Books, 2008), and Eric Davidson, author of *We Never Learn: The Gunk Punk Undergut 1988-2001* (Backbeat Books, 2010) and frontman of the New Bomb Turks [agitreader.com powerhousearena.com]

Sunday, April 10th

Return to **The Bell House**, 149 7th Street, for **Brooklyn Beefsteak**, an all-you-can-eat-and-drink beef and beer feast with hot beef cuts, bread and McSorley's, harkening back to the days of Tammany Hall politicians buying votes with feasts. There are two sessions: 1 to 4 pm and 5 to 8 pm. Admission is \$50 per person, \$45 per person for groups of four or more [718 643-6510 thebellhouseny.com].

Week 3: April Arts Appreciation

Friday, April 15

Support the "100 Works on Paper" exhibition at **Kentler International Drawing Space**, 353 Van Brunt Street, and meet some of the artists at the free reception from 6 to 8 pm. The pieces, donated by the artists, will be given to attendees at the upcoming 100 Works on Paper Benefit honoring Jonathan Ames and Dean Haspiel on May 14 at 6 pm. Tickets for the May benefit are \$200 includes one work, \$250 for one artwork and two admissions [(718) 875-2098 kentlergallery.org]. Then head next door to **Everbrite Mercantile Co.**, 351 Van Brunt Street, for the opening reception from 8 pm to midnight of **WHORACLE** on view through May 31. Los Angeles-based artist Gregory Barnett premieres a collection of arts and crafts that examine society's shame towards sex culture [718 522-6121 ebmerc.com].

Afterwards, celebrate the end of tax season at **Bait & Tackle**, 320 Van Brunt Street, with their free **Tax Day Party** with DJ Spencer Bewley spinning records vinyl at 9 pm [718 797-4892 redhookbaitandtackle.com].

Saturday, April 16th

See New York with a different view at the **Gallery Small New York**, 416 Van Brunt Street, "20th Century Brooklyn Masters" exhibition. Rarely seen work from reclusive Hoboken artist Vincent Jannelli gives you a rare panoramic view of New York with a newly constructed Empire State Building. Also view works by Jules Halfant, Saul Raskin, Louis Nissonof and Arthur Lindberg. Open Wednesday through Sunday from 11:30 am to 6:30 pm; exhibition on view through April 30 [347 782-3729 small-newyork.com].

Sunday, April 17th

Check out **Bait & Tackle's** new free afternoon jazz series with Baby Soda at 3 pm [718 797-4892 redhookbaitandtackle.com].

Week 4: Time to Renew

Thursday, April 21

Discover new talent or perform at the **Union Street Star Theater**, 101 Union Street, at the free Thursday Night Music Jam from 7 to 10 pm. The event is open to all musicians and listeners; stage, PA, bass amp, drums, mic and refreshments provided [718 624-5568].

Friday, April 22

Attend the opening reception for the **Ledelle Moe** exhibition at **Kidd Yellin**, 133 Imlay Street, from 7 to 10 pm. Or view the work on view through May 27 at the gallery, open Tuesday through Friday from noon to 6 pm and by appointment

[917 860-1147 kiddyyellin.org].

Saturday, April 23

Enjoy Earth Day at **IKEA/Erie Basin Waterfront Park**, 1 Beard Street, at the **EnviroMedia Mobile Earth Day Celebration 2011**, presented by the Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy. The event includes a ceremonial launch of Floating Earth Ball 2011 at 1 pm, as well as live music from Caravan of Thieves, tours of the Mobile Nature & Maritime Museum, a photography and video exhibition from Claudia Medina and Steven Sachs, vermicomposting worms with Green Apple Kids and a station for e-waste electronic items from 11 am 5 pm; rain date Sunday, April 24 [347 224-5828 enviromediabile.blogspot.com].

Sunday, April 24

Head to the **Rock Shop**, 249 Fourth Avenue, to hear the melodic sounds of **Sea of Bees**—the musical project of Sacramento singer/songwriter Julie Ann Bee—at 8 pm. Indie popsters **Smooosh** open. Admission is \$10 [718 230-5740 therockshopny.com].

Week 5: Farewell to April

Thursday, April 28th

Release your alter ego at **Hope & Anchor**, 347 Van Brunt Street, at karaoke nights, held Thursdays through Saturdays from 9 pm to 1 am [718 237-0276].

Friday, April 29

The Baseball Project—comprised of Steve Wynn (formerly of the Dream Syndicate), Peter Buck (R.E.M.), Scott McCaughey (The Young Fresh Fellows and The Minus 5) and Linda Pitmon and brings its collection of baseball-themed songs to **The Bell House** in support the supergroup's sophomore album, *Volume Two: High and Inside*. Wynn and his *Miracle 3* open the show. Tickets are \$13 in advance, \$16 the day of the show; doors are at 8 pm [718 643-6510 thebellhouseny.com].

Saturday, April 30

Travel through history at the **Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge**, 290 Conover Street at Pier 44. The last covered wooden barge of its kind, the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79 is now a floating museum. Displays also include bells, barge models and the audio-kinetic ball machine sculpture by artist George Rhodes that continuously whirls, goes loop-the-loop, plays musical boxes and bounces in mid-air and then relax in the waterfront garden with views of the Statue of Liberty and the many vessels of the NY Harbor. Open Thursdays 4 to 8 pm and Saturdays 1 to 5 pm with group reservations available; admission is free. The Waterfront Museum also will host a theater performance of *Port Cities* from April 28 through 30; call or check the website for more information [718 624-4719, waterfrontmuseum.org].

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Greg O'Connell, The Right Kind of Visionary

It isn't too far between Red Hook, Brooklyn, and Mount Morris. A small village located upstate New York, whose entire population adds up to less than one tenth of our Red Hook Community. But though smaller, and further away, and even with different lifestyles, the experiences suffered by both communities are remarkably similar. In the early 1970s, Greg O'Connell was much younger by forty years, Spryer, nimbler, and he did possess a full head of hair to boast about.

Red Hook had suffered through neglect, and economic slowdown since WW2 ended, the ship repair yards closed, business moving away. Even New York City had given up and was prepared to give us away to the Port Authority to make room for a container port. The labels applied to describe the failures of these towns or villages or even big cities are varied, de-industrialization was a good one and just recently Detroit, formerly the Motor City, was labeled Dying City of Michigan. Which today, takes on the appearance of a bombed out city of WW2 era if you view the pictures of their now defunct Penn Station, or their many closed churches, and synagogues, and vacant schools, You will realize why the desolate sounding labels.

The one word however, that more accurately describes these cities or towns or villages is SAD.... Sad that it was permitted to happen... When the heart of America's skilled labor force, and blue collar jobs was allowed to be torn from our shores only to be re settled on foreign lands mostly by greedy American big businesses looking to capitalize on the cheaper labor in these foreign countries. Will our elected officials ever get it? They want to solve the unemployment problem. Why not just bring back the jobs we lost over the past 20 years? Make it so tough for any business to move away from our shores to sell

their wares back in the U.S.A again, that they'll be sure to return promptly, or never leave to begin with.

He is a prime example of how residential and business can live and work together for the common good of our great neighborhood.

Fortunately for Red Hook, in the mid 1970s along came a retired detective named Greg O'Connell. His dream was to create blue collar jobs in this area by making it feasible for small businesses to open up shops at reasonable rents and necessitating their hiring of help. Practically single handedly he began his quest. He bought from the city unwanted waterfront property and buildings which he proceeded to tear apart and rebuild into safe sturdy structures and then convert them to usable business sites.

It's important to understand that while he was nurturing his dream of blue collar workers, he did not resell one of his properties for quick profit. He selected the type of businesses he wanted to operate in his buildings. He is credited with creating between 2500 and 3000 permanent jobs thus far as a result of his work. He also has brought much needed housing into the neighborhood. His concern for the housing shortage, was addressed by renovating newly bought properties and turning them into livable housing and apartments, many at or below market rates. His dream had another good side effect, called people. As a direct result of the attractiveness of the work-sites the new business was able to hire more help, thereby increasing the population as well as the work force, in Red Hook, plus the added jobs

that are here to stay.

It can be said that Greg O'Connell has resurrected Red Hook, and kept it from becoming a ghost town. This by luring light manufacturing into our area, by increasing the apartment space available, and by his continuous dedication to realizing his dreams which are in my way of thinking noble, and heroic at best. Furthermore, knowing Greg O'Connell as I do, I cannot believe that Mr. O'Connell expected to become rich as a result of his endeavors, It just happened. He never came across as a developer with a quick turnover profit in his dealings. He didn't even come close to looking like a real estate broker. He just never lost sight of his dream, and never deviated one bit from that direction.

We must not forget the waterfront access he has constructed, or the park space he contributed to the beautification of our neighborhood. And how about one of the largest and best stocked food markets in New York City within walking distance for most residents. Greg O'Connell has left his mark on Red Hook indeed. He is a prime example of how residential and business can live and work together for the common good of our great neighborhood. His work in Red Hook has repercussions to other areas of New York City. The Water Taxi is tied up on his property. This ever expanding water taxi service, is opening new doors to the water taxi service adventure. Currently it serves all the terminals frequented by its competitors.

About two years ago, Greg O'Connell set off on an unannounced mission to Mount Morris in upstate New York. This mission was to take this ghost town ravaged by neglect and here's that word again, de-industrialization. A good revealing story appeared in last month's *New York Times Magazine* about this. He literally bought out a whole town and renovated, restored, refurbished it entirely on his own. He loved, this village, just as he loved Red Hook. This love affair was from his college days when a student he hung out at the ice cream parlor on Main Street, or attended the movies on Saturday nights. Or stopped

in the neighborhood coffee shop for a cup of Joe.

He cannot be seen working on a scaffold any more, as he is growing older which of course means slowing down. But his mind is always on restoring things back to original condition, just as he has achieved in Red Hook. I do need to make a personal comment - he still has a remarkable head of hair!

The latest news is he will not be returning to Red Hook and resuming his noble work which we have benefitted so much from. Meanwhile, the small village of Mount Morris is playing host to their benefactor Greg O'Connell, and if they will not let him return again we in Red Hook may find it necessary to declare war on Mt. Morris or plot a kidnapping!

However, he left us in very capable hands. His two sons, Greg Jr. and Michael, have inherited the same noble qualities as their pop and have been proving it in his absence. Greg Jr. is fast becoming a noted businessman in Red Hook. He has taken to Facebook, and is constantly alerting people to the happenings of the O'Connell organization. When I read the Times article I joked with Greg Jr. and said his two Sons should think about giving their Dad a ticker tape parade welcome down Van Brunt Street. Hey, Maybe that's not such a bad idea after all.

The O'Connell Organization also know as Pier 41 Associates has achieved many favorable accomplishments while in Red Hook, and for Red Hook. They serve as an example of how business can be a part of the community, and the community part of them without in-fighting or bitterness. I do know many others firms in our neighborhood are attempting to follow the same path. We as residents should get behind their efforts and help them along. We are more fortunate than other areas, and other neighborhoods. We should consider ourselves lucky, we have this rare opportunity confronting us. I believe we are truly face to face with a critical turning point in the life and history of Red Hook, and for once, all the signs point to success.

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Books: Freebird Books & Goods Re-Releases James Mason's *Positively No Dancing*

by Josie Rubio

Freebird Books & Goods owner Peter Miller refers to author James Mason as “the Lethem to our BookCourt” in the announcement for Mason’s Freebird reading on April 16 at 6 pm. The event not only is in honor of the re-release of Mason’s collection of short stories, *Positively No Dancing* (Freebird Books & Goods, 2011), originally published in 2007, but a celebration of Freebird’s first foray into publishing.

As for the comparison to Brooklyn author Jonathan Lethem, Mason says good-naturedly, “Peter’s just being a smartass.”

But behind the ribbing is a mutual respect. “We have done well by Jim in the past so it was an honor to put our logo on this printing,” Miller says. Mason had self-published the first edition, under the imprint of Sparkle Street Books, co-owned by Mike DeCapite, author of legendary underground novel *Through the Windshield* (Sparkle Street Books, 1998). When Freebird ran out of copies of *Positively No Dancing*, Miller mentioned he’d always want to start his own press

and decided with Mason to re-release the book.

When asked what the stories are about, Mason jokes, “That’s a hard question to answer. They’re about 100 pages, total.” The tales deal with hope and hopelessness he says, and provide a view of Brooklyn through his eyes. “A lot of them are set in bars, and just the culture of Brooklyn, the way I viewed Brooklyn,” Mason says. “I didn’t come to Brooklyn I think the way a lot of people come now and try to reshape it in their own image. I came there and figured when in Rome, do as the Romans do.”

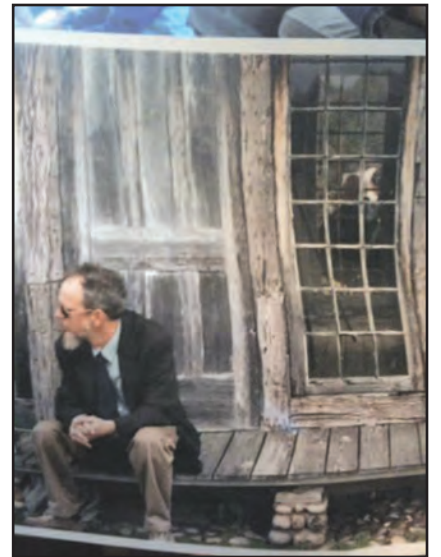
Mason, who recently moved from Red Hook to his hometown of Elyria, Ohio, originally moved to Brooklyn 25 years ago. “I moved to Williamsburg in ’87 before it was Williamsburg,” he says. “It was still real people living there and not hipsters.” Mason says he dabbled in film and comic strips, but was mainly a drummer playing in countless country, punk and rock and roll bands. He recalls, one day in Williamsburg, he was talking to

someone about a band called Skinhorse. “We’re talking and I said, ‘Wait a minute, who exactly is this band Skinhorse?’ And he said, ‘Dude, you were their drummer!’ I played in so many bands, I actually forgot some bands I played in.”

At age 40, Mason decided to take a writing class at Gotham Writers’ Workshop, after he’d heard that musician Billy Squier had taken a class there. “I figured if it was good enough for ‘Stroke Me’ guy, it’s good enough for me,” he says with a laugh, referring to Squier’s 1981 hit, “The Stroke.”

The writers’ workshop led to one of the stories in *Positively No Dancing*. Mason says that he plans to read one story, as well as the book’s new preface, which is a literary snapshot of Columbia Street. “Just read it,” Mason says of the book. “It’s 10 bucks. It’s less than a pack of cigarettes.”

James Mason reads from *Positively No Dancing* on April 16 at 6 pm. For more information, visit freebirdbooks.blogspot.com.



On April 16, former Red Hook resident James Mason will read from his collection of short stories, re-released by Freebird Books & Goods, photo Courtesy Freebird Books & Goods.

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Daniel Chabanov Wins Fourth Red Hook Crit Bike Race



Red Hook’s own (unsanctioned) Bike Race took place on a cold night, Saturday, March 26th. Here are the top ten finishers:

- Race Results:
01. Daniel Chabanov
 02. Neil Bezdek st
 03. Alexander Barouh st
 04. Nathan Trimble +3 sec
 05. Gerald Adasavage +36 sec
 06. John Kniesly st
 07. Kacey Manderfield st
 08. Chas Christiansen st
 09. John Taki Theodoracopulos st
 10. Eric Robertson st

Star-Review photo by Tony Trezza

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Music: Brother brings their UK swagger to The Rock Shop

by Perry Crowe

(continued from page 1)

version of the self-aware TV series *The Office*, so maybe the band is just naturally adept at that modern balancing act of simultaneously playing a role and openly acknowledging that you're playing a role and finding the underlining, appealing sincerity in that.

And Brother is appealing. The fresh-faced band is very tight, with catchy, driving songs and simple lyrics making liberal use of words like "oo-oo-oo" and "whoa-oh-oh." And with much of the band—particularly back-up singer Grace, who has a definite Scary-Spice thing going on, and bassist Josh Ward, who has the thick, heavy brows and expansive stubble of a lost Gallagher brother—adding their voices, the songs almost demand to be sung along with in a soccer-chant sort of way. Each song also weighs in at a comfortable 3 or 3 1/2 minutes.

"Darling Buds of May" and "New Years Day" are strong, refined power-pop blasts that absolutely get their hooks into you, and the band played them with infectious energy. During the show, Newell kindly pointed out that "New Years Day" was "a classic," and with the song's "oh / oh-oh / oh-oh-oo-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh" refrain appearing in a car commercial, he may be right, even if his voice went a bit ragged during the big chorus.

It's all very easy going down, but naturally begs the question of staying power. There's the aforementioned uncanny similarity to Oasis in the band's jangley, grinding sound and Newell's cadence and annunciation ("time" as "tie-eem"). But if Muse and Coldplay and Death Cab for Cutie and Built to Spill can coexist respectively, and eventually develop their own signatures, then it's certainly not a deal-breaker. But the simplicity of the

lyrics ("This is real / and I'm free / This is what I want to be"), while at least as profound as any post-Pinkerton Weezer tune, can render the songs simultaneously memorable and forgettable; you'd almost prefer they cut to the chase and just fill the song entirely with nonsense words.

As power pop, or "Gritpop," as the band brands itself, Brother makes extensive use of sparse verses alternating with wall-of-sound choruses. It's an irresistible contrast for the most part, though the verse and chorus of "Time Machine" seemed to be from completely different songs; the winding chorus is still echoing in my head, but the verse bore a troubling resemblance to Don Henley circa 1982.

Before "High Street Low Lives," Newell

"Darling Buds of May" and "New Years Day" are strong, refined power-pop blasts that absolutely get their hooks into you, and the band played them with infectious energy.

switched guitars, insisting the process would take a while due to his laziness. Once the song began, with guitarist Samuel Jackson (no "L.") taking lead, the whole sound was brighter. While it wasn't a radical departure from the previous songs, it was different, holding the promise of an evolving sound. And of course the song's "woo-oo-oo" refrain was delicious ear candy. Afterward, a riled up Newell said, "I'd like to see Oasis try that!"

And it did feel like the most un-Oasis point of the evening. Was it the best song? No. Or at least that wasn't immediately apparent. But oftentimes it's the music that isn't so readily absorbed that proves to be the best in the long run, a gem revealed by repeated exposure and contemplation.

I'll have to wait a bit for another listen, though. The album isn't due out until July, and the song isn't among the band's handful of online offerings, including those available via open-source digital distribution via SoundCloud.com as well as a download that delivers not only a song but also a fun photo of Newell, Jackson and a modern-art sculpture. It's



Brother, from Slough, England is signed to Geffen records with an album due in July

advanced propaganda; remember this is the land of Orwell at work.

An online search for "High Street Low Lives" did reveal a band in Virginia by the name "the High Street Lowlives." They appear to be a group of young men and a woman who play Americana and Roots music while wearing old-timey clothes. Maybe in a year's time, they can join Brother at Madison Square Garden

and plan the invasion of Normandy.

"This is one of those gigs that you can say 'I was there,'" a self-awed Newell said late in the set, before taking the piss: "Of course, I can say that about all our gigs." Swagger on, Brother. You've got the chops and the pop to go places. But to the top? Only a year's time will say for sure.

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Perry's Music Picks: by Perry Crowe

Apollo Run

Apollo Run is known for its frenetic, eclectic live performances, so we're almost expecting Union Hall's taxidermied denizens to be tapping their feet by the end of the band's month-long residency.

Frontman John McGrew is himself a finely tuned instrument and his melodious work with bassist Jeff Kerestes and drummer Graham Fisk



photo by Andrew Harnick

certainly fits the Apollonian ideal. The slowly building gallop of "Stars," off their recent EP *Here Be Dragons Vol. 1*, is worth the price of an admission or four.

7:30 p.m., Thurs., April 7, 14, 21, 28, Union Hall, 702 Union Street, 718-638-4400, unionhallny.com

Handsome Furs

Husband-wife electro-indie-punk duo Dan Broeckner and Alexei Perry shared their band's recent tour of the Far East on their web series *Indie Asia* for CNN.com. They're on their way to Brooklyn now, but don't worry—the show is over, so there won't be a repeat of 2008's *The Real World* fiasco.

It'll just be Broeckner's soulful, anthemic buzzsaw and Perry's lush synth and cool syncopations. If their haunting "Sing! Captain" doesn't absolutely break your heart into a million beautiful pieces, then you're made of stronger stuff than I am. Wolf Parade may be gone, but its pelt makes a mighty handsome fur.

8 p.m., Thurs., April 14, \$15, The Bell House, 149 7th St., 718-643-6510, www.thebellhouse.com



photo by Liam Maloney

The Greenhornes

The Greenhornes may have just released their first full album in 8 years, but the members are no slouches. Bassist Jack Lawrence and drummer Patrick Keeler have been playing with Jack White as Do-Whaters and Raconteurs (and even Saboteurs), with Lawrence playing in White's Dead Weather as well. Meanwhile vocalist/guitarist Craig Fox has been playing with original Greenhornes Brian Olive and Jared McKinney. But now Cincinnati's favorite sons are back on the road as a trio and ready to take you to that mystical '60s-esque rock and roll high with new standouts like "Underestimator."

8 p.m., Fri., April 8, \$10, The Bell House, 149 7th St., 718-643-6510, thebellhouse.com



photo by Jo McCaughey

Honeyboy Carencro

If a hotbox isn't your thing this 4/20, might I suggest something sweatier? "We just want to play some small venues and fill them with old-school soul," singer/guitarist Honeyboy Carencro says of his band's Soul in a Sweatbox tour. Carencro has sung in rock, ska and reggae bands, but his current bright, fast sound, as exemplified by the titular tune on his newly released album *The Widemaker*, is a throwback to the days of Muddy Waters, Otis Redding and Sam Cooke.

"When I say 'throwback,' I mean the Soul era. Back to Ray Charles when he was a madman. Chuck Berry. When those guys performed, they were just balls of energy going off." It'll be the New Orleans-based band's first trip to Brooklyn, so I naturally suggested a stop at Fort Defiance for a taste of home. "We'll have been on the road for a long time by then," says Carencro, "so that could really hit the spot."

8:30 p.m., Weds., April 20, \$12, Southpaw, 125 Fifth Ave., 718-230-0236, spsounds.com



photo by Jeff Jones



photo by Monia Lippi

Dollshot

Dollshot takes early-20th-century classical music art songs and gives them modern arrangements for voice, piano, saxophone and bass. And where does one find early-20th-century art songs? "I like to go to the Brooklyn Public Library," says Dollshot vocalist and Park Slope resident Rosalie Kaplan. "They have tons of music, so it's just like roulette." But sometimes the gamble proves costly. "I have so many fines," Kaplan says. "But I justify it because I check so many things out." It's also justified by Kaplan's smooth, sculptural voice that's on fine display in the band's original compositions as well, such as "The Trees," arranged by pianist Wes Matthews. They met at the New England Conservatory, released their debut album in January and have been playing around town, including Windsor Terrace's *Konceptions* at Korzo music series and *Eyebeam* in Gowanus. This month they'll be performing a tight program before much of the band joins *Bladerunner* screenwriter (among other things) Hampton Fancher for verbal exploration set to music.

8 p.m., Thurs., April 28, \$12, Galapagos, 16 Main Street, 718-222-8500, galapagosartspace.com

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Bites in the Hook

by Josie Rubio

Michael & Ping's Adds Waitstaff, Wine and Beer

Michael & Ping's, 437 Third Avenue in the Gowanus area, recently added a dessert menu and weekend waitstaff, and is slated to have a license to serve alcohol some time in April. Dessert items, which range from \$3.25 to \$5.50, include M&P's Ice Cream crisp, vanilla ice cream on a bed of thin, crispy wonton noodles, garnished with chocolate syrup and powdered sugar; apple tart, topped with honey and caramel; mango Brownie, a fudge brownie drizzled with mango sauce, and Exotic Bomba, mango, passion fruit and raspberry sorbetto covered with white chocolate and drizzled with milk chocolate. Though the restaurant is billed as "modern Chinese take-out," owner Michael Bruno is taking steps to improve dine-in service at the 40-seat space, including table service on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Coffee and tea selections were recently added, and by the end of April, the restaurant is expected to offer beer wine and

sake. There are plans to offer buckets of mini 6-ounce beers and sakes, as well as "beer tubes," an alternative to a pitcher, which has a tap so that diners can serve themselves at a table. Certified by the Green Restaurant Association, Michael & Ping's uses EnergyStar power-efficient equipment, bathroom hand dryers and participates in a compost pick-up program. Michael & Ping's offers housemade dumplings and eggrolls, crispy black bean calamari and dishes such as General Tso's chicken made with natural, hormone-free meat. Since opening in August, the restaurant has been named one of the top 10 new green restaurants in the United States by TreeHugger.com and was named "Best New Chinese Take-Out" by L Magazine.

New Membership for Red Hook CSA Opens April 1

Those interested in having a fresh supply of local fruits and veggies this spring and summer can sign up to become a new member of the Red Hook CSA as of April 1. Area residents can apply

to purchase a Community Supported Agriculture share, which includes six to 10 types of fresh vegetables, greens and herbs per week from the Red Hook Community Farm and Added Value's farm on Governor's Island. Selections can include tomatoes, carrots, corn, basil, squash and other fare, depending on seasonal availability, and members pick up the produce every week at the farm, located at Columbia and Halleck streets, across from IKEA.

All members—save for those who are work-share—are required to volunteer 10 hours over the course of the season, which runs from mid April through mid December. General open farm work is on Friday and Saturdays at the Red Hook Farm, and on Saturdays and Sundays at Governor's Island. Full shares are available for \$480, and small shares are \$300. Other options include full work shares for 85 hours, small work shares for 55 hours and low income shares that range on a sliding scale of \$240 to \$440 for a full share to \$150 to \$270 for a small share. Cash, credit, debit and EBT cards are accepted, and members can choose to

pay the total amount, two or three equal amounts or to pay with EBT/food stamps. The CSA runs for 23 weeks, from June 18 to the week before Thanksgiving.

Currently, about 50 shares of Community Supported Agriculture are available. Though the shares, which tend to sell out within six weeks of opening, are first-come, first-serve, those with a 11231 ZIP code are given priority.

Fruit shares, featuring a variety of seasonal fruits and berries from local farms, also are available for \$215 for a full share to \$125 for a small share. Egg shares, which are sourced from the farm and Hoosic River Poultry, are offered for \$90 for one-dozen eggs per week and for \$48 for ½ dozen per week. No work or low-income fruit or egg shares are available. Visit redhookcsa.com or email redhookbkcsa@gmail.com for more information and to download an application. Applicants will be contacted once the contract processes and payment is received.

Art:

Jonathan Ames, Dean Haspiel Honored at This Year's 100 Works On Paper Benefit for Kentler Gallery

By Josie Rubio

Reception and Preview of Art Works Donated to Event Opens April 15

Kentler International Drawing Space's annual 100 Works On Paper Benefit, held this year on May 14 at 6 pm, honors Brooklyn writer Jonathan Ames and comic book artist Dean Haspiel. The event raises money for the nonprofit Red Hook gallery, and the ticket price includes one original drawing or work on paper, all of which are donated by local, national and international artists. Prior to the event, the works will be on display starting on April 15, when the gallery will host an artist reception open to the public from 6 to 8 pm.

Many New York-area artists are present at the April reception, says Kentler's director Florence Neal. The show also will feature works from throughout the United States and from around the globe, including Australia, the Netherlands and the Czech Republic. Every year, more than 100 artists typically contribute items to the event. "I tell artists if you really want your work to not sit in a drawer in somebody's house after this event, you'll put a work that you're proud of and that's ready to go on the wall," Neal says.

The May event, which costs \$200 per ticket and \$250 with a ticket plus guest, includes the ticketholder's selection of art from the exhibition as well as reception food and beverages. Once attendees arrive, they are given a number. Throughout the evening, the numbers are called consecutively and announced via a digital display; once someone's number is called, he or she selects an available piece from the gallery's walls. "I

know a lot of people that have Kentler benefit art," Neal says. "They're so proud of their collection."

Honorees Ames and Haspiel will also be in attendance at the benefit. They work together on the HBO television series, *Bored to Death*, a show created by Ames about a Brooklyn writer—played by Jason Schwartzman—who becomes a hapless private detective. The character of Ray, played by Zach Galifianakis, is a comic book artist, and the drawings are done by Haspiel. "He's extending drawing to another medium, also in television," Neal says.

Dean Haspiel

Haspiel's work was recently featured in a late 2010 Kentler exhibition of drawings related to the creation of his drawings for the graphic novel *Cuba: My Revolution*, the fictionalized account of Inverna Lockpez's experience with the Cuban revolution. The event's silent auction is expected to feature eight to 10 works by comic book artists and graphic novelists, including a portrait by Haspiel of Ames, signed by both. The silent auction works will be posted on Kentler's website as well, so people can bid by phone; bids close at 8:30 pm on May 14.

History of the Kentler Space

Kentler International Drawings Space, which was founded in Red Hook in 1990, held an annual spring workshop, which eventually evolved into the benefit, says Neal. The gallery is named after the building itself, established as a men's haberdashery in 1877. Though the gallery shows only drawings and works on paper, one of the space's first shows in 1990 was called "The Red Hook Story," and



Photo courtesy Kentler Gallery

people were invited to share their own photographs of Red Hook; Neal still has an aerial photo of the neighborhood in the gallery. In 1994, the space also hosted Teri Slotkin's "Mixed Doubles" photography project in which Slotkin took photos of pairs of Red Hook residents to explore different relationships, such as cousins, fraternal twins and nursing home residents. The gallery also remains involved in the community, hosting Drawing Together monthly Saturday art workshops for children ages 4 and up and their family members and providing K.I.D.S. Art Education programs to the local schools and several local non-profit after school programs.

The story of Red Hook continues for Kentler, which is collecting photos of area spaces and places throughout the years in its Red Hook Archives. "It's important to document the history of a place, I think," Neal says. "It gives people more insight. And just about everybody that's lived here is passionate in some way."

For more information, visit kentlergallery.org.

Dance: Cora Dance Prepares to Hold Spring Fundraiser After Studio Move and Expansion

By Josie Rubio

The best of times for Cora Dance to expand seem to come at the worst of times in terms of financing. In 2008, the professional dance company planted roots in Red Hook by leasing a studio space in a warehouse on Richards Street—shortly after losing expected funding. And promised funds were again taken back very recently, shortly after the organization's late March move to larger space in the same building, after outgrowing the smaller studio, home to its pay-what-you-can dance classes that serve more than 100 children and adults in the area.

As Cora Dance director and founder Shannon Hummel plans the group's 14th annual fundraiser, however, she remains as undaunted as she was a few years ago, when she trusted her gut feeling to initially make Red Hook Cora's home. The Spring Swing benefit bash and silent auction will be held on the rooftop of Rocky Sullivan's, 34 Van Dyke Street, on May 7 at 7 pm. Tickets are \$100 or pay-what-you-can, with a \$20 minimum. Those who pay full price can attend a VIP champagne swing lesson at 6:30 pm, to prepare to dance to swing band Primitivo, which will provide French dance hall music throughout the evening.

All guests will be treated to a performance of Cora Dance students in the 9- to 13-year-old age group, choreographed and led by Sarah Burke. Cora dancers Kelly Bartnik, Calia Marshall and Xan Burley also will give the audience a sneak preview of a section of "Prey," which the company is performing in the fall. Food will be provided from local favorite The Good Fork, as well as from Knife for Hire, the catering company of Chef Daniel Eardley, formerly of Chestnut in Carroll Gardens.

The cabaret space and courtyard of Rocky Sullivan's will host the silent auction items, including antiques, a weekend stay at a bed and breakfast in North Carolina, and massage, yoga and Pilates packages. Attendees can even bid on the services of a master builder who will custom-build a chicken coop for your home and provide two laying hens. "It's a broad spectrum," Hummel says. "There's a large array of things to suit every pocketbook." This year's event honors Sarah Coffey, longtime donor and supporter of Cora, and founding company member Donna Costello.

Spring Swing kicks off Cora's \$100,000 Capital Campaign to pay for the new rented space, renovations and added staff, Hummel says. "The funds raised go to support the new expansion, which is basically rooting ourselves in a more adequate home that houses our pay-what-you-can programs in the community, and our performance work as well," she says.

The new studio is about 700 square feet and includes a lofted space for storage. Recently, volunteers—including dancers, parents of students and artists in the community—chipped in to lay the floors and pick up supplies. The separate office across the hall has its own bathroom, so young students no longer have to be escorted down the hall. Hummel peeks into a window at the end of the hall and notes, "This is where we were. That little room back there was five feet by six feet and that was the office for all four of us." Because there wasn't room for everyone in the office, Hummel says

she often would work remotely by IM or email. Hummel, who also teaches nursery school through fourth grade students at Poly Prep Country Day School's Lower School, estimates that in the years Cora Dance has been in Red Hook, they've worked with about 350 to 400 students.

Hummel founded Cora Dance as a professional contemporary dance company in 1997. "The idea of Cora was to establish a company where you're not

She talked to people in the area's low-income housing and noticed a lack of dance classes in neighborhood; though some dance classes were offered, families had to travel to Brooklyn Heights or Fort Greene to get to them.

just creating choreography, but you're creating an environment where people feel comfortable taking risks," she says. "And my work tends to be very intimate and emotional, and people have to feel comfortable with one another in order to really deeply engage as performers. So there has to be a fair amount of thought put into not just what we're making but how we're making it together."

Over the years, the group had residencies at Malboro College in Vermont, Brooklyn Arts Exchange (BAX) and in Virginia, and Hummel had a rent-stabilized apartment in Carroll Gardens where she had an office. Cora was in between residencies when Hummel moved from her old apartment to a new, smaller apartment in Red Hook. Then the economy soured. "The company's funding was suddenly frozen," says Hummel. As Cora pondered its future, Hummel received a call from someone looking to share a Red Hook dance studio.

"When this space opened up, it was the worst possible time, but you can't always pick the timing for when things are going to happen," Hummel says. She had to make a quick decision, as she weighed the benefits of having a space of Cora's own. "There was no five-year strategic plan," she says. "It was like, 'We have to sign this lease in a week and start classes right away.' I just had a gut feeling. And luckily most people trusted my gut feeling."

She talked to people in the area's low-income housing and noticed a lack of dance classes in neighborhood; though some dance classes were offered, families had to travel to Brooklyn Heights or Fort Greene to get to them. "It seemed like a perfect opportunity to put something here where people actually wanted what we were able to do, but there was no one here to do it," she says. "And it also seemed like a good opportunity to intersect, what I was really discovering to be two very divided parts of the neighborhood. So we just kind of went for it. And we're still in the process of kind of going for it."

Making performing arts accessible to everyone is personal to Hummel, who is



Photo courtesy Cora Dance

from the Appalachian area of Virginia. "I'm from a very isolated, poor, rural community," she says. "I would not be doing what I was doing if there had not been a professional dancer who came into my community from somewhere else who said, 'Well, I just want to give this to you. This is what I do and I want you to have it.'"

A former ballet dancer had moved to the area where Hummel grew up to work with emotionally disturbed children at the nearby state mental hospital, and she set up a ballet training program at Hummel's elementary school. Hummel went on to become the dancer's teaching apprentice at 17. "I feel like she, more than anyone else, influenced how I teach, not just, 'You can teach a great plié, you can teach a great class,' but she was really teaching children how to be members of a community."

The Red Hook community will have a chance to see the professional dance company aspect of Cora in the fall, when the company presents "Prey." Though

dates for the five to 10 performances have not been set, Cora has changed the venue from sites throughout the neighborhood to an 800-seat amphitheater owned by Visitation Church, near the corner of Verona and Richards streets. The lyceum has been boarded up for the past 15 years, but the church is trying to raise money to restore the building.

Hummel notes that the Department of Buildings has certified the structure is safe and sound enough to hold an audience for the "Prey" performances. "We're going to take this already dark work that we planned to show around Halloween and put it inside this building to help bring attention to what this church wants to do and hopefully get some people who might not know about it interested in supporting them as well as supporting us."

Spring Swing, Cora's 14th Annual Benefit Bash & Silent Auction, will be held on Rocky Sullivan's rooftop on May 7 at 7 pm. To purchase tickets in advance, go to coradance.org.

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Over and under (Hamilton Ave. near. Henry St.)



Date with a highway (feel the vibrations)



Walking on traffic

Ode to the Humble Footbridge

by Adam Eisenstat

The highway stops for no one

over streams of traffic

the car-less trudge.

The footbridge across the highway is a pedestrian refuge in the midst of the atmosphere. In Red Hook there are two: one at Hicks Street and Summit Street that spans the sunken BQE down below (the “Ditch”); and another one off Hamilton Avenue, near Henry Street, that cuts through one of Brooklyn’s most frantic junctures—a 10- or 12-lane stretch where the Gowanus Expressway, the Battery Tunnel, and the BQE converge. The Hicks Street bridge is a simple span, but the other one is a complex affair that goes over multiple roadbeds and under two others.

On the Summit Street pedestrian bridge, you’re above the traffic, above the noise from the ditch below—that surf-like roar, with the blaring horns and screeching brakes. It drifts up to where you are, filtered by distance and tamed into a calming drone . . . Rush hour seen through the chain link fence is a panoramic glimpse of the city full on. Sunbeams reflect off glass and chrome, darting across windshields and spinning hubcaps—that mad kinetic frenzy! Looking over the Ditch, you feel like you’re commanding a perch all your own, above it all—ruthless velocity, concrete and steel.

The Hamilton Avenue bridge offers a different experience. It’s a jerry-built structure, lodged between off-ramps and overpasses, intersecting roadbeds and the place where the highway meets the street. Usually it’s bereft of pedestrians, except during certain parts of the day. When it’s empty, it’s bleak, a slab of concrete strewn with empty beer cans and who knows what—maybe a filthy pile of clothes or the odd used condom, everything coated with a dusting of exhaust fumes. It’s a blighted place, like a tunnel to purgatory. At one point, though, you pass under a road just a few feet above. You can feel that swarming velocity, that mechanical flow of traffic. The vibrations engulf you, allowing you to become intimate with the highway, perhaps more than a (living) pedestrian ever could be.

Any feelings of intimacy or omnipotence that may strike on the bridge tend to expire upon exiting. Resuming your place, as a ground level pedestrian, offers a vantage for context and clarity.

The footbridges of Red Hook symbolize the dominant place of highways in the neighborhood. More piquantly, they are constant reminders of the violence done by Robert Moses to expand his auto-centric vision into Red Hook and all over Brooklyn. Moses was the controversial “master builder” who built the BQE, and so much more. The Ditch, like many of his projects, involved massive displacement—about 500 houses were demolished in the early 1950s. More enduringly, it cut Red Hook off from the rest of south Brooklyn, and left us the Mosaic landscape—a legacy of truncated avenues and bisected streets, more foe than friend to the walker trying gamely to navigate the broken topography.

All photos by Adam Eisenstat

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Star-Revue Restaurant Guide

RED HOOK

BAKED 359 Van Brunt St., (718) 222-0345. Bakery serving cupcakes, cakes, coffee, pastries, lunch items. Free wi-fi. Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner daily. AE, DS, MC, V.

THE BROOKLYN ICE HOUSE 318 Van Brunt St., (718) 222-1865. Burgers, barbecue and pulled pork sandwiches. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Cash only.

DEFONTE'S SANDWICH SHOP 379 Columbia St., (718) 855-6982. Variety of large sandwiches, including roast beef and potato and egg. Open for breakfast and lunch Mon-Sat. Cash only.

DIEGO'S RESTAURANT 116 Sullivan St., (718) 625-1616. Mexican and Latin American cuisine. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Sat. AE, DS, MC, V.

F&M BAGELS 383 Van Brunt St., (718) 855-2623. Bagels, sandwiches, wraps, chicken salad, breakfast plates, burgers, hot entrees and more. Open for breakfast and lunch daily 5 am-5 pm. AE, DS, MC, V. Delivery available.

FORT DEFIANCE 365 Van Brunt St., (347) 453-6672. Brunch, sandwiches and small plates. Open for breakfast Tue; breakfast, lunch and dinner Mon, Wed-Sun. AE, DS, MC, V.

THE GOOD FORK 391 Van Brunt St., (718) 643-6636. Fare from Chef Sohui Kim in an unpretentious atmosphere; menu varies seasonally and can include pork dumplings, roast chicken, homemade gnocchi and steak and eggs Korean style. Open for dinner Tue-Sun. AE, MC, V.

HOME/MADE 293 Van Brunt St., (347) 223-4135. Seasonal, local and rustic/elegant cuisine, with an extensive wine list of 40 selections by the glass, and local brew and Kombucha on tap. Coffee and pastry Mon-Fri 7 am-2 pm, dinner Wed-Fri 5 pm to 11 pm, brunch Sat & Sun 10 am-4pm, dinner 4-11 pm.

HOPE & ANCHOR 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276. Large menu that includes burgers, entrees and all-day breakfast. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Fri; breakfast, lunch and dinner Sat-Sun. AE, DS, MC, V.

IKEA One Beard St., (718) 246-4532. Swedish meatballs, pasta, wraps and sandwiches; breakfast items include eggs and cinnamon buns. Open for breakfast, lunch

and dinner daily. AE, DS, MV, V.

KEVIN'S 277 Van Brunt St., (718) 596-8335. Seafood, seasonal and local fare. Open for dinner Thu-Sat, brunch Sat-Sun. AE, MC, V.

MARK'S PIZZA 326 Van Brunt St., (718) 624-0690. Open for lunch and dinner daily. AE, MC, V. Delivery available.

RED HOOK CAFÉ & GRILL 228 Van Brunt St. (718) 643-0166 or (718) 643-0199. Bagels, pancakes, omelettes, wraps, salads, hot sandwiches, burgers and daily specials. Open for breakfast and lunch daily, Mon-Fri 5 am-5 pm, Sat-Sun 6 am-4 pm. Cash only. Delivery available.

RED HOOK LOBSTER POUND 284 Van Brunt St., (646) 326-7650. Maine lobster rolls, Connecticut rolls and whoopie pies. Open for lunch and dinner Tue-Sun. MC; V.

ROCKY SULLIVAN'S 34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Irish pub with brick-oven pizza, sandwiches and Red Hook Lobster Pound feasts Fri 6-9 pm, Sat 5-8 pm. Open for lunch and dinner daily. AE, DS, MC, V.

COLUMBIA WATERFRONT DISTRICT

5 BURRO CAFE 127 Columbia St., (718) 875-5515. Mexican. Open for lunch and dinner Tue-Fri, brunch and dinner Sat-Sun. AE, DS, MC, V.

ALMA 187 Columbia St., (718) 643-5400. Modern Mexican fare. Open for dinner Mon-Fri, brunch and dinner Sat-Sun. AE, DS, MC, V.

CALEXICO CARNE ASADA 122 Union St., (718) 488-8226. Tex-Mex burritos, tacos, quesadillas and more. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Cash only. Delivery available.

CASELNOVA 214 Columbia St., (718) 522-7500. Traditional Northern and Southern Italian dishes, brick-oven pizza, pasta, lunch panini. Open for lunch and dinner Tue-Sun. Delivery available. AE, DS, MC, V.

FERNANDO'S FOCACCERIA RESTAURANT 151 Union St., (718) 855-1545. Southern Italian fare, including pasta and panelle. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Sat. Cash only.



FULTUMMY'S 221 Columbia St., (347) 725-3129. Coffee shop with sandwiches. Free wi-fi. Open for lunch and dinner Tue-Sat, lunch Sun. Cash only. Delivery available.

HOUSE OF PIZZA & CALZONES 132 Union St., (718) 624-9107. Pizza, calzones and sandwiches. Open for lunch and dinner daily. Cash only. Delivery available.

IRO 115 Columbia St., (718) 254-8040. Japanese cuisine, including sushi and noodle dishes. Open for lunch and dinner daily. AE, MC, V. Delivery available.

JAKE'S BAR-B-QUE RESTAURANT 189 Columbia St., (718) 522-4531. Kansas City-style barbecue, including baby back ribs. Open for lunch and dinner daily. AE, MC, V. Delivery available.

KOTOBUKI BISTRO 192 Columbia St., (718) 246-7980. Japanese and Thai cuisine, including sushi, teriyaki, pad Thai and special maki named after area streets. Open for lunch Mon-Sat, dinner 7 days. AE, MC, V. Delivery available.

LILLA CAFE 126 Union St., (718)

855-5700. Seasonal fare, hormone and antibiotic-free meats, bread baked on premises and homemade pasta from Chef Erling Berner. BYOB. Open for dinner Tue-Sun, lunch Thu-Fri, brunch Sat-Sun. MC, V.

MAZZAT 208 Columbia St., (718) 852-1652. Mediterranean and Middle Eastern fare, including falafel sandwiches, kibbe, bronzini, lamb shank, baklava and small plates. Open for lunch and dinner daily. AE, MC, V. Delivery available.

PETITE CREVETTE 144 Union St., (718) 855-2632. Seafood, including corn-and-crab chowder, salmon burgers and cioppino, from Chef Neil Ganic. BYOB. Open for lunch and dinner Tue-Sat. Cash only.

TEEDA THAI CUISINE 218 Columbia St., (718) 643-2737. Thai dishes include papaya salad, dumplings and massamun curry. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun. MC, V. Delivery available.

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MUSIC & ARTS CALENDAR

CHILDREN

Bait & Tackle—320 Van Brunt St., (718) 797-4892, redhookbaitandtackle.com. Rolie Polie Guacamole, 4/30 at 1 pm. FREE.

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St., (718) 875-2098. Drawing Together, family program open to the public where children and caregivers participate jointly in hands-on art making, 4/23 at 10 am. FREE.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Brooklyn General—128 Union St., (718) 237-7753, brooklyngeneral.com. Beginning Project Knitting, 4/26, 5/3 & 10 from 7-9 pm, \$120; Sewing Apron Workshop with Marcie, 4/9 & 16 from 9:30-11:30 am; Sewing Pajama Bottoms and Zippered Pouch, 4/7, 17, 21 & 28 from 7-9 pm, \$160; Sewing Pajama Bottoms and Zippered Pouch, 4/4, 11 & 5/3 from 11 am-1 pm, \$160; Spinning, 4/11, 18 & 25 from 7-9 pm, \$120. Registration for class must be completed 24 hours in advance; please call two days before first class begins to confirm.

Cora Dance Studio Space—201 Richards St., 2nd Floor, 718 332-7825 or e-mail dancezee@aol.com. Traditional American & Latin American dance lessons for couples and singles, partners are encouraged, beginners' classes Tuesdays and Wednesdays, advanced Thursdays, all at 8:30 pm. Lessons \$9; complimentary lesson is available for the complete beginner.

Everbrite Mercantile Co.—351 Van Brunt St., (718) 522-6121, ebmerc.com. Open-level yoga with Felecia Maria, bring your own mat, 4/6, 13, 20 & 27 from 7:30-8:30 pm; donations accepted. Kink Stretch, all-level interdisciplinary performance workshop with Gregory Barnett, 4/18 from 2-5 pm, \$10 suggested donation.

Jalopy Theatre and School of Music—315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Fingerpicking Piedmont Style Guitar with Mary Flower, 4/2 at noon, \$40; Ginny Hawker's Southern Harmony Workshop, 4/10 at 1 pm, \$40; Joe Brent presents a Monthly Advanced Mandolin Workshop. 4/16 at noon, \$25.

Valentino Pier—Ferris & Coffey sts, (718) 710-1773, annamumford.com. Red Hook morning outdoor Forrest yoga class, weather permitting, check site for cancellations, 4/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 from 10-11 am. Suggested donation \$10.

COMEDY

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouse.com. Videogum's 3rd Birthday Comedy Show Celebration, with Max Silvestri, Kurt Braunohler, Kristen Schaal, John Roberts, Heather Lawless, Wyatt Cenac and more, hosted by Gabe Delahaye, 4/7 at 8 pm, \$10; Frontier Room: Rob Paravonian, 4/18 at 8 pm, FREE.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Hot Tub with Kurt and Kristen, an evening of comedy with Kurt Braunohler and Kristen Schaal, 7:30 pm; A.C. Newman, Wyatt Cenac, Julie Klausner and Jon Fisch, 4/4; Bobby Tisdale, Kara Klenk and more, 4/11; Carolyn Castiglia, Serious Lunch & more, 4/18. Adm \$5 adv, \$8 door.

Sugar Lounge—147 Columbia St., (718) 643-2880. Sugar Laughs, hosted by Yanniss Pappas, 4/14 at 9 pm. FREE.

EXHIBITIONS

Everbrite Mercantile Co.—351 Van Brunt St., (718) 522-6121, ebmerc.com. **WHORACLE**, Los Angeles-based artist Gregory Barnett premieres a collection of arts and crafts examining society's shame towards sex culture, 4/15 thru 5/31. Wed-Sat 11 am-7 pm, Sun noon-6 pm. **Opening reception:** 4/15 from 8 pm-midnight. **Performance:** Barnett presents solos "Please don't forget

me, I am here to swallow" and "Ultimately her attempts proved futile—In Result She Was Inconsolable," joined by NYC artists Kim Almquist, Felecia Maria and Stan Apps, 4/16 at 9 pm. FREE.

Gallery Small New York—416 Van Brunt St., (347) 782-3729, smallnewyork.com. **20th Century Brooklyn Masters**, Jules Halfant, Saul Raskin, Louis Nissonof and Arthur Lindberg, plus rarely-seen work from reclusive Hoboken artist Vincent Jannelli, including a rare panoramic view of New York with a newly-constructed Empire State Building, thru 4/30. Wed-Sun 11:30 am-6:30 pm.

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St., (718) 875-2098, kentlery.org. **100 Works on Paper**, exhibition of donated works by artists for the 100 Works on Paper Benefit, 4/15 thru 5/13. Open Thu-Sun noon-5 pm. **Meet the Artists Reception:** 4/15 from 6-8 pm. **100 Works on Paper Benefit:** Honoring Jonathan Ames and Dean Haspiel, 5/14 at 6 pm, tickets \$200, include one work, \$250 for one artwork and two admissions. (Also see Children.)

Kidd Yellin—133 Imlay St., (917) 860-1147, kiddyellin.org. **Ledelle Moe**, 4/17 thru 5/27. Open Tue-Fri from noon-6 pm and by appointment. **Opening reception:** 4/22 from 7-10 pm.

Look North Inuit Art Gallery—275 Conover Street, Suite 4E, (347) 721-3995, looknorthny.com. New Artwork from Northwest Alaska, art from Shishmaref and St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, on view through 4/30. Call for hours.

WORK Gallery—65 Union St., redtinshack.com. David Pappaceno, 4/8 thru 10. Fri 3-7 pm, Sat & Sun noon-6 pm and by appointment. **Opening reception:** 4/8 at 6 pm. **Artist Talk:** 4/10 at 4 pm. (Also see Film.)

FESTIVALS

EnviroMedia Mobile Earth Day Celebration 2011—ceremonial launch of Floating Earth Ball 2011, live music from Caravan of Thieves, plus DJ Megman and Spaze Crafte & Co, tours of Mobile Nature & Maritime Museum, photography and video exhibition from Claudia Medina & Steven Sachs, vermicomposting worms with Green Apple Kids, e-waste electronic items (cell phones, etc.) & more, presented by the Urban Divers Estuary Conservancy, 4/23 11 am-5 pm (rain date 4/24), Earth Ball launch 1 pm, IKEA/Erie Basin Waterfront Park, 1 Beard St., (347) 224-5828, enviromediablogspot.com.

Michigan State Fair—details and adm TBA, 4/24 from 3-7 pm, The Bell House, 149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouse.com.

FILM

WORK Gallery—65 Union St., redtinshack.com. **Drive In VII**, an evening of art and videos projected onto the abandoned/unused tractor trailers parked in the industrial zone on the opposite side of Van Brunt St (across from the gallery), 4/15 at dusk. FREE. (Also see Exhibitions.)

FOOD & DRINK

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouse.com. Brooklyn Beefsteak, all-you-can-eat-and-drink beef and beer feast with hot beef cuts, bread and McSorley's, hearkening back to the days of Tammany Hall politicians buying votes with feasts, 4/10 from 1-4 pm & 5-8 pm, \$50 per person, \$45 per person for groups of four or more.

Dry Dock—424 Van Brunt St., (718) 852-3625, drydockny.com. Bootlegger Prohibition Vodka, distilled at Tuthilltown Spirits in upstate NY, 4/1 from 5:30-8:30 pm; Jura!, sample Domaine de L'Octavin Arbois Poulsard, from the Jura, 4/8 from 5:30-8:30 pm; Rosenthal Wine Imports, 4/9 from 4-7 pm; Lambrusco Makes

Tax Day Better, 4/15 from 5:30-8:30 pm; Karlsson's Gold Vodka, 4/23 from 4-7 pm, all FREE. Get 10 percent off Whisky Live event at Chelsea Piers on 4/6, visit Dry Dock website for more info.

MISC

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouse.com. TV Party: Best of Sketch Comedy Shows, 4/5 at 8 pm, \$5; Trivia Night, 4/6 at 8 pm, Frontier Room, FREE; Underground Rebel Bingo Club, 4/23 at 9 pm, \$5-\$15.

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. O'Donovan Rossa Society, 4/6 at 7:30 pm; World Famous Pub Quiz with Sean Crowley, 4/7, 14, 21 & 28 at 8 pm. FREE.

Visitation Church—St. Mary's Hall, 98 Richards St., (805) 300-6913. Fundraising Event with Celebrity Hairstylists Francesco Carta and Mimmo Rossi, 4/4 from 9 am-9 pm. Hair cut, wash and blow-dry \$30 & up; hair cut and dye \$60 & up, hair cut and highlights \$60 & up.

MUSEUM

The Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge—290 Conover St. at Pier 44, (718) 624-4719. The last covered wooden barge of its kind, the Lehigh Valley Railroad Barge #79 is now a floating museum. The museum's permanent display tells the history of the Tug and Barge "Lighterage Era" (1860-1960) and how food and commercial goods were transported prior to today's bridges and tunnels. Experience the exciting story of the rescue of Barge #79 by a clown and juggler and enjoy the captain's "Serious Foolishness." Displays also include bells, barge models and the audio-kinetic ball machine sculpture by artist George Rhodes that continuously whirls, goes loop-the-loop, plays musical boxes and bounces in mid-air. Stroll in the waterfront garden with views of the Statue of Liberty and the many workboats and recreational vessels of the NY Harbor. Group reservations for schools, camps & seniors available by appointment. For directions to the museum, visit waterfrontmuseum.org. Open Thursdays 4-8 pm, Saturdays 1-5 pm. FREE. (Also see Theater.)

MUSIC

Bait & Tackle—320 Van Brunt St., (718) 797-4892, redhookbaitandtackle.com. Golden Animals, 4/1 at 9 pm; The Driftwood Singers, 4/2 at 9 pm; Sunday Night Singer/Songwriter Revue, three performers each night TBA, 4/3, 10 & 17 at 8 pm; Smitty on Steel, 4/6 at 8 pm; Hymn for Her, 4/8 at 9 pm; The Alphabets Record Release Party, 4/9 at 9 pm; Afternoon Jazz 4/10 (Tin Roof Trio) & 4/17 (Baby Soda) at 3 pm; Tax Day Party with DJ Spencer Bewley spinning old-school vinyl, 4/15 at 9 pm; The Lost River Cavemen, 4/16 at 9 pm; Shortwave Society, 4/22 at 9 pm. FREE.

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouse.com. Waco Brothers, the Wiremen and Macon Dead, 4/1 at 8 pm, \$12 adv, \$14 DOS; Obits, Sundelles and Tijuana Panthers, 4/2 at 8 pm, \$13 adv, \$15 DOS; the Greenhorns, with Hacienda and Blackbells, 4/8 at 8 pm, \$15; Liam Finn and the Luyas, 4/9 at 7:30 pm, \$15; Handsome Furs, 4/14 at 8 pm, \$15; Come and Eleventh Dream Day, with D. Charles Speer and the Helix, 4/16 at 6 pm, \$20; Frontier Room: That's My Jam, mixed queer dance party with DJ Tikka Masala, 4/16 at 10 pm warm up, doors at 11 pm, \$10 cover, \$5 for SMS subscribers; Roy Loney and Cyril Jordan of the Flamin' Groovies with the A-Bones, 4/21 at 8 pm, \$15; Seaweed, All Eyes West and (Damn) This Desert Air, 4/22 at 8 pm, \$15; The Baseball Project with Steve Wynn and the Miracle 3, 4/29 at 8 pm, \$13 adv, \$15 DOS; Alejandro Escovedo and the Sensitive Boys and Jesse Malin and the St. Marks Social, 4/30 at 8 pm, \$22 adv, \$24 DOS.

Hope & Anchor—347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276. Karaoke, Thursdays through Saturdays from 9 pm-1 am.

Jalopy Theatre and School of Music—315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Kristen Andreassen and the Calamity Janes, 4/1 at 9 pm, \$10; Brooklyn Folk Festival Preview Concert and Benefit 2011, with Æ, Blind Boy Paxton and the Dust Busters, 4/2 at 9 pm, \$10, proceeds benefit Brooklyn Folk Fest, held 6/10-12 at Jalopy and BWAC; TLP Ten/Twenty aka Pat Conte & Friends and Brotherhood of the Jug Band Blues, 4/3 at 8 pm, \$10; Hooklyn Holler!, 4/5 8 pm, \$5; Roots & Ruckus, 4/6, 13, 20 & 27 at 9 pm; Blind Boy Paxton and Pokey LaFarge and the South City Three, 4/7 at 8:30, \$10; Bruce Molsky with the Whistling Wolves Duo, 4/8 at 8 pm, \$15; Ginny Hawker and Tracy Schwarz and the Dust Busters with John Cohen, 4/9 at 8 pm, \$12 adv, \$15 DOS; Red Hook Ramblers accompany Buster Keaton Comedies, 4/10 at 8 pm, \$10; Tony Scherr Trio, 4/12 at 9 pm, \$5; Veveritse Brass Band, 2/14 at 10:30 pm, \$10; The Plunk Brothers, Fran Leadon and John Pinamonti, 4/15 at 8:15, price TBD; M. Shanghai String Band and Friends, 4/16 at 10:30 pm, \$10; Val Mindel and Emily Miller, Del Rey and Suzy Thompson and the Second Fiddles, 4/17 at 8 pm, \$15; The Homemade Supper Show, hosted by Shaky Dave, 4/19 at 9 pm, cover TBD; The Debauchery Series: Episode 2, hosted by the Whistling Wolves, 4/20 at 10 pm, **call for cover info**; Lunas Altas and Fresh Baked, 4/21 at 9 pm, \$10; King County Opry, 4/22 at 9 pm, \$10; Lightning in the East, 4/23 at 10:30, \$10; Steam Powered Hour, hosted by New Yorker cartoonist Matt Diffee, featuring comedy, art and bluegrass-ish music, 4/24 at 7 pm, \$10.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Arms and Sleepers, Dive Index and Cat Martino, 4/1 at 8 pm, \$8; the Stepkids and Emil & Friends, 4/2 at 7:30 pm, \$8; The Skull Defekts, with ZOMES and Paul Wirkus, 4/3 at 8 pm, \$10; the House Floor, Horse's Mouth, Pat Hull and Painted Faces, 4/6 at 7:30 pm, \$5; Peter Evans Quartet and Quintet, 4/7 at 8 pm, \$10; Instant Coffee, COH, Marcus Schmickler, Robert Piotrowicz with C. Spencer Yeah and Carlos Giffoni, 4/9 at 5 pm, \$10; Honey Ear Trio: Erik Lawrence, Rene Hart and Allison Miller, with Blue Cranes, Ben Perowsky's Moodswing Orchestra with TK Wonder, 4/14 at 7 pm, \$15; Community Immunity: the Curtis MacDonald Group, Kris Davis Trio and Chris Speed's Yeah NO, 4/17 at 7:30 pm, \$10.

The Rock Shop—249 Fourth Ave., (718) 230-5740, therockshopny.com. Balthazar with Ghost Bunny, 4/1 at 7:30 pm, \$10; Boat, Mini-boone, Landlady and Creeping Weeds, 4/2 at 8 pm, \$10; Goldenboy, and Backlights, 4/4 at 8 pm, \$8 adv, \$10 DOS; Money & King and Matt Jones, 4/6 at 7:30 pm, \$8; The Secret History, Morton Valence and Overlord, 4/7 at 8 pm, \$8; Spirit Family Reunion, Morgan O'Kane and Jus Post Bellum, 4/10 at 7:30 pm, \$5; Memphis and the Barr Brothers, 4/13 at 8 pm, \$12; Rebecca Gates and the Consortium with Bird of Youth, 4/14 at 8 pm, \$10; Joe Pug and Strand of Oaks, 4/15 at 8 pm, \$10; The Figgs, plus Brooklyn plays Abbey Road in honor of Record Store Day, 4/16 at 8 pm, \$12; The Pipettes, 4/18 at 8 pm, \$15; Le Mood, The Swayback and The Ghost Atlas, 4/19 at :30 pm; Jowe Head & the Extremities (Swell Maps/Television Personalities) and German Measles, 4/20 at 8 pm, \$10; Glass Ghost, Milagres, Huband & Wife and Ohnomoan, 4/21 at 7:30 pm, \$10; Thousands, 4/22 at 7:30 pm, \$10; Pacific Theater, Mahogany and Frozen Faces, 4/23 at 8 pm, \$10; Sea of Bees and Smoosh, 4/24 at 8 pm, \$10; Oh No Oh My, Modern Skirts and Mike Quinn, 4/27 at 8 pm, \$10; Hawk and Dove and New Numbers, 4/29 at 7:30 pm, \$8; Pearl & the Beard with Kingsley Flood and Ugly Purple Sweater, 4/30 at 8 pm, \$10.

STAR-REVUE CLASSIFIEDS

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Seanchai and the Unity Squad, 4/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 at 8 pm; Monday Night Trad Seisiun, 4/4, 11, 18 & 25 at 8 pm, FREE; Tuesday Night Trad Seisiun, 4/5, 12, 19 & 26. Call for adm info not listed.

Sugar Lounge, 147 Columbia St., (718) 643-2880. Free Music Fridays at 10 pm: Spur of the Moment String Band, 4/1; The Major Toms play Brit Rock with Owen Comaskey, 4/8; El Diablo Robotico, 4/15; TBC, 4/22. Check the Sugar Lounge Facebook page for updates. FREE.

Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover St., (718) 625-8211. Smokey's Round-up, 4/6, 13, 20 & 27 at 9:30 pm; acoustic jam every Saturday. FREE.

Union Street Star Theater—101 Union St. (between Columbia & Van Brunt), (718) 624-5568. Thursday Night Music Jam, open to musicians and listeners; stage, PA, bass amp, drums, mic and refreshments provided, 4/7, 14, 21 & 28 from 7-10 pm. FREE.

READINGS & LITERARY EVENTS

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, bellhousesny.com. Secret Science Club presents a Brain-Boggling Evening with Neuroscientist and Author Paul Glimcher, 4/3 at 8 pm. FREE.

Freebird Books & Goods—123 Columbia St., (718) 643-8484. Author James Mason reads from his collection of short stories, *Positively No Dancing*, republished by Freebird, 4/16 at 6 pm. FREE.

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Last Wednesday Reading Series and Open Mic, a showcase for published writers and a peer review event for new and upcoming writers, with Lisa McLaughlin, 4/27 at 7 pm. FREE.

Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover St., (718) 625-8211. Sundays at Sunny's, with readings from education blogger Alexander Russo, author of *Stray Dogs, Saints and Saviors: Fighting for the Soul of America's Toughest High School*; Mindy Greenstein, author of *The House on Crash Corner...and Other Unavoidable Calamities*, and poet Chiwan Choi, author of *The Flood*; curated by Gabriel Cohen and co-sponsored by BookCourt, 4/3 at 3 pm, with free coffee, Italian pastries and cookies, (cash) bar open. Adm \$5.

THEATER

Falconworks Artists Group—Red Hook Theater Project: *Dynamizing the Image From the Real to Ideal*, 4/6 & 13 at 7 pm, Miccio Center, 110 W 9th Street, Red Hook, call (718) 395-3218, info@falconworks.com or falconworks.com. FREE.

The Waterfront Museum & Showboat Barge—290 Conover St. at Pier 44, (718) 624-4719, waterfrontmuseum.org. *Port Cities*, 4/28, 29 & 30, call or check website for times and admission info. (Also see Museum.)

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HELP WANTED

Freelance Writers: The Red Hook Star-Revue is looking for freelance writers for both the arts and news sections. We want to buttress our special sections as well as local theater and music coverage. Call George at 718 624-5568 or email Josie@redhookstar.com

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Suggested admission: \$100 or pay-what-you-can (minimum \$20)*

For info or to purchase tickets, visit: www.coradance.org or call 718-858-2520

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