

# SOUTHEAST QUEENS PRESS

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## STOP THE VIOLENCE



Community group hosts a dramatic "lie-in" to protest gun violence in Southeast Queens.  
By Luis Gronda ... Page 3.

PRESS Photo by Luis Gronda

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### City's First African American Deputy Mayor Dies

Paul Gibson Jr., who was named the City's first African American deputy mayor in 1974, died in his home in Jamaica on Friday at the age of 86.

Gibson was a vice president at American Airlines when Mayor Abraham Beame appointed him deputy mayor for planning.

He was a board member for the Democratic Club in Jamaica and was general counsel and housing chairman in the State N.A.A.C.P.

Gibson helped to preserve the City Commission on Human Rights to maintain federal funding for the long-term unemployed and enforce affirmative action regulations that required companies to provide written guarantees of an equal share of employment for minorities and women.

He resigned from his position in 1977 to return to American Airlines.

Gibson graduated from Boys High School in Brooklyn and entered the City College of New York. In 1946, he was drafted by the Army. He returned to City College after his discharge and graduated with a degree in social sciences in 1950. He then

earned his law degree from the New York University School of Law in 1952.

He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Marcia; his sons, David and Paul; his sister Ann Brown and four grandchildren.

### Q77 Bus Route Will Permanently Run On Sundays

The Q77 Sunday service that operates between Laurelton and Jamaica that was introduced on an experimental basis was approved by the MTA to become a permanent service, according to MTA spokesperson Marisa Baldeo

The service was started on April 6 in response to an increasing demand as part of the MTA's 2013-2014 Service Enhancement Program. This was part of an estimated \$7.9 million slated to be invested throughout the city, Baldeo said.

On May 14, the MTA held a public hearing to provide customers with the opportunity to comment on a number of new proposed bus services and changes. Customers who use the Q77 now benefit from full weekend service. Sunday service operates between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m.

### Rochdale Village Library Closing Temporarily

The City Dept. of Design and Construction is replacing the roof at the Queens Library Rochdale Village branch located at 169-09 137th Ave. The library will be closed from Aug. 3 and will reopen in October.

The mobile library will provide limited service every Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the closure.

Customers can use any other library location. The closest locations are at 134-26 225th St. in Laurelton, 191-05 Linden Blvd. in St. Albans and at 128-16 Rockaway Blvd. in South Ozone Park. Additional information is available at [www.queenslibrary.org](http://www.queenslibrary.org)

### Man Sentenced To Life In Prison For Double Homicide

District Attorney Richard Brown announced this week that a Springfield Gardens man was convicted of first-degree murder for fatally shooting his parents in September 2011 as they slept in bed. He was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Shane Jaggarnauth, 26, was con-

victed in May of two counts of first-degree murder, two counts of second-degree murder and one count of second-degree criminal possession of a weapon. This decision followed a four-week trial before Supreme Court Justice Gregory Lasak, who imposed the sentence.

"The defendant was convicted of killing his parents without warning or provocation while they slept in their bed," Brown said. "It was a brutal and morally reprehensible crime and the sentence meted out by the court today is appropriate to ensure that justice is served and society is protected."

According to the trial testimony, Jaggarnauth and an unidentified individual entered the bedroom of his parents, Sugrim and Rosie Jaggarnauth, at approximately 4 a.m. on Sept. 2, 2011. Sugrim was fatally shot once in the forehead at close range as he slept. Rosie was then also shot once, but it was not fatal and she was able to call 911 for help. While on the phone, she was shot three more times, one of which proved fatal.

Shortly after, Shane called 911 to report that he had been shot in the left shoulder by an intruder who had also murdered his parents. He was taken to a local hospital for treatment of his non-life-threatening gunshot wound.

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# Residents Stage Gun Violence Protest On Parsons Blvd.

BY LUIS GRONDA

They lay down in the middle of a bustling intersection with a message that the violence must stop.

Last weekend, chants of “No justice, no peace!” rang through Parsons Boulevard between Jamaica and Archer Avenues, as several Southeast Queens residents and leaders protested gun violence.

The Queens Chapter of the National Action Network, a civil rights organization that discusses issues such as gun violence, criminal justice and education, organized the rally against gun violence.

This is, in part, a response to the recent rash of gun shootings throughout the City last month. Three people died and 18 were wounded as a wave of gun violence hit all five boroughs in late June.

The NAN has been holding gun violence protests throughout the City and Southeast Queens was the latest stop on that tour last Saturday.

Taking up much of the sidewalk near the entrance to the Jamaica Avenue E train, several people, in-



Protesters showed solidarity as they walked out on Parsons Boulevard to speak out against gun violence.

cluding Ashley Sharpton, the Rev. Al Sharpton’s daughter, spoke loudly about how gun violence in this City must come to a stop.

Then, a group of more than 20 people lay down on garbage bags on Parsons Boulevard to symbolize the effects of gun violence. They lay down on the thoroughfare for about five minutes, shouting names of loved ones and celebrities who have

died because of guns. Police blocked off that portion of the street for the protest.

Kevin Livingston, the founder of 100 Suits for 100 Men and a Southeast Queens resident, said they wanted to temporarily disrupt the economic engine in Jamaica to bring attention to the gun epidemic in their neighborhood and in the City.

“We are tired of seeing young men

and women being shot down by dogs in Jamaica,” he said. “We are being too reactive to what’s going on in our community.”

Sharpton said before there was more concern about police brutality in the past but now it is violence among residents and that is a different situation.

“It’s bigger than jobs and education. We’re killing each other now,” she said. “We’re not animals, so stop acting like it.”

Rev. Phil Craig, who heads the Queens NAN and was at Saturday’s protest, said in order to gain attention for an issue like gun violence, you must do something drastic like lay in the middle of Parsons Boulevard.

“We need to get people involved to get mad enough and not settle for this situation,” Craig said. “We have to get control of our environment, cause if we don’t do it, it’s going to get control of us.”

Reach Reporter Luis Gronda at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 127, lgronda@queenstribune.com, or @luisgronda.

Jordan Gibbons contributed reporting to this story.

# Councilman Miller Discusses Participatory Budgeting Plans

BY JORDAN GIBBONS

Councilman I. Daneek Miller (D-St. Albans) held the second of four participatory budget info sessions on Monday, to get the residents of District 27 actively involved in how to spend \$1 million from the City’s budget.

Miller’s office will hold two more info sessions throughout the summer and then move on to holding neighborhood assemblies during the fall, which will consist of at least seven assemblies to propose project ideas that the community will eventually vote on.

From November to February, there will be delegate meetings where people who live, work, own a business, attend school or are parents of children who attend school in the district can volunteer to serve as budget delegates, as long as they are at least 14 years old. Each delegate will join a committee to discuss and develop project proposals.

During the months of February and March, project expos will be held to give budget delegates the opportunity to present their finalized projects in a science fair format. Project proposals will be posted online, as well.

Some time in March and April,



Councilman I. Daneek Miller and Public Advocate Letitia James spoke about the benefits of participatory budgeting.

the community will vote on their top five out of the 20-30 projects that are expected to be proposed. Residents must be 16 years old and live in the district to vote and the top five will be selected. There will be at least six voting locations throughout the district.

Proposals need to cost at least \$35,000 to be considered.

Starting in April, the implementation and monitoring of the projects will begin.

“We’re hoping people are anticipating this vote in advance,” Miller

said. “We want to get it out early and often.”

As residents proposed some ideas for improvements, Miller said he wanted to make sure people understand the perimeters for the proposals. Plans for facilities that are not owned by the City would take too long to complete and projects that are too small do not fit into this type of budgeting.

Cedric Dew, executive director of the Jamaica YMCA, proposed installing cameras in local parks to prevent gun violence and other issues. He said that places such as Lincoln Park and Liberty Park would benefit from cameras because despite the good programs that occur, they are also plagued with some bad incidents. In an interview later in the week, Dew said that he is interested in getting involved with the delegate meetings.

“Those are the kinds of parks that will allow people to feel comfortable running programs,” he said. “I do think I can bring some insight with the feedback I receive living in the community and working in my position, as well.”

Miller said that installing security cameras would fit into the parameters for the budgeting and also pointed out some aspects of the community

he would like residents to focus on, including reaching out to the youth in the community to get them off the street to help stop gun violence.

“They need to see this reality and that we’re working for their quality of life,” Miller said. “We want some real employment opportunities for our young people.”

Miller said that another issue he wants to look at is the degrading quality of the bus depots in the Southeast Queens area.

“We have five bus depots that aren’t up to snuff,” he said. “Collectively, I would hope that we work on that.”

He also said that he plans to work on the garbage situation because the Community Board 12 area handles 27% of all the garbage in New York City.

Public Advocate Letitia James also attended the session and spoke about the importance of being actively involved in participatory budgeting.

“This is a process that will involve civic engagement,” James said. “All of you are now ambassadors in this process...and letting people know that this community is really working and it’s up to all of you to make it beautiful.”

Reach Reporter Jordan Gibbons at (718)357-7400 Ext. 123, jgibbons@queenspress.com or @jgibbons2

# More Service Planned For Rosedale Buses

BY JORDAN GIBBONS

Due to the increased ridership on the Q113 and Q111, the MTA Bus Company is planning to add a new separate bus route along the same line called the Q114.

The new route will operate as a limited-stop line along Guy R. Brewer Boulevard and 147th Avenue, but will provide the same local service south of Brookville Boulevard as the Q113 local currently does.

The Q111 schedules will be adjusted to maintain frequent and reliable service for commuters who use local stops along Guy R. Brewer and 147th, according to a letter from Darryl Irick, president of the MTA Bus Company, addressed to Councilman Donovan Richards (D-Laurelton).

"It's a step in the right direction," Franck Joseph, a spokesman for Richards' office, said. "Local 113 and 111 get so crowded and congested. Buses don't run on schedule like they should. People coming from Rosedale feel disadvantaged."

The MTA plans to implement the change on Sunday, Aug. 31.

Currently, the Q113 provides local and limited-stop service between Jamaica Center and Seagirt Boulevard and Beach 20th Street in Far Rock-

away. Local Q113 trips use Guy R. Brewer Boulevard, 147th Avenue, Brookville Boulevard and local streets in Nassau County to travel to and from Far Rockaway. Q113 riders traveling to destinations in Rosedale and Nassau County must use its local service.

Limited-stop Q113 trips use Guy R. Brewer and Rockaway Boulevards and the Nassau Expressway to reach Far Rockaway, making fewer stops on Guy R. Brewer Boulevard and bypassing local streets in Rosedale and Nassau County.

The Q111 provides frequent local service between Jamaica Center and Francis Lewis Boulevard and 148th Avenue in Rosedale.

The proposal will be discussed at the City Transit and Bus Committee of the MTA Board on Monday, July 21, at 10:30 a.m. at the MTA Headquarters, 347 Madison Ave. Interested parties are allowed to attend to comment on the proposals during the public session at the opening of the meeting. Speaker registration starts 15



A new bus service, the Q114, will come to Rosedale to support its increased ridership.

minutes before the meeting begins.

"We're happy that our residents will be able to get that service," Joseph said. "We just want to go over some of the stops they're proposing. We can add to the conversation that the MTA is having."

One Rosedale resident, however, is not convinced that this will alleviate the commuter issues in the area.

Jackie Campbell, president of the Rosedale Block Association, has been petitioning the MTA since last year. She said there should be more than one bus

servicing residents at the end of the line on Francis Lewis Boulevard.

"What happens to residents who live on the other side of Rosedale?" Campbell said. "People like me can't get on and have to wait for another bus. It's too crowded."

Campbell takes the bus to Jamaica where she uses the J train to go to work in Lower Manhattan. She said it takes her two hours to get to work and two hours to get home.

She started advocating for a change on her own but has since joined forces with her local community organizations, Community Board 13 and the Rosedale Civic Association, to convince the MTA that a change needs to occur.

"I'm planning to take the morning off to go to the hearing," she said. "They probably won't understand the problems without someone like me there to explain it to them."

Reach Reporter Jordan Gibbons at (718)357-7400 Ext. 123, [jgibbons@queenspress.com](mailto:jgibbons@queenspress.com) or [@jgibbons2](https://twitter.com/jgibbons2)

# Strike Averted; MTA And Unions Make Deal

BY JACKIE STRAWBRIDGE

The MTA and LIRR union representatives have reached a tentative contract agreement, averting a strike. The announcement was first made in a statement on the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 589 website.

The post read, "A STRIKE HAS BEEN AVERTED! A tentative agreement has been reached. Details to follow."

The strike would have begun Sunday at 12:01 a.m, impacting about 300,000 commuters. According to State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli, it would have cost \$50 million in lost economic activity daily.

Talks had come to a standstill on Monday, with MTA Chairman Tom Prendergast declaring that a "gulf" existed between the two parties.

"They haven't moved at all - slightly, very smally [sic] from their position. Until they're ready to move, there's no reason to have negotiations," Prendergast said at the time.

The MTA and labor came back to the table on Wednesday, after predding from Gov. Andrew Cuomo.

Although Cuomo had previously stated that he would not intervene



Rush hour at the Bayside LIRR station days before a possible strike.

in the negotiations, he began directly participating Wednesday night through Thursday - talks were held in his Manhattan office.

"We were on the cusp of a strike that would have been highly problematic for Long Island - I believe that was the right time for the Governor to step in," Cuomo said at a press conference after negotiations ended Thursday afternoon.

"If I don't have to get involved, better I don't. But again I thought in these circumstances, it merited it," Cuomo added.

The settlement includes a 17 percent wage increase over six and a half years, which represents a compromise between the seven year plan the MTA was pushing for, and the six years the unions wanted.

"The question became how do

you pay for it without raising fares and without jeopardizing the capital plan for the MTA," Cuomo said. He explained that to ensure savings, employees will for the first time contribute to health care costs, and future employees will have different wage progressions and pension plan contributions.

Prendergast and chief labor spokesman Anthony Simon both expressed optimism that the deal has staying power.

"We're very comfortable that our membership will support it," Simon said, noting that he wants it ratified by Aug. 15.

"This is a contract we know the board will support," Prendergast said. The contract will be brought to the MTA Board of Directors in September.

"That was the entire question in the negotiation - where does the money come from?" Cuomo said.

This deal has been four years in the making - union employees having been working without a contract since 2010.

Reach Reporter Jackie Strawbridge at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 128, [jstrawbridge@queenstribune.com](mailto:jstrawbridge@queenstribune.com) or [@JN-Strawbridge](https://twitter.com/JN-Strawbridge).

Photo By Jackie Strawbridge

## EDITORIAL

## Taking A Stand

While this newspaper's mission has been to highlight the positive development and growth in Southeast Queens, at times it has been impossible to ignore one of the biggest negatives. The too-frequent acts of gun violence has been a blight on the community in Southeast Queens.

Shootings in the area have taken the lives of young men and women, sometimes innocent bystanders who had nothing to do with an incident. We have been rattled to the core on countless occasions, mourning our dead and asking why these shootings continue.

While police and elected officials continue to do their part in trying to end the gun violence, it takes more than just a gun buyback or a press conference. The community needs to get behind it. The community needs to take a stand and say that enough is enough.

The rally over the weekend, organized by the Queens Chapter of the National Action Network, was a needed event to show that the community has had enough, and that the community believes that it is time for a change.

We hope these efforts continue, and we hope that the message that an end to violence is necessary to bring about a new age of peace in Southeast Queens is spread throughout the area.

## WRITE ON:

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## They Liked Big Butts And It Almost Killed Them

*A Personal Perspective*  
BY MARCIA MOXAM  
COMRIE

Earlier this week, a Queens woman was sentenced to several years in prison for playing doctor; but this was not the harmless children's fantasy so familiar in a bygone era. This was a woman who could have caused the death of several other women.

According to Queens DA Richard Brown, Liliana Coello preyed on the vanity of gullible women by offering buttocks-enhancing silicone injections that made the unsuspecting "patients" deathly ill. Not only was she not licensed to perform such procedures, according to the DA, the very substance is illegal for injecting.

I guess I'm dating myself when I say that I vividly recall a time when women who had generously proportioned posteriors (AKA, big butts) complained that they were fat and did whatever they could to minimize the look. But ever since Jennifer Lopez came on the scene sporting all that

"junk in her trunk" and later followed by the ubiquitous Kim Kardashian, women, and some air-headed men as well, have been lining up to get butt implants and lifts and yes, illegal injections.

It also didn't hurt that the singer, Sir Mix-A-Lot, extolled the pleasure he gets from looking at "Big Butts."

We've all been young and have done stupid things, but this is a new stupidity. Coello, who is from Flushing, is not the first fake medical practitioner to get into trouble for shooting an illegal substance into some moron's behind. A couple of years ago, someone in Miami was arrested for injecting some sort of construction glue into someone that killed her.

Then there was the Midwestern woman who not only nearly lost her life, she lost the little bit of butt she started with, when doctors had to remove pounds of infected flesh from her backside due to another case of illegal enhancement. The irony was not lost on this woman.

## Changing Qualifications

To The Editor:

Chancellor Carmen Fariña is requiring school superintendents to re-apply for their jobs. She is also setting a minimum of seven years as an educator as a qualification and reinstating the former stipulation that superintendents be mature adults.

Currently, many of the division heads and policy-making executives at the Dept. of Education only a few birthdays ago became eligible to attend "R"-rated movies unaccompanied by an adult.

We've got a good shot at recapturing the high bar of 1563 England, when the Statute of Artificers required craftsmen to be apprenticed for seven years. Of course, most of the breed of active superintendents are not craftsmen, but it would be a step up for them if they were. Having a hook or bagman is no substitute for training, skills, purity of motivation and experience.

We can learn even more from the past by revisiting the Middle Ages and appreciating the flip side of the Black Death. Sure, it killed around one-third of Europe's population, but thanks to the law of supply and demand, that extinction strengthened the bargaining power of surviving workers.

Around that time, forerunners of modern unions went on strike for higher wages. They had less to fear from the Sheriff of Nottingham than they would have had from Walmart's goon squads.

Let's hope that Chancellor Fariña continues to diversify her perspectives. By no means a return to the ancient past of the cathedral-building guilds, whose members had as much discretionary income as Red State senators would allow workers. But let's at least resuscitate aspects of the recent history of education that served America so well: meritocracy for teachers, principals and superintendents.

Ron Isaac,  
Fresh Meadows

**PRESS**

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# SOUTHEAST QUEENS PRESSpix

## Turning Two At The Park



Photo by Luis Gronda

Motivational speaker Dr. Sampson Davis was the special guest at this year's baseball clinic hosted by Derek Jeter's Turn 2 Foundation in Flushing last week. The clinic allowed kids between 8 and 13 to practice the fundamentals of baseball and get tips from local coaches.

## Greater Jamaica Downtown Committee



Photos by Walter Karling

The recent meeting of the Greater Jamaica Downtown Corporation's Downtown Committee featured guest speakers Sharon Leid (seated) of Netstruc Networks, who pointed out computer pitfalls to avoid while surfing the Internet; Charles Atilas of the Cultural Collaborative of Jamaica; Hector Vizcaino, Family Service coordinator for Catholic Charities; Cheryl Miller, independent associate with legal services product provider Legal Shield; Downtown Committee Chairman William Martin and Nathalia Sabatino, family and community specialist with Catholic Charities.

As Community Board 12 chairwoman Yvonne Reddick looks on, Theresa Bishop of Lifestyle Awards makes a point during the meeting's round-robin feature.



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# POLICE BLOTTER



## 105th Precinct Investigation

At approximately 11:28 p.m. on July 10, police responded to a report of an unconscious infant at 222-47 141st Road.

Upon arrival, officers discovered a 10-month-old Jerimiah Willis-Hurley unconscious and unresponsive. EMS transported the baby to Franklin General Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. There were no physical signs of trauma and the Medical Examiner's Officer will determine the cause of death.

## 108th Precinct Burglary

The NYPD is seeking the public's assistance in locating a suspect connected to the following burglaries.

Between the hours of 1 a.m. and 8 a.m. on June 22, the suspect entered Manducatis Restaurant, located at 46-33 Vernon Blvd., by breaking the front glass door and removed two Apple iPads, two Apple iPad minis and \$700.

Between 2 a.m. and 7:30 a.m. on June 25, the suspect entered Woodbines Restaurant, located at 47-10

Vernon Blvd., by breaking the front door window and removed a Galaxy 10 electronic tablet and \$100.

Between 7 p.m. on June 27 and 5:30 a.m. on June 30, the suspect entered Seattle Café, located at 32-02 Queens Blvd., by breaking the front door glass and removed approximately \$850 in cash from two cash registers.

At approximately, 4:22 a.m. on July 4, the suspect entered LIC Bar, located at 45-58 Vernon Blvd., through a window but fled the location without removing anything.

Anyone with information is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-tips, visit [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com) or text tips to 274637(CRIMES), then enter TIP577. All calls are confidential.

## 110th Precinct Arrest

At approximately 4:07 p.m. on July 6, police responded to a 911 call of a baby not breathing at 90-42 52nd Ave.

Upon arrival, officers were advised that 11-month-old Felix Jr. Kiam was brought from the location by private conveyance to Elmhurst

General Hospital. At the hospital, Kiam was pronounced dead. The medical examiner will determine cause of death.

Nicole Kelly, 22, has been arrested in regards to this case and charged with Murder 2.

## Homicide

At 9:52 p.m. on June 17, police responded to a 911 call of a male stabbed in the rear at 97-20 57th Ave.

Upon arrival, officers discovered the victim, Andre Ramirez, 21, unconscious and unresponsive with a stab wound to his torso. EMS also responded to the scene and transported the victim to North Shore Forest Hills Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. There are no arrests and the investigation is ongoing.

## 114th Precinct Burglary

The NYPD is seeking the public's assistance in locating a suspect wanted in connection with a commercial burglary.

At approximately 4 a.m. on June 11, the suspect entered Andres Pizza, located at 25-19 40th Ave. by breaking the glass front door. The suspect



**This individual is wanted in connection with a Burglary within the confines of the 114th Precinct.**

removed the cash register, which contained \$20 in cash and fled to parts unknown.

Anyone with information is asked to call the NYPD's Crime Stoppers at (800) 577-tips, visit [www.nypdcrimestoppers.com](http://www.nypdcrimestoppers.com) or text tips to 274637(CRIMES), then enter TIP577. All calls are confidential.

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# Profiles Of The Rich And Famous

## State Financial Disclosures Reveal Additional Income For Electeds

BY JOE MARVILLI

The 2013 financial disclosure statements for the State Legislature have been released, displaying which investments and income sources Queens' State Senators and Assemblymembers have aside from their day jobs.

The disclosure statements are required filings for State Legislators each year and come from the State Joint

Commission on Public Ethics. On these documents, State Legislators are required to list any income, job positions, retirement plans, securities, stocks and owned property that they have in addition to their role in State government. While no Queens official has as large an outside income as Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, who earned up to \$750,000 from a law firm, many Borough officials brought in some outside income.

State Sen. Toby Stavisky's (D-Flushing) financial disclosure statement was notable for the large amount of securities she listed for last year. The senator has several stocks valued between \$5,000 and under

\$20,000 in companies that include American Electric Power, American Express, AT&T, Con Edison, MDU Resources, Microsoft and Verizon. She also has a Biogen stock that is worth between \$20,000 and under \$50,000. Biogen is an American biotechnology company specializing in drugs for neurological disorders, autoimmune disorders and cancer.

Besides stocks, Stavisky also has bonds with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, a multinational financial services corporation that specializes in retail brokerage, valued between \$500,000 and less than \$750,000. She also has exchange-traded funds with the company, valued between \$150,000 and under \$250,000. Stavisky's investments in Morgan Stanley paid off in 2013, as she listed in her income a total of \$22,800 to \$60,000 earnings.

State Sen. Malcolm Smith (D-Hollis) also listed investments on his disclosure form. The embattled sena-



State Sen. Toby Stavisky (left) and State Sen. Malcolm Smith had some high value securities on their disclosure reports.

tor has securities in a market value between \$5,000 and under \$20,000 from Fidelity OTC, International Active Equity, Principal Large CAP, T. Rowe Price Equity and Vanguard Institution Index. His Stable Income Fund is valued between \$20,000 and less than \$50,000.

State Sen. James Sanders' (D-South Ozone Park) disclosure form was notable not for what he earned, but for what he owed. According to the document, Sanders said he owes \$30,000 to the New York City Campaign Finance Board.

Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (D - East Elmhurst) earned some income for a part-time job, specifically as

an actor. He earned a salary in the range of \$1,000 to under \$5,000 for appearing as an uncredited detective on the CBS Sherlock Holmes series, "Elementary." According to IMDB.com, DenDekker has appeared in several bit roles in the past, on films such as "Miracle at St. Anna," (2008) "The Happening," (2008) "American Gangster" (2007) and "Inside Man" (2006).

DenDekker is also an owner and member of ATL-NYC Productions LLC., a DVD, film and television production and sales company based in Atlanta, Ga.

Assemblyman William Scarborough (D-Jamaica) owns property in Shokan, NY with his spouse, a market value of \$250,000 to under \$500,000. For 2013, that property earned him \$20,000 to under \$50,000 in rent payments.



Photo courtesy of IMDB.com

Assemblyman Michael DenDekker earned income in 2013 from acting roles, a long-time hobby of his.

OP-ED

## Downsizing Moratorium Needed At NYCHA

BY PUBLIC ADVOCATE LETITIA JAMES

In an effort to keep housing in New York within the financial reach of most middle class New Yorkers, Mayor de Blasio has promised to preserve and create 200,000 units of affordable housing over the next ten years. In July 2013, the City's Dept. of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) began to "downsize" tenants living in government-supported apartments deemed too large for that particular household's "basic needs." This change was due in part to \$35 million in federal Section 8 cuts to the City. Unfortunately, HPD's current strategies to implement downsizing has, in certain circumstances, made life more difficult for seniors, people with dis-

abilities and other vulnerable New Yorkers.

To be clear, I do not believe that the concept of downsizing is inherently unjust or unreasonable. In the face of the cuts to Section 8 funding experienced by the City, I understand that the alternative could be reducing subsidies or eliminating them entirely for some tenants. But I believe we need to do better. Other local leaders, including Manhattan Borough President Gale Brewer, are raising questions about the "transparency, basic fairness and a perceived lack of uniformity" in the way that HPD's downsizing process is being carried out.

Complaints of unfair treatment have resonated so much that affected tenants have recently formed the Housing Coalition Against Downsiz-

ing. Its ranks include many former Mitchell-Lama program tenants who only became eligible for Section 8 when their buildings began to charge market rate rent. According to a recent *Daily News* article, 42 percent of these tenants are disabled and one-third are senior citizens. It is important to recognize that disabled tenants have a right to request a reasonable accommodation from the downsizing policy. But based on the information my office has received from impacted residents, many disabled tenants are not aware that they have a choice.

I believe that at a minimum, HPD ought to work with targeted tenants to determine if they qualify for any exemptions. As things stand now, elderly and disabled tenants are given only

15 days to document proof for being exempted from downsizing. And if these tenants cannot demonstrate that they meet the exemption criteria, they are often forced to pack their bags and move out in a hurry. Not surprisingly, this policy invites unnecessary anxiety and bureaucratic error-making for a population that deserves to be treated with greater thought and care.

In the short run, there should be a moratorium on downsizing to allow for more appropriate procedures to be developed. Second, the downsizing program should be made entirely voluntary. As an incentive for seniors to downsize, HPD and nonprofits ought to offer money and other assistance to help make moving less burdensome.

The City must exercise

great caution when implementing housing policies that require people to sever longstanding ties to their communities. We must at all costs provide similar housing in the same neighborhood wherever possible.

Finally, downsizing must be evaluated as part of an overall strategy to make the city a suitable place to grow old. According to a recent report by the Dept. of City Planning, New York's population aged 65 and over is expected to increase by 175,000, or 17.5 percent, between 2010 and 2020, and by an additional 187,000, or 15.9 percent, between 2020 and 2030. Given cuts to programs like Mitchell-Lama, and recent assaults on rent control and stabilization, the City must create fair and appropriate policies that protect New Yorkers, not harm them.



# Revelations Quintet Comes To Flushing

BY JOE MARVILLI

If you are a fan of classical music, then head to Flushing this Sunday for a concert not to be missed.

Mary's Nativity Church will present "The Magic of the Baroque," a performance by the Revelations Quintet. The five-piece band will perform some masterpieces by legendary composers like George Frideric Handel.

The Revelations Quintet is becoming well-known as one of Queens' most popular ensembles for classical music. Founded by music director and harpsichordist/organist John Wolfe, the young musicians often perform famed pieces of the Baroque repertoire.

In addition to Wolfe, the group features Erik Andersen on the cello, Kate Goddard on the violin, Tod Hedrick on the viola da gamba and

soprano vocalist Candace Matthews. The five musicians met when they were students at Queens College's Aaron Copland School of Music. The group formed at first as an offshoot of the college's Baroque ensemble.

"We were blessed to meet each other at Queens College, but I believe we would've found each other even if we hadn't gone to school together, since we share a common passion for the masterpieces of ancient music," Wolfe said.

The Revelations Quintet will perform selections from Handel's "Nine German Arias," as well as lesser-known songs by Le Sieur de Machy, Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber and François Couperin.

"Our artistic aim is to spread and preserve music that no one would hear otherwise, music that we believe deserves greater exposure," he said. "We're not interested in sticking to 'Classical Music's Greatest Hits.'"

The music that the Revelations Quintet plays is not light entertainment, but an opportunity for spiritual uplifting, according to Wolfe.

"When we experience it together, as a dialogue between the audience and the performers, we attempt to transcend the boundaries between us and to communicate a message more powerful and intimate than the spoken word," Wolfe said.

Mary's Nativity Church is located at 46-02 Parsons Blvd., Flushing. Tickets cost \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. The concert begins at 4 p.m. For more information, call (718) 359-5996.

Reach Reporter Joe Marvilli at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 125, [jmarvilli@queens-tribune.com](mailto:jmarvilli@queens-tribune.com), or @JoeMarvilli.



Soprano Candace Matthews will perform as part of the Revelations Quintet on Sunday.

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

### Italy At Home In Corona

**Cucino A Modo Mio**  
51-01 108th St., Corona  
(718) 271-4300

Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Fri.-Sat. 11 a.m. to 12 a.m.; Sun. 2-11 p.m.

Reservations: Yes

Delivery/Takeout: Yes

Credit Cards: Yes, all major

Alcohol: Full bar

Outdoor Seating: Yes



however, was the risotto with mushrooms and truffle oil, which was filling but not heavy, and clearly cooked with patience and skill.

Cucino A Modo Mio is unique not only for its food, but for its eclectic design and attentive staff. Customers in the main dining room eat among Western pottery and on benches made from wagon wheels, wrapped by brick and bamboo walls.

When the restaurant starts to fill up - around 6 p.m. on a weekend evening - staff and customers chat and mingle. Owner Andrea's father Gregory will probably be found ringing a row of bells and crying "buon appetito!" to cheers and applause at least once during the night.

For dessert, try the tiramisu or chocolate mousse with an espresso. Either one is a sweet cap to the Cucino menu, and will have guests stretching out their taste of homemade Italy as long as possible.

-Jackie Strawbridge

What the chefs at Corona's Cucino A Modo Mio can make, they make well, and what they can't, they import straight from Italy.

A homemade Cabernet, served slightly chilled, will hit your table first if you ask the Cucino servers for their recommendation. The wine is rich and strong - a good accompaniment to their array of Italian cheeses and spicy meats on their antipasti menu.

Of the many quality antipasti items offered at Cucino, some favorites include andouillette spread on coarse toasted bread and fried potato with eggplant.

As for the pasta course, Cucino A Modo Mio makes all of their pastas except spaghetti and linguini by hand. The spinach gnocchi - one of Cucino's specials, served with bacon and mushroom - are fluffy and carry the sauce well.

The star of the primo menu,

BY JACKIE STRAWBRIDGE

A local artist wants to depict our Borough face by face, conversation by conversation.

QNSMADE, a web-based project created and curated by Amy Wu, features makers and doers in Queens through a series of portraits and interviews. The project will officially launch Friday evening at Queens Council on the Arts' 3rd Space.

Inspired in part by "Humans of New York," an ongoing collection of street portraits in the City, Wu conceived QNSMADE to define Queens through interviews with Queens natives and local transplants. She posts the interviews and accompanying photos online at [blog.qnsmade.co](http://blog.qnsmade.co).

"I just wanted to do something for my hometown," Wu said. "A lot of my life, I didn't realize this, but I went to school in the City, I worked five years in the City, I measured success in Manhattan."

"Now I'm realizing I can measure success here, where I'm from, and give back to my community," Wu continued.

Wu's budget comes entirely from the crowdfunding site Kickstarter, and she sent out an online survey to bring local Queens artists, entrepreneurs and residents onto the QNSMADE production team.

"I really wanted to do something big, with lots of entries, lots of photographs, and data - and I knew I couldn't do it alone," Wu said. Her teammates include a CNN

reporter who conducts video interviews, as well as illustrators and other artists.

QNSMADE also has an entrepreneurial angle, in that Wu seeks out local businesses to produce QNSMADE merchandise. She enlisted local embroiders and printers to produce caps, beanies and other items.

"Everyone wants to rock the Brooklyn brand, but I haven't seen anything I wanted to wear," Wu said.

"Amy's project QNSMADE is all about honoring the work and lives of everyday folks, small business owners, as well as up and coming artists which felt really in line with our mission here at Queens Council on the Arts," 3rd Space coordinator Lauren Zelaya said.

3rd Space is the Queens Council on the Arts' answer to limited work and show space for artists in the Borough. Wu said she became interested in working with 3rd Space, "[in order] to have a physical space of QNSMADE, because it's so digital."

The QNSMADE launch at 3rd Space will feature some QNSMADE contributing artists, with new portraits by Jaina Teelcuk and a live reading by poet Audrey Dimola, as well as new photos from the project and Queens food and drink vendors.

The launch party will run from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Friday evening. Tickets are \$5 - interested parties can register at [queenscouncilarts.org/qcas-3rd-space](http://queenscouncilarts.org/qcas-3rd-space).

Reach Reporter Jackie Strawbridge at (718) 357-7400, Ext. 128, [jstrawbridge@queens-tribune.com](mailto:jstrawbridge@queens-tribune.com) or @JN-Strawbridge.

**QUEENS TODAY**

**FRIDAY 7/18.....**



**A SPIRITED EVENING**

Join the Seekers Club for a special evening investigation of the 1887 Fort Totten castle. Follow along as **"The Seekers" explore dark corners using the latest technology in the field of paranormal investigation.** Tickets are \$5 for Bayside Historical Society members and \$8 for non-members. The event runs from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. RSVP by calling (718) 352-1548.

**MADE IN QUEENS**

Friday evening from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., the Queens Council on the Arts' 3rd Space presents the **launch of QNSMADE, a web-based project that celebrates the stories of Queens through a series of portraits and interviews.** The site features artists, makers, and doers who were either born and raised in Queens or live in Queens now. Admission is \$5. For more information or to RSVP, call (347) 505-3010.

**BEST SUMMER EVER**

Join the Hall of Science for **scavenger hunts, demos, information and workshops about making health and fitness easy, fun and delicious.** Learn helpful tips for a healthier life, gain important skills for improving your fitness level and learn about the damaging myths surrounding food and exercise. Enjoy Parkour with the Movement Creative, with drop-in sessions from noon to 2:30 p.m. and a



workshop at 3 p.m. To learn more, call (718) 699-0005.

**SATURDAY 7/19....**

**BOTANICAL BREW FEST**  
Raise a glass and **celebrate the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the New York World's Fair at Queens Botanical Garden's inaugural Brew Fest.**

Enjoy a selection of more than 50 craft beers from 20 local and international breweries. There will also be food, tours, vendors, music and homebrew demonstrations by Glen Cove Home Brew and Bitter & Esters of Brooklyn. Tickets are \$45 in advance, \$50 at the door. The event is two sessions, from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

**WHAT'S UP, DOC?**

This Saturday, a new exhibition opens at the Museum of the Moving Image. "What's Up, Doc?" will **feature the animation and art of Charles Martin "Chuck" Jones, the hand behind Bugs Bunny, Pepe Le Pew and Wile E. Coyote.** The exhibit explores Jones's creative genius, his legacy and the influences he drew on from the fine arts and popular culture. The exhibition runs until January 2015. For information, call (718) 777-6800.

**FLIC-NIC**

This Sunday at dusk, grab a picnic and **pull up a blanket at Travers Park for the Queens World Film Festival.** The festival features screenings of international and local independent films, including shorts and features, animation and live action. The festival will return to Travers Park on the evening of July 26. For information, call (718) 429-2579.

**INTERACTIVE ART AT THE SECRET THEATER**

Long Island City's Secret Theatre brings an interactive performance so immersive, you may forget it is make believe. **Performance group "Playing with Reality"**

**SPOTLIGHT OF THE WEEK**

**SUNDAY 7/20 FOLKCOLOMBIA**

The Center for Traditional Music and Dance and FolkColombia Música y Danza, in conjunction with the Queens Museum, present **"FolkCOLOMBIA en el Parque 2014."**

This free celebration of Colombian Independence Day will showcase the diverse music and dance traditions of the country.

The concert will take place at the Queens Museum, running from noon until 5 p.m. Call (718) 592-9700 for more information.



will show **"Look Away, Look Away"** at 10:30 p.m. Here is your chance to play onstage with highly skilled actors and co-create the story. Or, just sit back and enjoy. For more information, call (718) 392-0722.

**PICNIC DAYS**

Picnic Days at the historic Onderdonk House and Grounds run from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is \$5 per person, children 12 and under are free with an adult. **Enjoy the beautiful Onderdonk House and gardens and picnic with your friends and neighbors. It includes grills and picnic tables (first come, first served – five grills are available).** Groups are limited to 8 -10 individuals. You supply the charcoal, all your food and supplies. You can bring additional chairs, additional tables, blankets, portable grills, umbrellas, pop up shelters. No alcohol allowed. Tours of the Onderdonk House are included. Onderdonk House is located at 1820 Flushing Ave. in Ridgewood.

**SUNDAY 7/20.....**

**ECUADORIAN FILM SHOWCASE**

The Ecuadorian Film Showcase of New York kicks off its seventh annual event at the Queens Museum, bringing **the most diverse and contemporary selection of Ecuadorian cinema to Spanish and English-speaking audiences.** The free film festival will run from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. For the complete lineup, visit [www.queensmuseum.org/events/ecuadorian-film-showcase-2014](http://www.queensmuseum.org/events/ecuadorian-film-showcase-2014).

**ORCHESTRA**

**The Poppenhusen Institute will host the Yianni Papastefanou Orchestra** for an evening of music as part of its summer concert series. Enjoy traditional Greek music and dancing at this show in the garden for the cost of \$4. Refreshments and raffles will be sold. Poppenhusen is located at 114-04 14th Road, College Point.

**MONDAY 7/21.....**

**"SATISFACTION"**  
**The Flushing Library will hold a free screening of the 1988 film, "Satisfaction,"** in its lower level auditorium.



Starring Justine Bateman, Liam Neeson and Trini Alvarado, this movie follows the adventures of a female rock band over a hot and crazy summer at the beach. The screening starts at 6 p.m.

**BASKETBALL CAMP**

**Queens Tabernacle will host a five-day basketball camp** beginning on July 21. There will be two sessions a day, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The early session will be for boys and girls entering grades 3-5 in fall 2014. The second session is for boys and girls entering grades 6-8. The camp has experienced instructors that teach shooting, ball handling, defense, rebounding, individual and team offense stations. The Queens Tabernacle is located at 86-03 96th St. in Woodhaven.

**WEDNESDAY 7/23....**



**"CYMBELINE"**

Hip to Hip Theatre Company is celebrating its eighth season of **Free Shakespeare in the Park with the romantic action-adventure fairy tale, "Cymbeline."** The performance will take place at 7:30 p.m. in Flushing Meadows Corona Park, on the lawn near the Queens Museum. Bring blankets, low chairs and picnic fare. Seating is first come, first served. If you have children, stop by at 7 p.m. for an interactive kids workshop about Shakespeare.

**52ND STREET**

**52nd Street, a Billy Joel cover band, will play Resorts World Casino** on July 23. If you cannot catch the man himself at The Garden, come watch a band play many of his hit songs. The show will begin at 8:00 p.m. Resorts World is located at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd. in South Ozone Park.

**GOT EVENTS?**

Send all information to [editor@queenstribune.com](mailto:editor@queenstribune.com)

or mail to:  
150-50 14th Rd.,  
Whitestone, NY 11357

## PROFILE

# A Celebration Of The Caribbean Culture

It is that time of the year again. The delicious taste of Caribbean culture at the Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival New York is returning to Jamaica.

One of the largest in the country, The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival was first established in Sunrise, Fla., 14 years ago by its founders, Eddy Edwards and Sydney Roberts. Based on the huge success of the Festival in Florida, the festival was brought to Queens, in 2010.

"The festival is a celebration of Caribbean culture, food and music," Richard Lue, event coordinator for the Jerk Festival said.

Lue said that when the festival first came to Queens, it drew in 5,000 people and the numbers have continually increased over the years with last year bringing in more than 16,000 people. This year, the number is expected to be bigger, with the organization expecting over 20,000 people.

Lue encourages parents to come out with their children and enjoy in the fun. "It's a fun day for the fam-

ily," Lue said.

To cater to children, the festival has a section just for kids known as the Kid Zone. "Kid Zone includes slides, bunk houses, the jerk express, which is a train that is running around the park, and more," Lue said.

The festival will be held from noon to 8 p.m., Sunday, July 20. The cultural stage is from noon to 3 p.m. The cultural stage includes presentations by drummers, poets, local performers and a fashion show. At the fashion show, Etana will be presenting her line of skirts.

At 3 p.m., the main stage opens. First, there will be a small gospel session, which is followed by performances by local artists. There will be live performances by Maxi Priest, Etana, Mr. Vagas and appearances by Chris Johnny and Daley.

Those who attend the festival this year will also view VP Records' 35th Anniversary Pop-Up Exhibit. The ex-



The annual Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival is returning to Jamaica for its fourth year.

hibit will feature a storyboard installation by Michael Thompson. The exhibit will have a detailed map, which explores the impact of reggae music in the world. Moreover, a short documentary video will be shown to explain the role that VP Records played in the social and political history of Jamaica Music.

Aside from the music, performances, Kid Zone and the exhibit, there are also food demonstrations and a celebrity cook-off. The dem-

onstration includes dishes that center around all things jerk. Lue said that last year, Mayor Bill de Blasio won the celebrity cook-off and took home the Dutch Pot Trophy.

Lue said the festival is open to all who wish to come. "It's open to everybody, everyone who wants a taste of Caribbean," he said. He mentioned that reggae wear will be available for people to dress the part as well as participate in the festivities.

The Grace Jamaican Jerk Festival is sponsored by Grace Food, Western Union, the Jamaican Tourist Point and many others. This festival is located at Roy Wilkins Park on Merrick Boulevard and Baisley Boulevard. Tickets are \$30 in advance, \$40 at the gate and free for children 12 and under. Gates open at 12 p.m. at the Baisley entrance. For more information, call (718) 425-1177 or visit [www.JerkFestivalNY.com](http://www.JerkFestivalNY.com).

— Esther Shittu

## PEOPLE

**Edgar Gonzalez** of Jamaica was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2014 semester at Lafayette College in Easton, Pa.

Local students received degrees during spring 2014 commencement ceremonies at SUNY Oswego. They include:

Jamaica: **Tyrell Moore**, Bachelor of Arts degree in communication and social interaction.

Queens Village: **Maya Siegel**, Bachelor of Science degree in childhood education.

St. Albans: **Lavon Shim-Johnson**, Bachelor of Arts degree in public relations.

South Ozone Park: **Nadia Misir**, Bachelor of Arts degree in English, summa cum laude.

South Richmond Hill: **Leonard Cocco**, Bachelor of Science degree in marketing.

**Gregory Davis** of Jamaica was named to the Dean's List for the spring 2014 semester at Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

Local students were named to the President's List for the spring 2014 semester at the Pratt Institute in Brooklyn. They include:

Holliswood: **Stacey Pieri**.

Jamaica: **Leevana Neemar**.  
St. Albans: **Kharter Ratliff**.

**Toni-Marie Powell** of Rosedale received a bachelor's degree in environmental studies during spring 2014 commencement ceremonies at SUNY Potsdam.

Local students received degrees during spring 2014 commencement ceremonies at Boston University. They include:

Rosedale: **Ashley Thompson**, Bachelor of Science degree in journalism; **Nicole Jean**, Master of Social Work degree in social work.

Springfield Gardens: **Peter Archer**, Doctor of Musical Arts degree in music education.

Local students were named to the Dean's List for the Spring 2014 semester at SUNY Oswego. They include:

Hollis Hills: **Amy Wise**.

Jamaica: **Michael Jaquez**.

Queens Village: **Travis Harrison**.

St. Albans: **Lavon Shim-Johnson**.

South Ozone Park: **Kevin Ramkishun**.

South Richmond Hill: **Leonard Cocco**.

Air Force Airman 1st Class **Samuel T. Persaud** graduated from basic

military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Persaud is the son of Charles L. and Linda V. Persaud, and grandson of Walter Persaud, all of Jamaica.

Local students received degrees during spring 2014 commencement ceremonies at the College of Saint Rose in Albany. They include:

Cambria Heights: **Melinda Carroll**.

Jamaica: **Steven McKenzie**, **Natalie Hyde**, **Dianne Taggart**, **Tamika Stewart**, **Sasha Green**, **Nicole Blair-Barzey**.

Laurelton: **Monica Brock-Walker**, **Lisa Graham**.

Queens Village: **Asia Ewart**, **Alexis Baker**, **Patricia Nicholson**.

St. Albans: **Ivan Green**, **Katrina Brave**.

South Ozone Park: **Melanie Diaz**, **Kharla Boyce**.

South Richmond Hill: **Jovayra Cabrera**.

Springfield Gardens: **Tameeka Brown**.

The New York Army National Guard has announced the re-enlistment of members in recognition of their continuing commitment to serve community, state and nation.

Specialist **Harry Guest** of Queens

Village has re-enlisted with the 719th Transportation Company.

Sergeant **Luis Estradavega** of Queens Village has re-enlisted with the Company B, 101st Signal Battalion.

Staff Sergeant **Chres Ayube** of Jamaica has re-enlisted with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 42nd Infantry Division.

Sergeant First Class **Ryan Bhoo-rasingh** of Jamaica has re-enlisted with the Company A, Recruiting and Retention.

Specialist **Anthony Davis** of Jamaica has re-enlisted with the Forward Support Company, 204th Engineer Battalion.

Specialist **Brenda Ortizrivera** of South Richmond Hill has re-enlisted with the 1156th Engineer Company.

**Jasaan Persaud** of St. Albans was named to the President's List for the spring 2014 semester at SUNY Canton.

Local students were named to the Dean's List for the spring 2014 semester at Ithaca College. They include:

Jamaica: **Suba Chakraborty**, **Ruby Outar**, **Nicole Godreau**.

Queens Village: **Oyinlola Ogun-dipe**.

St. Albans: **Sue-ann Pratt**.

## FAITH

# 'I'm Confident' Holy Gathering This Weekend

The Greater Kingdom Fellowship of Churches and Ministries will host a holy gathering surrounding the theme "I'm Confident" from July 18-20.

"We have this every year," Pastor Jennette Zwerin said. "Most Christians have usually had this where

the churches come together."

The theme of the event comes from the Bible verse Philippians 1:6, which says, "Being confident of this very thing, that he who hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ."

The holy gathering has several criteria for each day. On Friday is a day for the youth, Saturday centers around "word shops" and Sunday is when the whole program is wrapped up.

On Friday night, Elder Jerome Barome from Jones Memorial Cogic Church and Elder Reginald King will both speak during the youth and young adult service.

On Saturday, from 9 a.m. to noon, there will be three sessions during the "word shop." The first session is called "I'm Confident, Walking in your Divine Assignment," which will be taught by Elder Reginald King. The second session called, "Core Fundamentals for Breakthrough

Manifestations," will be led by Bishop Kenneth Manigault. The third "word shop" will be taught by Pastor Valerie Bratts. She will discuss "Overcoming Rejection."

Zwerin said that the gathering is a way for the churches and ministries to be able to worship and maintain a fellowship with God.

"We expect... good fellowship, being able to worship God together," she said.

During the gathering, different

churches will come together. The churches that are expected to attend include Redeemers, Worldwide Outreach, Someone Cares Ministry, Cathedral of Joy ministries and more.

The night services are open to the general public. The gathering will be at Hampton Inn Hotel at LaGuardia Airport, located at 102-40 Ditmars Blvd., East Elmhurst. For more information, call (917) 653-4741 or email gfcministriesny@msn.com.

— Esther Shittu



## WORD

*"And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and ball the more as you see the Day drawing near."*

— Hebrews 10:24-25

## NOTEBOOK

YORK COLLEGE

# Bridging The Education Gap With SEMAA

The NASA Science Engineering Mathematics and Aerospace Academy is a program that runs three times in July for children from Kindergarten to 12th Grade.

SEMAA began when NASA Glen Research Center and Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland joined forces in 1993. From what it was in 1993, SEMAA has grown to be an organization supported by Congress and is dedicated to the success of children in the country.

Nazrul Khandaker, a contact for the York College SEMAA Program and a professional geologist at the College, said that SEMAA is a program that is needed to bridge the gap that has been expanding over the years in education between minorities and the majority. He said that minorities lack the proper knowledge in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics and when a person becomes exposed to SEMAA, he or she has the same advantage as students who were not raised in a minority environment.

"The best way to fill the gap is to

introduce this program to K-12 at an early stage," He said.

Khandaker mentioned that the program is grade specific. Each grade gets a different level of training in STEM. He said that the first grade participates in star lab, where they explore seasonal changes and the positioning of the earth and moon. They also learn scientific principles, the chemical conditions of astronauts, the temperature and training that astronauts endure and the food that astronauts must eat to prepare for the situation they will face.

"They learn about simple stuff, training that everyone has to go through that is really proficient in math and science," Khandaker said.

The students in the higher grades learn the principles of building a rocket. They also have flight simulation stations where they are able to fly the rockets with the supervision of the instructors. They learn about safety conditions, the weather, possible turbulence, engage in robotics and learn how to program.

The program is a way for students to think critically. If they do an ex-

periment that fails, they must be aware of why their experiment failed. Khandaker included that the program is a pipeline continuous program. "If someone finishes first grade, we expect them to come back, this way we maintain continuity," he said.

However, Khandaker recognizes that first timers who did not start the program at the basic level do face difficulties.

"It's challenging for first timers but not impossible," Khandaker said. "Most of the time [students] work in groups. Everyone is pitching in. As a group, they come up with solutions, everyone is making sure that as a group that they are successful, the first timer is accepted and getting all the help [with the] group dynamics."

Khandaker mentioned that the program is proud of the teachers who are working with the students. He said that the teachers have also been a pipeline, since they come back each year. He continued that there are students who come back and are taught to be teacher aides and they also become senior teach-

ers and the teaching baton is passed from one generation to the next.

SEMAA gets its funding mainly from NASA although Khandaker said the funding has decreased over the years. The program also reaches out to other donors and have been receiving donations from Con Edison since 2007. York College has supported the program in New York by providing the facilities and resources that the students use. The SEMAA families also donate to the program. Khandaker said that this summer, the families donated about \$1,500.

The York College SEMAA program is for grades one to six. The program consists of three one week session. The first session was on July 7, the second on July 14, and the third is July 21. Spots are still open for the last session that begins on July 21. The program runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and free lunch is provided. For more information, call (718) 262-2580 or (718) 350-5998. York College is located at 94-20 Guy R. Brewer Blvd., Jamaica.

— Esther Shittu

# WHAT'S UP

## JULY 18 "Ticked Off" Vic

Join in an evening of laughs with YouTube sensation ("Bread and Milk") Vic DiBitetto, who is also known from appearances on WPLJ's The Todd Show every Friday. The jokes begin at 8 p.m. at Resorts World Casino, located at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., Jamaica. Tickets range from \$15 to \$25. For information, call (888) 888-8801 or email info@rwnewyork.com.

## JULY 19 St. Albans Under The Stars

Star watch with the Astro Team at the 8th Annual St. Albans Under the Stars Event. Participate in interactive hands-on activities such as an astrology fun test and star gazing with solar and night telescopes with NYS Certified teachers. All are encouraged to bring their own binoculars or telescope. The event begins at 3 p.m. at Saint Albans Park, located at Merrick Boulevard (at Sayres Avenue). For information, call (646)302-5892.

## Family Fun Day

Come out for the 1st St. Albans Family Fun Day, held in honor of Katherine Tennyson. All are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs and to enjoy a day of free games, rides, health screenings, BBQ, live jazz, face painting, access to community services and more. The fun is from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Albans Park, located at Merrick Boulevard between 173rd Place and Sayres Avenue. For more information, call (718) 776-3700

## St. Albans Jazz Festival

Come out for this year's St. Albans Jazz Festival, which will feature Mike Flythe's Atomic band, the Bill Jacobs Ensemble and Camille Gainer Jones. The festival is at Saint Albans Park, located on Merrick Boulevard (at Sayres Avenue), from 3 p.m. to



The Edge School of the Arts are performing at Rochdale Park on Monday, July 21.

10 p.m. For more information, call (718) 723-1800.

## Law/Strategy Session

The Lamont Dottin Foundation invites all to a strategy session to plan the next steps to get the "Lamont Dottin Law" passed. The strategy session is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Greater Springfield Community Church, located at 177-06 129th Ave., Jamaica. For more information, call (718) 949-9500 or email queenschapternan@gmail.com.

## Dr. Zsa's Powdered Zydeco Band

Lincoln center presents Dr. Zsa's Powdered Zydeco Band at the Queens Library-Cambria Heights Branch. The band brings the sound of Louisiana with Cajun folk, Zydeco and their take on popular music. Before the program, there is a chance to learn Zydeco and Cajun dance moves. The band will play from 1 p.m. to 2:15 p.m. The Queens Library-Cambria Heights Branch is located at 218-13 Linden Blvd., Cam-

bria Heights. For more information, call (718) 528-3535.

## Freestyle Reunion TV

Enjoy live performances by TKA, Judy Torres, Sugar Hill Gang, Soave, Freedom Williams of C&C Music Factory, Alisha, CNR of Trilogy and more at the Resorts World Casino. The event starts at 8 p.m. General Admission range from \$25 to \$125. The Resorts World Casino is located at 110-00 Rockaway Blvd., Jamaica. For information, call (888) 888-8801 or email info@rwnewyork.com.

## All White Affair

AJJ entertainment presents its All White Affair with a splash of color at CityRib BBQ at 10 p.m. Admission is free. The CityRib is located at 89-04 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica. To RSVP, email ajjent13@gmail.com.

## JULY 21

### The Edge School Of The Arts

As part of the Summer Stage Kids series, the Edge of School of the Arts dance company will perform at Rochdale Park, located at 135th Avenue Guy Brewer Blvd. The event is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for more information, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org/summerstage/.

## Budgeting And Capital Projects

Councilmen Donovan Richards

and I. Daneek Miller invites all to the Department of Environmental Protection Town Hall on Budgeting and Capital Projects for Southeast Queens. The town hall is from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Robert Ross Johnson Family Life Center, located at 172-17 Linden Blvd., St. Albans. For more information, call (718) 527-4356.

## JULY 22

### Ifetayo Youth Ensemble

The Ifetayo Youth Ensemble will be on the Summerstage at Rufus King Park, located on Jamaica Avenue (at 153rd Street). The event is from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. For more information, visit www.cityparksfoundation.org.

## Musical History Tour

The Vic Vincent duo invites all on a tour of the greatest eras of rock 'n' roll, doo-wop and pop with the music of Elvis, The Drifters, the Del Vikings, Frank Sinatra and more. The tour will be from 3 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. at Queens Library-Hollis Branch, located at 202-05 Hillside Ave., Hollis. For information, call (718) 465-7355.

Send your community events to the *PRESS* for a free listing at 150-50 14th Rd., Whitestone, NY 11357. Call (718) 357-7400 or email editor@queenspress.com. All events will be considered for publication, without a fee.

### LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF QUEENS DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR MORGAN STANLEY CAPITAL I INC. TRUST 2006-HE2, Plaintiff, against LIZ BUITRAGO, et al., Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated 3/3/2014 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction

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at the Queens County Courthouse in Courtroom #25, 88-11 Sutphin Boulevard, Jamaica, New York on 08/08/2014 at 10:00AM, premises known as 179-39 144TH ROAD, Springfield Gardens, NY 11434 All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Borough and County of

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Queens, City and State of New York, BLOCK 13089 LOT 91, FORMERLY PART OF, LOT 38. Approximate amount of judgment \$737,657.71 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 22987/12. Gregory M. Laspina, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC, Attorney for Plaintiff, P.O. Box 540, Getzville, NY 14068 Dated: May 19, 2014 1094746

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## A Pretty Hot Calendar

There might still be five months left in 2014, but during the hottest point of the year, the FDNY is releasing its 2015 Calendar of Heroes.

Debuting at an event on Tuesday, the fundraising calendar features Queens firefighter **Joseph Conforti**, of Ladder Co. 163, on the cover.

For info, check out [www.FDNYFoundation.org](http://www.FDNYFoundation.org).



## No Meat? No Problem



Fourth place isn't usually something to be proud of for baseball, but we think the **New York Mets** will take this one.

Earlier this week, Citi Field was named the fourth-best spot for vegetarian-friendly food out of all 30 baseball stadiums in the nation.

According to **PETA**, who released the lineup, Citi Field has a top-of-the-order lineup

of meat-free options, including veggie dogs and burgers, dairy-free cheese-topped pizzas, vegetable sushi rolls, tacos and more.

"Citi Field is as strong a force on PETA's lineup as **David Wright** is on the Mets," a statement from the organization read.

San Francisco's **AT&T Park** took the top spot.

## Whitestone's Pointless Pylon



It's very convenient when an incident as dumbfounding as this falls right onto the **QConf** doorstep.

Last Friday afternoon, a pair of **109th Precinct** officers placed a traffic cone with police tape on the corner of Clintonville Street and 14th Road in Whitestone, blocking off traffic heading north on Clintonville.

They quickly sped away, leaving the lonely cone for more than 20 minutes. Being that this is New York, the majority of drivers ignored the cone and drove into oncoming traffic, since there was no sign of any reason to block the road.

As confused motorists jammed up the corner, it

seemed that this unmanned cone was causing more dangerous situations than it may have hoped to avoid.

Eventually, an NYPD emergency vehicle arrived to handle the reason for this mysterious obstruction. A cable had come loose over the sidewalk on the east side of the road, which caused pedestrians to limbo their way up the path.

Before even finishing their work on the cable, the seemingly pointless pylon was removed, allowing traffic to now get jammed up behind the emergency vehicle.

Perhaps the cone should have been placed on the sidewalk, or even nowhere at all for that matter. Either way, bang up job NYPD.

# Q CONFIDENTIAL

QConf is edited by:

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## Smith Tops In Legislation?

It might not have been a great year overall for embattled State Sen. **Malcolm Smith**, but he seems to have had a successful session in Albany...

Smith, who recently had his trial pushed back so Yiddish conversations could be translated for trial, was among the Top 10 drafters of resolutions adopted by both houses of the Legislature for the 2014 session. The information was compiled by the New York Public Interest Research Group.

According to NYPIRG, Smith was the only Queens lawmaker to land on the group's Top 10 Legislators List.

What makes Smith's feat even more impressive was the fact that it was reported that the Hollis State Senator drafted those resolutions that were passed while missing more than 100 votes this session. It's clearly not easy to vote while preparing for trial.

Smith will no doubt herald the figures as he faces multiple Primary challenges in September, notably from former Councilman Leroy Comrie.



## PUNSTERS OF QUEENS

### David Yale



in book form, which he did. The challenge though was getting the book published. It took some time and a few tries, but the book was released in 2010.

"I really had to proofread it carefully because the editor had type-O blood! But that one won a Global eBook Award for Humor," Yale said. "That gave me a lot of encouragement, and the second book was easy."

"HomesPun Humor" was released in September 2013. Containing 823 pieces of wordplay, the publication was a finalist in the Indie Excellence® National Book Awards. Yale said he was thrilled about the success of "HomesPun Humor."

"It feels wonderful! It's

When it comes to puns, David Yale is definitely one of the best.

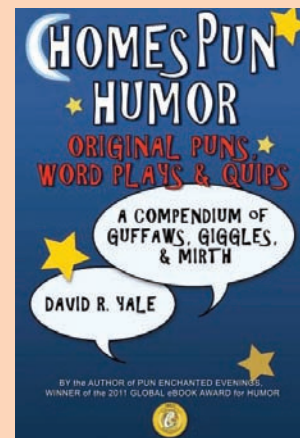
The Bayside-based author has published not one, but two fun-filled, pun-packed books that are chockfull of mondegreens and clever satire. If you love the ins and outs of language or have a good sense of humor, then Yale's creative way with words will be right up your alley.

Since he was a child, Yale said he heard words differently than everyone else. He would often hear words as a mondegreen, which is a misinterpretation that results in a word being heard as a different, similarly sounding one. When used properly, the results can be funny.

"Since my Dad and my Uncle Arthur loved punning, it wasn't long before I became a pint-sized punster myself," Yale said. "One of my first puns was when I asked my Dad, 'Did you know that there used to be two streets named Stone Avenue in Brooklyn, but on one they took the Rockaway?'"

When Yale was in fifth grade, he got his first writing break, with his poetry published in the East New York Savings Bank newsletter. The author has been hooked on words for most of his life, majoring in English in college and learning from an "old-school" reporter during his time in public relations with the Oakland Parks and Recreation Dept.

Yale's first book, "Pun Enchanted Evenings," came out of puns he would write down on slips of paper as he went through his day-to-day life. Several of his friends encouraged him to put them



good to see a book of wordplays recognized because puns are so into wit-ive! They're more than jest for kids -- groan-ups love them, too, even awe-ful puns," he said.

Yale plans to continue his string of successes with another book of puns in the near future, with the possible title of "Awe! Some Puns!" Otherwise, Yale said he might spread his skills to other markets, keeping his sense of humor along the way.

"I may start a multi-level marketing company to sell my books. And I'm looking into launching a line of pun tee shirts," Yale said. "But I don't plan to enter any live punning contests, because even though I've written two books of puns, I have a hard time thinking on my feat!"

## Got Talent?

We'll feature you in an upcoming issue! E-mail [editor@queenstribune.com](mailto:editor@queenstribune.com).

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