

The Star-Revue takes its annual look at

Spring

fashion

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It was a Big Night at the Bell House!

Crowe reviews A-Bones and Loney & Jordan of Flaming Groovies fame, page 16

Celebrating Columbia



Waterfront District

The Red Hook

Star-Revue

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The Hook's Local Newspaper

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Father Claudio Given One Year to Save the Church

Visitation Church Seeks Complete Turnaround



Candlelit vigil at Visitation Church, Easter Saturday, 2011

by Matt Graber

In the yard beside the church it was damp and very dark, too dark to make out the faces on the other side of the unlit fire pit. Seventy or eighty parishioners stood in a circle, and a man’s voice could be heard speaking softly into a microphone, alternating between Spanish and English. Father Claudio and Father Johannes finally stepped into the circle, one carrying a torch, the other a large candle. The light from the flame shined on all of the faces. Single candles were passed around. Waxy paper cups with holes punched through the bottom

were stuck on the candles to surround the flame. One by one, members of the parish were moved to speak. They testified to many things, but Father Claudio pushed some to *proclaim* - not just to speak, but to *shout*.

After testimonies, the parish was led down a flight of stone steps, into the church basement. Everyone had a candle, and some of the paper cups had caught fire, emitting even more waxy smoke into the air. Father Claudio guided members around the huge pillars that have held the church up since 1878. A male tenor sang a psalm before all were led back up and around to the steps of the church entrance on Verona Street.

That evening, the parishioners of Visitation Church experienced a style of worship that many were not used to. “It was a complete turn-around,” says John Savarese, who grew up on Beard Street and attended Visitation School (now the site of Red Hook Community Justice Center) in the 1960’s. “It felt free-spirited. I was able to worship God the way He should be worshipped, like relaxed and loving, and not having to be worried about getting hit with one of those pointers! When I was growing up everything was so strict. You couldn’t even talk in church, never mind sing.”

This new evangelical style is part of the repertoire of a Catholic community that arrived at Visitation Church last November to revive it from debt, low membership and structural deterioration. Ten consecrated members of Koinonia John the Baptist - an evangelical organization founded in Italy in 1979 - are currently living in the rectory and attempting to bring about the revival. Father Claudio Antecini - the new pastor and administrator - is determined to



Father Claudio leads last month’s Good Friday procession to Coffey Park.

save the church from closure and make it a relevant community institution again.

Around in Good Times and Bad

Built in the late 1800s to serve the Irish and Italian longshoremen that populated Red Hook at that time, the Gothic structure was a vital community center for several generations of Catholic residents. But in the 1970s the church declined along with the rest of the neighborhood. Visitation School closed, along with Visitation Hall (also called Parish Hall or the Lyceum). Both buildings were infiltrated by drug addicts and used as crack houses. Many Catholic families fled to places like Bay Ridge and Staten Island, leaving the church with fewer parishioners.

Local contractor Julio Villafane joined the parish in 1959, when his family moved to Red Hook from Puerto Rico. He recalls when Visitation Hall was still opened and active. “All of the parishioners had access to it,” he says. “There was judo downstairs. The school basketball team played there. We had

(continued on page 5)

The Last Day of the Coffey Street Sign - souvenir pic below!



Star-Revue Reporter Matt Graber moments after Bin Laden’s demise.

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Growing Up Red Hook

The Smell of Larsen's Bakery by Danette Vigilante



There are times when a certain scent in the air has the ability to whisk me back to another time and place. Strange, but in every instance I'm reminded of something pleasant and it's usually tied to childhood.

There is one scent that, as of right now, has yet to be replicated; and of course, it is that of Larsen's Bakery. Sadly, I don't think I'll ever have that pleasure again. Even more upsetting, the building in which Larsen's was housed is almost completely torn down. On the upside, rumor has it that a school will be built in its place.

So, in memory of our beloved Larsen's, I write this column for anyone who holds our beloved bakery close in their hearts or at least holds Larsen's accountable for their sweet-tooth.

If you lived in Red Hook or anywhere close to it, you knew Larsen's. It was a bakery which sat on the corner of Henry and Mill Streets. Its name led by a fancy "L" across the building might as well have been a flashing *Eat Here* sign. That "L" always called out to us.

Once you made your way in through a revolving door, you stepped onto beautiful marble floors. Right in front of you stood floor to ceiling columns. I remember wrapping my arms around one of them as I waited for my mother or grandmother to pay for our goodies made up of either, buttered pound cake, doughnuts or mouth-watering coffee cake. Always though, my grandmother had to have her loaf of bread. Later, we'd share a piece while we had a cup of tea in her 6th floor apartment at 795 Henry Street.

Of course, as I waited for my grandmother to order, I was also trying my best to be patient as I knew a free cookie would be making its way to me. I'd look up to the ceiling as I circled the column like there was no other place I wanted to be—and there really wasn't. Once you stepped inside Larsen's, you were content.

As I walked home from my school day at P.S. 27, the air filled with the unmistakable sweet scent only Larsen's could produce, I'd forget any trouble I might've had in math or reading. It was like medicine, a salve, a frosty drink on a humid day. Whether the clouds hung low with rain or just with the threat of it, the aroma somehow became thicker. It made you not mind so much that your sneakers (bought from the Sneaker Factory in Park Slope) were getting wet or that your umbrella kept turning inside out. That scent reminded us that home was close.

Yes, places come and go. Time moves on but all you have to do is ask your fellow Red Hooker if they remember Larsen's and it comes alive once again in all of its great tasting, good smelling, glory.

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Study Puts Kibosh on Red Hook Streetcars

by Matt Graber

Last month, the NYC DOT (Department of Transportation) released its full report on the Brooklyn Streetcar Feasibility Study. The report - concluding six months of research - finds that a trolley line running through Red Hook, with a terminal station at Borough Hall and a final stop at Smith and 9th Street, would not be physically or financially supportable.

The \$295,000 study was funded with a federal earmark secured by Congresswoman Nydia Velasquez. It was undertaken by the DOT in order to determine as objectively as possible whether a trolley system would make sense as a way to better serve Red Hook residents.

For the highly technical aspects of the study, the DOT hired private firms with special expertise in streetcar engineering and design. URS Corporation played the role of lead consultant in the process. The \$9 billion corporation - based in San Francisco - has played analogous roles in several other streetcar studies throughout the country, including in Portland, OR and Seattle, WA. The studies in Portland and Seattle were ultimately given the green light, and served as success models in the "Case Studies" report that the DOT released in December 2010.

A large reason for the success of these two streetcar systems was the economic development that accompanied them from the start. Unlike in Philadelphia - where streetcar advocates predicted that if the old heritage trolleys were brought back to their old routes, economic benefits would naturally follow - in Portland and Seattle, the added development was part of the package.

Christopher Hrones - who has served as the main spokesperson for the DOT since the study began in October - stressed the importance of "complementary incentives" when he presented the full report last month at a Community Board 6 meeting. The streetcar systems in Portland and Seattle "were part of a larger approach," he said. "And that would be the type of economic development you would look towards, like in Williamsburg where they rezoned for higher density."

No plans for Red Hook hi-rises

To investigate whether a Red Hook streetcar could be accompanied by high-density development, the DOT approached the City Planning Commission. Asked about the likelihood of Red Hook's waterfront being rezoned for high-rise buildings, the commission made it clear that it had no such plans.

Given the restrictions on high-density development, the report estimates a mere 12 percent increase in ridership - over the current B61 service - resulting from a trolley line. This modest increase, weighed against \$176 million in capital costs (plus \$6.2 - \$7.2 million annually for maintenance), raised serious questions about the project's benefits versus its costs.

The alignment routes presented another set of problems, which were also illuminated by the case studies. Like Philadelphia,

"The study really shined a light on what some of the transit deficiencies are in Red Hook," Hrones said.

Red Hook's trolley line would be constrained by narrow streets and sharp turns. A two-way trolley line running up and down Van Brunt Street - measured at 38 feet wide - would leave little space for bike travel in between the trolley lines and parking lanes. A streetcar line not complemented by a dedicated bike path also poses threats to the safety of cyclists, whose tires can get stuck in the tracks.

The lack of a dedicated right-of-way line - and all of the obstructions that come with having to mix with traffic - limits the speed and reliability of any streetcar system. Even if Red Hook had a trolley line, it would not be a significantly faster commute.

All of these problems (and many more are highlighted in the 67-page report) stacked up decisively against the feasibility of a trolley system in Red Hook. But the DOT did not want to simply walk away from the problem without presenting a few alternative solutions. "The study really shined a light on what some of the transit deficiencies are in

Red Hook," Hrones said. "Which allows us to address these in the near-term."

The near-term improvements include enhanced B61 service, improving the pedestrian environment along Fort Hamilton Parkway, and placing a new intersection at the corner of Mill Street and Hamilton Avenue. These suggestions will be presented at an upcoming public meeting, where residents will have a chance to contribute to envisioning future steps toward a better transportation infrastructure in Red Hook.

The NYC DOT will host a PUBLIC MEETING on May 9th at 6:30 pm. All are invited to attend, ask questions and offer commentary. It will be held at the Miccio Center, 110 West 9th



Christopher Hrones of NYC DOT who will be leading the public meeting May 9th.

Street. The results of the meeting will be reflected in the final report.



Ditch Study Provides Possible Solutions to BQE Isolation

by Matt Graber

People living in the areas surrounding the sunken mile of BQE - running along Hicks Street between Hamilton and Atlantic Avenues - have been talking about "fixing the ditch" for years. Now, it looks like real improvements are coming to the notorious trench, but in small chunks.

The NYCEDC (Economic Development Corporation) is proposing "incremental implementation" of the BQE Enhancement Project. As EDC explains in its final report, released in April, these first steps would cover two areas of importance: traffic-calming and storm water management.

For traffic-calming, "lanes can be reconfigured, and future chicanes can be designated with markings or flexible bollards." Chicanes are structures (usually containing trees or bushes) that narrow streets and create artificial turns, forcing cars to reduce speed.

For storm water management, EDC proposes the installation of swales - grassy depressions that collect storm water.

EDC writes in the final report that these steps "have the advantage of being inexpensive to implement, falling within agencies' current agendas and programs, carrying relatively limited maintenance costs, and having an immediate, visible impact on the neighborhood."

The BQE Enhancement Project started with a community workshop in May 2010. Over the course of the year, EDC - in partnership with the Department of Transportation and private consulting firm Starr Whitehouse - created a plan that would reduce air and noise pollution, increase bicycle and pedestrian safety, and build bridges to reconnect the Columbia Waterfront District with Cobble Hill and the rest of the world.

EDC included the community in the en-

tire process by holding three public workshops, during which residents filled out surveys and were invited to collaborate by sticking post-it notes on the design plans, which were tacked to the wall.

The three "vision concepts" that were settled on - Maximum Green, Connections, and Green Canopy - share common elements while building on top of each other. So the traffic-calming elements and acoustic barriers in Maximum Green are also present in Connections, with the addition of pedestrian and bike bridges (including the replacement of the unpopular Summit Street bridge with one that is ADA accessible). And those bridges are present in Green Canopy, with the addition of a deck of vines and solar panels over the entire trench, which would hide the BQE entirely.

Many of our local elected officials have stated their commitment to acquiring the necessary funding for the full project. But money is tight all around. A closed meeting was held in mid-April on the subject of funding, and Craig Hammerman of Community Board 6 summed it up at a CB6 general board meeting the following night. "It seems that people are really pleased by the options before us," he said. "Of course the challenge now is how do we get the money to get these measures implemented."

But because each vision concept has common elements (referred to in the report as a "kit of parts") that can be implemented individually, it is possible to chip away at BQE enhancement by taking small steps. Chicanes and swales can be installed before one vision concept is ultimately decided upon and built.

When the full funding arrives, the plans will still be there. In the mean time, fixing the ditch will have to be a brick-by-brick effort.

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Precinct News

We have taken the following from the most recent 76th Precinct Newsletter - in other words, this is coming to you directly from the precinct. At their most recent community council meeting (May 3), they reiterated no big changes in crime one way or another...

Public Safety News

For the month of March 2011, the 76th Precinct continued to experience a small decrease in most crime categories.

During the month of March, there was an increase in felonious assaults. Part of the increase was attributable to police and other governmental personnel being injured in the performance of their duties. The rest of the increase is due to a new statute that was passed by the legislature and took effect on November 1st, 2010. The strangulation statute makes it a felony to cause any injury to another person while manually restricting another person's airway. There is a strong correlation between the act of strangulation and escalating domestic violence. We believe that effective enforcement of the new statute will go along way to reduce the number of domestic abuse cases.

Despite an overall decrease in the number of burglaries in the past month, we experienced a rash of burglaries in the Carroll Gardens area. The perpetrator used the fire escape to access the top floor apartments. In almost every instance the windows were left unlocked, providing easy access. The detectives of the 76th Precinct have been working long hours on these cases and hope to have a suspect identified in the near future. Please remember to lock all windows and doors when you leave your apartment.

With the warm weather approaching, please remember to never leave valuables unattended, particularly when in public places such as parks, transit facilities, retail establishments and restaurants.

News From the Streets

written and collected by the Star-Revue writing staff

Greenway

Representatives of the Brooklyn Greenway Initiative held a public workshop on April 26th at the Red Hook Recreation Center, in order to present their plans and gather feedback for the Columbia Street Connector. The plan would include the installation of bike lanes and greening along Columbia Street south of the Battery Tunnel, and out to the esplanade. The esplanade currently has a bike lane, but the plan would add trees and other improvements.

The Brooklyn Greenway Initiative made a point of reaching out to residents of Red Hook Houses, to get them to come to the workshop and contribute their ideas. Representatives showed up at both tenants meetings (Red Hook East and West) to attract participants.

The turnout was a diverse mix of residents and stakeholders. After presentations by designers of the plan, there was a questions and comments session, followed by everyone breaking into tables and brainstorming ways to improve the focus area.

Blue & Yellow go Green

Apr. 27, 2011 (Business Wire) — IKEA, the world's leading home furnishings retailer, today announced that the solar energy system on its store in Brooklyn now is commissioned, operational and certified by Con Edison and New York City. As one of the largest commercial rooftop installations in the five boroughs, the 200 kW array occupies 19,000-square feet, with four different module types totaling 1,104 panels. IKEA Brooklyn will generate 240,000 kWh of renewable electricity annually for the store, the equivalent of reduc-

ing 365,615 pounds of carbon dioxide eliminating the emissions of 32 cars, or providing electricity for 20 homes yearly. This effort reinforces the IKEA commitment to sustainable business practices and reduces its carbon footprint.

"We are very excited about enhancing the sustainable contribution IKEA Brooklyn continues to make in the local community by generating electricity through solar panels atop our store," said Mike Baker, store manager. "This initiative helps improve the environment and contributes to our vision of creating a better everyday life for the many."

Carroll Gardens Library Sale

Saturday, May 14th, from 10 am to 4 pm, the Carroll Gardens Library, at 396 Clinton Street, at Union, will be holding a book sale. This fund raiser, held on *Love Your Library Day*, will feature thousands of books for sale, as well as free entertainment including music from Karen K and the Jitterbugs, as well as readings from local writers. The reason that libraries hold book sales is to supplement their operating funds, as governments feel that the library budgets can get slashed when revenues don't rise as much as anticipated. There will also be a bakesale. You might be able to get more information by calling their number, 718-596-6972.

Become a Cop

May is the month to apply to become a policeman. You can now apply to take the test in Brooklyn by going to the Municipal Building, 210 Joralemon Street - 4th Floor. It seems that there are openings, following is their pitch:

Crime is at a historic low in New York City. NYPD is recognized by industry experts as the nation's leader in crime reduction. You can learn law enforcement from the best in the industry. NYPD offers a job with a future, a great place to serve, a chance to advance.

The Police Officer Written Exam is designed to gauge the cognitive ability, observational skills, and mental acuity of interested applicants. These are the traits that have been determined to be important to the effective performance of your duties as an officer. In order to start your career in law enforcement choice, you will have to achieve a passing score on the police exam. While passing the written test is not a guarantee of a job, if you don't pass the test you won't even be considered.

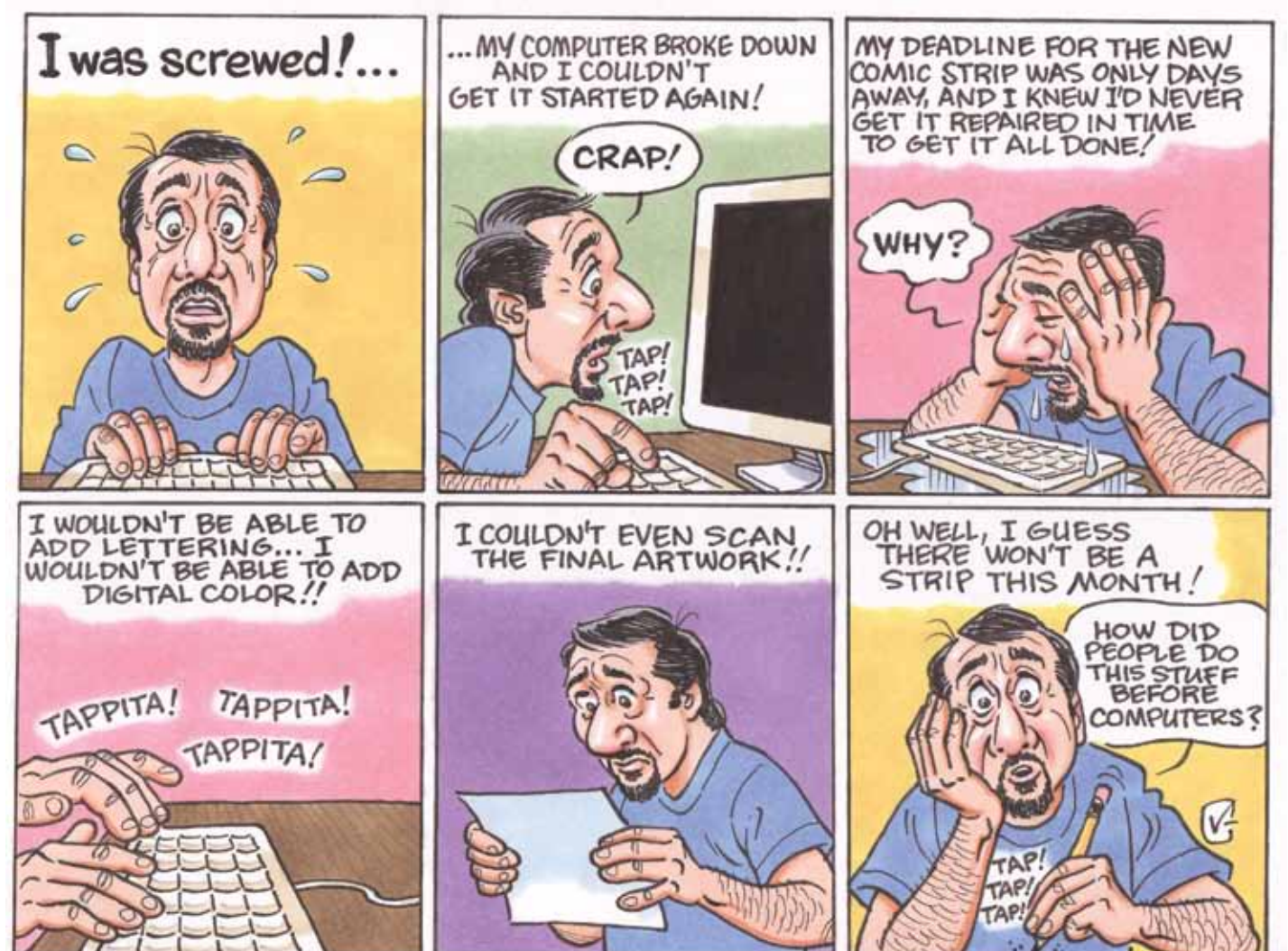
The application period ends May 31. There are specific times that you have to go, and there is a filing fee. Go to the recruiting website at <http://www.nypdrecruit.com/> for additional information.

Public Streetcar Meeting

DOT is wrapping up a five-month study to determine the feasibility of a running a streetcar route in the Brooklyn neighborhood of Red Hook. This initial analysis will help determine if this mode, once a staple of New York City's streets, is a viable method of connecting the residents and businesses of Red Hook with Brooklyn's broader transportation network and supporting economic development in the area.

The meeting is scheduled for Monday May 9th, at 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Miccio Center Gymnasium, 110 West 9th Street. Come and hear what we heard and air your comments.

Six Packed Panels by Vince Musacchia





Father Claudio

Working Hard to Save Visitation Church

(continued from the cover)

parties for every occasion and it was rented out for parties and events too.”

The rectory - the brick building next to the church, which houses the Koinonia members as well as administrative offices - was in bad shape when the new administrators arrived. Many of the rooms were unusable because of water damage and general neglect. Most of these rooms have been restored with the help of parishioners.

Villafane is one of many that are chipping in. He recently brought in his construction crew to restore a large

upstairs room in the rectory. Father Claudio had needed the room for an upcoming event. The deadline was three days, and Julio and his crew just made it in time. “I couldn’t believe it,” says Father Claudio. “It was like a miracle!”

Even the Pastor will Grab a Broom

To bring down expenses, the new administrators have cut a variety of services and adopted a do-it-yourself approach to running the church. Custodial services have been cut. Now the Koinonia members do all of the cleaning and maintenance. In the past, musicians were hired to play during service - particularly to play the Midmer pipe organ. Now, the group makes due with what it has, and more local musicians are showing up to play.

“They brought music into the church which I thought was great,” says Savarese. “It’s better than just having to mumble the same words and fall asleep or get distracted. It helps you stay focused when you’re in it.”

Both Savarese and Villafane attended Visitation School before its closing in 1975. In 2000, Father John Waldron arranged for the former school to be leased out to a new community court. Although the action was taken on the premise that crime reduction was in the vital interest of the church and the community, to this day the church does not draw any revenue from the Red



Walking through Red Hook Housing, Good Friday 2011

Hook Community Justice Center for the use of that building.

Renegotiating this piece of real estate is a central part of the church’s strategic plan - “Christ Jesus Our Hope” - which Father Claudio submitted to Bishop DiMarzio of the Diocese in February, and which is still awaiting approval. The church would like to draw funds from the court just like it does from 96 Richards Street. The building was originally a convent, but now it is rented out to a nursing home, a major revenue source for the church.

Regardless of revenue, the members of Koinonia have to find a way to attract new parishioners to fill those

benches for the church to achieve solid ground. Robert Lee - a musician from Duluth, Minnesota, who lives on Dikeman Street and recently began attending mass - believes that a revival is possible. “There’s so much good energy there,” he says. “The mass is like a living thing, not just repetition and routine. They attracted me and I’ll definitely spread the word.”

(Visitation Church maintains a Facebook page, where you can find out more and view its calendar of events.)

Column:

The World from 101 Union Street

By George Fiala



I was thinking that this newspaper could use a columnist, and as our tiny budget rules out any columnist that you might be familiar with, I guess that job is mine for now.

Let me start by mentioning one of my heroes, a man who wrote a column for almost 50 years called *Today and Tomorrow*. Writing in the hey-day of newspapers, it was read by everybody who was anybody in the political world. Walter Lippmann also wrote a large number of books on subjects including international relations, language and mass communications (otherwise known as propaganda), the news business, philosophy and economics. He graduated from Harvard in 1910, having been influenced by his professors William James and Georges Santayana - two giants in philosophy and writing. He went on to work with famous muckraker Lincoln Steffens. In 1913 he became one of the founders of *The New Republic*. He was meticulous about his schedule, and in the summer of 1914 while on vacation in Europe was flabbergasted when he found that he would be unable to get to a planned stay in Belgium. Of course the reason was because the Germans happened to be marching through it on their way

to conquer France, and Lippmann thus discovered that the world was bigger than the United States. It was this more than anything that made him a giant in the world of writing about foreign affairs.

As for me, most of the time I will be staying local, befitting the genre of this newspaper, however, I will try and bring a larger world view to my opinions. These will be my opinions, this is a column, and should not under any circumstance be considered news. Your opinion will often be different, and I encourage you to respond either by email or snail mail or on our Facebook page. While I’m at it, let me also mention that I have finally worked on our website. You can read our back issues there, among other things. The web address is www.redhookstar.com.

The rest of this initial column will be about the ill-fated trolley car study that we should all know about by now. I was at the first and third stakeholder meetings, which is where important community input takes place. I admit to being flabbergasted at the study’s result, as it was being read at the third meeting. I think that despite misgivings, I was expecting a more positive result, accomplishing along Hamilton Avenue what the ‘Fix-the-Ditch’ study is trying to remedy along Hicks Street, namely re-connecting us with the rest

(continued on page 10)

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Spring fashion

This special report:
Fashionable Red Hook
 written by Josie Rubio
 logo photos courtesy of Butter by Nadia

Butter by Nadia

butterbynadia.com, shopbutterbynadia.com, store518.com

Nadia Tarr was wearing the wrap dress she designed to be worn a variety of different ways when she was stopped on the street nine years ago and asked to participate in a designer showcase. She used her rent money to make 100 dresses for the showcase and continued to make dresses in her Prospect Heights apartment, until the need for more space led her to Butter by Nadia's current Red Hook space.

Butter by Nadia's unique one-size Signature Wrap Dress, available in jersey and satin, fits sizes 2 to 16, and the garment can be wrapped and worn a variety of different ways. The dress comes with an instructional booklet, but step-by-step instructions are provided on the website, so women can transform the garment into various dress incarnations, including strapless and one-shoulder—or even a skirt. Celebs such as Paulina Porizkova,



When at local pub Rocky Sullivan's, many area residents accessorize with a plastic lobster bib for one of the weekend lobster feasts. But last September, in the pages of *W*, models wearing haute couture and cone bras were pictured outside of the popular bar and under the Beard Street sign. Red Hook also is home to *Visionaire* founder and *fashionista* Cecilia Dean, whose home was featured in a 2010 issue of *Harper's Bazaar*.

The Red Hook/Columbia Waterfront District is full of fashion gems, including charming boutiques and designers who work tirelessly behind unassuming building facades. While most residents probably will opt for the more practical lobster bib over cone bras this summer, there's plenty of style to be found in South Brooklyn.

Amy Ryan, Rosie Perez and Patricia Clarkson have been seen in Tarr's creations, and the versatility of the dress in design and fit makes it a popular choice as a bridesmaid's dress.

Though the dresses are made in Sunset Park, House of Butter on Van Brunt Street is home to the rest of Butter by Nadia's operations, including order processing, shipping, design, photo shoots and pattern-making. It's also home to the popular sample sales, held every December and in June or July, when the dresses, which retail between \$246 and \$360, are deeply

discounted. The sales aren't scheduled very far in advance, so the best way to find out about them is to sign up for the label's email newsletter.

Tarr, formerly a modern dancer, taught herself to sew in college, when she couldn't find the costumes she envisioned for a piece she was choreographing. She continued to create costumes for modern dance companies when she created the wrap dress for herself, with freedom of movement and a flattering fit in mind. Butter by Nadia has expanded from the Signature Collection to also offer the Basics Collection, which includes pants, tops and cardigans (ranging from \$86 to \$265) and two themed seasonal collections per year.

Butter by Nadia's collections are available online, and a limited range of styles are available at Tarr's Store 518, 518 Court Street, which sells vintage clothing and curios. However, items can be brought over to the shop upon request.

Winkworth Ladies Goods

119 Columbia Street (718) 243-2296
 pwinkworthbklyn.com

Susie Plaisted is in the business of getting women undressed, and she loves being involved in couple's romances. The co-owner of Winkworth lingerie shop, 119 Columbia Street, says she doesn't mind that the five-year-old shop is off the beaten path and relies mainly on word-of-mouth. "I get ladies naked," Plaisted says. "And they have to be comfortable with me." She then adds with a smile, "We serve alcohol, which always helps."

In the charming, cozy shop, Plaisted and Sonya Wells help women find the right lingerie, which Plaisted calls a "power garment." Often, a woman's whole demeanor and carriage will change once she finds the right bra-siere, she says. "If you have really nice lingerie on, then you know here," she says, pointing to her head. "It's being nice to yourself in a very simple way."

The shop sells items from Belabumbum, Princess Tam Tam and other lines to fit every woman. "Certain companies do certain things very well," notes Plaisted. For instance, Miss Mandalay, created by Lorraine Morton—a cup size 30F—makes colorful bras in sizes C to GG. "When you are very bosomy, you can look very matronly very, very quickly if you don't have the correct style of brassiere on," Plaisted says. "One of the things that Lorraine does with her fit is she's just like"—here she pauses and cups her hands in front of her chest and lifts. "It's lovely."

On the other end of the spectrum,

(continued on next page)



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Spring fashion

(continued from previous page)

when shipments from French line Huit arrive, Plaisted contacts her 32B clients. Shoppers can also find Mary Green cotton and silk underwear, and CLO Intimo bras with soft cups. "We barely have neutrals in here, except for black," Plaisted says. "It's always about color." Pricewise, bras run from \$40 to \$80 and panties are about \$20 to \$50.

In the shop, Plaisted also creates custom silk and lace Pie Bklyn camisoles, bias-cut slips, half-slips and babydoll silhouettes. From drawers of silk in the store, shoppers can select fabric in just the right color, with help from Plaisted and Wells. "We pick out which fabric makes them sparkle—literally shine, glow," Plaisted says. Then lace is selected for the garment from the shop's collection. (Plaisted also is a textile conservator and she often travels to London, Paris and Normandy to purchase lace, which has provenance, like wine, she explains.) Depending on workload, Plaisted says the custom lingerie orders take about a week to complete.

However, Plaisted notes she's not a seamstress, so she does not do made-to-order clothing. The shop does have a small collection of sportswear, and fun accessories, such as bathing caps, sleep masks and change purses. You'll also find Between You and the Moon, a holistic skin care line from area resident Emma Graves, who has a new skincare business in the Columbia Waterfront District called The Pimple Whisperer. Plaisted takes one of a pair of mannequin legs out of a tub at the front of the store, to show stockings that have feathers at the top. "We get really silly, but really great, lovely silly," she says. "Lingerie isn't trendy. It's always beautiful."

On a late Friday afternoon, it's not uncommon for a bottle of wine to be uncorked and women end up chatting as they shop and try on Winkworth wares. Plaisted says she often sees couples shop in the store as well. "I have a great time," she says. "It's sort of being a love-affair enabler. I'm involved in a lot of people's love affairs."

Artemas Quibble

artemas-quibble.com

Jason Ross, the man behind the Artemas Quibble line of leather belts, handbags and jewelry, has an impressive pedigree when it comes to creativity, as well as fashion. His father, Milton Ivan Ross, created the first plastic push pin (they were previously capped with glass). And his mother, Caren Ross, popularized the bullet belt Stateside in the 1970s after purchasing one in London.

But the self-taught artist hadn't considered fashion as a career when he was a woodworker in Philadelphia four years ago. Using an Indian beaded necklace as a template, Ross made a choker for a friend, who is the creative director of Free People Clothing. "She had all these fashion friends, and they asked me a question that I never heard as an artist in the last 15 years, which was, 'Would you sell this?'" he says.

Ross started receiving orders, and

then expanded his business of leather goods—often created from antique leather items or embellished with items from the past, such as antique buckles of brass or silver. Ross decided to move with his girlfriend, Natasha Chekoudjian, who is now associate designer at Elie Tahari, to New York City to be closer to his clients. Ross had friends in Boerum Hill and in Philadelphia who mentioned that he should look into Red Hook, and, at a party, artist Reed Barrow recommended the neighborhood as a place with ample artist and loft spaces not too far from Manhattan. "All of the sudden, the people I knew were Red Hook-centric," Ross says.

Chekoudjian—who provides a lot of direction for Ross' work—discovered an available space in the Monarch Luggage Building, and the couple fell in love with the area, and with Coffey Park. In his Red Hook studio, Ross handcrafts his Artemas Quibble designs, with some tools that he's designed himself. He transforms old horsetacks into belts and antique book covers—some dating to the 1600s—into accessories, such as purses. "I collect beautiful antique things, maybe discarded parts of bigger things and try to include that as much as I can in my work," he says. The pieces, available locally in New York City at Urban Zen, 705 Greenwich Street, in Manhattan, start at around \$250.

Ross took the name of his designs from the cover of an antique book, *The Confessions of Artemas Quibble*, written by Arthur Train, who wrote in his autobiography, "I enjoy the dubious distinction of being known among lawyers as a writer, and among writers as a lawyer." The name was appealing to Ross, he says, because, "I liked the idea of his character that wasn't me, because I was a little unsure of myself as a designer." Ross eventually found his confidence; recently he guest lectured to an accessories class at Parsons The New School for Design.

Explaining the design process behind his unique mixture of elegantly stylish and rugged pieces, he notes, "Any accessories problem has been solved in the history of armor," he says. "I look to ancient things for functional and elegant solutions."



Natasha wears "the story of avicenna" belt by Artemas Quibble, photo by Pier Nicola D'amico



Something old, something new: Vintage Pac-Man fabric was used to make this new skirt, available at Tiburon. Photo by Josie Rubio

Archibald Leach

tiburonbrooklyn.com,

archibaldleach.com

Anne O'Neil, owner of Tiburon, 392 Van Brunt Street, was a little girl when her mother taught her how to sew. "I had dolls, and they needed clothes," O'Neil explains. So the young seamstress set about turning her old clothes into doll fashions.

At the front of the shop, billed as a "Red Hook souvenir store," you'll find that some of O'Neil's designs today are new items repurposed from vintage fabrics. The shop houses a fun mixture of accessories, letterpress silk-screened cards and home items, and in the back studio, O'Neil creates hand-dyed "upcycled" lingerie and nightgowns from their vintage incarnations. "I edit them," O'Neil says of the pieces. She also uses the studio for her own summer dress line called Archibald Leach, after late actor Cary Grant's original name. O'Neil's classic "ex-boyfriend" shirt-dresses are made from vintage men's shirts.

After receiving compliments on the dresses she made—and suffering a case of writer's block while working on her novel—O'Neil started Archibald Leach three years ago, about a year before opening Tiburon with Amy Sarisky, who recently left the business to focus on her education. O'Neil, who currently is studying history at Columbia University, has expanded to using new—as well as vintage—fabrics, and she creates a variety of dress silhouettes, as well as several wrap skirts, and a few summer shirts, which seem retro in their gingham and cherry patterns. She also makes some of the aviator and cloche hats on display at Tiburon.

The shop also carries Cinderloop clothing, as well as baby dresses—many made from vintage children's bedsheets (Spiderman, Star Wars and Pac-Man)—from Fangs. The shop also carries Led Thread, a line of dresses by designer Layla Delridge. Shoppers also can show some Brooklyn pride by purchasing a Live Poultry T-shirt made by Pete Hildebrand depicting the old Kentile Floor sign near the Gowanus Canal, or the Red Hook "R," the lonely letter that remains on an old billboard at the corner of Richards and Verona streets.

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Spring fashion

Old Togs, New Tricks

by Sophie Slesinger

From one-of-a-kind hand-crafted jewelry to formal dresses for full figures, this side of Brooklyn is becoming increasingly savvy when it comes to dressing timelessly. Follow our guide to Red Hook and Carroll Gardens shops, where you can now find that '70's flowy skirt just as easily as a signature Whoopee pie.

Thrifty Couture, 294 Van Brunt Street

This two-year old shop offers affordable new and used clothing, and the inventory changes often, so there is always something new to find. If you're willing to do a bit of digging, you can luck out with designer jeans under \$50, and trendy summer accessories that won't break the bank.

Tiburon, 392A Van Brunt Street, tiburonbrooklyn.com

This charming store carries clothing, jewelry, greeting cards, and other gifts that are mostly handmade. Owner Anne O'Neil scours thrift stores, antique stores and flea markets for the vintage clothing selection, which includes Western and beaded belts, women's espadrilles and "upcycled" silk nightgowns and lingerie. You'll also find a selection of men's Hawaiian shirts and women's vintage Hawaiian wear (not grass skirts, but more loud prints as in Mrs. Roper of Three's Company).

Erie Basin, 388 Van Brunt Street, eriebasin.com

Owner Russell Whitmore curates 18th to 20th century jewelry pieces and home items. Beautiful, art-deco cocktail rings and unique pins make even the most stylistically simple jewelry wearers swoon. I still daydream about the turn of the century-era opal diamond ring.



Vintage Treasures from Erie Basin

Union Max, 110 Union Street

Union Max is the perfect place to wander into and casually shop without feeling too guilty. It's easy to find costume jewelry or affordable vintage dinnerware, and it's not unusual to intend to find a sundress and leave with a new lamp and grand redecorating ideas.

Bopkat Vintage, 117 Union Street

If you favor the classic '50s style, look no further than Bopkat Vintage. The store features clothing and accessories from the '40s through the '70s. Even more impressive is that many of the items have never been worn or still have their original tags. As with many vintage stores, be sure to check back regularly. One visit resulted in copious shoe purchases, while another left us finding reasons to need formals hats and gloves.

Olaf's Men's Vintage, 453 Court Street, olafsmensvintage.blogspot.com

Finally, a store for men who prefer the more dapper days of American fashion. Olaf's provides a nice array of gentlemen's clothing as well as useful, stylish house wares. The sales people are helpful if you have any questions about style or fit, as it's always helpful to get a second opinion when going vintage.

Olive's Very Vintage, 434 Court Street, olivesveryvintage.com

Owner Jen McCulloch (also the mastermind behind men's counterpart, Olaf's) brings high vintage fashion to Court Street in Carroll Gardens. If you're looking for a one-of-a-kind designer piece, it wouldn't hurt to stop here first. Olive's even carries vintage wedding accessories, the perfect twist on "something old."

Store 518, 518 Court Street, store518.com

Nadia Tarr, creator of the Butter by Nadia clothing line—best-known for its versatile wrap dress—is also the owner of this charming vintage shop with an old general store ambiance. You'll find chic vintage shoes, jewelry, women's wear and children's clothing. The store also has an ever-changing selection of toys, games and books, and an array of home decor items that would suit Betty Crocker's practical kitchen, Betty Draper's tasteful living room and Betty Page's kitschy boudoir.

Re/Dress NYC, 109 Boerum Place, redressnyc.com

Re/Dress sells vintage and used clothing specializing in size 14 and up, catering to a market that is often underserved in the vintage clothing industry. They boast a vast selection of dresses, from work to cocktail to '80s-dance-party appropriate. It's also not hard to find a gently used pair of modern jeans, if sequins and shoulder pads aren't your everyday look. Shop here with complete confidence of finding a great fit.



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Spring fashion



Red Lipstick boutique carries fashions from several Brooklyn designers, such as K. Belo one-piece bathing suits (photo by Josie Rubio).

Red Lipstick 390 Van Brunt Street (347) 599-1550 redlipstick.net

On a beautiful spring day—the kind that draws Saturday afternoon shoppers for post-brunch strolls along Van Brunt Street—a woman at Red Lipstick boutique is holding two coconut halves to her chest, as her friend looks on and laughs. The coconut pieces actually snap together to form a handbag, but the women are having fun telling boutique owner Staceyjoy Elkin about other possible uses. (The solid round purse, which is \$25, also could be used as a weapon, one of the shoppers notes.)

Though the store specializes in women's apparel, Red Lipstick has fun accessories and goods, such as Jane Diaz jewelry, perfumes, adorable Wish Come True 2 GB flashdrives (\$16) and Priti nontoxic nail polish (\$12.50). There also is an array of fun jewelry items; a little girl carefully selects her own earrings, explaining to Elkin that she doesn't like to match. Since relocating her 11-year-old boutique to Red Hook from Prospect Heights a year and a half ago, Elkin's settled in nicely in Van Brunt's stretch of stores that includes Foxy & Winston, which sells paper goods and screenprinted items, and Erie Basin, the local go-to for antique and contemporary treasures.

Many of the items are knitwear, since Elkin herself is a knitwear designer. She also has recently started to create digitally printed silk scarves (\$95), hand-washed for soft texture. A scarf adorned with masks was inspired by a recent trip to the Brooklyn Museum.


Red Lipstick also features many unique apparel items—selected by Elkin herself based on her own tastes, versus the trends of the moment. Among her most popular sellers are the Brooklyn-made Karina dresses (\$148-\$158) that drape perfectly over any shape and that don't wrinkle, so they're perfect for travel. For the summer, the boutique also carries K. Belo's one-piece bathing suits (\$142) with cut-outs in the front and back and available in fun colors, such as aqua and retro-chic white polka dots on a red background. "They're demure but still really sexy with the back cut-out," Elkin notes. Shoppers can also find tights, socks, belts, tops, skirts, jackets and Elkin's luxury knits.

Elkin taught herself how to knit in her early 20s, but has had a variety of jobs throughout her career, including a prints designer, an internet programmer during the burgeoning days of the web in the 1990s, a creative programmer for IBM and an art director. Most of her ventures last about 10 years, notes Elkin. But now that the fashionable, loveably quirky shop has passed the decade mark, Elkin plans to stay in the boutique business for a while longer, as she expands her wholesale and fabrics and textile design business. "This is too much fun," she says.



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The World from 101 Union Street

(continued from page 5)

of Brooklyn. What I did not expect was for the consultant to come up with a pie-in-the-sky fantasy creating a utopian trolley system that for practical and political reasons could never be built.

With the limited funds that we all know are available in these stringent times for government, I would have expected a recommendation for something more modest, perhaps a one or two car trolley to connect the Smith and 9th Street subway station with Beard Street, going up and down the middle of Richards Street on a regular schedule 24 hours a day - perhaps 2 or 3 times an hour, giving Red Hookers a more reliable transit then the B-61 bus. In fact, faithful readers of this paper will remember that I proposed a monorail doing that very thing, my reasoning being that a monorail on Richards Street would not bother traffic, be less intrusive then Van Brunt, and by having a dedicated track would accomplish the major purpose of reliability, as it would not be constrained by the vagaries of car and truck traffic below.

However, what this study came up with was a fantastic two-way system

that would not only connect us to the subway, but to downtown Brooklyn via Columbia Street and Atlantic Avenue.

First of all, the price tag for such a project was estimated at \$179 million to build. Second of all, who would believe that people along Van Brunt, Columbia and Atlantic Avenue would agree to give up their parking spots, as this ambitious two-way trolley track system would pretty much demand? Not to mention that after all the horrible history of Columbia Street digging, would the residents of the Columbia Waterfront District agree to more digging? I don't believe that was even considered by this group. However, without even getting to the politics of this, the idea was shot down because of money.

This was a study grant of \$300,000 wasted, not a huge sum in the scheme of things (the architect for the as yet incomplete Brooklyn Bridge Park is said to have already received \$21 million in fees paid for by taxpayers), and the Dept. of Transportation will say that indeed they did make bus route recommendations, so the study is not completely wasted, but anyone could have figured out how to better route the B61 in maybe a half hour of thinking about it.

(continued on next page)



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(continued from previous page)

I put my blame to our congresswoman who got this grant in the first place, way back in 2006. I am not aware of the circumstances except that a trolley study was requested by the Brooklyn Chamber of Commerce. Since there had already been some recent attempts at a Red Hook trolley revival (note the cars in back of Fairway), Red Hook was requested as the location for the study. My suspicion is this had more to do with trolley nostalgia then with any serious attempt to improve our transportation.

The congresswoman should have from the beginning made this a study to improve our access to mass transit, looking at all possible solutions, not simply a trolley, and this was a thought to what would be actually doable with available financial resources. I also think that as the study was being done, someone should have steered it in the direction of reality. That should have been our representative.

We did ask Congresswoman Velazquez's office these questions, are here are her answers:

Q) Why did the Congresswoman put through an earmark for the study of a streetcar system, rather than a study as to how to better connect Red Hook with mass transit, taking into consideration funding and political obstacles?

A) Local civic and business groups were particularly interested in studying the feasibility of a street car system, since there had been the

beginnings of a trolley line previously built in Red Hook. However, the study also helped identify a number of other options for improving transit access for local residents.

Q) Second, once the streetcar feasibility study was earmarked, why wasn't there more oversight ensuring that DOT would keep to a viable plan, one that could actually be implemented taking into consideration funding and political obstacles?

A) There was plenty of oversight with scores of stakeholders meeting with the consultants conducting the study.

Q) Finally, do you honestly think that residents of the Columbia Waterfront District and Cobble Hill/Brooklyn Heights would allow a streetcar and its tracks to invade their communities? How would it help them? These are the same people who don't like helicopter noise.

A) Improving transportation options for Brooklyn residents will require continued input from the local community. As we go forward, we'll continue working to ensure all affected neighborhoods' voices are heard, so that the best solutions are implemented.

My interpretation of these generic answers is that this was not taken as seriously as it should have been. Instead, we had an academic type study done of a system that will NEVER be considered in NYC, leaving us with a few minor suggestions as to improving the bus route as well as the obvious fact that crossing under the highway to get to the subway is a big pain.

I encourage readers to attend the public session on May 9th at the Miccio Center on West 9th Street at 6:30 and let the politicians (not the DOT, who was just doing their job as it was given to them) know that we still need help.

Helping to Clean the Gowanus on Earth Day



Youth ages 12-18 from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Brooklyn and Staten Island participated in an annual Youth Conference on Friday and Saturday, April 22-23, 2011.

The conference began that Friday morning with a service project at the Gowanus Canal in Brooklyn, where youth, in conjunction with the Gowanus Canal Conservancy, removed trash and debris along the banks of the Gowanus Canal (pictured left).

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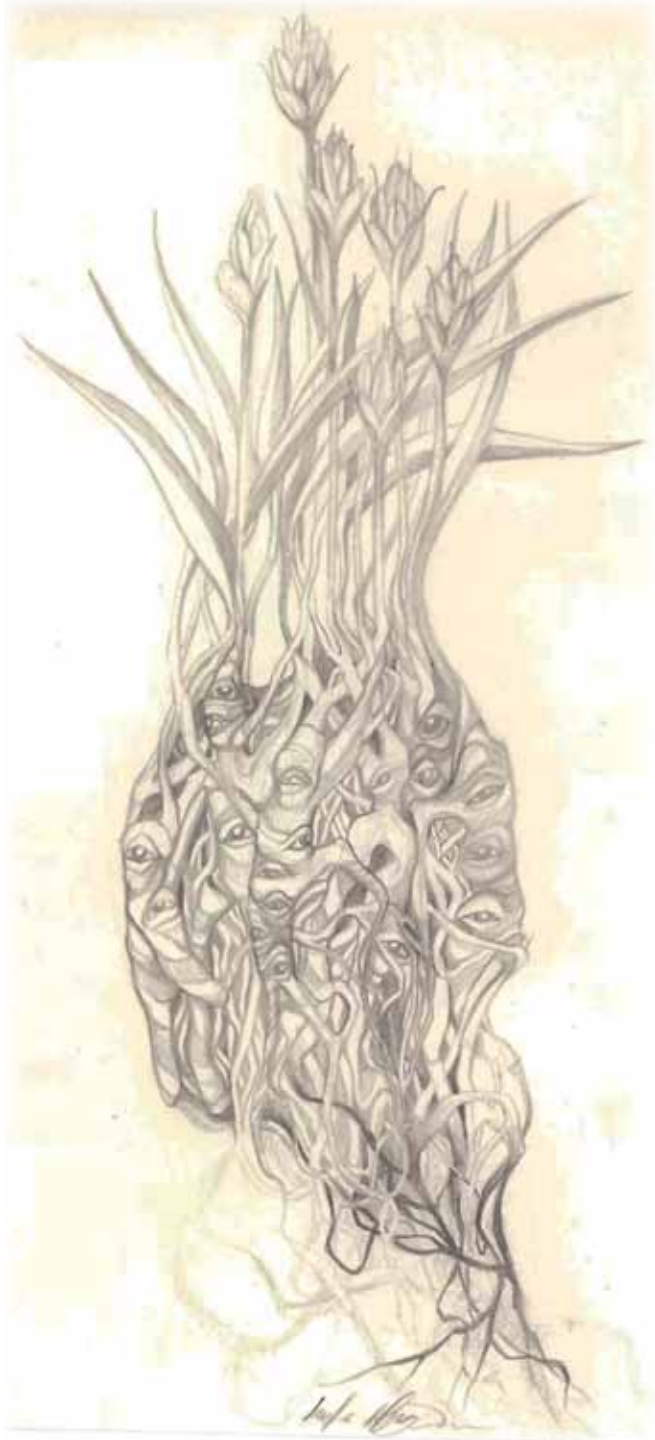
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Ledelle Moe: "Relief", on view at Kidd Yellin April 14 - May 27, 2011. Photo from opening reception by George Fiala. Kidd Yellin is located at 133 Imlay Street and is open to the public Tuesday - Friday 12-6 pm.

The Gods of Big Things

RELIEF:

1. alleviation, ease, or deliverance through the removal of pain, distress, oppression, etc.
2. prominence, distinctness, or vividness due to contrast; the projection of a figure or part from ground or plane on which it is formed, as in sculpture or similar work.
3. a feeling one (myself) experiences in the presence of beautiful (yes, beautiful) art that expresses poetic contradictions of experience.

One does not view the pair of monumental sculptures by Baltimore-based, South African born artist Ledelle Moe titled "Relief", on view at Kidd Yellin, April 14-May 27, one communes with them.

Circumambulating the two steel and concrete figures, stretched and prone, is an experience in contrast. In my critic's notebook the first words I wrote upon encountering the sculptures were: human, animal, and plant, fecund, distended, pregnant, entombed, cocooned, stillness, motion, heavy, and fragile. The traces of process which Moe leaves visible erodes the solidity of the materials and scale, with moss-like protrusions of cement through steel mesh softening the form. The contrasts in surface and shape are emphasized by the sectional construction; pieces of sculpted concrete are fitted to steel frames left raw and exposed. The visible grid lines created by this process enhances the curves and rough surface, scratched and finished with a patina of used motor oil.

The monumental scale and combinations of forms suggests the sculptures might tell the tales of primordial mythologies. The larger figure's splayed legs and twisting body looks like an animal companion of a Greek god scratching its massive back against a mountainside. Yet its front legs are subsumed in concrete and steel rendering its motion limited – maybe this great beast is wriggling to get free of its vengeful master god. The smaller form has features of both a woman and a baby, as though they might be birthing each other as a dog-god looks on, ushering them through life to death and back again: *In the beginning there was Dog, and out of this Great Beast came Life.*

The combined human, plant, and animal forms animating the industrial materials could also read as prophetic myth of past and future:

In a place and time not so far off from here, a civilization has learned to live and thrive in the contingent space of the natural world that we have left them. They built monuments to their gods out of the industrial ruins that have been re-ani-

mated by nature's persistent will to survive. And then they fell, as all civilizations eventually do, and their monuments, half relic and half living mortar, toppled.

There is a feeling of dislocation in "Relief". Despite the fact that as sculptures these works very successfully use and mirror details of the built space they occupy, they are not at home. It is perhaps this quality, more than the supine positions of the figures, that communicates a sense of loss. They are monumental gods in the diaspora, without a people or pillar to hold up.

Moe's sculptural sense of time brings about a collision between the monumental and the intimate. In contemporary art, sculpture is generally not considered a time-based medium like video or sound. But sculpture is not without time. It is present, existing in our time, in our space, in our air. It isn't removed from us, projected back to our world in flickers of coded light. Our co-occupation with sculpture teases out a tension in our bodies as we keep trying to re-calibrate ourselves to a sculpture's scale, as our muscles and nerves try to make that physical landscape behave the way it is supposed to. The suspended motion of sculpture contributes to this, but it is also that negotiation of large and small that causes sculptural time to enter our bodies and make us an uneasy nexus of planes and forms. The sculptures in "Relief" are not heavy with cement but with the irreconcilable contrasts of human benevolence and brute force.

Walking home from 133 Imlay Street after being with Moe's works, the question kept circling through my mind: why do we keep building a world to a scale so beyond ourselves? If we look at the temples we build to our gods in the oil rigs and cranes and concrete structures of contemporary life and see reflected back not a human face but an environment that seems hostile to the bodies we occupy, what then do these monuments tell us about who we think we are and what we value? Perhaps a giant concrete dog-seedpod-like-figure is my own god of relief.

The Story of Fort Defiance

This story is being presented in the Red Hook Star Revue as a four-part condensed version. It starts with this May issue, and will terminate with the August issue. Saturday, August 27th will mark the 230th anniversary of the Fort Defiance Incident. It also marks Red Hook's first annual recognition of that eventful day. It is hoped this day will be celebrated each year as a fitting tribute by all the residents of our little Village of Red Hook. We should pay homage to the brave men who saved the American Army and allowed them to continue on to win the battle for freedom.

The completed story will be given to PS 15 (The Patrick F. Daly School) for use in its new library currently under construction, thus fulfilling my own personal dream to see this piece of Red Hook history finally becoming available in our public school system. It would inspire in our children a sense of pride, one that will motivate them to shout with joy when asked where they hail from. They can answer, "We Come From Red Hook! This is where the American Dream was reborn.... And so it was!"

Part One

There are many novels written about America's Revolution that include the first major battle called the "Battle of Long Island," and later changed to the "Battle Of Brooklyn." But somehow these prolific writers managed to overlook one of the most important events of this period. Experts agree that these occurrences can be credited for saving General George Washington's ten thousand-man Colonial Army from annihilation, or at the very least certain defeat. Brooklyn Borough Historian James Kelly once remarked, during a plaque dedication honoring the men at Fort Defiance in 1952: "If it wasn't for the brave action of those men assigned to that Fort, all of America would be drinking tea at this moment"

After much research and dedication, the co-conspirators of this story feel that we now have the answers to the many years of historical blackout the residents of the small village of Red Hook had to suffer through, sans the proper recognition of a key to our nations struggle for independence.

Noted statesman, author and politician, Gabriel Furman in his 1824 book "Town of Brooklyn" lamented the many forgotten accounts of the heroes that fought on both sides of the revolution. He wondered with sadness just how many of these brave men would be consigned to oblivion by the recorders of history, forever forgotten by an unforgiving world.

It was Furman's wish while he was trying to preserve the memories of such

men that one day, as he put it, a "nobler pen than mine will come along and resurrect these heroes' names. So they may take their rightful place in the annals of American history." The author of this present story certainly does not claim to be nobler than Mr. Furman. He was indeed a giant of a man in his time with many accomplishments.

But it is hoped that the memories uncovered of these brave soldiers who fought for the freedoms, and rights, and privileges that we take for granted, will be perpetuated forever in our history books.

Just where was Fort Defiance? A few years back, it wasn't easy to locate Fort Defiance because no one ever heard of it. Would you believe on top of a mountain? Yes, in Red Hook a very high hill about 50-60 acres in area and some 75 feet high. Completely surrounded by

Just where was Fort Defiance? A few years back, it wasn't easy to locate Fort Defiance because no one ever heard of it. Would you believe on top of a mountain?

water, and called Cypress Tree Island. If you superimpose this mountain on a modern map of the area, it would cover the streets from Pioneer Street on the north, to Dwight Street on the east, to Beard Street on the south, and west to the Buttermilk Channel, slightly beyond today's Ferris Street. It is recorded in history that in 1776 General George Washington ordered his military to construct a fort atop this mountain because it commanded a perfect view of the entranceway to the channel and on to the East River. This fort according to historic writings was constructed on April 8th, 1776, in one night. But period maps of that area dating back to the 1660s reveal what history doesn't tell us - an abandoned Spanish fort, just about where Fort Defiance was located. The newly constructed fort was welcomed by Washington and the men manning it. General Washington himself commented after inspecting the fortification: "It is an exceedingly strong fort and will serve us well in time of need." The young commander of the new fort, Major Shaw, in a letter to his family on June 11, 1776 wrote: "I am now stationed at Red Hook, about four miles from New York. It is on an island situated in such a manner as to command the entrance of the harbor entirely. We have a fort with four 18 pounders, to fire 'enbarbette' that is over the tops of the works. It is vastly better than firing through embrasures, as we can now bring all our guns to bear on the same subject at once. The fort is named Defiance."

The abandoned fort was of concrete construction, strong and desirable for the use Washington wanted, so it is unlikely that the Colonial Army toiled very hard to construct their Fort Defiance when a strong fort already existed in the immediate vicinity. It was used by the Spaniards for the very same purpose

Washington wanted it for - to prevent enemy war ships from entering the East River via the Buttermilk Channel.

Meanwhile, the British Armada of over 200 warships, plus an equal number of supply ships anchored in the narrows, had already made uncontested sails around Red Hook Point, then northward up the Hudson as far as Fort Ticonderoga. But they always managed to return to their anchored location in the narrows.

No one really knows why British Vice Admiral Howe did not establish another naval stronghold in the East River earlier in time. This strategy would have rendered any planning by Washington of evacuating his men in row boats as a means of escape an unwise decision.

There are also many unanswered questions as to why both of the Howe Brothers, General Howe in Command of the Army, and Admiral Howe the Naval Commander, seemed reluctant to impose the full force of the British Army and Navy on the rebels as they were called. They are believed to have sympathized with the rebels' cause and wanted to settle the uprising with as little casualties as possible. Before sailing to the colonies from England, they proposed their plans to the King of England and asked permission to offer certain concessions to the negotiators in exchange for them ending the rebellion. But British Parliament wanted no part of that, and so the king rejected Britain's two most capable military leaders' suggestions on how to end the struggle with little casualties. When the thirteen established states convened in 1774 to prepare a constitution, they also sent their complaints to the king of England on the growing dissatisfaction with the Colonies pertaining to the excess taxes, lack of participation in government, and religious restrictions placed on them. The king rejected these complaints. Once more in 1776 the Continental Congress tried to reach



agreement in vain. The king refused their suggested remedies, and British Parliament terminated all chance for a negotiated agreement when they voted all members and supporters of Americas First Continental Army Traitors! It was then that the newly established congress formed the first Continental Army of the United States. (End of Part One)

On a note of what is clearly remarkable irony, 230 years ago this country was exerting it's all to prevent British entry into the East River via the Buttermilk Channel. Today, we have built a terminal for their largest cruise liner, the Queen Mary 2, to berth safely in the very same Buttermilk Channel.

After the conclusion of this mini-series, we will be approaching the 230th anniversary of the events written about here. On Saturday, August 27 at 5:00 pm, a special religious celebration will be held at Visitation Church. It will be the first annual Fort Defiance Day recognition in Red Hook Village since the historic marker was dedicated on August 25th, 2007, in Valentino Park. It is hoped that the entire neighborhood will turn out to demonstrate support for not just recognition of Red Hook's claim to fame, but also to truly honor those men on both sides who heroically fought and even gave their lives for a cause they truly believed in, and for which we as Americans are enjoying today.

Shapiro's Corner:



"Put that stethoscope away, Dear. You're home!"

Music:

Whistling Wolves' Debauchery Series at Jalopy Celebrates Sex, Drugs, Folk and Delta Blues

By James Pellegrino

If you're sitting in a quaint coffee shop, or having an elegant sit-down breakfast in what could be someone's living room, then Red Hook may seem like the peaceful countryside of Brooklyn. The Whistling Wolves, however, are seeking to change that up on May 20, when the band hosts the second round of a new residence at the Jalopy Theatre called "The Debauchery Series." The monthly event is an attempt to bring together some of the loudest, rag-taggiest, folkier musicians that can fit under the banner of lude society.

The Whistling Wolves play a mix of traditional and original folk tunes and Delta blues, billing themselves as, "the only whistling-harmonica-ukulele-fiddle-guitar-banjo-Jew's harp-mandolin-bass-vocal harmony group around." Front-woman Emily Eagen sings, plays ukulele and literally puts the whistling into the Whistling Wolves. The Cincinnati, Ohio native and two-time International Whistling Champion sang soprano as part of the eight-voice women's chorus on singer-songwriter Sufjan Stevens' 2010 EP, *All Delighted People*, and can be heard singing background vocals on the recently released debut album by singer-songwriter Guillaume Goussault.

The second round in the Debauchery Series is called "Songs of Sex and Substance." Eagen says, "There'll be a lot of double entendres, and hopefully not a lot of single entendres."

The rest of the band is an all-star cast of characters including Peter "Trip" Henderson, Spiff Wiegand and Chris Q. Murphy. Henderson has been called the "merry monarch of the mouth harp," and has even played harmonica with Bruce Springsteen on more than one occasion.

Wiegand is best known for his one-man-band concerts, juggling up to seven instruments simultaneously without loops or technological trickery. He says of the inaugural Debauchery Series in March, "The St. Patrick's Day show about drinking and fighting was good-natured and rowdy. There were a few murder ballads, a few that made people blush, and a few that had people howling. The floors were stomping throughout the night."

At the May event, they're bringing together some of the area's best musicians to play throughout the evening, including Sheriff Uncle Bob, Alex Battles, JP & the Gilberts, the Birdhive Boys, Jan Bell, the Milkmen & Sons, the Dustbusters, Robin Aigner, the Hillfillies,



The new monthly Debauchery Series at Jalopy is hosted by the Whistling Wolves (l-r: Trip Henderson, Spiff Wiegand, Chris Murphy & Emily Eagen. Photo by Hirschorn

Bobtown, Hilary Hawke & the Flipsides, the Whisky Spitters and Dr. Caterwaul's Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptraps.

The show's date is apropos; according to information Eagen found on Wikipedia, it's the day before some predict the Rapture. "I guess the 21st is the day that all the 'good' souls get taken up to heaven, while the rest of us suffer here until the end of the world in October," says Eagen. "We thought we could actually use our Debauchery Series as the final count-

down to the Rapture, like a final hurrah."

The suggested \$10 donation goes to support the Music Maker Relief Foundation, an organization that helps old Southern music gain recognition and be preserved for future generations. The charity supports American roots musicians over the age of 55 with incomes of \$18,000 or less.

The May Debauchery Series begins at 9 pm on May 20 at Jalopy Theatre, 315 Columbia Street, Brooklyn. For more information, visit jalopy.biz and musicmaker.org.

Local Musician Helps Vocalists Find Harmony in Red Hook

By James Pellegrino



Emily Eagen teaches vocal harmony workshops at Jalopy Theatre and School of Music every month.

More than a performance space, Jalopy Theatre and School of Music has also established itself as a place for those who want to learn or teach the arts. Programs such as techniques of guitar, harmonica and other instruments can all be found at this open stage in Red Hook. For the last three years, local musician and singer Emily Eagen has been teaching the Vocal Harmony Basics workshops, and in celebration, the class will be putting on a free class showcase June 19 at 4:30 pm. Harmony singers will perform as duos, trios and quartets, and while former workshop students will make up most of the participants, the event is open to all interested singers.

Two monthly classes are typically held on the third Sunday of each month. On May 22, a vocal harmony basics workshop will be held at 1 pm for a cost of \$20 and a vocal harmony duos and trios workshop

is at 3 pm for \$25, or participants can pay \$40 to attend both. On June 19, the workshops will be held at noon and 2 pm, before the showcase.

The program originally was organized at Jalopy by a student and vocal enthusiast who had been working with Eagen and her teaching partner, Don Friedman. "We started the class because one of the longtime participants, Steve Schwarzman, had a small harmony group going in a yoga studio down the street," says Eagen, who also sings, plays ukulele and whistles with the Whistling Wolves. We walked over to Jalopy to see if they would house the class, and it grew from there."

Relocating to Jalopy allowed the class to expand from the original five to six students to more than 20. It's been a wide range of people, from people who have been in the scene to people who just moved to town and have never tried this style before," Eagen says. "New people seem to come all the time."

The class drew so many students that now they teach two different vocal harmony classes. The basics class gives more of a background and theory to vocal harmonies, while the duos and trios workshop focuses less on theory and is slightly more advanced.

The idea behind having different classes, Eagen explains, is not to separate out beginners from the more advanced students, but to give students options for what feels right individually. It's kinda like looking at yoga classes; you place yourself. Could there be a harmony class centered on every corner like a yoga center, and could people take a class and not feel a lot of pressure, but just feel like they're really learning something? That's been my vision for how the classes should work.

Classes focus on the harmony styles of

old-time, early country, bluegrass and gospel standards, and students learn to hold parts within harmonies without the use of scores. The classes also focus on two- and three-part harmony singing, with an emphasis on working in small groups. Less advanced singers can start with the melody and then move to harmonizing, and more advanced singers can go deep into singing multiple parts.

Eagen, who performs and tours with various groups, teaches private and group voice lessons in classical, early, contemporary, and traditional American folk genres. She teaches in and around New York City, as well as at various summer festivals.

For more information about classes, visit jalopy.biz. For information about Emily Eagen, visit emilyeagen.com.

Club Notes

Star Theater begins Monday Night Acoustic Jams.

The Star Theater, located at 101 Union Street, between Columbia and Van Brunt, has been presenting a rock and blues jam session every Thursday since last summer. They have just instituted an acoustic jam on Mondays starting at 8 pm. As with Thursdays, admission is free. Coffee and cake will be served.

There are no sign-up sheets at the Star Theater events, musicians instead are encouraged to manage the entertainment themselves. For the acoustic night, singers and string musicians (guitarists, fiddlers, mandolinists, etc) are encouraged to play solo if they so choose, or group together and improvise onstage. A sound system with microphones is provided, and right handed guitars are available if needed. In addition to musicians, listeners are invited as well.

Jamming at Sunny's

An established acoustic jam takes place every Saturday night at the world renowned Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover Street, a block or two away from where they put Fairway.

The sign in the window says Bluegrass, well maybe Bluegrass isn't quite right, acoustic is more like it. The Jam cover a whole lot more. Put a bunch of guitars, fiddles, a bass, throw in an accordion or two and some more strings (they now have a piano), you're bound to get some interesting and good music.

An exceptional 2 nights at Barbe's

Barbe's (9th Street off of 6th Avenue), has been a pioneer of world music in Park Slope. Their intimate back room is well worth checking out almost any night, but the 3rd week of May stands out for the following:

5/19 10 pm- ANDY STATMAN. A truly extraordinary artist, Andy Statman began his career in the 70's as a virtuoso Mandolinist who studied and performed David Grisman, went on to study clarinet the legendary Dave Tarras and became one of the main architect of a Klezmer revival which started out 30 years ago.

05/20 10 pm - LAS RUBIAS DEL NORTE. Their sound is a re-invention, a nostalgic throwback to a time and place mostly imagined where Peruvian waltzes, Andean huaynos and Cuban Guajiras mix with French opera, Cowboy tunes and Bollywood classics. The result plays like a dreamy soundtrack with classical harmonies set to a Latin beat. Their new album, *Ziguala* is not so much a latin record as it is a pop record that uses a latin vocabulary.

Music Review:

Roy Loney and Cyril Jordan of the Flamin' Groovies with the A-Bones, Thursday, April 21, at the Bell House.
by Perry Crowe

The graffiti was just about eye-level above the urinal and read: "Roy & Cyril Rule." I didn't check the wetness of the ink, as I generally touch as little as possible in a men's room (a fact lamented by a neighboring piece of graffiti depicting two silhouetted men facing each other, extended penises melded into a single shared tube below the text: "Why can't men connect?"). But with Roy Loney and Cyril Jordan of the Flamin' Groovies headlining that night at the Bell House, the sentiment was definitely fresh.

The Groovies had always flown under the radar, more known for their cultural influence than for their presence. But with a certain set, the band had been the bee's knees for decades, bringing quirk rock power pop proto-punk since 1965. One of those Groovies lifers is Miriam Linna, one-time teenage-publisher of a Flamin' Groovies fan-zine and current head honcho (along with husband Billy Miller) of Norton Records. Norton, that curator of neglected old-school rock and R&B that's celebrating its 25th anniversary this year, has re-released a number of Groovies albums over the years and Linna and Miller's band, the A-Bones, back Loney and Jordan at live shows, including that night. And so in a reversal of sorts, the Groovies' presence dominated while the influence of Norton permeated.

Brooklyn-based Daddy Long Legs, who recorded "Cocksucker Blues" for Norton's Rolling Stones tribute series, got things off to a foot-stomping start with a kinetic set of blues rock complete with hyper-ventilating harmonica. The pulse was irresistible as high-in-the-saddle drummer Josh Styles stomped the bass and pounded the tom with a maraca. And the charisma of dapper, Southern-fried preacher-man Brian "Daddy Long Legs" Hurd was

undeniable as he crooned and yipped and shook across the stage, his plaintive growls and wails drawing a steady stream of people into the room before the clock had even struck 9 p.m. The distortion in Hurd's microphone made his voice distant, indistinct but full of meaning and grounded by the thumping beat and the snarling slide guitar of desperado Mo' Dange. The band was a conduit for pure rock n' roll, and there was Cyril Jordan in the front row, smiling and nodding in approval.

It was a hard act to follow, and that duty fell to Los Vigilantes, a young set of garage punk rockers who blast it in Spanish, much to the delight of a Nicaraguan in the audience. They had recorded "Paint it Black" for the Rolling Stones tribute series and bopped and rocked with bouncing backing vocals and badass bass, until guitarist Jota broke a string. The rest of the band carried on admirably as an onstage restringing proved impossible and Jota disappeared for several songs. Maybe to make up for being down a guitar, Pepe Pistola absolutely shredded his solos in Jota's absence. When Jota finally returned to action, with just a bit more tuning help from Pistola, he quickly regained the stookey beat, contorting his face, gliding along the stage in manic, mincing steps and smacking the top of his head like it was a nervous tic. A handful of girls near the front of the stage responded with shimmying, angular dancing punctuated by swift kicks. The spirit was moving people. It was time for the shamans to take the stage.

What immediately caught my eye just before the A-Bones set was Yo La Tengo's Ira Kaplan setting up shop behind the keys. I was also struck by bassist Marcus "the Carcass" Natale, who appeared to be



Daddy Long Legs plays with Flamin' Groovies and A-Bones, photo by Devon Glenn

the most accurately nicknamed person perhaps in the history of the world. And once Norton impresarios Linna and Miller took the stage, along with guitarist Bill Bennett, the A-Bones were off—literally. The first song was messy and raw and quickly fell apart, so the band took it from the top and rocked out the news that Jamie Lou got a new tattoo. With Kaplan rollicking along like Jerry Lee Lewis, the sound welled and swirled and the crowd filled in even more. Miller, the big man in black who looks like a cousin of John C. Reilly, stalked the stage and shouted about the world's biggest sinner, as Linna rode the cymbals. Bennett dropped to his knees for a solo until finally rising at the end of the song and asking, "How long was I asleep?"

After a song of seize rock, Kaplan and Linna shared vocals, Kaplan taking alto. Relieved of singing duties, Miller tried his hand at conducting, but it wasn't clear that anyone in the band was paying attention to his exaggerated, sweeping arm movements. Musical duties shifted again when Kaplan slung a six-string over his shoulder for a hard, fast number dedicated to Jordan and sung by Linna. The next song sounded a lot like "Twist and Shout," but mainly concerned Lucy's red dress.

The band had an infectious, fun energy and a driving beat thanks to Linna's sincerely snappy drumming and Natale's thick, strong bass. The guitar was hungry and Miller's voice cracked with urgency. The band called Norton's resident "shout maestro supreme" Great Gaylord to the stage for some call and response before bringing things to a close with a raucous, spirited rendition of "Wooly Bully," with Miller shaking some maracas. As the band departed, Bennett unleashed the signature riff from the Groovies' classic "Teenage Head," a sign of things to come.

After a brief trip offstage, the A-Bones, minus Miller, reassembled, this time joined by the men of the hour, Roy and Cyril. The lanky Jordan very much looked the part, with a mop of Ramones-esque hair, big-lensed glasses, stylish boots and a low-slung translucent guitar. Loney appeared cut from a different cloth; short in stature, prominent paunch poking out from his open sport coat and curving the stripes of his dress shirt—looking like some sort of Arizonan businessman. But once the music started, it was all rock n' roll.

The band played cuts from classics *Flamingo*, *Supersnax* and *Sneakers*, sounding a little loosey-goosey but energetic,

exemplified by Loney's wide-eyed singing and pumped fists and Linna's constant smile. After a handful of songs, Loney graciously turned over lead vocals to Jordan for a rich, complex song from the two decades Jordan had led the band between Loney's 1971 departure and the Groovies disbandment in 1992. Once Loney was back on the mic, his rockabilly showmanship was unmatched, throwing out ram-a-langs and bam-ba-langs and shaking and huffing through song after song. The crowd ate it up, growing stronger on the steady diet of good-time rock n' roll with a pocket of youth frenetically pogo-ing and moshing (I had lost track of the white-haired man I had seen earlier sitting by the side of the stage on a three-legged portable stool).

As Miller rejoined the group and Kaplan once again switched from keys to guitar, the night took on an epic feel with Jordan, Bennett and Kaplan layering their parts into a mystical triple guitar chorus. And when the band launched into "Teenage Head," the evening reached its rock apotheosis and the crowd, including Daddy Long Legs' Hurd, pressed in tightly and one guy in skinny jeans got the bright idea to try a little crowd-surfing—and wasn't completely unsuccessful. During the last song, "Slow Death," and maybe it was just symptomatic of having seven people onstage simultaneously, the evening devolved into what felt like a bunch of good musicians and showmen all sort of doing their own things; it was like watching the clockwork of rock n' roll whirling right before your eyes.

After the set, Hurd joined the band for its encore, lending his powerful blues harp to the mix and injecting his fresh-faced exuberance. The eight-piece super group churned through a couple more songs before Loney, Jordan and company said goodnight, insisting they needed to be in England tomorrow. But even after the house lights and music came on, Hurd stood alone on the stage and urged the crowd to urge the rock legends to return for even more music. After protracted encouragement, the group reassembled onstage, though with more of a feeling of obligation than enthusiasm. At this rock n' roll family reunion, the grandchild was having too much fun to let it end, but the adults had work in the morning. As the band made its final exit after just one more song, a contrite Hurd said, "Sorry! Sorry! I didn't do that nice."

Don't worry, Daddy. Rock n' roll isn't supposed to be nice, even to its elders.



3rd Annual Brooklyn Folk Festival
June 10th – 12th

Featuring:

**Peter Stampfel, Pat Conte, The Dust Busters, Alex Battles,
Elizabeth Butters, Radio Jarocho, Blind Boy Paxton, Feral
Foster, The Whiskey Spitters and more!**
WORKSHOPS, FILM SCREENING AND BWAC ART SHOW.



Perry Crowe's musical highlights for May:

Perry's Picks



Yo La Tengo

I'm not proud of it, but I fell asleep at a Yo La Tengo show once. The balcony seats at Hollywood's Music Box were just too comfortable and I had been spoiled by the lunging and shredding of Yo La's live shows in support of their mid-'90s masterpieces *Electr-O-Pura* and *I Can Hear the Heart Beating as One*, with those albums wicked, whistling fuzz, crashing waves of distortion and murky, urgent vocals. So the narcotic hum and shuffle of 2006's *I am Not Afraid of You and I Will Beat Your Ass*, as well as some actual narcotics, eased me to the back of my seat and a pleasant slumber. But there aren't many comfortable seats at the Bell House other than that couch to the far side of the stage, and that's bound to collapse, or finish collapsing, any day now. Plus, Yo La will determine the content of the first set of each show by the spin of a wheel of chance—a previous spin resulted in guitarist/vocalist/pianist Ira Kaplan, drummer/vocalist/pianist Georgia Hubley and bassist/vocalist James McNew staging a reading of Seinfeld's "Chinese Restaurant" episode. Talk about an evolving sound. The shows may claim to be sold out, but is any show really sold out in the age of the Internet? **8 p.m., Tues. and Weds., eBay/Craigslist prices, May 10 and 11, The Bell House, 149 7th St., 718-643-6510, thebellhouse.com**



Photo by Jesper Eklow



photo courtesy Jacob Garchik

El Banda de los Muertos/ Chicha Libre

I lived in LA for a decade, where banda music flows through the streets like the city's lifeblood, often until 3 in the morning and directly outside your bedroom window. "It's instant party music," says Jacob Garchik, member of what he claims is New York City's only banda, El Banda de los Muertos. While similar to the mariachi music that serenades commuters on subway lines far and wide, banda also draws from its roots in the German immigrants to Mexico's state of Sinaloa and featuring a whirling mix of trombone, sousaphone, clarinet and more for a polka-centric sound. Garchik, who also plays in the brass band Slavic Soul party, attributes Los Muertos' citywide singularity to traditional banda's requirement of 14 musicians, which, let's be honest, when is the last time you were in a room with 13 other people of your choosing? The band's first gig in 2009 was at a Dia de los Muertos celebration, so bringing that their snappy oompahs to Barbés' Cinco de Mayo party at Littlefield is sólo natural. The night also includes a set by founder of the feast Olivier Conan's band Chicha Libre and their unique brand of Peruvian psychedelic surf pop. **Viva! 8 p.m., Thurs., May 5, \$10, Littlefield, 622 Degraw St., 718-855-3388, littlefieldnyc.com**



Mike Block, photo courtesy Diane Blackman

GALA NYC

This month's picks are a bit front-loaded, but fortunately the Brooklyn Lyceum is hosting a series of musical exploration featuring a new eclectic ensemble every Saturday of May. The brainchild of cellist and Yo-Yo Ma fave Mike Block, GALA NYC will bring together different mixes of musicians, artists and dancers each evening. "I've been having deep, life/identity conversations with artists," says Block. "What would you do if you could do whatever?" And when he says whatever, he means whatever. "Musicians aren't inherently more creative than nonmusicians," Block says, hence GALA's improvisational audience participation aspect, such as "The Good, the Bad and Today," where members of the audience will describe their best day, their worst day and the current day, while the assembled musicians, who include a Grammy-nominated violinist, a Taiko drummer, members of the *Saturday Night Live* band and bandmates of Sufjan Stevens, Lauryn Hill and Lebanese superstar Marchel Khaliffe, create a soundtrack. For such an expansive, unbridled show, Block knew the Brooklyn Lyceum was the right place: "We wanted a big space full of opportunities." **8 p.m., Sat., May 7, 14, 21, 28, \$15, Brooklyn Lyceum, 227 4th Ave., 718-857-4816; brooklynlyceum.com**



Jesse Lége, photo courtesy of artist

Bayou n' Brooklyn

"I plan to make a ruckus in the city," says Louisiana native and Cajun musician extraordinaire Jesse Lége of his upcoming relocation to the New York metro area. One of his first stops will be Red Hook where he'll be playing with Bayou Brew at Jalopy's two-day Bayou n' Brooklyn Cajun music festival, a cavalcade of half a dozen bands, workshops and community jam sessions. But don't confuse Lége's foot-stomping accordion and heartfelt balladeering with zydeco. "I call that 'hip hop accordion music,'" Lége says of the style he admits is friendlier than Cajun, largely because of zydeco's English lyrics as opposed to Cajun's adherence to French. "I'm a little bit hardnosed on keeping a grip on the culture," Lége says, suggesting Cajun music festivals should also include cultural programs about the Cajuns' Acadian ancestors, expelled from the Maritime provinces during the French and Indian War and shoved down to that literal backwater of the continent, the bayou. Lége will be doing his ambassadorial part by teaching an accordion and Cajun singing workshop on Saturday, a day that will also feature a pot of gumbo made by Lége himself. But don't expect him to brag about his cooking: "Everybody's recipe is better than everybody else's." **8 p.m., Fri. and Sat., May 6 and 7, \$15; workshops, noon, Sat., \$25 w/ pre-registration, Jalopy, 315 Columbia St., 718-395-3214, jalopy.biz**

Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin

When their most recent album, *Let It Sway*, drew comments about how the band's sound had matured, Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin frontman Phillip Dickey shrugged it off. "If you didn't mature, people would start wondering," he says. Dickey sees the biggest change from the band's previous albums as a simple result of using a "real studio and a real producer," i.e., Smart Studios where Nirvana and Smashing Pumpkins had recorded, and Death Cab for Cutie's Chris Walla, no stranger to the band; he had helped get "Oregon Girl" from SSlyby's self-produced debut *Broom* played on an episode of *The OC* and lent them microphones to record their follow-up, *Pershing*. With *Sway*, Walla brought the band a bright, crisp sound as they range across the rock n' roll landscape; indie rock with hints of the Replacements, Big Star, J Geiles Band and weirdo rock blasts like "Banned (by the Man)." Even with the big sound, the Rock Shop's intimate setting will be a nice fit for the new material: "It's our most personal album," says Dickey. "It's so lyrically honest that it's almost embarrassing. All my friends know exactly what's going on with me." **7:30 p.m., Tues., May 3, \$12, The Rock Shop, 249 4th Ave., 718-230-5740, therockshopny.com**



Photo: Wesley Hamilton

Dining:

I'll Have an End Table, Hold the BBQ: Adventures in Dining at IKEA

by Sophie Slesinger

As soon as I told people I was about to go eat at IKEA, their eyes widened and usually an exclamation of "Meatballs!" was soon to follow. Yes, most of my friends were pacified with IKEA Swedish Meatballs by our parents after a marathon shopping experience. Frozen meatballs lived at the bottom of our family freezer for quick dinners on PTA and board meeting weeknights.

Regardless, I made it a point not to order the meatballs when I reviewed the IKEA menu last week. I wanted to highlight some different options, provide feedback

vanilla-y, and was a necessary accessory to the cake. The crust and filling had more of a mellow apple taste, rather than the crisp and tart Granny Smith flavor I was hoping for. But, as a dessert, it was as good as many of the choices you'll find in bakeries around the city.

For my second trip to try some more entrees, I simply could not do it alone. With some subtle coercion and promises of eternal friendship, I convinced two cohorts to join me in an IKEA mid-day smorgasbord. We bee-lined past the furniture and quickly loaded up a tray with mac & cheese, chicken tenders, the "Rib Special", French fries, and chocolate cake.

Let's start with the mac and cheese. This comfort dish had the promising look of creamy homestyle comfort. We managed to finish about half the portion, as it was comparable to any elementary cafeteria version.

Next was the "Rib Special." A richly colored sauce coated the reasonably tender meat. I wondered though—where on earth could they possibly be from, with a rack retailing for only \$7.99?

The slam-dunk choice was the Chicken Tender Entrée. The five, tender-sized fried nuggets had a Burger King flavor, and any food that pulls at childhood memory gets merit in my book. The accompanying fries were perfectly crisp and salted, and satisfying enough to mindlessly enjoy an entire portion.

We rounded out the meal with a thick slice of chocolate cake, which, like the apple dessert was nicely plated and



You can't go wrong with the lingonberry garnished meatballs!

beautifully garnished with chocolate shavings. It was not quite as chocolatey though as I had hoped.

The most satisfying part of each meal was my beverage choice: a sweet and syrupy lingonberry soda. It tasted just like the red part of a rocket pop, melted on a hot Fourth of July. When diluted with a handful of ice cubes, it was a perfectly refreshing treat to sip on while enjoying views of the Manhattan skyline.

The view is definitely the best part of the IKEA dining room. The spacious, elevated room is covered on two sides with floor to ceiling windows, boasting peaceful panoramas of the East River

and Manhattan. It's got to be one of the best dining room vantage points in Red Hook. Furnished with bright lighting and streamlined tables, I felt like I was in a spaceship diner, if there ever was such a thing. The amazing part was that every dish I dined on rang in for fewer than eight bucks.

So, if you find yourself shopping at IKEA, it's worth a trip up to the restaurant for a bit of respite and relaxation. I'll make a bet that the 99-cent breakfast special doesn't disappoint. How could it, for such a bargain? And then there are always the trusty, never-changing meatballs, which remain in my opinion the best delicacy that the Ikea kitchen offers.

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**132 Union Street
South Brooklyn**

Nightlife:

Local Watering Holes Offer Board Games To Boost Your Brainpower

by Eliza Ronalds-Hannon

As those of us who live and work here already know, Red Hook has some of the best bars in Brooklyn. And at the Red Hook Star-Revue, we're all for spending quality time with a glass or three of beer any day of the week. But sometimes, just drinking gets old. Luckily, options abound in the neighborhood for bars that offer a little sport with your spirits.

Pool tables and dartboards are one thing, but to keep your mind sharp during the old lift-and-sip, you'll need to exercise your powers of logic and strategy while you drink. How to do it? Play the game of Life! Or Scrabble. Or Monopoly. Because the hidden gems in our neighborhood bars are the stacks of board games that teeter unassumingly in the corners of so many of them.

After all, cracking a board game open, along with that beer, may also make you smarter. "Many board games have been shown to be reducible or equivalent to certain mathematical or logical problems," says Nina Gierasimczuk, who studies logic, learning and cognition as a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Groningen in the Netherlands.

For that reason—as well as the socialization involved—"playing board games has a positive influence on the development of numerical knowledge, language skills and even social abilities," Gierasimczuk says.

So next time you need to whet your whistle, do so somewhere you can hone your cognitive skills as well. Choose one of these bars in the area with a stockpile of board games ready for the playing.

At elegant **Botanica**, 220 Conover Street, match the leisurely, old-world ambiance with a classic game of chess or dominos. This ideal summer spot, which reopens for the season in mid-May, is airy and spacious, and the rustic bar dishes out fresh fruit in its made-to-order cocktails. Patrons can enjoy the view of cobblestoned Coffey Street through the floor-to-ceiling glass doors, and the waterfront is only two blocks away. When the doors are open, take in the breeze and pretend you're in Paris. The bar also offers Monopoly, Scrabble, backgammon, cards and even Chutes and Ladders. Just beware that the delicious cocktails, many infused with chocolate liqueurs from owner Daniel Preston's adjacent distillery and chocolate factory, don't go down too easily.

Comfy Moonshine, 317 Columbia Street, offers a more modern and varied array of games. Find Boggle, Clue, Monopoly and more stacked on top of an old-fashioned cigarette machine. Play at the bar, in a cozy booth, or outside on the patio. While you do, listen to whatever's playing on the jukebox—Johnny Cash and Jackson 5 on a recent Wednesday night—unless, of course, the fiddlers stop by from adjacent Jalopy School of Music to provide live bluegrass instead.

That recent evening, Harry Gilby, a Moonshine regular and former U.K. resident, provided some insight into the presence of board games at so many Brooklyn bars. He noted that it was

likely an import from pubs across the pond. "All proper bars in England have chess and backgammon," Gilby says.

Proper or not, Moonshine must be doing something right to be eight blocks from the nearest train, on the far side

Comfy Moonshine,
317 Columbia Street, offers
a more modern and varied
array of games. Find Boggle,
Clue, Monopoly and more
stacked on top of an old-fashion-
ed cigarette machine.

of the BQE, and packed on a Wednesday.

Half a mile down the road, at **Brooklyn Ice House**, 318 Van Brunt Street, a stack of games like Connect 4, Trivial Pursuit, and Yahtzee adorns the corner of the dim room, next to booths covered in retro red vinyl. At the bar, choose from more than 60 different beers, plenty of bourbons, and a menu that includes pork sliders for \$3.

At **home/made**, 293 Van Brunt Street, a laid-back, boozy café, play Scrabble on white couches over brunch and mimosas or tapas and wine. You may emerge a bit smarter; the game of Scrabble is a veritable gold mine of brain stimulation, says Selene Cansino, Ph.D., a professor of psychology in Mexico City.

"When you're playing Scrabble you're using your attention, you're using your working memory," she says, adding that you specifically use semantic memory of factual and conceptual knowledge.

Testing and exercising these parts of the brain can help to stave off memory loss in old age. "One of the main reasons people start to lose their memory is that their attention is just not good enough," Cansino says. "Even before perception, the first step to learn something is attention, so it's a very important function. Without that, all the rest doesn't work."

So the next time you hit the neighborhood with friends or head to happy hour with coworkers, try out one of these playful spots. Just toss the die and enjoy, knowing that newfound brilliance is imminent.

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Bait and Tackle's game selection includes Scrabble, Yahtzee, Boggle and CandyLand. Photo by Eliza Ronalds-Hannon

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Writing on the wall?



Corrugated metal, green and mangled



Majestic Decay

Patinas of Decay: Ruin and Renewal (Spring Comes to Brooklyn)

“Rhythm is the basis of life, not steady forward progress. The forces of creation, destruction, and preservation have a whirling, dynamic interaction.”
—Kabbalah

A late April stroll through Red Hook finds evidence of spring nearing full bloom. The streets are alive with revelations . . . Sun-dappled and shadow-drenched, patinas of decay adorn the landscape in varied patterns. Here and now, decay seems less a manifestation of rot within than a veneer signaling the growth below; not a state of obliteration, but a state of *becoming*—the surface giving way to sprouting vitality.

The roots of a small tree, like convoluted tentacles, burrow under the jagged edge of a factory gate . . . The grit from a crumbling ledge melds with buds from tree branches lodged in the window grating above . . . Shrubbery grows along warehouse fences, interwoven with chain link holes . . . And ivy, supple, wondrous ivy—the way it snakes all over and throughout and between everything natural and man-made . . . Vegetation growing among the built world’s detritus heightens the sense of nature’s rebirth—a fresh, underlying force come to light, engulfing the sullied environment (if given a chance).

A sunbeam shines through the latticework of a crane boom draped over the highway—a glittering symbol of the horizon/the future/growth. Jackhammers ring in the distance; destroying in order to create, pummeling the old to erect a base for the new.

In urban planning, architecture, and landscape design, it is de rigueur to incorporate vestiges of the past into brand new projects. Often these elements are inoperative or “distressed”—decayed if you will—and are used simply for adornment (a nod to history, a wink to the cognoscenti).

In the scrap business/recycling in general, old, nonfunctioning objects are transformed and reintegrated into the new landscape. In the existence of every such object, though, between its demise and rebirth, there is a singular moment. It occurs at the scrap yard, in a state of transition. In that moment the object, once a uniform piece off an assembly line, is like nothing else—the way it rusts, the gouges and the dents. It is unique, like a snowflake, a metallic snowflake.

Unique to Brooklyn, especially Red Hook, the decay is up front—not behind a sunny façade (a la LA/suburbia). This rawness induces a more probing truth; it is soulful and inviting—a spur to wonderment. That’s the allure of Red Hook, in essence.

All photos by Adam Eisenstat. Visit his blog: BigSkyBrooklyn.com

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 BALL FIELDS—Clinton & Bay sts. Food trucks serving pupusas, tacos, huaraches and more. Open Sat-Sun 8 am-sundown, through October.

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; lobster 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 Thu-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.

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 massaman curry. Open for lunch and dinner Mon-Sat, dinner Sun. MC, V. Delivery available.

CREDIT CARD GUIDE

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MC—MasterCard

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MUSIC & ARTS CALENDAR

If you have an event you would like listed in the Red Hook Star-Revue calendar, please email redhookstarcalendar@gmail.com.

CHILDREN

The Rock Shop—249 Fourth Ave., (718) 230-5740, therockshopny.com & kidrockers.com. Kidrockers presents Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., hosted by Seth Herzog & Craig Baldo, 5/15 1 pm. Adm \$12, \$15 DOS.

CLASSES/WORKSHOPS

Brooklyn General—128 Union St., (718) 237-7753, brooklyngeneral.com. Beginning Project Knitting, 5/17, 24 & 31 from 7-9 pm, \$120; Introduction to Embroidery, 5/15 from 10 am-noon, \$50; Crochet Workshop Session A, all levels, 5/6, 13 & 20 from 7-9 pm, \$120; Crochet Workshop Session B, all levels, 5/27, 6/3 & 10 from 7-9 pm, \$120; Sewing Pajama Bottoms & Zippered Pouch, beginning level, 5/5, 12, 19 & 26 from 7-9 pm, \$160; Sewing All-Day Tote Bag, intermediate level, 5/10, 17, 24 & 31 from 11 am-1 pm, \$160; Quilting Workshop, 5/2, 9, 16 & 23, \$160; Needle Felting, 5/15, 22 & 29 from 5-7 pm, \$120; Sewing Fall Coat, advanced level, 5/12, 19 & 26, 6/2 & 9 from 11 am-1 pm, \$220. Registration for class must be completed 24 hours in advance; please call two days before first class begins to confirm.

Everbrite Mercantile Co.—351 Van Brunt St., (718) 522-6121, ebmerc.com. Open-level yoga with Felecia Maria, bring your own mat, 5/4, 11, 17 & 25 from 7:30-8:30 pm; donations accepted.

Jalopy Theatre & School of Music—315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Vocal Harmony Basics, with Emily Eagen, 5/1 11 am, 5/22 1 pm, \$20 per class; Vocal Harmony Duos & Trios, with Don Friedman & Emily Eagen, 5/1 1 pm, 5/22 3 pm \$25 per class; Guitar Styles of Lead Belly: Guitar Workshop, with Alan Podber, 5/6 5 pm, \$25, call to register & prepay, space limited; Traditional Cajun Music from the Heart: Cajun Fiddle, Guitar, Vocal & Ensemble Workshop (in conjunction with the Bayou N Brooklyn Music Festival, also see Festivals), 5/7 noon, \$25, call to register & prepay, space limited; Cajun Singing with Accordion, with Jesse Lege, 5/7 2 pm, \$25, call to register & prepay, space limited; Shaky Dave's Harmonica Workshop for Beginners, 5/14 1 pm, \$20; Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton Guitar Workshop Trio: Part 1—Blind Lemon Jefferson, 5/15 1 pm, \$35 for single class, \$90 for three-part workshop; Jerron "Blind Boy" Paxton Guitar Workshop Trio: Part 2—Reverend Gary Davis, 5/22 1 pm, \$35 for single class, \$90 for three-part workshop; West African Guitar Workshop by Sam Dickey, 5/22 3 pm, \$25.

Little Flower School—Saipua studio, 147 Van Dyke St., Red Hook, & 50-52 Dobbin St, Greenpoint, hello.flower.school@gmail.com, little-flower-school.blogspot.com. Study in Blue, 5/7 from 1-4 pm, \$250, Greenpoint; Spring Bounty, 5/15 from 1-4 pm, \$250, Greenpoint, CLASS FULL; Ode to the Peony, 5/29 from 1-4 pm, \$250, Red Hook, CLASS FULL.

Urban Meadow—President & Van Brunt sts, (718) 710-1773, annamumford.com. Forrest yoga with Anna Mumford, 5/23 & 30 from 6:30-7:30pm. Suggested donation \$10.

Valentino Pier—Ferris & Coffey sts, (718) 710-1773, annamumford.com. Red Hook morning outdoor Forrest yoga class with Anna Mumford, weather permitting, check site for cancellations, 5/7, 14, 21 & 28 from 10-11 am. Suggested donation \$10.

COMEDY

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouseny.com. Rob Paravonian, 5/23 8 pm, FREE.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Chris "Shockwave" Sullivan, Ophira Eisenberg & more, 5/9; Cameron Esposito, Pearl & the Beard & more, 5/16; tickets \$5 adv, \$8 door. Chris Hardwick, all ages, 5/20, doors 6:30, show 7:30, tickets \$25.

Sugar Lounge, 147 Columbia St., (718) 643-2880. Comic night with Christie Walsh & Yannis Pappas, 5/12 8 pm. FREE.

EXHIBITIONS

Art Lot—206 Columbia St., Sackett St. *All Jokes Aside*, works by Aimee Burg, Erin Burke, Jessica Canon & Philip Stearns, curated by Natalia Zubko, 5/28 thru 8/31. On view 24/7.

Opening reception: 5/28 (rain date 5/29) from 2-5 pm, with performance by Aricoco.

Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition—499 Van Brunt St., (718) 596-2506, bwac.org. *Convergence*, BWAC Spring Pier Art Show, 1,000 pieces of new art from more than 200 artists, 5/7 thru 6/12. Sat-Sun 1-6 pm. **Opening reception:** 5/7 from 1-6 pm. (Also see Fundraisers & Parties.)

Everbrite Mercantile Co.—351 Van Brunt St., (718) 522-6121, ebmerc.com. *WHORACLE*, Los Angeles-based artist Gregory Barnett premieres a collection of arts & crafts examining society's shame towards sex culture, thru 5/31. Wed-S 11 am-7 pm, Sun noon-6 pm.

Gallery Small New York—416 Van Brunt St., (347) 782-3729, smallnewyork.com. *20th Century Brooklyn Masters*, Jules Halfant, Saul Raskin, Louis Nissonof & 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 5/6; *21st Century Urban Masters*, the master class in painting New York's High School of Art & Design, proceeds help artists pay for college next year, 5/7 thru 6/11. Thu-Sun 11 am-6 pm.

Kentler International Drawing Space—353 Van Brunt St., (718) 875-2098, kentlergallery.org. *100 Works on Paper*, exhibition of donated works by artists for the 100 Works on Paper Benefit, thru 5/13. Open Thu-Sun noon-5 pm. (Also see Fundraisers.)

Kidd Yellin—133 Imlay St., (917) 860-1147, kiddyellin.org. *Ledelle Moe*, thru 5/27. Open Tue-Fri from noon-6 pm & by appointment.

Look North Inuit Art Gallery—275 Conover Street, Suite 4E, (347) 721-3995, looknorthny.com. New Artwork from Northwest Alaska, art from Shishmaref & St. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, on view through 5/31. Call for hours.

WORK Gallery—65 Union St., redtinshack.com. *Jan Mollet*, 5/13 thru 22. **Artist's Talk:** 5/22 6 pm. Open Sat-Sun noon-6 pm.

FESTIVALS

Bayou N Brooklyn Music Festival of Cajun & Zydeco Music—performances by the renowned Cajun musician Jesse Lege & friends, community jam sessions, workshops & more, 5/6 & 7 8 pm, 5/6: Big Road Blues Band, Catahoula Cajun Band, the Empty Bottle Ramblers, Magnolia Cajun Band & midnight community jam; 5/7: community jam 5 pm, gumbo dinner 7:30 pm, Cleoma's Ghost, Jesse Lege & Bayou Brew & ZydeGroove, Jalopy Theatre & School of Music, 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz & bayou-n-brooklyn.com. Tickets \$12 adv, \$15 DOS; both days \$24 adv, \$30 DOS.

Mystery State Fair—honoring the state with Tilamook cheese, an official nut & Whorehouse Meadows, 5/15 from 3-7 pm, The Bell House, 149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouseny.com. FREE.

FILM

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. *My Heart Is An Idiot*, a documentary directed by David Meiklejohn th follows *This American Life's* Davy Rothbart as he tours North America to promote his *FOUND* magazine & seeks—and attempts to follow—love advice from Zooey Deschanel, Ira Glass, Newt Gingrich & others, 5/18 8 pm; adm \$10. Kings County Cinema Society presents Short Film Slam 2, selected shorts, including D.W. Young's NY premiere of *Not Interested*, 5/27, doors 7:30 pm, films 8:30 pm, \$5

FOOD & DRINK

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouseny.com. NachosNY.com presents Guactacular 2011, guacamole competition, with beer from Brooklyn Brewery & a Foodspotting scavenger hunt (those interested in competing can contact Rachel NachosNY.com), 5/8 from 5-8 pm, \$15 adv, \$18

Botta di Vino—357 Van Brunt St., (347) 689-3664. Candlelight Blind Tasting, 5/6, 13, 20 & 27 from 8:30-10 pm, cost is the purchase of one bottle of wine; Express Brunch Saturday Seminar 5/14, 21 & 28 from 2-4 pm (first-come first-served), \$10 or purchase of one bottle of wine, members free; Fairway Extravaganza, wines from the south of France & south of Italy

& food from Fairway, 5/19, call for more info.

Dry Dock—424 Van Brunt St., (718) 852-3625, drydockny.com. The Perfect Cocktail Accessories, Dolin vermouth & Cocchi Americano, 5/6 from 5:30-8:30; Derby Day!, Kentucky Bourbon distillers Johnny Drum, Willett Family Reserve, Noah's Mill & Rowan's Creek, 5/7 from 3-6 pm; Four Roses Bourbon, Four Roses Yellow Label & Four Roses Single Barrel, 5/13 from 5:30-8:30 pm; Verity Wine, new vintage of Qupe Syrah, plus Coriole 2007 Sangiovese/Shiraz & Menard 2009 Gascogny Blanc, 5/14 from 4-7 pm; Kermit Lynch selections, 5/20 from 5:30-8:30 pm; Louis/Dressner selections, 5/21 from 4-7 pm; Heaven Hill Distilleries, award-winning bourbons, 5/27 from 5:30-8:30 pm. FREE.

Sugar Lounge, 147 Columbia St., (718) 643-2880. Sunday Night BBQ, bring your own me to BBQ in the the garden, plus pool table & pétanque court, 5/1, 8, 15, 22 & 29. Call for time. FREE adm.

FUNDRAISERS & PARTIES

100 Works on Paper Benefit—Kentler International Drawing Space's annual fundraiser, honoring Jonathan Ames & Dean Haspiel, featuring more than 100 donated works on paper, given to ticketholders, 5/14 6 pm, 353 Van Brunt St., (718) 875-2098, kentlergallery.org. Tickets \$200, include one work, \$250 for one artwork & two admissions.

Alphabet Arts County Fair Fundraiser—with live music from John Foti, performance of the puppet play *City of Hamburgers*, special appearance by *Simpsons* writer Mike Reiss, chili cookoff, prizes, dancing & more; proceeds go to programming for Alphabet Arts, a non-profit, volunteer-run artist collective, 5/2 7 pm, Jalopy Theatre & School of Music, 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz & alphabetarts.org. Adm \$20, \$25 DOS.

BWAC Art Show Preview Party—preview of *Convergence*, the spring art exhibit, with affordable artwork on sale from 400 artists, & live music from the Red Hook Ramblers, BOOM CHICK & Smitty & Co., plus food & drink from home/made, Diego's Restaurant, Baked, Dry Dock, Hope & Anchor, Margaret Palca Bakes, Lilla Café, Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pies & Phoenix Beverages, sponsored by Phoenix Beverages & supported by Realty Collective & Liberty Industrial Gases and Welding Supply, Inc., 5/5 from 6:30-9 pm, Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition, 499 Van Brunt St., (718) 596-2506, bwac.org. Suggested ticket price \$50; sliding scale tickets \$30-\$150.

Jordan Shapiro Presents 34 Songs about Marriages & Weddings—concert of 34 songs from various genres (bluegrass, old-time, country, folk, rock, funk & Macedonian music), performed by couples, Jennifer Milich, Jesse Krakow, Jordan Young, Max Johnson, Stephen Jacobs, Michael Pasternak, Sarah Alden, Corrina Snyder, Rima Fand, Greg Square & more; all funds go to the Zander Fund, in memory of Shapiro's former piano student, Zander Toulouse (2000-2008), which brings ballroom dancing lessons to Zander's peers & friends PS29, 5/29 8:30 pm, Jalopy Theatre & School of Music, 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Adm \$10.

Rock to Walk: A Benefit for Leo Mark Hodson—with MC Sir Sabrina, host Erin Hodson, Dirty Excuse, Bellewether, DJ Roze-Royze, DJ Noa D, DJ TRX & Ingie Pop, benefiting the rehabilitation of Leo Hodson, 5/13 9 pm, Littlefield, 622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com or leohodson.com. Tickets \$15.

Spring Swing—benefit for Cora Dance, with music by Primitivo, performance from a Cora class as well as a preview of the company's "Prey" fall work, a silent auction & food from The Good Fork, Knife for Hire & others, 5/7 7 pm, VIP champagne dance lesson for those who buy full-price ticket 6:30 pm, rooftop of Rocky Sullivan's, 34 Van Dyke St., (718) 858-2520, coradance.org. Tickets \$100 or pay-what-you-can (\$20 minimum).

MISC

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouseny.com. The 137th Kentucky Derby, with plates by Urban Rustic & \$6 Maker's Mark mint juleps; 1-5 pm: Party Like It's 1999's Steven Reynolds DJs; 3-5 pm: square dancing led by David Harvey & NYC Barn Dance; 5-6 pm: call to post by bugler Ryan Resky & singing of "My Old Kentucky Home" by the Nouvelles, plus prizes for Best Formal Hat, Best Informal

H & Sharp-Dressed Man; 6 pm: derby; 7 pm: live band karaoke with Bunnie England & the New Originals & trophies for most inspiring performances, 5/7 1 pm, FREE. TV Party: *Twin Peaks*, with themed cocktails, a Miss Twin Peaks pageant, backwards-talking contest, fortune telling from the Log Lady & more, 5/9 8 pm, \$5. Sixth Annual Brooklyn Blogfest, with keynote speaker Jeff Jarvis, author of *Wh Would Google Do?*, presenting "Will Blog For Food (or You Can Make Money Doing This!)"—plus networking sessions & after-party, 5/12 7:30 pm, \$15. Muppet Vault: A Little Bit Country, A Little Bit Rock 'n' Roll, with drink specials, trivia & prizes, all ages, 5/14 2 pm, \$8. Party Like It's 1999, 5/20 9 pm, FREE.

Brooklyn Collective—212 Columbia St. (718) 596-6231, brooklyncollective.com. *Spring Fling*, more than 30 new collections by local artists & designers, including Patricia Jo Peacock, Catherine Lauigan, Little Sea Monsters, Sara Pfau, Noble Savage Vintage, Michael Murray, Designnerica, Brooklyn Bowls, Thimali Kodikara, Beautiful Brooklyn Birds, Vigilism, GIRLFAUXPAS, Lighttexture, The Royal Creature, Papertopias, In The Seam, Alexandra Batsford, Design & Labor, Lewis Henry Nicholas, Twig Terrariums, Sunghee Bang, Rachel Goldberg, Kate Hockstein, Catherine Hnatov, elle s'appelle, AshiDashii, Near Modern Disaster, Pippi Hepburn, Jess Yam, Stella Saves the Day, Courtney P. Hewitt & Sovereign Beck, with complimentary cocktails & a surprise musical performance, 5/6 from 6-10 pm. FREE.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Love Is Blind, a cabaret extravaganza featuring The Dating Game for Singles, hosted by Sarah Sims Erwin, with songs by Finsbury Park, Lady Adrienne & the collaborative dance theater group Movementpants Dance, 5/11 7:30. Adm \$5.

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. O'Donovan Rossa Society, 5/4 7:30 pm; World Famous Pub Quiz with Sean Crowley, 5/5, 12, 19 & 26 8 pm. FREE.

MUSEUM

The Waterfront Museum & Showbo Barge—290 Conover St. 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 & Barge "Lighterage Era" (1860-1960) & how food & commercial goods were transported prior to today's bridges & tunnels. Experience the exciting story of the rescue of Barge #79 by a clown & juggler & enjoy the captain's "Serious Foolishness." Displays also include bells, barge models & the audio-kinetic ball machine sculpture by artist George Rhodes th continuously whirls, goes loop-the-loop, plays musical boxes & bounces in mid-air. Stroll in the waterfront garden with views of the Statue of Liberty & the many workboats & 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.

MUSIC

Bargemusic—Fulton Ferry Landing, 2 Old Fulton St., (718) 624-2083, bargemusic.org. Salome Chamber Orchestra, 5/5 8 pm; Steven Beck, piano, 5/6 8 pm; cellist Eric Jacobsen, pianist Steven Beck & Mark Peskanov, violin, 5/7 8 pm, 5/8 3 pm; Olga Vinokur, piano, 5/11 8 pm; cellist Jerzy Wujewicz, pianist Rafal Lewandowski & Mara Milkis, violin, 5/13 8 pm; pianists Rita Sloan, Orli Shaham, Jonathan Feldman & friends, 5/13 8 pm; East of the River, 5/15 3 pm; Rob Schwimmer's "PiaNo Touching," new music for piano & theremin, 5/18 8 pm; Olga Vinokur & David Kalhous, music for piano four-hands, 5/20 8 pm; Shanghai Quartet, 5/21 8 pm, 5/22 3 pm; pianist Liz Magnes, performing original compositions, including "Love in the Afternoon" (composed for Chagal theatre sets) to "Homage to Martin Luther King Jr." & music from "A Journey through C Fish Row," 5/25 8 pm; pianist Victoria Korchinskaya-Kogan, 5/27 8 pm; cellist Raman Ramakrishnan, violist Brett Deubner, pianist Doris Stevenson & violin player Mark Peskanov, 5/28 8 pm, 5/29 3 pm. Concerts \$35, \$30 senior, \$15 students, unless otherwise noted.

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, thebellhouseny.com. Reverend Horton He & Reverend Peyton's Big Damn Band, 5/6 8 pm, \$22 adv, \$25 DOS; Yo La Tengo, 5/10 & 11 8 pm, SOLD OUT; The Feelies, 5/13 8 pm,

SOLD OUT; Chuck Ragan (of Hot Water Music) with Sharks & Sean O'Neill, 5/16 8 pm, \$10; The Felice Brothers, Shovels & Rope & Rig 1, 5/18 & 19 8 pm, \$20; Real Estate, Julian Lynch, Big Troubles & Family Portrait, 5/20 8 pm, \$12 adv, 14 DOS; Booker T. Jones, 5/24 8 pm, \$25; Sierra Leone's Refugee All Stars, 5/28 8 pm, \$20.

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

Jalopy Theatre & School of Music—315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, jalopy.biz. Roots & Ruckus, 5/4, 11, 18 & 25 9 pm, FREE; Rana Santacruz & Radio Jarocho, 5/5 9 pm, \$10; Bayou N Brooklyn Music Festival of Cajun & Zydeco Music, 5/6 & 7 (see Classes/Workshops & Festivals for more info); P Wictor with Greg Klyma, 5/8 8 pm, \$10; Veveritise Brass Band, 5/12 10:30 pm, \$10; Brotherhood of the Jug Band Blues & the Dust Busters, 5/13 9 pm, \$10; Frankenspine & M. Shanghai String Band & Friends, 5/14 9 pm, \$10; Jon Sholle & Bob Jones & Triboro, 5/15 8 pm, \$10; The Homemade Supper Show, hosted by Shaky Dave, 5/17 9 pm, \$5; The Father Book, 5/18 7 pm, \$10; the Gypsy Project & Franglais, 5/19 9 pm, \$10; Debauchery Series: Songs of Sex & Substance, hosted by the Whistling Wolves, with Sheriff Uncle Bob, Alex Battles, JP & the Gilberts, the Birdhive Boys, Jan Bell, the Milkmen & Sons, the Dustbusters, Robin Aigner, the Hillfillies, Bobtown, Hilary Hawke & the Flipsides, the Whisky Spitters & Dr. Caterwaul's Cadre of Clairvoyant Claptraps, 5/20 9 pm, \$10 suggested cover to benefit the Music Maker Relief Foundation; Brooklyn County Fair, with Tom Vollman, Dina Rudeen (CD Release for *The Common Splendor*), Mary Bragg, the Newton Gang & the Ramblers, 5/21 8 pm, \$10, one free Sixpoint Craft Ale with paid admission from 8-9 pm; Steam Powered Hour, hosted by *New Yorker* cartoonist Matt Diffee, featuring comedy, art & bluegrass-ish music, 5/22 7 pm, \$10; Amour Obsur & the Underscore Orchestra, 5/24 8:30 pm, \$5; Jake Sanders with Marko Gazic & the Jake Sanders Quintet with Andrew Nemr, 5/27 9 pm, \$10; Lara Ewen & Kelli Rae Powell, 5/26 9 pm, \$10.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com.; Cinco de Mayo: Banda de los Muertos & Chicha Libre, 5/5 8 pm, \$10; Denison Witmer, Cathlin de Marrais (of Rainer Maria) & the Poison Tree, 5/6 7:30 pm, \$12; Reggae Retro 1st Saturday, 5/7 11 pm, \$15; Kermit Driscoll Quartet featuring Don Bryon, Taylor Haskins & Recombination, 5/10 8 pm, \$10; Ezekiel Honig, Xela DJ set & Borne, 5/12 8 pm, \$8; Overseas, Bizingas & Marika Hughes, 5/17 8 pm, \$8; The Spectacular Superfriends Show, with Adam Warrock & the Ampersands, plus the comedy of Dan St. Germain & a performance by cartoonist Michael Kupperman & His Amazing Friends, 5/19 8 pm, \$10; Littlefield 2 Year Anniversary Party, with yacht rock from Smooth Move, plus Careless Whisper Karaoke, free food & drink specials, 5/22 4 pm, FREE; Ben Allison Band & Darcy James Argue's Secret Society, 5/26 8 pm, \$16.

The Rock Shop—249 Fourth Ave., (718) 230-5740, therockshopny.com. Blasphemy & Bites: Pitom & Gutbucket team up with *The Hadassah Everyday Cookbook* author Leah Koenig for a night of music & snacks, 5/2 7:30 pm, \$8; Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin with Koo Koo Kanga Roo, 5/3 8 pm, all ages, \$12; Wake! Wake! & Jukebox the Ghost with Casey Shea, 5/4 8 pm, \$15; Cinco de Mayo Party with Cordero & Reid Paley Trio, 5/5 7:30 pm, \$10; Ferraby Lionheart, Vandaveer & Two Dark Birds, 5/6 8 pm, \$8 adv, \$10 DOS; Julia Nunes & Allison Weiss, 5/7 7 pm, early show, all ages, \$15; Dax Riggs, late show, 5/7 10:30 pm, \$12; Secret Gordon, 5/9 8 pm, FREE; Jennifer O'Connor, Kara Wilson, Beth Wawerna & Dawn Landes, 5/10 8 pm, \$10; Malajube, Deleted Scenes, Pretty & Nice & Bozmo, 5/11 8 pm, \$10; Dale Earnhardt Jr. Jr., Generational & Deleted Scenes, 5/12 8 pm, \$10; John Vanderslice & Damien Jurado, 5/13 8 pm, \$15; David Ford & John Leffer of Dashboard Confessional, 5/14 7:30 pm, early show, \$10; the Karaoke Underground, late show, 5/14 10:30 pm, \$5; Cara Salimando, 5/16 8 pm, FREE; Cassettes Won't Listen, the Freeze Tag, Turnbull Green, Grimace, Eko & Echoes Alike DJ set, 5/17 7 pm, \$10; Cabinet, 5/19 8 pm, \$10; The Lisps, Schwervon! & the Fancy, 5/20 8 pm, \$10; Her Come the Warm Jets: the Tribute, early show 5/21 8 pm, \$10; Black Onassis & BNXL, late show, 5/21 10:30 pm, late show, \$10; NYC Popfest with Fan Modine, Panda Riot, the Motifs, Silver Swans, Procedure Club, Persian Rugs, Kids on a Crime Spree & the Hairs, 5/22 2 pm, \$12 adv, \$15 DOS; Laura Gibson, early show, 5/25 7 pm, \$10; Noah Chernin Band, Takka Takka & Little Racer, 5/26 8 pm, \$10; The Donkeys & Snowmine, 5/27 8 pm, \$10; Mock Duck & Joanna Erdos & the Midnight Show, 5/28 8 pm, \$8.

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Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Seanchai & the Unity Squad, 5/7, 14, 21 & 28 8 pm; Monday Night Trad Seisiun, 5/2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 8 pm, FREE; Tuesday Night Trad Seisiun, 5/3, 10, 17, 24 & 31, FREE. Call for adm info not listed.

Sugar Lounge, 147 Columbia St., (718) 643-2880. Karaoke Wednesdays, 5/4, 11, 18 & 25 from 8-11 pm; Open Turntable, DJ for a night, 5/7, 14, 21 & 28; El Diablo Robotico, 5/27. Call for times not listed. FREE.

Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover St., (718) 625-8211. Smokey's Round-up, 5/4, 11, 18 & 25 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 & listeners; stage, PA, bass amp, drums, mic & refreshments provided, 5/5, 12, 19 & 26 from 7-10 pm. FREE.

OPERA

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Brooklyn Repertory Opera presents Puccini's *Il Tabarro*, 5/14, 15, 21 & 22 2 pm. Tickets \$25, students & senior citizens \$15.

READINGS

The Bell House—149 7th St., (718) 643-6510, bellhousesny.com. *Popular Science* editor Seth Fletcher discusses his new book, *Bottled Lightning*, the story of the lithium battery revolution th made laptops & iPhones a reality, 5/24 8 pm. FREE.

Littlefield—622 Degraw St., littlefieldnyc.com. Andrew Cotto book release for *The Domino Effect*, with special guests Chris Cubeta, Danny Lanzetta & Better Days, 5/21 from 6-8 pm. FREE.

Rocky Sullivan's—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Last Wednesday Reading Series & Open Mic, a showcase for published writers & a peer review event for new & upcoming writers, with Lisa McLaughlin, 5/25 7 pm. FREE.

Sunny's Bar, 253 Conover St., (718) 625-8211. Sundays Sunny's, with readings from Jim Rasenberger, historian, journalist & author of *The Brilliant Disaster: JFK, Castro & America's Doomed Invasion of Cuba's Bay of Pigs* & *America 1908: The Dawn of Flight, the Race to the Pole, the invention of the Model T & the Making of a Modern Nation*; Nancy Rommelmann, journalist & author of *The Bad Mother*, & Emma Straub, author of *Other People We Married*; curated by Gabriel Cohen & co-sponsored by BookCourt, 5/1 3 pm, with free coffee, Italian pastries & cookies, (cash) bar open. Adm \$5.

THEATER

Falconworks Artists Group—Off the Hook: Original Plays by Red Hook Youth, young playwrights, with the support of professional writers, actors, & directors, present their own plays for an evening of original theater, 5/20 7 pm, 5/21 3 pm, P.S. 15 Patrick F. Daly School, 71 Sullivan St between Van Brunt & Richards sts, call (718) 395-3218, info@falconworks.com or falconworks.com.
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The Red Hook Star-Revue

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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:

RED HOOK STAR-REVUE, 101 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231
718 624-5568 - news tip line 917-652-9128 or emailed to editor@redhookstar.com

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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 June, 2011 - Advertising and Editorial Deadline is Thursday, May 26, 2011.

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