

our Local Beat

news items written and collected by the Star-Revue editorial staff

Pok Pok and Milk

These two highly anticipated entrants to the restaurant scene have arrived to widely differing reviews, at least according to their Yelp pages. Pok Pok, which last month took over the old Pitstop/5 Burro location at 127 Columbia Street has been doing bang-up business. Yelp shows them with 15 reviews - 12 great and 3 terrible. One contributor wrote "What I particularly liked was how the flavor of every dish surprised my palate and everything tasted 'new' and each dish had unfamiliar flavors that were absolutely delicious."

On the other hand, Milk, operated by the Momofuko chain, has garnered 16 reviews thus far, and all but one are negative. Milk recently opened near the Carroll Street subway station. Comments include: "If we are going to live with the complete and overall gentrification of this neighborhood at least serve us food that fits the prices!" Another: "big question: why is there no actual food? They only serve like 3 things, none of which are especially fresh or good." And finally: "overpriced, \$8 pork bun was dry and cold, with no flavor. I had to find out for myself if it was going to be as bad as I was expecting it to be, and it was. The sad ballad of Smith/Court Street: food prices go up, the food is awful, rents go up."

Wine Tasting

A party to taste wines made by Abe Schoener, who runs the Scholium Project, a beacon of nontraditional wine-making in California and Red Hook, Brooklyn, is scheduled for May 2 from 7 pm to midnight at Jakewalk, 282 Smith Street (Sackett Street), Carroll Gardens; \$40 from events@thejakewalk.com, \$50 at the door.

Buschenschank turned down

On Monday, April 23rd the CB6 permit and licensing committee had an unusually large number of sidewalk cafe and liquor applications to consider. Bar Bruno, (Henry and Union Streets), had their sidewalk cafe application approved on the condition that they maintain at least eight feet of sidewalk space, the legal requirement. Marco Polo, who had their cafe permit renewed - one of only two enclosed sidewalk cafes in the CB6 area. Barclay's Center was approved for a liquor license on the stipulation that they set up a community advisory board to monitor ongoing conditions at their new sports and entertainment venue being constructed on Flatbush Avenue. Buschenschank, the new German bistro on Court and Sackett Streets, was not approved. There have been neighborhood complaints about noise coming from their windows, which have been kept completely open during the warmer weather.

PS 15 Spring Events

On Saturday May 5th, the PS 15 PTA will be hosting their annual Spring Flea.

As well as the usual odds and ends and found at the flea market, other treasures there will include activities presented by Cora Dance, Triumph Fitness Kick Boxing, ZumbAtomic Zumba Dancing, as well as many arts, crafts and fitness activities for the children.

The Red Hook Spring Flea will take place in the PS 15 schoolyard on Van Brunt Street between Wolcott and Sullivan Streets. It will operate from 10 am until 5 pm.

Falconworks will be presenting three original plays by three Red Hook students in the PS 15 auditorium the first weekend in May. Falconworks has been presenting "Off The Hook" twice every year since 2004. It is a free program for youths between 11 and 14 who want to write and act in their own plays.

The writers are Jasper Ehrhardt, Hannah Serrano and Triston Stewart. Performances are Friday, May 4th at 7 pm and Saturday May 5th at 3 pm and are free. For reservations call 718 395-3218. More information can be found at www.redhooktheater.org. Falconworks is now taking applications for their fall program.

Mark your calendars for the 3rd Annual Red Hook Family Festival on Saturday May 19th from 12pm-3pm hosted by Puppetry Arts in the PS 15 schoolyard. The event is free and open to the public. Free Gift Bags will be handed out to the first 100 kids. There will be \$1 crafts and activities, \$2 bounce house, \$1 snacks, as well as Shoot the Trooper with Star Wars Storm Troopers as well as many other events, activities and food.

Partners in Preservation

New York City has been selected as the location of the 2012 Partners in Preservation program. Tug Pegasus and the Waterfront Museum Barge have been selected as two of the 40 NYC finalists in line for preservation grants in a program.

Through this partnership, American Express and the National Trust for Historic Preservation seek to increase the public's awareness of the importance of historic preservation in the United States and to preserve America's historic and cultural places. From April 26-May 21 votes can be cast at <http://www.partnersinpreservation.com>. The three organizations with the most votes will receive grants of \$250,000 each.

The Tug Pegasus and the Waterfront Museum Barge urge you to vote for the continued preservation of these historic vessels. Go to either www.waterfront-museum.org or www.tugpegasus.org, enter the "Tug & Barge Raffle," and receive a daily reminder to vote and the chance to win a tugboat trip for two aboard the PEGASUS to view the spectacular July 4th fireworks. Come visit Tug Pegasus and the Waterfront Museum Barge at Partners in Preservation's Open House Weekend Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 from 1 to 5 pm at Hudson River Park's Pier 25 in Tribeca.



In addition to writing and directing the B61 short, Michael Buscemi (r) also stars in it.

Movie News

Spike Lee's independently shot and controversial film Red Hook Summer will hit "as many as 30 markets" beginning August 10, as reported by the L.A. Times. Variance Films will distribute the picture, which Lee shot in Red Hook over 19 days last summer. When asked if Summer would lose any of its more eyebrow-raising material Variance president Dylan Marchetti says the film has "been tightened up a bit since the Sundance showing, but no key scenes have been removed. It's still as powerful and controversial as what you saw at Sundance, if not more so." Along those lines, Marchetti says the film may bypass the MPAA and roll out unrated, but with a warning about content.

Paul Bracco is a Red Hook native and founder of Red Hook Films. His movies can be seen at vimeo.com/channels/redhookfilms. The web site is now featuring "Lovers in London," a movie video for an upcoming artist, as well as various

shorts and trailers. Bracco is an award winning actor and director with much of his company's work also featured online at redhookfilms.com. Red Hook Films is located on Sackett Street.

Among the films featured this year at the Tribeca Film Festival is a short written and produced by Michael Buscemi, Red Hook resident and brother of Steve Buscemi. "B61" is a 16 minute short about three commuters who travel daily on our bus and strike up a tentative friendship reinforced by the trials and tribulations that Buscemi himself has endured as he is a daily commuter.

For the film, Buscemi created a fake bus stop by Steve's Key Lime Pie because renting a real one from the city proved to be too costly. The film has received a positive review from Hollywood Soapbox. Buscemi is hoping to expand the short into a feature length film someday. According to John McGettrick, the movie will be shown at least once during the summer film series at Valentino Pier.

The Red Hook Star-Revue

SOUTH BROOKLYN'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

BETWEEN THE ACTS

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Help Protect Your Beach from Closing This Summer

You Can Help Prevent Beach Closures
Monitor your Near and Offshore Waters

Help Develop an Early Warning Reporting System

Be Part of the Program

Time: 1 to 2 hours after high tide - 20 minutes per week

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection Marine Sciences Section is sponsoring Volunteer Floatables Beach Surveillance for the summer of 2012.

What are floatables?

Floatables are waterborne waste materials that as the name suggests, float. Styrofoam, balloons and fishing line are considered floatables. Raw sewage is floatables. Medical Waste is floatables.

Help save turtles, birds, fish, and other marine life from ingesting these items or from being entangled in fishing lines and other assorted litter.

You do not have to pick up or touch anything. To become a monitor, you just need to record the various types of debris on your favorite beach and/or surrounding waters, once each week during the season.

The New York City Department of Environmental Protection has contracted us to continue to lead this effort and we

need your help in order to be aware of potential floatable problems as early as possible.

Volunteers will receive all materials necessary for the monitoring. This includes letters of authorization and acknowledgement.

For information call (212) 889-4216, email ozonelayerllc@rcn.com

PortSide not done yet

The Star-Revue received this email at presstime: "Thank you for your continued support and interest in PortSide and our programs. We have reason to extend our efforts for a short time beyond our declared April 30th deadline. More info soon."

PortSide began a public relations campaign last February to bring awareness to

their situation of having a ship berthed within the Red Hook Container Terminal which limited their success at being a public museum. This was because to gain access to the ship, located within a high security zone protected by Homeland Security, the public was only allowed access if accompanied by a member of the PortSide staff.

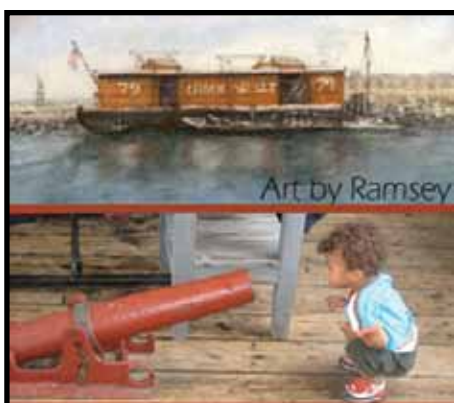
This campaign, consisting of press releases, invitations to the press and a public meeting, as well as personal visits from the PortSide director to a host of community group meetings and events, has resulted in newspaper and print media articles, as well as the donation of a Columbia Street office for the purpose of administration as well as the sale of ship mementos.

In addition, a fundraising campaign to

help pay PortSide expenses was begun.

Originally it was announced that by April 30th, 2012, the Mary A. Whalen, once an oil tanker and now the museum in question, would be shuttered and sold for scrap material were not another location found for it.

The Red Hook Star-Revue will report on future developments as we learn of them.



GREAT THINGS ARE AFLOAT WITH HISTORIC SHIPS

Free Open Boat Tours
Thursdays 4 - 8 pm and
Saturdays 1 - 5pm
School/Camp groups any
day by appointment

www.waterfrontmuseum.org
www.facebook.com/thewaterfrontmuseum

The Waterfront Museum
290 Conover Street
Red Hook, Brooklyn
(718) 624-4719 ext. 11



Bees are buzzing

Ages: Birth to 6 years

*Our staff will provide assistance with vouchers
Preparation for the citywide gifted programs*

- Breakfast, lunch and snack
- Open from 7AM-7PM
- An enriching curriculum for infants/toddlers and Preschoolers
- Nurturing staff
- Transportation available

76 Lorraine Street • Brooklyn, New York 11231

PLEASE CALL TO SCHEDULE A TOUR

718-858-8112