



*Last Saturday saw an onslaught of visitors to Red Hook. We made sure they all picked up the right paper.*

## Justice Center sponsors youth fair

by Matt Graber

On May 8th, the Red Hook Community Justice Center hosted its 3rd Annual Youth Summer Internships and Jobs Fair at the NYCHA Joseph A. Miccio Center. Representatives from a variety of organizations offering job training and youth development programs stationed themselves at tables around the perimeter of the gymnasium to answer questions and hand out flyers.

Among these organizations were the Crown Heights Community Mediation Center, offering the Youth Organizing to Save Our Streets (YO S.O.S.) program, designed to empower youths to tackle problems such as gun violence in their communities; Groundswell offers

75-100 seats in the Summer Leadership Institute, which organizes young people into mural teams that design and paint murals in their communities; and the National Association of Securities Professionals New York offers the Financial and Scholastic Training (FAST) Track Program, a "rigorous nine-month program that exposes talented women and minority high school students to the financial services industry."

A rep from the NYC Department of Youth and Community Development was present with applications for the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP), which "offers work experience,

*(continued on page 6)*

## Father Claudio revives Visitation Church

by Matt Graber

Father Claudio Antecini stands atop a shaking foldout table at the church entrance, pulling down on a jammed bolt lock which he can barely reach even with the assisted elevation of the table. The bolt is being stubborn, and this is making it hard to open the old wooden door out onto the front steps on Verona Street. Finally a younger member of Koinonia John the Baptist - the evangelical group from Italy that has lived in and run the church since 2010 - approaches with a push broom. With practiced finesse, he hooks the broom head to the top of the bolt and pulls down on the handle, and the door swings open. "Beautiful!" Father Claudio cheers as he leaps down from the table.

The Pastor, who in December was ordained for a six-year term at the church, cannot be taller than five-foot-eight, and on this early May morning like any other, he is modestly dressed in black slacks and a beige v-neck sweater and clunky black shoes. His most distinctive feature is the purple birthmark along his left jaw, which almost resembles his native country and which must have played some part in the formation of his sense of humor.

On the church steps, a contractor is measuring the height of the landing at the top step down to the ground. He shakes his head. "The ADA [American Disabilities Act] says that I have to build one foot of ramp for every inch of height," he informs the Pastor. "You're looking at fifty inches, so fifty feet of ramp. It would have to be a zigzag construction that would take up this whole front area, and it would be at a cost." Father Claudio stands rubbing his chin for several seconds. "This is a problem," he says, in his grainy, melodic accent.

### An ambitious plan

Father Claudio is familiar with obstacles and seemingly unsolvable problems. Take Visitation Church as an example. When he and his fellow Koinonia members arrived from Italy, brought in by Bishop DiMar-



*Father Claudio Antecini has made tough choices since assuming the role of administrator in 2010. Graber photo*

zio at the Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn as a last ditch effort, a Hail Mary, if you will (I can't help it), the church was presumed even within the administration to be in its final days. "There existed a general sense that there were few resources to work with," says Robert Choiniere, Director of Pastoral Planning at the Diocese. "You felt like whoever came in would be coming to oversee the church's decline."

Rumors floated among parishioners that the Gothic structure would soon be converted into luxury condominiums. This sentiment of impending doom was backed by convincing evidence. Mainly that by the end of 2010, the church debt had reached almost \$150,000, plus a \$100,000 annual deficit, in addition to deterioration of its physical structure from water damage and general neglect. The parish had been shrinking more or less steadily since the closing of Visitation School and the boarding up of the Lyceum (Visitation Hall) in the 1970s.

When Father Claudio submitted his strategic plan, "Christ Jesus Our Hope," to the Bishop early in 2011,

*(continued on page 5)*

## Also in This Issue:



**Interview  
with new  
police chief**

**page 3**

The **Blue Pencil** LUNAR Revue

**Spoofs page 10**

new original crossword puzzle page 11

**PLUS LOTS MORE!**

**Red Hook  
Immersion  
brings  
crowds!**  
**page 8**





## Table of Contents

|                         |    |                    |    |
|-------------------------|----|--------------------|----|
| Happenings .....        | 2  | Crossword .....    | 11 |
| Newsbriefs .....        | 4  | Dining Guide ..... | 16 |
| NYPD .....              | 7  | Calendar .....     | 18 |
| Dining Out Guide .....  | 18 | Classifieds .....  | 19 |
| Blue Pencil Revue ..... | 10 | Sports .....       | 20 |

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# Happenings Around Our Town

## THURSDAY MAY 17

**Red Hook Initiative** along with Tiwan Burrus and David McCoy invite all youth ages 12-20 and interested adults for special guest **speaker** Datwon Thomas, editor of King Magazine and Global Grind, Inc. Thomas will speak about his career as a hip-hop journalist and his road to success. The event will be held from 5:30-7:30pm at RHI. For more info, contact Tiwan or David at (718) 858-6782.

**PS 15** invites the general public to their **Library Sneak Peak** from 5-7pm. The state of the art library is not finished, but the work that has been completed will be showcased. The Scholastic Book Fair will also be open to peruse and shop.

## FRIDAY MAY 18

**The Red Hook Public Library** is having a free **Book Fair** from 2-5pm at 7 Wolcott St. Sign up for a library card, engage in games and activities and find out about the hottest books of the summer. Donations for the library will be accepted at the Community Justice Center. All are welcome. Bring a friend. Contact Viviana Gordon at (718) 923-8274 with any questions.

## SATURDAY MAY 19

**PS 15 Red Hook Family Festival** featuring Puppetry Arts. In the school courtyard from noon-3pm. Free and open to the public. \$1 crafts and activities, \$2 bounce house and \$1 snacks.

**Friends of Carroll Gardens Library** is hosting their 2nd annual **"Love your Library"** Fundraiser Book Sale from 10am-4pm. Thousands of books from \$1-\$3, readings, art activities, a bake sale and Brooklyn Public Library shirts for sale. All proceeds will benefit the Carroll Gardens branch.

**The Brooklyn Lit Crawl** beer-and-book festival stumbles through 13 venues in Cobble Hill, Carroll Gardens and Brooklyn Heights from 6-8pm. The Lit Crawl consists of trivia contests, book readings, cocktails and other events along the way. An after party will be held at 61 Local (61 Bergen St) at 8pm.

New York City's Premier Park Volunteer Event is taking place in 150 parks in all 5 boroughs. Bring your family out to volunteer in your community park on **"It's My Park Day."** This is a fun day of neighborhood involvement including planting, painting, nature walks and arts and crafts for all ages. To find out details on your closest park, visit [www.ItsMyPark.org](http://www.ItsMyPark.org).

**Kentler International Drawing Space** is holding their 10th annual **benefit** to celebrate their 22nd at 6pm. Enjoy food catered by Kevin's as well as desserts and drinks from Dry Dock, Botta di Vino, Fort Defiance, The Brazen Head, home/made, Baked and Steve's Key Lime Pie. Tickets can be purchased at [www.kentlergallery.org](http://www.kentlergallery.org).

**Brooklyn Studio Tours** presents their 4th annual spring art studio and community tour on May 19-20. The tour promotes local artists in their own environment and allows for a weekend of entertainment. For your free tour map, visit [www.brooklynstudiotours.com/tourmap/](http://www.brooklynstudiotours.com/tourmap/).

**Cora Dance** is holding **Spring Swing Benefit Bash** and Silent Auction at 7pm on the rooftop of Rocky Sullivan's. The benefit will honor Monica Bill Barnes and Marya Warshaw. Tickets are \$100 or pay what you can, (suggested \$20 minimum). For more info, visit [coradance.org](http://coradance.org).

## SUNDAY MAY 20

**Home/made** is having a **garden party** at 6pm to pay tribute to the Red Hook community for all of their support in the aftermath of the fire. Home/made is now open for weekend brunches and lunch daily. They hope to be open soon for full dinner service when their kitchen equipment can be replaced.

## THURSDAY MAY 24

**Celebrate Brooklyn!** presents **Zydeco/Cajun Dance Party** at 7pm at Pier 1 in Brooklyn Bridge Park. Jesse Lege and the Bayou Brew start the show with traditional Cajun dance hall music, followed by Terrance Simien & the Zydeco Experience. There will also be free dance lessons with Jalopy Theater and School of Music and the best food trucks in town.

## FRIDAY MAY 25

**Dance Theatre Etcetera** is hosting **Women's Work Poetry Workshop** at home/made from 6-7pm. The event will be a chance to create original poetry about "women's work" as part of the 19th Annual Red Hook Fest. To submit a photo and story or get more info, visit [www.womensworkproject.com](http://www.womensworkproject.com)



# Thank You Red Hook!

**The Patrick F. Daly PS 15 School PTA would like to profusely thank all of those who came out to the Spring Flea! Your support does wonders for the classrooms of Red Hook's community school!**

Thank you PTA volunteers, PS 15 teachers, administrators and staff, and all the parents, participants, donors, and vendors that joined us for the day: Party Jam, Rocky Sullivan's, Vern's American Kitchen, Swoon Sweets, Added Value, Brooklyn Robot Foundry, Metal & Thread, Tiburon, Everbrite Mercantile, Swilley's Brooklyn Soap Bar, UrbanWoodsGoods.com, Go Global, Visitation Church, Equity Modern, Red Hook Boaters, Live Poultry Clothing, Realty Collective, Lunacy Design, Falcon Works & Occupy Red Hook, Chase Bank, Sandoval's Party Boutique, Pedro & Gail Rivera, Jolene Festa & Ray Rios, Valerie Hill, Erykah Zebe, Justin Wheeler, Saime Bouchikhi, Raquel Kemp, Shandrika Betnea, Aisha Carrillo, Dari Rudjord, Molly Blieden, Diane Kosup, Alexa Rivera, Gwendolyn Clark, Roslyn Chatman, Carmen Brazton, and Tera Petersen.

And a very special thank you to Principal Peggy Wins-Madison & Friends of PS 15, South Brooklyn Bagel Café, The Red Hook Star Revue, Triumph Fitness, Health & Wellness, Cora Dance, Kentler International Drawing Space, ZumbAtomic, Sessions Fit, Rob, Marianne, Megan and Leo Thomas, Frank Harkins, John Daly, Jim Cassaro, Zach Hochkeppel & EMI Music.

The Next PS 15 PTA sponsored flea market will take place in September 2012. For more information, to volunteer, to become a sponsor or reserve a space, email us at [PS15flea@gmail.com](mailto:PS15flea@gmail.com).

For more information about PS 15 visit us online at [www.PS15PatrickFDaly.org](http://www.PS15PatrickFDaly.org).





# A conversation with Jeffrey Schiff

by Matt Graber



The new CO of the 76th Precinct and I recently caught up in his office at the station house on 191 Union Street. We talked about some of his recent assignments and covered a variety of salient topics, including the broken windows theory of policing, an upcoming email system that will facilitate better communication between local police and the community, and choices of facial hair. Here is how it all went down.

*Star-Revue:* So you are coming from the 67, which is a tougher area than the 76. As I understand it you had a leadership role there, but not quite at the level of commanding officer?

Captain Schiff: I was an Impact captain, which is a quasi-commanding officer of a unit. It's not exactly commanding officer but I was in charge of the Impact Unit. At one time it had 110 cops in it. The Impact zone was a mini-precinct; it was self-contained. We had our own vehicles, our own resources and our own crime concerns.

*Does every precinct have that kind of thing? Usually just high-crime precincts. There's usually at least three in every borough.*

*So the city has a certain amount of resources for these Impact units.*

Right. What the Impact does, is it floods uniformed officers into high-crime areas. It helps reduce crime of course, but while they are doing that, the resources they use are the new rookies. In a high-crime area, it can be busy, and that's where they learn their job. On the streets, dealing with people. So it's serving a dual purpose of lowering crime and training new officers.

*So if somebody is new to the force, they get put in a challenging situation right away?*

Yes, but they're not alone. There is always an adjoining force, and leadership is there too with the sergeants and lieutenants. So they are taken care of and mentored appropriately.

*So that means you come to your assignment at the 76 with a background in training cops.*

I was definitely involved in their training. If I saw something lacking I'd have to address it. It could be report preparation or it could be dealing with the community and complaints, because as you know, there is going to be a lot more enforcement activity in high crime areas. And people aren't always happy. There will be people that don't want to be stopped, or don't like the fact that they're being summonsed or arrested. You have a lot of people who bait the officers, so I teach them to have a thick skin. And of course always pushing CPR. That was the main thing. Dealing with the community, having a thick skin, and taking a step back and being professional.

*Were you out on the street a lot at the 67?* Okay, I'm a crime fighter. I like to be out in the streets with my troops. I like to lead from the front whenever possible. And I need to know what's going on out in the streets. The intelligence that I get from my own eyes is

very valuable. I see how my cops are interacting with people and what procedures need to be re-enforced with the officers. That way I can personally address the situation and gage what needs to be fixed. I don't lose touch with the streets, with what the community flavor is.

*I think that the city is engaged in a conversation right now about policing. And you have to look at it from a bird's eye view of what is accomplished. I was impressed at the May 1st meeting when you used the term "broken windows" because it showed me that you've really thought about it.*

One story that I always relate to my officers: I once stopped a person who was drinking a beer. I took his ID and we ran his name, and it came back with a description that matched him, but it didn't match him. It was kind of iffy, if you will. My sergeant said "Make a decision. If you think it's him, we'll bring him in for further investigation." So, this guy was wanted

And so Red Hook in this respect is like a microcosm of the city, which in my opinion is kind of divided into high crime communities where inevitably there's going to be more aggressive policing, and the cuter safer middle and upper class areas. So I feel like the concerns being brought up by people in this neighborhood are concerns that are relevant throughout the city and that we have to have an intelligent conversation about. So I'm glad you're interested in having that conversation.

I am. But you have to understand too that I follow the Police Commissioner's direction and I can't address policy. What I can address are procedures and because I'm the Commanding Officer I can address possible mediation to certain incidents and come to some sort of resolution on a local level here. However when it comes to citywide policy that's beyond me. The PC sets the policy and I will follow whatever he says. Groups that want to address this kind of thing need to address it to

**"I'm a crime fighter. I like to be out in the streets with my troops. I like to lead from the front whenever possible."**

One Police Plaza.

*So with regard to procedure and your background in training officers, what kinds of things have you been doing in the last month to make sure that the tools at your disposal are being used responsibly?*

Well the first thing any new CO needs to do is get the lay of the land, which is what I've been doing. Get to know the personnel and what assets I have here at the precinct level, the men and women, what their capabilities are, what the command has at its disposal. The other one is to find out what the problems are for the precinct and in the community.

*So you're still in the process of assessing?*

Right. And part of it means walking around and talking to people, like I did at the Court Street Fair last weekend.

*You mentioned this email system at the May 1st meeting. Has it been implemented yet, and is it a two-way system where people can contact you or is it just sending newsletters to people that are on a mailing list?*

I want it to be a two-way system. What I'm looking for is I want to let the community know how my cops are doing; what interesting apprehensions we've made, what lives we've saved, what our basic problems are. If we have a burglary pattern, or if we have trouble finding a wanted person.

And it should also be an intelligence gathering tool. Who is doing the bad things? Who is selling drugs? Who's got a drug den, if you will. Who has illegal weapons?

*So is the system something you've innovated?*

Other precincts do it. I was certainly at the forefront of it, the one at the 67 was one of the first. I'm a very technological person, and I saw the potential and tried to utilize it, let's put it that way.

*Have you thought about Twitter as an avenue for communicating with the community?*

I have. But one step at a time. Once I get the email system up and running, then we'll look into other social media.

*So what's the status of the email system now? When can we expect it?*

Hopefully by next month we'll have an official NYPD email account. So we'll have something like 76precinct@nypd.org.

*You were assigned at the 76 previously. What was your previous assignment here and what's it like coming back?*

I got promoted to captain in May 2007 and my first post was here at 76 as executive officer, 2nd in command. Some people still remember me from back then. I'm happy to be back here. It's night and day crime-wise compared to the 67, but the community backed us up there and I'm seeing that happening here. So I'm happy to be back.

*You've gotten compliments in the community about your moustache.*

[Laughter] Really?

*People have taken notice, I've heard things in the coffee shops.*

Is that like a typical prototype of a cop, having a moustache?

*I don't know if it's a cop thing but it's just a popular look nowadays.*

I've had this moustache since I was about fifteen. I shaved it off once when I was 25 just to see what I'd look like and my own mother said "What did you do? Grow it back right now!" And I grew it back.

*Do you feel any sense of competition with John McGettrick of the Civic Association? He's got a slightly more formidable moustache.*

You know, if John wants to go with the old-fashioned handlebar moustache, more power to him. No competition whatsoever.

*That's good to hear because that would be a really difficult thing to top.*

[Laughter] Yes. It would take a long time.

Agreed.

## "Broken Windows" explained

The "Broken Windows" theory of policing was first laid out in a 1982 article in the Atlantic Monthly, and then implemented by subsequent New York City Police Commissioners and in police departments around the country. The theory assumes that people who commit violent crimes are also likely to commit lower level crimes and offenses, such as drinking alcohol or smoking marijuana in public. Therefore, by flooding high-crime communities with police officers and heavily enforcing against these types of offenses, police will put dangerous people behind bars before they get the chance to commit more serious crimes. The stop, question and frisk tactic embraced by the NYPD and Bloomberg administration is the primary method by which Broken Windows is put into practice. This practice is controversial because it targets violent areas, which tend to be populated largely by members of minority groups. Thus we get statistics (like those highlighted recently by the NYCLU) which show that blacks and Hispanics are stopped at significantly higher rates in New York City than whites.



# our Local Beat

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

## Artists move in

Photographer Mirabelle Marden has purchased the building at 17 Dikeman Street for \$1.55 million, according to *The Real Deal*, a real estate news publication. The daughter of minimalist artist, Brice Marden, is moving from the West Village to Red Hook, adding to the star-studded arts community that now calls Red Hook home.

Real estate broker Eva Zurek of the Corcoran Group is quoted as saying that this is the highest price per square foot recorded in the community. He added that Marden wanted to be closer to her friends. Her famous father has sold paintings for close to \$3 million.

The 2000 square foot, four-bedroom, two-bathroom carriage house, at the corner of Otsega Street, was built in 1989 and last sold for \$760,000 in 2008.

## CB 6 requests a bigger role in school planning

Brooklyn Community Board 6 (CB6) sent a letter to the Department of Education (DoE), Mayor Bloomberg and local elected officials in early May, requesting a more meaningful role in all aspects of school planning. In the letter, Daniel Kummer, Chairperson of CB6, made the case that all community boards in New York City - there are 59 of them - have "unique insight and information to offer the Department concerning our respective communities."

In a city as big as New York, it helps to have a community board that understands the specific needs and concerns of its district. But if city agencies do not keep these boards in the loop, there isn't much the boards can do to play a role in important decision that affect the communities that they represent. The community boards were drawn up for the purpose of "agency alignment" between police precincts, firehouses, department of sanitation posts. The boards themselves, which are meant to function as mini city halls.

The letter, which is addressed to DoE Chairperson Dennis Walcott, requests an extension of that working system into the realm of education. The first request urges the DoE to give community boards more of a heads-up before advancing initiatives such as siting new schools, "co-location of schools, truncation of schools and closure of schools." The second request calls for "a more structured approach to planning schools in our communities." Third, CB6 is requesting the DoE "include the community boards in the Education District Planning process," specifically with regard to decisions about district boundaries. "The department's districts are an anomaly with respect to all other city and state service district divisions," the letter states. "Since the Board of Education has become the Department of Education and is operating as a Mayoral agency, we believe the time has come to reexamine what it means to function as a department in City government."

## Realty Collective opens new office together with art gallery

Realty Collective, the creativity-driven brokerage firm, and Brooklyn Gallery are partnering up as of May 19th in a "shared space model," occupying the storefront space that formerly housed Atlantis, and then Everbright Mercantile.

To kick off their new location at 351 Van Brunt Street, (between Wolcott and Dikeman Streets), the new tenants will launch the exhibition, "Lightness, Being," which will showcase the work of four New York City artists: sculptor James Clar, painter Jon Elliot, photographer Rebecca Reeve and sculptor Judith Braun. "We are passionate about Red Hook," says Victoria Hagman, Founder of Realty Collective, which also has a location on Columbia Street. "We've been looking for a storefront location that would meet both our goals of easy accessibility to those in the area, and would fit our business model of community engagement and sustainability." The exhibition will run from May 19th through June 30th.

## CBP Seizes Cocaine hidden in Refrigerated Container at Red Hook Terminal

On May 7th, U. S. Customs and Border Protection Officers from the Port of New York/New Jersey seized nearly 25 lbs of cocaine hidden in a refrigerated container at the Red Hook Container terminal.

CBP Officers from the Port of NY/NJ conducted an inspection with U. S. Homeland Security Investigations agents of containers at the Red Hook Container Terminal, destined for Antwerp, Belgium. While examining a refrigeration unit, CBP and HSI discovered

11 brick shaped objects concealed within the container. The contents of the packages tested positive for cocaine and contained approximately 24.6 lbs. (11.2 kg) of cocaine.

This case is still under investigation and no arrests have been made yet.

## Brooklyn Youth Chorus celebrates 20th birthday

The prestigious Brooklyn Youth Chorus is celebrating its 20th anniversary with a special solo show that will feature works that were written and arranged for the chorus. The performance, called "Soundscapes," will be at Roulette (509 Atlantic Avenue near 3rd Avenue) on Saturday, May 19 at 7:30 p.m. The Chorus, which was founded and is still led by Dianne Berkun, boasts being "the only voice-based after-school music academy in New York City, and one of 'the most sought after children's choruses in the orchestra world.'" The Chorus takes in young people between ages 7-18 and currently has 360 students at its Cobble Hill headquarters, as well as a new facility in Bedford-Stuyvesant and in various public school programs.

## CB 2,6 approve Barclay liquor application with stipulations

CB6, in conjunction with CB2, held two public meetings to discuss the pending liquor application of the Barclay's Center, the new home of the NY Nets basketball team. The application was approved conditionally with five stipulations.

The five requested written plans include:

- A transportation plan which would explain in detail how parking and extra vehicular traffic would be addressed;
- A security plan detailing efforts that will be made to control inebriated fans leaving the stadium;


- A sanitation plan dealing with the management of waste as well as the general cleanliness of the adjacent area;
- A plan to limit alcohol sales to the end of the 3rd quarter of basketball games, and an hour before the end of other events.
- The establishment of a community task force to meet regularly to discuss ongoing quality of life issues.

In a letter to the State Liquor Authority detailing these requests, CB6 chairperson Donald Kummer concludes by saying "It is our sincere hope that the applicant will voluntarily accept all of these conditions, which we view as reasonable and necessary as stipulations to their liquor license."

In a further development, The Empire State Development And Brooklyn Community Boards 2 6 & 8 are holding a public meeting on Tuesday, May 22nd at 6 pm at Brooklyn Borough Hall. Representatives from the Ratner Group will present their Transportation Demand Management plan explaining how they plan to deal with the added traffic they will bring to the area. Contact Arana Hankin by email at [AtlanticYards@esd.ny.gov](mailto:AtlanticYards@esd.ny.gov) with questions.

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# A voice from the past seeking redemption

*On December 17, 1992, the well-respected and widely loved principal of P.S. 15 was killed by a stray bullet.*

*Principal Patrick Daly had been recognized on a national level for being a role model and inspiring his students. He was well known for his close relationships with his students and their families as well as improving academic achievement.*

*He went to the Red Hook Houses to check on a student who had left school early. Daly was caught in the crossfire of a drug related gun battle between three young men.*

*The three teenagers were all convicted and sentenced to twenty or more years in prison. Four lives were shattered and lost in an instant.*

*Nearly 20 years have passed since the tragic shooting of Patrick Daly. And though the community has changed significantly, Red Hook still remembers.*

*On May 3rd, the Star-Revue received a letter from a voice that has been silent for almost two decades.*

*Editor's Note: This letter has in no way been altered from its original context. Other than minor grammatical corrections, nothing was added, changed or omitted from Mr. Bekka's submission.*

Kimberly G. Price, Senior Editor

Dear Editor and Staff,

April 30th 2012

Because I often suffer from bouts of insecurity when reaching out to people in the community, I found myself indecisive with writing this letter to the *Red Hook Star-Revue*. I say this to you because my name is Khary Bekka, and the name may sound familiar to you because I'm one of the defendants in the case of the accidental death of the beloved Patrick Daly.

Around and about the time of last summer of last year for the first time I was shown an issue of the *Red Hook Star-Revue* by a friend at this facility who had the paper sent to him by a relative. I then in-turn brought the *Red Hook Star-Revue* to the attention of my friend and confidante, Mr. David K. Middleton so that the paper and the news of it could circulate amongst the Red Hook community here at Sing-Sing Correctional. As a reader of the *Red Hook Star-Revue*, I can honestly say that I appreciate the paper and its staff for providing the Red Hook community and its extended community which includes many incarcerated men and women who hail from the Red Hook area with valuable and relevant information.

As I began this letter, I realize that I have much to say and express, consequently I wish to start off with making an open apology to the Daly family and the Red Hook Community for my role in the loss of Mr. Daly's life. It's been a tumultuous 20 years for me, as I have been forced to come to terms with my role in Mr. Daly's untimely death. And through this time I often found myself fighting inner and outer battles in search of some sort of understanding to the unfortunate event that took place on December 17, 1992. I need to believe that everything in life happens for a reason, no matter how unfortunate the circumstances of the event may be. And I need to believe that the Daly family and the Red Hook community lost a beloved servant under a divine script. I often carry the weight of the loss of Mr. Daly on my back, as I have a burning desire to make sure his life wasn't lost in vain.

I now write this letter as a man on a social mission to serve my community as well as humanity in itself. And right now I'm more in the mind state of how I can show you better than I can tell you. It was not an easy road for me to travel to get to this point in my life. Though through my life experiences in society and in prison, I've been tested mentally, spiritually, physically and emotionally. Subsequently, through these trials and tests I believe that I have been prepared for the work before me. My story has become a unique one where one should be able to grasp food for thought and food for the spirit through the tale of my experience. And I earnestly believe that there's a place for me to get involved for the betterment process that's taking place in the Red Hook area. While the *Red Hook Star-Revue* has become a major part of my inspiration and leaves me with a source of ideas as I set out on my path of redemption.

My social work has already started here in prison as I have taken steps to educate myself in earning a diploma in Psychology/social work. I'm also in the process of trying to get enrolled in a behavioral science collage course here at Sing Sing correctional facility where I can possibly earn a Bachelor degree before I leave prison. Right now, I'm steady at work with a huge desire to stay active. I believe that the sky is the limit in regards to my potential in the social work field. At the present time there are a few projects I have in the mix where I believe the staff at the *Red Hook Star-Revue* will find interest in and I welcome interaction with any and everybody that should find interest in my mission to serve.

If there's a story of redemption, a story of service, under the will of God I pray that my story is that one. And I hope and pray that the Red Hook community will come to embrace my effort as I continue to take steps towards inner and social change.

Thank you for allowing me the time to intervene in your busy work schedule, and I look forward to your response.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Khary Bekka

## Visitation Church survives under Father Claudio

*(continued from page 1)*

Choiniere admits that the plan struck many in the Diocese as overly ambitious, that it seemed "like a pipedream." "We need a miracle," Father Claudio told me back in April 2011, shortly before Easter weekend. His tone of voice, however, was curiously optimistic.

### The edifice that tells a story

Standing in a church aisle one year later, Father Claudio points reverently to the organization of frescos and stained glass windows that line the east and west sides. "The message comes through the art," he says. "Seven windows on each side. Seven paintings. Seven symbolizes perfection." We speak about the theological meaning of these numbers for some time; of the significance of the number six (less than perfect) and eight (more than perfect). More than perfect, I think. What a striking contradiction. "Christ rose on eighth day, on the second Sunday," he explains.

"None of what you see is by accident," he continues. On the eastern side, the stained glass scenes from the Gospel are deliberately placed there to take in light from the rising sun. They portray the story of the Virgin Mary because, he says, "as the light comes through the window, the light of the world shines through as Jesus came through Mary." On the western side, the setting sun illumines the colorful glass allegories of the Persecution and the Resurrection which, as Claudio puts it, symbolize "Victory." "Here in New York you don't find this kind of church very often, where the art and detail speak theologically in such a way."

The architecture is just as poetic. While the external structure is Gothic, the interior is designed like a boat, meant to resemble the Arc of Noah. "The Irish built it this way," Father Claudio says, referring to the original parishioners, many of whom were dockworkers. With its dark wood-paneled ceiling, which curves upward toward the center where both sides converge, the interior certainly does evoke the sensation of being in a boat or arc.

### Sacrifices made

When the new administrators arrived in

late 2010, they immediately began cutting expenses to bring down the deficit. Father Claudio dismissed the janitor as the Koinonia members took custodial duties upon themselves. This austerity measure alone saved \$50,000 a year, cutting the deficit in half. The group also relinquished most of their salaries and began relying instead on contributions for basic necessities such as food and clothing.

Local contractors like Julio Villafane, who joined the parish as a child in 1959, came in and did pro-bono or discounted work on some of the structural problems. According to secretary and bookkeeper Elsie Tweedy, Visitation Church recovered from its debt in nine months (three months ahead of deadline) mostly through contributions from both current and former parishioners. "People who had left Red Hook years ago, but had not forgotten the church, sent us checks from all over the country," Tweedy says.

Choiniere attributes this unlikely comeback to Father Claudio's community outreach, in spite of the fact that neighborhood demographics have changed and many Catholics have moved out. "I



*A contractor stopped by to consult about replacing the church floor (photo by Graber)*

think he has a great deal of courage to go into an area where there was a sense that [as a Catholic church] we are an island in the midst of a secular sea around us," Choiniere says. "He had a different vision, to come in with a spirit of community organizing."

"We are obviously Catholic," Father Claudio says. "But we are open to everybody with their own experience, to come and share. The people who come from other parts of the city come for an experience."

### An experience

Father Claudio uses the word experience often. Long-time parishioners

*(continued on page 13)*



**May 16 - 31, 2012**



## OPINION: The Next Mayor

by Michael Racioppo

*"The physical design of cities and their economic functions are secondary to their relationship to the natural environment and to the spiritual values of human community"- Lewis Mumford.*

The spiritual values of New York City has traditionally been that of a melting pot. Immigrants, working, middle and upper classes share this city and in the process end up living and working side by side to create a city that has ri-

vals, but no equals, in the entire world. But over recent history New York City has come to be a place not of a melting pot but of division.

### A question of values

Our current mayor is a well known billionaire who has easily financed his own election three times. His values are reflected in the direction he has taken the city. A recent article in the Daily News Brooklyn section described how the black population of New York has declined in every community except for East New York. The reason given by a number of people interviewed for the article is that they had been priced out of every other neighborhood. Some were considering leaving the state entirely.

If this trend continues, New York will become a city of only the wealthy. It

has always had that tendency, but this was ameliorated by city services such as public housing, education and parks that worked to ensure that a healthy mix of classes remained. But this history of what some scornfully call 'social engineering' is in jeopardy.

Take for example the cost of thousands of retiring teachers not being replaced has on our education system and the students who it is supposed to serve. Also the closing of fire houses, privatized parks, layoffs of Child Protection workers while subsidizing the New Yankee Stadium. Or not proposing a single tax increase unless of course you count the increase in fees such as parking meters and tickets, permits and other revenue generators that are more likely to come from and

be felt by the working people of the city.

### It's our choice

As the next mayoral election looms, with the one sure thing being the replacement of the current mayor, we have choices to make. Do we continue gentrifying, becoming a city of uniformity, or do we take action to make living more affordable for the different social classes that every society includes. More than ever, we need to understand this choice, and understand where our next mayor plans to take us when it comes time to cast our vote in 2013. The process is just beginning.

**Michael Racioppo teaches Political Science at Brooklyn College**

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## Criminal Activities

**MAY 1 - 15**

### Car gone

A skilled car thief made off with a 2010 grey Mazda four-door Sedan at sometime between noon on Friday, May 11 and 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 12. The 35-year-old male victim of the theft had parked at Hicks near Congress at noon and his car - worth \$25,000 - was gone the next morning. No broken glass was found where the car had been parked when it was stolen, and there no witnesses. The case is being investigated.

### Lost phone from bag

A woman left her handbag on the railing outside 106 Dwight Street at Red Hook Houses on Friday, May 11 at 4 p.m. She later found the bag in a stairwell, but her photo I.D. and cell phone were missing.

### Indecent robbery

Three masked robbers held two construction workers up at gunpoint near a job site on Huntington Place, on Friday, May 11 at 11:35 p.m. The three perps, wearing masks, led their victims into a nearby yard and made the construction workers remove their pants and shoes, taking their cash and cell phones.

### Obscene robbery

A young woman was mugged by a known perpetrator on the 100 block of Conover Street on Tuesday, May 8 at 3 p.m. The victim, 17, reported that the male perp, 18, approached her and stuck his hand in her pocket, removing her iphone. When she attempted to take it back, she reported that he said, "I will beat the sh\*t out of you. I will f\*ck you up." The perp is now wanted by the police.



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# Letter from Home/made

Dear Friends,

We've spent the past month telling everyone who would listen how extraordinarily grateful we are to be part of the Red Hook Community and how exceptionally kind, generous, and amazing our neighbors and friends are.

Tonight, we finally have time to sit down and tell YOU how much we appreciate your generosity of spirit, and of pocketbook (!!), your kind words of encouragement, and your elbow grease that helped us rebuild home/made. Please understand the whirlwind that this past month has been, and accept our heartfelt apologies for not writing sooner! You were always on our minds!

This unfortunate turn of events for us has given us new perspective about Red Hook. We always loved the neighborhood and were committed to it, but the way we found incredible support from all of you has changed us forever. Never in our wildest imagination did we think that Red Hook would come through for us in the way that manifested. The unexpected volunteerism to scrub the soot from everything, paint everything, install windows, replace sheetrock, fix electrical outlets, fix plumbing, etc. was astounding. Every single restaurant offered kitchen space if we needed it! So many of you stopped by and said, "I have two hours, what do you need?" We could not have survived if Red Hook didn't come to our aid.

To date, we are open again for weekend brunch, daytime continental breakfast and lunch. We still await opening for dinner service until we can fully rebuild our kitchen equipment, aka insurance to come through. Until then, we wait, plan, and hopefully bring you a respite from your daily grind. Our couch is your couch, Kitten Coffee purrrcolates, and there's a home baked treat with your name on it, the garden awaits you!

In the name of thanks and to convey our gratitude we'd like you to join us in celebration of you and this spectacular community with a garden party on Sunday May 20th at 6pm. Come by to raise a glass with us and toast each and every one of you who have helped make this possible. It will be a great way to round out the weekend as Cora Dance and Kentler Gallery have their fundraisers and Kerry & Sarah get married. The perfect way to end a weekend that represents everything that Red Hook is about!

We hope to see you there!

These words are genuinely insufficient!

All our love, Leisah & Monica, Monica Byrne, Chef, Roquette Catering  
[www.roquettecatering.com](http://www.roquettecatering.com)

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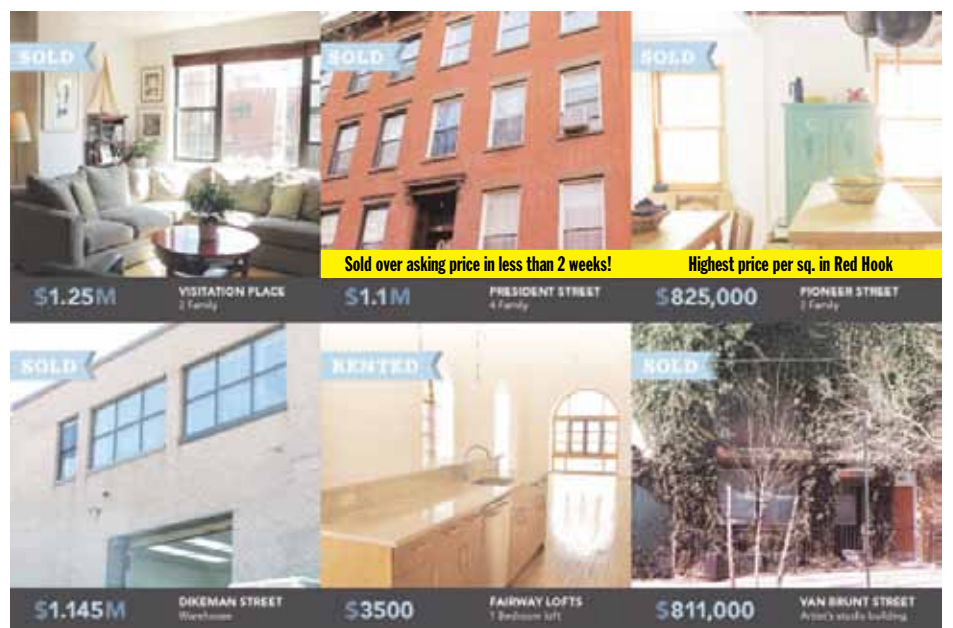
Many people have discovered what we've known all along, that Red Hook is the greatest place to live! We should know - we live here too!

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# Red Hook Immersed



The Ice House backyard was packed with happy revelers



Elizabeth Kerck and Adam Briggs who live together in the Heights flank their friend David Coe, who traveled to Red Hook from his Park Slope home



Botanica's bartenders were busy mixing drinks all day

**M**ay 12th was a beautiful day in Red Hook: blue skies, plenty of sun, a perfect day for the Total Red Hook Immersion. The event put together by Brooklyn Based bringing people from all over to enjoy our special "harbor front town" as they called us on their website.

These "Immersion" are events coordinated by Brooklyn Based and they visit different Brooklyn neighborhoods on a regular basis. Brooklyn Brewery and Realty Collective sponsored the event.

The Total Red Hook Immersion began at Rocky Sullivan's, where Nicole Davis, founder of Brooklyn Based, gave out special cards entitling participants to a free beer at the Ice House, Rocky Sullivan's, Fort Defiance and Botanica. In addition, the card offered special discounts at home/made, The Good Fork, The Lobster Pound, Steve's Authentic Key Lime Pie, Metal and Thread, Foxy and Winston and Tiburon.

Following, an after-party was held in conjunction with the Bayou Festival at Jalopy Theater and School of Music.

Tiburon reported 15 customers in their store at one point – many spending money. The Ice House backyard was filled to capacity. Denise Carbonell of Metal and Thread reported one of the best days they've had, and Lynette Wiley of Jalopy reported a sold-out house for their Cajun Festival as well as much more than double the bar business they have ever had at their still new tavern next door.

With the spotlight on Red Hook and cooperation of many local merchants Brooklyn Based provided economic and entertainment boosts to the business community as well as an adventure filled day for the participants.



Rena Fried and Zainab Nizam showed up to the rooftop of Rocky Sullivan's as a result of Brooklyn Based emails.



These brothers from Michigan came to Red Hook via their one brother who lives in Brooklyn

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# The Blue Pencil LUNAR Revue

A spoof publication of the Red Hook Star-Review, no information below is meant to be true or offensive.

## President expounds than expands social policy

by Paris Harris

President Obama was in town on Monday to give a commencement address to the graduating class at Barnard College, a women's college at Columbia University. Obama himself attended Columbia as an undergrad. The proud parents of this year's class were expecting a tasteful mixture of reminiscence about his days as an idealistic young man in the early 80's, peppered with a message of optimism and some sound advice.

So it came as a surprise to everyone present, and to the nation as a whole, when the president began passing out free birth control tablets to members of the audience.

"It was the last thing that I could have seen coming," said Tiffany Santangelo, who graduated cum laude with a double-major in psychology and political science. "One moment

he was telling us to be open-minded about our careers and to not put all of our eggs in one basket; and the next moment, he was pulling a basket from behind the podium and reaching in and pulling out packets of pills."

As he threw the packets of Sprintec (a generic brand of birth control pill) into the first few rows of speechless Barnardians, he cried, "Your eggs are your own and it's your decision, but if I were in your position, personally, I'd take this time to have some fun and build up your careers." The president then added, "You only get to be in your twenties once! So just enjoy it while you have it!"

### Mad onrush

At first, most audience members didn't move and seemed shocked. But after a few young women began picking up the packets, suddenly the whole crowd was rushing to the stage

where Obama stood with an ear-to-ear grin on his face that exemplified his ability to be at once sinister and graciously paternalistic.

Because the seating was arranged alphabetically based on major, the art majors and the anthropology majors faired the best, while the urban studies majors seated way in the back clearly were shortchanged.

When things calmed down, Obama spoke again. "I want all of you high-achieving females to feel empowered, and to feel free to pursue your chosen careers and aspirations. And that would only be hindered by pumping out a bunch of babies."

Members of the Republican opposition and conservative pundits were surprisingly silent on the issue. Very few jumped to criticize Obama for his unorthodox and potentially divisive act. Some analysts have speculated



The president is all smiles as are the graduating seniors after receiving their free gifts.

that this is because the Republicans view the president's move as an unintentional shot in the foot. By promoting and even facilitating birth control among Barnard graduates, the president, some might say, has underhandedly advanced the sterilization of the liberal elite.

### Unintended consequences

"Less Barnard babies means less Democrats,"

said one Republican insider who wishes to remain anonymous.

Rush Limbaugh was one of the only pundits to tackle the issue on Tuesday. "Go ahead!" he shouted into his microphone during his morning segment. "Give everyone in Manhattan the pill for all I care! Our country will be better for it!"

No one is entirely sure what the president's motivation was on Mon-

day, or what this will mean in the coming November election.

After the ceremony, while riding in a helicopter en route to JFK Airport, where Air Force One awaited to take the president back to Washington, Obama insisted that the pilot land the chopper at the Coffey Street Pier. "I'm not leaving without one of those lobster rolls that they make here," he was heard saying.

## Even dumber short articles

### Ostriches scare Hammerman

A new species of talking ostriches were spotted strutting down Richards Street during the first weekend of May, asking for directions to IKEA. Traveling in packs of six - with one female and five males per pack - the imposing birds were sneered at by locals and told to go back to the background set from the Wizard of Oz. Not having a sense of irony, some of the ostriches took this the wrong way and began to ridicule the locals for having "too narrow a worldview" and living "in a universe the size of a city block." Several were derided by cyclists for taking up the bike lane, forcing the riders to risk heavy fines for riding on the sidewalk. All hell broke loose when

one of the male ostriches began squawking libidiously at CB6 District Manager Craig Hammerman, who happened to be walking by on his way to Cora Dance Studios for a private Zumba lesson. "It was very alarming," Hammerman said later. "I mean, I was flattered, but the look in that bird's eye will haunt my dreams."

### Stranger than Madonna's toast

Local toddler Sandra Finckelstein blew everyone's mind last week after pointing out a semantic fallacy that, though obvious to her, we as a culture have been blind to for uncountable generations. Her profound observation occurred at approximately 1:30 p.m. in the meadow at Red Hook Park where her brother, George,

was having his second birthday party. Sandra, who is three years old, overheard someone say that George had just turned two that day. "You can't turn a number," she interrupted. Everyone at the party suddenly became quiet, and according to several eye witnesses, the balloon artist began to weep, so moved was he by the brilliance of this little girl. Sandra's parents, who were not present at the event as it fell on the same day as the premier of The Avengers, have declined to comment.

### Huge problem

Arnold Toynbee, 3rd Street resident, was found wandering Smith Street last Tuesday in search of an open bar. Problem was it was 5:30 in the morning.

## Blue Pencil Classified Ads

To place your own ad in our next issue, please go see a shrink because you are obviously out of your mind.

Please submit your ridiculous classifieds to [editor@redhookstar.com](mailto:editor@redhookstar.com)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**John McGettrick**, President of the Red Hook Civic Association, has formally requested zoning changes from the Land Use Committee of Community Board 6 in the hopes of adding a new installation to his moustache.

**House Manager of Star-Review** stubs big toe.

**First American chicken** orbits the moon, beating Russia.

**Study reveals that nipples** on males may have evolved so that would-be mortal enemies could bond by giving each other titty-twisters.

**Community Council President Jerry Armer** was overheard talking on his cell phone in line at the bank uttering the phrase, "Sometimes a cigar is just a cigar."

### WANTED:

**Looking for someone** with a vacuum cleaner, handcuffs, and a lot of free time. Reply [boredgirl82@redhookstar.com](mailto:boredgirl82@redhookstar.com)

**As many cats as possible**, for a performance art project entitled, "I've got pussy hair all over me." Reply to [tucker.treehouseanarchist@redhookstar.com](mailto:tucker.treehouseanarchist@redhookstar.com)

**Blind bus drivers** to reroute the B61 on logical path. Must have talking stopwatch and moderate sense of direction. Contact [MTAsucks@redhookstar.com](mailto:MTAsucks@redhookstar.com) for more info.

**French tailor** who provides freshly baked goods while altering clothing. Must be able to expand waistlines with precision in high pressure situations. Call (718) MAG-KLOT if interested.

**Elderly artichoke** desperately seeking a heart transplant. Please submit blood type and DNA samples online at [www.bluepencilunatics.com/vitalorgans](http://www.bluepencilunatics.com/vitalorgans).

### FOR RENT:

**12-gallon John D. Stetson hat** with authentic bald eagle feather and smells like cow dung. \$3-per gallon, per day. Reply to [midlifecrisiscowboy@redhookstar.com](mailto:midlifecrisiscowboy@redhookstar.com)

**Clingy unemployed boyfriend** for rent. Will pay competitive nanny's salary for entertainment. No experience necessary. Interested parties contact: [get.a.life@redhookstar.com](mailto:get.a.life@redhookstar.com)

**Black and gold leopard** print panties. I only wear them for football season and by this time of year I've moved on to my Mets undies. For price listings, email: [TMI@redhookstar.com](mailto:TMI@redhookstar.com)

### MISSING:

**Purple People Eater's** pink polka dot parasol. Please apply postage and properly process to Peggy's Plump Pajamas, 101 Union Street, Brooklyn, NY 11231

**Candle scent** has been lost. Please send vanilla, apple-cinnamon or lavender fragrances to [unscented@redhookstar.com](mailto:unscented@redhookstar.com).

**A ship.** Someone said mine was about to come in, but it never arrived. 76<sup>th</sup> precinct unable to find a lead. Please report suspicious behavior to [CaptainNaive@redhookstar.com](mailto:CaptainNaive@redhookstar.com)

**My pen.** Did someone take my pen? I know I had it just a few days ago. Please return to [doyouhavemyphen@redhookstar.com](mailto:doyouhavemyphen@redhookstar.com)

**Fuzzy slippers** and a nightcap. I understand that joining AA means no drinking, but why did they have to take my fuzzy slippers too!?

### FOR SALE:

**Two teenage twin boys.** Wreckless, senseless and stressful. New owner must have early death wish and not mind utter filthiness. \$10 for both. Email: [uptomysgills.intestosterone@redhookstar.com](mailto:uptomysgills.intestosterone@redhookstar.com)

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**Authentic 1980's spandex.** Stretches like brand new despite multiple, (possibly hundreds), of washings. To view photos, email [George@redhookstar.com](mailto:George@redhookstar.com)



TIME CAPSULE

by Vince Musacchia



Last Issue Answers

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Art by Ramsey

Photo Credit: Etienne Frossard

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

The Red Hook Star + Revue crossword

TWO CLUES TWICE

by George Fiala

ACROSS

- 1. Patrick Daly School
- 10. Open one's mouth
- 15. Describing Visitation's ceiling
- 16. Reason for innocence
- 17. Grown old
- 18. Part of wood that goes into a mortise
- 19. Piece of wood under a golf ball
- 20. Shout for calling pigs (var)
- 21. Star Trek's 7 of 9 is an example
- 22. Trains (abbr)
- 23. They raise children
- 24. Gospel song by Yolanda Adams
- 30. Design it in hopes of winning the job
- 31. How to keep the electric on
- 34. Final letter of Greek alphabet
- 39. Height times width in a rectangle
- 40. Checked an online rumor
- 41. Glistening drop sometimes under one's eye
- 42. Org. for lawyers
- 44. \_\_\_\_\_-lease, WW2 program
- 45. Part of an ancient millstone
- 46. Horny goat-man
- 48. Latin word for God
- 49. Notes representing debt
- 50. Russian pancakes
- 51. Middle Eastern guitar
- 52. TV news analyst
- 58. Spanish aunt
- 59. WCBS radio will play one
- 60. Walking up this is a frequent June happening
- 61. Kind of cup
- 62. You rob him to pay Paul

DOWN

- 1. You can buy one at Caputo's
- 2. A scornful look with an extra 'e' at the end
- 3. New York's \_\_\_\_\_ (man in blue)
- 4. Kind of storm
- 5. Parker (TV hero)
- 6. Sold at Mezcal's
- 7. Sword
- 8. Anglo-Saxon slave
- 9. Income after expenses
- 10. Fellini film
- 11. Roman class of citizens
- 12. First number - German and English (2 words)
- 13. Halt mission
- 14. County of Brooklyn
- 21. Handle with \_\_\_\_\_

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- 23. Orange seed
- 25. Used to store digital photos (plural)
- 26. Also
- 27. Charged particle
- 28. Point A to Point B (abbr)
- 29. Psychedelic drug
- 31. New England football team
- 32. Question when playing tag (3 words)
- 33. Give birth to Saddam's son (2 words)
- 35. Shape
- 36. Same as 7 down
- 37. Latin word for knee
- 38. In MySpace they thanked you for these
- 40. Toxic compound used as a weapon of mass destruction
- 42. Rare disease
- 43. Hire one day at a time (2 words)
- 46. Resembling Gordon Shumway (2 words)
- 47. We \_\_\_\_\_ what we can. (2 words)
- 52. Same as 26 down
- 53. Space between
- 54. Hurry (Old English)
- 55. Time Zone (abbr)
- 56. Strong beer
- 57. \_\_\_\_\_ Spiegel (German magazine)



# Bayou n' Brooklyn Rocks Jalopy

by Kimberly Gail Price

Southern Louisiana connected with Columbia Street for the weekend. Talented and well-known Cajun, Creole and Zydeco musicians gathered to pay tribute to traditional French music. But it wasn't just the music that reached the spectators. Maybe it was the southern hospitality that drew me in. Or the authentic Cajun gumbo. Either way I was quickly drawn into the scene, even though I was only there to finish up a quick assignment.

Cajun music is a combination of French mixed with traditional country. It originated in the small towns in the southern bayous in small towns. Friends, neighbors and family would gather on porches to celebrate a Saturday night. Guitars, fiddles, banjos, accordions and washboards accompanied dancing, singing and general merriment.

Jesse Lege, of "Bayou Brew" spoke of his early childhood learning music, listening to boxing on his grandfather's transistor radio and small town Louisiana. A relative set down a guitar, and Jesse picked it up



Jesse Lege

for the first time. Several years later, after mastering the harmonica, he picked up an accordion and knew right away how to make it sing. He also plays the mandolin, steel guitar, drums and other various instruments.

## Not the same wind

Jesse told me a story of how he seldom plays the harmonica anymore. But one afternoon while he was on the road, he found one buried in his truck. He rolled down the windows and played the harmonica the

entire way to his destination. "I don't have the same wind in me I used to," he says in his thick Cajun accent, "but I can still play."

Al Berard, known familiarly as "Ryook", (meaning little runt), makes his living playing Cajun and French music out of Louisiana. He started playing guitar at age 11 and also plays the mandolin, piano, drums, harmonica, banjo and fiddle. However, he claims his first love – the guitar – is his same love. "I meet God when I play



Al Bernard

an instrument. And my job is to deliver love."

Al has "pockets of people" all over the country that play with him, but still resides in a small town within five miles of all three of his daughters in Cecilia Louisiana. During sets, Al did his famous fiddle playing and recounted stories from



Forest Huval

bayou country.

## The youngster

Forest Huval was the youngster of the festival. He started playing guitar six years ago, spending the first year fiercely studying all he could learn from band mate and confident Al Berard. He was a fresh face among the seasoned musicians that played Bayou n Brooklyn. After only a short time playing music he is now competent with the accordion, the harmonica and plays lead fiddle. He plays in restaurants and dance



Children were welcome at the Bayou Festival

halls around Cecilia, Louisiana. He is also working towards a biology degree at the University of Louisiana Lafayette.

Forest grew up listening Bruce Springsteen and Jason Fry, but when he started playing, "the nearest thing was Cajun music." In addition to playing guitar and singing with Al, Forest also enjoys sports, insects, animals and his six Diet Cokes a day. The Bayou Brooklyn Festival was his first trip to New York.

Deborah Moniux was the curator the entire festival. She incorporated this genre's top musicians bringing the very best to Jalopy. Although she is modest about her musical talents, she has studied fiddle with Al. She also produced the Atlantic Antic Street Fair and the Cajun Music series at Dixon Place Lounge. Deborah brought the Bayou n Brooklyn back to Jalopy for its second year in a row. She spoke lovingly about the music and was "humbled to be working with the best southern Louisiana musical talent."



Michael Luwisch was one of many who attended all three days

The music ended before I was ready to put my dancing shoes away.

**Jesse Lege and Bayou Brew will be performing at Celebrate Brooklyn! At Pier 1 on May 24 along with Terrence Simien and the Zydeco Experience. Jalopy will be offering free dance lessons. But if you missed Al Berard and Forest Huval, you may just have to wait until next year's Bayou n Brooklyn Music Festival.**



Curator Deborah Moniux with George Fiala of the Star-Revue



The benches that normally front the stage at Jalopy were all removed to accommodate the crowds who came to dance

## A first-timer's impression of Jalopy

By Ethan Donway

Jalopy hosted the second annual "Bayou Brooklyn" music festival featuring three days of Cajun and Zydeco music, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday May 11-13. This is the "Bayou Festivals" second year. During the day were workshops with titles like: "I Love Fiddle For Kids." At nine the bands and dancing started. On Saturday night: "C'est Bon! Cajun Dance Band" played followed by "Johnny Ace & Sidewalk Zydeco" and then, "Forest Huval, Al Bernard and High Bidders."

I went the first night. The event was sold out; every inch of space was packed with dancers and drinkers. The revelers even spilled out onto the sidewalk. A group of guys in lawn chairs outside the entrance were having a folksy jam with banjos, fiddles and accordions. The atmosphere was friendly. I got the impression that a lot of the people in attendance were regulars because a lot of them already seemed to know each other.

It is clear that the people at Jalopy take what they're doing seriously; this is an establishment run by people passionate about music. Those people are Lynnette and Geoff who have become fixtures in the Brooklyn music scene.



# Visitation Church

(continued from page 5)

ence often. Long-time parishioners commented last year on Koinonia's musical, participation-oriented style of worship. John Savarese, who grew up on Beard Street and attended Visitation School, remarked last year that the services felt free-spirited. "When I was growing up everything was so strict," he said. "You couldn't even talk in church, never mind sing." An evangelical style can be compelling even for a person outside of organized religion such as the writer of this article. The candlelight vigil held on the last two Holy Saturdays, in the dark yard beside the western facade of the church, is a powerful communal experience. No atheist, no matter how devout, is immune to the stirring of emotion that comes from standing amongst a hundred people in a circle around a fire, on a pitch black night, holding can-



The interior of the church was built to resemble a boat, symbolizing the Arc of Noah.

dles and repeating devotional phrases. Sitting in the rectory, Father Claudio tells of an artist who had come from Paris to work on a project in Governor's Island. Wandering around Red Hook this past Holy Saturday, the artist saw the fire

emanating from the center of the circle of parishioners, and surprised himself by entering into the circle. "He spent all of Easter with us," Father Claudio says. "He was so touched. He had an experience." With the church saved for the time being, work remains to be done. Father Claudio highlighted some of the needed improvements in a recent letter to friends of the church. They include replacing the floor; building a ramp for people with disabilities; reaching out to more people in the neighborhood and providing food for those in need of it; creating more religious education courses; and restructuring the basement to accommodate more people for dining, a project that will cost thousands of dollars. Now that Father Claudio has a secure job at the church for the next six years, he can think about even more ambitious goals, such as renovating and reopening the Lyceum, likely a million-dollar project. Visitation Church is located at 98 Richards Street (off of Verona) and can be reached at (718) 624 1572. Call for information on events and services.


## A 60 second history

Built in the mid-18th century by the mostly Irish and Italian maritime workers whose families populated the area, Visitation Church was for decades a vital community center in addition to being a place of worship. Generations of Red Hookers attended Visitation School (which closed in the 1970's and is the current site of the Red Hook Community Justice Center). And the Lyceum, (also called Visitation Hall) located just down the block, had a gymnasium and was used for all kinds of events. When Red Hook began to decline following the construction of the BQE in the 40's and 50's (isolating it) and the containerization of the shipping industry in the 70's (eliminating dockworker jobs), the church declined along with the neighborhood as a whole.


The Lyceum was boarded up along with the school, and in the 80's it was often infiltrated by addicts and used as a crack house. Most of the descendants of the original parishioners moved to other parts of Brooklyn, Staten Island, New Jersey and beyond. Much of the parish at Visitation Church is composed of members of Red Hook's Hispanic community, who live in Red Hook Houses as well as in the Back, and Italian and Irish descendants of the earlier generations of parishioners.

Continuing to build up the congregation is perhaps the most critical step toward long-term stability. Although this year's Easter celebrations brought in about 520 participants compared with last year's services - which were in the 400 range - there remain lots of empty seats which Koinonia members hope to fill.

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# A complete Red Hook life and she even saw Sinatra

by Mary Anne Pietanza

My mother was the greatest storyteller I ever knew. Complete with demonstrations, animations, sound effects and facial expressions, she held us children captivated many an afternoon or evening with myriad stories of her life. It was the greatest gift she gave us, particularly during our confinement days in Red Hook when the neighborhood went bad. On breezy spring afternoons or long winter nights when we were bored doing multiple hours of homework, she was a refreshing break as the boxes of Uneeda Biscuits and Lorna Doones came out of her secret stash from the china closet and we sat around the kitchen table knowing that our chit chat was eventually going to turn to her life stories. It didn't matter what she told us, it was just the way she described everything. Dialogue, emotions - everything was put into them.

Anna was born during the midwife era of delivering babies in the early twenties to immigrant parents of Gaeta from the province of Rome on the Bay of Naples. This was the first of many Red Hook addresses that she lived in. The reason for these multiple moves was due to the playful nature of herself and her siblings who apparently ran around and played with gumption. Her accurate description was, "We were always being kicked out by the landlord because we made too much noise!"

One day my grandfather took a job offer in Boston, where another extension of his Gaetani family lived. Here, she empathized, was where the kids were free to be kids in a similar city environment, yes, but with ample playing areas. The several years they spent there brought them back saying things like "tonic" for soda and developing a New England accent, something that was quite noticeable to the other kids in the neighborhood. The family's return permanently settled them in Red Hook. Seven kids and two parents managed to live in a three-room apartment during different developing stages of childhood. She set forth images in our minds of seven beds lined up like an infirmary in their large middle bedroom. Here my mother recounts stories of losing her father to kidney disease and having to work in the pearl factory in Bush Terminal to provide for her siblings, the youngest being just a baby. Her co-workers at the factory eventually became her social network of single women, (spinners as they were called), who took to "bobby-soxing," picnics, and many afternoons spent at the Brooklyn Navy Yard waiting for the naval ships of returning sailors. Through this, many romances developed between her younger sisters and military suitors, but unions came about with longshoremen and blue-collar workers, too. Not for her, though. Not right away, anyway. Her stories centered around boyfriends stricken with devotion for her younger sisters who were fiercely shielded by their widowed, forthright mother who tossed anything out of her third floor window to shoo the lovesick boys away who were calling for their girls

from the sidewalk below.

Her coming of age years, while economically trying, was memorably her most meaningful ones. She lived through the Depression, spending solid time in long lines waiting to purchase bread. Meat was lost to beans for protein. People fought over a penny found on the streets. Joblessness was at a historical high. During World War II, a decade later, deprivation found itself living back home with her family when war rationing started in the early forties. Even if one could afford to buy in abundance, it was not allowed. Food-rationing stamp books allocated each permitted purchase of things like sugar, coffee, meats, cheese, and bread - all items held hostage in a world food shortage. Even shoes, bikes and gasoline were rationed. Nylon stockings, the latest fashion item, were quickly taken off the market to use the material instead to make parachutes and tents. In patriotic fashion, she frequented the Brooklyn Navy Yard to greet returning servicemen and support the WAVES and the WACS, both women's military divisions that she would have joined had she not needed to support her family, especially since her younger brother, Dominick, was drafted into the Army.

## The unwelcome blind date worked

Her spinster days, as she referred to it, were the best of her youth; so much so that at the age of 28 she suffered a personal tragedy when my grandmother announced plans for a set-up with a young man. Stricken with disbelief, my mother refused my grandmother's motives, but ultimately gave in. Turned out Francesco was kinda cute. They were married in a winter wedding the day after Christmas. Poor as they were in the forties, a bride is, after all, a bride but once. Her elaborate satin and appliqué gown with sixteen foot train hugged her full body with wholehearted beauty. Her permed, mousy brown hair and contagious smile told the true story of her happiness that day, as she waited to "tie the knot." Their reception was at a hall where a football-style celebration ensued when wrapped sandwiches were



Ana was married at Visitation Church



Annawas one of the many who thronged to see Sinatra in 1944. Photo NY Daily News

tossed across the room to guests - very informal, but very common in those days. They honeymooned at the Hotel St. George in Brooklyn Heights, one of the only hotels in the country with a large, indoor salt water pool. In their day, it was quite prestigious, sporting a three-tier water fall and grand ballroom. My mother's married life took some adjusting to because she so loved and missed her social time with friends out and about in Red Hook and the surrounding areas. Memories of riding the trolley and the elevated, and boxes of black-and-white photos showed her with friends at pools, parks, picnics, bridal showers, theaters, and the Navy Yard - a long, lost life. But she parlayed her enthusiasm and energy for Red Hook into the immediate little worlds of her small children. My mother loved Red Hook so much that one would have thought that she was the stork itself that released the little bundle of city dwelling seedlings over South Brooklyn that eventually grew into Red Hook's age of stardom in her day. Changes were beginning to take place, but she turned a blind eye to them, as if by doing so, they would eventually go away. Deep down, though, she knew the inevitable, so she made sure to let us experience the better half of Red Hook, before it was too late. We played in Coffey Park and swam at Red Hook Pool. She took us to Visitation's Bazaars yearly where we met Officer Joe Bolton on one occasion. On Sundays, after Mass, we would find her "dolling up" with her Avon lipsticks and perfumes that lay on a mirrored tray atop her dresser as she gave us all a heads up to get ready to go to the movies. Her love of movies brought us immense pleasure as we sat through double features, intermissions, and cartoons. She knew every actor and all their life stories, and...who died.

At Christmas time my mother gathered us all to board the cross-town bus to go and see the beautiful A & S Department Store's Christmas window displays. The crowds gathered in large numbers as we moved from one display window to the next and she would hoist us up if we couldn't see above the bigger kids or adults. Looking back I realize it was straight out of a scene of Normal Rockwell as we watched animated figures of Santa, elves and reindeer knee-deep in preparations for Christmas Eve, while we were clad in winter coats, hats and

gloves in wide-eyed wonder, as snowflakes playfully landed on our shoulders. But the real religious wonder she brought us to was the life-size Nativity set upon the Red Hook piers.

She also complemented my father's seriousness with her vibrant smile, optimistic outlook and childlike innocence. An innocence that kept her loyal to Red Hook during its demise, and one that saw promise on the horizon when she welcomed and patronized the early beginnings of gentrification. I remember when she called me one day in the 90's to let me know that Polish people moved in on the block. There was still hope to turn things around; newcomers were abound! She saddened at people leaving the neighborhood, but scoffed at them if they tried to persuade her to move. "What? You want me to live in the 'country' with dead people?!" Her biggest complaints while visiting me at my "country" home were, "Where are the people, here? No one's outside! What do they do in their houses all day?" But perhaps the sweetest example I could think of that was steered by my mother's impossible innocence was a story she told us that dated back to 1944, on the occasion of a Frank Sinatra concert at the Paramount Theater. She was in her mid-twenties at the time; her sisters already married off. The most recent one, her sister, Mary, who was just newly married, but living at home because her husband went off to war, had turned down my mother's invitation to go to the concert. "Are you kidding, Annie, I'm a married woman now. I can't go to a concert. What would my husband think if he knew I went?"

Well, I'm not sure how my mother convinced her to go, but she did. Not only did they wind up in a photograph in the New York Daily News the next day - evidence that couldn't be hidden from my uncle - but the concert turned into one of the greatest mob scenes in history - dubbed, "The Columbus Day Riot." It turned out that 30,000 frustrated teenage fans stampeded in the streets outside the theater because the audience of the first show, all 5,000 screaming bobby-soxers, refused to leave the theater where their crooning, pop-artist heartthrob prepared for his next show! It required over 450 policemen and reserves to get the riot under control.



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**SWEET MELISSA**, 276 Court Street, (718) 855-3410  
**TRIPOLI**, 156 Atlantic Ave, 718 596-5800  
**VINNY'S OF CARROLL GARDENS**, 295 Smith Street, 718 875-5600  
**VINNY'S PIZZERIA**, 455 Court Street, 718 596-9342  
**VINO Y TAPAS**, 520 Court Street, 718-407-0047  
**VINZEE'S**, 412 Court Street, 718 855 1401  
**ZAYTOONS**, 283 Smith Street, 718 875-1880

## Gowanus

**MICHAEL AND PINGS**, 437 Third Avenue, (718) 788-0017  
**COTTA BENE PIZZA**, 291 3rd Ave, 718 722-7200  
**LITTLENECKS**, 288 3rd Ave., (718) 522-1921  
**CANAL BAR**, 270 3rd Ave, (718) 246-0011



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# Dining:

## Henry Public serves eclectic bar food

by Erik Penney

If an epicenter exists for the type of turn-of-the-century retro hipster bar and restaurant trend that seems to have taken over Brooklyn in the last 5 years or so, it might be right here at Henry Public. The first time I saw this I was taken completely by surprise. These are young guys working here dressed like Coney Island Knickerbockers, or the guys from the couch drop box, complete with handlebar moustaches, hair slick with pomade. This was a level of irony that I was not prepared for; I could not stop staring. The entire place delicately toes the line between sincere, quaint anachronism and outright gimmickry.

This trend is responsible for some very good and welcome things, though. Cocktails are now taken with a greater degree of seriousness by bartenders everywhere, and we've all become reacquainted with ingredients and recipes that could easily have gotten lost. We had otherwise evolved into a culture that knew only swill beer, shots and rail cocktails made with cheap liquors and slung at you carelessly. My generation is certainly better off now with all of these new experiences.

I've written about Fort Defiance in Red Hook, and the care and attention they put into their bar. Henry Public is very similar in that regard. A caveat, however, is that as a customer of a popular place like Henry Public, one must enter with a certain amount of patience knowing that your bar order will likely sit in a queue behind a half dozen drinks, each of which must be muddled, shaken, smashed, strained, and fizzed with several ingredients with the utmost care, all of which takes far more time than pulling drafts from a tap. While you're there, be prepared for a speed of service that's a bit more deliberate than you might be used to, but know that the end product will be unique and expertly contrived.

Imagine sitting here in the middle of a silent film, sped up to 1 ½ times normal, black-and-white. The menu is written in an old-timey typeface and uses old fashioned lingo. Peering through your monocle you might lean across the bar into a man dressed like the W.B. Mason guy and mouth your order. The screen goes black and you read "Hamburger Sandwich with French Fried Potatoes", which might be a new dish you'd heard made its debut at some World's Fair.

The burger here at Henry Public, if you get it complete with Berkshire bacon and cheese, rings the register at \$17 - highly contemporary prices - and is rather small. The beef is tasty and aggressively salted, especially when topped with bacon. My palate enjoys salty flavors. For many foodies salt can be like an addict's drug fix and can make all of the flavors in any dish explode in your mouth and brain. But I am also aware of my status as an outlier, and my guess is that this would be a bit much salt for most. I also got a bad batch of fries with mine. They were hot and crisp, but were mostly a pile of short, broken ends.

### Turkey leg sandwiches

Henry Public is quite famous for their turkey leg sandwich. This is an uncommonly good bit of food and unlike the burger, it's very big. Between a couple slices of thickly sliced white bread sits a hot pile of chunky, juicy, shredded turkey leg meat topped with fried onions and slathered with gravy. This is Thanksgiving leftovers but better, largely due how we have engineered turkeys. The fact that we normally roast them whole at home. Most modern turkeys are like Pamela Anderson - huge breasts and skinny legs - and in order to roast them long enough to cook the breast meat through, the dark meat on the legs can often dry out. Henry Public rightly cooks only the legs and thighs, so the



meat in the sandwich is juicy and has a depth of flavor that you might not even recognize as turkey. It's almost like duck. The gravy soaks into everything and turns the sandwich into a glorious hot mess. This plate deserves all the praise that it has received. This is unique to Henry Public. I have not seen a turkey leg sandwich anywhere else and you would be remiss not to order it when you go. At \$14, it is fully worth the price.

### Homemade pickled eggs

They have a handful of small side dishes that are good, and work well as bar snacks. Smoked almonds or sliced raw radishes work great with the cocktails, or even with a glass of red wine. I can eat deviled eggs the way Paul Newman ate pickled eggs in "Cool Hand Luke", and Henry Public has a fine, classic version. They also make their own pickles in-house and theirs come with the mild tang of juniper berries they use during the pickling process. They're remarkably fresh and crisp, too. Hanging out at the bar while languidly sipping a vintage cocktail, ordering a roundelay of all these small sides can make for a nice meal in itself.

Ultimately Henry Public's menu is quite small. I'm sure they would say that they are not a restaurant, per se. Rather, they are a bar. In the manner of saloons of the past, they used to serve one or two things largely to keep patrons sober enough to stay and keep drinking. My father used to tell me stories about the free bologna sandwiches, or the jar of pickled eggs that sat on the bar. When I used to live on the Upper East Side there was an old Irish pub that rolled out a cart with a giant roast turkey during happy hour for the regulars, all free. It's in this tradition that Henry Public's menu was designed. It's a proper drinking bar with food. The food is good - one or two things are mostly good - even if a bit pricey for the level of culinary product. I suppose, however, that moustache wax ain't cheap these days either.

**Henry Public, 329 Henry Street (between Atlantic Ave and Pacific St) [www.henrypublic.com](http://www.henrypublic.com) (Henry Public is cash only)**

*Recommended dishes: Turkey leg sandwich, deviled eggs, house-made juniper pickles, cocktails*

# Music:

King Killer Studios opened in 2008 in an old fabric warehouse and provides local musicians with top-notch rehearsal spaces as well as an in house performance space.

Their logo is a jawless skull adorned with a golden crown, leaning to one side.

There is a real buzz of creative energy in the place. Bands are sharing shows, gear, transportation and who knows what else. There was a show at SRB (Soul, Rythm and Blues) a few blocks North on 2nd Avenue and 9th Street in mid April, featuring all King Killer bands.

There are seventeen rooms. The rooms are all located along one long hallways with a bathroom at one end. The walls are decorated with an assortment of pieces made by the people renting the rooms. I only saw one room, the largest, but it was extremely spacious and got great light. All of the rooms are monthly, meaning there is no paying by the



*My Band Draft is a King Killer tradition*

hour. There are shares available.

The owner, who asked to be referred to only as Dave, is an ex-member of the band "Guys Night," who recorded the official "Die Hard" song. His new band, "The Filth," also does their rehearsing at King Killer.

Some of the better-known bands working out of King Killer are *Consider The Source*, (sci-fi middle eastern funk); *Battles*, (experimental fusion-rock); *Dopapod*, (experimental funk-rock); and *Lucius*, (indie).

On May 26<sup>th</sup>, Dave's band, *The Stink*,

## King Killer studios multi-tasks

by Ethan Donway

will be having a record release show at King Killer. Their album is called *Beasts*. Dave compared their sound to Thin Lizzy and Black Sabbath.

King Killer also hosts and sponsors an event called *My Band Draft* where nine or ten team leaders must form a rag tag team of musicians and come up with two original songs as well as one cover to be played live in front of judges on the their stage. This has happened two falls in a row and has become a King Killer tradition.

King Killer hosts an average of about two shows a month, in-house. They have a good-sized stage beside the stairway up to the rooms, right beside an old industrial warehouse lift. Mostly King Killer bands play these events. The shows cost five to ten dollars. Most events are BYOB.

King Killer is located on 2nd Avenue near 14th Street. For more information about their events and rooms online visit [www.kingkillerstudios.com](http://www.kingkillerstudios.com)



*King Killer studios in Gowanus is both a performance space and a sophisticated rehearsal space. (photos by Dave Bunting)*



# Art & Community Calendar

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

## Children

**Bethel Baptist Day Care Center** 242 Hoyt St. (718) 834-9292 ACD funded Early Childhood Education Programs, Family Services, and Day Care Services for the Gowanus Community.

**Kentler International Drawing Space**—353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, [kentlertgallery.org](http://kentlertgallery.org) FREE Weekend Art Workshops for Families. Every 1st & 3rd Sat. Sat. 5/19 10-11:30am Drawing Together Family Art Workshop. FREE.

## Church/Synagogue

**Kane St. Synagogue** 236 Kane St. (718) 875-1530 [kanestreet.org](http://kanestreet.org) Torah Study every 2nd Shabbat of the Month 11am-Noon. Every Fri. &/or Tues.

**St. Stephen's R.C.** 108 Carroll St. (718) 596-7750 [delvecchiorc.com](http://delvecchiorc.com) & [brooklyn catholic.blogspot.com](http://brooklyn catholic.blogspot.com) Every Wed. 6:30pm Choir rehearsal, if interested contact [jlake@delvecchiorc.com](mailto:jlake@delvecchiorc.com) or [evelyntroester@gmx.net](mailto:evelyntroester@gmx.net)

**Visitation of Our Blessed Virgin Mary R.C.** 98 Richards @Verona (718) 624-1572 Every Thurs. 6pm Choir Practice w/ Emiliana In-Home Blessings and Masses, by appointment. Languages available: English, Spanish, Italian, German. Contact: Lori Burkhard (917) 971-5522

## Classes

**Brooklyn General**—128 Union St. (718) 237-7753 [brooklyngeneral.com](http://brooklyngeneral.com) Classes and Workshops for all things Sewing.

**Brooklyn Public Library** - Carroll Gardens 396 Clinton St. @ Union St. (718) 596-6972 Knitting Club (all ages) Every Tues 4pm. Memoir Writing (adult) Every Wed. 6pm Chess Club (all ages) Bring your own clock. Fri. 5/184-5pm Storycraft Listen to book being read and create art related to book.

**Carroll Gardens Association**, 201 Columbia Street, offers free computer training classes beginning May 21st. Call (718)243-9301 to register or email [info@carrollgardensassociation.com](mailto:info@carrollgardensassociation.com) .

**Cora Dance** 201 Richards St. (Coffey St./Van Dyke St.) #15 (718) 858-2520 [coradance.org](http://coradance.org) New Adult Classes. Every Sun.5:30 - 6:45pm, Restorative Yoga w/ Jolene Festa (child care available) Every Monday 10-11am Yoga w/Tessa Wright, 6:30-7:45pm Yoga w/Jolene Festa (childcare available)Every Tues 5-6:30 pm Company Class (rotating teachers) Every Sat. 10:30-11:30 Zumba w/Sarah Folland. Classes are pay-what-you-can. (Suggested donation: \$10 per class, \$15 per class w/child care.) Sat. 5/19 7pm Cora's Spring Swing Benefit Gala & Silent Auction @ Rocky Sullivan's Roof 34 Van Dyke St.

**FDNY EMS Station 32**, Community Health Education and Awareness Day, May 22, noon - 6pm, 347 Bond Street

**Ger-Nis Culinary & Herb Center** 540 President St, (3rd/4th Ave.) (347) 422-0337 [ger-nis.com](http://ger-nis.com) Thurs. 5/17 6:30-9pm Finger Lickin' Good Chicken \$65. Mon. 5/21 6:30-9pm Spring Herbal Kitchen \$50. Tue. 5/22 6:30-9pm Seasonal Herbal Desserts: Springtime Fantasies Come To Life \$50. Wed. 5/23 6:30-9pm One Girl Cookies \$65. Thur. 5/24-6/28 6:30-9pm Tour of India Series: 6 classes \$300. 6:30-9pm Tour of India: The Fundamentals of Indian Cooking \$65.

**The Gowanus Studio Space** 166 7th Street (347) 948-5753 [www.gowanusstudio.org](http://www.gowanusstudio.org) Tues. 5/22, 5/29, 6/5, 6/12 6:30-9:30 pm, Intro To Etching, 4 sessions \$245 non-members, \$205 members.

**Yoga Classes** 201 Richards St. #15 [www.tessamwright.com](http://www.tessamwright.com) /yoga. Join Tessa with morning yoga for every one! Hatha style style for all levels. Mondays @10am. Suggested donation - \$10.

## Comedy

**Littlefield**—622 Degraw St littlefieldny.com Every Monday 8pm: Hot Tub w/ Kurt & Kristen \$5 adv. \$8 dos. Fri. 5/18 8pm Sea Pony, Field mouse \$8adv. \$10 dos. Sat. 5/19 8pm Dressy Bessy, Steve Wynn & The Miracle 3 \$12. Sun. 5/20 3pm NYC Popfest w/ Allo Darlin', The Ladybug Transistor, The Wave Pictures and many others \$15 adv- \$18 dos. Tue. 5/22 7:30pm Wet Ink Ensemble, Jacob Garchik Trio \$15. Thur. 5/24 9pm Hot Sugar EP launch w/Big Baby Gandhi & DJ's Xaphoon Jones, J-Zone, Dapwell

Visuals by Steamclam Media Empire. Fri. 5/25 9pm The Liza Colby Sound, The Robin Electric, California King \$10 adv.-\$12 dos. Sat. 5/26 7:30pm Serious Business Rock & Roll Revue w/Higgins Benji Cossa, The Unsacred Hearts, Rocketship Park & Special Guests \$10. Wed. 5/30 7pm The Talent Show Presents: Joan of Arc \$5.

## Galleries

**440 Gallery** 440 6th Ave. (Park Slope) (718) 499-3844, [440gallery.com](http://440gallery.com) Gallery hrs. - Thurs., Fri. 4-7pm, Sat., Sun. 11am - 7pm, or by appointment. Through 5/20 Recent Works: Mexico & New York by Vicki Behm. Thur. 5/24 through 6/24 Petit Fours by Amy Williams.

**Brooklyn Collective Gallery** 212 Columbia St. (Union/Sackett) (718) 596-6231 [brooklyncollective.com](http://brooklyncollective.com) Gallery hrs. Thur. - Sun 1pm-8pm Through 5/31 30 New Collections of Local Artists FREE.

**Brooklyn Waterfront Artists Coalition** 499 Van Brunt St. (718) 596-2506 [bwac.org](http://bwac.org) COLOR: A Juried Art Show: An Open Call To Local Artist. Submissions 5/21 - 6/4. Exhibition: 7/28-8/18.

**Gallery Small New York**—416 Van Brunt, (347) 782-3729 [smallnewyork.com](http://smallnewyork.com) Gallery hours are Thurs. - Sun. 11am - 6pm. Through 5/30 American in Paris w/ Leonard Corbin, Madeleine Kraeler, AK Corbin.

**Invisible Dog**—51 Bergen Street, [theinvisibledog.org](http://theinvisibledog.org) (347) 560-3641 Through 5/27 Holy River. Fri. 5/18 7:30 pm Cine Club/ Ascenseur Pour L'Echafaud suggested donation \$5.

**Kentler International Drawing Space**—353 Van Brunt St. (718) 875-2098, [kentlertgallery.org](http://kentlertgallery.org) 10th Annual Benefit: 100 Hundred Artists donate original drawing & works on paper. Through 5/13 Thur.-Sun. 12-5pm. FREE. Benefit Event 5/19 6pm (ticket holders only). \$200 per ticket.

**Look North Inuit Art Gallery**—275 Conover Street, Suite 4E, (347) 721-3995, [looknorthny.com](http://looknorthny.com) Polar Light: Greenland. The Greenland photography of Rena Bass Forman and the Greenland drawings of Zaria Forman. A climate change awareness exhibition held in conjunction with Al Gore's 'The Climate Project'.

**Sunny's Bar Backroom** 253 Conover St. (Beard/Reed Sts) (718) 625-8211 [sunnysredhook.com](http://sunnysredhook.com) & Sunny's Bar on facebook. Open Wed. Fri. Sat 8pm-4am.

## Lectures

**The Gowanus Watershed Urban Ecology Lecture Series**, May 23rd, 61 Bergen Street, 6:30 pm: An Ecological Approach to Improving Resilience and Sustainability in New York City", P. Timon McPherson. \$5

## Museums

**Micro Museum**—123 Smith Street, (718) 797-3116 [micromuseum.com](http://micromuseum.com) . Above and Beyond, a three-year retrospective of the art of William and Kathleen Laziza, every Saturday from 12-7pm, refreshments from 5-7pm.. Admission by donation, suggested donation \$2. Say you like "Red-Hook Star Revue" and get a free gift bag. Sat. Noon - 7pm through 9/14 Lovey + Dovey = Forever \$2

**The Waterfront Museum Lehigh Valley Barge No.79**, 290 Conover Street. (718) 624-4719 ext. 11 [www.waterfrontmuseum.org](http://www.waterfrontmuseum.org). Free boat tours & open hours all through the year. Thursdays 4 - 8 pm and Saturdays 1 - 5 pm. Juggling For Fun Wkshp. Call (718) 624-4719 x.11 or email David Sharps at the above address.

## Music

**Bait & Tackle** 320 Van Brunt Street (718) 451-4665 [redhookbaitandtackle.com](http://redhookbaitandtackle.com) Fri. 5/18 9pm FRO. Sat. 5/19 9pm Sullied Accolades. Fri. 5/25 9pm Will Gantrim.

**Hope & Anchor** 347 Van Brunt St., (718) 237-0276. Every Wed. 7pm, Jazz Jam. Every Thurs. through Sat. from 9pm-1am Karaoke.

**Issue Project Room** @110 Livingston St. (718) 330-0313 [issueprojectroom.org](http://issueprojectroom.org) Wed. 5/16 8pm Celebrating Cecil: William Hooker Ensemble & Thollem McDonas w/Arrinton de Dionysio \$15. \$12 members. Thur. 5/24 8pm Deviant Septet premieres "Histories" by Sleep-

ing Giant composer collective \$15, \$12 members. Fri 5/25 8pm John Butcher & Twisty Cat \$15, \$12 member. Wed 5/30 8pm, Thur. 5/31 Susan Alcorn Residency \$15, \$10 members.

**Jalopy Theatre and School of Music** 315 Columbia St., (718) 395-3214, [jalopy.biz](http://jalopy.biz). Every Wed. 9pm Roots & Ruckus FREE. Thur. 5/17 8:30pm King County Strings, 9pm The South Carolina Broadcasters \$10. Fri. 5/18, Sat. 5/19, Sun. 5/20 6:30pm The 4th Annual Brooklyn Folk Festival located @ 345 Jay St., Willoughby/Metrotech 30 plus acts, Square Dancing, The Banjo Toss Competition, vocal and instrument workshops & film screenings. \$45 3 day pass. \$20 a day. Thur. 5/24 9pm Loise Sullivan 10pm Eamon OLeary \$10. Fri 5/25 8pm Steamboat Disasters 9pm The Plunk Bros. 10pm Weal & Woe \$10. Sat. 5/26 A Night of Country & Blues Guitar w/ Art Eisinger, The Brotherhood of Jug Band Blues, East River Band & Jackson Lynch \$15. Thur. 5/31 8:30pm The Homemade Supper Show w/Justin King & Dina Regine \$10.

**Montero's Bar** 73 Atlantic Ave. @ Hicks St. (718) 534-6399 [monteros-bar@facebook.com](http://monteros-bar@facebook.com) Karaoke w/Amethyst every Fri. & Sat. 10pm. Every Wed. after. 8pm - Midnight. The raucous musical concoctions of The Red Hook Irregulars. All Acoustic. Guest Players invited.

**The Rock Shop**—249 Fourth Ave. (President St./Carroll St.) (718) 230-5740 [therockshopny.com](http://therockshopny.com) Wed. 5/16 7:30pm Choban Elektrik Cd Release Party w/ Raya Brass Band, Which Way East Trio, Eva Primack & Adam Good \$12 adv. \$15 dos. Thur. 5/17 8pm THe Spinto Band, Sea of Bees, Horse's Mouth \$10. Sun. 5/20 9:30pm Damien Jurado, JBM, Strand of Oaks \$14. Sun. 5/20, 8pm White Dress \$8 adv. \$10 dos. Mon. 5/21 7:30pm Burning Hearts, Sleuth, Orca Team \$8. Tue. 5/22 8pm Patrick Sweaney, Joe Fletcher, Annie Keating \$8. Wed. 5/23 8pm Magmama \$8. Thur. 5/24 8pm The Spinto Band, Ski Ldge, Extraordinaries \$10. Fri. 5/25 7:30pm Soltero, Sanctuaries, Rice Cultivation Society \$8. Sat. 5/28 8pm Bastards of Melody, Radio Barons, Successful Failures \$7. Wed. 5/30 8pm Magmama \$8. Thur. 5/31 8pm Americana Pie, Grayson Capps, Daniel Wayne, The Grand Prospect \$10

**Rocky Sullivan's**—34 Van Dyke St., (718) 246-8050. Every Mon, Tues, Wed 8pm Live Irish Music Every Last Wed 8pm Readings By Authors.Every. Thurs. 9pm Rocky's World Famous Pub Quiz, Every Fri./Sat Live Rock 'n Roll; May 31 - Tiki Brothers Attractive Nuisance King, 7 pm

**The Star Theater Acoustic Jam & Hootenanny** 101 Union St. btwn Columbia and Van Brunt (718) 624-5568 Every Monday Night 8pm. C&W to Jazz (with a healthy dose of Blues in the middle). Bring your Axe & Your Favorite Beverage!

**The Star Theater Electric Jam** 101 Union St., Columbia / Van Brunt Every Thur. Night 8pm Hard rock, Jazz, Blues. Full Back Line. Refreshments provided. Donations accepted.

**Sunny's Bar** 253 Conover St. (Beard/Reed Sts) (718) 625-8211 [sunnysredhook.com](http://sunnysredhook.com) & Sunny's Bar on Facebook. Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays, live local roots music.. Every Sat. 10pm Bluegrass/Folk Country Jam.

**Union Hall** 702 Union Street @5th Ave (718) 638-4400 [unionhallny.com](http://unionhallny.com) Every Sun. 7:30pm Pretty Good Friends. Comedy host by Eugene Mirman \$7. Every Fri. Midnight Karaoke Killed The Cat FREE. Every Sat. 11pm CRAZY \$INCE DA 90\$ FREE.

## Public Meetings

**Brooklyn Greenway Initiative** 153 Columbia St., Kane/Degraw St. (718) 522-0913 [brooklyngreenway.org](http://brooklyngreenway.org) Through 5/25 The Ceramic Arts of Kathryn Robinson-Miller. 30% of the proceeds will go to support BGI's work. Special Thur hours 5/3,17,6/7,6/21 5-8pm. Sun 5/20 12:30-2:30pm Brooklyn Navy Yard Bike Tour \$24.

**Carroll Gardens Neighborhood Association** (718 858-4699 [carrollgardensbrooklyn.org](http://carrollgardensbrooklyn.org) Every 1st Wed. General Meeting. Wed. 5/2 7-9pm @ Hannah Senesh Community Day School 342 Smith St.

**Community Board 6** 250 Baltic St. (718) 643-3027 [brooklyn cb6.org](http://brooklyn cb6.org) Wed.

5/16 6:30pm Cobble Hill Health Cntr, Warren/Congress. Parks /Recreation/ Cultural Affairs Committee. Mon. 5/21 6:30pm Economic Waterfront Community Development & Housing Committee @ Cuyler-Warren St. United Methodist Church 450 Warren St., Bond/Nevins St. Tue. 5/22 6pm Barclays Cntr Transpotation Demand Management Plan Meeting @ Brooklyn Burrough Hall 209 Joralemon St. Court Rm. Wed. 5/23 6:30pm Youth/Human Services/Education Committee @ Cobble Hill Community Meeting Rm. 250 Baltic, Court/Clinton. Wed. 5/30 6:30pm Public Safety/Environmental Protection/Permits/Licenses Committee @ 78th Police Precinct 65 6th Ave. Courtroom, Bergen/Dean St.

**Gowanus Canal Conservancy** P.O. Box 150-652 Brooklyn 11215-9997 (718) 541-4378 [gowanuscanalconservancy.org](http://gowanuscanalconservancy.org) Sat. 5/26 11am-5pm Clean & Green Community Celebration @ Ennis Playground - 12th St. 2nd/3rd Ave. 11am-1pm Gardening. 1pm Food Served. 2pm Re-cycle T shirt into Rug Weaving. 2:30pm Re-cycle Flee into RUG Weaving 3pm Volleyball. Other activities include Fence Thread Mural, Chaldrawing, Water Balloon Games and more! 5-6pm Clean-up & Take Down.

## Reading & Literary Events

**Red Hook Initiative** 767 Hicks St. (718) 858 6782 [rhicenter.org](http://rhicenter.org) Thur. 5/17 5:30-7:30pm Speaker Datwon Thomas, editor of King Magazine & Global Grind, Inc. talks of his career as a hip-hop journalist and his road to success. Free for all youth 12-20 and interested adults.

## Schools

**PS 15** 71 Sullivan St. (Columbia/Van Brunt Sts.) (718)330-9280 [schools.nyc.gov](http://schools.nyc.gov)1/20 (& every Fri.) 11am - noon Toddler Time Programs: 1 hr of playtime & storytelling.Open to everyone.

## Tastings

**Botanica**—220 Conover St (at Coffey St), 347-225-0147. New cocktails, specialty liquors & Exotic Chocolates featuring Cacao Prieto Chocolate. Sat-Sun: Afternoon cocktails. Now Open!!

**Dry Dock Wine + Spirits**—424 Van Brunt St., (718) 852-3625, [drydockny.com](http://drydockny.com) Tastings of the exotic wine & liquors from around the world every Fri. 6:30pm, Sat. 4pm, Sun 3pm. FREE

**MikNik Lounge** 200 Columbia St. (917) 770-1984 'Rebel! Rebel!' (Gay Night) every First & Third Thurs. 9pm - 2am Cheap Beer, \$6 well drinks, friendly crowd.

## Theater

**Falconworks Kidd Studio** 133 Imlay St. (718) 395-3218 [falconworks.com](http://falconworks.com) - [redhooktheater.org](http://redhooktheater.org) Now accepting applications for Fall 2012. Youths 11-14 write a play in 8 sessions. Rehearse your play, and finally see your play in performance.

**The Heights Players** 26 Willow Place, [heightsplayers.org](http://heightsplayers.org) (718) 237-2752 Fri. 5/18, 25 8pm Sat. 5/19, 5/26 8pm, Sun 5/20/27 2pm Finian's Rainbow \$20 adults, \$18 seniors & children under 18.

## Walking Tours

**A Tour grows in Brooklyn** 1212 64th St.(212) 209-3370 [brooklynwalkingtour.com](http://brooklynwalkingtour.com) A historical walking tour of Brownstone Brooklyn featuring the childhood home of Al Capone, the history of the Williamsburg Bank, and The Old Stone House. Real Brooklyn Pizza Lunch included. Daily 10am-1pm, \$40

**Brooklyn Greenway Initiative** 153 Columbia St., Kane/Degraw St. (718) 522-0913 [brooklyngreenway.org](http://brooklyngreenway.org) Sat. 5/20 12:30-2:30pm Brooklyn Navy Yard Bicycle Tour \$24 advance purchase required @ [urbanoyster.com](http://urbanoyster.com) or call (347) 618-8687. Sat. 5/20 10am Brooklyn Waterfront Greenway Bike Tour

## Brooklyn's Own Folk Festival May 18 - 20

The 4th Annual Brooklyn Folk Festival with over 30 musical acts, workshops, films, square dance and fun contests will take place Friday, May 18th through Sunday, May 20th at 345 Jay Street (between Metrotech and Willoughby Streets). Produced by Jalopy and featuring many of the performers that regularly grace their state, tickets are \$20 per day or \$45 for a weekend pass.

Performances by local musicians include: Peter Stampfel and the Ether Frolic Mob, Dennis Lichtman's Brain Cloud, Pat Conte and Joe Belullavich, The Calamity Janes, The Whiskey Spitters, Feral Foster, Little Brothers, Litvakus, Jessy Carolina and the Hot Mess, Brotherhood of the Jug Band Blues, Willy Gantrim, Piedmont Bluz, M. Shanghai String Band, and Wretched Refuse Stringband. For tickets call 718-395-3214.



From top, clockwise: Eli Smith, Folk Festival Founder; Feral Foster, Elizabeth Butters. Photos by Raymond Haddad



# Star-Revue Classifieds

## HELP WANTED

**Freelance Writers:** The Red Hook Star-Revue is looking for freelance writers for both the arts and news sections. We want to buttress our news as well as local theater and arts coverage. Email Kimberly @ redhookstar.com

**Outside Salesperson:** The Red Hook Star-Revue seeks an ambitious person who likes to walk, talk and make friends in the neighborhood to sell display advertising. Commission to start - work around your hours, no pressure. Call 718 624-5568 and speak to Kimberly or George.

**Hair Dresser with Following.** Licensed hair-dresser needed for huge opportunity in very modern and elegant Van Brunt Street Salon. Opposite PS 15. Call Nayda at 718 935-0596 for more details.

**CLERICAL POSITION WITH FLEXIBILITY** Architectural office, Union near Columbia. Duties include invoicing, payroll, filing, and reception; 20-25 hours/week; salary depending on qualifications. Quick-books proficiency required. Submit resume to ncox@fgca.com with "CLERICAL" in subject line.

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The Red Hook Star-Revue now publishes twice a month - classified advertising is one of the best and least expensive ways to get your message across. Special yearly contracts available for service businesses such as plumbers, electricians for as little as \$500 annually. Email Angelika@redhookstar.com or call 718 624-5568



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# Red Hook Star+Revue SPORTS

## Southern Trucking undefeated after two weeks of the Red Hook Youth Baseball season

by Viviana Gordon, photos by Kimberly G. Price and George Fiala

A wet and gray Saturday, May 5th marked the official first games of the Red Hook Youth Baseball season. Both games were hard-fought but in the end, Hynes' Heroes defeated the Defenders and Southern Trucking triumphed over Gibbs' Brooklyn Youth Association Royals, both with a score of 6-2.

The second week saw three games: a doubleheader played between Hynes' Heroes and BYA. BYA swept the doubleheader, by 10-0 and 14-9 scores. Southern Trucking won the other game against the Defenders also by a 10-0 score.

Immediately following the first week's



The Hynes' bench between innings

games, the young ballplayers put aside their differences and came together for a baseball skills competition and workshop. The skills competition was led by Liborio Hernández of the Sabatina League and included events in base run-

ning, pitching and batting. The Defenders swept the competition with winners in all three categories.

The skills workshop was led by former professional ballplayers and current coaching staff of The SAYO Grays Baseball League, Richie Palacios, Ian Younge, Darren Johnson and Darryl Tiebout. The coaches, most of whom have Red Hook roots, provided instruction in baseball technique and game strategy, while imparting their philosophy about the importance of education in the life of a ballplayer.

The SAYO (Student Athlete Youth Organization) Grays is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization with teams for youth ages 13-18. The SAYO Grays are guided by the mission that education and athletics can provide the stronghold to success in life. The Red Hook Youth Baseball League and The SAYO Grays have formed a partnership this season to ensure that the younger players will have the opportunity to continue playing competitive baseball in an organization that stresses good citizenship in addition to good fundamental baseball skills.

The SAYO Grays have a proven track record that includes 31 of their alumni enrolling in college with athletic scholarships to play baseball over the past two years.



Bottom of the 9th with the bases loaded



These youngsters threw a variety of pitches. This is hardball.



A large amount of base stealing takes place at these games.

### LEAGUE SCHEDULE

#### Week 3 Saturday, May 19

9 AM Hynes @ Southern Trucking Field #1  
9 AM BYA @ Defenders Field #9  
11 AM Defenders @ BYA Field #9

#### Week 4 Saturday, May 26

No Games! Memorial Day Weekend

#### Week 5 Saturday, June 2

9 AM BYA @ Defenders Field #1  
9 AM Hynes' @ Southern Trucking Field #9  
11 AM Southern Trucking @ Hynes' Field #9

#### Week 6 Saturday, June 9

9 AM Southern Trucking @ BYA Field #1  
9 AM Defenders @ Hynes' Field #9  
11 AM Hynes' @ Defenders Field #9

#### Week 7 Saturday, June 16

9 AM Hynes' @ BYA Field #1  
9 AM Southern Trucking @ Defenders Field #9  
11 AM Defenders @ Southern Trucking Field #9

#### Week 8 Wednesday, June 20

6 PM BYA @ Southern Trucking Field #9

#### FIRST ROUND OF PLAYOFFS

#### Saturday, June 23

9 AM 3rd Place @ 2nd Place Field #1  
9 AM 4th Place @ 1st Place Field #9

#### CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES (BEST OF 3)

#### Game #1 Wednesday, June 27

6 PM Lowest Seed @ Highest Seed Field #9

#### Game #2 Saturday, June 30

9 AM Highest Seed @ Lowest Seed Field #9

#### Game #3 (if necessary) Saturday, June 30

11 AM Lowest Seed @ Highest Seed

#### Third Place Game

9 AM Two losing teams from June 23 Field #1

Trophy Ceremony will take place on Field #9 immediately following the Championship Game on June 30th



Each games ends with a display of good sportsmanship as the players shake hands.

### LEAGUE STANDINGS

| Place | Team                    | W | L |
|-------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 1.    | Southern Trucking ..... | 2 | 0 |
| 2.    | BYA Royals .....        | 2 | 1 |
| 3.    | Hynes Heroes .....      | 1 | 2 |
| 4.    | Defenders .....         | 0 | 2 |

#### MAY 5TH RESULTS

Hynes' Heroes 6, Defenders 2  
Southern Trucking 6, BYA 2

#### MAY 12TH RESULTS

Southern Trucking 10, Defenders 0,  
BYA 10, Southern Trucking 0 (game 1)  
BYA 14, Hynes Heroes 9, (game 2)